

TOWN OF CALEDON CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES INVENTORY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

This report represents the results of the survey and identification of Cultural Heritage Landscapes (CHLs) in the Town of Caledon utilizing the ‘Criteria for the Identification of Cultural Heritage Landscapes’ developed in 2003 for that purpose. The inventory work was done in accordance with Section 3.2.3.4.1 of the Town of Caledon Official plan which states, in part, “that an inventory of candidate cultural heritage landscapes shall be prepared by the Town and maintained through the Heritage Resource Office.”

While still in its relatively early stages in the Province of Ontario the identification of CHLs offers the potential of preserving places with special character and meaning to the community. The CHL concept acknowledges that the context of our traditionally recognized heritage features (such as historic buildings) is as important as those elements themselves and that often, “the whole is more than the sum of the parts.” In the case of CHLs those ‘parts’ may embrace a diverse array of elements ranging from dramatic viewsheds to an early survey marker. Recent revisions to the Ontario Heritage Act further strengthen this contextually based view of heritage.

1.2 STUDY PROCESS

The CHL Inventory work was conducted in two phases over several years. The findings and recommendations of this work is consolidated into this report, together with the key findings of the *Rockside Cultural Heritage Landscape Study*, undertaken as a separate exercise, and the findings of the 2008 Mayfield West Secondary Plan Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment which identified the former Credit Valley Railway as a Cultural Heritage Landscape.

In undertaking the CHL identification process the areas examined were initially determined through a combination of general research and windshield survey and/or were suggested by the Town of Caledon staff. Those selected were then quickly narrowed down to the group, which seemed, by their potential thematic connection and/or apparent integrity, to warrant further study. This remaining group was then inventoried and analyzed according to the formal criteria.

Phase 1

Phase 1, focused to a large extent on northwest Caledon and Silver Creek. Earlier, the Rockside Cultural Heritage Landscape Study applied the CHL criteria methodology, and studied in detail the Rockside area in the southwest corner of the Town.

The area of northwest Caledon, bounded to the south by the crescent formed by the two main headwater tributaries of the main branch of the Credit River coming together around Alton, is distinctive, topographically and historically, relative to other areas of the municipality.

Physically this area is characterized by a range of rounded morainic hills extending east-west, the associated valleys, large wetland areas, ponds, and, of course, the Credit River itself. The unique Caledon Lakes are a specific feature of the northwest corner of the study area. Historically, European settlement of the area dates to the early 1830s and the growth of its urban nodes, Alton and Melville, to the establishment of saw and grist mills along the Credit River in the mid-19th century and the development of two railway routes to Orangeville in the 1870s. Highpoint Sideroad bisects the area and serves to tie together key features, including the landmark hills (Twenty-Five Hill, Melville Hill and the Pinnacle), former mill ponds, heritage buildings such as the Rosehill Schoolhouse, and the historic community of Melville. From a macrocosmic standpoint these features (including the Caledon Lakes and the village of Alton among others), natural and cultural, are key character-defining elements of this broad landscape.

Phase 2

Phase 2 of the inventory process investigated the balance of the Town and identified an array of Candidate CHLs ranging from a rural '4' corners of the (former) Chinguacousy Peel Plain to a number of areas along the Credit River section of the Niagara Escarpment. With regard to the latter it can readily be stated that the whole Credit Valley within the Town of Caledon could be considered as one CHL. However, given the unique characteristics, both built and natural, of a number of the component areas, the requirement of contiguous integrity, and the practical requirements of managing the preservation of the land base, three separate CHLs have been considered along the Credit River.

The Cultural Heritage Landscapes identified and described in the Inventory study are summarized below, listed based on their associated former townships.

Former Caledon Township

The Far Northwest Corner

This comprises an area in the vicinity of Shaw's Creek Road and Highpoint Sideroad, including the former Glassford Mill property (W 1/2 , Lot 26, Con V).

Alton and Environs

The village of Alton, including the Pinnacle in the north and the confluence of upper Credit tributaries, the Alton Branch (Shaw's Creek) and the Orangeville Branch to the southeast.

Melville Area

Centred on the historic hamlet at the junction of Willoughby Road and High Point Sideroad. It is bounded on the east and west by Porterfield Road and Hurontario Street (Highway 10) respectively, and extends to Lot 30 in the north and around Lot 23 to the south.

Belfountain and the Credit River Gorge

Scenic area with extensive and significant industrial heritage associations as well as the early and relatively intact village of Belfountain. The area under consideration is the river valley from the falls below the village of Cataract to the intersection of Grange Sideroad and McLaren Road.

Rockside

The area still known as *Rockside*, the southwest corner of the former Caledon Township, was the first area of Caledon Township to be settled. The community, largely made up of clans from the west of Scotland and initially topographically isolated from the eastern section of the Township by the spine of the Escarpment, developed into an internally coherent and distinct entity.

Inglewood: Railway Village

Excellent example of a railway junction village with one railway still active and the other represented by the Caledon Trailway. Intact building fabric within the old core and the surviving and adaptively used early stone mills along Maple Ave.

Former Settlement of Silver Creek

Located on Kennedy Road between Grange Sideroad and Escarpment Sideroad, this former hamlet is located close to the centre of the former Caledon Township, and derived its name from Silver Creek, a tributary of the Credit River.

Scottish Settlement Along St. Andrew's Road

Substantial early stone farmhouses and buildings just north of the early stone church of St. Andrew's (being restored by the Friends of St. Andrew's). Stonework clearly associated with early Scottish settlers, quarried virtually on site, and in contrast to other buildings in the vicinity.

Former Chinguacousy Twp.

Farmsteads of Former Chinguacousy Township

Farmstead grouping of high integrity with house and barns from the respective farms, representative of different periods, and centered on the fine stone schoolhouse at the corner of Creditview Road and Old School Road.

Cheltenham and the Brickworks

Highly intact core village with particular regard to structures along Creditview Road. Long-standing industrial tradition beginning with mills and early brick-making in the area still exemplified by the large brick kilns at Mississauga Road and Mill Street, of heritage importance in their own right. Important views of the brickworks are seen from the south along Mississauga Road.

Former Credit Valley Railway

Still an operational rail line extending to Orangeville, the CVR was established with several branches to improve trade opportunities in Southern Ontario, including a line that extended north from Toronto to Owen Sound. The tracks to Orangeville and branch line to Elora were opened in 1879 and included the well-known Forks of the Credit trestle bridge in Belfountain. The 2008 Mayfield West Secondary Plan Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment evaluated the section of the Credit Valley Railway that extends north of Mayfield

Road to Old School Road, through Chinguacousy Township. In recognition of its ongoing presence and role in the settlement and growth of Caledon, the study recommended that the former CVR in its entirety be identified as a Cultural Heritage Landscape. Additional information on its significance is found in sections on Inglewood, and Belfountain and the Credit Gorge.

Former Albion Township

South Albion Farmsteads

Excellent extended example of the typical farmstead types of the area ranging from relatively early to late 19th century with the comparatively large Providence Cemetery underscoring the community life of the area.

Bolton's Historic Core

The earliest and most developed 19th century settlement in the area, the residential and commercial core of Bolton (within the original village plan) remains relatively intact. Its early (c.1824) milling associations are still recognizable.

Irish Settlement of Northwest Albion

The whole northwest sector of the Albion Townships as far south as Old Church Road could be included as part of the full area dominated by Irish settlement in the early to mid - 19th century. Indeed the main remaining legacy, St. John's Catholic Church and the Catholic elementary and high schools are currently outside of the candidate area boundaries. The Candidate CHL boundaries, which still embrace a relatively large area, have been narrowed over the course of study due to the issue of contiguous integrity. It is focused around the northern section of Innis Lake Road/Glen Haffy Road and contains a large section of relatively 'wild' land now associated with the Bruce Trail and the Glen Haffy trout ponds.

With the completion of the CHL Inventory, the Town of Caledon has a strong tool for planning and managing the preservation of the heritage character of its unique places. While an attempt has been made to be thorough and to develop, over the two phases, a complete inventory, it should be recognized that local perspectives may generate further Candidate CHLs worthy of consideration. Also it should be understood that the research and site examination able to be undertaken over these large areas is, with a few exceptions, forced to be at the 'broad brushstroke' level. Any future opportunity to deepen the inventory knowledge for each CHL will enhance the understanding and appreciation of the heritage resource. This process has already been furthered by the Built Heritage Inventory recently completed for the Town.

Note: The sources for the key 19th century reference dates used throughout the Inventory, 1859 and 1877, are respectively, Tremaine's Map of the County of Peel (1859) and the Atlas of the County of Peel, published by Walker and Miles (1877). While not absolutely definitive in terms of accuracy they remain our best 'snapshot' of settlement at those key periods in the Province's development

1.3 CONSERVATION MEASURES

With the completion of the Cultural Heritage Landscape Inventory, the Town of Caledon has a strong tool for planning and managing the conservation of the unique historic places that are the essence of its evolution and character. While an attempt has been made to be thorough and develop over several phases, a complete inventory, it should be recognized that local perspectives and knowledge may generate further Candidate CHLs worthy of consideration. Also it should be understood that the research and site examination able to be undertaken over these large areas is, with a few exceptions, forced to be at the ‘broad brushstroke’ level. A CHL is a complex entity that usually extends physically well beyond its road façade and contains elements and inter-relationships that can only be initially inferred. However, with the co-operation, and ideally the participation, of the property owners the information contained within the Inventory may be further elaborated upon, in order to enhance the understanding and appreciation of these significant heritage resources.

As delineated on maps, and through utilization of current planning and preservation mechanisms, the acknowledgement of CHLs can then serve to guide the municipality in responsibly planning for the future. Inherent in the concept of cultural heritage landscapes is an understanding that these areas are dynamic and will change. However, to be considered as a CHL these changes are tempered by a continuum made up of the character defining elements, which have endured over time. Although conserving the overall visual character and integrity of the CHL is a key objective, the character defining elements, as identified within the inventory and integral to the Statement of Significance, are essential to the understanding of a particular CHL. As such, they are most sensitive to land use change and alterations. Thus, they represent the highest priority for conservation.

As part of its Official Plan review, the Town of Caledon began to identify a process and policies for conserving cultural heritage landscapes some years ago. These policies are directed by the *Provincial Policy Statement* (PPS), which provides direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development under the authority of Section 3 of the Planning Act. The PPS states: “significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved”. Conserved is defined by the PPS as meaning: “the identification, protection, use and/or management of cultural heritage and archaeological resources in such a way that their heritage values, attributes and integrity are retained. This may be addressed through a conservation plan or heritage impact assessment”.

In implementing this directive, both the Region of Peel Official Plan and the Town of Caledon Official Plan have policies pertaining to the identification and conservation of cultural heritage resources.

Within the *Region of Peel Official Plan*, objectives for rural areas include: “to preserve and enhance the distinct character, cultural attributes and historical heritage of the area”. The Region’s Official Plan further directs the Town to review development proposals in the rural area, based on parameters that include the evaluation of impacts on the existing rural character, landscapes and heritage of the area. Within the *Town of Caledon Official Plan*, policies provide for the preparation of a comprehensive Cultural Heritage Master Plan “whereby the cultural heritage resources of the Town are surveyed, inventoried or otherwise examined or studied to provide policies, guidelines, and other initiatives, as considered appropriate for the care and conservation of the identified cultural heritage resources”.

This objective is fulfilled, in part, through the Cultural Heritage Landscapes Inventory and the parallel Built Heritage Resources Inventory.

With respect to conservation tools, the Town of Caledon Official Plan further provides for the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Planning Statement to guide development and redevelopment proposals “where the concentration and / or significance of culturally derived features in an area requires that detailed guidance be provided to conserve and enhance the cultural heritage of an area”. Cultural Heritage Planning Statements are to be incorporated through an Official Plan Amendment, or through the secondary planning process.

In reference to a cultural heritage resources inventory, or other information suggesting the presence of significant cultural heritage resources, the Official Plan also provides for a Cultural Heritage Survey to be requested by the Town in conjunction with development and redevelopment proposals. One of the outcomes of a Cultural Heritage Survey that identifies the presence of significant cultural heritage resources may be the requirement for a Cultural Heritage Impact Statement, and the undertaking of further site specific evaluations to determine what alterations are appropriate within or adjacent to CHLs.

Alternatively, the *Ontario Heritage Act* now provides for the designation of cultural heritage landscapes, either as specific properties under Part IV, or in the case of broader areas, as Conservation Districts under Part V of the Act.

However implemented, conservation measures must emphasize the preservation and continuity of the character defining elements, while acknowledging and allowing for change. This is most effectively accomplished with the will of the property owners whose lands constitute the place and will involve a campaign of public education regarding the meaning/implications of CHL identification, in order to allay fears that inevitably arise where any possible restrictions on property rights are seen to be involved.



- Phase 1 Study Area
- Phase 2 Study Area
- Major Roads
- Active Railway
- Former Railway



0 3 6 Kilometers

Figure 1
**Cultural Heritage Landscapes
Inventory Study Area
Town of Caledon, Ontario**