



**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FULL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday May 18, 2016; 9:30 am
Port Colborne Conservation Club;
3757 2nd Concession Road; Port Colborne, ON

MEMBERS PRESENT:

B. Timms (Chair)
S. Annunziata (Vice-Chair)
B. Baty
S. Beattie
P. Darte
D. DiFruscio
J. Diodati
B. Hodgson
D. Joyner
B. Kenny
T. Quirk

MEMBER REGRETS:

F. Campion
A. Jeffs
J. Kaspersetz
R. Shirton

STAFF PRESENT:

C. D'Angelo, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
D. Barrick, Director, Corporate Services
P. Graham, Director Watershed Management
M. Brickell, Acting Director, Operations
G. Furtney, Acting Manager, Strategic Initiatives
M. Reles, Communications Specialist
L. Conte, Administrative Assistant, Office of CAO & Board

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT:

Kathy McQuire (Port Colborne Conservation Club); Alfred Marinelli (Port Colborne Conservation Club); Finn Madsen (Harmony Residents); Peter Harvey (Harmony Residents); Randy Momot (Grant Thornton); Rick Waters (Bruce Trail Club); Corrie Kellestine (Bruce Trail Club); Glen & Ellen Robins; Erika Furney

Full Authority meeting called to order at 9:43 am and Chairman Timms opened with the following comments:

“At our Conservation Authority meeting in May 2015, we received a presentation from Mr. Alfred Marinelli, a current Director of the Port Colborne Conservation Club, in regards to the future of the Port Colborne Conservation Club. Also, for your information, Mr. Marinelli also served on the NPCA Board of Directors and is a past Chair.

At that meeting in 2015, we were invited to the Port Colborne Conservation Club and view the area. Thus, at our first meeting in 2016, when we approved the meeting schedule, we selected to conduct our May 2016 meeting here at this lovely conservation site.

Thank you to Kathy McQuire, President of the Port Colborne Conservation Club for hosting us and all the good work you and your members do. We will hear from Kathy later on the agenda.

I would also like to remind all Board Members, staff, guests and members of the public, that the board meeting is live streamed on our website, and, will be archived along with the official written minutes of the meeting. As such, you may be recorded, and comments and opinions expressed may be published. Please note, any comments expressed by individual Board Members, guests and the general public are their own, and do not, represent the opinions or comments of the Full Authority and/or the NPCA Board of Directors.”

NOTE: please visit our website <https://npca.ca/meetings-minutes-agendas> to view the live streamed video of this meeting or, the following you tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/6ulcSn0JWY8>

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Resolution No. FA-81-16

Moved by: D. DiFruscio

Seconded by: B. Kenny

THAT the agenda for the Full Authority Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS:

1. Port Colborne Conservation Club – Kathy McQuire will speak at the end of the meeting
2. Harmony Residents Group – Niagara Shores Park Presentation (10 minutes)
presentation attached.

It was noted by member Darte, that Parks Canada has no intention of divesting itself of this property or any parts of it; but that all agencies can work together on this project to the benefit of Residents of Niagara Region. The Harmony Residents Group are specifically looking for NPCA to provide their expertise on the decommissioning of lagoons by converting them to wetlands and propose land management through the Niagara Region’s Lakefront Strategy.

Resolution No. FA-82-16

Moved by: P. Darte

Seconded by: T. Quirk

THAT the presentation by the Harmony Residents Group regarding the Niagara Shores Park, be **RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the board **ENDORSE** this project in principal; staff engage in discussions and report back to the board at the next Authority meeting with a strategy on how to support this initiative.

CARRIED

BUSINESS:

1. **A. Approval of the Minutes - Full Authority Board Meeting April 20, 2016**

B. Committee Meeting Minutes (Draft):

- *Cave Springs Committee Meeting – March 29, 2016*
- *Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting – April 27, 2016*
- *Audit Committee Meeting – May 4, 2016*

Resolution No. FA-83-16

Moved by: T. Quirk

Seconded by: D. DiFruscio

THAT the minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held April 20, 2016 be **APPROVED** as presented; and,

THAT the DRAFT minutes for Cave Springs Committee held March 29, 2016 be **RECEIVED** for information; and

THAT the DRAFT minutes for Watershed Floodplain Committee held April 27, 2016 be **RECEIVED** for information; and

THAT the DRAFT Audit Committee Meeting minutes of May 4, 2016 be **RECEIVED** for information.

CARRIED

2. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Regarding the Watershed Floodplain Committee minutes, B. Kenny inquired about where the responsibility lies with respect to the cleaning of the siphons, and further commented that action is required to help alleviate some of the flooding. Staff responded that this concern will be addressed at the next Watershed Floodplain Committee meeting.

3. **Correspondence**

1. *Mr. Bradley's remarks at the Great Lakes Guardian Fund Announcement*

Additional Correspondence

2. *Email dated May 12th from MNRF – notification of Environmental Registry posting of the CA Act Review Consultation Document*

Resolution No. FA-84-16

Moved by: S. Annunziata

Seconded by: B. Hodgson

THAT all items of correspondence be **RECEIVED** for information.

CARRIED

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4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair highlighted some positive work the NPCA accomplishes in the area of Conservation and the Management of our Natural Resources;

- Timms attended the announcement made by MPP Jim Bradley for a Provincial grant established under the Great Lakes Protection Act, issued to the Niagara Restoration Council. The Great Lakes Guardian Fund is a Provincial program which allows a maximum funding of \$25,000. In addition, NPCA contributed \$15,000 from the Restoration Grant Program and Niagara Region contributed 500 tons of compost; a partnership which will result in building 4 (four) pollinator gardens in Port Dalhousie, 2 (two) in Rennie Park and 2 (two) on Henley Island. The NPCA is represented on the Great Lakes Guardian Council through Conservation Ontario's President Dick Hibma.
- On May 7th, the Chair took part in planting 10 trees with NPCA staff and volunteers in the Green Ribbon Trail Park, funded by the City of St. Catharines.

These two events highlight some work the NPCA is doing in the 12 Mile Creek Watershed implemented through NPCA's Restorations team.

- On May 10th, the Chair attended the Niagara Home Builder's Association dinner where the President provided the Home Builder's perspective regarding the CA Act Review, Greenbelt Act and the various Policies currently under review by the Province.
- Timms was pleased to attend the Centre of Excellence hosted by the Town of Lincoln, led by Mayor Easton in partnership with Niagara College; this event also had representation by NPCA members Hodgson, Mayor Joyner, Mayor Jeffs and Mayor Darte. This was a great contribution to the agricultural permit guide that will be used by the NPCA.
- In partnership with Niagara Region, the Chair further participated in the Niagara Children's Water Festival and was happy to receive a \$5,000 cheque from RBC's Blue Water Program towards this educational initiative.

5. CAO Comments

- CAO, D'Angelo reminded members about Phase 2 of the CA Act Review. One of the response sessions is scheduled for June 9th in London, ON. We will be working with the local municipalities and the Region of Niagara on a joint submission with the area planners, and also with Conservation Ontario and the other 35 Authorities on a unified position. A staff report will come back to the board with recommendations should the board wish to adopt for an individual response from this Conservation Authority.
- Niagara Children's Water Festival held May 3-10th at Ball's Falls in partnership with Niagara Region, hosted approximately 5000 students and 120 volunteers; a very successful event, teaching students about conservation and water.
- NPCA staff is now gearing up for the Thanksgiving Festival.

Member Comments:

- Member Annunziata commented on the need for a solution to expedite the permit application process at the NEC (Niagara Escarpment Commission) which is currently under-resourced and creating a problem for investors. It was suggested that NPCA staff liaise with area planners to bring forward this issue; local planners are trying to put together a strategy to deal with the low benchmark for permit processing at NEC. It was noted that this situation be addressed in the commentary to the Province.
- Member Baty provided some rationale to the challenges the NEC is facing with the backlog of permits and advised that with the NEC Plan Review, we anticipate the Province's recommendations will be forthcoming. Member Annunziata appreciates the comments, however, would like to see some predictability, *"it's mandated by planning staff at local levels, by the NPCA and there should be predictability in the turnaround of permit applications in a timely manner by the NEC"* and further asked that member Baty assist in bringing this message to the NEC.
- Member Baty inquired about the Niagara Children's Water Festival and whether staff might weigh the merits of holding the Water Festival in the Fall vs Spring. It was suggested that staff review Educator's responses.
- Member Hodgson commented on the Greenbelt Plan and the opportunity to respond to the *"apparent double standard which imposes protected policy on private lands and farmers"*.

Reports for Information:

6. Project Status Reports:

- 6.1 Watershed Status Report No. 47-16**
- 6.2 Operations Status Report No. 48-16**
- 6.3 Corporate Services Status Report No. 49-16**

7. Finance – Monthly Update – Report No. 50-16

8. Forestry Update - Report No. 51-16

9. Re-allocation of Capital Project Funds – Report No. 52-16

Resolution No. FA-85-16

Moved by: S. Annunziata

Seconded by: S. Beattie

THAT Project Status Reports 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52 be **RECEIVED** for information.

CARRIED

Reports for Consideration:

10. **DRAFT 2015 Audited Financial Statements - Report No. 53-16**

Resolution No. FA-86-16

Moved by: T. Quirk

Seconded by: B. Kenny

THAT the NPCA Board **APPROVE** the 2015 Audited Financial Statements, as prepared by the accounting firm Grant Thornton; and, that the approved financial statements be distributed to the Watershed Municipalities and Provincial Government.

CARRIED

11. **Request from Bruce Trail Association - Report No. 54-16**

Presentation attached.

Resolution No. FA-87-16

Moved by: T. Quirk

Seconded by: P. Darté

THAT the presentation by Bruce Trail Association be **RECEIVED**; and,

THAT Report No. 54-16 be **RECEIVED**; and

THAT the NPCA Board of Directors **APPROVE** the request from the Bruce Trail Conservancy to make a trail adjustment through Louth Conservation Area; and,

THAT the Bruce Trail Conservancy be allowed to construct an AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) compliant pedestrian bridge over 16 Mile Creek, at a location approved by NPCA, in writing and subject to compliance with local planning regulations and the securing of any necessary approvals and permits.

CARRIED

12. **Welland River Floodplain Mapping update - Report No. 55-16**

Resolution No. FA-88-16

Moved by: B. Baty

Seconded by: T. Quirk

THAT Report No. 55-16 be **RECEIVED** for information; and

THAT the Board **ENDORSE** that the 2016 flood line remain in draft form until the Board of Directors has adopted the Policy Review.

CARRIED

Board Comments:

- Member Joyner requested that staff investigate the feasibility in live streaming the public meetings for the Floodplain mapping project.
- Direction to staff that OPG be invited to attend in an official capacity to answer questions at the Technical & Input Meetings for the Floodplain mapping project.
- Member B. Kenny requested Cogeco be invited to attend these public meetings and have them broadcast on Channel 10.

14. **NPCA Regulation No. 2 – Amendment - Report No. 56-16**

- There was some discussion regarding the verbage “official record” for 17.1 of the amendment and the need for a legal opinion. Staff suggested that since we are required to have a regulation for meeting procedures, what has been presented to the board (section 17) introduces this to our Regulation No 2. with the understanding that section 17 may be revised following a legal opinion.
- It was further suggested that the commentary the Chair provides at the beginning of the meeting should be edited and posted on the video.

Resolution No. FA-89-16

Moved by: D. Joyner

Seconded by: P. Darté

THAT Report No. 56-16 be **RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the NPCA Board **AMEND** the Board of Directors Policy Handbook – Regulation #2, Meeting Procedures to add section seventeen (17) regarding live streaming of Full Authority meetings as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

15. **Customer Service Charter – Report No. 57-16**

Resolution No. FA-90-16

Moved by: S. Beattie

Seconded by: B. Kenny

THAT Report No. 57-16 be **RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the NPCA Board of Directors **ENDORSE** the DRAFT Customer Service Charter (attached as Appendix 1).

CARRIED

- Member Diodati commented that we must be clear on our goal, “*compliance not conviction*”. and moved to amend the resolution as follows:

Resolution No. FA-90-16 Amended:

Moved by: J. Diodati

Seconded by: D. Joyner

THAT the Customer Service Charter include the verbage, compliance not conviction.

MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

- Staff will include this amendment in paragraph 2 of the Customer Service Charter.
- Member Joyner asked that the Customer Service Charter be advertised in the newspaper.

16. **Appointment of Officers for Conservation Areas – Report No. 58-16**

Resolution No. FA-91-16

Moved by: J. Diodati

Seconded by: B. Baty

THAT Report No. 58-16 be **RECEIVED** for information; and,
THAT the Board **APPOINT / RE-APPOINT** the following NPCA staff as Regulation Officers under Section 28 and 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act:

Mike Boyko, Mark Brickell, Nathaniel Devos, Dan Drennan, Jeff Fazekas, Kim Frohlich, Gregg Furtney, Michel Germain, Peter Graham, Bob Hayslip, Rob Kuret, Michael MacIntyre, Darren MacKenzie, Kiefer Paton, Roberto Peressotti, Rob Shoalts, Moriah Tempest.

CARRIED

17. **Canborough Park – lease renewal - Report No. 59-16**

Resolution No. FA-92-16

Moved by: B. Baty

Seconded by: P. Darte

THAT Report No. 59-16 be **RECEIVED** for information; and,
THAT the CAO and Board Chair be authorized to sign the Canborough Park Lease Agreement.

CARRIED

18. **Long Beach CA Water Treatment System - Report No. 60-16**

Member Annunziata suggested the board resolution include public disclosure in consultation with stakeholders and/or park users. Staff confirmed that this will be disclosed to park customers at the initial meeting held at the start of the season; with the following resolution:

Resolution No. FA-93-16

Moved by: J. Diodati

Seconded by: S. Annunziata

THAT Report No. 60-16 be **RECEIVED**; and,
THAT the NPCA Board of Directors direct staff to start trucking in potable water to Long Beach Conservation Area in light of mechanical and biological issues related directly to the safe treatment and distribution of potable water to its campground patrons (*identified as Option C in this report*); in consultation with staff and customers at the Park.

CARRIED

19. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Member DiFrusco reminded staff about planting the milkweed at Ball's Falls before the 29th and requested media be invited to this event.

- Member DiFruscio inquired about the status of a potential violation at Coyle Creek. Staff reported that the investigation is ongoing and will report back to the board once all the facts have been gathered – possibly at the June meeting.
- Member Baty requested that through our media resources, the public be made aware of the risk of lyme disease and the ticks present on our conservation properties such as the Wainfleet bog.
- Member Baty requested staff investigate the storm water management in Fonthill and the potential augmentation of water in the new subdivision. Staff reported that the watershed team viewed the site, are currently investigating and will report back to the board with its findings.
- Kathy McQuire, President of Port Colborne Conservation Club, spoke to members about this Club which has been active now for 62 years. It offers trap and skeet ranges every second Sunday; it has a walleye pond and hatchery; club provides instruction for youths; kids fishing derby (Kid's derby on Father's day); archery and air gun field target and duck race which takes place on Canal days to mention just a few activities this club provides. Members were invited to tour the club.

For more information, visit www.portcolborneanddistrictconservationclub.ca. NPCA members suggested having the conservation club's link on our website.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Full Authority meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm with the following resolution:

Resolution No. FA-94-16

Moved by: J. Diodati

Seconded by: P. Darte

THAT the Full Authority meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Lisa Conte,
Administrative Assistant, Office of CAO
and Board of Directors



D. Bruce Timms
NPCA, Chair

Niagara Natural Heritage Park

NPCA Presentation May 18, 2016

*A Future Proposal For the
Niagara-on-the-Lake
DND Lands
Parks Canada Lakeshore Road
Property*

We are proposing a *Natural Heritage Park* be established on the Parks Canada Lakeshore Road site



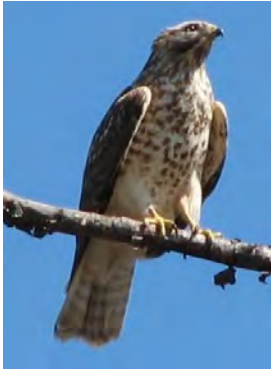
- To create a natural heritage park consisting of recreational and educational amenities

The Lakeshore Road property is filled with important natural and historical features



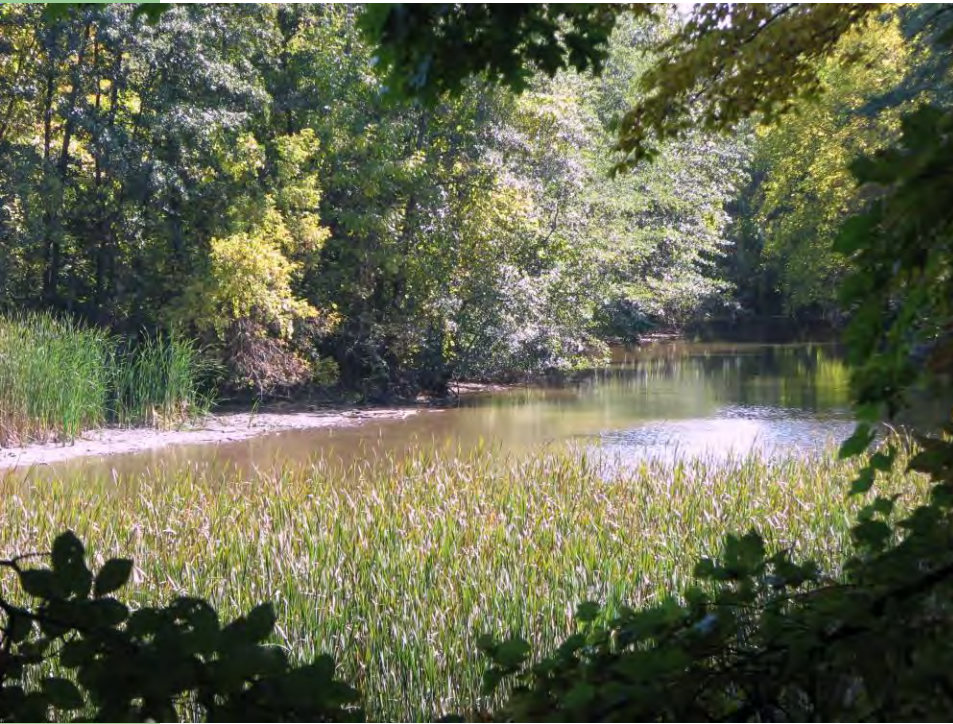
- The Battle of Fort George National Historic Site
 - Site of American landing and fierce fighting in May, 1813
- A Carolinian forest, meadows, creeks and wetlands
- Lake Ontario waterfront
- Additional heritage interest
 - Second farm, U.E.L settlement
 - First Nations hunting and fishing
 - DND training

The establishment of a park would be an important step towards habitat conservation and wildlife protection on the site



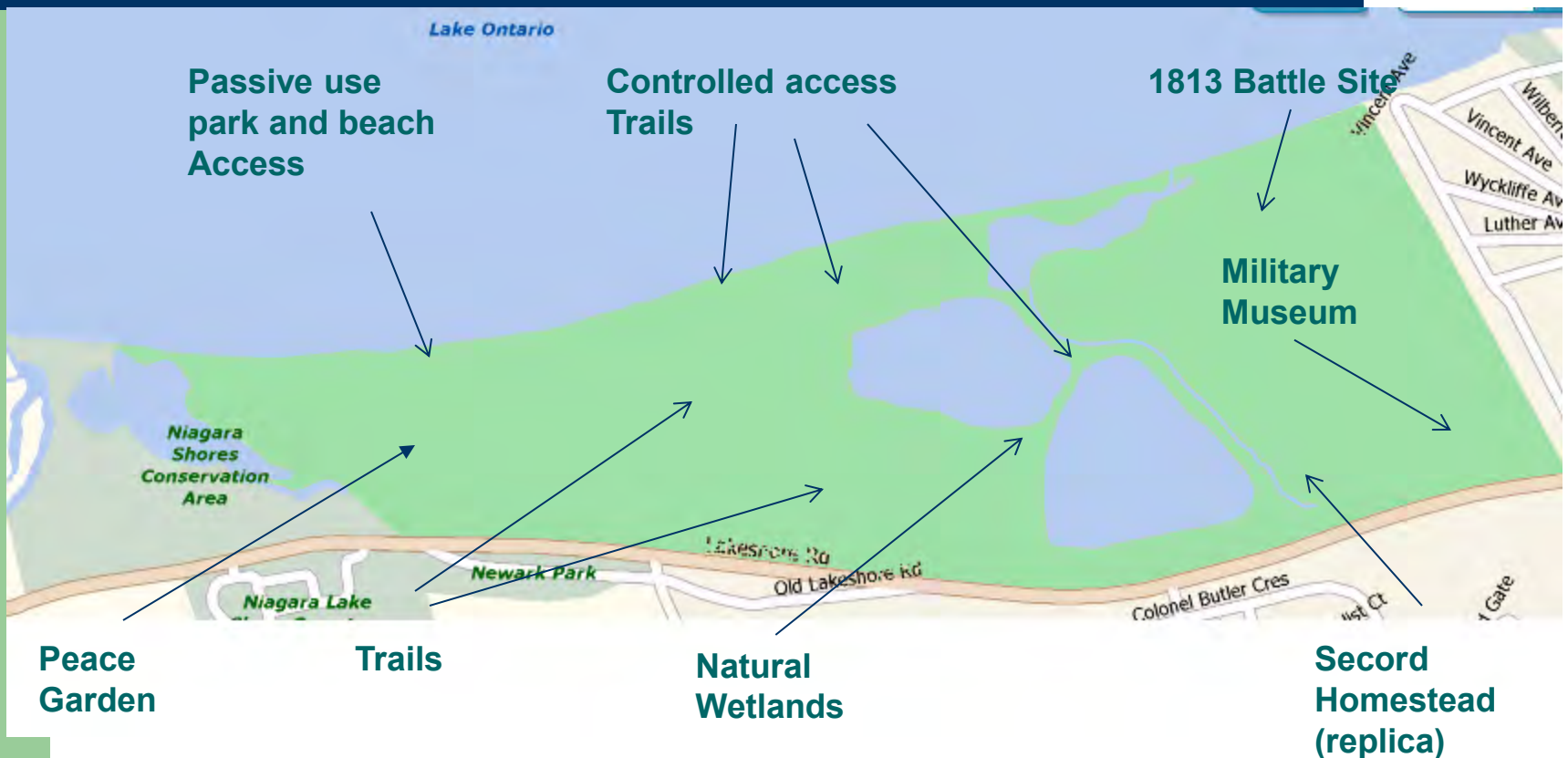
- Species-At-Risk need protection
- Forests need conservation and enhancement
- Creeks & wetlands need rehabilitation
- Shoreline erosion needs to be stopped
- Habitats need preservation

The property has educational possibilities, for local and regional institutions



- Environment
- Science
- History
- Archeology & other research

When fully operational, future possibilities exist for the park to offer a range of heritage and nature based experiences such as



There is potential to retain the existing sewage treatment building for developing a gateway to the site's natural and heritage attractions

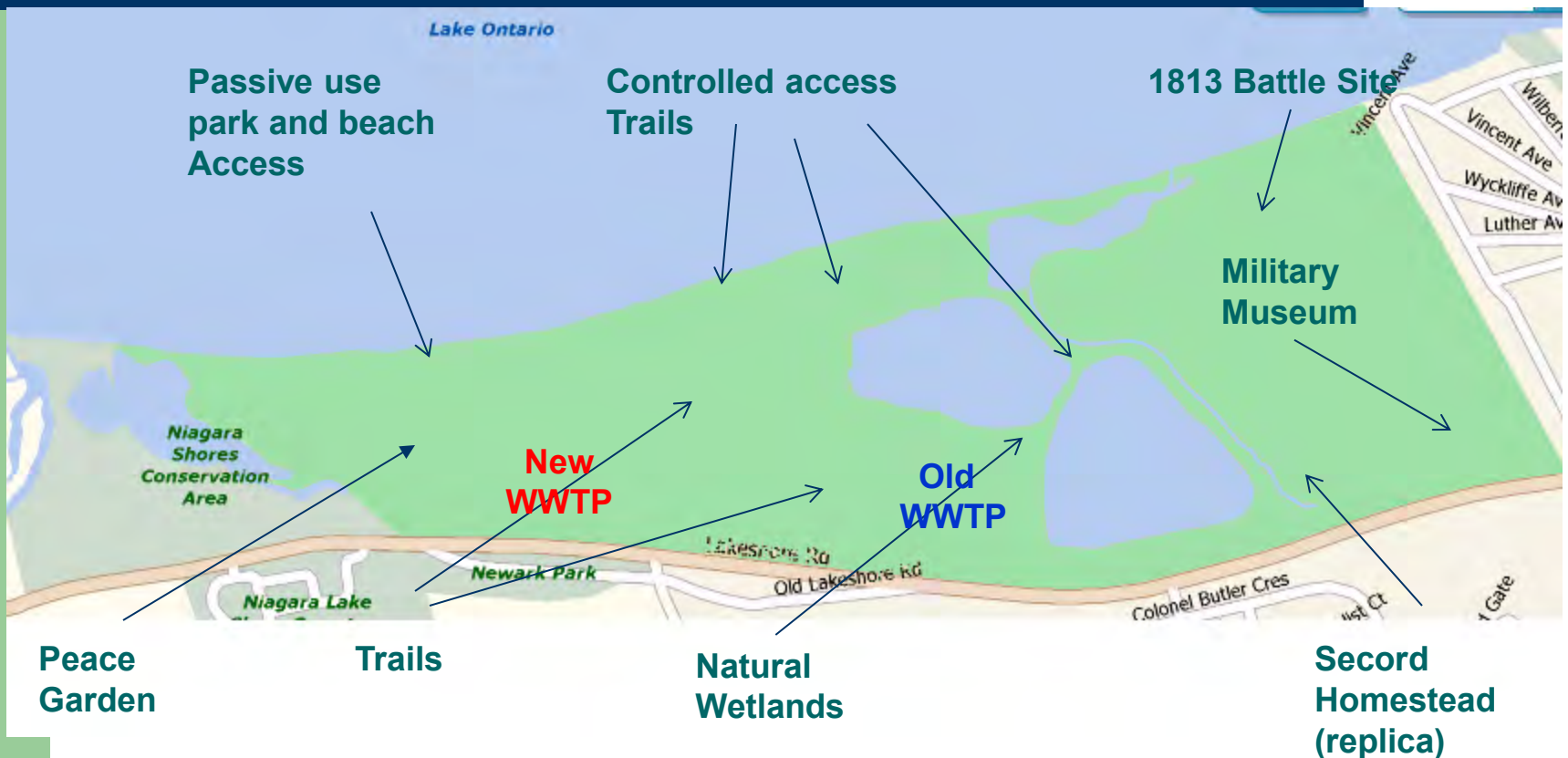


- Welcome Centre
- Interpretive Centre
- Meeting / exhibit space
- Information hub

Can be developed in stages, and park features and programs can be added over time as partners and funding are attracted



When the **New WWTP** is fully operational, the **Old WWTP** needs to be de-commissioned and the property returned to its natural state



Niagara Bruce Trail Club

Proposed Trail Re Route Through
Louth Conservation Area

Niagara Bruce Trail Club

We are one of nine member clubs of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, a charitable organization committed to establishing a conservation corridor containing a public footpath along the Niagara Escarpment, in order to protect its natural ecosystems and to promote environmentally responsible public access to this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. About 8m Ontario residents live within 90 minutes of this natural treasure, and the Bruce Trail.

-
- The Niagara Bruce Trail Club maintains the southern-most portion of the Bruce Trail, the 80 kms from Queenston to Grimsby plus 40 kms of side trails. Our hiking program not only includes outings along the Bruce Trail itself but also on footpaths around the entire Niagara Peninsula. The Niagara Club's membership numbers close to 700 individuals and families. There are over 100 active volunteers who put in many hours maintaining and protecting the trail, leading hikes, stewarding land, contacting landowners and organizing special events.

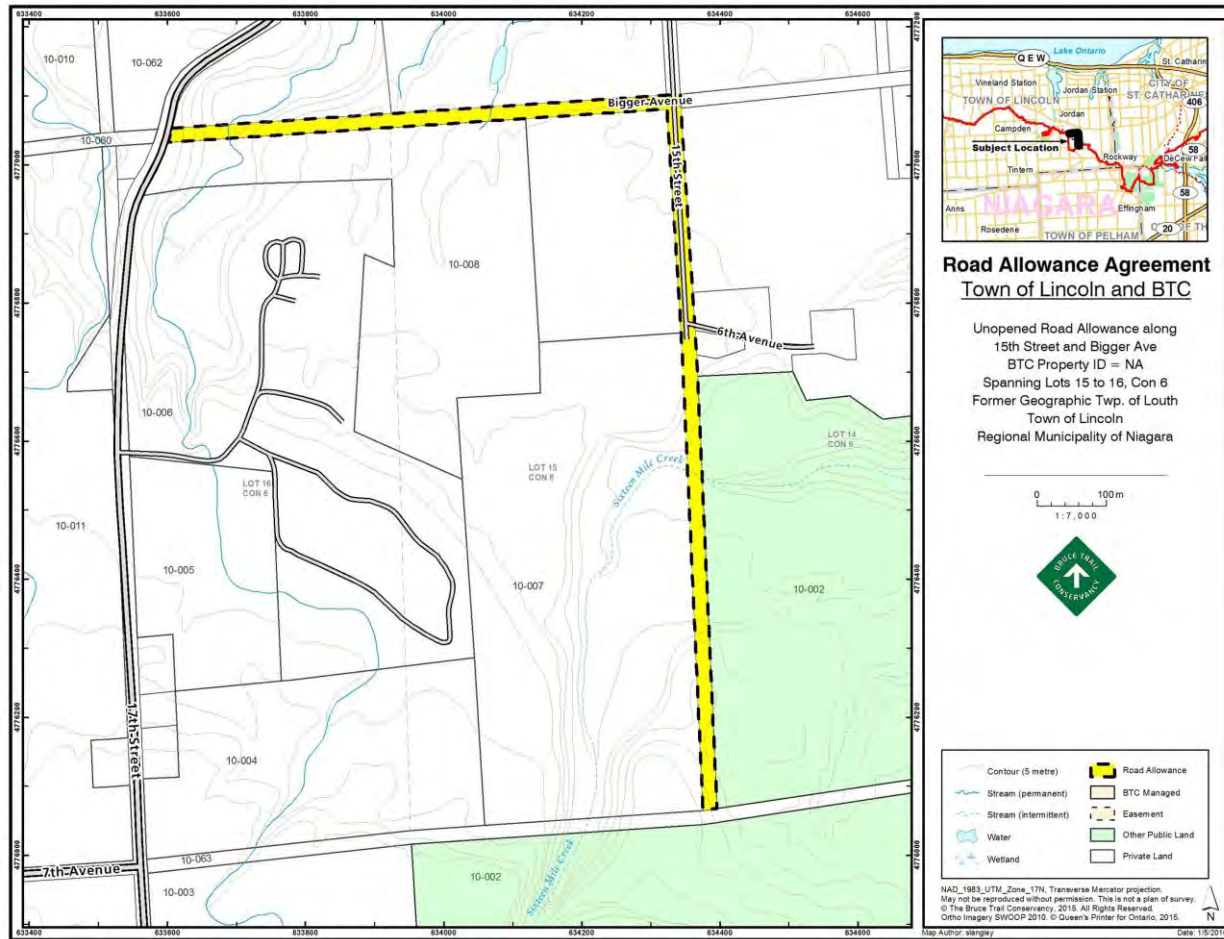
The Bruce Trail on Seventeenth St



Seventeenth St



Road Allowance Agreement



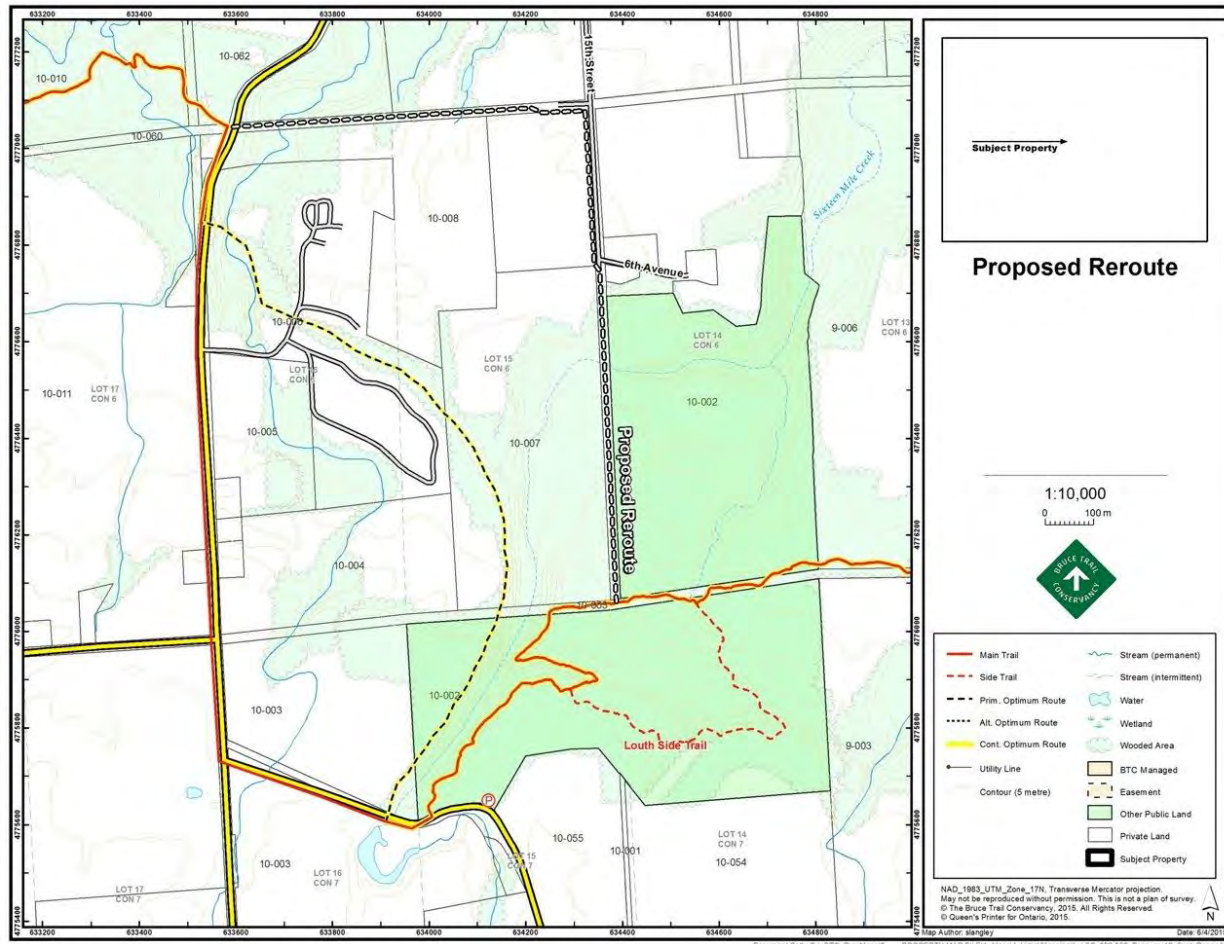
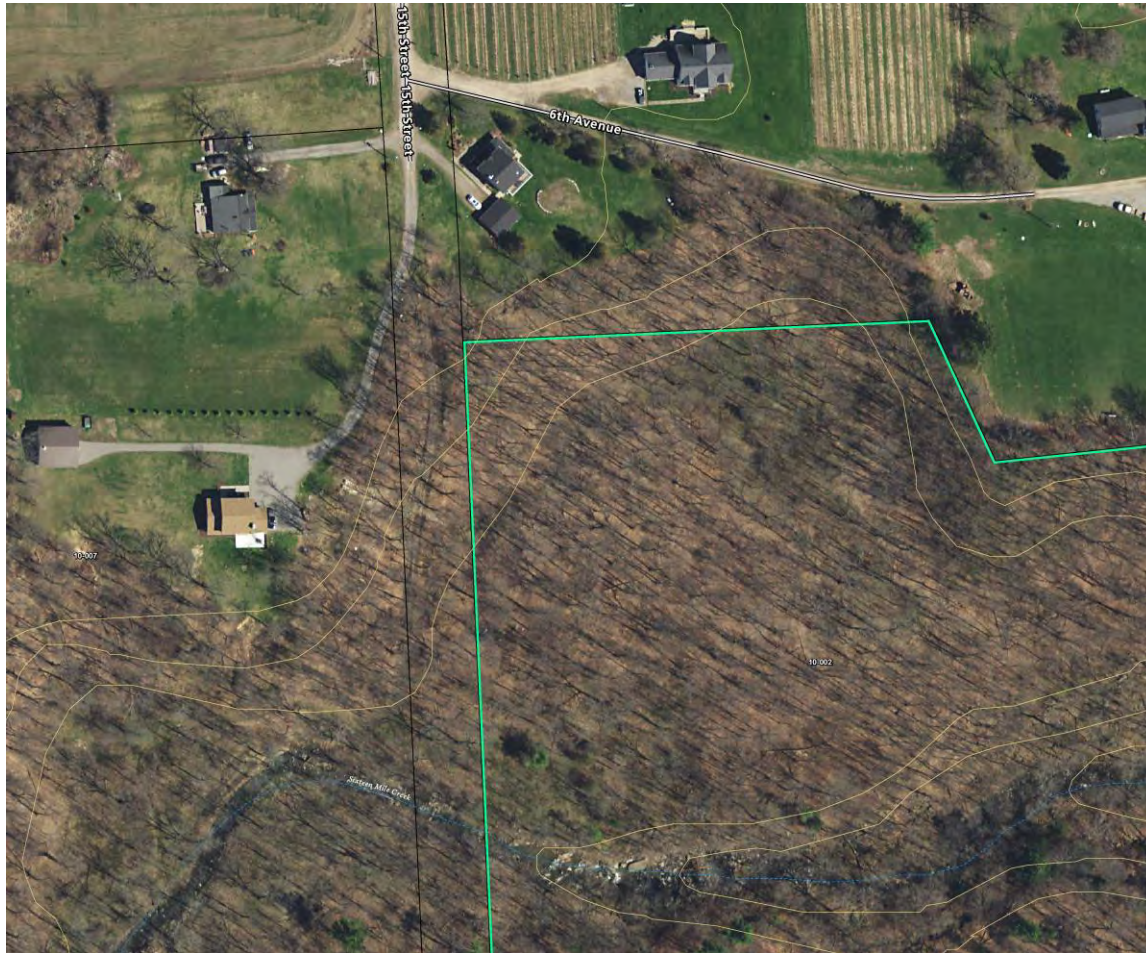


Photo of 15th St and unopened Road Allowance at 16 Mile Creek



Sixteen Mile Creek



Above the Falls at Sixteen Mile Creek



Customer Service Charter

Mission:

To manage our watershed's natural resources by balancing environmental, community, and economic needs.

Vision:

Balancing conservation and sustainable development for future generations by engaging landowners, stakeholders and communities through collaboration.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) aims to provide a high standard of effective and efficient service to all of its customers. This charter explains the NPCA's commitment to customer service excellence.

Who are our customers?

- Clients of all programs and services
- Landowners
- Key stakeholders from the agricultural, environmental and development communities
- Municipal, provincial and federal governments
- The public, including visitors to NPCA conservation areas
- Members of the NPCA Board of Directors and Staff

In our commitment to our customers, we will:

- Provide customer service that is timely, welcoming and helpful
- Provide knowledgeable, professional and courteous service
- Treat customers with respect, fairness, openness and equality
- Strive for compliance over conviction
- Ensure it is easy and convenient to contact us
- Maintain customer confidentiality and abide by all privacy legislation
- Ensure services are accessible to all and provide information in alternate formats upon request
- Ensure our customer service locations are accessible, safe and healthy environments

For our customer service standards, we will:

- Answer telephone calls to our main reception in person whenever possible during office hours
- Outside of office hours or when it is not possible to answer a call in person, ensure that messages are responded to in an appropriate timeframe by the appropriate staff
- Ensure all staff provide a courteous and accurate voicemail greeting
- Indicating when staff will be available to respond to messages
- Acknowledge receipt of mail, voicemail and email
- Explain our processes and provide a time estimate on all work
- Keep customers informed and explain if there will be a delay
- Post notice of service disruptions on our website
- Respect our customers' time by keeping scheduled appointments,
- Strive to attend to customers without appointments, and
- Use plain language wherever possible

For continuous improvement, we will:

- Ensure that all customers have the opportunity to provide feedback on the service received
- Monitor feedback and review performance regularly
- Respond to all feedback if accompanied by contact information
- Continuously review our commitments and standards

What we expect from our customers:

We ask that you please:

- Behave courteously towards our Board of Directors, Staff and other customers
- Be respectful of posted rules including those regarding parking, entry fees, smoking, motorized vehicles, wildlife, pets, etc.

Values:

To the landowners, stakeholders and communities affected by our actions, we value:

1. A sustainable balance between environmental conservation, economic growth and agricultural prosperity.
2. Clear and respectful communication.
3. Integrity, fairness and sensitivity to all impacted by our actions and decisions.
4. Creativity and innovation in service delivery to clients.
5. Transparency, accountability and quality in our services.
6. Pragmatic solution oriented approaches to decision making.
7. A respectful work environment and professional development.