

Planning for the Conservation of the Island Arc in the West Basin of Lake Erie

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Abstract

On-going research by the University of Waterloo Heritage Resources Centre is examining the possible application of existing and new types of marine conservation programs in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. The intent of this research is to explore the potential for creating a linked conservation area program across the "Island Arc" in western Lake Erie which includes Pelee, Kelleys, Middle and a number of other islands in Ontario and Ohio. Previous work in the western Lake Erie area has raised the possibility that the shipwrecks, lighthouses, fish spawning areas, wetlands, dunes, beaches, and other historic and natural features could be better conserved for use in the future through co-operative approaches by both Canadians and Americans along the Island Arc. The primary source of data for the research being reported on here is interviews with knowledgeable persons in the Island Arc area. This information can provide a framework for increased understanding, communication and co-operation in plans and activities along the Island Arc. This paper will report on findings and conclusions of the preliminary information analysis, and discuss the potential for creating a linked conservation area program in the Island Arc.

Introduction

Concern for marine conservation has increased rapidly in the Great Lakes and other parts of North America in recent years. The Great Lakes are a major freshwater region that is being examined from a marine conservation area standpoint. The Great Lakes hold a significant percentage of the world's freshwater supply, while also being home to a significant percentage of Canada's population (Environment Canada, 1993). A longtime recognition of the value of heritage exists in this region, but not much has been done in regard to marine heritage. Thus, this research seeks to explore the possibilities for conservation, planning and management for the natural and cultural heritage of the lands and waters of the Western Basin of Lake Erie. This paper focuses on the assessment and interpretation of the data collected for this research. A detailed presentation of the interview data is included in a Masters thesis (Iisaka 1999) completed in Spring 1999.

Purpose of Research

The general goals of this research are:

- to examine the possible application of existing and new types of marine conservation programs in the Western Basin of Lake Erie; especially programs linking significant areas through public parks, private reserves and other arrangements; and,
- in the light of the foregoing, to analyze the potential for creating a linked conservation area program between Canada and the United States, and specifically between Point Pelee, Ontario and Sandusky, Ohio.

Study Area

Labeled the 'Island Arc' for the purposes of this research, the study area includes the lands and waters that arc across Lake Erie's West Basin. This includes Point Pelee, the Erie Island archipelago, and the northwestern shores of Ohio (Figure 1). The study area is regional in nature and international in scope, as it crosses the boundaries between Canada and the United States. The study area also includes various types of organizations: two federal governments; a provincial and state government; numerous municipalities; an array of private interest groups; and pan-community groups, such as divers (Figure 2). An extensive system of parks and protected areas is already in place for the Island Arc (Figure 3 and Table 1), including Point Pelee National Park in Ontario and the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Ohio. This system provides a base upon which some kind of linked conservation area program could be built.

Research Approach

This research is a strategic study, examining the extent of interest in planning for linked conservation programs across the Island Arc. The research takes the form of a scoping exercise, a preliminary inquiry into the level of awareness of the Island Arc, as well as what may be accomplished in conserving and appropriately developing it. An interactive, adaptive approach was followed throughout the research process.

The research grew out of earlier assessments of potential sites for Marine Conservation Areas (MCAs) in Lake Erie. This work was largely supported by Parks Canada and resulted in the identification of three potential sites off the shores of Long Point, Rondeau and Point Pelee on the Canadian side of Lake Erie. Residents in the Pelee area expressed some interest in the possibility of an MCA. Local people had already created a small protected area offshore of Point Pelee called ErieQuest. This interest led to the undertaking of the present study.

The primary means of data collection were interviews in the Island Arc area with 21 people, 12 from Canada and nine from the US. During the interviews the participants responded to questions as individuals, and did not necessarily provide comments that were representative of an organization.

The interview data was analyzed using an interview analysis framework and grounded theory. The data is set forth in detail in the Masters thesis referred to earlier and will only be highlighted here. Information used in analysis is that given to the researcher by participants during the interview. In order to protect confidentiality, sources will not be identified directly throughout this paper – comments directly attributed to interview participants are identified using italics.

Research Results

A substantial number of commitments towards conservation and sustainable development are in place, along with arrangements that may be used as building blocks towards the formation of some kind of linked conservation program across the Island Arc. Generally, no one expressed disagreement with the concept of creating and/or building some kind of linked conservation program for the Island Arc; 15 of 21 respondents were favourable towards the idea, with some articulating

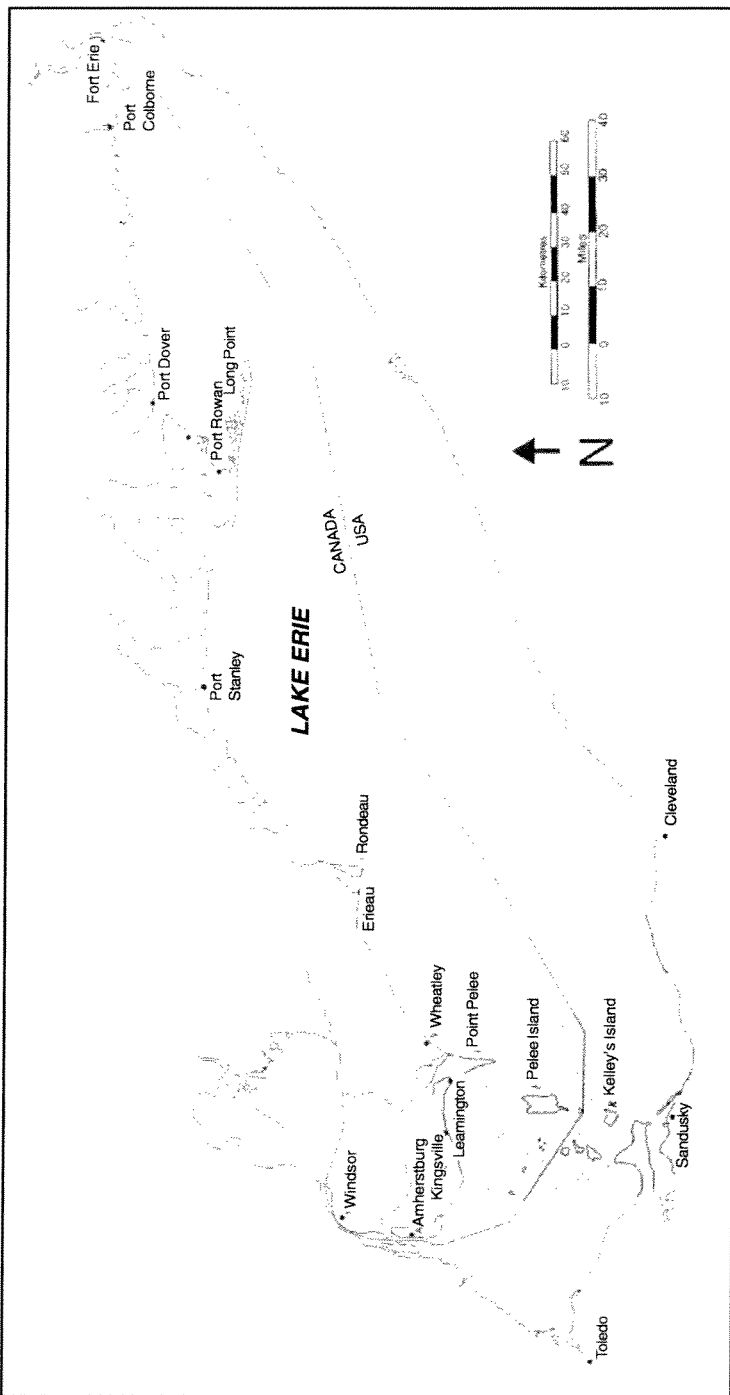


Figure 1: Research Study Area

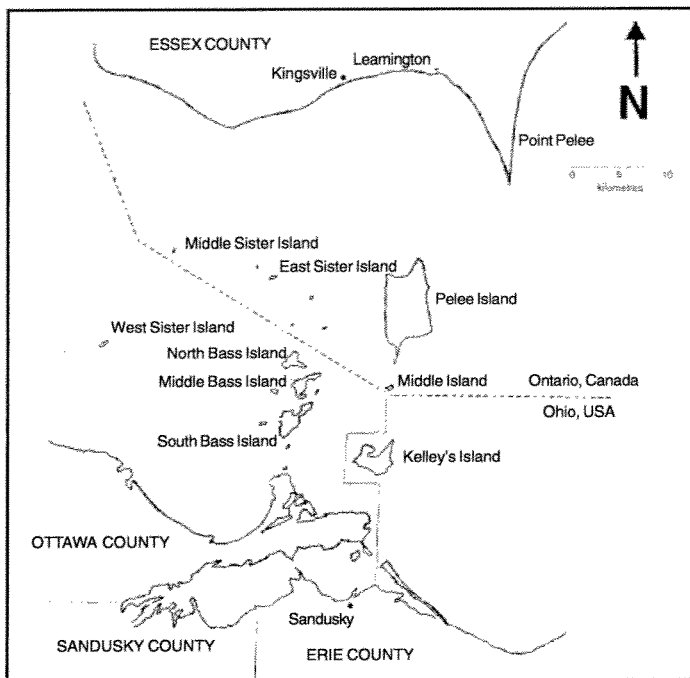


Figure 2: Political Boundaries of the Island Arc

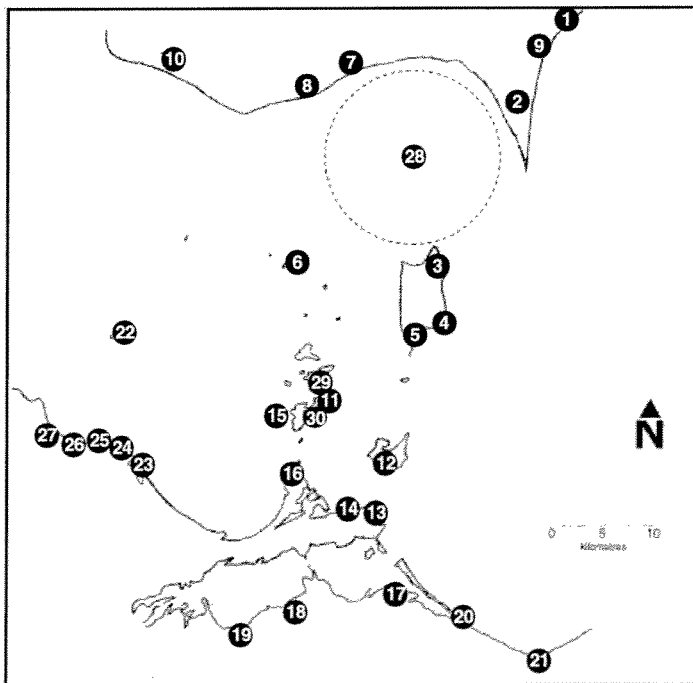


Figure 3: Existing Parks and Protected Areas in the Island Arc (see Table 1)

Map No.	Park or Protected Area	Management Agency and Additional Designations
1	Wheatley Provincial Park	MNR Recreational Park
2	Point Pelee National Park	Regionally Significant Wetland Parks Canada, Ramsar Wetland, ESA, ANSI, NSCS, NCC, FON
3	Lighthouse Point Nature Reserve	MNR, ESA, NSCS, NCC, FON, Regionally Significant Wetland
4	Stone Road Alvar Conservation Area	ERCA&FON, ANSI, CC, ESA
5	Fish Point Nature Reserve	MNR, ESA, NSCS, NCC, Regionally Significant Wetland
6	East Sister Island Nature Reserve	MNR, ESA, NCC
7	Cedar Creek Conservation Area	ERCA, Class2 PSW, ANSI, CC, ESA
8	J.R. Park Homestead Conservation Area	ERCA
9	Hillman Marsh Conservation Area	ERCA, Class2 PSW, ESA
10	Holiday Beach Conservation Area	ERCA, ANSI, CC, ESA, Class2 PSW
11	South Bass Island State Park	Ohio Division of Parks and Recreation (ODPR)
12	Kelleys Island State Park or Glacial Grooves State Park	ODPR
13	Lakeside Daisy State Nature Reserve	Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (ODNAP)
14	East Harbor State Park	ODPR
15	Green Island Wildlife Area	Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODW)
16	Catawba Island State Park	ODPR
17	Pipecreek Wildlife Area	ODW
18	Willow Point Wildlife Area	ODW
19	Pickrel Creek Wildlife Area	ODW
20	Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve	ODNAP
21	Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Reserve	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and ODNAP
22	West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
23	Magee Marsh Wildlife Area	ODW
24	Crane Creek State Park	ODPR
25	Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
26	Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
27	Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area	ODW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
28	ErieQuest Marine Heritage Area	Municipality of Leamington and ErieQuest Committee
29	Kuehnle Wildlife Area	ODW
30	Perry Victory and International Peace Monument	ODPR
ANSI	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest	
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive/Significant Area	
NSCS	Natural Site of Canadian Significance	
NCC	Site identified for the Nature Conservancy of Canada	
FON	Important wetland identified by Federation of Ontario Naturalists	
CC	Carolinian Canada Site	
PSW	Provincially Significant Wetland	
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources (Ontario)	
ERCA	Essex Region Conservation Authority	

Table 1: Legend of Existing Parks and Protected Areas for the Island Arc (see Figure 3)

enthusiasm and excitement. The following research results outline and discuss some of the opportunities and challenges for the Island Arc, as identified by the interview participants.

Specific Opportunities Identified by Participants for the Island Arc

Interview participants identified a variety of opportunities. These are summarized in Table 2 and 3, which are organized in terms of opportunities identified by Canadian and US respondents and how often they were mentioned. Opportunities that are discussed in depth in the following sections are ones that are shared by both Canada and US respondents in their interviews, and could be important in building bridges of communication and coordination across the Island Arc.

Ecotourism

A widespread theme among participants was the identification of ecotourism as a major opportunity for the Island Arc (16 of 21). Ecotourism is perceived as a means of protecting natural and cultural heritage, as well as economic development, and to a lesser degree, education of residents. By providing an economic reason for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage of the Arc, it is believed that the local population of the area would begin to attribute more value to local heritage. Income generated through ecotourism could provide funds that could be used to protect more of the natural and cultural heritage of the Arc. Ecotourism activities would also provide an opportunity to educate both tourists and residents about the heritage and history of the Island Arc.

Shipwrecks and Diving

Shipwrecks and diving are another popular theme (9 of 21). The infestation of zebra mussels in Lake Erie has helped to clear the water column, improving visibility and thus, diving conditions. With approximately 500 wrecks thought to be in the Western Basin alone (Town of Leamington, 1995), diving in the Island Arc is a growing opportunity. Canadian participants focused on the expansion of existing dive operations such as the ErieQuest Marine Heritage Area near Leamington. Some looked towards a broad marine conservation area designation—such as Parks Canada's National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA)—as a tool for increased enforcement and management capabilities. Conversely, Ohio seems a step behind the Canadian side in terms of diving initiatives, as it begins the process of locating, identifying, and marking shipwrecks in its waters.

A major difference between Ohio and Ontario is the manner in which shipwrecks are protected. Ohio has no marine archaeologist, and independent divers have only recently been provided with the training to begin inventories and classifications of Ohio's marine cultural resources. On the other hand, Ontario has a marine archaeologist, and along with Save Ontario's Shipwrecks (S.O.S.) and the Town of Leamington, 15 shipwrecks are marked with moorings, with numerous others being located and identified. In terms of MCA capabilities, Ohio is working on a process to designate underwater preserves, "with the first area probably around Kelleys Island". On the contrary, Ontario has no formal process to create any type of MCA to protect significant wrecks in the West Basin, and has shown no interest in expanding into this area as of yet. "Right now, the resource is protected through the honour system".

Ecotourism (11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger tourism potential based on protected areas and Lake Erie. • Untapped opportunity; wineries and ErieQuest are new growth areas. • Would benefit community without negative impacts on the environment. • Natural resource that's an industry to itself (Lake Erie). • Now starting to think 'promotions' for Conservation Areas. • Challenge is not to separate natural and cultural – also need political support. • What to do: more historical interpretations and attractions; package tours. • Ecotourism brochure to promote unique natural areas of South Essex.
Shipwrecks and Diving (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving is growing quickly; it's an untapped opportunity. • Opportunity for SCUBA diving. • Integrate all of the West Basin wrecks, could build tourism base. • Challenge: municipality does not control the resource. • What to do: more wreck tours for non-divers; enhance diving for non-divers. • Establish a NMCA.
Birding (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point Pelee is at capacity, so now trying to spread birders around to other areas; trying to promote fall migrations. • Birding festival – need one. • Challenge: Birding festival – lack an organizing body for such a competition. • What to do: Develop shorebird habitat through wetland restoration between Hillman Marsh and PPNP – would extend birding season to April and August.
Education (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential, especially in regards to stewardship-related education. • Educational travel opportunities. • Outdoor education centre on Pelee Island. • Challenge: none mentioned. • What to do: create West Basin research centre – embrace the heritage and ecology of the region, with a close affiliation to a University.
Fishing (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth potential for sports fishing and tours on Canadian side. • West Basin as total sports fishery along with diving–motels line the shoreline. • Secondary uses for fish, including caviar, breeding, battering. • Challenge: need few less commercial fishers and restocking program. • What to do: need infrastructure on Canadian shore to support sports fishing.
NMCA/Underwater Preserves (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance opportunity to protect the West Basin and expand tourism industry. • Would help with jurisdiction, enforcement and staff issues. • Challenge: Local community needs to perceive benefit. • What to do: begin first step in NMCA designation process.
Restoration (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to enhance natural areas. • Challenge: majority of lands privately owned. • What to do: develop shorebird habitat; begin restoration by following ERCA's restoration opportunities maps for Essex County.
Pelee Island (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for tourism-related growth. • It's unique and should be dealt with in isolation. • Unique alvars, rare species. • Challenge: efficient and quick transportation. • What to do: promote as a package of natural heritage with rest and relaxation.
Transportation (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential growth of tourism somewhat dependent on transportation availability. • Challenge: need quick and convenient modes to develop tourism industry. • What to do: need to develop transportation to Pelee and Put In Bay.
Islands (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for increased tourism activities. • Challenge: improve public access to the Islands. • What to do: birder visitation trips, take school groups over to them.

Table 2: Opportunities Identified for the Island Arc by Canadian Participants. Note that the comments in the table are directly attributed to study participants. (The numbers in brackets represent the number of respondents who identified the opportunity.)

Ecotourism (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's increased interest and visitors for heritage tourism. • It's a good way to protect and make people aware of the significance of the region. • Ottawa County has most shoreline and most historical/cultural features. • Island Arc can be a tourist destination – already #1 area for Ohio residents. • No challenges mentioned. • What to do: family oriented events; new Visitor Centre includes exhibits to learn about the area and its natural and cultural heritage. • Focus on strengthening the relationship with guests, as 65% of business is repeat.
Shipwrecks and Diving (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing chances to learn about wrecks through existing organizations and the internet. • Resource is now more available; increasing # of charters and use of GPS. • Challenge is its seasonality. • What to do: preservation and documentation of shipwrecks; buoy # of wrecks, create interpretive information. • Designation of underwater preserves.
Birding (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barely starting to tap; Point Pelee is lacking in infrastructure for increased interest, but Port Clinton has it. • Mid-West birders convention provides spin offs and future links. • Interest in reciprocal trips between Magee Marsh and Point Pelee. • Challenge: need to start up a formal industry in Ohio. • What to do: get specific niche awareness; host events with more national recognition; increase promotions. • Create a trail that connects birding areas together.
Education (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to provide context and historical significance of cultural resources, more stewardship ethic. • Nature-based • Focus on coastal wetlands and estuaries. • Underwater archaeology course promotes underwater ethic and teaches fundamentals. • Challenge: none mentioned. • What to do: educate locals about birders – they like to be recognized as an entity; angler education program. • Start training guides and hotel staff – train concerning conservation ethic, which would be passed on through contact with tourists.
Fishing (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to increase tourists to fish. • Stocks fairly stable now, in winter can ice fish. • Small mouth bass is an emerging market. • Challenge: no mention. • What to do: public access; target anglers for promotions and marketing.
NMCA/ Underwater Preserves (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for links to underwater heritage and interpretive opportunities. • Offers some notoriety, stimulates interest in resource. • Highlights areas of 'special' wrecks, could open up funding for infrastructure. • Challenge: only 10% of Ohio Lake Erie waters may be designated as underwater preserves. • What to do: First preserve likely for shallow water wrecks off Kelleys Island.
Restoration (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for wetland restoration. • Challenge: Ohio #2 in U.S. for wetland loss due to urbanization. • What to do: more restoration of cultural buildings to maintain Victorian element (on South Bass Island).
Transport- ation (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of wetlands on lands previously farmed. • Big Issue especially across the Islands. • Challenge: to coordinate transportation that is quick and efficient. • What to do: nothing mentioned.

Table 3: Opportunities Identified for the Island Arc by US Participants. Note that the comments in the table are directly attributed to study participants. (The numbers in brackets represent the number of respondents who identified the opportunity.)

Birding

Birding is another activity which is looked on favourably by participants in the Island Arc interviews (8 of 21). Throughout the Arc, there is an interest in building upon existing birding activities. South Essex County birding is internationally recognized and very popular. During spring migrations, Point Pelee is at capacity. The focus for south Essex is on extending the birding season to fall migrations, starting birding festivals, and spreading birders out to areas other than Point Pelee. In Ohio, birding is not an established, widespread, activity. Erie and Ottawa County are just beginning to focus on birding as a means to extend the tourist season from June-August to spring and fall. In this respect, these Counties are very interested in creating links between Point Pelee and Ohio, especially as they have the infrastructure that Point Pelee lacks to accommodate growth in birding activities.

Challenges Identified for the Island Arc

The discussion of challenges for the Island Arc focuses on general obstacles and conflicts identified by participants during the course of their respective interviews. A summary of these challenges is discussed below, divided into three general themes: marine-related; land-related; and, partnership and cooperation challenges.

Marine-related Challenges

In Ohio, *"there is resistance from shipping interests through the Coast Guard to the placing of buoys to mark shipwrecks – they don't like anything in the water"*. Ohio is also experiencing damage to wrecks through the destruction of fragile sites due to dragging anchors. One means to address these issues is by way of some type of MCA designation, which would offer some protection to significant natural or cultural areas. The existing Ohio underwater preserves designation is currently being reviewed, and is one option; The National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) program is another.

The acceptability of preserves for natural or ecological reasons is not perceived to be high in Ohio in the view of two of the eight US participants. The NMS process in Thunder Bay, Michigan has been questioned by some groups: *"is there a need for the designation, or is (the process) created as a make-work project for federal employees?"* However marine conservation in Ohio, if it is to rely on government or formal protection arrangements, could be based upon shipwreck protection through the underwater preserve designation. In this regard, future MCA processes, and the success of the underwater preserve designation, will most probably be dependent on the first preserve's initial success.

Land-related Challenges

Since most land in south Essex County, Ontario is privately owned, to create successfully any type of conservation program requires some involvement of private landowners. The potential for private stewardship is high and, therefore, important to the success of conservation initiatives. Private stewardship plays an important role in conservation initiatives in the Island Arc. An example of existing private stewardship is the Stone Road Alvar on Pelee Island. This area is identified as a Conservation Area, an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), a Carolinian Canada site, and an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) (Lawrence et al., 1996). One-third of Stone Road is owned by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON), while two-thirds is owned by the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA).

Under a formal agreement, FON provides advice, while ERCA “*coordinates prescribed burns and manages the area to bring it back to savannah*”. It is interesting to note that while this initiative is attributed to private stewardship, it is actually a combination of public and private stewardship approaches.

Potential opportunities exist for forming links between Canada and the US across the Island Arc by using existing public-private stewardship activities. Recent publications have highlighted the importance of private stewardship in getting initiatives started in local areas, but success is directly related to the presence of public support and partnerships (Black et al., 1998; Cardinall and Day, 1998).

Partnership and Cooperation Challenges for the Island Arc

A significant challenge for partnerships and for increased cooperation is to identify major opportunities within Canada and the US, and relate these to major opportunities between Canada and the US. Doing so could provide a possible link to start discussions concerning planning for the Island Arc. While increased coordination and some partnerships appear to be necessary for conservation in the Island Arc, there are some obstacles to building such arrangements. The obstacles discussed below reflect factors that hinder cooperation, including limited resources, preexisting relationships or lack thereof, and lack of agency support (Yaffee, 1998).

With multiplying partnerships, “*there is a greater chance for increased conflict over funding and jurisdiction*”. Funding sources are growing smaller, forcing groups to form partnerships in order to accomplish their goals. At the same time, agencies are often forced to justify their existence continuously in order to retain funding sources and apply for new ones. With increasing partnerships, one participant noted that some agencies may find their jurisdiction encroached upon by partner groups with similar goals, often leading to increased tension and conflict.

One challenge to creating partnerships across the Island Arc is hesitancy on the part of the Ohio Visitor Bureau to pursue linked promotions due to past experience. For example, a government-operated ferry service between Sandusky and Leamington was not as successful at bringing people into Ohio as was anticipated. More Americans were going to Canada than vice versa. It is not certain whether the lack of success for this venture was due to lack of interest, poor time schedules, or a lack of marketing. In addition, comments such as:

a lack of personal contact with the Canadian side makes planning difficult and,
contact and promotions need to be reciprocal; the Canadian contacts are not very interested in working with Ohio to build links that might benefit (the US) – they are only interested in what Ohio can do for them

indicated a lack of co-operation or reciprocation between Canadian and US groups. This lack of reciprocation is reflected to an extent by the activities of the Town of Leamington, which is willing to promote ErieQuest and other activities to Ohio markets, but does not appear to be interested in helping the reverse to occur. It is no longer viable to work independently from others, so it is necessary to find mechanisms to deal with these types of obstacles to cooperation.

Discussion

Means to address opportunities and challenges include increasing communication and coordination, building networks—for example to coordinate reciprocal promotions and group tours—and generating opportunities for group to group and person-to-person contact. By improving Canada—US awareness, communication and coordination, opportunities and challenges identified for the Island Arc could be addressed, and steps towards the formation of some kind of linked conservation area program for the Island Arc might be taken.

Means to Address Opportunities and Challenges

Increasing Canada-US communication and coordination across the Island Arc is essential. To begin with, increased communication and coordination could focus on activities related to ecotourism, shipwrecks and diving. Participants noted the need to learn from experience, for example, learning from dive areas such as Leamington's ErieQuest and using the information to improve Ohio dive areas. They also identified a need for coordination of reciprocal promotions and group tours related to ecotourism through the Island Arc. This could focus on building networks for birding, international group tours, and sport fishing, which appear to be of considerable interest now. For example, a birding network could exchange birders and ideas across the Island Arc. To improve this network, a birding trail could be created from Magee Marsh in Ohio, through the Islands, to Point Pelee in Ontario. The international group tour could have a diverse educational character, for example by following major battle sites and historical monuments to explain the war of 1812 and its context in the Island Arc.

The main task involved in addressing the opportunities and challenges of the Island Arc is to generate opportunities for person-to-person contact. This applies to contact within the Island Arc, for example among interested parties of south Essex County as well as across the Arc, for example, among groups in Canada and the US. Means to achieve this could include:

- establishing committees;
- identifying people for direct communication;
- increased use of computers and electronic communication;
- exchanges between 'like' agencies;
- collaborating for joint training and education materials production;
- organizing an issue-based meeting; and,
- conducting a workshop focused on a topic or topics of interest such as archaeology, diving, or ecotourism.

Developing a Communication Strategy

An opportunity widely identified by participants in this study is to increase communication and coordination within and across the Island Arc. By doing so, groups with similar goals would come together to coordinate activities for both sides of the Island Arc, leading to more consistency and encouraging treatment of the Arc as a unit. By increasing communication and coordination across the Island Arc, organizations could learn from one another by sharing conservation lessons and failures. Also with the current tight fiscal environment, and most groups lacking funds and staff to get things done, organizations could share some of the same resources as well.

The following is intended to provide a potential guide for the development of a communication strategy for the Island Arc as a step toward a collaborative or civic approach to planning, management and decision-making (Nelson 1996). Generally, a communication strategy is used to bring people together in an ongoing and evolving way as an integral part of planning (Black and Nelson 1998). It may describe the way in which people can become involved in and contribute information to a planning process, such as building some kind of linked conservation program for the Island Arc. Potential methods for communication are outlined in Table 4. A variety of methods should be used to ensure effective communication, while the means of communication chosen may be restricted by costs of different methods.

Six likely themes emerged from the interviews and from general impressions of the author, which could be used as topics for initial discussions regarding the Island Arc. These topics could form a framework for discussion, based on the strength of current activity and future potential, as identified by interview participants. The topics include:

- Tourism – has economic, social and environmental implications;
- Diving and Shipwrecks – includes both archaeological and human/cultural heritage focus;
- Birding – can be considered a sub-set of tourism;
- Education – focused on the community and resource users, especially with regards to stewardship;
- Parks and Protected Areas – would include both public and private initiatives; and,
- Future of the Erie Islands – would involve respective Island communities.

Scoping Workshop

A communication strategy could begin with a scoping workshop. The main reason for the workshop would be to provide an opportunity to bring the interested parties together to discuss the Island Arc. These findings reached in this study could be used as a guide. The six themes of tourism, diving and shipwrecks, birding, education, parks and protected areas, and the future of the Erie Islands, could be used in preparing an agenda for discussion. Through this scoping workshop, an Island Arc communication strategy could be devised, as workshop participants discuss and decide upon future courses of action and interests.

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