

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OGDENSBURG MAP SHEET AREA, 31B

The Canadian part of the Ogdensburg map sheet area is situated in eastern Ontario. It is triangular in shape, comprising the north shore of the St. Lawrence River from Hill Island to the Cornwall Canal and extending in a northwesterly direction to the vicinity of Merrickville. The small part of Quebec in the northeastern part of the area is not included in the following description.

In general, the flat terrain has limited visual appeal; the historical background, international shipping, and angling waters are the principal attractions for visitors to the area.

The area is made up of gently inclined limestones and shales overlain by clay, sand, and till plains, with intrusions of Precambrian granites in the western part. Limestone bedrock is exposed in many places along the part of the Rideau Waterway that is included in the area. The highest elevation is 437 feet above sea level, near Newbliss, and the lowest is 177 feet above sea level, in the vicinity of Cornwall.

The shoreland consists of the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, the eastern half of Charleston Lake, part of the Rideau Waterway centered around Merrickville, and a few swampy lakes northwest of Brockville. The Rideau and the St. Lawrence river systems are both navigable as a result of extensively developed lock systems. Boating on the Rideau River system is excellent; extensive weed beds are the only hazard. On the St. Lawrence the rock shoals and heavy commercial shipping are serious problems. All the inland lakes except Charleston Lake are unsuitable for boating because of their shallowness and associated abundance of aquatic plants.

This is typically an area of mixed forest. The common species are sugar and red maple, yellow birch, and white pine; hemlock and beech are less common. In the wet areas larch, white cedar, black spruce, and black ash are abundant. This woodland variety is very colorful in autumn.

### CLIMATE

The area has a continental climate, and there is a limited marine influence in the vicinity of the St. Lawrence River. Summer temperatures are moderate; the monthly average is 80°F. The winters can be severe; the mean annual minimum temperature drops to between -20° and -30°F. The annual rainfall is about 30 inches and the annual snowfall is 80 to 90 inches; the total annual precipitation is about 38 inches.

### FISH AND WILDLIFE

The waters of the area provide excellent fishing. Maskinonge, northern pike, and walleye are the main species. Varieties of bass, trout, and panfish are also present.

The principal species of upland game are grouse, squirrels, foxes, rabbits, and white-tailed deer, but the Hungarian Partridge offers the highest capability for hunting and viewing. The common varieties of ducks and geese are plentiful along the shorelands, especially during the fall migratory season. Several varieties of coots, rails, and gallinules also provide viewing opportunities for naturalists.

### SETTLEMENT AND LAND USE

The original inhabitants of this part of eastern Ontario were the Algonquin and Iroquois Indians. The Algonquin Indians became closely allied with the French, and the Iroquois with the British. As a result, the area was the scene of many fierce conflicts. During the War of 1812, one of the most decisive battles, the Battle of Crysler's Farm, was fought near Morrisburg. The area was first occupied by the French, but it was not until the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists that planned settlement started along the watercourses and interior lands.

At present, the land is devoted mainly to a diversity of agricultural activities. However, the area has never departed from its water base as a source of its prosperity. The Rideau Waterway, which was once a stimulus for prosperous commercial enterprises, now supports a flourishing tourist trade. The St. Lawrence Seaway now provides the basis for prosperous industrial enterprises along its shore. The interior landscape does not share this prosperity, as evidenced by the large number of farmsteads abandoned because of shallow soils and exposed bedrock.

### RECREATION CAPABILITY

Despite the flatness of the landscape of the area, the recreation capability, which is focused on the St. Lawrence River, is quite high. The diversity of scenic settings, in the form of islands, offshore marshes, power dams, seaway locks, and boat traffic, provides a very high capability for viewing. There are many sand beaches along the shores, but few of these rank higher than Class 3. The best shore unit is located at the Crysler Farm Battlefield Memorial Park, in the vicinity of Morrisburg. Access to the St. Lawrence and Rideau waterways provides the area with some of the finest boating, yachting, and angling waters in Ontario. The abundance of waterfowl and upland game provides extensive opportunities for hunters and naturalists.

The many historical sites have a high recreation capability. The Crysler Farm Battlefield Memorial Park and Upper Canada Village have the highest potential, but others, such as the Fort Madden National Historic Park, are also important.

Although the area is small, its recreation capability, which is linked closely with the water resource base, is very significant. The predominant available recreational activities are boating, fishing, viewing, bathing, and hunting.

## DESCRIPTION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA FEUILLE D'OGDENSBURG – 31B

La partie canadienne du territoire représentée sur la feuille d'Ogdensburg est située dans l'Est ontarien. De forme triangulaire, elle couvre la rive nord du Saint-Laurent entre l'île Hill et le canal Cornwall et se prolonge vers le nord-ouest jusqu'aux environs de Merrickville. Le territoire comprend, dans le nord-est, une petite partie du Québec qui n'est pas décrite ici.

En général, le terrain est plat et présente peu de sites pittoresques; les principaux attractions du territoire sont les lieux historiques, le passage des navires internationaux et la pêche à la ligne.

Le territoire se compose de formations calcaires et de schistes argileux en pente douce, recouverts de plaines argileuses et de plaines sableuses avec, dans la partie occidentale, des granites précambriens intrusifs. On remarque des affleurements de roc calcaire à plusieurs endroits le long de la voie Rideau. L'altitude la plus élevée se trouve près de Newbliss, à 437 pi et la moins élevée, à 177 aux environs de Cornwall.

Les régions riveraines comprennent la côte nord du Saint-Laurent, le rivage de la moitié orientale du lac Charleston, les bords de la voie Rideau aux environs de Merrickville et ceux de quelques lacs marécageux au nord-ouest de Brockville. La Rideau et le Saint-Laurent sont navigables grâce aux nombreuses écluses qui y ont été érigées. La navigation de plaisance est excellente sur la rivière Rideau; seuls les grands bancs d'herbes aquatiques présentent quelque risque. Sur le Saint-Laurent, les hauts-fonds rocheux et la navigation commerciale intensive posent de graves problèmes. Tous les lacs de l'intérieur, sauf le lac Charleston, sont impropre à la navigation de plaisance à cause de leur faible profondeur et des plantes qui y croissent en abondance.

Les forêts du territoire sont du type mixte: érable à sucre, érable rouge, bouleau jaune et pin blanc; pruche et hêtre en moindre quantité. Le mélèze, le thuya de l'Est, l'épinette noire et le frêne noir abondent dans les régions humides. Ces forêts offrent en automne des paysages très colorés.

### CLIMAT

Le territoire jouit d'un climat continental qui, dans les régions riveraines du Saint-Laurent, en subit l'influence quoique de façon limitée. La température mensuelle moyenne de l'été s'établit à 80°F. Les hivers peuvent être rigoureux, la température moyenne annuelle minimum descendant jusqu'à -20°F et -30°F. Le territoire enregistre environ 30 po de pluie par année tandis que les précipitations sous forme de neige vont de 80 à 90 po. Les précipitations annuelles totales s'élèvent à environ 38 po.

### POISSON ET GIBIER

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