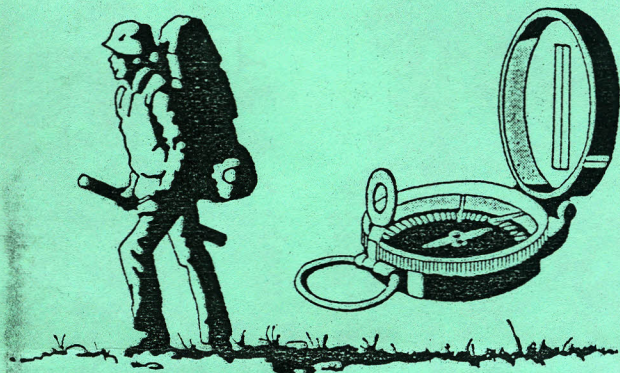


The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (C.V.C.A.) is a corporate organization established in 1958 under The Conservation Authorities Act (Rev. Stat. Ont. 1980). It was created to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of water resources in areas drained by the Crowe River and its tributaries, an area of 775 square miles. This area is managed in partnership with its member municipalities and the Province of Ontario.



Watershed. The area is unique to the watershed and its rugged scenic beauty is unmatched in eastern Ontario. Facilities presently available in this area are:

- Parking lot
- A walking trail
- Vault privies
- A stairway down to the gorge
- A cedar post barricade constructed along the top of the gorge.
- Picnic areas with tables.

The Gut Conservation Area was purchased in 1976 by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority with the co-operation of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Indian artifacts found at the Gut indicates the area was used by natives as a battlefield. Lucky visitors may still find arrowheads used by these early warriors.

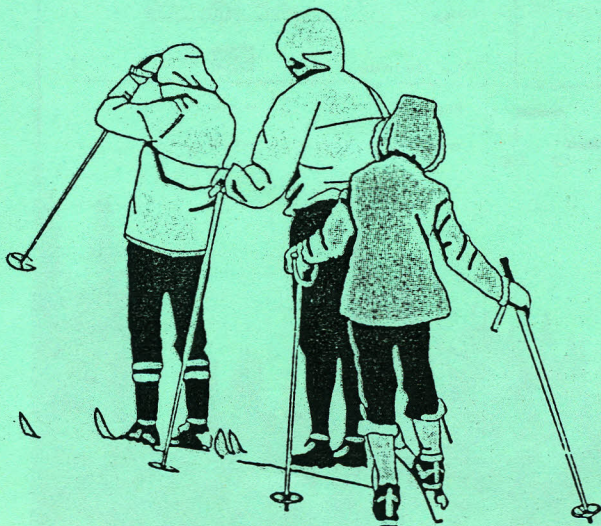
In more recent times the area was owned by lumber companies who used the Crowe River to transport their logs to market. Older local residents will remember the Pearce Lumber Co. (1850-1950) and the Armstrong Lumber Co. (1950-1976) as previous owners of this picturesque land. The lumbermen left their mark on the site when, after the first log run through the Gut, they reduced the size of the waterfalls to minimize damage to logs.

The Gut

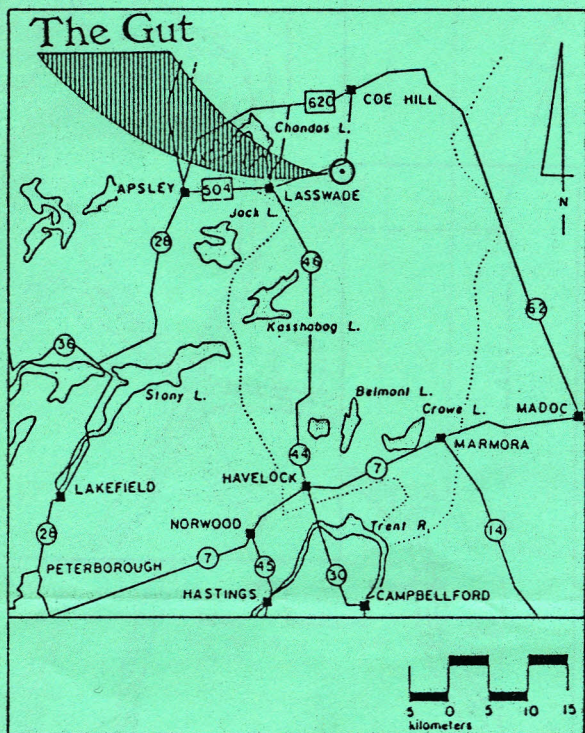
The Gut Conservation Area is a 162 ha. site located in the extreme northern corner of Lake Township, eleven (11) kilometres east of Apsley. It is on concession 1, Lake Township, County of Hastings.

The land is rugged with many outcrops of precambrian rocks interspersed with dense bush and a mixed hardwood forest. It encompasses a prominent geological feature, known locally as the "Gut", which is a large gorge through which the Crowe River flows for about 230 metres. The fissure that forms the gorge is over 30 metres high and varies from 5 metres to 10 metres in width. The gorge presents a breath taking glimpse of this unique terrain.

The Gut Conservation Area was purchased to create a public open space area which would preserve and protect this important feature of the Crowe River



A fire in 1913 combined with the logging operations to reduce the amount of big timber present on the site, but, nature's regeneration process has returned the majority of the property to a lush forest once again.



The Crowe River System

The river system is a semi-wilderness course of placid lakes and streams, white water and gorges. It flows through relatively unspoiled north country to the quaint rural settings of Southern Ontario communities. Its route through the Canadian Shield has created picturesque scenes, and is a delight to the experienced canoeist. The total drainage area is 775 square miles. The main tributaries, North River and Beaver Creek meet the "Crowe" at Crowe Lake near the Village of Marmora. Its journey is endless; at Healey Falls, the water feeds into the Trent Canal system. The drainage basin of the Crowe system forms the respective boundaries of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority.