



WHITE LAKE Property Owners Association
Environment Volunteers



ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN

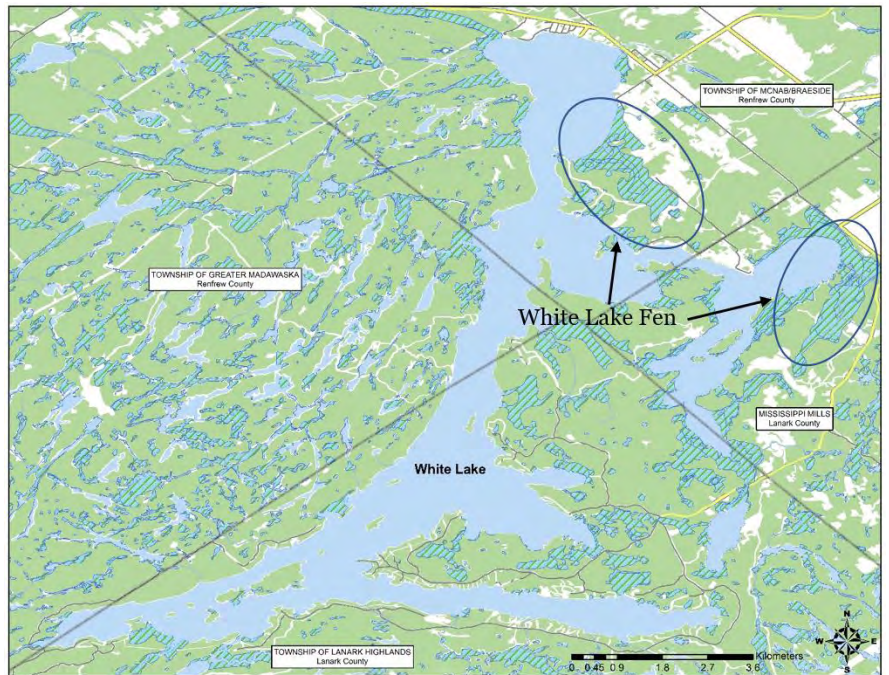
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White Lake Fen

July 7, 2022

The White Lake Fen is a special type of wetland which has been designated an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest and a Provincially Significant Wetland. The photo on the right shows the fen divided into two areas: one adjacent to the White Lake Village Basin and the other in Hayes Bay.

Fens are a relatively rare wetland habitat in Lanark and Renfrew Counties. Fens can occur on either marble or limestone bedrock. They are spring fed with waters which are high in minerals but relatively low in nutrients. Part of the White Lake Fen is floating over shallow waters.



The White Lake fen is home to rare plants including several orchids. These include the orchid *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (left).

The White Lake fen is also one of the few Canadian locations where the Bogbean



Fen at water's edge



Bogbean in full bloom

Buckmoth can be found. This is a species of silk moth that feeds on a typical fen plant, Bogbean.

The Bogbean Buckmoth is a rare moth known to occur in North America in only New York State and in Ontario. In Ontario, it is classified as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO)

due to its habitat specificity and extremely limited geographic range. It is currently found at two sites in southeast Ontario: the Richmond Fen Wetland, and the White Lake Fen Wetland Complex. The actual area occupied by the species in Ontario is less than 3 square kilometers and is thought to support approximately 3,000 Bogbean Buckmoths.

It is remarkable that despite the rarity of fens such as the White Lake Fen and the even greater rarity of its plant and insect life, that this area is not a protected wetland.



The endangered Bogbean Buckmoth and its caterpillar