

COLDWATER LAKE - SWAN LAKE

UTM Ref. 17TNV945830

Gibson Township, Georgian Bay
Status: Recommend Heritage Site

Area: 104 ha

Site Characteristics

This site consists of two shallow lakes connected by a wide channel. A floating shrub mat is present in the large south-western bay of Coldwater Lake. The lake shorelines are undeveloped and contain habitat suitable to support Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora (A.C.P.F.). The surrounding uplands are covered with glacial till and support extensive successional deciduous forests which have developed following logging and/or fire. A small area of rock barren communities is present along the western edge of the lakes.

Two mammals, six birds and 78 species of native vascular flora were recorded during field investigations, including 4 species of A.C.P.F. which obtained a score of 18 (Low representation).

Significant Natural Values and Selection Criteria Met

1. **Rare Species** - (B4) The Coldwater Lake - Swan Lake site provides habitat for the following rare species:

Vascular Plants

Sagittaria graminea var. *cristata* Grass-leaved Arrowhead [NR PR RU]

Xyris difformis Slender Yellow-eyed Grass [PR]

Ownership, Disturbance and Sensitivity

The site is on undeveloped Crown Land. Unregulated camping takes place on the shorelines. The sensitivity of the site relates to the shorelines and bays which support a few coastal plain species, the rare plants and marsh and poor fen wetlands. MNR Management guidelines which deal with protection of sensitive shoreline features by establishing a suitable buffer set-back from the lake should be followed.