

Welcome to McBeath

This 55 hectare (135 acre) Conservation Area, situated on the Saugeen River canoe route, offers visitors a variety of recreational opportunities. Experiences include fishing, birdwatching, hiking, canoeing and camping. Designed for canoeing enthusiasts, [this site](#) is accessible by water only. There is no public vehicle access.

Site History

This land was initially purchased in 1854 by the McBeath family as a homestead. Many years later, Mr. Fred Porter purchased the farm which included pasture and for cattle.

This land was valued by the Authority particularly for its lengthy river frontage (1830 metres) and was purchased for use as a place for river users to camp, stop or rest. Immediately following the Authority's purchase, some of the land was cleared of all invading shrub species and seeded into grass species for pasture.

The property also contains a mixed hardwood forest, which prior to the Authority's purchase, was pasture land. The plantation was actually planted in the late 1970's as part of the Boy Scouts of Canada's tree planting program.

Friends of McBeath

'Friends of McBeath' has initiated park improvements such as vault privy construction, fire pit upgrades and recycling facilities.

The 'Friends' currently maintain McBeath, providing garbage collection, grass cutting, privy maintenance, donation collection and park improvements. All donations go towards park improvements and may be left at the park or sent along with comments or suggestions by e-mail to kempwelch@bmts.com. 'Friends' may be contacted by telephone at (519) 353-5142.

Leaflets three . . .

Leaflets three, leave them be; berries white, flee from site!

For anyone who enjoys the outdoors, there is one common problem which we can all relate to—poison ivy!! The key to avoiding this little nuisance, is proper identification.

Poison ivy is a member of the cashew family and may grow as a shrub, in a patch or as a vine (which is most common in this area.) The size of the leaves may vary greatly. They may be very large or relatively small, depending on habitat.

It can be readily identified by its alternative compound leaves with three broadly ovate leaflets, each of which may be shiny, smooth, slightly lobed or notched on the edge. The terminal (centre) leaflet has a longer stalk than the other two.



The sap or oil found in all parts of the plant contains urushols. These toxins may cause an allergic reaction in the form of a rash and itchy blisters. Although the reaction occurs immediately when the sap touches the skin, symptoms may take twenty-four to forty-eight hours or more to appear. Washing thoroughly after contact is recommended and applying jewelweed juice is considered a herbal remedy.

Poison ivy oil can be spread by animals, clothing, tools and even ashes in the smoke from burning plants. Some parts of the body are more sensitive than others to poison ivy.

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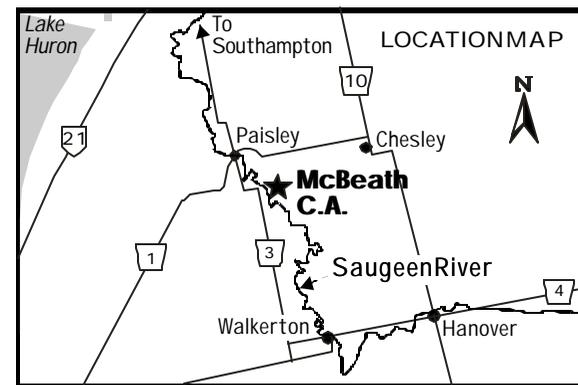
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Safety Tips

1. For safety, this Conservation Area is designated a glass-free zone.
2. Please store your food properly to prevent unpleasant visits from wildlife.
3. Do not dive into the river from the shoreline.
4. We recommend that visitors wear shoes at all times.
5. The pasture land is actively farmed and is off-limit to canoeists due to the presence of farm animals.
6. The Village of Paisley is the next community downstream. It is approximately a two hour canoe trip. You can restock supplies there.

How to Find Us!

The McBeath Conservation Area is located 9 km upstream or south of the Village of Paisley on the lovely Saugeen River Canoe Route. It is strategically placed halfway along the 102 km canoe route. The area is accessible by water only!



A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION ONTARIO NETWORK

McBeath Conservation

Canoe Camping and Day Use Area



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Prepared in cooperation with:

 Human Resources Development Canada  Développement des ressources humaines Canada

Saugeen River Canoe Route

The Saugeen River originates in one of the highest points in Southwestern Ontario and flows through rolling scenic countryside to Lake Huron, at Southampton. Although the route is located within 'southern' Ontario, the surroundings and characteristics of this picturesque route make one feel as if they are in northern Ontario. The route begins at Hanover Park, ending 102 kilometres downstream at Denny's Dam, near Southampton.

River conditions vary from broad placid sections to stretches with rapids and eddies, making the Saugeen ideal for family canoeing and for learning the basics of rapid water navigation. The rapids present little difficulty, except in early spring, when water is high and fast flowing.

Portages are short, bypassing three dams. In late summer, if the water is unusually low, some shallow stretches may make navigation difficult. A number of access points and parks, providing various facilities, are located along the canoe route.

The canoeist will be able to see a variety of wildlife along the route, such as great blue herons, mallards, beavers and muskrats. Sport fishing opportunities are good for bass, pike, rainbow and brown trout. Check the fishing summary regulations for specific seasons.

For a copy of the Saugeen River Canoe Route brochure, contact Saugeen Conservation at (519) 364-1255 or www.svca.on.ca.



Family Camping

McBeath is valued as a popular canoe docking area. It is easy to land the canoe on the sandy beach and walk up to the large grassy camping and picnic area.

This day-use Conservation Area is often used as a 'meal-break' stopover for canoeists who wish to take a break.

Canoeists travelling between Walkerton and Paisley, who wish to stay over and camp here, have the choice of family or group camping sites allowing up to 75 people. To check river conditions or site availability, contact Friends of McBeath or Saugeen Conservation.

The primitive nature of this Conservation Area adds to its beauty and charm. This site does have simple amenities such as picnic tables, fire pit, cooking stations, help-yourself firewood, recycling and garbage facilities and modern vault washrooms. Donation towards firewood and other amenities may be made at the donation box located at the camping area. Also, the nearby Village of Paisley has all that the traveler needs to stock.

Please respect this natural area and do not litter. Many hours of volunteer effort and time go into this park for your enjoyment.

Supplies

Supplies may be restocked in the Village of Paisley which is approximately two hours of paddle time from McBeath Conservation Area.

Fishing

Should you visit during fishing season, catches may include Small Mouth Bass, Rainbow Trout, Large Mouth Bass or even Northern Pike and Muskie. Feel free to cast your line from the shoreline or from your canoe and try your luck in the mighty Saugeen! Please watch for other canoeists.

