

# OUR LAND

**FROM FLAT LANDS TO ROCKY CLIFFS**  
Flat plains and farm fields, rolling hills and deep valleys dot the Caledon countryside. As you head north of Mayfield Road you'll first notice the flat agricultural plains with fertile soils known as the Peel Plain. A sudden shift to hilly terrain with breathtaking vistas, rolling hills, and wooded valleys indicates that you are entering the Oak Ridges Moraine. Further north still, the Niagara Escarpment rises through hundreds of metres high as a rocky ridge. Most of this land lies within the Greenbelt, permanently protecting it from urban sprawl and development.

Come explore the fascinating features that have helped shape our land. Railways, ghost towns, trails, parks, and more are waiting to be discovered.



**Did you know?**  
Caledon has more than 100 heritage properties designated by the Town under the Ontario Heritage Act. Look for the oval metal plaques that identify these designated properties.

**THE IRON HORSE: CALEDON'S RAILWAYS**  
The arrival of three railways in the 1870s - the Toronto Grey & Bruce, Hamilton & Northwestern and Credit Valley - spurred further settlements at various junctions in Caledon. Communities located along its routes, such as Inglewood, went into rapid growth while those that were bypassed, such as Mono Mills, went into decline.

**Did you know?**  
• The Town of Caledon purchased 35 km of the **Hamilton & Northwestern Railway** in 1989 and converted it to the now popular Caledon Trailway, which runs from Terra Cotta to Palgrave.  
• The 1907 Horseshoe Train Wreck occurred along the **Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway**, killing 11 people and injuring 114.  
• You can hop aboard the **Credit Valley Explorer** to discover this historic route with scenic views of the Credit River Gorge, Forks of the Credit Provincial Park and Niagara Escarpment.



**GHOST HAMLETS**  
Heritage Caledon's ghost hamlet road signs commemorate many of the 19th century hamlets that once dotted the Town's rural landscape. Thirteen of these former settlements are now identified by a distinctive blue road sign, which provides the hamlet name, settlement date and a brief historical anecdote.

The program will soon expand to include Blackhorse, Cedar Mills, Claude, Coolihans Corners, Coulterville, Dark Corners, Glencoe Corners, Humbergrove, Macville, Rosehill, Sleswick, and Speersville.

**NIAGARA ESCARPMENT**  
The Niagara Escarpment is recognized as a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It is a ridge of rock, several hundred metres high in some locations, that stretches 725 kilometres from Queenston on the Niagara River to Tobemary at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

**Did you know?**  
• The Escarpment dates back 430 - 450 million years, when the area lay under a shallow warm sea.  
• The Niagara Escarpment is protected by the Niagara Escarpment Plan, one of the first large-scale ecological land use plans in the world.



**OAK RIDGES MORAINES**  
Extending 160 km from the Niagara Escarpment in the west to the Trent River system in the east, the Oak Ridges Moraine is up to 13 km wide and 150 m deep. In Caledon, it is the headwaters area for the Credit, Humber, Nottawasaga and Holland Rivers.



**Did you know?**  
• The most precious feature of the Moraine lies hidden below the ground surface. Sand and gravel layers hundreds of metres thick act like a rainbarrel, storing, filtering and releasing groundwater that provides drinking water to over 250,000 people, to rivers that flow south to Lake Ontario and north to Lake Simcoe, Lake Scugog, Rice Lake and Georgian Bay.  
• Tiny headwater streams, made of glacial water thousands of years old, bubble out of the ground to deliver clean cold water to the many rivers flowing north and south.  
• The Oak Ridges Moraine is protected by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and Plan.

**SOUTH SLOPE**  
Known locally as the Peel Plain, but technically as the South Slope physiographic region, these flat lands just south of the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment boast some of the finest agricultural lands in Caledon for corn, soya beans, apple orchards, hay, and pasture lands.

**Did you know?**  
Parts of the South Slope are located in the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt, while the remaining agricultural lands lie within the Growth Plan Area for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

**GREENBELT**  
Ontario's Greenbelt is an area of permanently protected green space, farmland, forests, wetlands, and watersheds. It protects key environmentally sensitive land, including farmland, the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine, from urban development and sprawl.

Most of Caledon lies within the Greenbelt. It surrounds the province's Golden Horseshoe and is vital to the quality of life in southern Ontario.

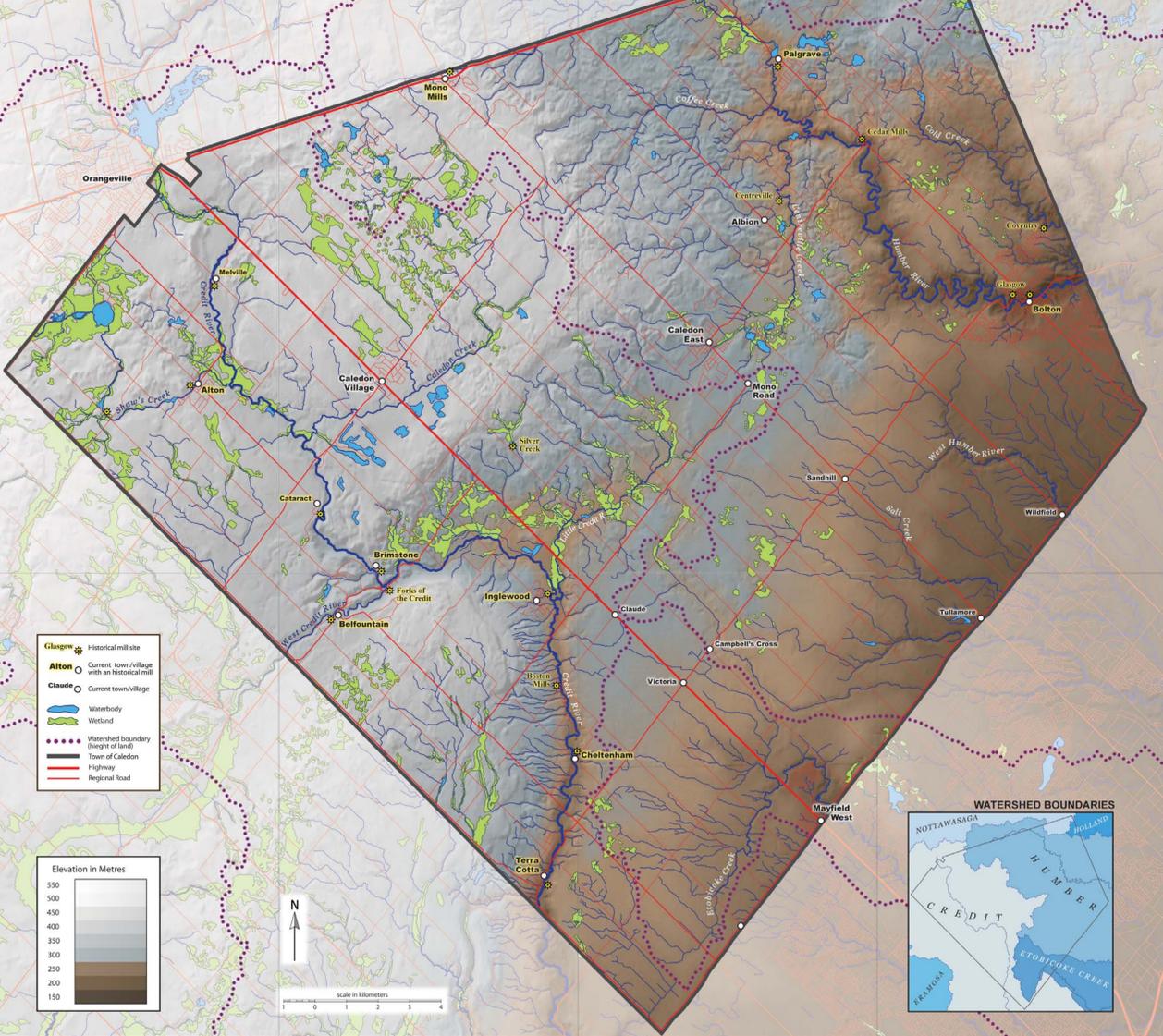
**Did you know?**  
There are over 1.8 million acres in the Greenbelt - an area larger than Prince Edward Island.

**AGRICULTURE & LOCAL FOOD**  
Caledon has a rich agricultural heritage. Buy fresh local foods and support Caledon farmers and the environment. See the Grow In Peel map for a list of local farms, orchards and markets.  
[www.growinpeel.ca](http://www.growinpeel.ca)



# TOWN OF CALEDON: OUR WATER

This map provides a detailed look at Caledon watersheds, showing the patterns of the major rivers and tributaries and the elevation of the land. We hope this map provides you with a blueprint with which to create new memories and learn about our rich water resources.



This map is brought to you by: The Caledon Community Mapping Project is a partnership celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), 30th Anniversary of Heritage Caledon, and the Caledon Countryside Alliance.

Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee



**About our map:** This is not your regular tourist map - it's much more. This is a map made by the community for the community through a collaboration of over 200 community members and groups. Like many community maps, it provides a geographic as well as a historic perspective of what makes Caledon unique.

We hope that newcomers and tourists, longtime residents and youth will be inspired to learn more about Caledon, care for it, and get involved in its preservation. We have chosen to balance art with science in the hope that the map will appeal to both the hearts and minds of our readers.

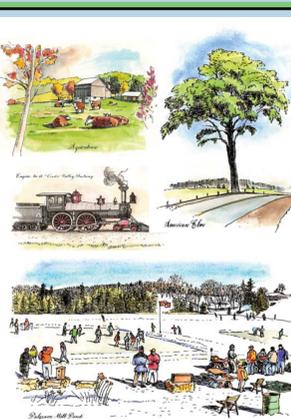
Thank you for celebrating our natural and cultural heritage!  
[www.caledoncommunitymap.org](http://www.caledoncommunitymap.org)

**Sponsors:** We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors for their generous contributions:



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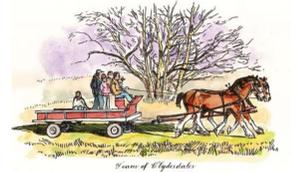
# CALEDON COMMUNITY MAP



Land of historic hamlets with forests, wildlife, rivers, inns, churches, century farms, mills and rolling hills.  
More than just a pretty face.  
More than just a tourist map.  
[www.caledoncommunitymap.org](http://www.caledoncommunitymap.org)

# Celebrating our Natural and Cultural Heritage

**Just the beginning:** This map is only the beginning of our project. We will continue to collect your stories, photos, ideas and historic information about Caledon to put on our interactive website map. This online map will be a tool for the community to use to store, monitor and update its natural and cultural heritage information. You are invited to send your comments to us at [map@caledoncommunitymap.org](mailto:map@caledoncommunitymap.org) or [info@caledoncommunitymap.org](mailto:info@caledoncommunitymap.org). Visit our website at [www.caledoncommunitymap.org](http://www.caledoncommunitymap.org).



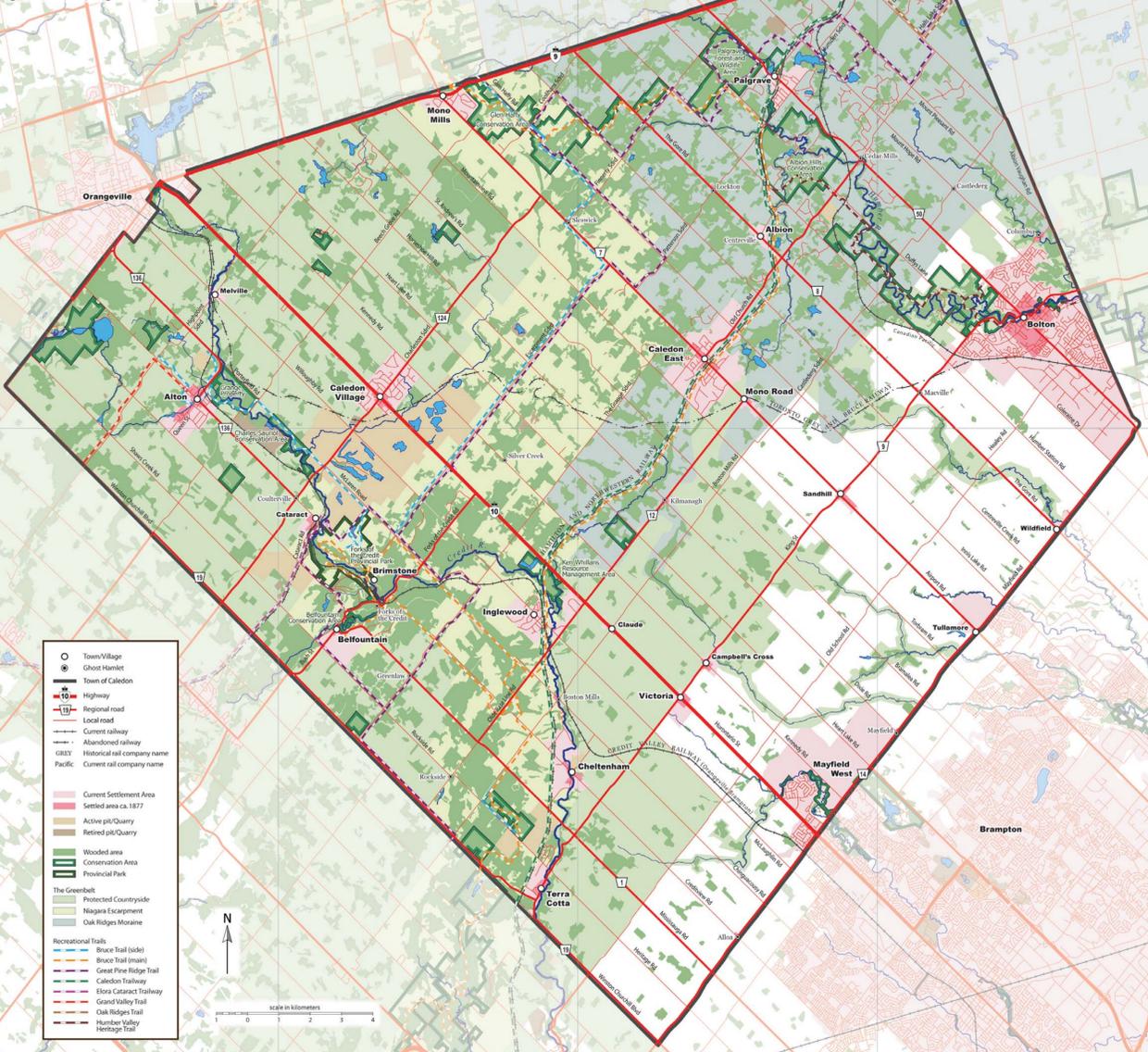
**Our commitment to the environment:** This map was printed by Warren's Watershed Printer using a waterless printing process. It was recycled on Enviro100 paper (chlorine-free 100% recycled content, EcoLogo-certified and produced with biogas energy). It was printed by an ISO14001 and Forest Stewardship Council-certified printer using Bullfrog Power (wind and low-impact water power).

**Disclaimer:** Thanks to the generous contributions of many community members, we have collected much more information than we could list on this map. We realize not everything is listed here and there are still more fascinating features that we have yet to discover. While we have made every effort to present accurate and reliable information, we do not endorse, approve or certify the information on this map, nor do we guarantee its accuracy, completeness or efficacy. All information provided is subject to change without prior notice. We make no warranties, express or implied, regarding errors or omissions and assume no legal responsibility or liability for loss or damages related to the use of the information on this map.

Digital elevation data provided by GeoBasis®. GIS data provided by Town of Caledon and Natural Resources Canada.  
Printed in 2007

# TOWN OF CALEDON: OUR LAND

This map provides an overview of Caledon land features both natural and cultural - including parks, trails, ghost hamlets, Niagara Escarpment, and more.



# OUR WATER

**HEADWATERS AREA**  
Clean water is the essence of life and Caledon has an abundance both above and below the ground. Deep aquifers store clean cold water that provides drinking water for many of Caledon's residents. The headwaters area for five watersheds lie within Caledon's borders: the Credit and Humber Rivers and Etobicoke Creek flow south through Caledon to Lake Ontario and in the northeast corner lie the headwaters of the Nottawasaga and Holland Rivers which flow to Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe respectively.

**Did You Know?**  
That a watershed is the area of land that contributes water to an entire river system.



**Cataract Falls:**  
The Village of Cataract was established in 1855 and named after the Cataract waterfall found in the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. The Cataract waterfall is the result of the Credit River's 21-metre drop over the Escarpment.

**HUMBER RIVER: A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER**  
The Humber River flows from Caledon through a variety of natural habitats in both rural and urban landscapes before it reaches Lake Ontario. For over 12,000 years, this watershed has provided a home for the aboriginal peoples and later European settlers. The Humber River was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1999 because of the exceptional human heritage and recreational values it has contributed to Canada.



**Consider visiting these interesting sites along the Humber River (see reverse side for locations):**  
• Palgrave Fish Ladder  
• Humber Valley Heritage Trail (Bolton)  
• Steel Truss bridges in Bolton (Sneath and Glasgow Rd)

**Did you know?**  
The McFall Lookout overlooks the former McFall Mill Dam in Bolton. The last Bolton Mill was slightly down stream. The dam was partially removed to permit fish passage. Eventually, this will enable the Atlantic salmon to return to its historic spawning grounds up the Humber River after 180 or more years of absence!

**CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED**  
The Credit River watershed covers 1000 square kilometers, an area greater than the Town of Caledon.

**Tributaries:** The Credit River is 90 kilometres long, with over 1,500 kilometres of tributaries, streams and creeks feeding into it, including:  
• Black/Silver Creek - 27 km  
• West Credit - 26 km  
• Shaws Creek - 19 km  
• East Credit - 17 km  
• Caledon Creek - 18 km

**Wildlife:** The Credit River is home to 244 bird species, 64 fish species, 41 kinds of mammals, 5 turtle species, 8 kinds of snakes, 17 amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders & newts) and 1,330 species of plants.

**Consider visiting these interesting sites along the Credit River (see reverse for locations):**  
• Alton Mill & nearby trails  
• Cataract Falls & Forks of the Credit Provincial Park  
• Riverdale Woolen Mill, Inglewood

**Did you know?**  
• Two-thirds of the world's freshwater supply is found underground.  
• 65% of the Credit River's flow comes from groundwater.  
• The Caledon Creek Wetlands, Silver Creek, and the Credit River all depend on groundwater.  
• By 2020, 40% of the Credit River watershed will be developed (in 1999, 21% was developed)

**Fly fishing on the Credit:**



The West Credit River is home to one of the few native brook and brown trout fisheries in southern Ontario. That coupled with the aesthetic charm of its many villages make it one of Ontario's premier fly fishing destinations. Anglers are encouraged to release their catch to sustain these populations for the future.

**Jefferson Salamander:**  
The most uncommon amphibian in the Credit River watershed, the Jefferson salamander (Ambystoma jeffersonianum) was discovered in Ontario in 1976. This threatened species lives in mature deciduous forests in fish-free pools of water, where its young can survive. It spends most of its time underground making it difficult to spot - any sighting on land is a special occasion.



**CONSERVATION AREAS & PARKS**  
Enjoy fishing, swimming, hiking, camping, cross country skiing and much more at these public spaces.

- Credit River Watershed**
  - Terra Cotta Conservation Area: 14452 Winston Churchhill Blvd. 905-877-9650
  - Belfountain Conservation Area: 10 Credit St. 519-927-5838
  - Ken Whillans Resource Management Area: 16026 Hurontario St. 905-670-1615
  - Alton Grange Property: Trail entrance on Porterfield Rd. and Station St.
  - Forks of the Credit Provincial Park: Entrance on McLaren Rd., 2.5 km south of Charleston Sdrr.
- Humber River Watershed**
  - Palgrave Forest & Wildlife Area: Entrances are on the east side of both Duffy's Lane and Hwy 50
  - Albion Hills Conservation Area & Campground: 16500 Hwy 50, Palgrave
  - Glen Hafy Conservation Area: 19305 Airport Rd



**TRAILS**  
Get ready for an adventure when you set down the path of any of these trails. Check the websites for permitted uses and detailed maps.

- Caledon Trailway (35 km): [www.town.caledon.on.ca](http://www.town.caledon.on.ca) (trail maps)
- Bruce Trail & Side Trail: [www.caledonbrucetrail.org](http://www.caledonbrucetrail.org)
- Great Pine Ridge Trail: [www.otra.ca](http://www.otra.ca)
- Grand Valley Trail: [www.gvta.on.ca](http://www.gvta.on.ca)
- Elora Cataract Trailway: [www.trailway.org](http://www.trailway.org)
- Oak Ridges Trail: [www.oakridgestrail.org](http://www.oakridgestrail.org)
- Trans Canada Trail: [www.tcrail.ca](http://www.tcrail.ca)
- Humber Valley Heritage Trail: [www.humbertrail.org](http://www.humbertrail.org)