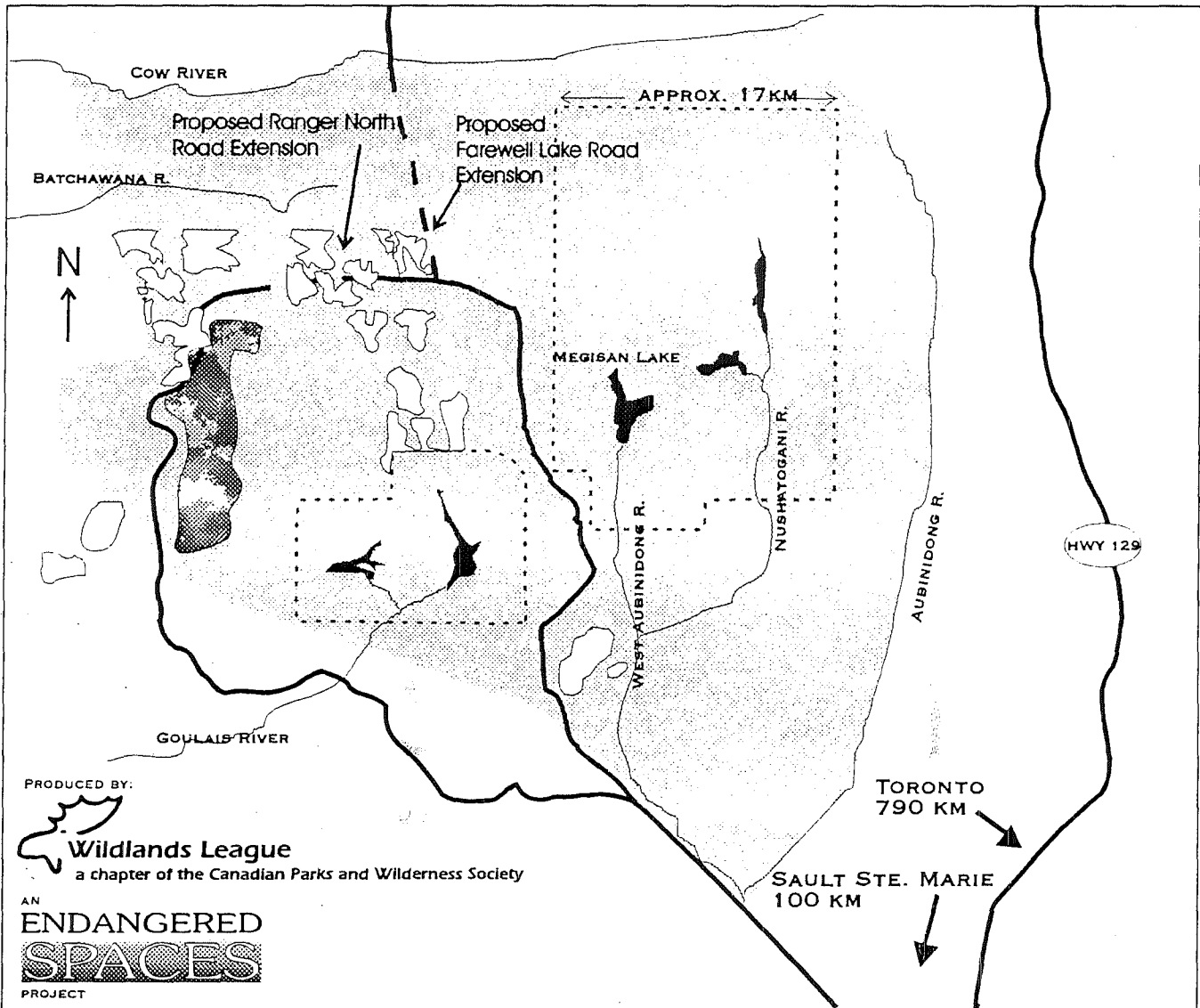
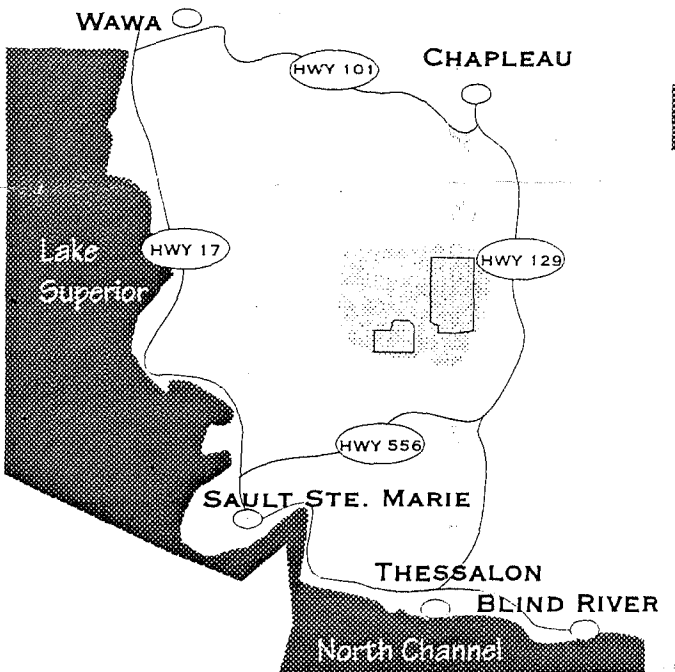
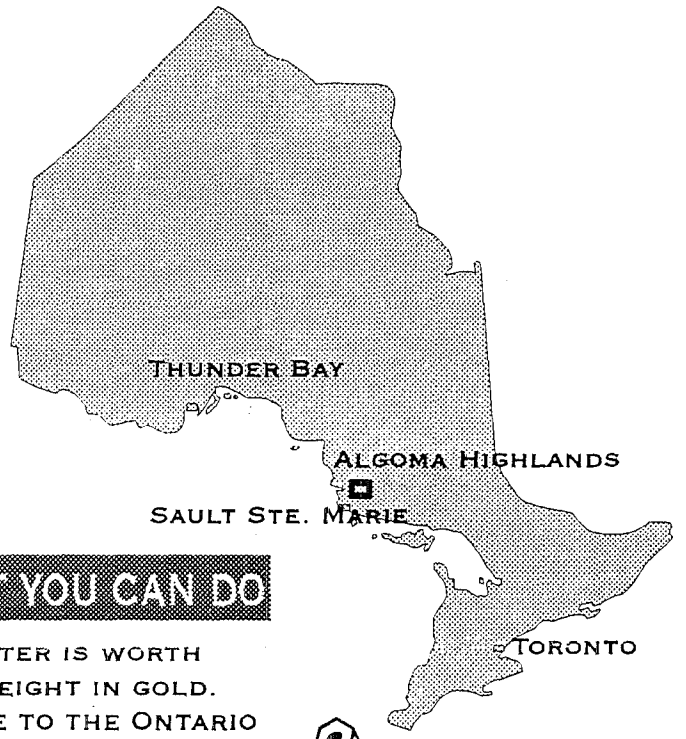
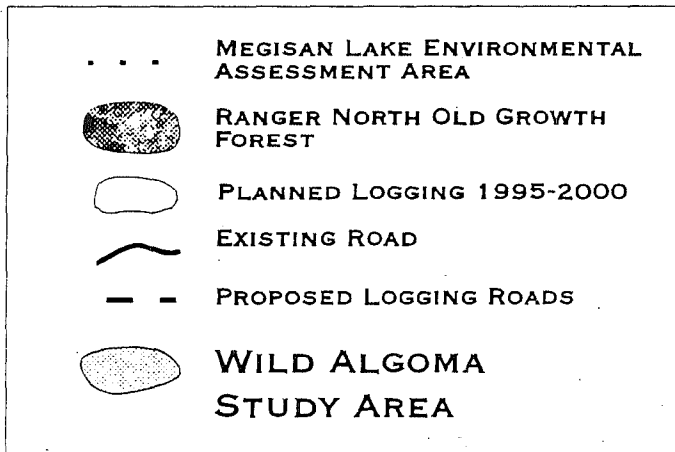


THE ALGOMA HIGHLANDS

A REMARKABLE WILDERNESS IN THE GREAT LAKES FOREST



THREATS



WHAT YOU CAN DO

A LETTER IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD. WRITE TO THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND DEMAND THAT ROADS PLANNED FOR THE ALGOMA HIGHLANDS BE STOPPED AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY RELEASE THE STUDY THAT SAYS THAT THE HIGHLAND'S FORESTS AND RIVERS SHOULD BE PROTECTED.



HON. BOB RAE
 PREMIER OF ONTARIO
 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
 QUEEN'S PARK
 TORONTO, ONTARIO
 M7A 1A4
 (416) 325 3745 FAX

Save the Algoma Highlands!

PLANS BEING DEVELOPED TO DESTROY A SPECTACULAR WILDERNESS!

WHERE IS IT?

100 km northeast of Sault Ste. Marie lie the Algoma Highlands, a rugged 1200 square kilometre landscape of rushing rivers, towering cliffs, and unlogged forests (see map on reverse).

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

FORESTS, RIVERS, AND WILDLIFE

The Highlands contain Ontario's largest stands of majestic unlogged old-growth maple, yellow birch, jack pine and white pine. Ranger North, 60 square kilometres of extremely rare old-growth white pine and yellow birch forest forms a spectacular piece of the Algoma wilderness. The Highlands are home to animal species, such as lynx, pine marten, three-toed woodpecker and bald eagle, that survive best in undisturbed landscapes. Wolves, black bear, moose, osprey, heron and sandhill cranes also inhabit the area. Algoma supports provincially significant species such as the smoky shrew and the wood turtle. There have even been reports of eastern cougar, a nationally endangered species, in the Highlands. The Algoma Highlands contain the headwaters of the Mississagi, Batchewana, Goulais, Montreal, West Aubinadong, and Nushatogani Rivers; all provide pristine trout, otter, and mink habitat and are spectacular canoe routes.

FIRST NATIONS AND THE GROUP OF SEVEN

Historically, the Mississaugi, Thessalon, Garden River, and Batchewana First Nations used the Algoma Highlands for their summer camps, hunting grounds, and canoe building sites. First Nations continue to use the area to exercise aboriginal rights, including hunting, fishing and trapping. Group of Seven artists Arthur Lismer, A.Y. Jackson, and J.E.H. MacDonald immortalized the Highlands in oils. MacDonald, who thought Algoma was a revelation and an inspiration called it the "original site of the Garden of Eden."

ECOTOURISM

The rich diversity of life in Algoma provides high-quality wilderness experiences including fly-in hunting and fishing activities. There are several remote tourist operators in the area who are interested in eco-tourism, an industry they feel has great potential in the remote regions of Algoma.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the effort to save The Algoma Highlands please contact:

Northwatch
P.O. Box 282
North Bay, Ontario
P1B 8H2
705 497 0373

THREATS

ROADS

Currently three major logging roads enter the Highlands, but right now none of them are joined together to form a continuous route. The Ontario government is now making plans to let two logging companies build permanent roads that will divide the Highlands into three pieces. The roads will provide a new direct route from Chapleau to Sault Ste. Marie and allow for logging and other development in the heart of the Highlands. The road building, if approved, will start later this year and finish next summer.

LOGGING

After the roads are built, logging will begin. The map on the reverse shows only some of the logging planned in the heart of Algoma over the next five years. Clearcuts, roads, bridges and gravel pits will replace wildlife habitat, wilderness, and old-growth forests.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE HIGHLANDS?

- Destruction of old-growth forests and wetlands that are home to numerous species of wildlife.
- Destruction of existing remote tourism businesses and the loss of opportunities for expansion.
- Continuation of unsustainable logging, including clearcutting.
- Increased poaching because Conservation Officers will be unable to catch poachers who will have roads for easy escape routes.
- Hundreds of noisy transport trucks will travel through the Ranger North Old growth forest and the interior of the Algoma wilderness.
- Failure of the Ontario government to meet its commitment to protect wilderness ecosystems.
- Logging of the headwaters of five major river systems.

WHAT HAS THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT DONE?

BROKEN PROMISES

1) In 1991, an independent environmental advisory committee recommended careful treatment of Algoma, stating that they saw "significant long-term environmental impacts from the planned timber harvest in the area; loss of wilderness is final, threatening the remote tourism industry and other forest users." The government response, a study of timber impacts on back-country tourism in Algoma, is now underway, but the current proposed solution calls for little more than leaving strips of trees

around lakes.

2) In the spring of 1994, the Environmental Assessment Board told the Ontario government to develop a policy for keeping parts of Ontario roadless, yet plans for new roads for Algoma forge ahead.

3) In June 1994, the Ranger North Old-Growth forest was protected from logging, but past logging and current plans mean that it will soon be surrounded by clearcuts and have a busy new road running through it.

4) The Ontario government has committed to protecting wilderness in each of Ontario's natural regions. Bob Rae promised to protect more of the wilderness in five natural regions by the end of 1993. As of late summer 1994 they still haven't kept their promise.

5) The Ministry of Natural Resources is refusing to release a consultant's study that concludes that key areas in the Highlands should be protected forever.

6) In 1989, Premier Bob Rae was arrested in Temagami, protesting the destruction of old-growth forests like those in Algoma. He promised things would be different under a NDP government. Why hasn't it been so?



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Citizen groups throughout Ontario and the northern United States are working to stop the destruction of the unique values of Algoma. We are writing letters, giving presentations and talking with scientists, but we can't save Algoma alone.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write to the Premier and tell him that the Algoma Highlands must be protected. Use the information above to tell him why.

Hon. Bob Rae
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A4

Write to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Superior Forest Products and St. Mary's Paper and ask them to withdraw their proposal to build new roads and destroy the wilderness.

Mr. Ron Raffle
Ministry of Natural Resources
875 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6A 5L5

Mr. Eric Bukowicki and Mr. Mark Stevens
c/o St. Mary's Paper
75 Huron St.
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6A 5P4