

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust

High Lonesome Nature Reserve

867 Carbine Road, Pakenham, Ontario

Forests, meadows and wetlands for hikers, skiers, photographers, birders and naturalists

High Lonesome Nature Reserve is a 200 acre property that lies within the Pakenham Mountain Provincially Significant Wetland Complex only 45 minutes from central Ottawa. There are 8 km of marked back country trails for hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, and observing nature that wind through a mosaic of regenerating upland forest, meadows, and wetlands, providing opportunities to observe varied habitats and wildlife.

The property is open to the public and parking is available at the end of Carbine Road just outside the main gate. There is a small gate for pedestrian access only. A privy is located beside the barn near the entrance.

Organized groups wishing to visit the property need to read our Public Access Policy and complete the Access for Organized Groups Form available on our web site at www.mmlt.ca. Group participants are asked to contribute a donation of \$10 each to help with the costs of the property. Children under age 16 are free.

Property Description

High Lonesome is the MMLT's flagship property for organized events and is used to provide people of all ages with nature experiences. Whether you're an avid birder who likes to get out at dawn, an amateur photographer looking for scenic landscapes, or you're simply looking for a beautiful spot to sit and be inspired or to walk, this nature sanctuary draws anyone looking for the stillness and quiet that only wilderness can provide.

A network of more than a dozen, low impact trails of different lengths and degrees of difficulty has been developed to allow visitors to experience a variety of habitats. Well-marked, colour-coded trails can be navigated in conjunction with our trail map. Choose to look for bear claw marks on trees in the forest, circle a beaver pond, or climb to the highlands to find a huge old red oak tree.



The property is surrounded by other wilderness properties and old farms, and provides rich habitat diversity for wildlife. More than half a dozen Species at Risk have been observed: Blanding's Turtle, Snapping Turtle, Monarch Butterfly, Bitternut Trees, Eastern Wolf, Whip-poor-will, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Flooded Jellyskin lichen, and Rusty-Patched Bumble-Bee.



History

According to the earliest archives of High Lonesome, William and Mary McWatty and their family settled here in 1884. They cleared 50 acres and bought themselves 4 cattle, 4 sheep, 2 horses and 1 hog. Half an acre was garden and orchard.

The property was farmed or logged right up until 1997 when it was purchased by the late Barry (Sam) Spicer, who used it for recreation and nature enjoyment. It was Sam's wish that the property be protected as a Nature Reserve and when he died suddenly in 2010, his brother Ken ensured his wish was fulfilled by securing the agreement of his family to donate the property to the MMLT in 2012 to be preserved in perpetuity.

Plans for the Property

Until several decades ago, the area was actively pastured and/or logged for fuel wood and lumber. Today there are old fields and grassy meadows where crops were once grown, livestock were pastured and logs were processed. MMLT's management plan is to proactively restore some of the degraded areas to their natural state.

Two meadows at the front of the property have become habitat for butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies as well as a variety of birds, such as bluebirds. Turtles bask in a nearby sunlit pond.

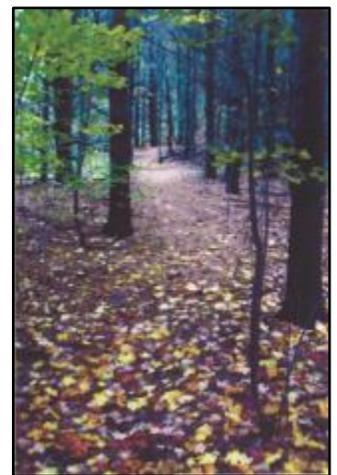


These meadows will be allowed to reforest naturally over time.



Over 4000 native trees and shrubs have been planted since 2013 with an emphasis on native nut trees to complement the existing bitternut hickories, butternuts, and oaks.

Future plans include the addition of interpretative signs on the trails and of a Welcome Centre developed to enhance the visitors' experiences.



HIGH LONESOME NATURE RESERVE
867 CARBINE RD, PAKENHAM

Trail Lengths

Bear Trail	412 m
Beaver Pond Rd.	1410 m
Beaver Pond Trail	981 m
East Trail	324 m
Lost Antler Trail	411 m
Middle Trail	499 m
North Wind Trail	887 m
Processor Rd.	498 m
Sam's Hill Trail	134 m
Shortcut Trail	391 m
Sleeping Doe Trail	193 m
Spooky Marsh Trail	358 m
West Pond Trail	752 m
Wolf Trail	1280 m

