



Municipal - Indigenous Relations in Bruce County

January 22, 2024

Presented to:









Rural Ontario Municipalities Association
Conference

About Bruce County

- Wholly in traditional territory of Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON)
- Established in 1867, after treaties #45 ½ (1836), #67 (1851), #72 (1854)
- Relationship with SON growing in several areas

Saukiing Anishnaabekiing Saugeen Ojibway Nation Treaties



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Aboriginal Title Claim Area |  Treaty 72 Area (1854) |  Current First Nations' Land |
|  Treaty 45 1/2 Area (1836) |  Treaty 82 Area (1857) |  The islands around the Peninsula were subject to various treaties, but many small islands on the Lake Huron side were returned to the Saukiing Anishnaabe in 1980 |
|  Treaty 67 Area (1851) |  Treaty 93 Area (1861) | |

Planning and Indigenous Relations - PPS



Vision: [...] Ontario recognizes the unique role Indigenous communities have in land use planning and development, and the contribution of Indigenous communities' perspectives and traditional knowledge to land use planning decisions. The Province recognizes the importance of consulting with Aboriginal communities on planning matters that may affect their section 35 Aboriginal or treaty rights. Planning authorities are encouraged to build constructive, cooperative relationships through meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities to facilitate knowledge-sharing in land use planning processes and inform decision-making. [...]

1.2.2 Planning authorities **shall** engage with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters.

2.6.5 Planning authorities shall **engage with Indigenous communities and** consider their interests when **identifying, protecting and managing** cultural heritage and archaeological resources (2020)

What does this mean in Bruce?

- Circulating every application to SON, not just those within 1km of a reserve (per Planning Act)
- Metis organizations are also circulated notices
- Bruce County Official Plan includes map of Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory;
- policy anticipates development of a protocol with SON
- Engagement relationship largely been staff:staff
- Evolved practice emerged from:
 - ‘Ugh’ moments – reacting in a good way to unfortunate events
 - Larger forces (other governments, systems changes)
 - Litigation





Key Planning Interests

Natural Heritage



Cultural Heritage

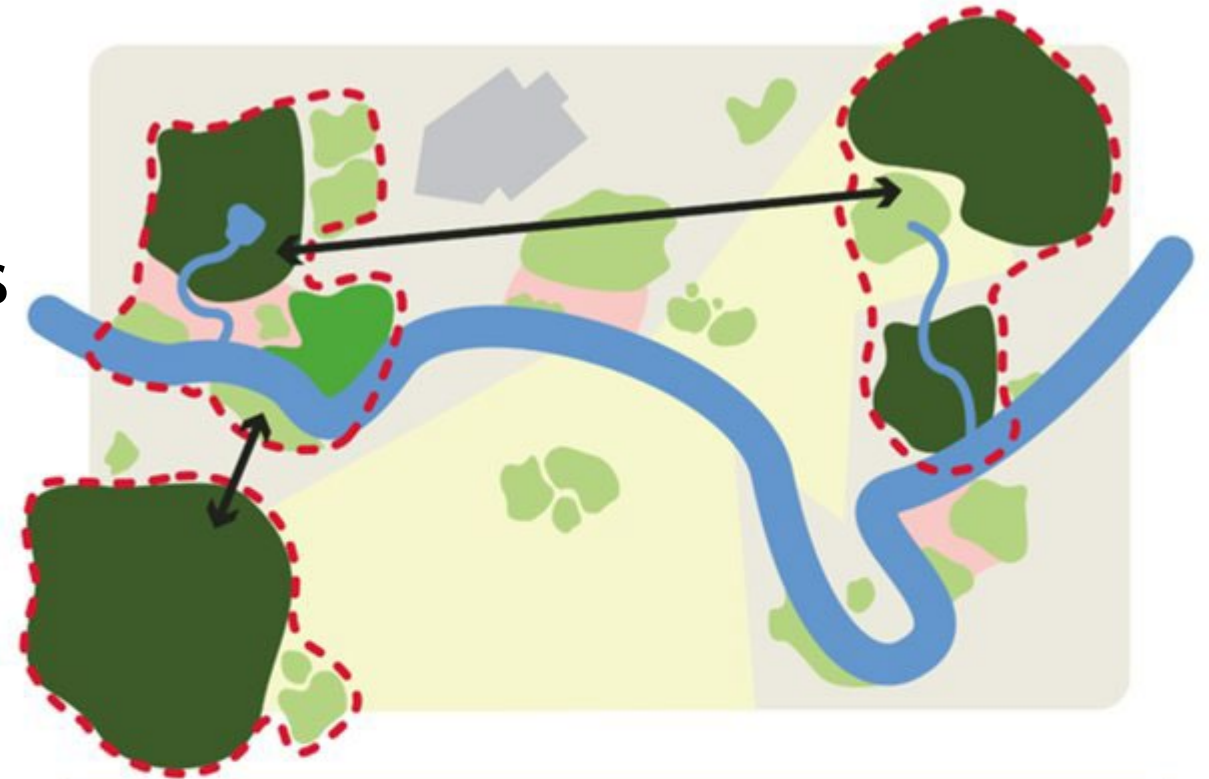




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Natural Heritage - Official Plan

- Identifying Core Area requirements for large, culturally significant species e.g. Deer, Black Bear)



Natural Heritage - projects

- Engaging SON in Pre-submission consultation
- Supporting SON Letters of Agreement with proponents for peer review
- Regularly meeting with SON to review files, interests, and how they might be addressed



Natural Heritage - opportunities

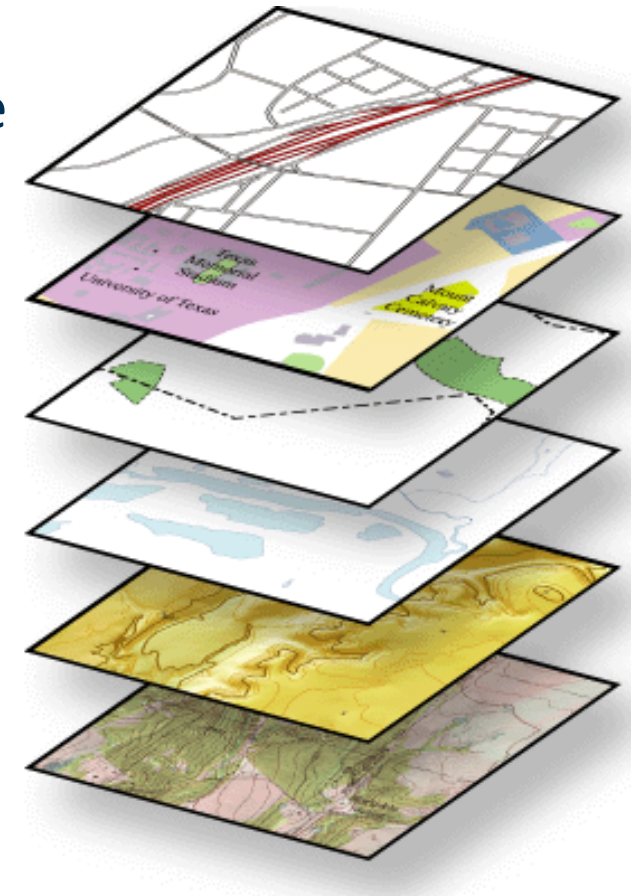
- Joint approval of Terms of Reference for studies
- Clearer process for securing resources to support timely review by SON



Cultural Heritage

- Archaeological Management Plan (AMP)

- Bruce County's AMP built on an archaeological potential tested against locations of known sites (many of which were corrected through the process) and best available information for site leads and other sources of information
- Geographic layers include best available locations of known sites and other sources of potential and setbacks
- Indigenous peoples and representatives supplied important information to the Bruce County AMP
- AMP also includes areas of prior deep and extensive disturbance and previous assessments



Cultural Heritage - implementation

- SON has published an archaeological policy and procedures manual ([link](#))
- Planning Staff use AMP layers to determine where assessments required
- Early information to proponents including SON process
 - Emphasis on context
 - SON Archaeology Monitors deployed as needed
 - Review of completed assessment
- Potential for assessments as conditions



Cultural Heritage - ongoing efforts

- Refine 'Triggers' for assessments
- Formalize engagement process
- Develop process for accidental discoveries and impacts to sites
- Add new 'cleared' areas to the maps
- Add new sites that are discovered (and associated buffers) to the map



Summary

- ✓ Indigenous Engagement re: planning is Required
- ✓ Indigenous Engagement re: planning is Relational
- ✓ The sooner the better
- ✓ Planning fits in a broader context of Reconciliation
- ✓ Planning work informs and is informed by reconciliation action planning

Thank you

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