

## LONDON BAY CENTRE

The Landon Bay Centre is 225 acres of old growth forest, ancient granite outcroppings, open meadows, marshlands, a creek, and a high cliff with a panoramic view of the Thousand Islands. Situated in the heart of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, the property was owned for many years by John Cross and his descendants when the land was partly cleared but mostly kept in its original state. It has continued to be preserved in its natural beauty since 1965 by The Barbara Heck Foundation.

The Biosphere Reserve was designated in the fall of 2002 by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) for its biodiversity which is greater than any place in Canada. Nowhere is this more evident than at Landon Bay. The extent of the diversity is well documented, including a SI/MIB (Smithsonian Institute / Man In the Biosphere) biodiversity plot in which 16 different species of mature trees have been identified in a 100 metres square plot staked out in the forest.

The 5km Donevan Trail includes 'The Lookout', the best natural view of the 1000 Islands. A short way to The Lookout is by the Lookout Trail.

An osprey nest built by grade 10 students in 1996 has been occupied each year. The upper viewing platform alongside the Cross Cemetery Road offers the best view in the county of an osprey nest.

Loops within the Donevan Trail as well as several other trails offer many options in terms of difficulty, length and scenery.

The new Bay Trail brings you to the waters edge and at one point features some steps beside a cascading creek.

The Rosette Pavilion is a decorative garden specifically designed for seniors and those with limited mobility.

### WHEN YOU ARE AT THE LOOKOUT

Look off in the distance and see both the American and Canadian spans of the International Bridge. Most of the materials to build these bridges were floated up or down the river in 1937 and 1938.

An expanse of forest still covers the land. Although tenuous in places, there is still some forested continuity through this area (known as the Frontenac Arch) between Adirondack Park and Adirondack Park (A to A).

Conserving this continuity is one of the objectives of the Biosphere Reserve.

Think of the beauty that greeted the first European explorers paddling up this river.

Appreciate why native people from the east, the west and the north all visited this area to fish and hunt on a regular basis. They called it *The Garden of the Great Spirit*.

Imagine the frustration of the road engineers building the 1000 Islands Parkway in 1937 who had finished the Parkway except for the causeway you see in front of you ... the rock they dumped kept disappearing ... a false bottom ... no funding to build a bridge or a road around the end of the Bay ... so they worked all winter, 24 hours a day, dumping rock in to the Bay until they found the bottom and could start building the causeway ... and the Parkway was completed to complement the new International Bridge at Ivy Lea opened in 1938.

Think of the two kilometers of ice that rose above this rock over 12,000 years ago pressing down on the landscape and grinding out grooves and polishing the rock. Look for small white areas of very hard polished rock that have offered more resistance to the weathering of time and feel the smoothness of these surfaces.

Consider the frustration of the farmer who rented this property one summer and let his young cattle roam freely. In the fall when he collected them one was missing ... and a search party of friends and neighbors couldn't find it. But in the spring someone told him they had just found it ... where? ... in a tree ... just below Lookout Rock!

Imagine loggers floating huge pine logs out the bay and down the river to feed an ever growing building industry in the 1800's.

Listen to the echo of the hymns that are sung at the annual sunrise service held on this rock each May ... or to the environmental lessons taught here to countless children, youth groups and adults.

Understand why the residents of this area hesitate leaving in the summer and why hundreds of thousands of visitors joins us to share the peace and tranquility of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve.

Share the sentiments of the founders of The Barbara Heck Foundation who followed their mandate which was (and is) "To protect and preserve the rare and valuable natural assets of Landon Bay, its environs and the Thousand Islands so that our generation and generations to come may learn about and appreciate our unique relationship with God's creation and the need to live in harmony with it".

# LONDON BAY CENTRE TRAIL MAP



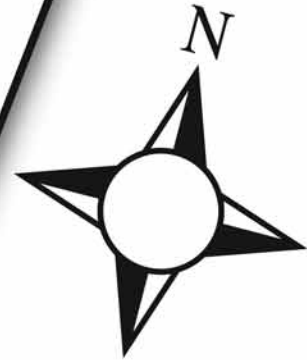
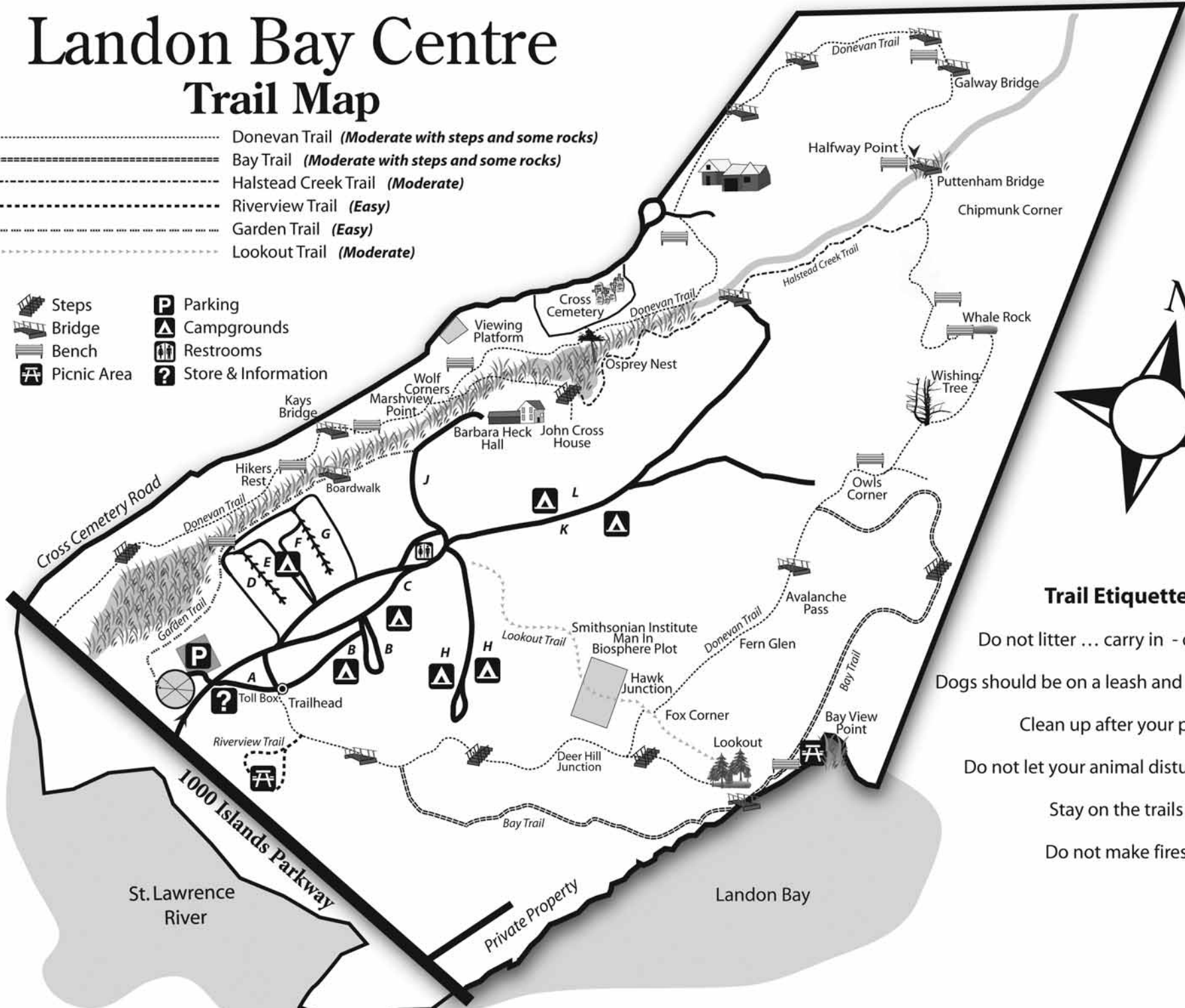
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# Landon Bay Centre Trail Map

- ..... Donevan Trail (*Moderate with steps and some rocks*)
- ===== Bay Trail (*Moderate with steps and some rocks*)
- Halstead Creek Trail (*Moderate*)
- - - - - Riverview Trail (*Easy*)
- ..... Garden Trail (*Easy*)
- ..... Lookout Trail (*Moderate*)

-  Steps
-  Parking
-  Bridge
-  Campgrounds
-  Bench
-  Restrooms
-  Picnic Area
-  Store & Information



## Trail Etiquette

- Do not litter ... carry in - carry out
- Dogs should be on a leash and under control
- Clean up after your pets
- Do not let your animal disturb wildlife
- Stay on the trails
- Do not make fires