



Attawandaron Scout Reserve



The front part of the Scout reserve contains the Ranger's House, a chapel and 2 large, heated facilities, Burr and Beaver Lodges. Burr lodge contains a kitchen and dining area, seating 50 people. Near Burr are 3 concrete block, heated cabins, to sleep 18 campers. Behind Burr Lodge are 2 Adirondack circles, each consisting of 6 non-heated cabins, each with 6 bunks. There are 2, new heated, M/F, washrooms with hot water and shower facilities.

One is wheel chair accessible. Beaver lodge consists of a kitchen, a dining area seating 40+, 24 bunks, and 2 indoor washrooms and 1 shower.

The Chapel, tucked into the woods, is named “Ween Mal Ga Mic”, which means “place of prayer” in Ojibway, recognizing the culture of the present First Nations community which is nearby. They replaced the original native population at settlement, more than 400 years ago, who were known as the Attawandaron. We intend to renovate the chapel to also accommodate an educational centre for the environment.

The middle part of the Scout Reserve, in a fairly flat area, is surrounded by forested sand dunes. There are 10 large, designated tenting areas, capacity of about 75 campers each. There are 6, heated cabins in this area, maintained by Area Scouting groups, sleeping between 15 – 25 campers. These are available for rental. There is a 30 foot tower that accommodates a 20 foot rappel and a 24 foot climbing wall. The Camp has 16 canoes with life jackets, paddles and safety kits which are stored near the Ausable Cut. This waterway also accesses the Pinery Provincial Park and Lake Huron. The river is slow-moving and is ideal for beginner canoeists. Tobogganing in the winter is excellent and very popular, as is snowshoeing.

The north part of the camp is the bottom lands of the former Ausable River. Much of this area (called ‘the flats’) is ideal to run around in and explore. It is used as an event area for camporees and is an excellent place to star gaze at any time of the year. Groups have access to volleyball nets and balls.

Location of Centre

See information regarding the map and direction in the link below
<http://www.attawandaron.com/map/>

Contact Information:

- Municipal address: 8916 Lakeshore Rd., Municipality of Lambton Shores, County of Lambton, Province of Ontario.
- Contact: Scouts Canada, London Office: 531 Windermere Rd., London, Ontario,

N5X 2T1, Phone: 1-888-568-7472, email: swocamps @scouts.ca
Website: <http://www.attawandaron.com/>

Latitude / Longitude: 43.224161 - 81.861089

Environmental features of the Centre:



The Attawandaron Scout Reserve consists of 77 ha. (190 acres) of Oak Savanna forest and sand dune geology, which has become rare in North America. As a result, it contains a significant number of species at risk, designated by both the Ontario and Canadian Governments. Attawandaron is protecting the rare natural habitat, undertaking conservation measures where required and at the same time providing enriched outdoor and camping experiences for all Scouting ages, spring, summer, fall and winter.

Attawandaron is serviced by municipal water, hydro and natural gas. Buildings at the south end have large, septic waste disposal systems. Cabins and camping areas within the middle part of the camp are serviced by 5, spacious composting toilets which contain systems to biodegrade all sewage. There are no kybos or pit privies in Attawandaron.

The Camp has also been designated as part of the Port Franks IBA (Important Bird Area) by the Province. A major bird (and Flying Squirrel) feeding station has been established at the shelter near Burr Lodge. Bird houses are being placed throughout the property. The number of birds has increased dramatically.

Access to surrounding environmental places of interest.



Abutting the easterly boundary of Attawandaron is the Pinery Provincial Park, (2,532 ha or 6,330 acres) which is one of the largest, most used

Provincial parks. It has frontage on Lake Huron and its swimming beaches are among the best in Ontario.

Environmental Education Programmes Available



We are in the process of developing extensive environmental programs, both guided and unguided. During the annual Can-Am Camporee we have 2 “activity” centres, staffed by naturalists, which feature different aspects of the natural environment. The review of the camp programming, done by the youth, rank highly, this experience with nature education. During our weekend camp for under-privileged youth, we provide guided nature walks.

We are developing information signs on our trails which will enrich unguided hikes, such as pointing out the nest of Bald Eagles seen at the north end of the property. Pictures of designated species at risk have been placed in the lodges and cabins and pictures of birds which are attracted to bird feeders have been placed at the bird feeders by Burr Lodge, to help the youth (and leaders) identify the species. This in in keeping with the designation of the lands as being an IBA (Important Bird Area).

Environmental Management of the Centre



Dwarf Hackberry is a species designated “at risk” by the Provincial and Federal Governments. A detailed survey of the camp, undertaken in November, 2011, found a very large number of these trees. The high density of this rare plant shows that the presence of the Scout camp has not had a negative impact on this rare habitat... in fact, by keeping openings in the forest cover, through camp activities, the Dwarf Hackberry seems to have flourished. A very large number of very uncommon orchids are growing in parts of the former Ausable riverbed at the north end of the camp. These are now at risk because of the spread of Scots Pine plantations which were planted 40 years ago (a misguided program in the past). A remediation program is being developed to save the orchid beds. Youth are being involved in this conservation project.

There are a number of invasive species which are of concern to the health of the natural environment. The control of Phragmites, Crown Vetch and Scots Pine in the former Ausable river bed lands is vital to the protection of the orchid beds. Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn has to be controlled in the

rest of the property. Invasive species control programs are being supervised by a Camp Committee member who is provincially certified to develop and undertake invasive species control programs by using herbicides. A major project will be to remove the White Pines which are filling the Savanna openings of the rare Oak-Savanna habitat. We are involving Cubs, Scouts and Venturers in a very popular Pine removal program.

Main achievements to date:

Establishment of invasive species control programs

Dramatically increasing the number of birds, in all 4 seasons, to an accessible viewing station.

Developing programs to protect designated species at risk

Goals for the future:

Establish more unguided environmental education programmes

Develop an interpretive and environment education centre... likely using the chapel (which needs winterizing)

Languages the centre can offer activities in: English only.