

Subprojects or multiple area studies: Cultural and Oral Histories of Counties in the Land Between

It is assumed that there is a correlation between cultural and natural histories/heritage features of a community and subsequent land development patterns that have emerged, so that outlining these values geographically will help to highlight and understand this connection, specifically in the Land Between (Lakeland cottage country).

Furthermore, we surmise that key cultural and natural elements are valued similarly in communities, so that uncovering these features will allow for greater understanding, ownership/a sense of pride by those communities and therefore will contribute to the desire to protect or steward target areas.

Researching of cultural heritage histories will take place under relevant themes (hunting, lumbering, transportation and settlement, recreation, First Nations, politics), and will be gleaned from appropriate and available sources (museum curators, LACACH groups, heritage groups, cottagers associations, educational institutes and agencies) and through means such as oral interviews and literature/web research. Data/information gathered related to specific sites, will be assembled in a georeferenced database where sites and specifics are photographed, and stories/details attached.

Mapping and overlaying these elements over natural heritage features may highlight areas for stewardship and protection as well as outline patterns of use and appreciation, so to provide for new assumptions and understandings with regards to these relationships.

Key research question(s):

***Each project may be restricted to a set of questions (questions/projects are suggested in a stepped and consecutive order building on one another), or to a geographic area, wherein all the questions may be researched. Furthermore, projects may be further scoped by choosing one theme (travel, hunting, forestry, politics, First Nations studies) to study within the context of oral histories.**

Project A/Questions A

1. What features in the study area are valued and provide distinct cultural heritage identities for residents/communities?
2. What are the histories/origins of these features?
3. Where are these features located?
4. Are the features still utilized and/or valued and in what manner?

Project B/Questions B

1. What cultural features were determinants in the settlement patterns of the community and how/why?
2. How are these features related to the current land use patterns and historic settlement patterns of the community?

Benefits to the community:

- Data will be used to aid in mapping and highlighting areas for protection and stewardship.
- The project will empower local communities by increasing pride and ownership and enabling messages to be carried to planning levels.
- The results of this project will further support the assessment and understanding of the uniqueness of the Land Between.
- It will allow us to enhance messages and measures for conservation of cultural heritage sites.
- It will help in overall research to extrapolate theses and understand the interplay between natural and cultural landscape patterns in these vicinities.

Benefits to the student/researcher:

- Students will be contributing to new areas of science and research, providing benchmark information and research to support further work in the future.
- Students will gain valuable insight into community planning and development.
- They will be involved in landowner and agency contact, networking, as well as partnership and project coordination.
- The project, along with experience in field inventories, and coupled with observing and assessing land use patterns will bring insight into areas of resource and land use management.
- Furthermore multidisciplinary skills, including research, data-capture, management and standards, GIS mapping and modeling, and assessment will qualify an individual for work in the conservation sector: an area of multi-tasking, requiring broad ranging skill sets, and understandings.
- Landowner, and agency contact, communication and coordination are public relation skills that will be enhanced and are required to be successful in any sector of resource management today.
- Results/research will be extended and marketed to groups across the Land Between, as well as resource agencies such as OMNR, Ministry of Culture, Ontario Stewardship, Municipalities and Watershed Councils and educational institutes.

Resources/supplies:

Office space and computer access.

ArcMap 9 GIS software.

Networks and contacts

Travel budget @ \$0.42/km.

Small stipend as warranted.

Printing costs.

Larger publishing costs.