5.10



**TOWN OF LINCOLN** 4800 South Service Road Beamsville, ON LOR 1B1 TEL (905) 563-8205 FAX (905) 563-6566

February 14, 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario Legislative Building Queen's Park Toronto, ON M7A 1A1 <u>kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.ca</u>

Dear Premier Wynne:

# RE: Resolution of Support, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Investigation

Please be advised that, at its meeting of January 23, 2017 the Council of the Town of Lincoln enacted the following motion re: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Investigation as follows:

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln seeks to always build trust and confidence in the administration of its responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln also seeks to protect the interests of Lincoln residents by ensuring full accountability and complete transparency, while demanding our resident's tax dollars being contributed to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (the "NPCA") are spent and administered with the highest standards.

AND WHEREAS citizens of both Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton represented by the NPCA have explicitly and repeatedly requested a forensic audit to clarify hiring practices, alleged use of public money in the hiring of lobbyists and have made clear their issues of public trust with the NPCA;

AND WHEREAS municipalities including Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Thorold, Wainfleet, Welland and the City of Hamilton have enacted motions calling on the Province of Ontario to initiate an appropriately thorough investigation, be it a value for money and/or forensic audit, of applicable 2012-2016 transactions of the NPCA;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry has instructed that the jurisdictional accountability for evaluating the performance of the NPCA is the responsibility of the appointed members of the Board of Niagara MPPs Niagara Region Local Area Municipalities Haldimand County City of Hamilton



Office of the Mayor City of Hamilton

> TOWN Niagara-on-1

February 24, 2017

The Honorable Kathleen Wynne Premier of Ontario 795 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 101 Toronto, ON M4G 4E4

Dear Premier Kathleen Wynne,

## Re: Resolution respecting the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Investigation

At its meeting of February 22, 2017 Hamilton City Council endorsed the Town of Lincoln's resolution (attached) respecting the above matter.

Sincerely, Mayor Fred Eisenberger

Cc: Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Auditor General of Ontario NPCA Board of Directors Niagara MPPs Haldimand County Niagara's Local Area Municipalities Niagara Region Association of Municipalities of Ontario Town of Lincoln

File C17-003 (5.10)



318 Canborough St. P.O. Box 400 Smithville, ON LOR 2A0 T: 905-957-3346 F: 905-957-3219 www.westlincoln.ca

## **CLERK'S DEPARTMENT**

March 1, 2017

Mr. Alan Caslin, Regional Chair Niagara Region 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way P.O. Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Dear Chair Caslin:

## <u>Re: Request for support of family members of missing persons, and namely Niagara</u> <u>resident, Ashley Smith</u>

This is to advise that on Monday, February 27, 2017, West Lincoln Township Council approved the following recommendation relating to a request from the Niagara Region for support of family members of missing persons, and namely Niagara resident, Ashley Smith:

That, the correspondence from the Office of the Regional Chair, Alan Caslin, dated February 16, 2017, requesting support of a motion adopted by Niagara Regional Council at their meeting of Thursday, February 9, 2017 regarding support of family members of missing persons, and namely Niagara resident, Ashley Smith; be received and supported.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905-957-3346 ext. 6720.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Langley, Clerk

cc: Mr. Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk Niagara Local Area Municipalities Niagara Members of Parliament Niagara Members of Provincial Parliament



Administration Office of the Regional Clerk 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977 www.niagararegion.ca

March 3, 2017

CL 3-2017, March 2, 2017 PDC 3-2017, February 22, 2017 Report PDS 2-2017

## LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

## SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Initiation Report: Regional Official Plan Amendment 13 (ROPA 13) <u>Transportation Policies</u> PDS 2-2017

Regional Council, at its meeting of March 2, 2017, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee:

That Report PDS 2-2017, dated February 22, 2017, respecting Initiation Report: Regional Official Plan Amendment 13 (ROPA 13) Transportation Policies, **BE RECEIVED** for information and **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities.

A copy of Report PDS 2-2017 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,

Ralph Walton Regional Clerk :amn

- cc: A. Morrison, Planner
  - D. Landry, Planner
  - N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services



## Subject: Initiation Report: Regional Official Plan Amendment 13 (ROPA 13) Transportation Policies

Report To: Planning and Development Committee

Meeting Date: Wednesday February 22, 2017

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.
- 2. That a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local municipalities.

## **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the intent to initiate an Amendment to the Regional Official Plan (ROP) to replace and enhance the existing transportation policies in Chapter 9 of the ROP with comprehensive policies developed as part of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP).
- Transportation policies currently existing within Chapter 9 of the ROP are outdated and must be revised.
- Updating the transportation policies within the ROP is a key component of the implementation of the TMP recommendations.
- Regional Official Plan Amendment 13 (ROPA 13) will equip Niagara with current and sound transportation policy to ensure best practices are utilized across the region.
- Although the Region will be preparing a new ROP, this Amendment is required in order to ensure consistency between the TMP and the current ROP. It is expected that this section will be carried over to the new ROP with only minor changes if required.

## Considerations

### Financial

The cost of the work associated with this Amendment was funded within the Planning and Development Services' 2016 operating levy budget. More specifically, \$35,000.00 was allocated from the Planning and Development Services Department budget to the TMP for the development of draft transportation policies.

## Corporate

Planning and Development Services is working collaboratively with Public Works and Public Health on the development of the transportation policies.

### **Governmental Partners**

Local planning and public works departments will be engaged throughout the development of the draft transportation policies. ROPA 13 will be distributed to all appropriate government agencies, including Provincial agencies through the one-window review process, for review and comment. All received feedback will be considered towards the development of new transportation policies.

### Public and/or Service Users

To date, the TMP has completed three of its four sets of public information sessions as a part of its public consultation process. During the TMPs fourth set of public information sessions, the public will be informed of the upcoming draft transportation policies.

ROPA 13 is being initiated under Section 26 of the *Planning Act*, as it is considered an update to conform to provincial policy. Amendments under Section 26 require that an open house and statutory public meeting at Committee be held to receive feedback on the draft policies. The statutory open house and public meeting are anticipated to be held in March and April of 2017. All public input will be considered during the development and review of the policies and will be addressed in the staff recommendation report. The recommendation report is anticipated to be brought forward to Planning and Development Services Committee for consideration in Q3 of 2017 to align with the endorsement of the TMP.

## Analysis

The TMP is a comprehensive study that directs how the Niagara Transportation Network will be designed, the modes that will utilize it (pedestrian, cyclist, transit, rail, air, freight, automobile), and the investments needed to achieve it. The TMP provides direction and insight towards the creation of the new transportation policies for Niagara's ROP.

ROPA 13 is intended to be brought forward with the TMP. The Amendment will be replacing the existing transportation policies in Chapter 9 with new comprehensive regional policies. The Amendment will be brought forward under Section 26 of the *Planning Act*, as it is considered an update to the Official Plan to conform to provincial policies. ROPA 13 will enact new policies that will align with and conform to new Provincial legislations and regulations, including the anticipated revisions to the Growth

Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Amendment will equip Niagara with current and sound transportation policy to ensure best practices are utilized across the region.

ROPA 13 will include policies to address the following transportation elements:

- Transportation Systems;
- Regional Road System (including road allowances and right-of-ways);
- Public Transit;
- Railroads, Marine, and Airports;
- Active Transportation; and,
- Complete Streets and Transportation Demand Management.

The transportation policies within the Amendment will implement the direction and recommendations identified by the TMP. In 2015, the TMP project scope included the development of transportation policies. ROPA 13 is intended to be brought forward in 2017 in coordination with the TMP. The background work for the new ROP will be starting in 2017 and will, at minimum, take 2-4 years to complete. To have new transportation policies on hold for 2-4 years is not the best approach at this time.

## Alternatives Reviewed

## Complete transportation policies update through the new ROP process.

Should Council decide to not endorse the initiation of ROPA 13, the transportation section can be addressed during the review and update of the ROP. The new ROP process has not yet commenced and will take, at minimum, 2-4 years to complete. Given the timing of the new ROP in relation to the completion of the TMP, staff believes updating our transportation policies through ROPA 13 is most advantageous.

## Origin of Report

This report was brought forward by staff to inform Council of the initiation of ROPA 13, which will replace and enhance the existing transportation policies in Chapter 9 of the ROP with comprehensive policies informed by the TMP.

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

Not applicable.

PDS 2-2017 February 22, 2017 Page 4

Submitted by: Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP Commissioner Planning and Development Services Approved by: Carmelo D'Angelo, BSc, MPA Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Alexander Morrison, Planner, Denise Landry, Planner and reviewed by Diana Morreale, Manager of Community Planning, Doug Giles, Director of Planning Services, Planning and Development Services.

## **Appendices**

None.



Administration Office of the Regional Clerk 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977 www.niagararegion.ca

March 3, 2017

CL 3-2017, March 2, 2017 PDC 3-2017, February 22, 2017 Report PDS 11-2017

## LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Coordinated Policy Review – Response to Greenbelt Plan Environmental Bill of Rights Posting PDS 11-2017

Regional Council, at its meeting of March 2, 2017, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee:

That Report PDS 11-2017, dated February 22, 2017, respecting Coordinated Policy Review - Response to Greenbelt Plan Environmental Bill of Rights Posting, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

- That Report PDS 11-2017 and the attached comments (Appendix I and II) BE ENDORSED as Niagara Region's submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, in response to the Environmental Registry (EBR) Postings No. 012-9241/7 deadline of February 27, 2017 respecting proposed changes to Greenbelt Plan mapping; and
- 2. That Report PDS 11-2017 **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

A copy of Report PDS 11-2017 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,

Ralph Walton Regional Clerk :amn

- cc: E. Acs, Planner
  - T. Donia, Senior Planner
  - N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services



## Subject: Coordinated Policy Review - Response to Greenbelt Plan EBR Posting

**Report to: Planning and Development Committee** 

Meeting Date: February 22, 2017

## Recommendations

- 1. That this Report and the attached comments (Appendix I & II) **BE ENDORSED** as Niagara Region's submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, in response to the Environmental Registry (EBR) Postings No. 012-9241/7 deadline of February 27, 2017 respecting proposed changes to Greenbelt Plan mapping; and,
- 2. That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information, and that a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

## **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council on the comments to be sent to the Province as part of the Coordinated Policy Review process regarding proposed changes to Greenbelt mapping.
- The Province has proposed minor mapping changes for the Greenbelt Boundary for comment by February 27, 2017 through EBR postings 012-9241 (policy) and 012-9247 (regulation).
- The attached comments are reflective of Council's previous submissions for changes to Greenbelt Plan mapping that seek improvements that would make implementation more effective and logical.
- Comments on both the proposed Greenbelt changes and recommendations made by the NEC (PDS 16-2017) are being submitted to the Province together to offer suggestions and solutions to the Province as they finalize the three Plans that affect Niagara – the Niagara Escarpment Plan, Greenbelt Plan and Growth Plan.
- Staff will submit the attached comments in advance of Regional Council's next scheduled meeting on March 2, 2017 to meet the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 deadline.

## Considerations

## Financial

The attached comments form part of the continuing process associated with the CPR. This review has been undertaken by staff in consultation with a number of stakeholders. All costs have come from the operating budget of the Planning Department.

When the final versions of the Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan, and Niagara Escarpment Plan have been released and the cumulative changes are understood, staff will update Council with respect to financial impacts.

## Corporate

The attached comments echo and build on previous comments to the Province which were developed with input from staff across the organization.

## **Governmental Partners**

The attached comments reflect the Region's previous responses to the Province with respect to the CPR. The Region's position has been shaped through working with local staff from the twelve municipalities, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and the Niagara Parks Commission.

## Public and/or Service Users

Throughout the review process, staff have met and encouraged input from private land owners, the development community, agricultural stakeholders, and consultants representing clients with affected lands.

## Analysis

In January the Province released EBR Postings 012-9241 (policy) and 012-9247 (regulation) that proposed minor changes to the Greenbelt Boundary as part of the Coordinated Policy Review. These changes were released through a series of online maps, with comments due to the Province by February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

None of the proposed changes are in Niagara.

According to the Provincial website, the changes that were supported include those that were in progress before the Greenbelt Plan came into effect, reflect existing roads or the Oak Ridges Moraine boundaries to make more logical boundaries, and sites where the existing boundary cuts across major institutional, commercial or industrial structures (http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page15226.aspx, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017).

Changes not supported, according to the Ministry website, include those that involved:

- removing any land designated specialty crop
- removing any land for the purpose of settlement area boundary expansion
- removing or re-designating any land that is part of the Oak Ridges Moraine
- re-designating any land that is part of the Greenbelt (e.g., protected countryside to settlement area)
- removing any land that is necessary for the viability of a robust Natural Heritage System (<u>http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page15226.aspx</u>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017).

Niagara Region has always supported a strong and viable agricultural sector and the protection of agricultural land. The problem with the Province's approach is that lands designated as "Specialty Crop" have not been accurately ground-truthed and as a result, there are many instances where properties have been identified erroneously as they have been developed with non-agricultural uses for decades. To rely on the concept of "current designation" as a reason not to consider minor changes ignores the reality and problems we are facing in Niagara. Relief is required to address challenges several specific properties are experiencing since the adoption of the Greenbelt Plan.

Through the CPR process, the Region and local municipalities have offered the Province a number of potential solutions that would balance the need to protect specialty crop lands with some limited flexibility to address various challenges. The challenges include multiple designations on single properties and scale related boundary errors, as well as providing recognition for previously developed urban uses with limited expansion potential. The Province needs to support the opportunity to resolve these issues.

The Region has provided mapping to the Province identifying five 'Special Policy Areas' for additional flexibility to allow businesses in those areas to grow and foster. The mapping also identifies properties affected by multiple boundaries and boundary inconsistencies. (Appendix II). While the Province has committed to mapping the agricultural lands and uses within the GGH as part of their policy approach, staff has also reinforced the need for ground-truthed mapping of the specialty crop lands to ensure an accurate basis for future decision-making. The Region strongly recommends that where lands are clearly already developed and have no potential be farmed for specialty crop purposes, that the designation be changed to "Protected Countryside".

Staff have prepared comments (attached as Appendix I) to the Province, re-iterating Niagara's position in our initial mapping submission, to rectify situations such as Greenbelt boundariy anaomlies, even though they might be in the Specialty Crop Area.

## **Alternatives Reviewed**

Failure to submit comments will result in a missed opportunity to influence Provincial Plans. The Coordinated Policy Review represents a critical time for Niagara Region to provide feedback on how the draft Provincial Plan policies will affect Niagara and offer potential remedies.

## **Origin of Report**

Influencing Provincial Plans is a Strategic Priority identified by Regional Council. This report helps Council in achieving this Priority by identifying specific changes that are required in the draft Plans to help Niagara achieve economic prosperity.

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

PDS 16-2017	Coordinated Policy Review – Niagara Escarpment Commission Site Specific Recommendations, February 22, 2017
PDS 41-2016	Coordinated Policy Review Proposed Revisions, October 27, 2016
PDS 29-2016	Province of Ontario Coordinated Plan Review Submission on the Draft Plans, October 19, 2016
PDS-C 13-2016	Province of Ontario Coordinated Policy Review, June 22, 2016
PDS 11-2016	Coordinated Provincial Review Update - Reflections on the Crombie Panel Report
PDS 31-2015	Province of Ontario Coordinated Policy Review Mapping Submission, July 15, 2015
PDS 22-2015	Province of Ontario Coordinated Policy Review Submission, May 21, 2015
PDS-C 4-2015	Coordinated Provincial Plan Review, April 9, 2015

Submitted by: Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP Commissioner Planning & Development Services Approved by: Carmelo D'Angelo, BSc, MPA Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Erik Acs, MCIP RPP, Planner and Terri Donia, MCIP RPP, Senior Planner and reviewed by Doug Giles, Director of Community and Long Range Planning.

## **Appendices**

Appendix I	Response to Greenbelt Plan EBR Posting, Feb. 2017	Page 5
Appendix II	Greenbelt Mapping Submissions	Page 9

## Niagara Region Comments on EBR Postings 012-9241/7 Respecting Proposed Minor Boundary Changes to the Greenbelt Plan

The Province provided reasoning on their website for the proposed changes (http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page15226.aspx, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017). This reasoning indicated a desire to make logical adjustments to the Greenbelt boundary to reflect other Plan / road boundaries and consider elements that existed prior to the Greenbelt's creation. This approach is in keeping with the submissions made by Niagara Region and its local municipalities to the Province as part of the Coordinated Plan Review. The challenge, however, is that this same approach was not considered in areas designated as specialty crop lands within the Greenbelt.

## **Provincial Approach to Consider Changes**

The Province has released proposed minor changes to the Greenbelt Boundary for comment. On the Province's website, it indicates the changes that were supported by the Province include those that were in progress before the Greenbelt Plan came into effect, changes that reflect existing roads or the Oak Ridges Moraine boundaries to make more logical boundaries, and sites where the existing boundary cuts across major institutional, commercial or industrial structures.

Changes not supported, according to the Ministry website, include those that involved:

- removing any land designated specialty crop
- removing any land for the purpose of settlement area boundary expansion
- removing or re-designating any land that is part of the Oak Ridges Moraine
- re-designating any land that is part of the Greenbelt (e.g., protected countryside to settlement area)
- removing any land that is necessary for the viability of a robust Natural Heritage System. (<u>http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page15226.aspx</u>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

## **Challenges with Provincial Approach**

Niagara Region and its local municipalities have outlined challenges with the current boundary lines and proposed some policies for consideration that address these issues.

### **Boundary Issues**

In the Region's May 2015 reports the Region outlined the concern and offered the following recommendation:

An unintended result of the Greenbelt being mapped at a high scale is that there are a number of properties within Niagara that have multiple Plans affecting single properties. In a couple of cases, the Greenbelt actually goes through a dwelling. While this is understood as an error, it has unintentionally caused municipalities and landowners no end of grief, especially as the policy of the Greenbelt states that the bounds cannot be changed until the ten year review. Niagara Region recommends that minor boundary corrections that don't create developable area be permitted locally to avoid any future challenges to land owners and municipalities. (PDS 22-15, Appendix I, page 15)

In the Region's July 2015 report to the Province, the Region provided mapping to demonstrate the challenges experienced in Niagara with the current Provincial Plan boundaries not corresponding to available mapping. The Region further outlined the difficulties with two or more designations on single properties. Ensuring an updated mapping approach that that achieves consistency between the boundaries of the Greenbelt, urban areas, the Lake Ontario shoreline, and Niagara Escarpment Plan was seen as a helpful tool for implementation, as was the ability to have limited flexibility to adjust the boundaries slightly to ensure efficient development of land. The Region requested a policy to provide for these slight adjustments that would not substantially change the urban area (PDS 31-2015, Pages 11-12, and Appendix VI).

It is expected that this request would not significantly impact the overall amount of land designated for specialty crop, yet it would offer individual and owners and municipalities the limited flexibility needed to effectively and logically develop existing parcels. Mapping is provided in Appendix II to help demonstrate these concerns. These proposed solutions offer a reasonable balance between removing specialty crop land and adjusting boundaries slightly to make development decisions predictable and logical along the periphery of the urban areas.

## Recognition of Special Policy Areas and Area for Potential Urban Expansion

Also included in the July 2015 submission is a proposal for the creation of five 'Special Policy Areas' and consideration of an area for possible urban expansion. The maps of these areas are also included in Appendix II. Within these areas are schools, residential subdivisions and businesses, many of which have existed for decades and have access to municipal servicing. The challenge for these properties is that they are often limited to expand, grow and change by the policies of the specialty crop designation and the draft existing use policies.

As part of the July report, Niagara Region asked for the following for the five special policy areas: .. has requested that policies be put in the Greenbelt Plan to allow for

Special Policy Areas. We envision these Special Policy Areas to be further defined though local discussions to determine the Vision for the area, the boundaries, and the types of redevelopment that would be beneficial to the area and what would be directed to the existing settlement areas

This would provide Niagara and other municipalities with added flexibility to offer businesses, housing developments, and current and former institutional properties an opportunity to further benefit the overall community, while reflecting the principles of the Greenbelt (PDS 31-2015, Page 6).

The Grimsby Area was recognized as an area for potential urban expansion in that report. Like the areas identified for potential Special Policy areas, this areas contains a number of existing urban uses, and has the added consideration of the proposed GO station in that area. As part of that same report, the Region asked that:

The Region requests that a policy change be added to the new Greenbelt that allows for municipalities to alter the boundaries of settlement areas in the Greenbelt Plan onto Special Crop Lands, if it is determined through a formal MCR process that that expansion is needed to meet growth objectives, the best long-term use of the land is for urban purposes subject to defined criteria and best use of infrastructure (PDS 31-2015, Page 8).

With the release of the draft Growth Plan, a policy was included that indicated that no considerations for settlement area expansions could be considered on specialty crop lands. Subsequent to this request, requests were made by the Town to consider a designation change within the Greenbelt from the specialty crop designation to protected countryside so that a future potential MCR could consider this area.

## Need for Ground-truthed Specialty Crop Mapping

Throughout Niagara's October 2016 submission, the request for mapping accuracy was reinforced, including the need for accurate mapping of the specialty crop and natural heritage system lands (PDS 29-2016).

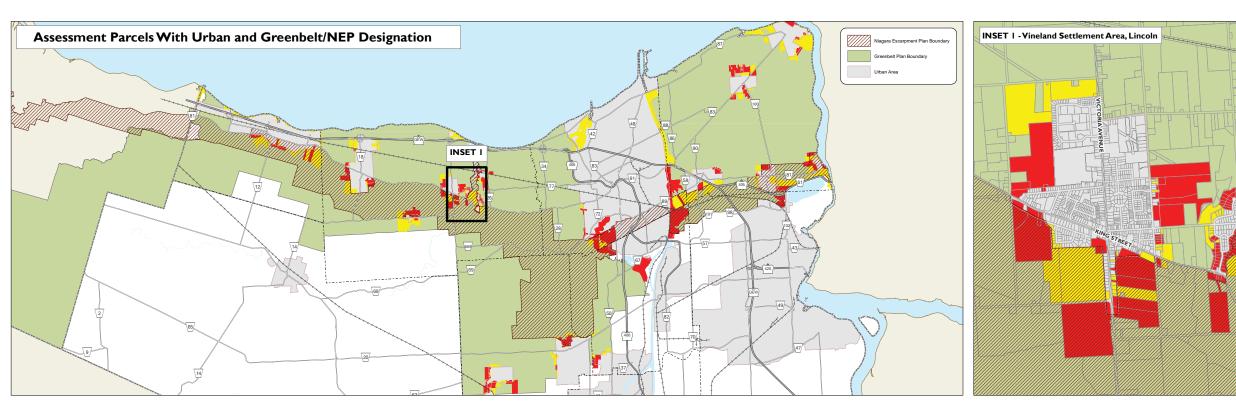
Considering that the lands within the Greenbelt in Niagara are either specialty crop, natural heritage, or within the Niagara Escarpment Plan area, the need for accurate and ground-truthed mapping is essential, especially if this is one of the reasons the Province is using to defend no changes to the current boundaries.

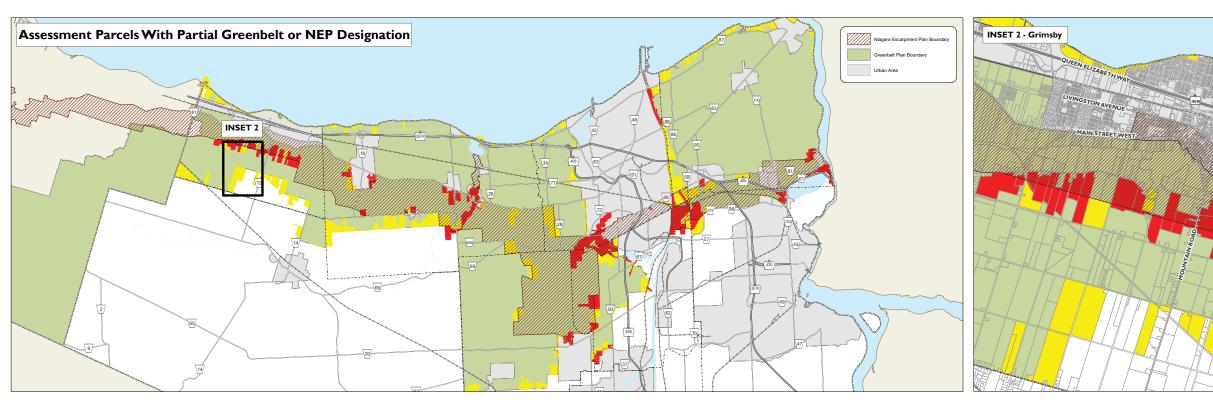
## Request

1. Niagara Region requests that lands designated as "Specialty Crop" be accurately ground-truthed to resolve erroneous designations. The Region strongly recommends that where lands are clearly already developed and/or have no

potential be farmed for specialty crop purposes due to soil conditions, fragmentation and other impacts and facilities, the designation be changed to "Protected Countryside".

- 2. The Region request that areas identified as "Special Policy Area", in the Region's first submission, be provided flexibility by way of policy, to consider appropriate development opportunities that do not undermine the agricultural area.
- 3. Finally, the Region continues to request that properties affected by split designations or regulations be provided with the flexibility to develop appropriately.





PDS 11-2017 Appendix II February 22, 2017 Page 9



## 2015 Coordinated Policy Review

## MAPPING CORRECTIONS

### Parcels Affected by Provincial Plan Boundary Issues

The identification of these parcels was performed through spatial analysis within a GIS environment. Parcels shown here are not completely contained within a particular designation area.



Parcels with More Than One Designation

The mapping of these properties puts more than one plan designation. This creates difficulty for development, policy interpretation and best use.

Ask:

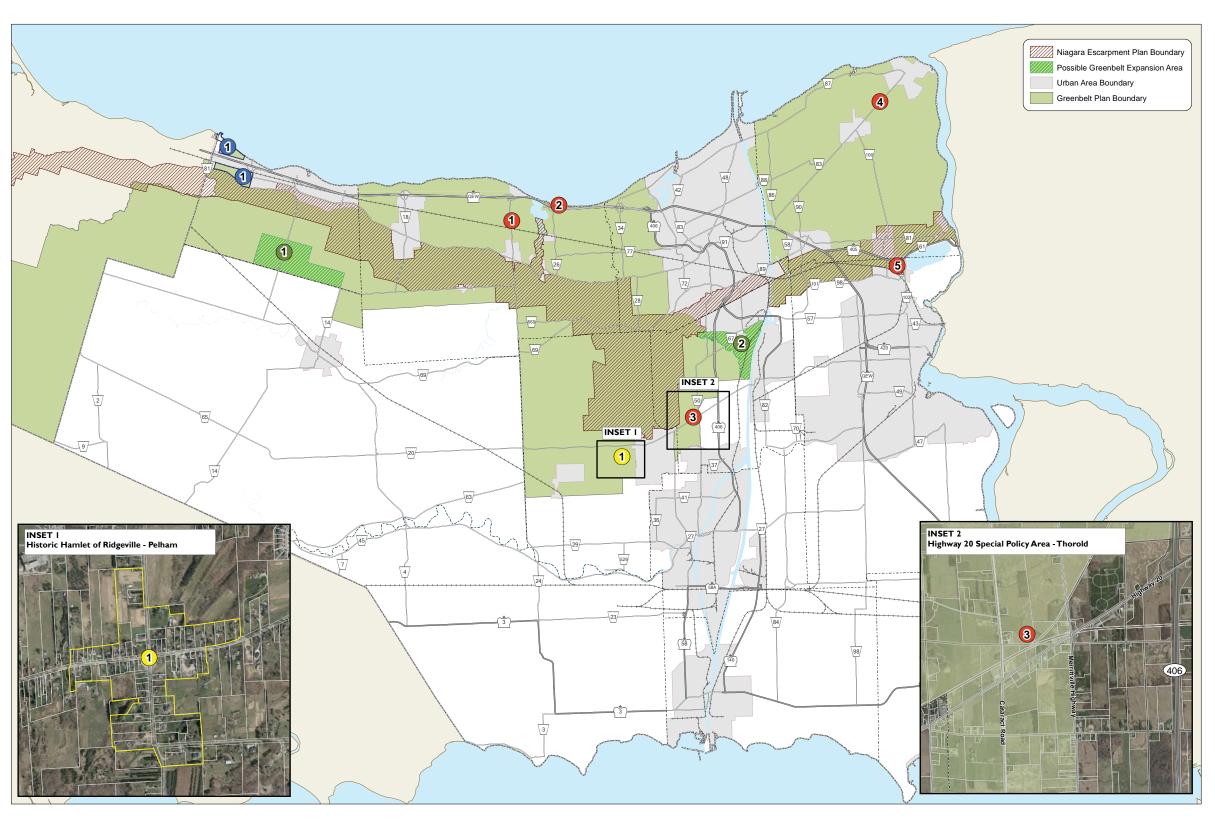
That a policy be created in the resulting Plan(s) that allow for some flexibility to undertake minor boundary adjustments to the Plan areas.

Scale Related Boundary Errors

The original scale of the Greenbelt mapping was digitized at a small scale whereas the municipalities and Region work at a larger scale for accuracy. This has created challenges when defining the boundaries and limits the use of some properties.

Ask: Niagara Region will submit a topologically correct GIS map to the Province to correct any digitizing related issues.

© 2015 Niagara Region and its suppliers. Projection is UTM, NAD 83, Zone 17. This map was compiled from various data sources and is current as of June 2015. The Niagara Region makes no representations or warranties whatsoever, either expressed or implied, as to the accuracy,



PDS 11-2017 Appendix II February 22, 2017 Page 10



2015 Coordinated Policy Review

## SIGNIFICANT GREENBELT CHANGES

### Possible Special Policy Areas

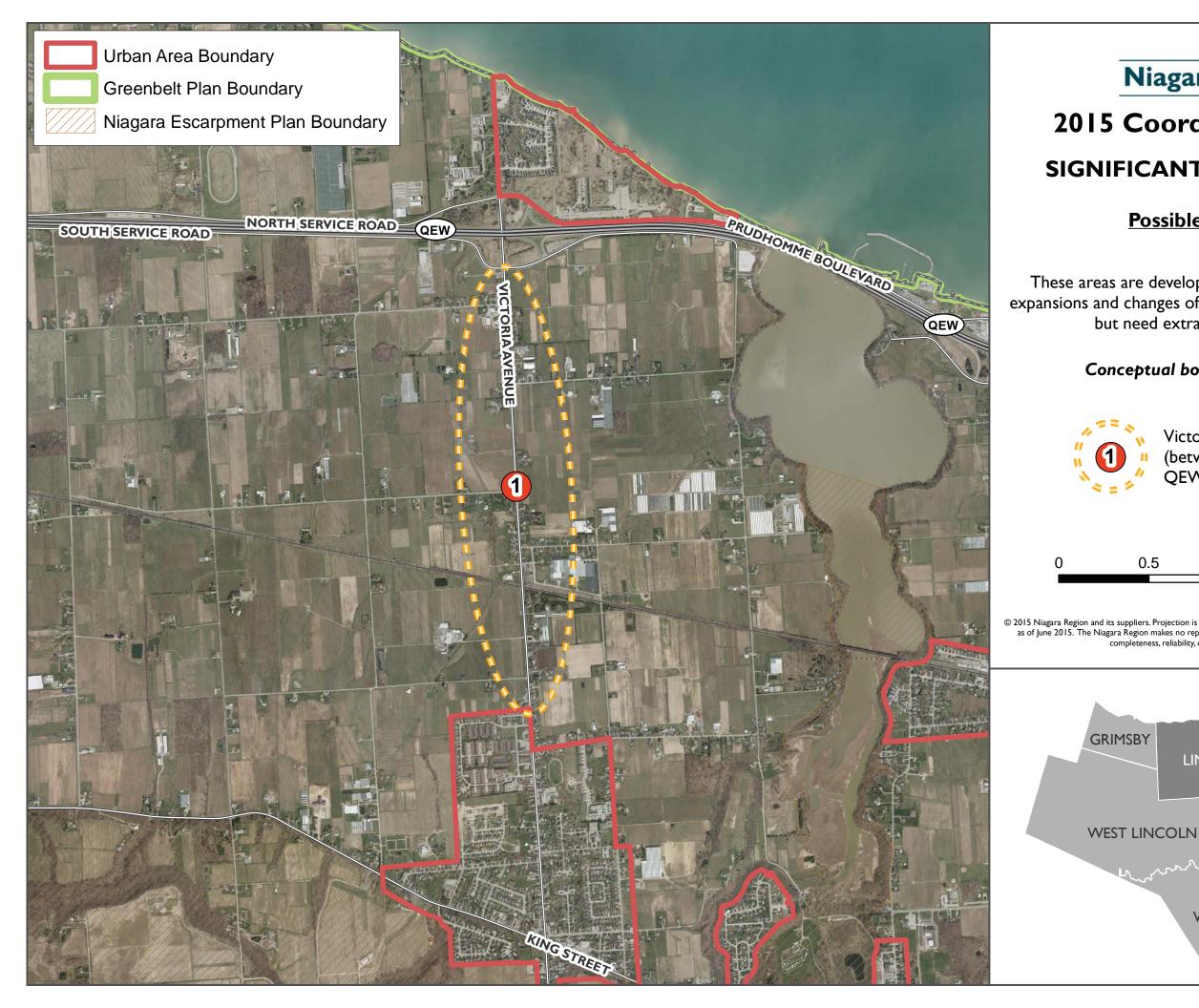
These areas are developed with urban type uses and have potential for further limited expansions and changes of use that are consistent with the Greenbelt, but require flexibility.

Victoria Avenue, Lincoln 1 (between Vineland Settlement Area and QEW South Service Road) North Service Road, Lincoln 2 (between Jordan Harbour and Charles Daley Park) Highway 20, Thorold 3 (between Merrittville Highway and Cataract Road) Highway 55, Niagara on the Lake 4 (between Virgil and Old Town Settlement Areas) Fruitbelt Parkway, Niagara Falls (near Stanley Ave and General Brock Pkwy) 5 **Possible Greenbelt Expansion Areas** The two areas indicated have been studied and have been deemed suitable by the local municipalty for Greenbelt expansion. Town of Grimsby (Along Mud Street West, Kemp Road West, 1 Thirty Road), 923 ha (2) City of Thorold (Surrounding Lake Gibson), 487 ha Municipal Request - Possible Urban Area Expansion This area, identified by the local municipality, has significant existing urban development, including full subdivisions. It is experiencing development pressure and has been recommended for urban expansion. Grimsby GO Station Area, Grimsby (between Casablanca Blvd and Kelson Ave) **Existing Urban Area Recognition** Established in 1865, the historic hamlet of Ridgeville has full municipal services, a

mix of commercial, industrial and residential uses as well as a streetscaped downtown. This boundary recognizes the existing area.

(1) Historic Hamlet of Ridgeville

© 2015 Niagara Region and its suppliers. Projection is UTM, NAD 83, Zone 17. This map was compiled from various data sources and is current as of June 2015. The Niagara Region makes no representations or warranties whatsoever, either expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, reliability, currency or otherwise of the information shown on this map.





# **2015 Coordinated Policy Review**

## SIGNIFICANT GREENBELT CHANGES

## Possible Special Policy Areas

These areas are developed and have potential for further limited expansions and changes of use that are consistent with the Greenbelt, but need extra flexibility to be used effectively.

## Conceptual boundary requiring further study.

- Victoria Avenue, Lincoln
- (between Vineland Settlement Area and
- QEW South Service Road)



© 2015 Niagara Region and its suppliers. Projection is UTM, NAD 83, Zone 17. This map was compiled from various data sources and is current as of June 2015. The Niagara Region makes no representations or warranties whatsoever, either expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, reliability, currency or otherwise of the information shown on this map.





Urban Area Boundary

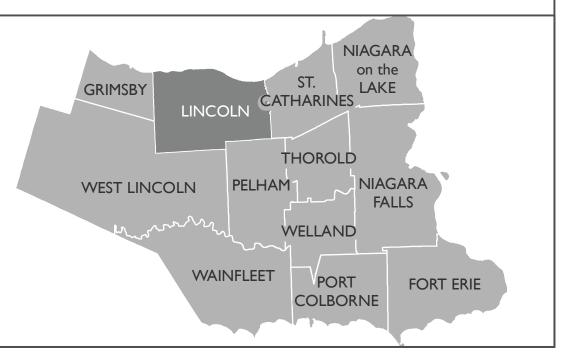
**Greenbelt Plan Boundary** 

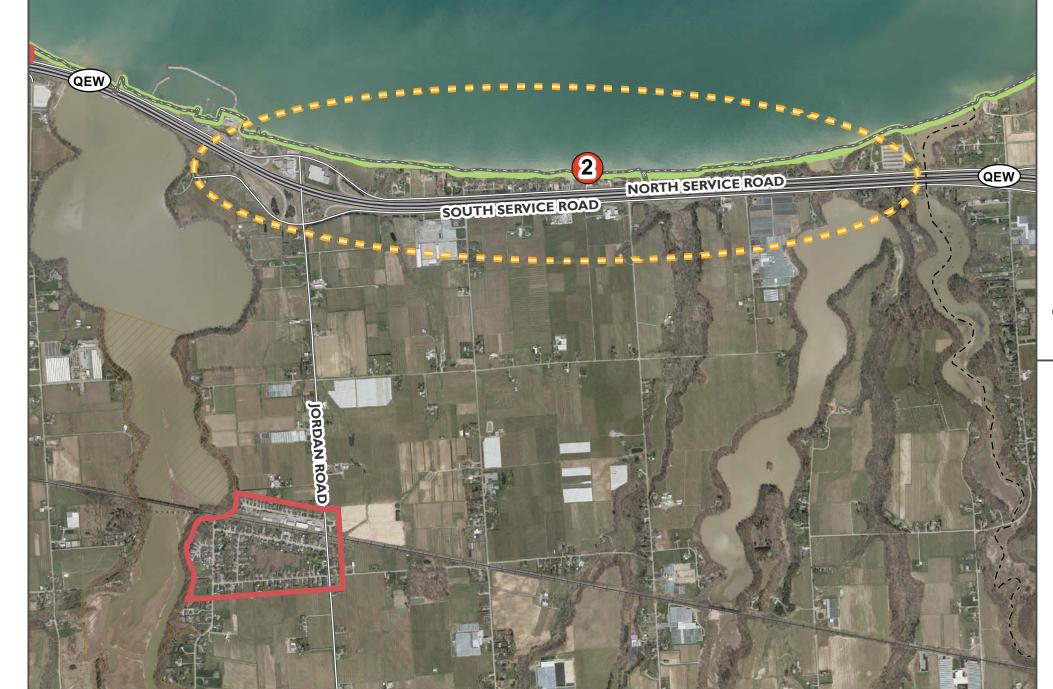
Niagara Escarpment Plan Boundary

These areas are developed and have potential for further limited expansions and changes of use that are consistent with the Greenbelt, but need extra flexibility to be used effectively.



© 2015 Niagara Region and its suppliers. Projection is UTM, NAD 83, Zone 17. This map was compiled from various data sources and is current as of June 2015. The Niagara Region makes no representations or warranties whatsoever, either expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, reliability, currency or otherwise of the information shown on this map.







# **2015 Coordinated Policy Review**

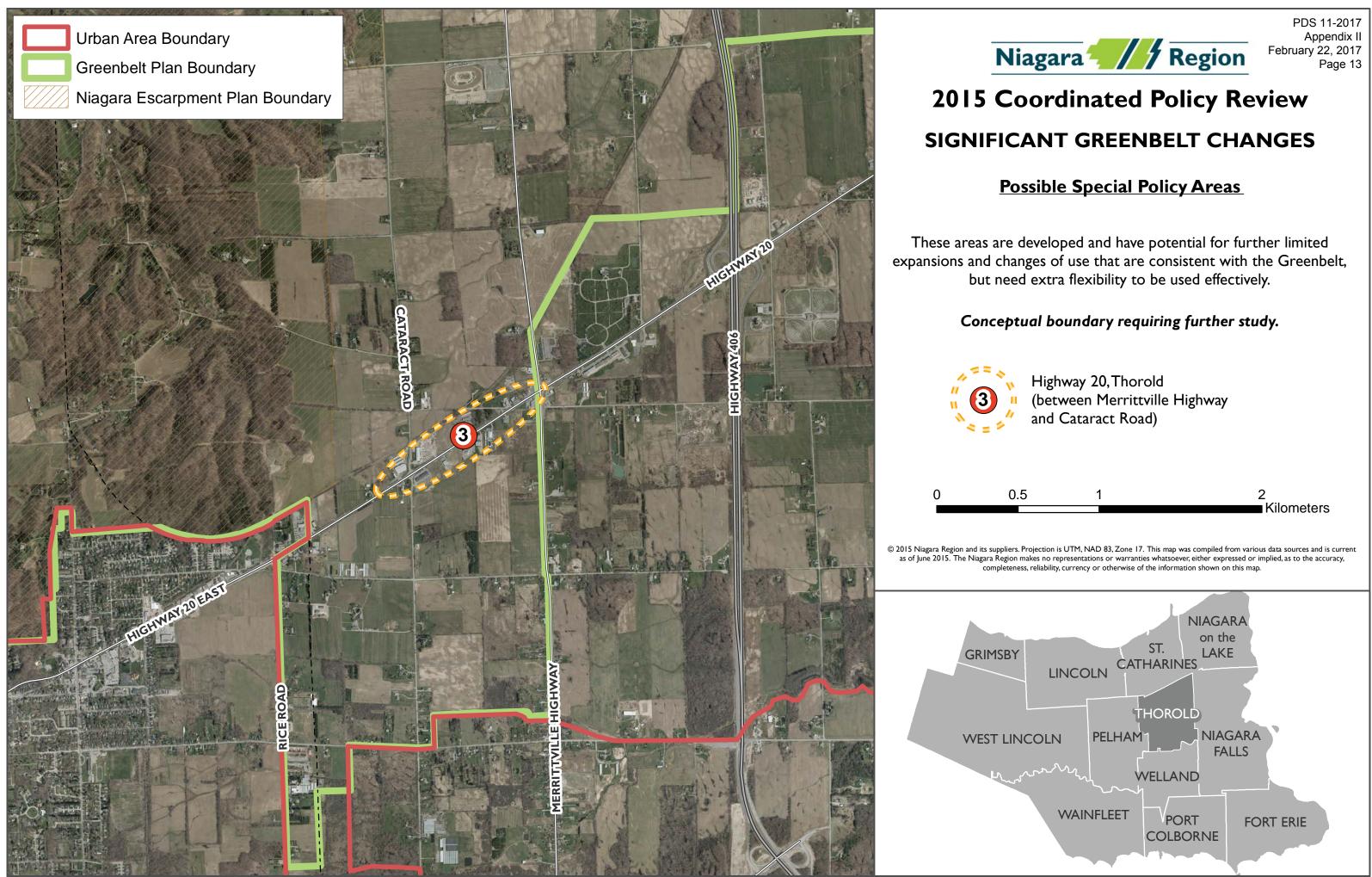
## SIGNIFICANT GREENBELT CHANGES

## **Possible Special Policy Areas**

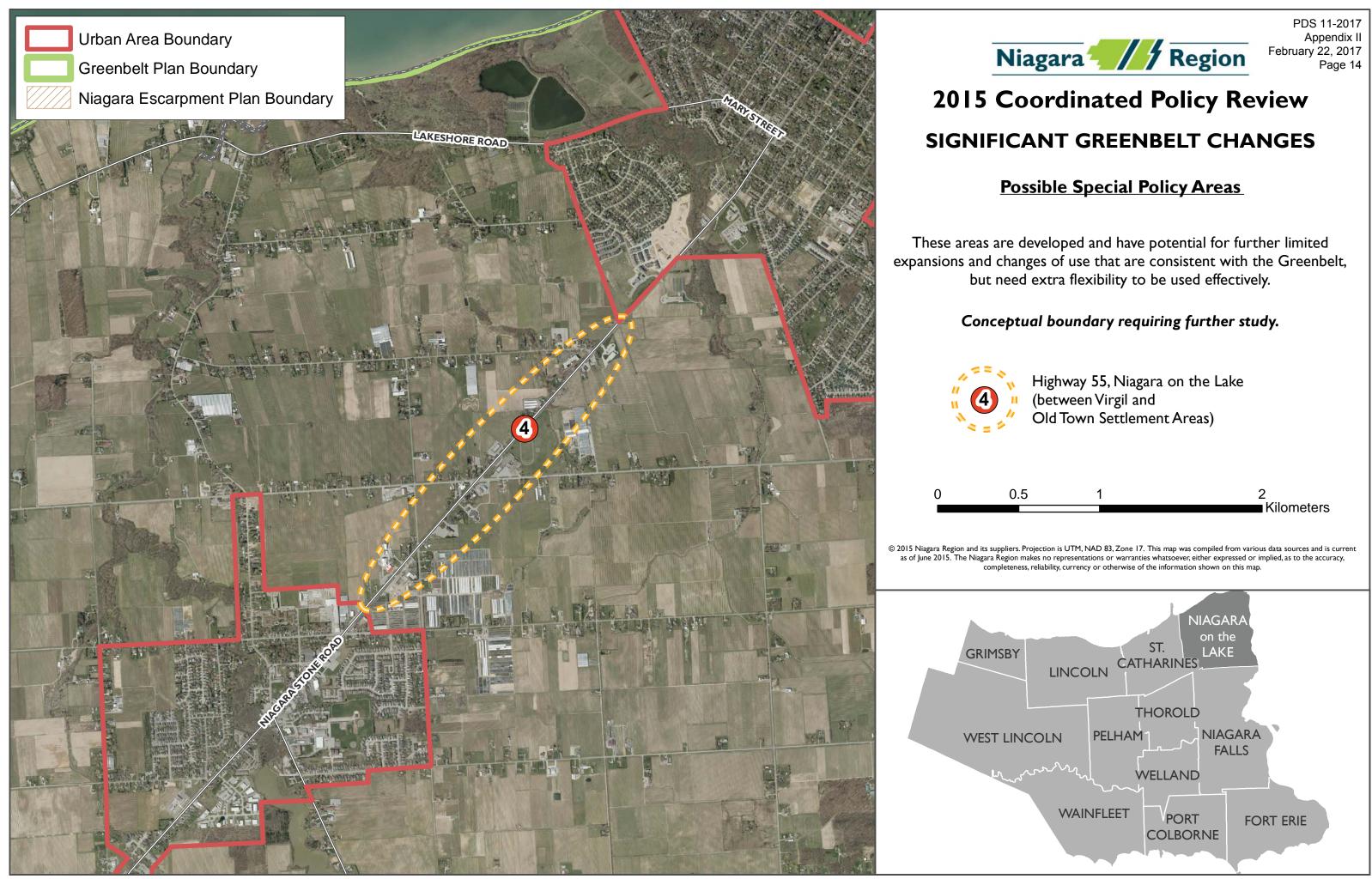
## Conceptual boundary requiring further study.

- North Service Road, Lincoln
- (between Jordan Harbour
- and Charles Daley Park)

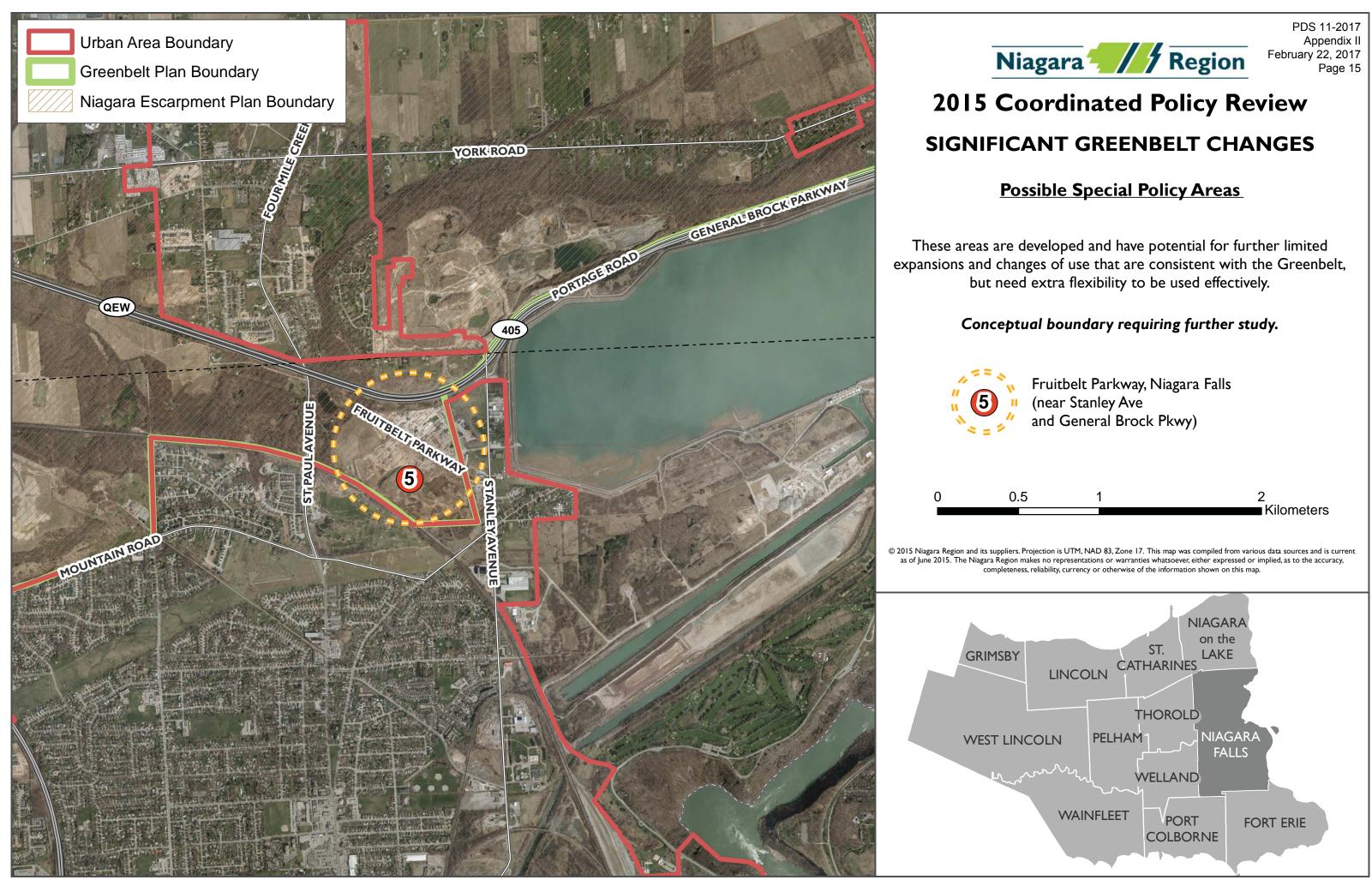
).5	1	2
		Kilometers



).5	1	2
		Kilometers

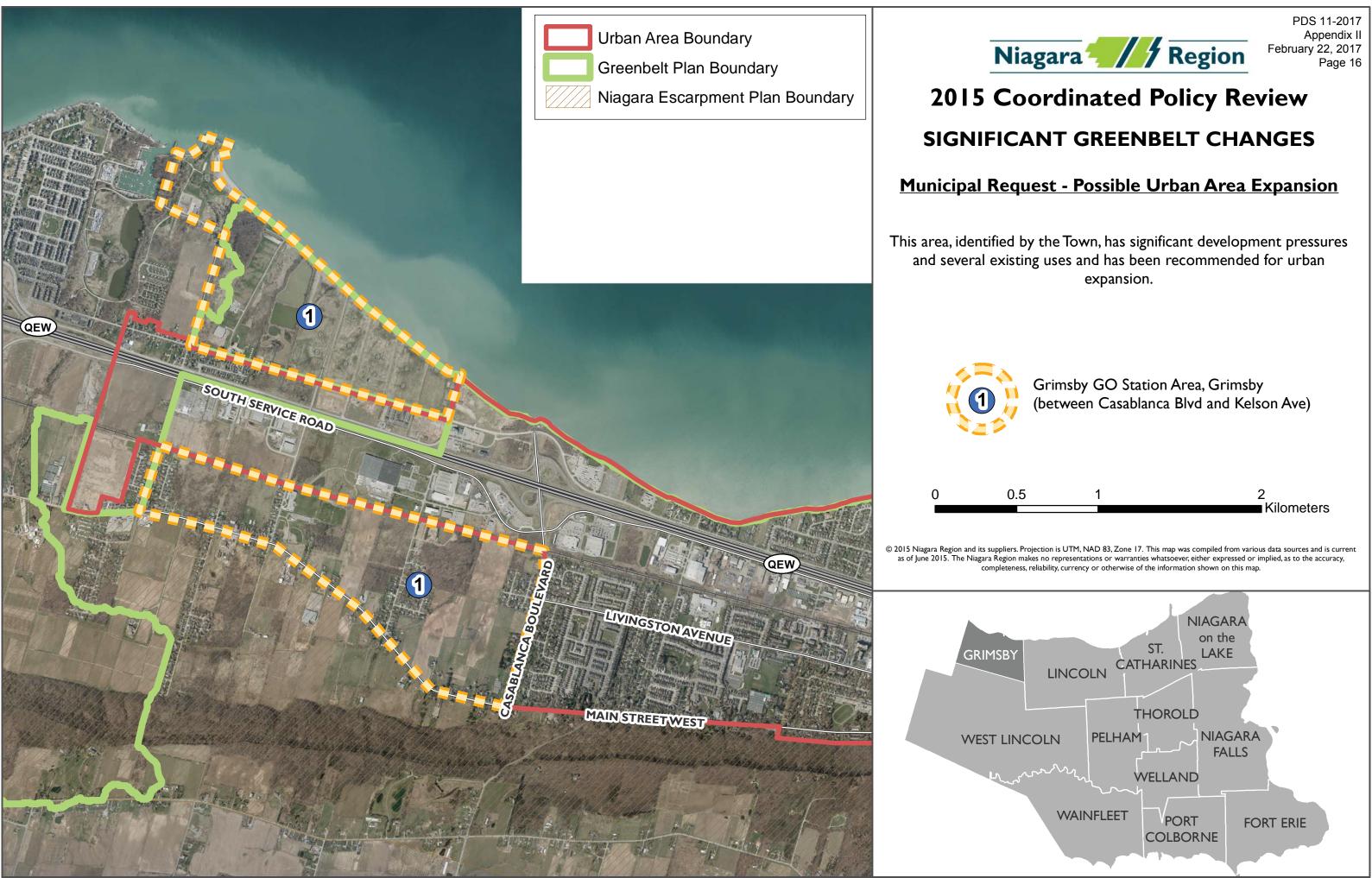


).5 ·	1 2	2
		Kilometers





).5	1	2
		Kilometers





Administration Office of the Regional Clerk 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977 www.niagararegion.ca

March 3, 2017

CL 3-2017, March 2, 2017 PDC 3-2017, February 22, 2017 Report PDS 16-2017

## LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Coordinated Policy Review Niagara Escarpment Commission Site Specific Recommendations PDS 16-2017

Regional Council, at its meeting of March 2, 2017, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee:

That Report PDS 16-2017, dated February 22, 2017, respecting Coordinated Policy Review Niagara Escarpment Commission Site Specific Recommendations, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED:** 

- That Report PDS 16-2017 and the attached comments (Appendix1) BE ENDORSED as Niagara Region's submission to be sent to the Province as part of the Coordinated Policy Review regarding recommendations made by the Niagara Escarpment Commission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on site specific amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Plan; and
- 2. That a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

A copy of Report PDS 16-2017 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,

Ralph Walton Regional Clerk :amn

cc: E. Acs, Planner

- T. Donia, Senior Planner
- N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services



# Subject: Coordinated Policy Review Niagara Escarpment Commission Site Specific Recommendations

**Report To: Planning and Development Committee** 

Meeting Date: February 22, 2017

## Recommendations

- 1. That this report and the attached comments (Appendix1) **BE ENDORSED** as Niagara Region's submission to be sent to the Province as part of the Coordinated Policy Review regarding recommendations made by the Niagara Escarpment Commission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on site specific amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Plan; and,
- 2. That a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

## **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council on the comments to be sent to the Province as part of the Coordinated Policy Review process regarding recommendations made by the Niagara Escarpment Commission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) on site specific amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Plan.
- The Province has posted mapping changes to the Greenbelt Plan on the Environmental Registry and asked for comment by February 27, 2017. In keeping with this deadline, staff prepared the attached comments with respect to recent recommendations made by the Niagara Escarpment Commission.
- On January 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) made a series of recommendations to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) with respect to 12 site specific requests in Niagara. Six of the twelve were approved, although some include special conditions or the original request was altered. Appendix I includes Regional comments on these recommendations and, should they be accepted by MNRF, the need to ensure consistency between the Coordinated Plans for effective implementation.
- Comments on both the Greenbelt changes (PDS 11-2017) and recommendations made by the NEC (PDS 16-2017) are being submitted to the Province to offer



suggestions and solutions as they finalize the three Plans that affect Niagara – the Niagara Escarpment Plan, Greenbelt Plan and Growth Plan. Staff will submit the attached comments in advance of Regional Council's next scheduled meeting on March 2, 2017.

## Considerations

## Financial

The attached comments form part of the continuing process associated with the CPR. This review has been undertaken by staff in consultation with a number of stakeholders. All costs have come from the operating budget of the Planning Department.

When the final versions of the Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan, and Niagara Escarpment Plan have been released and the cumulative changes are understood, staff will update Council with respect to financial impacts.

## Corporate

The attached comments are consistent and build on previous comments to the Province which were developed with input from staff across the organization.

## **Governmental Partners**

The attached comments reflect the Region's previous responses to the Province with respect to the CPR. The Region's position has been shaped through working with local staff from the twelve municipalities, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and the Niagara Parks Commission.

## Public and/or Service Users

Throughout the review process, staff have met and encouraged input from private land owners, the development community, agricultural stakeholders, and consultants representing clients with affected lands.

## Analysis

Site specific property requests for lands within the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) area are subject to review by the NEC and final approval by the MNRF.

Local municipalities and private land owners made submissions to the NEC through the CPR process. There were 12 submissions considered for lands in Niagara. One additional request is known for a designation change on lands relating to Brock University, but this was not included in the NEC report.



The Region and local municipalities supported ten of the applicants in their requests with comments to the Province. However, 2 requests were not directly shared with local municipalities or the Region.

Regional staff attended the NEC meeting held on January 26, 2017 where the 12 Niagara site specific requests were heard. The NEC's decisions are forwarded to the MNRF with 4 of the 12 requests recommended for approval, 2 of the 12 are recommended for approval in part or with conditions. And the remaining 6 requests are recommended for refusal.

Table A below outlines the 12 requests. Appendix I, attached with this report provides more in-depth information on these requests.

Applicant	Site	Request	Commission Recommendation
City of Niagara Falls	Lands North of Mountain Road, between Garner and Regional Landfill Niagara Falls	Removal from NEP Area or alternatively re-designate to Escarpment Urban Area	Refuse removal Refuse re- designation
Cotton Holdings & City of Niagara Falls	Fruitbelt Parkway, Niagara Falls	Cotton: re-designate from Escarpment Protection to Escarpment Urban Area Niagara Falls: Remove Lands from NEP Area	Approve re- designation Refuse removal
Walker Environmental Group	Lands east and west of Thorold Townline Road (Walker Landfill and Quarry), Niagara Falls	Re-designate from Mineral Resource Extraction Area to Escarpment Urban Area	Approve
Kaneff Capital Properties	Undeveloped lands abutting Royal Niagara Golf Course along Glendale Avenue, St. Catharines	Re-designate from Escarpment Protection Area to Escarpment Urban Area	Refuse

Table A



Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company	Queenston Quarry site, NOTL	Re-designate from Escarpment Rural Area to Escarpment Recreation Area and to permit the redevelopment of the former quarry for commercial and recreational uses and to allow municipal servicing	Approve with special conditions
Appletree Developments Limited	Part Lot 18, Concession 5, Louth (Jordan), Lincoln	It is noted that the applicant is seeking a re- designation but the applicant didn't specify the target designation	Refuse
Mrs. Carol Austin	4818 King Street (Beamsville), Lincoln	Remove 2.9 hectares of Escarpment Rural Area from the NEP Area	Refuse
Vineland Missionary Church	3874 Victoria Avenue (Vineland), Lincoln	Remove 0.4 hectares of the 1.8 hectare church property from the NEP Area, as the majority of the church property is outside the NEP Area	Approve
Sunrise Eggs Limited	Part Lot 7, Concession 6, Clinton (Campden), Lincoln	It is noted that the applicant is seeking a re- designation but the applicant didn't specify the target designation	Refuse
Albright Centre	Albright Centre 5050 Hillside Drive, Lincoln	Re-designate 14.2 hectares from Escarpment Protection Area to Escarpment Urban Area	Approve
Town of Grimsby	Lands south of Main Street, West of Casablanca, Grimsby	Re-designate 191 hectares of land from Escarpment Protection Area to Escarpment Urban Area	Refuse
Winona Concrete and Pipe Products Limited	487 & 489 Main Street West, Grimsby	Amend the NEP to enable expansion of an existing industrial use which exceeds the allowable expansion under current NEP policies	Approve



If the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry accept these recommendations from the Niagara Escarpment Commission, there will need to be changes made to the Growth and Greenbelt Plans to ensure these changes can be implemented. This includes policies in the Growth Plan that consider the ability of adding developed lands to existing urban boundaries through the Municipal Comprehensive Review process, and not just consideration for greenfield lands.

## **Alternatives Reviewed**

Failure to submit Regional comments will result in a missed opportunity to influence Provincial Plans. The Coordinated Policy Review represents a critical time for Niagara Region to provide feedback on how the draft Provincial Plan policies will affect Niagara and offer potential remedies.

## **Origin of Report**

Influencing Provincial Plans is a Strategic Priority identified by Regional Council. This report helps Council in achieving this Priority by identifying specific changes that are required in the draft Plans to help Niagara achieve economic prosperity.

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

PDS 11-2017, Coordinated Policy Review Response to Greenbelt Plan EBR Posting, February 22, 2017 PDS 41-2016, Coordinated Policy Review Proposed Revisions, October 27, 2016 PDS 29-2016, Province of Ontario Coordinated Plan Review Submission on the Draft Plans, October 19, 2016

Submitted by: Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP Commissioner Planning & Development Services Approved by: Carmelo D'Angelo, BSc, MPA Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP, Planner and Terri Donia, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner and reviewed by Doug Giles, Director of Community and Long Range Planning.

## Appendices

Appendix I

Niagara Region Comments to the Province, Feb. 2017 Page 6

PDS 16-2017 Appendix I February 22, 2017 Page 7

Mountain Road, Niagara Falls NEC File UA-01

## **APPLICANT / SUBJECT PROPERTY:**

City of Niagara Falls Lands north of Mountain Road, between Garner Rd and Regional landfill Lot 13 & 14 and Part Lots 7, 27 & 28, Stamford City of Niagara Falls, Niagara Region

## **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Escarpment Natural Area and Escarpment Rural Area

## **PROPOSAL:**

To remove the subject lands totaling approximately 168 hectares from the NEP Area, or alternatively, to re-designate the subject lands to Urban Area, to facilitate the development of Niagara Region's Gateway Economic Zone.

## **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

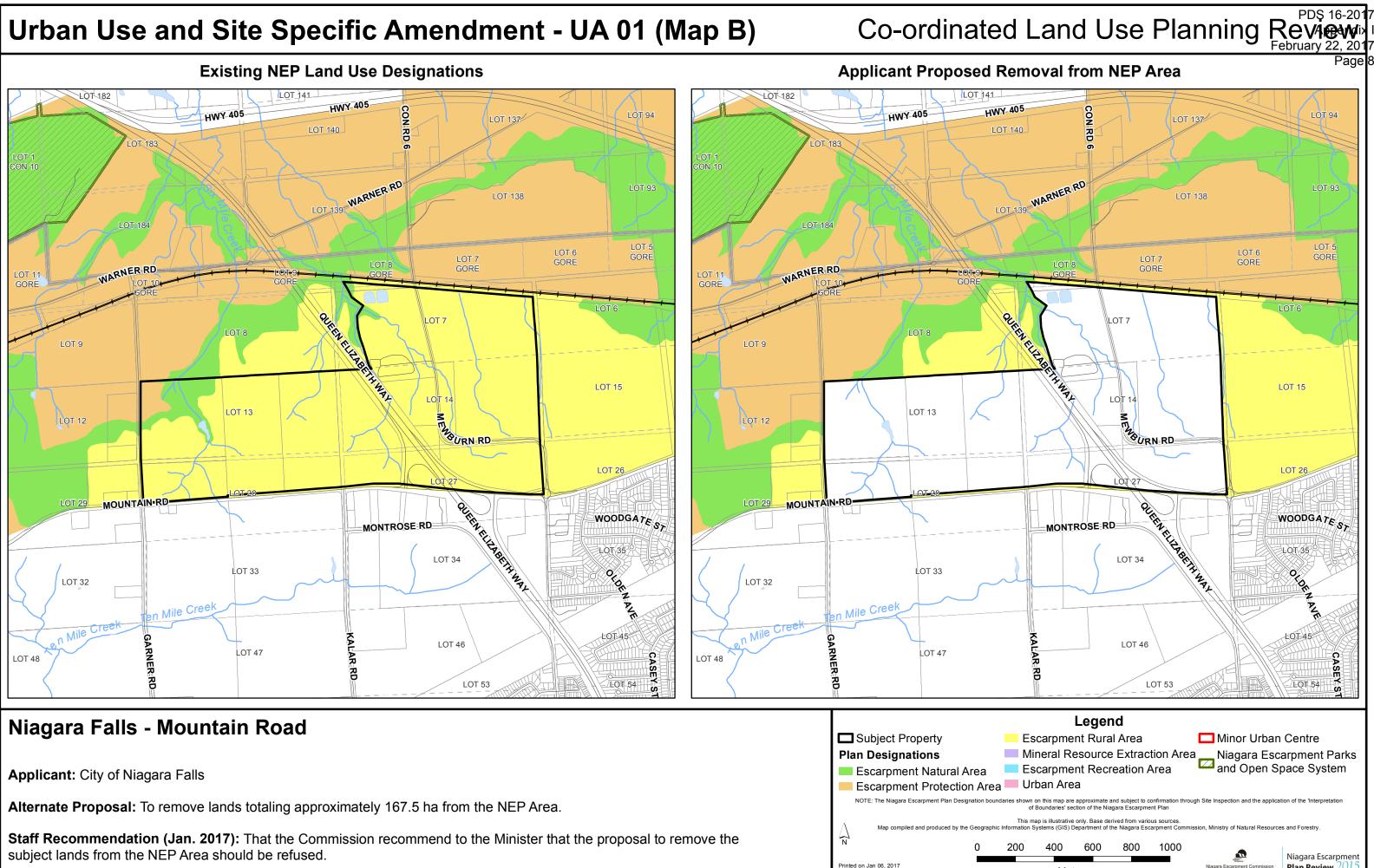
That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the proposal to remove the subject lands from the NEP Area be refused, and that the proposal to re-designate the subject lands to Urban Area be refused.

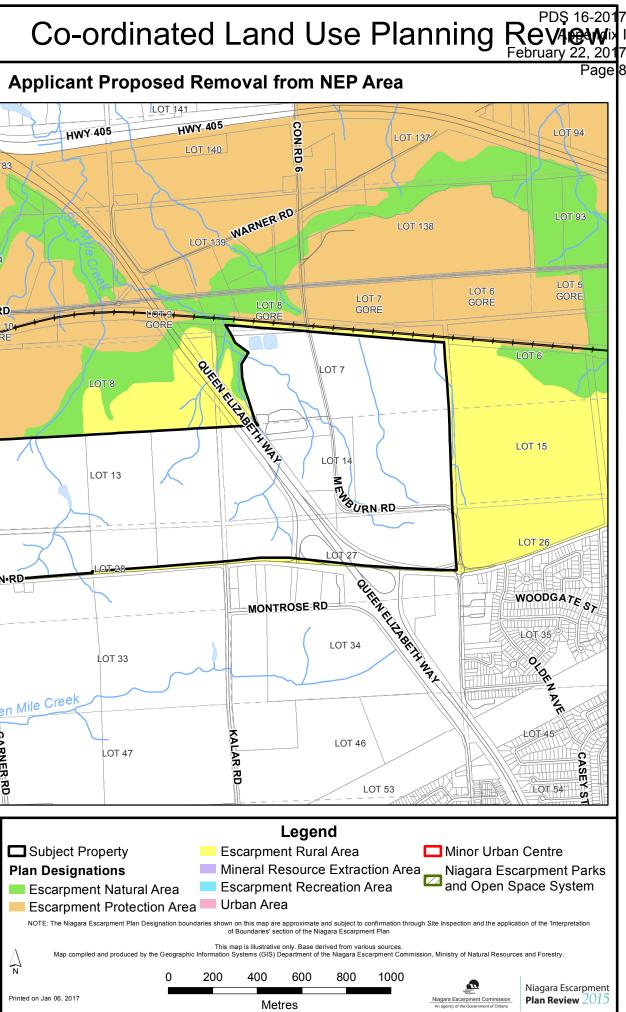
## **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Refuse removal. Refuse re-designation

## NIAGARA REGION'S COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATION:

- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review and continues to support the City of Niagara Falls with this application.
- The Region is not satisfied with the NEC's review and recommendations with respect to this request. Previous submissions made to the Province during the review asked for removal of Gateway lands, agricultural lands and lands with existing uses that pre-date the NEP from development control.
- The Region requests that the MNRF remove the subject lands from NEP development control as historic, current and future uses do not meet the NEP's objectives for an Escarpment Rural Area.





# Fruitbelt Parkway, Niagara Falls NEC File UA-02

#### **APPLICANTS:**

Cotton Holdings Inc. & City of Niagara Falls 1919 1959, 2025, 2125, Fruitbelt Parkway 1985 Stanley Avenue Part Lots 4 & 14, Stamford City of Niagara Falls, Niagara Region

### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATIONS:**

Escarpment Protection Area and Escarpment Rural Area (2125 Fruitbelt Parkway) Escarpment Rural Area (1919, 1959 and 2025 Fruitbelt Parkway)

### **PROPOSAL:**

Cotton Holdings Inc. has submitted a site-specific proposal for their 2.8-hectare property (2125 Fruitbelt Parkway) to re-designate from Escarpment Protection Area and Escarpment Rural Area to Urban Area.

The City of Niagara Falls has requested removal of Fruitbelt Parkway and nearby lands at 1919, 1959, 2025 Fruitbelt Parkway (and including Cotton Holdings land at 2125 Fruitbelt Parkway), and 1985 Stanley Ave, from the NEP Area.

### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application by Cotton Holdings Inc. to re-designate the subject lands at 2125 Fruitbelt Parkway from Escarpment Protection Area and Escarpment Rural Area to Escarpment Urban Area be approved, in those areas identified on Appendix A (to be provided).

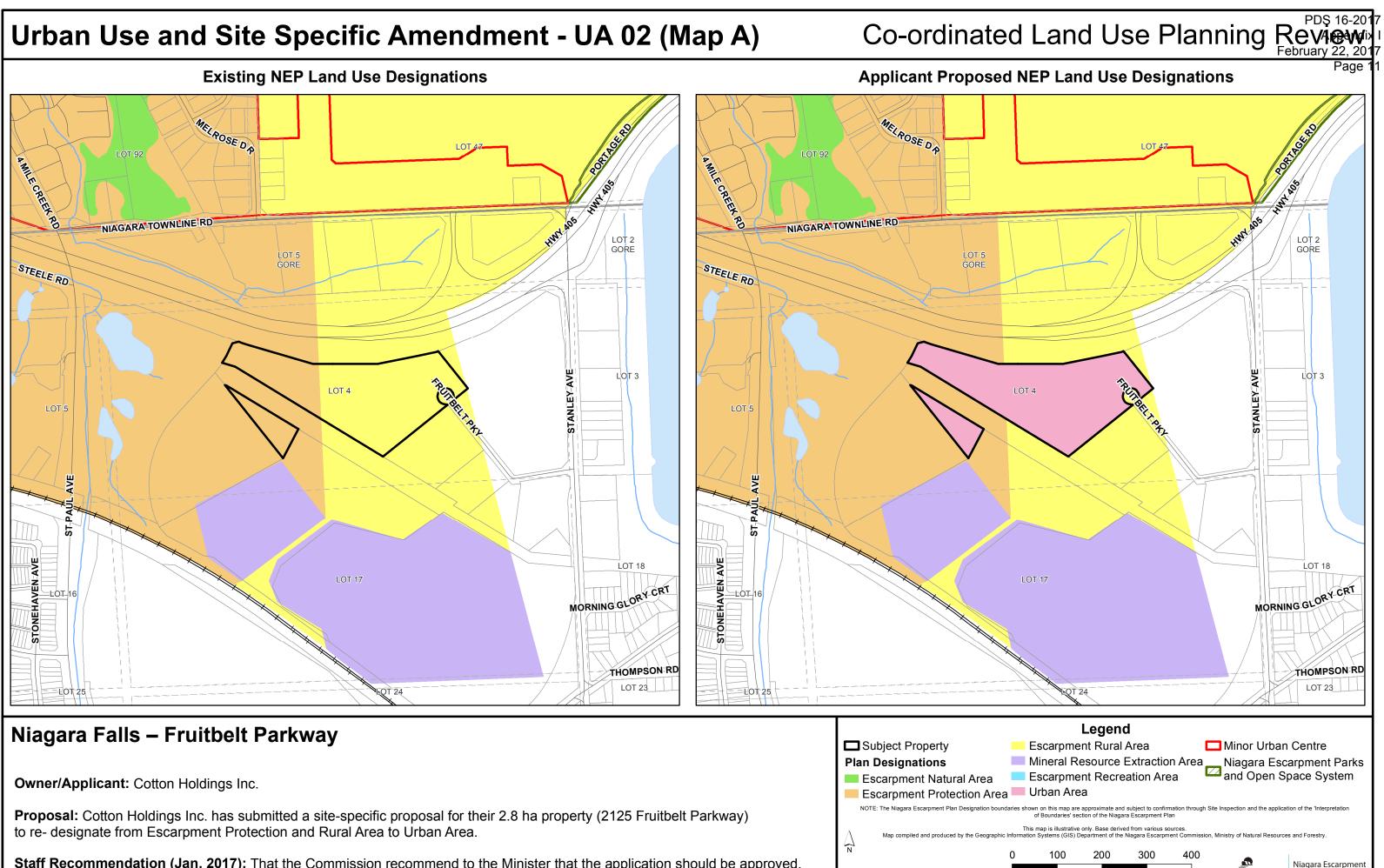
That the Commission advise the Minister that the application by the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Region to remove the subject lands from the NEP Area be refused.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

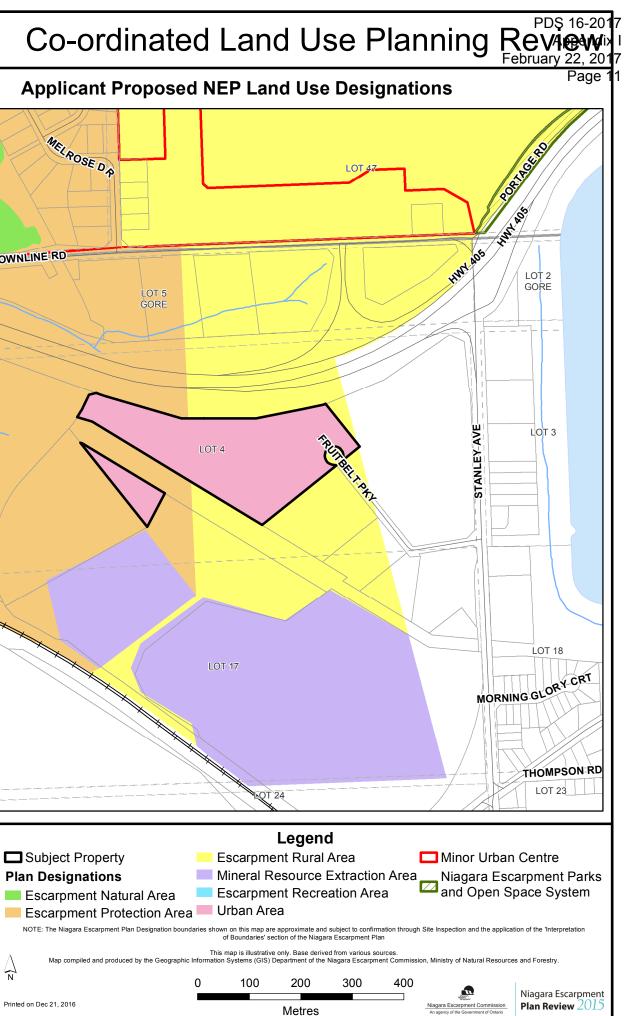
Refuse removal. Conditionally approve re-designation

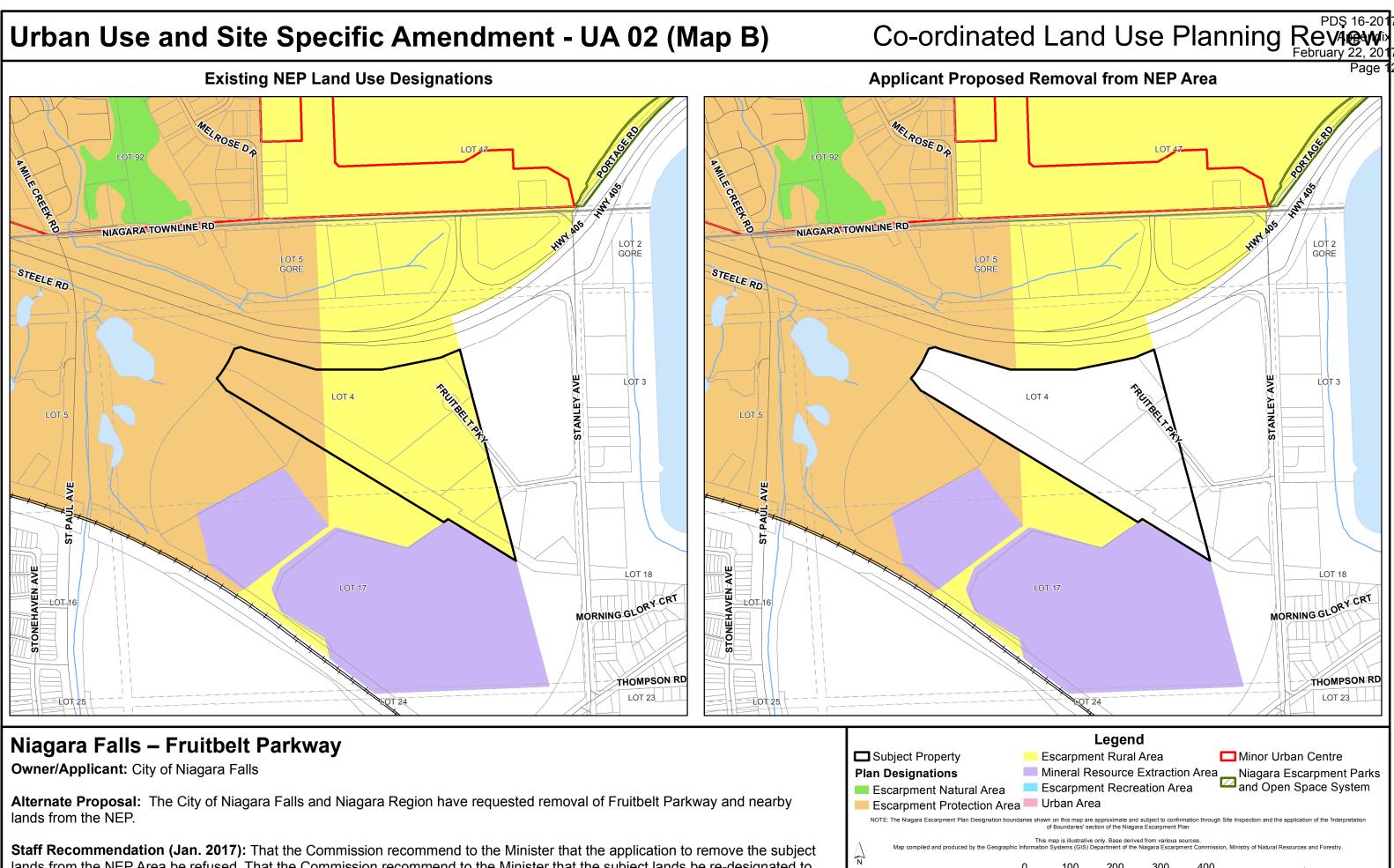
- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review, and continues to support the City of Niagara Falls with respect to their request for this land to be removed from the NEP area and would encourage the Province to conduct a site visit to this area to better understand its use and landscape.
- The NEC's Public Interest Advisory Committee recommended supporting the Region and City's proposal for removal from the NEP area.
- This area is fully serviced, and is located between a railway corridor to the south and a 400 series highway to the north. The NEC has permitted industrial uses to establish.

- The NEC has incorrectly mapped a manmade feature as escarpment brow on the subject lands. This is an industrial area with an altered landscape. The small piece of Escarpment Rural lands south of the subject site should also be included in any change.
- The Region is not satisfied with the recommendations of the NEC which seek to re-designate the lands as urban but keep them under development control. The landowner, local municipality, Niagara Region, and the Niagara Escarpment Public Interest Advisory Group all support the removal of these lands from the NEP. The Region requests that the MNRF remove these lands from the NEP.
- The Region would like to ensure that when the decision pertaining to the subject lands is finalized, it is reflected consistently in the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan.

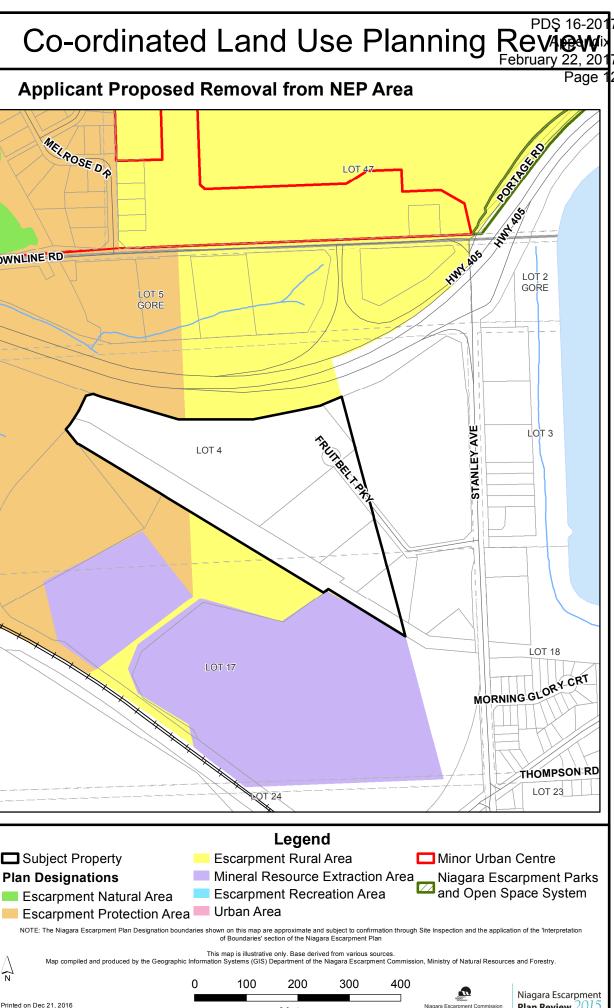


Staff Recommendation (Jan. 2017): That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application should be approved.





lands from the NEP Area be refused. That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the subject lands be re-designated to Urban Area



100	) 2	00	300	400		
					ADDITION NOT ADDITION	
	N.4 -	4			Niagara Escarpment Commission	
	ivie	tres			An agency of the Government of Ontario	

Plan Review 201

# Thorold Townline Road, Niagara Falls & Thorold NEC File UA-03

#### **APPLICANT:**

Walker Environmental Group Inc. Part Lots 4 & 12, City of Thorold, Part Lots 30, 31 & 49, City of Niagara Falls Region of Niagara

#### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Mineral Resource Extraction Area (MREA), Escarpment Natural, Escarpment Protection and Escarpment Rural Areas with a NEPOSS overlay.

#### **PROPOSAL:**

Change the designation of a portion of the subject lands currently designated MREA to Urban Area with special provisions to recognize existing uses and future waste management and recycling uses.

#### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

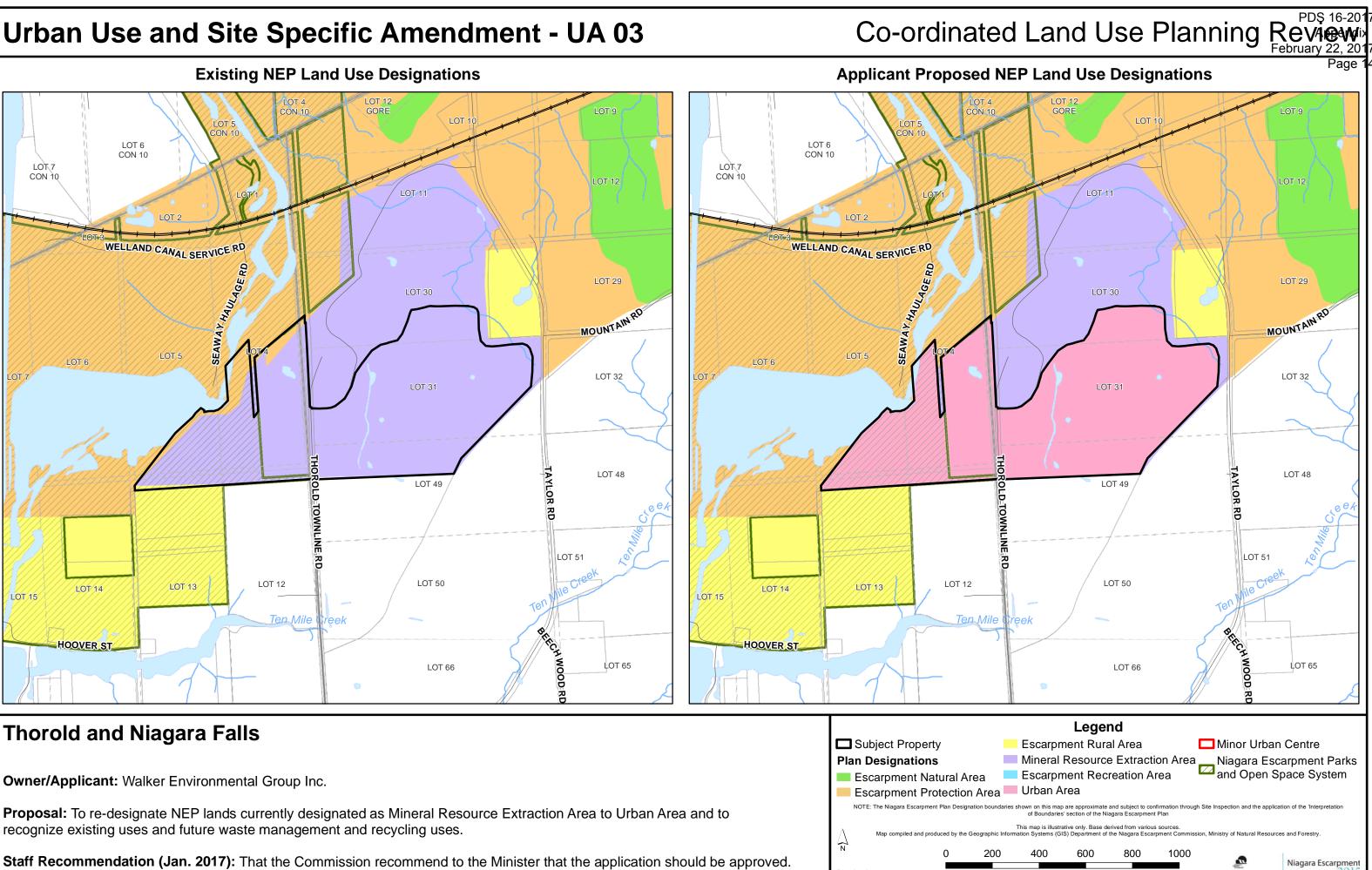
That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application be approved.

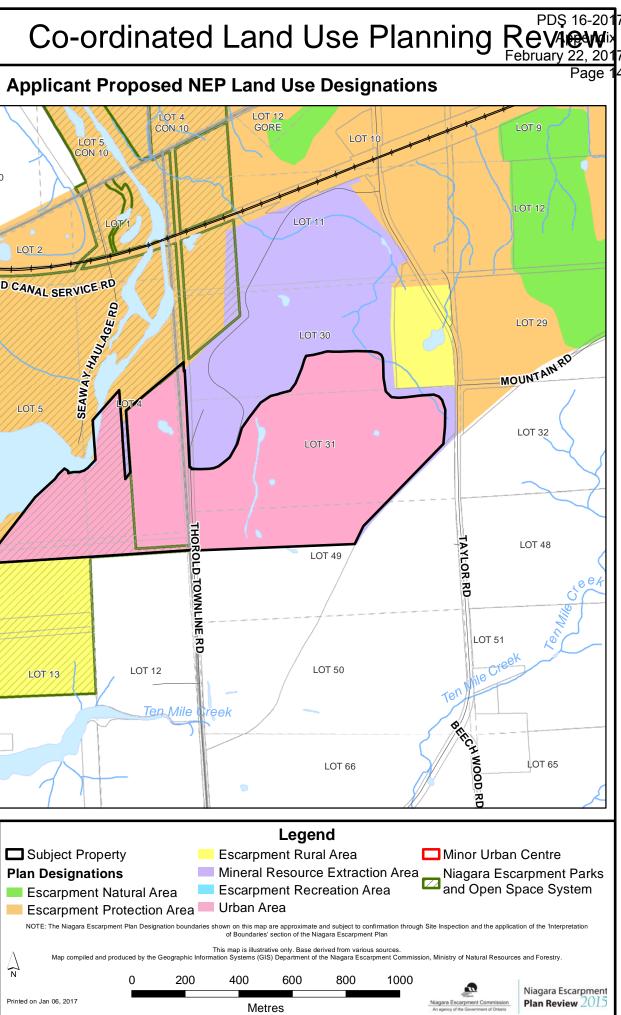
### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve re-designation

- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review.
- The Region supports the Commission's decision to re-designate this land as Escarpment Urban to reflect the fact that existing uses on the site do not meet the objectives of an Escarpment Mineral Resource Extraction Area.
- The Region would like to ensure that when the decision pertaining to the subject lands is finalized, it is reflected consistently in the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan.

# **Urban Use and Site Specific Amendment - UA 03**





Glendale Avenue, St. Catharines NEC File UA-04

#### **APPLICANT / SUBJECT PROPERTY:**

Kaneff Capital Properties Inc. Royal Niagara Golf Club Part Lots 5, 6, Concession 10 Region of Niagara, City of St. Catharines

#### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Escarpment Protection Area Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (St. Lawrence Seaway Authority)

### **PROPOSAL:**

To re-designate an approximately 17 hectare parcel of undeveloped lands along Glendale Avenue from Escarpment Protection Area to Urban Area to facilitate more intensive urban and recreational development (residential).

#### NEC STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION:

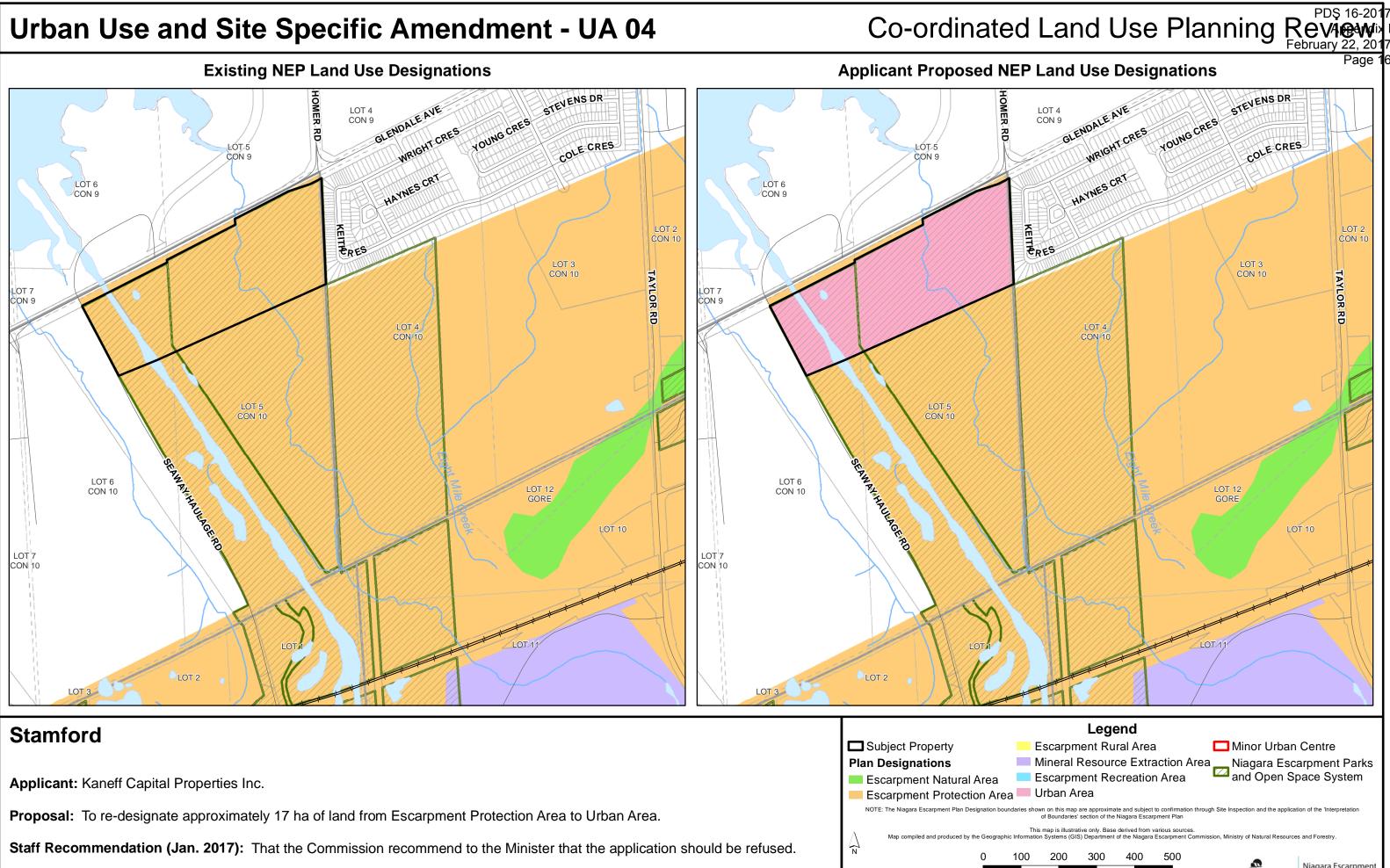
NEC staff in their recommendation indicated support for greater intensification of existing urban lands and this application might be premature

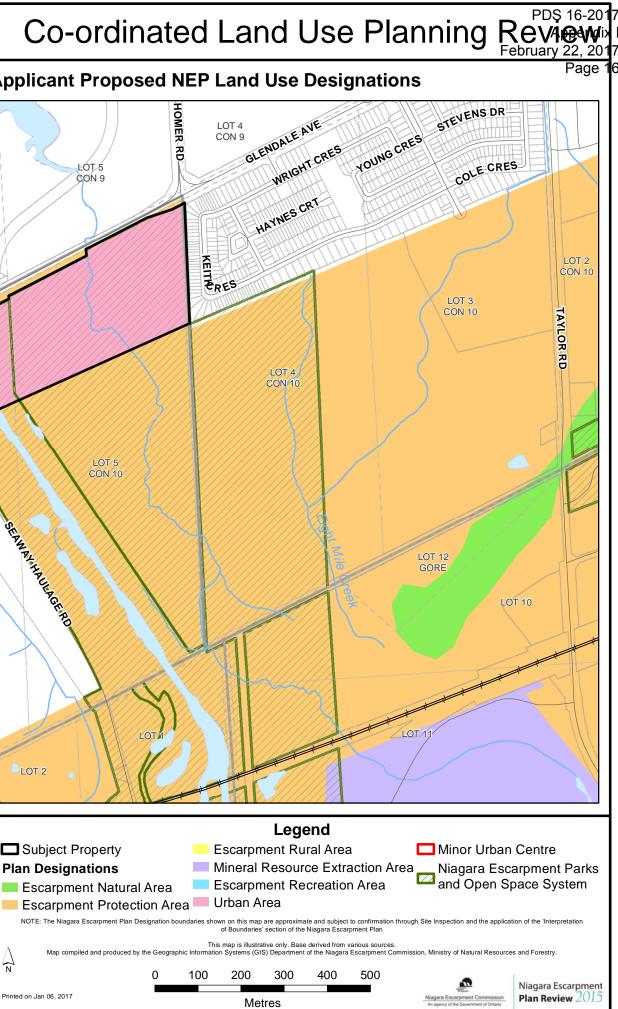
That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application be refused.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Refuse re-designation

- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request in consideration of the City of St. Catharines comments pertaining to the subject lands.
- The City of St. Catharines identified the subject lands for consideration through the Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) for inclusion into the Urban Area Boundary
- The NEC report notes that the NEC Public Interest Advisory Committee indicated general support although quorum could not be reached due to a conflict of interest.
- The Region is not satisfied with the recommendations of the NEC as they place the landowner in a catch-22 situation with respect to requiring an Escarpment Urban designation prior to the subject lands being considered during an MCR process. The Region would recommend that the MNRF create a policy where lands other than Escarpment Urban Area can be considered during an MCR and additional amendments to the NEP are not required when an MCR identifies lands for inclusion.





Metres	
INICII C3	

# 5523 Townline Road, Niagara on the Lake NEC File UA-05

### **APPLICANT:**

Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company James Parkin, MHBC Planning (agent) Property Location: 5523 Townline Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Region

**CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:** Escarpment Natural, Escarpment Protection, Escarpment Rural Area, partially within the St. David's Minor Urban Centre (MUC)

**PROPOSAL:** To designate the Escarpment Rural Area lands to Escarpment Recreation Area to permit the re-development of the former quarry for commercial and recreation uses and to allow a connection to urban (municipal) services. No change to the MUC or to the existing site specific policies for the subject lands are proposed.

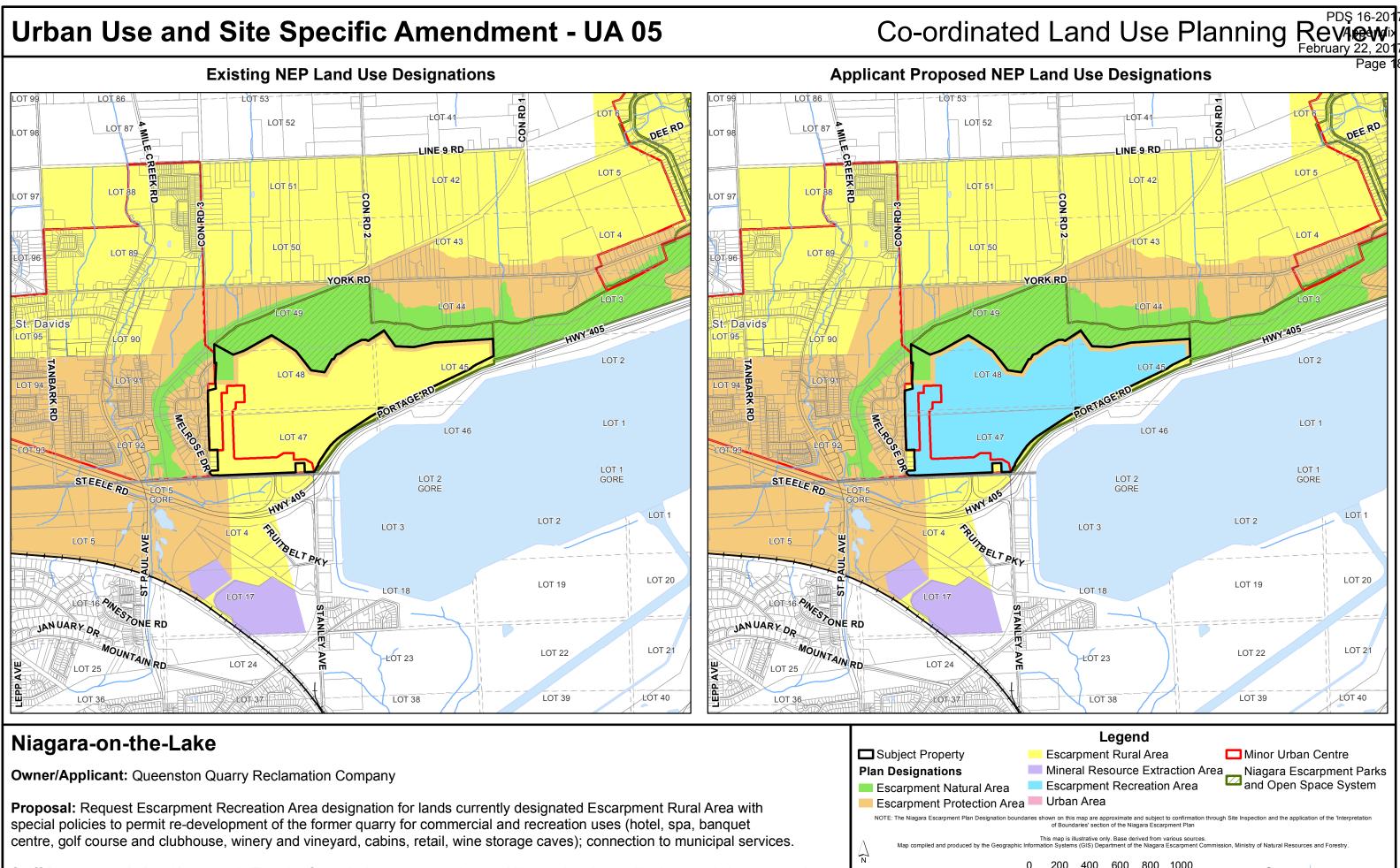
**NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission advise the Minister that the application should be approved with appropriate special policies.

## **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

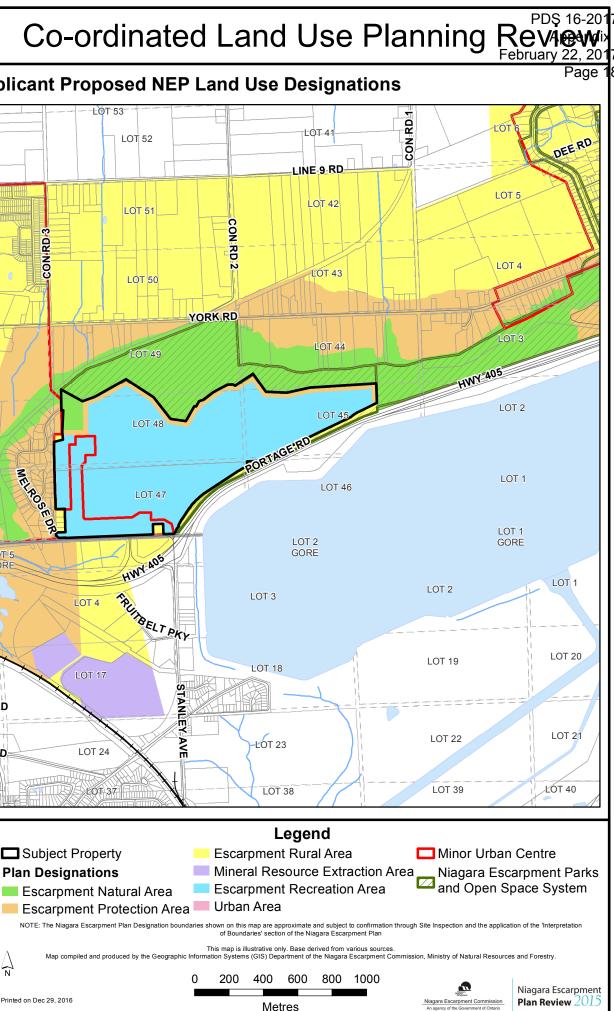
Approve with special policies (see items 1-5)

- 1. Lands continue to be governed by Mineral Resource Extraction Area policies until the quarry license is surrendered.
- 2. Exact delineation of land use designations is shown on a schedule unique to this site.
- 3. Additional uses for this site have been added to Escarpment Protection Area related to a gold course.
- 4. Upon surrendering the quarry license, the lands may be connected to municipal services subject to Regional approval.
- 5. Niagara Region ROPA 1-2009 and Niagara on the Lake OPA 45 include additional for this site and may be amended.

- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review.
- The Region has reviewed the special policies recommended by the NEC and supports the decision of the Commission.
- The Region would like to ensure that when the decision pertaining to the subject lands is finalized, it is reflected consistently in the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan.



Staff Recommendation (Jan. 2017): That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application should be approved.



19th Street, Town of Lincoln NEC File UA-06

#### SUBJECT LANDS:

Part Lot 18 Concession 5, Louth (Jordan) Town of Lincoln, Niagara Region

### **OWNER/APPLICANT:**

Appletree Developments Limited 123 Springfield Boulevard Ancaster, ON L9K 1H8

## **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Escarpment Protection Area Escarpment Natural Area (small amount)

### **PROPOSAL:**

To re-designate the subject lands (8.5 hectares) to allow for urban single family home residential development. The applicant did not identify which land use designation is requested.

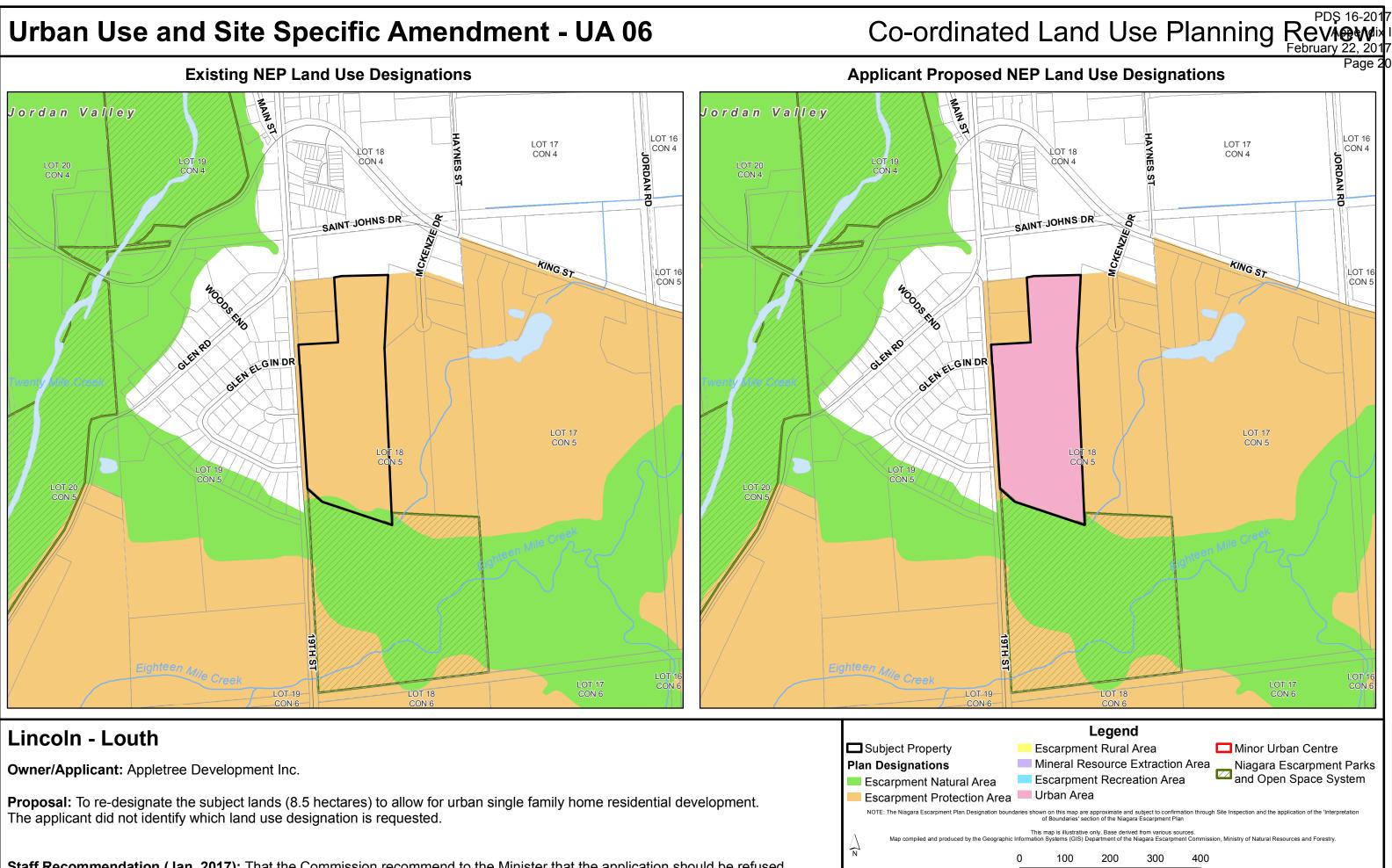
### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the amendment be refused.

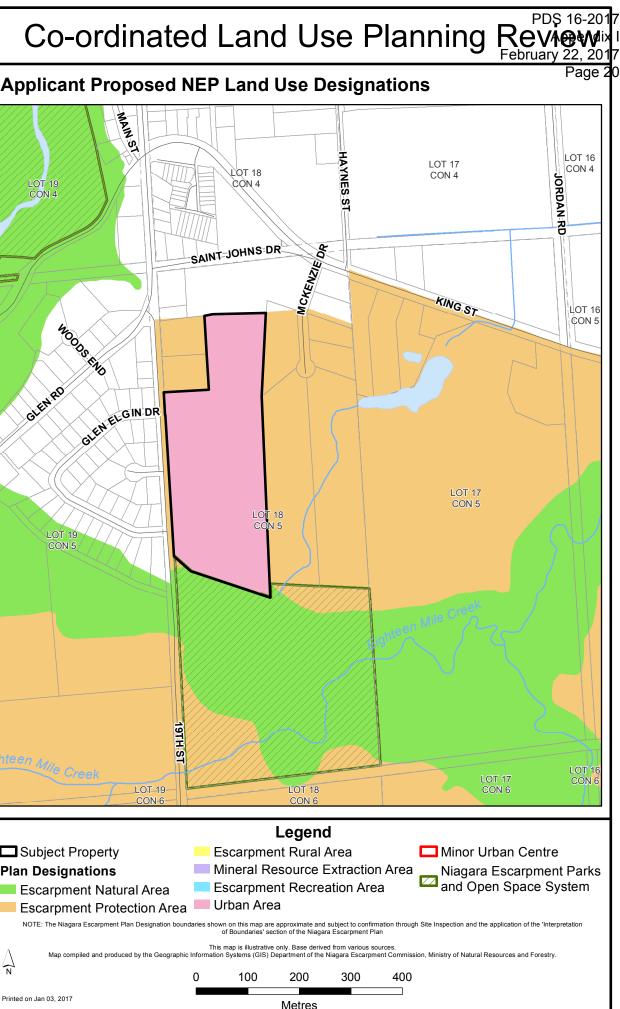
## **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Refuse re-designation

- While this specific request wasn't shared with the Region in advance of the NEC's review, comments in the Region's response pertaining to the removal of agricultural land from the NEP area supported the concept of lessening restrictions on the subject lands.
- The Town of Lincoln hasn't included this request in their submissions to the Region or Province; therefore, the Region is not in a position to make additional comments on this application.



Staff Recommendation (Jan. 2017): That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application should be refused.



Metres

4848 King Street, Town of Lincoln NEC File UA-07

### **APPLICANT / SUBJECT PROPERTY:**

Edward & Carol Austin 4818 King Street (Beamsville) Part Lots 14 & 15, Concession 4, Clinton Town of Lincoln, Niagara Region

### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Escarpment Rural Area

### **PROPOSAL:**

To remove approximately 2.9 hectares of land designated as Escarpment Rural Area from the NEP Area on a 12.8 hectare property that also falls within the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan, and is also partially within the Beamsville settlement area.

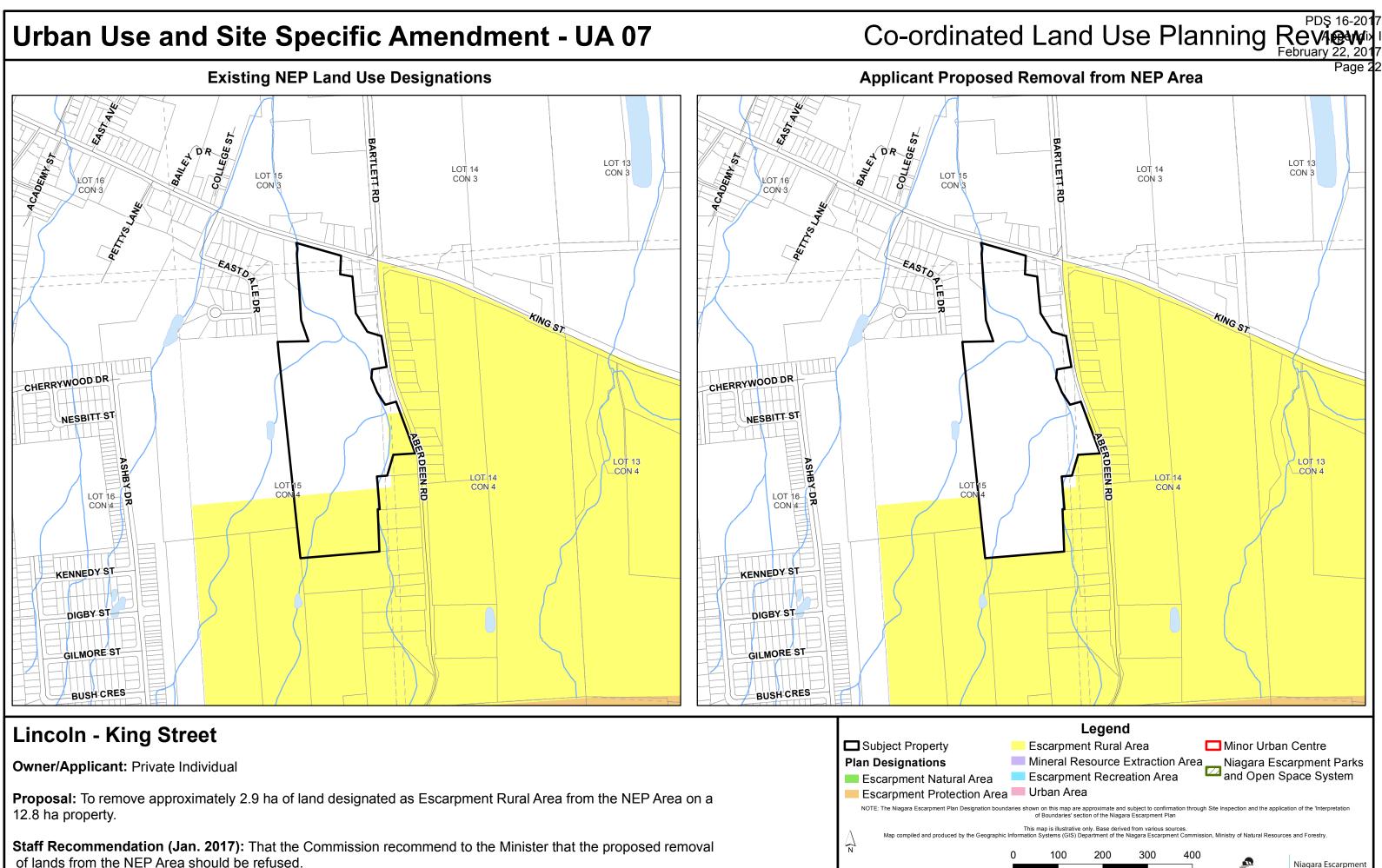
### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the proposed removal of lands from the NEP Area be refused.

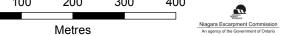
### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Refuse removal

- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review.
- The Region is not satisfied with the recommendations of the NEC with respect to this request. The Region provided mapping to the Province which outlined this parcel, among others with multiple land use designations, with the request that the Province refine their mapping to not place multiple designations on an individual parcel.
- The Region requests that the MNRF remove the 2.9 hectares of this 12.8 hectare property from the NEP.



Printed on Jan 03, 2017



Niagara Escarpment Plan Review 201

# 3874 Victoria Avenue, Town of Lincoln NEC File: UA-08

### **APPLICANT / SUBJECT PROPERTY:**

Vineland Missionary Church Part Lot 1, Concession 5, Clinton 3874 Victoria Avenue (Vineland) Town of Lincoln, Niagara Region

#### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Escarpment Protection Area

### **PROPOSAL:**

To remove a 0.4-hectare portion of the 1.8-hectare Vineland Missionary Church property from the NEP Area because the majority of the property is outside of the NEP Area, and the portion within the NEP Area contains a portion of the church and the church parking lot.

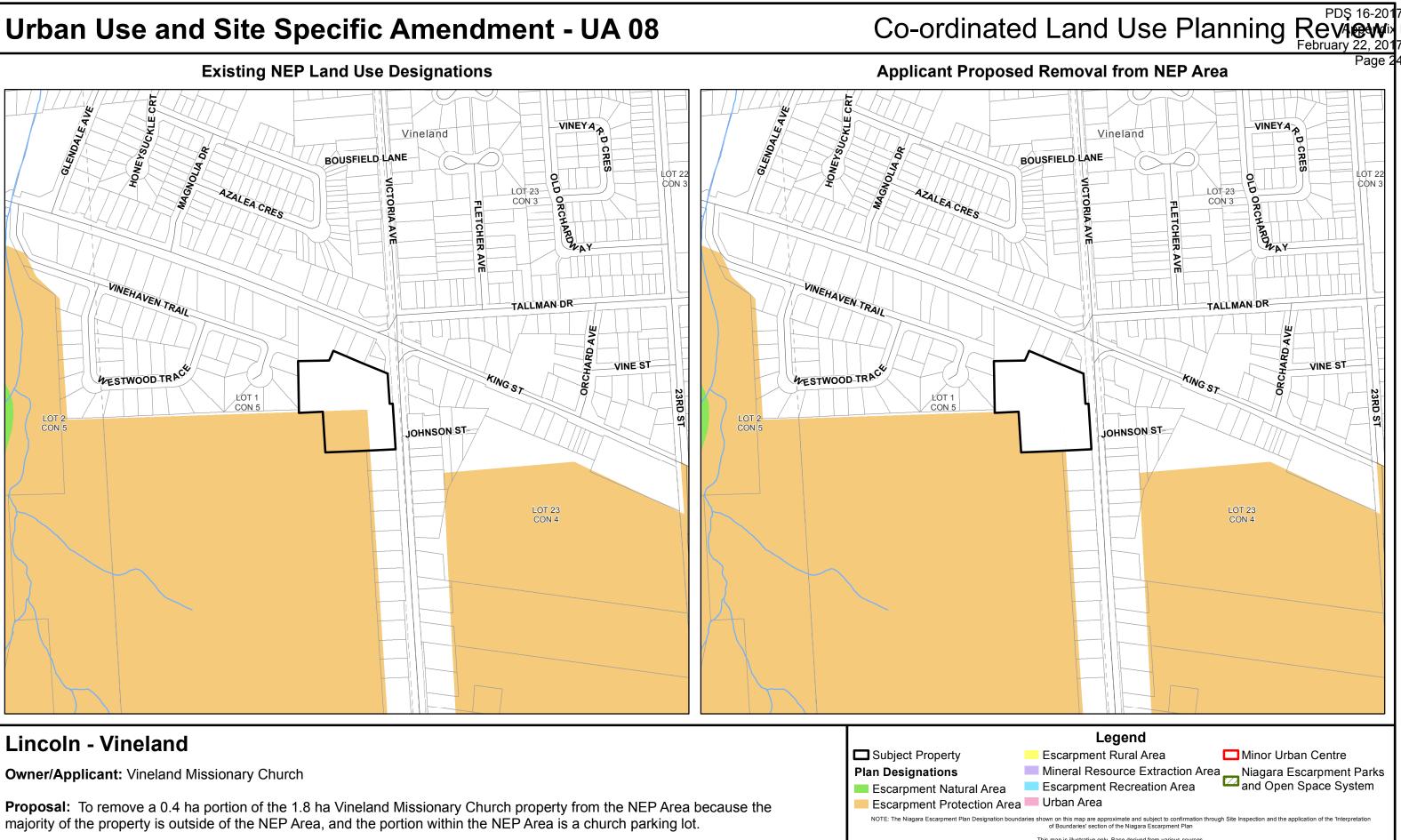
#### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the amendment for a minor adjustment of the outer boundary of the NEP Area be approved, and by doing so remove the requested portion of the subject lands from the NEP Area.

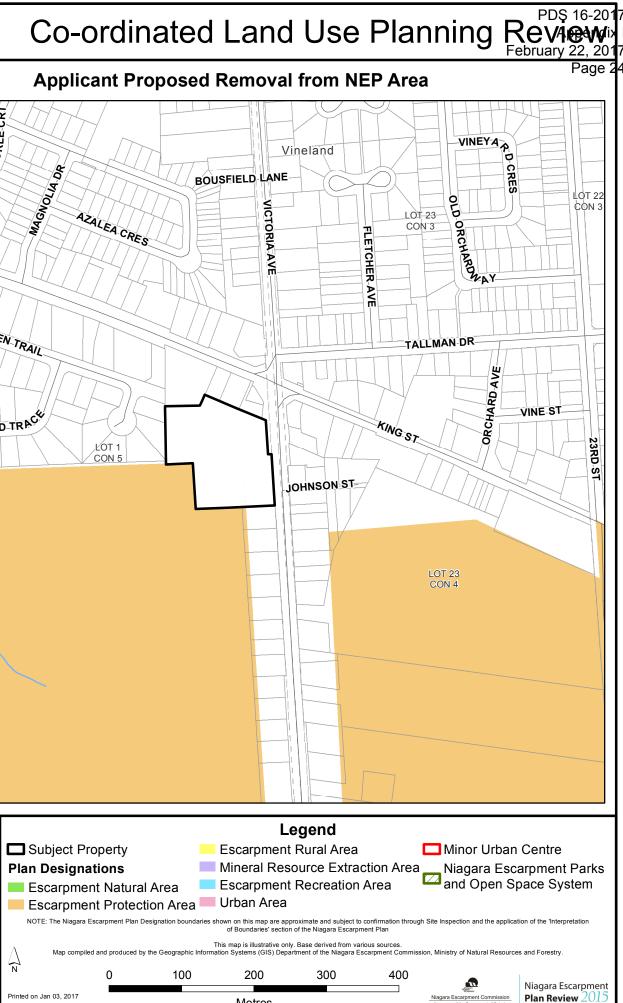
#### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve removal

- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review.
- The Region supports the Commission's decision to remove this land from the NEP area, as the majority of the subject parcel is not included in the NEP area.
- The Region would like to ensure that when the decision pertaining to the subject lands is finalized, it is reflected consistently in the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan.



Staff Recommendation (Jan. 2017): That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the amendment for a minor adjustment of the outer boundary of the NEP Area be approved, and by doing so remove the requested portion of the subject lands from the NEP Area.



200	300	400		Niagara Escarpmen
Metres			Magazia LaCarpment	Plan Review 201

# Tintern Road, Town of Lincoln NEC File: UA-09

#### SUBJECT LANDS:

Part Lot 7 Concession 6, Clinton Village of Campden Town of Lincoln, Niagara Region

#### **OWNER/APPLICANT**:

Sunrise Eggs Limited 123 Springfield Boulevard Ancaster, ON L9K 1H8

#### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Escarpment Rural Area Urban Area (small amount)

#### **PROPOSAL:**

To re-designate the subject lands (11.2 hectares) to allow for urban single family home residential development. (Note: the applicant did not specify what designation he is seeking.)

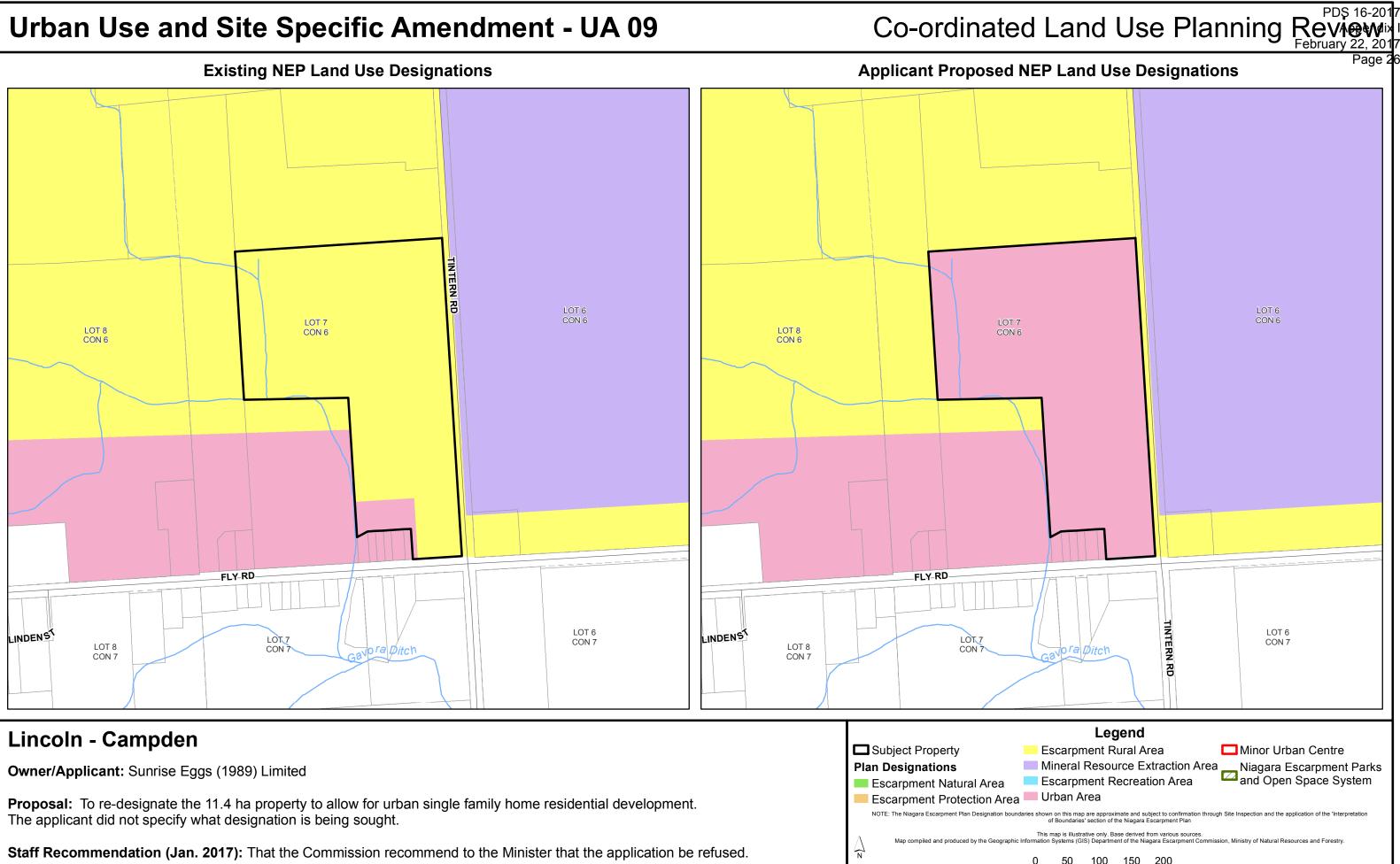
#### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

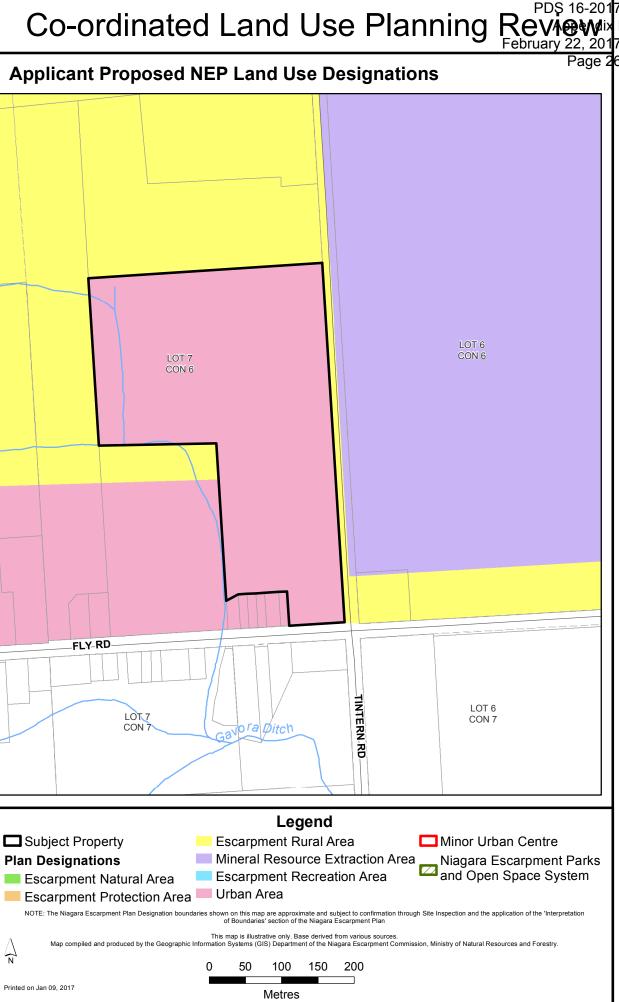
That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the proposed amendment be refused.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Refuse re-designation

- While this specific request wasn't shared with the Region in advance of the NEC's review, comments in the Region's response pertaining to the removal of agricultural land from the NEP area supported the concept of lessening restrictions on the subject lands.
- The Town of Lincoln hasn't included this request in their submissions to the Region or Province; therefore, the Region is not in a position to make additional comments on this application.





-	-		
	Me	tres	

5050 Hillside Drive, Town of Lincoln NEC File: UA-10

### **APPLICANT / SUBJECT PROPERTY:**

Albright Centre 5050 Hillside Drive, Beamsville Parts Lot 17, Concession 5 Town of Lincoln, Niagara Region

### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION(S):**

Escarpment Protection Area and Escarpment Natural Area

### **PROPOSAL:**

To re-designate approximately 14.2 hectares of the subject property from Escarpment Protection Area to Urban Area to accommodate future expansion needs of a housing and long-term care facility for the elderly.

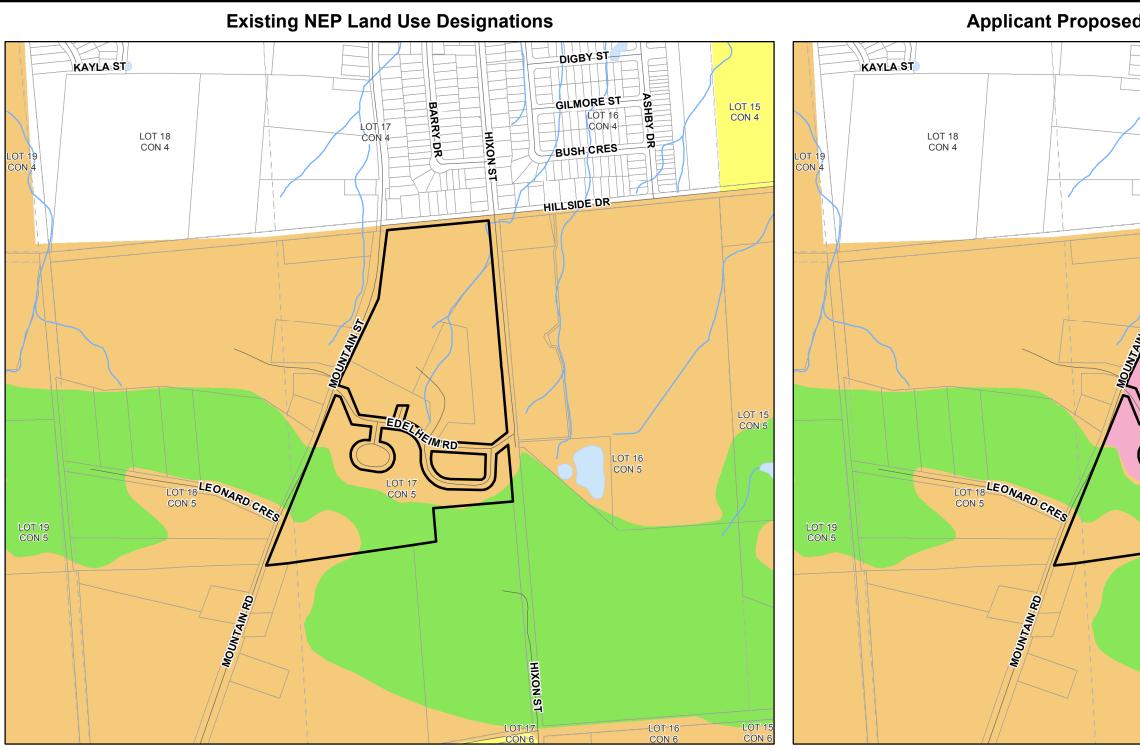
### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application to re-designate the developed portion of the Escarpment Protection Area on the subject property to Escarpment Urban Area be approved.

- Niagara Region supported the applicant's request through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review, and continues to support the Town of Lincoln and the applicant with respect to their request for this land to be redesignated Escarpment Urban Area.
- The Region has reviewed the proposed amendment recommended by the NEC and supports the decision of the Commission.
- The Region would like to ensure that when the decision pertaining to the subject lands is finalized, it is reflected consistently in the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan.

# **Urban Use and Site Specific Amendment - UA 10**

Printed on Dec 29, 2016

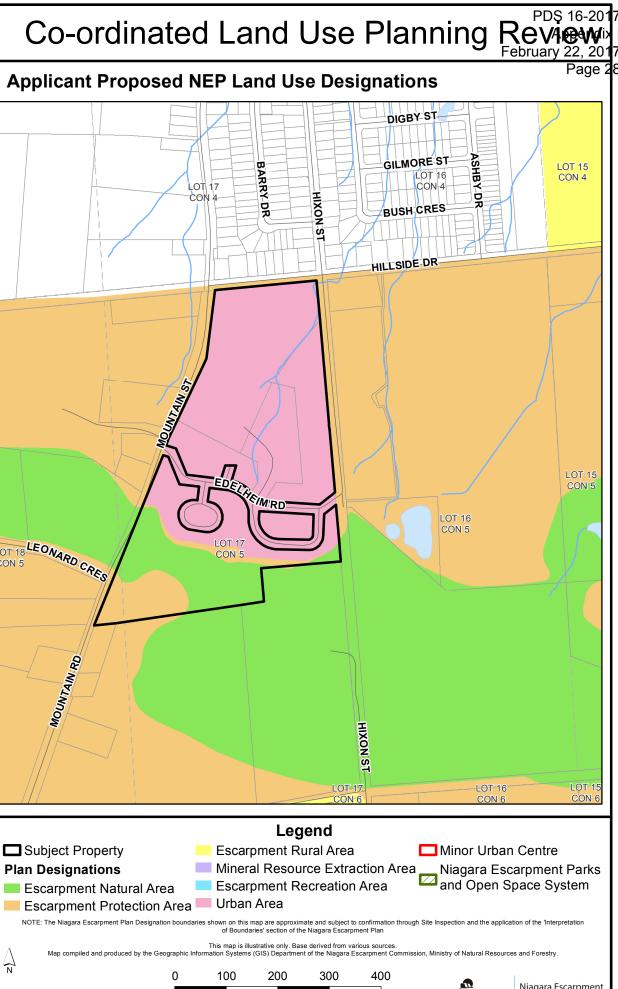


# **Lincoln - Hillside Drive**

**Owner/Applicant:** Albright Centre

Proposal: To re-designate approximately 14.2 hectares of land from Escarpment Protection Area to Urban Area to accommodate future expansion needs of a housing and long-term care facility for the elderly.

Staff Recommendation (Jan. 2017): That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the application to re-designate the developed portion of the Subject Lands from Escarpment Protection Area to Escarpment Urban Area should be approved.



100	200	300	400		Nia
	Metres			Niagara Escarpment Commission An agency of the Government of Ontario	Pla

agara Escarpment an Review 201

Main Street West, Grimsby NEC File: UA-11

#### **APPLICANT / SUBJECT PROPERTY:**

Town of Grimsby Lots 21 & 22, Concession 2 Part Lots 17, 18, 19, 20 & 23, Concession 2 Part Lots 22 & 23, Concession 3 Town of Grimsby, Niagara Region

### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

**Escarpment Protection Area** 

#### **PROPOSAL:**

To re-designate approximately 191 hectares of subject lands from Escarpment Protection Area to Urban Area, to recognize existing urban development.

**Note:** The Town's proposal also includes lands owned by Winona Concrete and Pipe Products Ltd (487 & 489 Main Street West), who have applied separately for an amendment for their properties. The proposal related to the Winona Concrete and Pipe products Ltd. properties are dealt with separately in a site – specific amendment proposal UA 12.

#### **NEC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission recommends to the Minister that the application to re-designate the subject lands from Escarpment Protection Area to Urban Area be refused.

#### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Refuse removal

- Niagara Region supported <u>seven separate requests</u> from landowners and the Town of Grimsby through comments submitted as part of the Coordinated Policy Review, and continues to support these <u>seven separate requests</u>. The NEC has altered the seven requests by lumping them together in a single request for an Escarpment Urban Area re-designation, which is greater in land area, and different in scope than what was being sought by the original requests.
- By combining the seven separate requests into single Proposal NEC staff did not allow Commission members to review and make recommendations on the merits of each application.
- The Region is extremely dissatisfied with the manner in which separate requests were lumped together by NEC staff, undermining the individual requests. The Region requests that the Minister and MNRF Staff review the

## original submissions made to the Province (see attached) and approve each request as submitted.

- At the NEC meeting, dialogue between Commissioners and staff discussed the possibility of creating a 750 metre buffer from the escarpment toe, and removing subject lands outside the buffer area.
- The Region is not satisfied with the recommendations of the Niagara Escarpment Commission with respect to this request. In previous submissions the Region requested that all lands outside of the escarpment toe and brow be removed from development control. Based on discussions at the NEC between Commission members, this request should be considered.
- The Region requests that the MNRF consider options for this site to acknowledge existing uses (such as UA-12), existing residential subdivisions, commercial and institutional uses and potential future uses, such as Provincial transit.

NIAGARA E	SCAR	PMENT PL	AN AREA	
PARCEL	2	Main / Oake	s Settlement Area	
LOCATION	503 N	/lain Street We	st	
	2 and	6 Oakes Road	South	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
EXISTING USES	Resi	dential		
GREENBELT PLAN	Niag	ara Escarpr	nent Plan Area	The state of the s
ESCARPMENT PLAN	Escarp	oment Protectio	on Area	
OFFICIAL PLAN	Escar	oment Protection	on Area	
ZONING	N/A			
AREA	.89 acres			
SOILS	Miscellaneous Man Modified Land Units		Modified Land Units	
	Mainl	v reddish hued	silty clay loam over	
		nston shale bec		
65014056		2	6514/5D	
SERVICES	WATE	R:	SEWER	
	Yes		Yes	
ANALYSIS	Residential lots – extension of residential settlement at Oakes Road and Main Street West			
RECOMMENDATION         Consider redesignating as "Escarpment subdivision to municipal administration			-	

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN AREA						
PARCEL	3 Grimsby Tackle Shop					
LOCATION	511 a	ind 515 Main St	treet West			
EXISTING USES	Emp	loyment Grimsl	by Tackle - Residential			
GREENBELT PLAN	Niag	jara Escarpri	nent Plan Area			
ESCARPMENT PLAN	Escar	oment Protectio	on Area	Man Street Law A		
OFFICIAL PLAN	Escar	oment Protectio	on Area			
ZONING	N/A					
AREA	1.26 acres					
SOILS	Miscellaneous Man Modified Land Units					
		•	silty clay loam over	2 mu		
	Quee	nston shale bec	drock			
SERVICES	WATE	R:	SEWER			
	Yes		Yes	-		
ANALYSIS	Emplo			Oakes Road and Main Street West		
RECOMMENDATION			esignating as "Escarpment Urba municipal administration and	-		

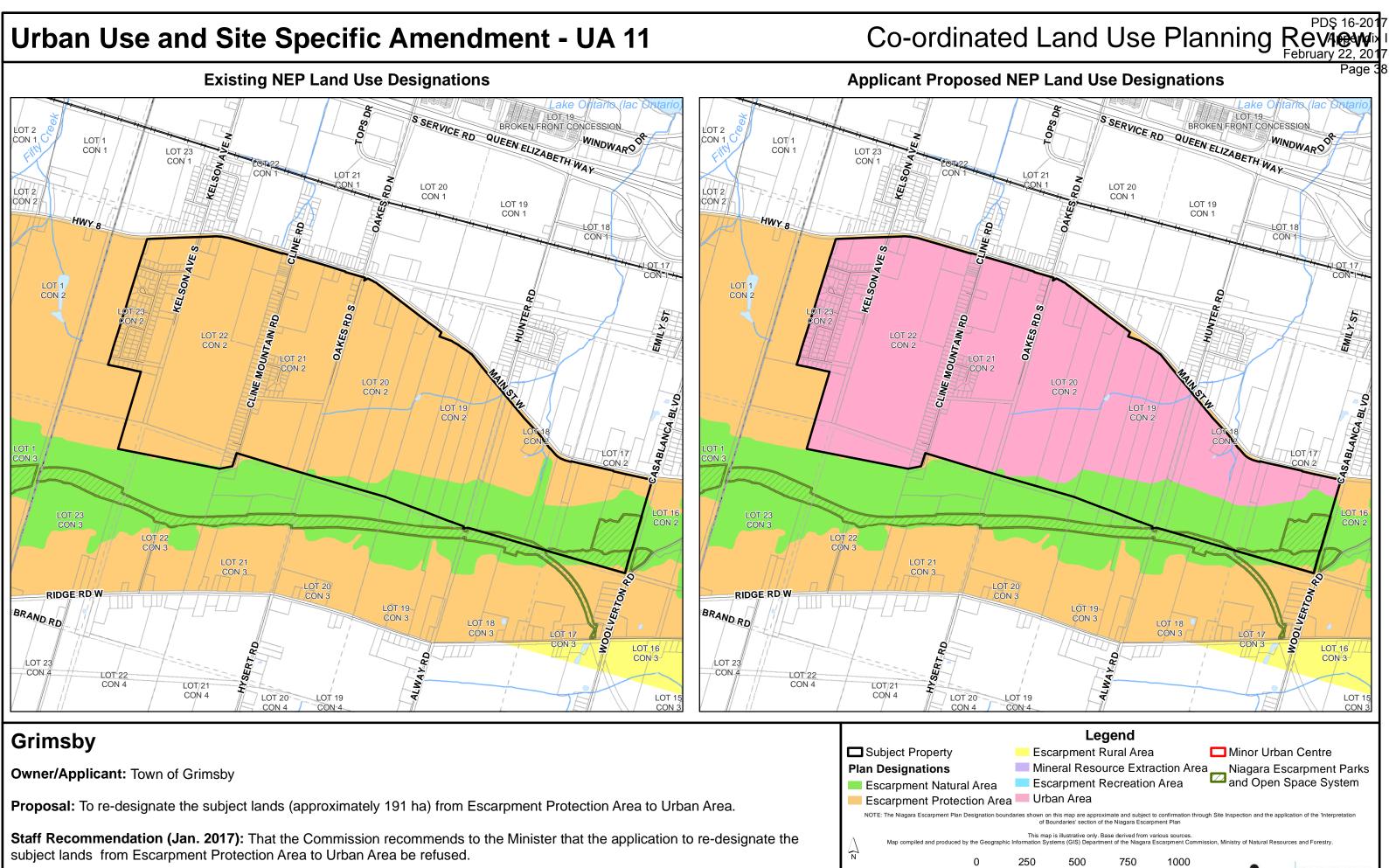
NIAGARA E	NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN AREA					
PARCEL	4	Former Arke	ll Cannery Site			
LOCATION		Main Street We				
EXISTING USES		ous Storage etc				
GREENBELT PLAN	Niag	jara Escarpri	nent Plan Area			
ESCARPMENT	Escar	oment Protectio	on Area			
PLAN						
OFFICIAL PLAN		oment Protectio	on Area			
ZONING	N/A					
AREA	12.51	39				
SOILS	Miscellaneous Man Modified Land Units		Modified Land Units			
SERVICES	WATE	R:	SEWER			
	Yes		Yes			
ANALYSIS	Forme	er Cannery Site	<ul> <li>now largely abandoned, som</li> </ul>	e storage		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b> Policies to		Policies to fac	ilitate re-use and cleaning up o	f property.		
		Consideration for allowing this and adjacent lands to be used for community parkland/recreational				
			esignating as "Escarpment Urba municipal administration and	-		

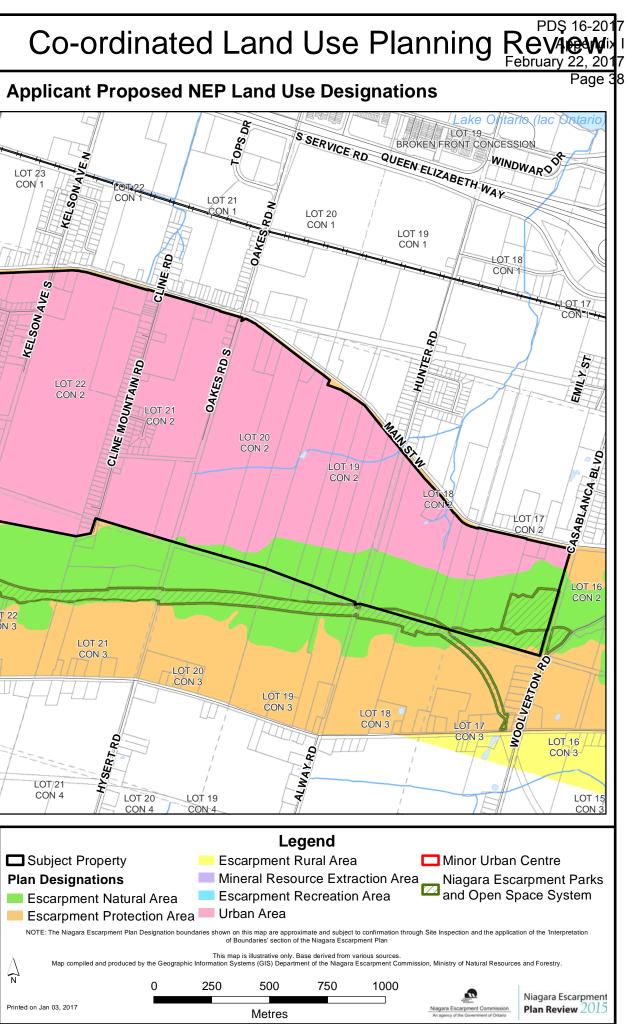
NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN AREA					
PARCEL	5 Cline Mountain Road Settlement				
LOCATION	Cline	Mountain Roa	d and Cedar Glen Subdivision		
EXISTING USES	Resi	dential Rural S	ubdivision		
GREENBELT PLAN	Niag	jara Escarpn	nent Plan Area		
ESCARPMENT PLAN	Escar	oment Protecti	on Area		
OFFICIAL PLAN	Escar	oment Protecti	on Area		
ZONING	N/A				
AREA	24.758 acres				
SOILS	Misce	llaneous Man I	Modified Land Units		
SERVICES	WATE	R:	SEWER		
	Yes		Yes		
ANALYSIS	Rural	Residential Sub	odivision – largely developed		
RECOMMENDA	ΓΙΟΝ		esignating as "Escarpment Urba o municipal administration and	-	

NIAGARA E	SCARPMENT P	LAN AREA	
PARCEL	6 Hillview Wo	odcrest Subdivision	
LOCATION	Kelson Avenue, Sou	th of Main Street West	Harristin A AMAIN AND A STORE
EXISTING USES	Residential Subdivi	sion, Auto Dealership,	
	Apartment		
GREENBELT	Niagara Escarpr	nent Plan Area	the state of the s
PLAN			
ESCARPMENT	Escarpment Protecti	on Area	
PLAN			
OFFICIAL PLAN	Escarpment Protecti	on Area	
ZONING	N/A		Auto H
AREA	27.61 acres		
SOILS	Miscellaneous Man	Modified Land Units	
SERVICES	WATER:	SEWER	
	Yes	Yes	
ANALYSIS	1960s residential sul	l bdivision, apartment building an	l Id car dealership
RECOMMENDA		esignating as "Escarpment Urba o municipal administration and z	-

NIAGARA E	NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN AREA					
PARCEL	7,8, 9, 10, 11	Rural agricul	tural and rural residential			
LOCATION	on Ke		etween residential subdivision ntial subdivision on Cline			
EXISTING USES	Agric	ultural and Res	idential			
GREENBELT PLAN	Niag	jara Escarpn	nent Plan Area			
ESCARPMENT PLAN	Escarp	oment Protectio	on Area			
OFFICIAL PLAN	Escarp	oment Protection	on Area			
ZONING	N/A					
AREA	125 A	cres				
SOILS	Miscellaneous Man Modified Land Units Mainly reddish hued silty clay loam over Queenston shale bedrock					
SERVICES	WATE	R:	SEWER			
	Yes –	partial	Yes - Partial			
ANALYSIS	Rural Agricultural and Rural Residential. Views of the Escarpment					
RECOMMENDAT	ΓΙΟΝ		esignating as "Escarpment Urban municipal administration and z	-		

NIAGARA E	SCARPMENT	PLAN AREA	
PARCEL	12 Garden of	Canada Area	
LOCATION		outh side between Casablanca ner Arkel Cannery site at Cline	
EXISTING USES	Agricultural, resid	ential, commercial	
GREENBELT PLAN	Niagara Escarp	ment Plan Area	
ESCARPMENT PLAN	Escarpment Protec	tion Area	
OFFICIAL PLAN	Escarpment Protect	tion Area	
ZONING	N/A		
AREA	345 Acres		THE FULL AND A FRANK
SOILS	Miscellaneous Man Modified Land Units Mainly reddish hued silty clay loam over Queenston shale bedrock Mainly Clay Loam Till		
SERVICES	WATER:	SEWER	
	Partial	Partial	
ANALYSIS	Scenic Rural agricu Escarpment. Cultural Heritage L	nt vistas of the Niagara	
RECOMMENDAT	transferring	designating up to base of escarpn residential subdivision to munici (Area north of yellow dotted line	pal administration and zoning with





Metres
INICII CO

# 487- 489 Main Street West, Grimsby NEC File: UA-12

#### APPLICANT / SUBJECT LANDS:

Winona Concrete and Pipe Products, Ltd. 487 & 489 Main Street West Part Lot 20, Concession 2, Grimsby Town of Grimsby, Niagara Region

#### **CURRENT NEP DESIGNATION:**

Escarpment Protection Area

#### **PROPOSAL:**

To amend the NEP to enable the expansion of an existing industrial use, which exceeds the allowable expansion for an existing use under current NEP policies.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

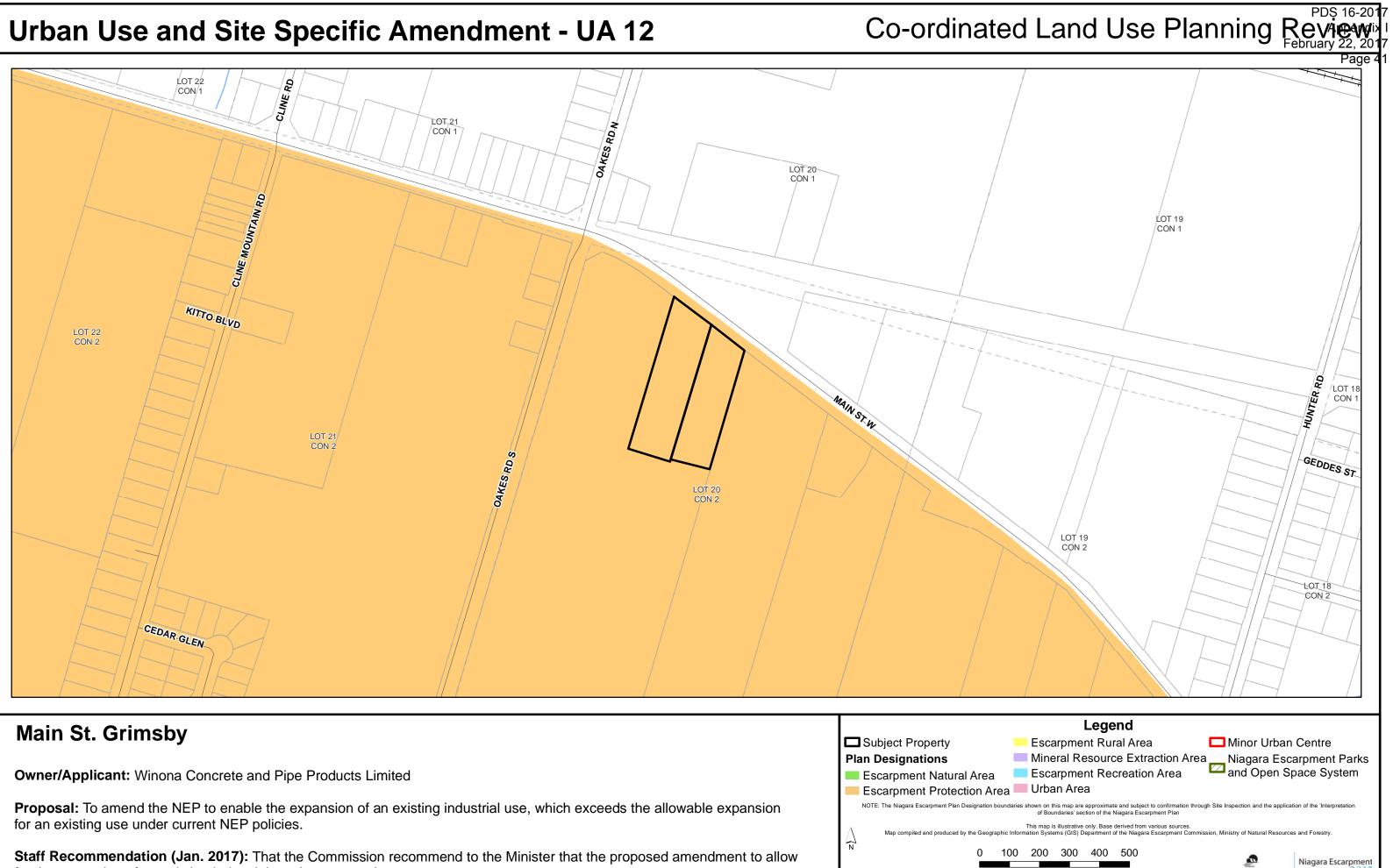
That the Commission recommend to the Minister that the proposed amendment to allow for the expansion of an existing industrial use be approved.

#### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve policy changes

- Niagara Region supported the Applicant and Town of Grimsby's request to redesignate the subject lands as Escarpment Urban Area. NEC Staff changed the Proposal from what was requested; it does not reflect what the applicant or Town is seeking.
- By altering the Applicant's proposal, NEC staff did not allow NEC Commission members to review and make recommendations on the merits of the original application.
- The Region is extremely dissatisfied with the manner in which a private land-owner request was altered by the NEC, and requests that the Minister and MNRF Staff review the original submission made to the Province (see attached) and approve the re-designation of the subject lands to Escarpment Urban Area.
- This request, along with other existing residential, commercial and institutional uses within the original UA-11 request area require a more fulsome solution beyond one-off policy amendments.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN AREA					
PARCEL	1	Winona Conc	rete	Parts & Recession 2	
LOCATION	487	and 489 Main S	Delas U		
EXISTING USES	Wine	ona Concrete Pl			
GREENBELT Niagara Escarpr			nent Plan Area	State of the state	
PLAN					
ESCARPMENT	PMENT Escarpment Protection Area				
PLAN				The Area	
OFFICIAL PLAN Escarpment Protection Area			on Area		
ZONING	N/A				
AREA	3.59 acres			La martin a la martina de la	
SOILS	Miscellaneous Man Modified Land Units				
	Main	y reddish hued	silty clay loam over		
	Queenston shale bedrock				
SERVICES	WATE	ER:	SEWER		
	Yes		No		
ANALYSIS	Concr	ete Plant and la	I and owned by the concrete p	lant	
RECOMMENDAT	ΓΙΟΝ				
		subdivision to municipal administration and zoning with NEC review. Give			
		consideration	to limited reasonable expan	sion of existing employment use.	



for the expansion of an existing industrial use be approved.





Administration Office of the Regional Clerk 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977 www.niagararegion.ca

March 3, 2017

CL 3-2017, March 2, 2017 PDC 3-2017, February 22, 2017 Report PDS 18-2017

### LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Coordinated Policy Review Growth Plan Prime Employment Areas and Gateway Economic Zone PDS 18-2017

Regional Council, at its meeting of March 2, 2017, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee:

That Report PDS 18-2017, dated February 22, 2017, respecting Coordinated Policy Review Growth Plan Prime Employment Areas and Gateway Economic Zone, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

- 1. That this report **BE ENDORSED** as Niagara Region's submission to be sent the Province as part of the Coordinated Policy Review process regarding The Gateway Economic Zone, Niagara's role as a Foreign Trade Zone and the designation of Prime Employment Areas; and
- 2. That a copy of report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

A copy of Report PDS 18-2017 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,

Ralph Walton Regional Clerk :amn

cc: D. Giles, Director, Community and Long Range Planning N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services



# Subject: Coordinated Policy Review Growth Plan Prime Employment Areas and Gateway Economic Zone

**Report To: Planning and Development Committee** 

Meeting Date: February 22, 2017

### Recommendations

- 1. That this report **BE ENDORSED** as Niagara Region's submission to be sent the Province as part of the Coordinated Policy Review process regarding The *Gateway Economic Zone*, Niagara's role as a *Foreign Trade Zone* and the designation of *Prime Employment Areas*; and
- 2. That a copy of report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

## **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council on comments to be sent to the Province as part of the Coordinated Policy Review process regarding The *Gateway Economic Zone*, Niagara's role as a *Foreign Trade Zone* and the designation of *Prime Employment Areas*.
- The Gateway Economic Zone is defined in Ontario's "Places to Grow" as a strategic economic district along the Queen Elizabeth Way corridor between Fort Erie and Niagara Falls. This status has provided the Region with an important designation which allows employment land to be strategically positioned within the context of providing access to the markets of the GGH and United States.
- As a result of this status, the Region in conjunction with local municipalities established policies and processes such as the expedited process for development and incentives that have been successful catalysts for growth under the *Gateway Economic Zone* designation.
- Additionally, the Federal Department of Finance has designated Niagara as *Foreign Trade Zone* which is the first FTZ in Ontario and provides increased status for attracting investment and supporting export related development.
- Preliminary analysis of both the requirements and benefits of these designations indicates the need for Niagara to pursue special policy opportunities that leverage



existing attributes of the Region to build an economy around the many facets of international trade. This direction will involve the preparation of a long term strategic plan for generating investment and employment that will build upon the existing Provincial and Federal designations and that will be underpinned by coordinating the services and infrastructure required to build a sustainable trade corridor.

- "Prime Employment Areas" are a new designation in Places to Grow, intended to identify, protect and plan for employment area with certain unique characteristics related to international and cross-border trade. Together the *Gateway Economic Zone*, the *Foreign Trade Zone* and the *Prime Employment Areas designation* have the potential to establish Niagara as a center for international trade.
- In order to facilitate this, the Region and local municipalities will need to work with the Provincial and Federal governments to capitalize on these designations and ensure that regulations and policies (land use, infrastructure, trade) support the long term vision.

### Considerations

#### Financial

These comments form part of the continuing process associated with the CPR. This review has been undertaken by staff in consultation with a number of stakeholders. All costs have come from the operating budget of the Planning Department.

When the final versions of the Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan, and Niagara Escarpment Plan have been released and the cumulative changes are understood, staff will update Council with respect to financial impacts.

### Corporate

These comments build on previous comments to the Province which were developed with input from staff across the organization.

#### **Governmental Partners**

These comments reflect the Region's previous responses to the Province with respect to the CPR. The Region's position has been shaped through working with local staff from the twelve municipalities, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and the Niagara Parks Commission.



#### Public and/or Service Users

Throughout the review process, staff have met and encouraged input from private land owners, the development community, agricultural stakeholders, and consultants representing clients with affected lands.

#### Analysis

#### **Gateway Economic Zone**

Under the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006) the Province designated a Gateway Economic Zone and Gateway Economic Centre in the Niagara Region. Following this, the Region adopted a Regional Policy Plan Amendment (RPPA 1-2012) which implemented the Gateway Economic Zone and Centre. The Gateway Economic Zone is comprised of the settlement areas (i.e. designated urban areas) in Niagara Falls and Fort Erie, specific to employment lands.

Through identifying the Gateway Economic Zone, the Province created an opportunity for Niagara to establish a unique employment area that leverages transportation linkages and proximity to a major international border. However, policy frameworks that limit settlement boundaries, combined with other factors such as parcel size and servicing requirements have restricted the development potential of the Gateway Economic Zone.

#### Foreign Trade Zone

The Federal Department of Finance has designated Niagara as Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ). The Niagara Foreign Trade Zone is the first one established in Ontario. It promotes the usage of federal and provincial programs that support export development.

Niagara's selection as a FTZ reflects the precise market elements required for investment including geographical location, infrastructure and logistics. Programs available to FTZs such as the Duty Deferral Program, the Export Distribution Centre Program and Exporters of Processing Services Program make it possible to create an FTZ environment exactly where the business needs it, while offering all the benefits of a traditional FTZ.

#### United States Trade – Continental One Route

Niagara, being within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) is a significant trade region and is one of a few regions in Canada with multiple road and rail border crossings providing direct access to the United States market.



US trade organizations, such as Continental One, identify the Niagara Gateway Economic Zone as a key contributor to US/Canada trade. The Continental 1 corridor is a 1,500-mile direct route between Toronto and Miami. It is estimated that \$40 Billion in trade passes through the Gateway Economic Zone and Western New York each year<sup>1</sup>.

South of the border, the economic development potential of the Niagara Frontier is being used to justify transportation corridor expansions. Niagara already has the benefit of an established transportation network and a designated economic zone. Realizing the benefits of this unique and important location has provided the basis of inclusion in a US trade corridor with employment and international trade benefits. The expansion of business services and improvements in infrastructure will produce additional economic benefits.

#### **Niagara Employment Lands**

The Niagara Foreign Trade Zone applies to all of Niagara with the Gateway Economic Zone being one component of an international trade strategy.

Niagara Region is moving towards implementing a more contemporary and sophisticated land use planning service. Historical land use designations and mapping that may have been appropriate at the time are becoming limiting factors.

Traditional employment lands are spread across the region and have limitations such as poor access, lot size, access to infrastructure, wetlands and brownfields. For these reasons a considerable proportion of existing employment lands may not be developed within the 2041 timeframe and may need to rationalized out of the Regional supply calculation.

Niagara has areas with strong potential as *Prime Employment Areas* as identified in Places to Grow. Some of these lands are outside of the urban boundary but are better positioned from and transport and infrastructure perspective compared to existing employment lands. Some prime employment areas are also likely to come on stream before a 20 year time horizon.

To allow Niagara to develop as a center for international trade, create certainty within the market and attract the level of investment required, regulatory and policy conflicts need to be resolved and Niagara should become a special policy area that brings together complimentary provincial and federal tools to facilitate growth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.peacebridge.com/index.php/about-us-sp-1874923374/peace-bridge-facts2



#### Alternatives Reviewed

Failure to submit comments will result in a missed opportunity to influence Provincial Plans. The Coordinated Policy Review represents a critical time for Niagara Region to provide feedback on how the draft Provincial Plan policies will affect Niagara and offer potential remedies.

#### **Origin of Report**

Influencing Provincial Plans is a Strategic Priority identified by Regional Council. This report helps Council in achieving this Priority by identifying specific changes that are required in the draft Plans to help Niagara achieve economic prosperity.

#### **Other Pertinent Reports**

PDS 11-2017, Coordinated Policy Review Response to Greenbelt Plan EBR Posting, February 22, 2017

PDS 41-2016, Coordinated Policy Review Proposed Revisions, October 27, 2016

PDS 29-2016, Province of Ontario Coordinated Plan Review Submission on the Draft Plans, October 19, 2016

**Submitted by:** Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP Commissioner Planning & Development Services Approved by: Carmelo D'Angelo, BSc, MPA Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Doug Giles, Director of Community and Long Range Planning, with input from David Oakes, Director of Economic Development.

# Appendices

None.

Administration Office of the Regional Clerk 2201 St. David's Road W, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977 www.niagararegion.ca

March 8, 2017

CL 03-2017, March 2, 2017 PHSSC 2-2017, February 22, 2017 Report PHD 04-2017

Area Municipalities

#### SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Regional Council, at its meeting of Mach 2, 2017, approved the following recommendations of its Public Health and Social Services Committee:

That Report PHD 04-2017, dated February 21, 2017, respecting Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey 2015 Results **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to bring back a report by 2018 Q2 to provide an update on how the data influenced youth programming; and

2. That a copy of this report **BE FORWARDED** to local area municipalities and Niagara District School Boards (Public, Catholic, English and French).

A copy of Report PHD 04-2017 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,

Ralph Walton Regional Clerk

:lm

cc: Dr. V. Jaeger, Medical Officer of Health/ Commissioner, Public Health J. Bonaldo, Executive Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health/ Commissioner of Public Health



### Subject: Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey 2015 Results

**Report To: Public Health and Social Services Committee** 

Meeting Date: February 21, 2017

#### Recommendations

- 1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to bring back a report by 2018 Q2 to provide an update on how the data influenced youth programming; and
- 2. That a copy of this report **BE FORWARDED** to local area municipalities.

# **Key Facts**

- Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH) contracted with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in 2011 and 2015 to receive data from a provincial self-report student survey regarding drug use and health
- NRPH joins this survey every other two-year cycle. With additional funding, in 2011 and 2015, CAMH was able to survey more Niagara students to provide local data
- Students in grades 7 to 12 participated in the survey. Compared to 2011, there is no change in self-reported mental health, pain relief medicine, alcohol, cannabis and tobacco use behaviours among secondary students in Niagara in 2015. Results demonstrate differences in mental health indicators for males and females in 2015.
- This data is needed in planning programs/services for Niagara youth and to share with appropriate community partners in order to impact health outcomes

#### Considerations

#### Financial

The cost of the 2015 oversample OSDUHS was \$25,000 (cost-shared). Staff from several divisions across NRPH supported this initiative from existing budgets.

#### **Governmental Partners**

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) mandate local planning and delivery of public health programs/services by the Board of Health.

#### Public and/or Service Users

Findings from the OSDUHS survey help inform the programs, services, and initiatives NRPH offers. Findings will be shared with community partners such as school boards and community agencies. Results will also be available on NRPH website.

# Analysis

The life course model (PHD 01-2017) is a way for NRPH to strategically use available data to better understand the health behaviours, attitudes and beliefs of Niagara's youth. Life-course data highlighted mental health as a significant concern for youth.

Since 1977, CAMH has conducted a survey of Ontario students, grades 7 to 12, every two years from publicly funded schools. The self-administered, anonymous survey collects information about tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, other drug use, mental health and addictions, physical activity, healthy eating, injuries, family and school environment and demographics. The study gathers data from all regions of Ontario, and CAMH reports on findings and trends for Ontario students. CAMH offers the opportunity for agencies to purchase "oversampling" in their respective regions. This entails collecting raw data from more students in that geographic region to be analyzed and reported on locally. In 2011 and 2015, NRPH purchased an oversampling, providing NRPH with some ability to follow trends. In 2011, only secondary schools were oversampled. In 2015, 889 students were surveyed in Niagara, 443 females and 446 males. There were 458 grade 7/8 students surveyed (eight schools), and 431 secondary students surveyed (14 schools) and is considered to be representative of the publicly funded sector.

Each year, CAMH assess the quality of their survey and make adjustments. As a result, there are some questions where direct comparisons to 2011 data were not possible. Unless indicated, there is no difference in results from 2011 to 2015, between grade 7/8 and secondary students, between genders, or between Niagara and Ontario.

# **Mental Health**

- 13% of grade 7/8 students and 22% of secondary students rate their mental health as fair or poor; females were more likely to rate their mental health as fair or poor
- 20% of grade 7/8 students and 22% of secondary students have seen a medical professional related to their mental health in the past year
- 20% of grade 7/8 students and 33% of secondary students have wanted to talk to someone about mental health but didn't know who to turn to; more likely in females.
- 18% of grade 7/8 students and 37% of secondary students indicate probable moderate to serious levels of psychological distress; a significant difference between the grades and more likely in females.
- 17% of secondary students have seriously considered suicide in the past year

# **Pain Relief Medicine**

# **Behaviours**

• 9% of grade 7/8 students and 12% of secondary students have used pain relief medicine without a prescription in the past year

• 12% of grade 7/8 students and 25% of secondary students have used pain relief medicine with a prescription in the past year; a significant difference between ages.

#### Perceptions

- 12% of grade 7/8 students think pain relief pills are easy to get without a
  prescription, while 25% of secondary students think so significant between grades
- 62% of grade 7/8 students and 70% of secondary students think there is medium to great risk associated with taking pain relief pills that weren't prescribed for them

#### Cannabis

#### Behaviours

- 35% of secondary students have used cannabis in the past year
- Of these students, 30% tried it for the first time in elementary school
- 10% of licensed students drove within an hour of using cannabis in the past year

#### Perceptions

- 65% of secondary students think that cannabis is easy to get
- 74% of grade 7/8 students and 57% of secondary students recognize that there is medium to great risk associated with using cannabis regularly but compared to 2011, secondary students are less likely to think that regular cannabis use is harmful

#### Alcohol

#### Behaviours

- 18% of grade 7/8 students and 60% of secondary students have consumed more than a sip of alcohol in the past year a significant difference between the grades
- 33% of secondary students who have drunk alcohol tried it for the first time in elementary school: more so for males than females
- 26% of secondary students consumed alcohol with energy drinks in the past year
- 30% of secondary students have played drinking games in the past 4 weeks
- 4% of students with a license drove within an hour of consuming 2 or more drinks
- 10% of grade 7/8 students and 16% of secondary students have been a passenger in a vehicle when the driver has consumed alcohol; significantly lower than 2011

#### Perceptions

- 32% of grade 7/8 students and 74% of secondary students think that alcohol is easy to get a significant difference between grades
- 54% of grade 7/8 students and 59% of secondary students recognize that there is medium to great risk associated with binge drinking. Females are more likely to recognize that there is medium to great risk associated with binge drinking. Grade

7/8 students in Niagara are more likely to think there are no or slight risks associated with binge drinking compared to Ontario counterparts.

#### Tobacco

#### Behaviours

- 25% of secondary students have used e-cigarettes in the past year
- 21% of secondary students have smoked cigarettes in the past year
- 21% of secondary students have use a water pipe in the past year
- 8% of secondary students smoke cigarettes daily
- 19% of secondary students who have smoked cigarettes tried it for the first time in elementary school

#### Exposures

• 31% of grade 7/8 students and 56% of secondary students have been exposed to second-hand smoke at least once in the past week; a significant difference

#### Perceptions

- 21% of grade 7/8 students and 66% of secondary students think that cigarettes are easy to get, while think that cigarettes are easy to get; a significant difference
- 55% of grade 7/8 students and 62% of secondary students and recognize that there is medium to great risk associated with smoking cigarettes daily
- 32% of grade 7/8 students and 27% of secondary students recognize that there is medium to great risk associated with using e-cigarettes regularly

#### **Other Health Issues**

- 43% of students with a license have texted while driving in the past year. Males are more likely to text and drive
- 80% of grade 7/8 students and 71% of secondary students always wear a seatbelt
- 7% of grade 7/8 students and 5% of secondary students have had a head injury that made them unconscious for at least five minutes or resulted in an overnight hospital stay in the past year. Males were more likely to have this type of head injury
- 16% of grade 7/8 students and 5% of secondary students eat the recommended 6 or more servings of fruits or vegetables each day; a significant difference
- 62% of grade 7/8 students and 44% of secondary students ate breakfast on all 5 school days in the past week. Compared to 2011, a significantly lower percent of secondary students ate breakfast all 5 school days in the past week
- 38% of grade 7/8 students and 9% of secondary students get the recommended 9 or more hours of sleep each night; a significant difference between the grades

 59% of grade 7/8 students and 46% of secondary students are physically active for at least 60 minutes most days of the week; a significant difference. Males were more likely to be physically active for at least 60 minutes than females.

NRPH collaborates with, and is grateful for, numerous community and provincial partners to address youth risk taking behaviour. Recent reports (see below) address teen mental health, opioid misuse, cannabis regulation and control and youth engagement. Educating youth and parents, building resiliency among youth, municipal youth councils and participating in policy activities to protect youth are examples of community engagement strategies. NRPH is developing a communication plan to discuss the above results and potential impact on programing with key partners.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

The OSDUHS is a specific survey instrument; there are no equivalent surveys

# **Origin of Report**

The *Health Protection & Promotion Act* Section 67 and the *Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards* Sections 3.1 and 6.1 require keeping the Board of Health updated on significant developments and the status of operations.

# **Other Pertinent Reports**

PHD 01-2017 – Key Health Issues CL-C 83-2016 – A memorandum respecting teen mental health. PHD 16-2016 – Opiod Misuse: A Community Issue PHD 09-2016 – Cannabis Regulation and Control

**Submitted by:** Valerie Jaeger, MD, PhD, MPH Medical Officer of Health

Approved by: Carmelo D'Angelo, BSc, MPA Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Lindsay Garofalo, Manager and Rachel Skellet, Epidemiologist, in consultation with Ellen Wodchis, Director, Anne Biscaro, Director, Pam Dilts, Manager and Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health.





March 9, 2017

The Regional Municipality of Niagara Office of the Regional Clerk 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, P.O. Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

ralph.walton@niagararegion.ca

Attention: Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk

Dear Mr. Walton:

#### Re: Resolution – Change to Composition of Regional Council "Double Direct"

Please be advised Thorold City Council, at its March 7, 2017 meeting, adopted the following resolution:

That the Council of the City of Thorold opposes the passage of the by-law of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, being a by-law to change the composition of the Regional Council, be received and supported.

#### CARRIED

Yours truly,

duectio

Donna Delvecchio City Clerk

DD:cd

ec: M. Mauro, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Area Municipalities

P.O. Box 1044, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold www.thorold.com Tel: 905-227-6613



City of Welland Legislative Services Office of the City Clerk 60 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X4 Phone: 905-735-1700 Ext. 2159 | Fax: 905-732-1919 Email: clerk@welland.ca | www.welland.ca

March 10, 2017

File No. 02-160

Office of the Regional Clerk Niagara Region 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way P.O. Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Attention: Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk

Dear Mr. Walton:

Re: March 7, 2017 – WELLAND CITY COUNCIL

At its meeting of March 7, 2017, Welland City Council passed the following motion:

"THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information the correspondence from the Region of Niagara dated January 20, 2017; and further

THAT Welland City Council does not support the request for a consent to the passage of the By-law of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, being a By-law to change the composition of the Regional Council."

Yours truly,

uns

Tara Stephens City Clerk

TS:kl

c.c.: Area Municipalities

Bridging the past, present and future



# **Township of Wainfleet**

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

SENT VIA EMAIL ralph.walton@niagararegion.ca

March 13, 2017

Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk Niagara Region 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way P.O. Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Dear Ralph Walton,

#### **RE: Financial Support for Families of Missing Persons**

Thank you for your recent correspondence received by our office on February 14, 2017. Please be advised that Council for the Township of Wainfleet, at its regular meeting held on March 7, 2017, passed the following resolution:

**THAT** Correspondence Item No. 035-2017 from the Office of the Regional Clerk, Re: Financial Support for Families of Missing Persons be received;

**AND THAT** Council for the Township of Wainfleet does hereby support said request.

Regards,

M. Kirkham

Meredith Kirkham Deputy Clerk

cc: Area Municipalities



Administration Office of the Regional Clerk 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977 www.niagararegion.ca

February 10, 2017

Area Municipalities

VIA Email

#### RE: Financial Support for Families of Missing Persons Minute Item 8.2, CL 02-2017, Thursday, February 9, 2017

Regional Council at its meeting held on Thursday, February 9, 2017, passed the following resolution:

Whereas, Niagara region resident Ashley Simpson has been missing since April 2016;

Whereas, searching for a missing family member is costly and concern for their safety is all-consuming;

Whereas, there is minimal support through the provincial Employment Standards Act, and through federal Employment Insurance benefits, to those whose work schedule is impacted due to efforts to find a missing family member;

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to draft a letter to the federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labor requesting that a new category of Employment Insurance Benefits be created for the families that are victims of missing loved ones;

2. That Niagara Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to draft an additional letter requesting that the provincial Ministry of Labour amend the Employment Standards Act to provide the families of missing loved ones the same supports as they would even if the disappearance is not yet proven to be crime-related under reasonable circumstances (i.e. The ESA provides for 52 weeks of leave for crime-related disappearance and 106 weeks for crime-related death);

3. That Niagara Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to make an official inquiry to other appropriate provincial and federal ministries (some examples include Ministry of Corrections- under victims of crimes

legislation, Ministry of Community Services, Ministry of Justice, Provincial Ministry of Labour (under ESA-only provides support if disappearance is crime related- we don't know if it is crime related yet), Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation), to assist with where additional income supports could be legislated for the families that are victims of missing loved ones; and,

4. That Niagara Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament **BE COPIED** on the respective federal and provincial letters and that a subsequent letter be sent to each Niagara MP and MPP and local Councils requesting their support for this motion.

Your Council's favourable support is respectfully requested.

Yours truly,

Natasha Devos Deputy Regional Clerk :pp

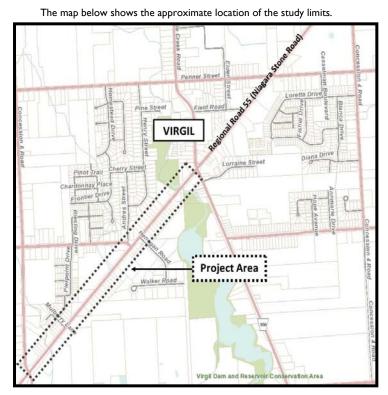
cc: Niagara Members of Federal and Provincial Parliament

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #3 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Regional Road 55 (Niagara Stone Road) From Regional Road 100 (Four Mile Creek Road) to East West Line and From Concession 6 Road to Crossroads Public School In the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

#### The Study

Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the -Lake will be undertaking improvements along Regional Road 55 (Niagara Stone Road), from Concession 6 to Regional Road 100 (Four Mile Creek Road). The works are scheduled to commence in the spring of 2017 with the majority of construction anticipated to be complete by July 2017. Surface asphalt paving and additional street lighting will be completed in the fall of 2017 for the section between Line 2 and Regional Road 100 (Four Mile Creek Road). The works follow the Preferred Alternative detailed in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design Study for Niagara Stone Road that was filed in 2015. The proposed improvements include road reconstruction to an urban cross section from Cross Roads School to Concession 6. This section also includes a new storm sewer, concrete sidewalk and multi-use pathway. New asphalt and roadway illumination upgrades will be completed on the entire section. In order to reduce disturbances to traffic and potential impacts on businesses in the area, one lane of traffic will be maintained at all times, and access to driveways will be maintained where ever possible.



#### **Public Information Centre**

The Public Information Centres (PIC) is planned for this study. The PIC will be held on:

Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Time:	5 – 7 pm
Location:	Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre
	Mori Room
	14 Anderson Lane
	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

The purpose of the PIC is to provide local area residents and businesses with the opportunity to view the construction drawings and is intended for information purposes only. The PIC will be held as a "drop-in style" forum during which staff from Niagara Region and Urban & Environmental Management Inc. (the Region's engineering consultant) will be available to answer questions and discuss the project. A formal presentation will not be made.

#### Mr. Steve Brant, P. Eng. Consultant Project Manager Urban & Environmental Management Inc.

4701 St. Clair Avenue, Suite 301 Niagara Falls, ON L2E 3S9 905-371-9764 ext 242 Fax: 905-371-9763 SBrant@uemconsulting.com

#### Mr. Michael Wilson, A.Sc.T.

Project Manager Transportation Engineering Niagara Region 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 905-980-6000 ext 3183 Fax: 905-685-0013 **Michael.Wilson@niagararegion.ca** 

If you require any accommodation for a disability in order to attend and participate in this PIC, please contact the **Accessibility Advisory Coordinator** at 905-980-6000, ext. 3252 or **accessibility@niagararegion.ca** to make the appropriate arrangements.

#### **Personal Information Collection**

Personal information collected at public meetings or submitted in writing is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used by members of Regional Council and Regional staff. The written submissions including names and contact information and the report of the public meeting will be made available to the public. Questions should be referred to Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk at 905-980-6000 ext. 3220.

# Niagara - // // Region

Due to extreme winter weather, garbage and recycling collection is delayed across Niagara.

# Residents should continue to place their material curbside on their regular collection day by 7 a.m., and ensure all waste and recycling containers are visible and accessible to collection staff.

Residents whose area was not collected by 7 p.m. on their regular collection day will have their material collected the following day.

Residents whose collection day was Tuesday, March 14, will have their material collected on Saturday, March 18. Material must be placed curbside by 7 a.m.

Garbage and recycling containers should not be placed in or on top of snow banks. In some cases, it may be necessary to clear an area of snow in order to safely place material at the curbside for collection.

There will be no change to the one-bag garbage limit for any collection day. Recycling and organics collection is unlimited.

Up-to-the-minute status of changes to Regional programs, services and locations can be found at <u>niagararegion.ca</u>.

#### Contact

Allison Tyldesley Niagara Region 905-980-6000 ext. 3414 <u>allison.tyldesley@niagararegion.ca</u>

Share this article: <u>Facebook</u> | <u>Twitter</u>