



above: In spring trillium covers the woodlands by the trail to Hurricane Ridge.



above: White Admiral butterfly on the path by the meadow at Canoe Beach during Encampment



The Essence of SUGAR ISLAND

is its Biodiversity.

The unspoiled woodland, a rich population of wildlife including mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians has been free from and not adversely affected by human development.

Sugar Island, which consists of nine adjacent islands, is situated in the Canadian channel of the St. Lawrence River near the town of Gananoque, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, a part of the Thousand Islands. It is located in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere which was designated a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere program in November 2002. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve extends from Algonquin Provincial Park to the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. The Frontenac Arch is a narrow isthmus that links two important North American landforms – the Canadian Shield and the Adirondack Mountains.



male yellow warbler

The Sugar Island management plan includes conservation of natural resources.

The Sugar Island Rule 8. states “Natural Habitat. All effort should be made to preserve the natural habitat. Standing trees, vegetation or other property on the islands shall not be cut, defaced or injured except for safety, conservation or environmental reasons and then only with the consent of the Trustees. “

Our first responsibility is to be good stewards of the island and to make sure that all of our users practice good stewardship.



Above: Columbine in spring

References and for more information:

Dr. Charles Sutherland has identified many species of Plants and Animals on Sugar Island.

DISCOVERING THE THOUSAND ISLANDS, Don Ross, author.

Frontenac Arch Biosphere <http://www.fabr.ca/>

Parks Canada Species at Risk <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/index.aspx>

Upper St. Lawrence Heritage River www.slhr.ca

St. Lawrence Islands National Park <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/lawren/index.aspx>



The Leopard frog is a species in decline. The meadow at Canoe Beach is abundant with leopard frogs.



Birds:

Sugar Island is host to many different birds, in part due to its location on a migratory bird route. Osprey, loons and the blue heron are particularly common. Terns, flycatchers, warblers, woodpeckers and rose-breasted grosbeaks may be watching you.

left: CANOE BEACH

The Thousand Islands has one of the richest populations of reptiles and amphibians in Canada. This area represents a “tension zone” where many populations are at their southernmost or northernmost range. A notable example is the black rat snake, one of the non-poisonous snakes of the area, Canada’s largest reptile and a threatened species.

The Upper St. Lawrence is home to a number of rare species as well as home to 31 species at risk. Sugar Island is one of the only places in Ontario where pitch pine grows. The St. Lawrence River in the Thousand Islands is a famous fishing destination, estimated to support more than 88 species of fish such as perch, pike, bass, walleye and muskie.



Yearly changes bring different mammals and birds. Due to winter freezing and summer swimming, mammals travel from island to island. Habitat changes occur along the shoreline and in the woodland forests due to erosion by seasonal ice, flooding, occasional summer droughts, and regional storms.

Left: A resident mink travels along the shore when not checking the trails for meadow voles.

