



**Close to nature.  
Close to home.**

# Bruce Trail Conservancy

presentation to

## Dufferin Acton Quarry Community Liaison Committee

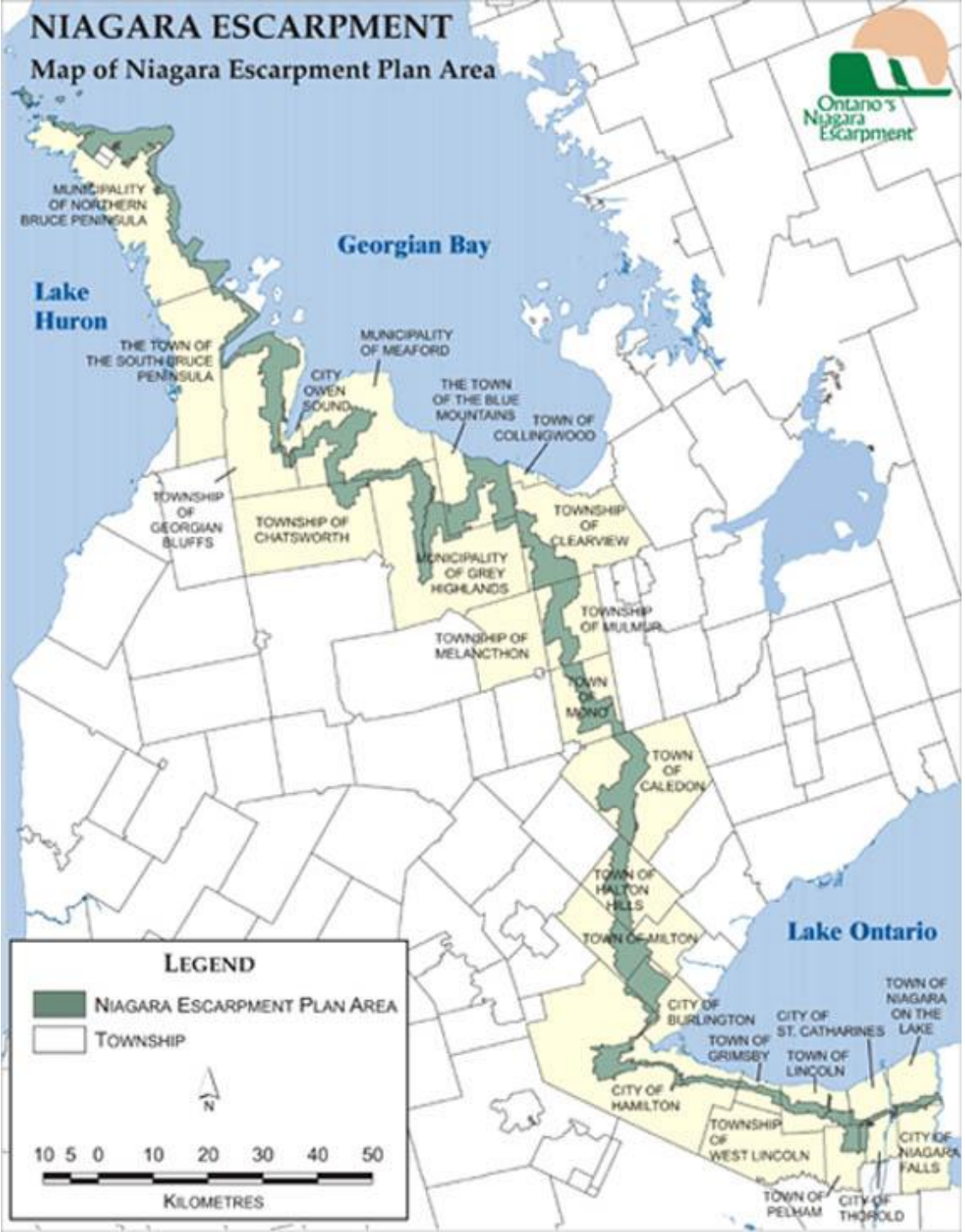
Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Malcolm Sanderson



# NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

## Map of Niagara Escarpment Plan Area



# History

- 1959 - A proposal to build the Trail was submitted to the Hamilton Naturalists' Club in 1959.
- 1960 - March - Federation of Ontario Naturalists was asked for its support.
- 1960 - Bruce Trail Committee formed in FON; first meeting Sept. 23rd
  - Norman Pearson, President
  - Ray Lowes, Secretary
  - Robert McLaren
  - Philip Gosling
- 1962 - Philip Gosling spent a year going up and down the trail, calling community meetings, talking to landowners and organizing local clubs.
- 1963 - Bruce Trail Association incorporated; Letters Patent issued March 13th, 1963.
- 1965 - First guidebook
- 1967 - Trail officially opened, June 10, 1967. Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Hike started August 8th, 1967.
- 1969 - Prof. Leonard Gertler's report "...a landmark report on protecting Ontario's Niagara Escarpment..."
- 1972 - Government Task Force on the Escarpment; BTA and Clubs make representations
- 1973 - Ontario Government policy on Niagara Escarpment June 4th 1973: "the Government of Ontario has stated publicly its intention of preserving the Bruce Trail by easement or outright purchase; that it is to be used for hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing only; that the government will discuss with this Association the best route for the Trail; and that the government will delegate to the Bruce Trail Association the maintenance of the Trail."
  - The BTA response: "While we welcome most of the stated objectives of the government policy, we are not sure about their policy re development and access to the Escarpment. We would have preferred a strong body with power similar to a Conservation Authority rather than the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Finally, we feel that a secure route for the Trail is not enough, that the Escarpment itself must be secured."

# History

- 1973 - Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act
- 1975 June - Government implements Development Controls on the Niagara Escarpment
- 1977 – Toronto Club assumes responsibility for the Credit Valley Footpath
- 1980 - first Executive Director, Mary Munro
- 1980 - public hearings on NEC Plan; many BTA members make presentations; Toronto Club presented over 600 members' letters in support of the Plan.
- 1980 - Doug Robertson appointed as Executive Director; had served for almost seven years as an NEC planner and manager.
- 1980 - Government passes The Occupiers' Liability Act and the Trespass to Property Act, to protect landowners who give permission to others to use their property for recreational purposes.
- 1985 - Niagara Escarpment Plan approved; \$2.5 MM/year for ten years committed for land acquisition.
- 1986 - Letters Patent of the BTA amended so that the BTA can own land
- 1987 - July 20th - Fathom Five National Park and Bruce Peninsula National Park
- 1990 - February - Niagara Escarpment designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve
- 1994 - "The 1985 Niagara Escarpment Plan called for a 5-year review, which has taken from 1990 to 1994 to reach completion. The BTA and its role are recognized in the new Niagara Escarpment Plan, released...June 1994. This is an important step forward for our Association. The BTA is viewed as being progressive and effective by the public that know us; however too few of the public do know us and too many think that the Bruce Trail is funded and staffed by Government."
- 2000 – Halton Hills Chapter of the Toronto Club founded by Maureen Smith
- 2000 - Trillium Foundation agrees to donate funds for five years to: develop a fundraising program; train fundraisers; and marketing.
- 2005 - Beth Kümmling becomes BTA Executive Director.
- 2007 – name changed to Bruce Trail Conservancy

# The Escarpment



## **Mission:**

The Bruce Trail Association is 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.

## **Vision:**

The Bruce Trail Association and its partners will secure a conservation corridor along the entire Niagara Escarpment that contains the Bruce Trail. Our steadfast commitment to responsible land stewardship will significantly contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the Escarpment ecosystem.

# BTC Organization

BTC is a registered, charitable, not-for-profit organization

- nine local clubs operate under the BTC by-laws and policies
- Board of Directors for the Conservancy
- ten members elected at AGM
- one member appointed by each club
- Executive Director is hired by and reports to the BTC Board
- staff are hired by and report to the Executive Director

## Major Club Responsibilities

- landowner relations
- trail route and maintenance
- member services such as organized hikes
- local community and government liaison
- recruiting new members and volunteers
- fundraising

# The BTC Today

Current State of the BTC: as of the AGM September 2009

- length of the Optimum Route - 855 Km; 45% of the trail is protected
- Over 150 properties (2675 hectares) being managed by BTA volunteers
- 8,400 members
- 1,000 active volunteers; 15,000 volunteer hours just on trail maintenance
- cost of running the BTC = \$986K/year
- 400,000+ visitors to the trail each year
- Individual or Family Membership = \$50
- Community Organization Membership \$125
  - Includes Guidebook



# Land Conservation

Land Conservation Program involves partnerships with

- Conservation Areas
- Towns and Municipalities
- Provincial and Federal Parks
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of Transportation
- other not-for-profit organizations, e.g. Ducks Unlimited, Ontario Nature

Donations come from

- club fundraising
- members and other private donors
- foundations
- corporations
- governments and government agencies

# Land Stewardship

- BTC Manages its own properties and properties where ownership has been transferred to Ontario Heritage Trust
- Land Management Plan for each property, written by staff
- Plans are implemented by Land Stewards, who are club volunteers
- BTC is a member of Ontario Land Trust Alliance, and of Canada Land Trust Alliance

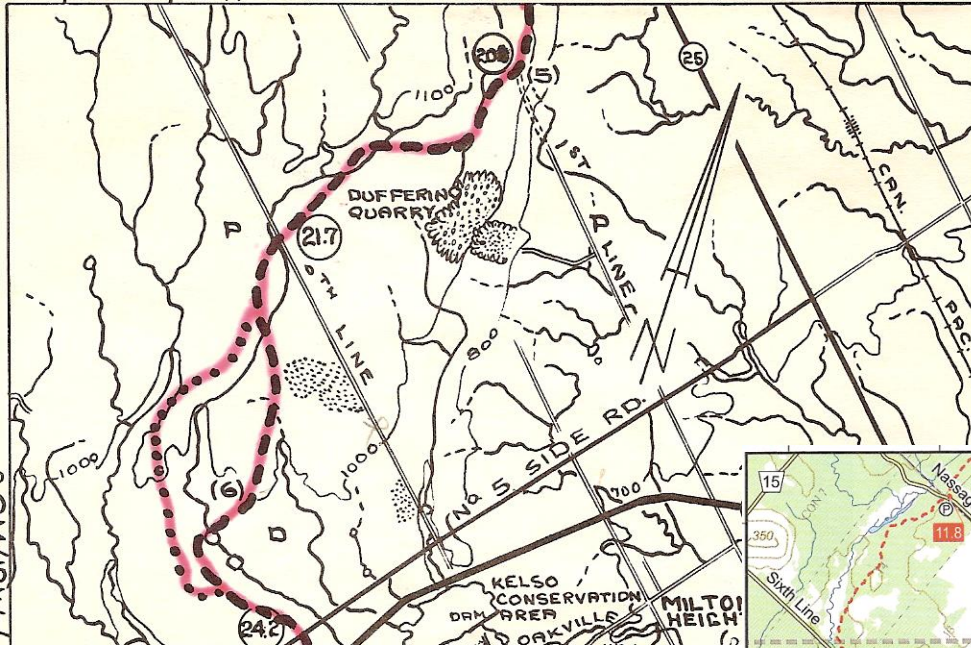
# BTC and Dufferin Aggregates

Dufferin Aggregates has been a BTC landowner since the inception of the trail.

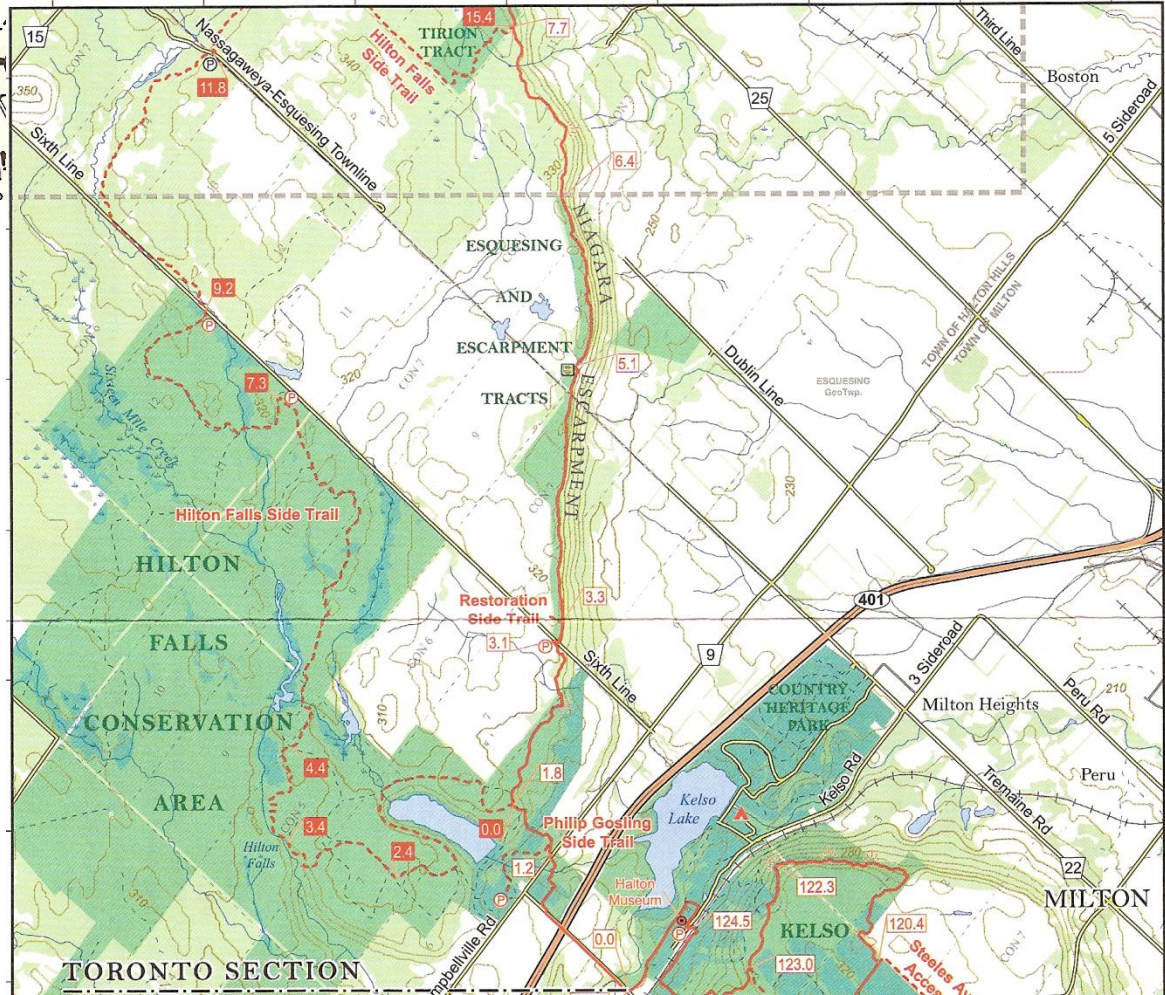
- 1991 – Bridge over the Gap;  
DA donated the access corridor to Conservation Halton
- 2001 – Milton Quarry Expansion
- 2005 – ‘first blaze’ stone
- 2006 – discussions start on Acton Quarry lands
- 2007 – Pear Tree Parking Lot  
Milton Gap Committee  
Milton Quarry West Side Land Concept Plan
- 2009 – licence agreement (Canada Goose side trail)  
Restoration Side Trail  
Parking Lot on 22nd Sideroad near 4th Line

# Milton Quarry

2009



1972



12





# Pear Tree Parking Lot 15<sup>th</sup> Sideroad, Speyside



# Acton Quarry Expansion

BTC Process for responding to development applications

- obtain local club input
- Environment Committee study
- staff review
- staff develop position paper / recommendation
- Executive Director presents recommendation to the BTC Board of Directors
- formal response approved by BTC Board of Directors

NEC “Public Interest Advisory Council”

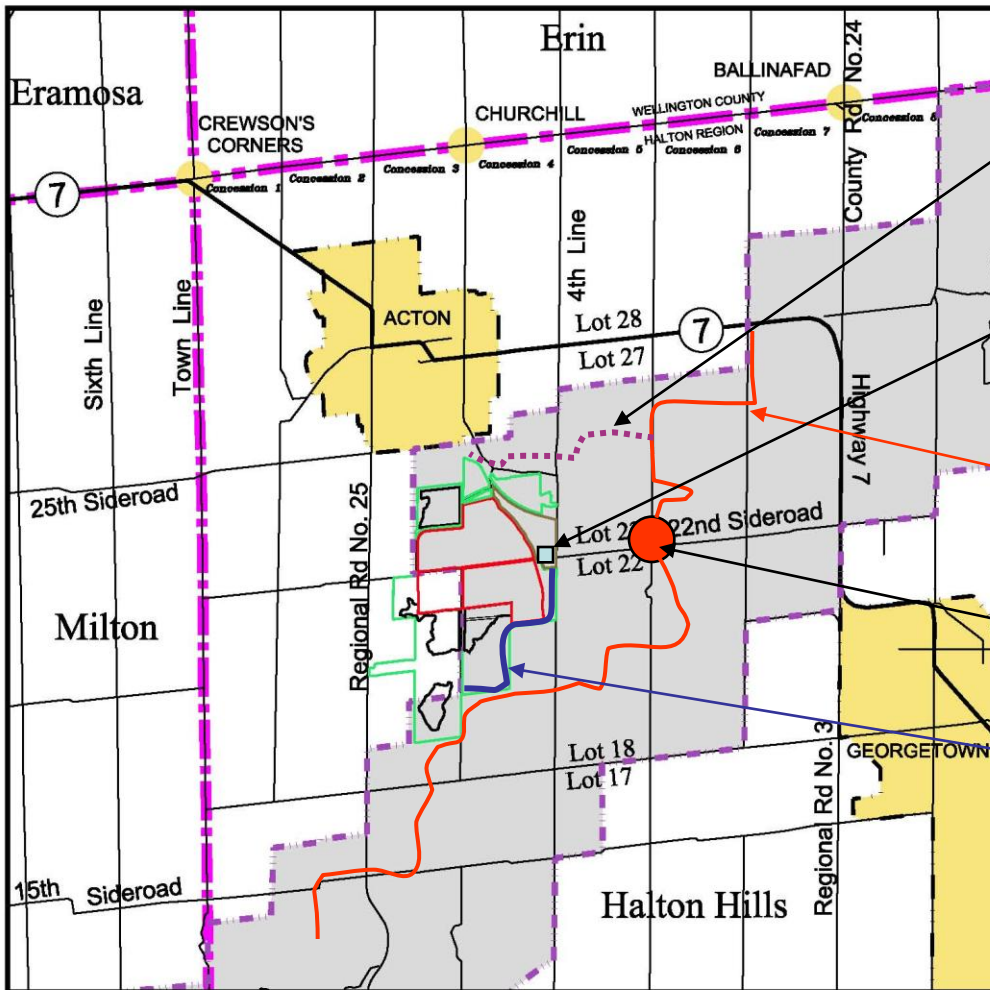
- BTC is represented by Executive Director Beth Kümmling

Primary Considerations for BTC response

- safety of hikers and trail maintenance workers
- impacts on trail location
- environmental impacts

BTC members are free to provide their own individual inputs to the review processes – should make clear that it is their personal input and that they are not speaking for the BTC or a Club.





Guelph Trail

Proposed Parking Lot

Bruce Trail Main Trail

Limehouse

Canada Goose Side Trail

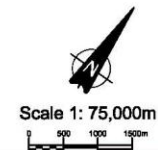
## Location Plan

Fig. No.

### Legend

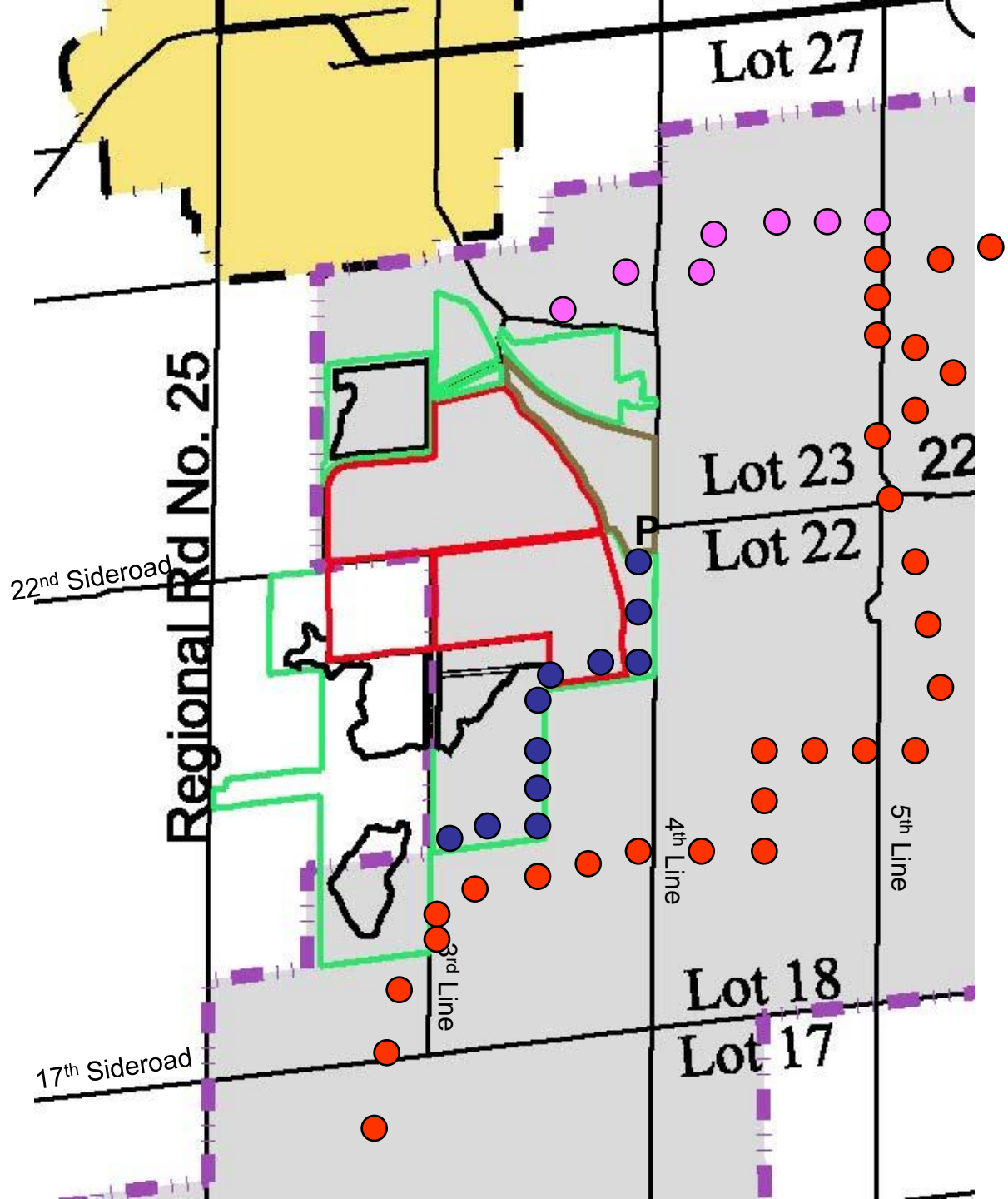
- Existing Acton Quarry Licence
- Acton Quarry Processing Area
- Proposed Extraction Area
- Dufferin Additional Lands
- Urban Settlement Areas

- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Municipal Boundary



Acton  
Quarry  
Extension  
Lands





# Trail Users Code

- Hike only along marked routes, especially on farmland.
- Do not take short cuts. Do not climb fences - use the stiles.
- Respect the privacy of people living along the Trail.
- Leave the Trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out all litter.
- No open fires are allowed on the Trail. Use a portable stove.
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy. Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.
- Keep dogs on a leash, especially on or near farmland.
- Protect and do not disturb wildlife
- Leave only your thanks, and take nothing but photographs.