

## Chandos Lake: Periods of Land Use

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Although the Kawartha Lakes region has been occupied by people for thousands of years (Brunger, 2009), the focus of this study is on human impacts in the last 200 years. Based on the review of several historical documents, three main periods of land use change were determined.

### Period 1: Land clearance (1860-1910)

The first is a period of significant land clearance and spans from the mid-1800s to 1910. Although European settlement in Peterborough began as early as 1818 (Howe & White, 1913); settlement in the Chandos area only began in the early 1860s (Cole 1989). Logging in the Kawartha Lakes area went hand-in-hand with settlement. In the Kawartha Lake region logging peaked between 1860 and 1870 (Brunger, 2009), but because Chandos is further north and more isolated from trade centers, logging may have been delayed. The earliest records we found indicated logging beginning in the Chandos area by 1874 (Cole, 1989). At that time the Rathburn Lumber Company purchased over 2,000 acres of land for timber within the Chandos Township (Cole, 1989).

### Period 2: Reduction in settlement and land clearance (1910-1950)

However, by the early 1900s much of the Chandos area had been logged. A report from 1913 indicates that 68% of the Chandos township had been logged (Howe and White, 1913). Because the land around Chandos township was not good for farming, settlers to this area probably relied on logging to help make a living, so when most of the trees had been removed, these farmers were often forced to leave (Howe and White, 1913). The second period from 1910 to 1950 is marked by a decreasing population and perhaps modest forest recovery (Brunger, 2009).

### Period 3: Cottagers and homes increase (1945-Present)

After the Second World War, Period 3 began. Beginning in 1945, people began to establish cottages and homes near Chandos Lake (Cole, 1989). The natural aesthetics of Chandos Lake continued to attract new cottagers, exponentially increasing the establishment of cottages and homes near Chandos Lake. By 1945, there were 150 cottages; today, there are over 1,200 cottages and homes along the shorelines of Chandos Lake (Ministry of the Environment, 1972; Cole, 1989; Chandossier, 2017).

Table: Generalized historical major events are listed as Period 1, 2, 3. The Year and Activity summarize when specific land clearing or cottage establishments occurred.

TIME PERIOD	YEAR	ACTIVITY
Period 1: Land clearance	• 1860	• European settlers arrive in Chandos Township

(1860-1910)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1874-1877</li> <li>● 1913</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Major lumbering activities occur within Chandos Township</li> <li>● 68% of the forested area surveyed in Chandos Township has been logged</li> </ul>
Period 2: Reduction in settlement and land clearance (1910-1950)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1910-1930</li> <li>● 1930</li> <li>● 1945-1949</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As lumbering potential declines, farms are abandoned and populations decrease</li> <li>● End of the logging era</li> <li>● Cottage settlements begin, 150 cottages</li> </ul>
Period 3: Cottagers and homes increase (1945-Present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1961</li> <li>● 1972</li> <li>● 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 635 cottages</li> <li>● 820 cottages</li> <li>● 1200 cottages</li> </ul>

References:

Brunger, A., 2009. The development of the cultural landscape of Peterborough and the Kawarthas. In Adams, P. and Collins, T. (Eds.). Peterborough and the Kawarthas. Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, chapter 7.

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Howe, C.D., and White, J.H. 1913. Trent Valley Watershed Survey Commission of Conservation Canada:Toronto.

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