



PEACEFUL
PARKS
COALITION

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Dalton McGuinty To Pave Over Yet Another Green Space

Inverhuron Provincial Park is a tiny park of only 289 hectares. Located on the shores of Lake Huron, and next to the Bruce Nuclear Power Station, the McGuinty government has approved a development plan that will include a drive-through recreational vehicle campground, parking lots, roads, pumping stations, sewage systems, and will encourage further development just outside the park limits.

“The park is too small to develop,” says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition. “Right now, Inverhuron hosts day visitors enjoying a day at the beach. The rest of the park is used for quiet hikes and serves as habitat for wildlife. This will all change with the new development”.

A campground existed on the same site several decades ago but was shut down due to safety concerns relating to hydrogen sulphide from the Bruce Nuclear Heavy Water Plant. This plant has since closed, and now Ontario Parks wants to redevelop the park.

“The park is beginning to regenerate into a real forest again,” says Valastro. “If allowed to mature it would provide much needed habitat in an area where the shoreline is dominated by seaside resorts, and surrounded by intensive agriculture.”

While the McGuinty government has the 2 million dollars to gut this tiny park, it is crying poverty when pressed for funds to protect another area forest, the newly acquired Bickford Oak Woods, located just south of Inverhuron near Sarnia.

Recently purchased in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Bickford Oak Woods represents the largest intact forest in the area. However, McGuinty has not committed the funds to ensure its protection. Instead the Ontario government is proposing a designation of conservation reserve, rather than that of nature reserve, which basically means the status quo. No dedicated funds, no dedicated staff, no enforcement, but yes to sport hunting and trapping and possibly motorized vehicles.

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press release

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