

The Bruce Trail Conservancy

Management Planning for the Cheltenham Badlands

April 3, 2008



Close to nature.
Close to home.

THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY

Presentation Overview

- Location
- Natural Heritage Features
- Park Property Background
- Management Challenges
- The Niagara Escarpment Plan
- The Management Planning Process
- The Management Planning Team
- Elements of the Management Plan
- Public Consultation and Involvement

Location



Natural Heritage Features

- The Cheltenham (or *Caledon*, or *Inglewood*) Badlands is one of the best examples of “Badland topography” in Ontario
- Bedrock at the Badlands is Queenston Shale, the base rock of the Niagara Escarpment
- Due to removal of vegetation during land clearing and livestock grazing in the early 1900s, the shale has eroded into a series of hummocks and gullies
- The Badlands are an *Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Earth Science)*.
- The unique topography is a strong draw for tourists, school groups at all levels, and the media arts community (filming, photography, etc.)





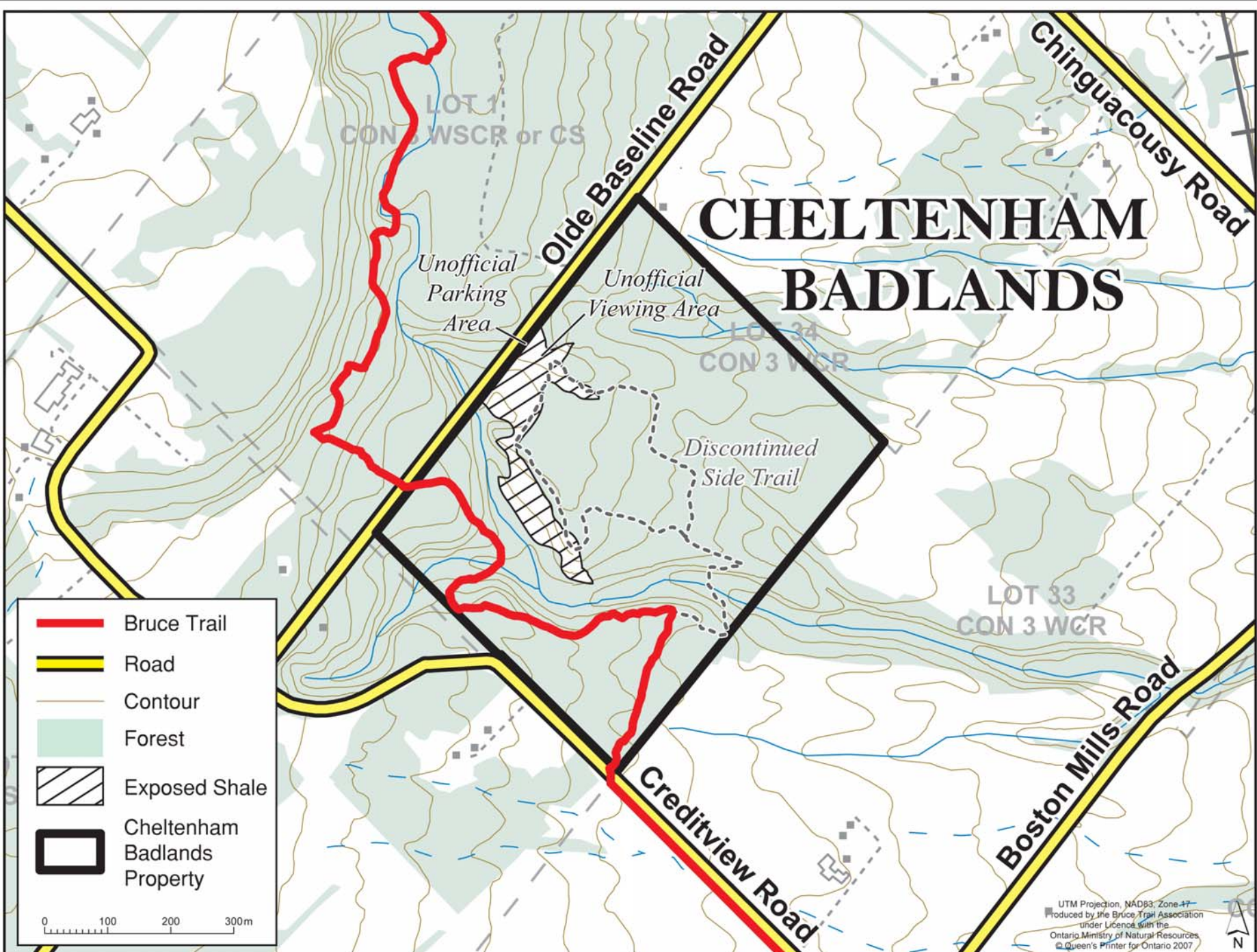
Photo courtesy Jan Hannah



Photo courtesy Jan Hannah

Park Property Background

- The Badlands lie entirely with the 36.6-hectare “Cooper Property”
- Cooper Property acquired to secure the Bruce Trail in 2000 with a grant of \$550,000 from the MNR under their *Niagara Escarpment Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program*
- The main Bruce Trail crosses the property at its southwest end (1.4 km of Bruce Trail Optimum Route)
- Until recently a side trail allowed access from the main trail up to the unofficial viewing area by the road; this trail was closed in 2007 due to concerns over erosion of the treadway and maintenance issues



Park Property Background

- The Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) holds title to the property, and the BTC has management responsibilities for the site under an agreement with the OHT
- Stewardship of the Badlands property, as with all properties managed by the BTC, is carried out by volunteers (in this case the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club and the Caledon Countryside Alliance) with assistance and guidance from the BTC Land Stewardship Committee and BTC staff (Land Stewardship Coordinator and Executive Director)



Management Challenges

- The Badlands are a unique and striking area
- A very common stop for “Day Trip” tourists who will visit for fairly short lengths of time → some weekends “thousands” of people visit the site
- Management challenges appear to be related primarily to high public use of the site and include:
 - Concerns over safety along the road adjacent to the site, due to number of visitors and their cars
 - Garbage and littering
 - Vandalism of signage and trail structures
 - Creation of trespass or “rogue” trails
 - Impact from pedestrian, equestrian and wheeled traffic on the slopes, trails and in other areas of the site

The Niagara Escarpment Plan

- The 2005 Niagara Escarpment Plan has designated the Badlands property as an “Escarpment Access” park under the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Spaces System (NEPOSS)

These areas will complement the larger, and in some cases, more developed parks or open space areas, by providing opportunities for public access to the Niagara Escarpment at appropriate points along the Escarpment. These areas will normally be small and may provide modest facilities to support day use activities at view points, rest areas, trailheads, picnic sites, scenic areas, fishing areas, beaches or other points of interest. (Niagara Escarpment Plan, June 2005, Page 84)

- Per the Niagara Escarpment Plan, a *Management Plan* must be developed for the site



The Management Planning Process

- The Management Plan provides guidance to the landowner, land manager and planners on how the site should be used
- The Steps:
 - A Management Planning Team is struck
 - Stage 1 – Terms of Reference and Background Information Prepared
 - Stage 2 – Management Plan Material Prepared (Interim Management Statements)
 - Stage 3 – Final Park Management Plan Compiled

*Public input is an important part of the
Management Planning Process*

The Management Planning Team

- A Management Planning Team has been struck:
 - Beth Kümmling, Executive Director, BTC (Project Lead)
 - Alison Watt, Land Stewardship Coordinator, BTC
 - Janice McClelland, President, Caledon Hills Club
 - Dave Moule, Land Stewardship Director, Caledon Hills Club
 - Peter Leeney, Caledon Hills Club Appointee to BTC Board of Directors
 - Paula Terpstra, Natural Heritage Coordinator, Ontario Heritage Trust
 - Jan Hannah, BTC Land Steward (Badlands Property), Caledon Countryside Alliance
 - Neil Morris, Chair, Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee
 - Sean Ballaro, Supervisor of Traffic Operations, Region of Peel
 - Richard Paterak, Town of Caledon Councillor, NEC Commissioner
- Ex Officio Members are:
 - Eric Baldin, Conservation Lands Planner, Credit Valley Conservation
 - Allan Thompson, Town of Caledon Councillor, CVC Board Member
- Approval Agency Advisors will be:
 - Neil Hester, Niagara Escarpment Commission
 - Susan Cooper, Ministry of Natural Resources

Stage 1: Terms of Reference and Background

Terms of Reference

- A Draft Terms of Reference has been prepared for the Management Planning Process
- Explains the rationale for initiating a management plan for the Badlands, outlines the proposed planning program, ensures that the plan will be in alignment with Niagara Escarpment Plan policies, and identifies and assigns tasks
- This document is now available for public review
 - Copies available tonight
 - On our web page (www.brucetrail.org) under “*Conservation*”
 - From the BTC at 1-800-665-4453

Stage 1: Terms of Reference and Background

Background Document

- A Draft Background Document has been prepared for the Management Planning Process
- Provides a more comprehensive body of information on the property, including history, ecology, site uses
- This document is in the final stages of development and when completed will be available for public review on our web page (www.brucetrail.org) under “*Conservation*” or by contacting the Bruce Trail Conservancy at 1-800-665-4453

Stage 2: Interim Management Statements

- Significant problems already evident on the site dictate that “immediate” action is required for key issues.
- Rather than work on a single, all-encompassing management plan which would not be approved for at least 2 years, a phased approach will be taken; decisions relating to the more urgent issues at the site can be made as quickly as possible.
- Issues will be addressed in the following phases:
 - Phase 1 – Public health and safety (traffic issues)
 - Phase 2 – Public access to the site (including location and number of trails, site management options, commercial use, etc.)
 - Phase 3 – Public education (Public messaging for site, interpretive material, public outreach to the community/schools)
- Work has already begun on Phase 1, and will be started shortly on Phase 2 → *We need your input to ensure we are on the right track*

Stage 3: Park Management Plan

- The final stage is to compile the Interim Management Statements and any other management planning findings and recommendations into the final Park Management Plan for the site
- Recommendations made in the Interim statements can be altered or finalized as the management plan is finalized
- At the initiation of this Stage a public meeting will be held to present the findings in the Interim Management Statements and seek input on recommendations and outstanding or as yet unidentified issues and concerns

Cheltenham Badlands Management Planning

Planning Stage	Planning Task	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	
Stage 1	Terms of Reference																												
	Preparation																												
	Internal Review/Revisions																												
	Public Review and Comment																												
	Finalized for Submission to MNR, OHT and Municipalities																												
	MNR, OHT and Municipal Review, Recommendations and Approval																												
	Background Information																												
	Preparation																												
	Internal Review/Revisions																												
	Public Review and Comment																												
Finalized for Submission to MNR, OHT and Municipalities																													
MNR, OHT and Municipal Review, Recommendations and Approval																													
Stage 2	Phase 1 - Interim Management Statement - Public Health and Safety																												
	Public Meeting/Open House																												
	Data Gathering/Planning																												
	Draft IMS Preparation																												
	Internal Review/Revisions																												
	Public Review and Comment																												
	Finalized for Submission to MNR, OHT and Municipalities																												
	MNR, OHT and Municipal Review, Recommendations and Approval																												
	Phase 2 - Interim Management Statement - Public Access																												
	Data Gathering/Planning																												
	Draft IMS Preparation																												
	Internal Review/Revisions																												
	Public Review and Comment																												
	Finalized for Submission to MNR, OHT and Municipalities																												
	MNR, OHT and Municipal Review, Recommendations and Approval																												
Phase 3 - Interim Management Statement - Public Education																													
Data Gathering/Planning																													
Draft IMS Preparation																													
Internal Review/Revisions																													
Public Review and Comment																													
Finalized for Submission to MNR, OHT and Municipalities																													
MNR, OHT and Municipal Review, Recommendations and Approval																													
Stage 3	Park Management Plan																												
	Public Meeting/Open House																												
	Revision to Final Plan																												
	Internal Review/Revisions																												
	Public Review and Comment																												
	Finalized for Submission to MNR, OHT and Municipalities																												
MNR, OHT and Municipal Approval																													

Public Consultation and Communication Strategies

- During the planning process, the public will be given:
 - An invitation to participate in a public meeting to provide input on issues and concerns to be addressed during the management planning process
 - A 30-day period to review and comment on the Terms of Reference, Background Information document, Interim Management Statements and the final Park Management Plan
 - A public meeting following completion of the Interim Management Statements when the final Park Management Plan begins development
- If additional planning stages are necessary, additional public consultation opportunities will be provided to address them
- The public will be notified of all public meetings and document review opportunities in the following ways:
 - Mailings inviting participation to adjacent landowners, agencies, interest groups, and local politicians (municipal, provincial and federal)
 - Posting of on-site notices
 - Paid advertisement in local and regional newspapers
 - Posting on the BTC and Caledon Hills Club web pages

Public Consultation and Communication Strategies

- All notices will indicate where the documents can be accessed, outline the planning process, identify the opportunities for public input and solicit public comments.
- In addition, each document will be circulated to adjacent landowners, agencies, municipalities, interest groups, and politicians
- The documents will be accompanied by a letter describing the opportunities for participation (e.g., submission of briefs, meeting with planning team)
- The documents will also be made available for public review on the BTC and Caledon Hills Club web pages, and in hard copy at the Town of Caledon offices

Public Involvement - We need your input!

- Please review the Terms of Reference and the other documents that will be available
 - On the BTC web page (www.brucetrail.org) under “Conservation”
 - On the Caledon Hills Club web page (www.caledonbrucetrail.org)
 - or by contacting the Bruce Trail Conservancy at 1-800-665-4453
- The web pages will also contain updates on the Management Planning Process
- *What do **you** think should be done at the site? Are we addressing all of the issues? What are we missing?*
- We welcome your input tonight, or via email to badlands@brucetrail.org, or by mail to
The Bruce Trail Conservancy
P.O. Box 857
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3N9

Management Challenges *(a recap)*

- The Management Planning Team sees the issues as being related primarily to high public use of the site, including:
 - Concerns over safety along the road adjacent to the site, due to number of visitors and their cars
 - Garbage and littering
 - Vandalism of signage and trail structures
 - Creation of trespass or “rogue” trails
 - Impact from pedestrian, equestrian and wheeled traffic on the slopes, trails and in other areas of the site
- What else should we be addressing?

Your input is important

- *Review the documents via the web page*
- *Sign the sheet tonight if you would like documents mailed to you as they become available*
- *Comment via mail, email, phone (1-800-665-4453), or at the public meetings*