

SAGE CREEK SUBAQUATIC FAN

UTM Ref. 17TPV345969

Macaulay Township, Bracebridge
Status: Recommend Heritage Site

Area: 90 ha

Site Characteristics

The subaquatic fan feature is situated along the east bank of the North Branch Muskoka River. The river has incised itself more than 30m through the fan creating a steep western and southern flank. The upper surface of the feature is relatively flat and occurs at an elevation of approximately 305m ASL, about 10m below the former level of Lake Algonquin, thus confirming a subaquatic origin for the deposit. Bedrock is exposed at river level along the western edge of the fan and on its upper surface along the southern and eastern fringes. The entire deposit is confined to a south-trending bedrock channel along which the North Branch Muskoka River flows. The surface sediments of the fan consist of sand and gravel and are probably reworked by glaciolacustrine processes associated with falling Huron basin water levels. There are no natural exposures or gravel pits within the confines of the designated area; however, pits to the north expose thick sequences of well bedded very fine sand to gravel.

Significant Natural Values and Selection Criteria Met

1. **Landform Representation - (A2)** This site has been chosen by Bajc (1992) as an undisturbed representative of subaquatic fans. Since these fans are a primary source of aggregate within the District, most of the other deposits have been disturbed.

Ownership, Disturbance and Sensitivity

Ownership of this site is unknown. To preserve the values of this site, aggregate extraction should be prohibited from the feature. Forest cover should also be left as undisturbed as possible, especially along the steep terrace walls of the river, where severe erosional problems could occur.