

**N I A G A R A**  
**ESCARPMENT**  
commission  
2012-13  
Annual Report



**TO HIS HONOUR**

The Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario

**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR**

The undersigned begs respectfully to present to Your Honour the Annual Report of the Niagara Escarpment Commission for the year beginning April 1, 2012 and ending March 31, 2013.

THE HONOURABLE DAVID ORAZIETTI

Minister



**THE HONOURABLE DAVID ORAZIETTI**

Minister of Natural Resources

**Honourable Sir:**

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report of the Niagara Escarpment Commission for the year commencing April 1, 2012 and ending March 31, 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Scott".

DON SCOTT

Chair, Niagara Escarpment Commission

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## A note from the Chair

The fiscal period 2012-13 was one of significant productivity and accomplishment at the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC).

The NEC completed its 2012-2016 Strategic Plan which will direct the NEC's objectives and priorities leading up to the 2015 review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

The Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve underwent a 10-year periodic review to ensure that the Biosphere Reserve is meeting the required criteria to merit continued designation by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and to provide learning and reflective opportunities.

The Biosphere Reserve Review process began with the preparation of a 'self-study' document which was prepared by NEC staff on behalf of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve and submitted to the Canadian Commission for the UNESCO on June 30, 2012. External reviewers undertook site visits from Niagara to Tobermory in October 2012, accompanied by NEC staff and Steering Committee members, meeting with various partners and stakeholders, in preparation of the final review document submitted to UNESCO, which concluded that: "...the *Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve* definitely merits continued membership in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves." The Report will be considered by UNESCO in 2014.

The NEC began preparatory work for the prescribed 2015 Review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) as set out in the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA)*. The Review will be coordinated with the review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan.

The NEC is proceeding with the background research on topics related to the NEP including improvements to policies, considerations for water and fill, agricultural uses, urban expansion and related growth pressures, and the development of the Escarpment parks and open space system. Working with other provincial ministries, municipalities, conservation authorities and the public, over the next two years the NEC will develop advice for submission to the Minister of Natural Resources in 2015.

Of special note is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *NEPDA* in June 2013. We've come a long way and can take pride in our results, as well as those of our many partners in conservation. It is through our combined efforts, perseverance and passion that we will continue to protect this wondrous provincial treasure for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Don Scott, Chair  
Niagara Escarpment Commission

# The Niagara Escarpment

The Niagara Escarpment is recognized as one of the world's unique natural features and is the most prominent topographical feature of southern Ontario.

The 450-million-year-old largely forested ridge of fossil-rich sedimentary rock (dolostone) is 725 kilometres in length. At its highest elevation it soars 510 metres (1,625 feet) above sea level. It traverses the most heavily developed and densely populated region of Canada—from Queenston in Niagara Region, to Tobermory in Bruce County at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

The Niagara Escarpment is recognized internationally as one of the world's geological wonders and was designated a United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Biosphere Reserve in 1990. Principles of sustainable land use planning and the preservation of core natural areas are underscored by the Niagara Escarpment's World Biosphere Reserve designation. This designation recognizes the Niagara Escarpment's unique landscape and ecology. Ongoing protection of the Escarpment is provided through a provincial land use plan that strives to preserve natural core areas, while allowing for compatible urban development including agriculture and industrial uses.

The Niagara Escarpment area encompasses a rich mosaic of forests, farms, parks and recreation areas, scenic views, cliffs, streams, wetlands, rolling hills, waterfalls, mineral resources, wildlife habitats, historic sites, villages, towns and cities. The headwaters of a number of rivers originate in the Niagara Escarpment and the area is important for groundwater recharge. Its vibrant ecosystems support a wide diversity of species including: 300 bird, 53 mammal, 36 reptile and amphibian, 90 fish and 100 varieties of special interest flora including 37 types of wild orchids.

The Niagara Escarpment also includes some of Ontario's best skiing, camping, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking and viewing, and includes the Bruce Trail, Canada's oldest footpath. Recreational activities related to the Niagara Escarpment contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to Ontario's economy annually.

The Niagara Escarpment is truly a symbol of environmentally sustainable land use planning. The value of the Niagara Escarpment's vital resources—clean water, healthy green spaces for recreation, and protected ecosystem habitat for many species, including Species at Risk—is immeasurable.

# Niagara Escarpment Commission

The Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) supports the Purpose and Objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA) and the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) that remain unchanged and increasingly relevant in Ontario's growing urban environment.

## Purpose of the NEPDA:

To provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment, and to ensure only such development occurs as is compatible with that natural environment.

## Vision Statement of the NEC:

Through excellent public service, support the Purpose of the NEPDA by maintaining and enhancing the natural environment and cultural landscape of the Niagara Escarpment for today's and future generations.

## Mission Statement

Preserve, protect and promote the Niagara Escarpment, and uphold its UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve designation.

## Guiding Principles

The NEC will be guided by the following principles in carrying out its responsibilities:

1. Preservation of the Niagara Escarpment through environmentally sustainable land use planning
2. Leadership in awareness of the value of the Niagara Escarpment
3. Consistent application of policy and legislation
4. Independent and impartial decision-making
5. Transparent, efficient and effective processes and procedures
6. Positive and respectful engagement with clients, partners, and the public
7. Organizational excellence

# Niagara Escarpment Commission

The NEC actively implements the principles of sustainable land use planning and natural resource management for the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, contributing significantly to Ontario's health, economic development and environmental sustainability.

The NEC was established in June 1973 under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA), which established a planning process to ensure the protection and preservation of the Niagara Escarpment and recognition of its spectacular landscapes, interconnected ecosystems and vital natural resources.

As an agency of the Government of Ontario, the NEC is mandated to coordinate and deliver a range of administrative and policy provisions outlined in the NEPDA so that the Purpose and Objectives of the legislation are upheld.

The NEC's initial tasks were to prepare a Provincial Plan—the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP)—and to administer a system of development control.

Processing approximately 500 development permits annually, the NEC considers each application against the land use policies of the NEP, making appropriate decisions, consulting with and supporting partners on planning proposals that may affect the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, and setting permit conditions based on best practices to implement the policies of the NEP.

Administering the NEP, the NEC develops, interprets and applies policies to maintain and enhance the vitality of the Escarpment's unique environmental and landscape features. This is also achieved through the regular review of the NEP and other related legislation and through the consideration of applications to amend the Plan.

The NEC strives to ensure public compliance with the policies of the NEP through site inspection and monitoring of permit conditions. The NEC works proactively with municipalities and partners to monitor potential compliance concerns so that development on the Niagara Escarpment is consistent with the NEP.

In keeping with the values expressed in the NEP related to the promotion of the Niagara Escarpment's ecosystem health and biodiversity, the NEC administers an ecological monitoring program to study and report on key indicators of environmental vitality.

The NEC and the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources, in partnership with support agencies, encourage land acquisition, the development of management plans, and the promotion of public access to enjoy and explore the more than 143 protected areas in the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS).

## **Commissioners**

The NEC has 17 members (Commissioners) appointed by Order-in-Council. Nine members, including the Chair, represent the public-at-large and eight members represent counties, cities and regions within the Niagara Escarpment area. The Commission reports to the Minister of Natural Resources and is supported by a staff of 23, operating from offices in Georgetown and Thornbury.

The Commission meets on a monthly basis, to consider development permits and proposals, and Plan amendments. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held at the NEC's main office in Georgetown.

For a current listing of Commission Members, please visit NEC's website at [escarpment.org](http://escarpment.org).

# The Niagara Escarpment Plan

The Niagara Escarpment and lands in its vicinity are protected by the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP)—a Provincial Land Use Plan. The NEP Area covers portions of 22 local municipalities within seven regions and counties, and the City of Hamilton.

Human activity on the Niagara Escarpment is guided and shaped by the NEP. In 1985 the Ontario government adopted this visionary environmental plan, known as Canada's 'first green plan.' The NEP was initially approved by Cabinet in June 1985, revised in June of 1994 and 2005, and will be reviewed again in 2015.

The NEP aims to maintain Ontario's Niagara Escarpment substantially as a continuous natural environment. Development on the Niagara Escarpment must be consistent with this objective.

The NEP outlines land use designations, development criteria and related permitted uses, including compatible housing, farming and forestry. It also provides the framework for a string of more than 143 existing and proposed parks and open spaces linked by the Bruce Trail. As well, the NEP ensures the maintenance of open countryside, conserving land for agriculture and complementary rural activities.

The NEC implements the NEP by:

1. promoting the objectives of the Plan;
2. processing and making decisions on development permit applications;
3. reviewing and commenting on all proposed developments within the Plan Area and participating at hearings if the policies of the NEP are substantially threatened;
4. processing and making recommendations on proposed Plan amendments;
5. assisting the minister and municipalities in achieving conformity of local official plan documents and municipal by-laws;
6. assisting the minister in monitoring Plan implementation;
7. providing a Plan interpretation role, and
8. to ensure compliance with the NEP and its associated land use regulations

## **Regions, counties and local municipalities that are fully or partially encompassed by the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area:**

### **REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

(seven local municipalities)

Town of Grimsby

Town of Lincoln

City of Niagara Falls

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Town of Pelham

City of St. Catharines

City of Thorold

### **REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON**

(three local municipalities)

City of Burlington

Town of Halton Hills

Town of Milton

### **REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL**

(one local municipality)

Town of Caledon

### **COUNTY OF GREY**

(six local municipalities)

City of Owen Sound

Municipality of Meaford

Formerly:

Georgian Highlands

Town of Meaford

Township of St. Vincent

Township of Sydenham

Township of Georgian Bluffs

Formerly:

Township of Sarawak

Township of Keppel

Township of Derby

Municipality of Grey Highlands

Formerly:

Township of Euphrasia

Township of Osprey (Village of Markdale)

Township of Artemesia      Town of the Blue Mountains

Formerly:

Township of Collingwood

Town of Thornbury

Township of Chatsworth

Formerly:

Township of Holland

Village of Chatsworth

## **CITY OF HAMILTON**

Formerly:

Town of Ancaster

Town of Dundas

Town of Flamborough

City of Hamilton

City of Stoney Creek

## **COUNTY OF SIMCOE**

(one local municipality)

Township of Clearview

## **COUNTY OF DUFFERIN**

(two local municipalities)

Town of Mono

Township of Mulmur

**BRUCE COUNTY**

(two local municipalities)

Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Formerly:

Township of Albermarle

Township of Amabel

Town of Wiarton

Town of Hepworth

Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

Formerly:

Township of Eastnor

Township of St. Edmunds

Township of Lindsay

Village of Lion's Head

# Operational Performance

## Overview

In addition to the core functions established by the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA), a Memorandum of Understanding between the NEC and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) sets out the current expectations of the NEC:

- Promote the objectives of the NEP and the NEPDA through a variety of communication initiatives.
- Support the province's land use initiatives as set out in the Greenbelt Act, 2005 and the Greenbelt Plan.
- Support the province's Green Energy initiatives, where applicable.
- Support the MNR's Natural Spaces Initiative, where applicable, and co-operate with the MNR and other parks agencies.
- Partner with the MNR, parks agencies and others in the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space (NEPOSS) implementation, land stewardship, research, and communications activities related to promoting and achieving NEP objectives.

## Priorities and Results

The NEC's 'front-line' role as the province's leading environmental land use planning agency aligns with the MNR's priority to: Promote and enhance the protection of natural heritage in southern Ontario.

The NEC is a statutory body that operates at "arms length" from the provincial government in accordance with the NEPDA. Its decisions are made independently and impartially.

As a regulatory agency, the NEC conducts itself according to the management principles of the Government of Ontario, including the principles of ethical behaviour, excellence in management, honest and ethical administration of public funds, professional public service with full accountability, consistency, fairness and courtesy.

The NEC and its staff are committed to leadership in natural heritage awareness and environmentally sustainable land use planning. The NEC is dedicated to program transparency, consistency, and public service that is fair, respectful, balanced and empathetic.

The NEC completed preparations for a new Strategic Plan for the period of 2012 to 2016. Following stakeholder consultation, the Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Commission in the fall of 2012 and approved by the Minister of Natural Resources on January 11, 2013. The Strategic Plan outlines the agency's priorities including the 2015 review of

the Niagara Escarpment Plan, to be coordinated with the reviews of the of the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

The following are the NEC's operational objectives:

*Promote healthy, sustainable ecosystems*

- Ontario's Niagara Escarpment includes three transecting ecosystems. Sustainable planning promotes the preservation of ecologically sensitive areas and habitat for Species at Risk.

*Conserve biodiversity*

- The Niagara Escarpment's protected ecosystems are home to 55 species of mammals, more than 300 species of birds and a significant percentage of Ontario's rare flora.

*Conduct scientific research*

- Ontario's Niagara Escarpment (ONE) Monitoring Program monitors the Escarpment's ecology and applies scientific findings to assess the NEP policies that are set out to preserve the Niagara Escarpment. The NEC has sponsored and encouraged research, environmental monitoring and the development of GIS tools to improve planning, biosphere reserve management, policy review and implementation.

*Develop effective resource management policies*

- NEC initiatives, such as the biennial Leading Edge conference, provide vehicles for the sharing and integration of information of Niagara Escarpment Biosphere research, environmental monitoring and management techniques and stewardship.

*Consider economic opportunities in the resource sector*

- The Niagara Escarpment's economic benefit to Ontario is substantial. The Niagara Escarpment has aggregate resources and rich agricultural lands, as well as vast ecotourism potential related to the natural features and cultural landscape of the Escarpment.

*Enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation*

- The NEC works with the Bruce Trail Conservancy, local conservation authorities and other agencies and stakeholders with similar conservation mandates on the Escarpment, to raise awareness and accessibility to Escarpment recreational activities. The Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space (NEPOSS) System including Bruce Trail and Escarpment Recreation Area designations provide public access and recreation opportunities.

## Niagara Escarpment Plan implementation – overview

- Continue to meet NEPDA responsibilities and implement the NEP, contributing to planning-related initiatives with partner municipalities.
- Continue to work with provincial ministries on matters having shared program and planning interest in the Niagara Escarpment Plan.
- Continue to pursue (and report on) changes in the legislation (NEPDA) and the Development Control (DC) regulations needed to streamline the NEP Amendment and Development Permit processes.
- Continue to modernize and update the Niagara Escarpment Plan to keep Plan policies current and effective.
- Comment on development within Urban, Minor Urban and Escarpment Recreation Area designations of the NEP.
- Contribute to protected spaces objectives by continuing NEC actions related to NEPOSS. • Meet the NEC responsibilities under the Environmental Registry (Instrument Regulation) and provide an electronically-accessible database for public notice and review of Niagara Escarpment Development Permits.
- Continue to develop staff training initiatives and undertake succession planning to strengthen and enhance forward-thinking planning, technology and management skills within the NEC.

## Development Permit activity 2012-2013

The NEC manages the Niagara Escarpment Plan through a permit system that ensures that proposed development within the area of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment is compatible with the Escarpment's sensitive features and associated natural environment.

In addition to considering Niagara Escarpment permit applications and administering the related land use regulations, the NEC also reviews and participates in hearings on applications for severances, subdivisions, aggregate extraction, water-taking, green energy projects, official plans, zoning bylaws, environmental assessments, park management plans, transportation corridors and undertakings by other government agencies, within and adjacent to the NEP Area.

The NEC also assesses and comments on proposed provincial and federal legislation, regulations and policies that have the potential to affect the Niagara Escarpment

New Development Permit Applications opened: 431

Approved Applications: 315

Refused Applications: 6

Permit Application decisions approved/appealed to hearing officer: 20

Permit Application decisions refused/appealed to hearing officer: 3

\*Hearings attended: 7

Development Permits issued: 280

Minister's/hearing officer's decisions: 2

*\*Five hearings carried forward from fiscal 2011-12.*

## Plan Amendments 2012-2013

As part of the administration of the NEP, the NEC processes applications to amend the Plan. Usually, amendments propose site-specific exceptions or refinements to the policies and designations of the Plan. Amendments are approved, rejected or modified by the Minister of Natural Resources or hearing officer or tribunal. From time to time, the NEC itself proposes amendments to update, improve or clarify the Plan.

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Amendments received           | 3  |
| Amendments initiated (by NEC) | 3  |
| Active amendments             | 17 |
| Recommendations to Minister   | 1  |
| Approved by Minister          | 4  |
| Joint Board decisions         | 2  |
| Awaiting Minister's decision  | 1  |
| Withdrawn/Deferred            | 0  |
| **Determined to be Urban Use  | 0  |

\*\* The Greenbelt Act 2005 prohibits the expansion of urban areas and urban uses in the area of the Greenbelt Plan, which includes the Niagara Escarpment Plan area. The expansion of urban areas or uses can only be considered when the Greenbelt Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan are reviewed (scheduled for 2015).

## Plan Amendment Statistics

### Active Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendments 2012-2013

| Amendment |                                     | Date received    | Status                                                                                                         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PH 143 03 | Milton Outlier                      | March 20, 2003   | Under review and discussion with stakeholders                                                                  |
| PG 146 03 | Castle Glen                         | July 17, 2003    | Awaiting outcome of NEPA 175                                                                                   |
| PH 153 04 | Nelson Aggregates Co.               | May 12, 2004     | Hearing concluded Feb. 2012; refused by the Joint Board Oct. 2012                                              |
| PS 161 05 | Walker Aggregates Inc.              | May 16, 2005     | NEC requested judicial review Aug. 2012; hearing concluded April 2013; approved by the Joint Board             |
| PG 167 07 | Harold Sutherland Construction Ltd. | May 22, 2007     | Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) end Dec. 2012; Niagara Escarpment hearing officer report released May 2013 |
| PN 168 07 | Reimer                              | Oct. 24, 2007    | Staff summary report expected spring 2013                                                                      |
| PC 175 08 | NEC – Escarpment Recreation         | Aug. 5, 2008     | Under review and discussion with stakeholders                                                                  |
| PC 178 09 | NEC – Species at Risk               | March 19, 2009   | Under review and discussion with stakeholders                                                                  |
| PW 179 09 | Pleasant View                       | March 19, 2009   | Under review and discussion with stakeholders                                                                  |
| PH 180 09 | Dufferin Quarry (Acton)             | March 19, 2009   | Public and PIAC meetings held; JART report completed<br>Feb. 2013; under review by staff                       |
| PC 183 10 | Significant Woodlands               | March 29, 2010   | Under discussion with stakeholders                                                                             |
| PH 185 10 | Mount Nemo (PERL)                   | July 16, 2010    | Under revision and discussion with stakeholders.                                                               |
| PD 191 11 | LaFarge (former lands)              | January 27, 2011 | Recommending approval; sent to minister Oct. 26, 2011; awaiting minister's decision                            |
| PS 194 12 | Covingtonhouse Investments Inc.     | April 27, 2012   | PIAC meeting held Feb. 2013                                                                                    |
| PW 195 12 | Coverdale Pit                       | Sept. 12, 2012   | Under discussion with stakeholders                                                                             |
| PB 196 13 | Ontario Heritage Trust              | March 28, 2013   | Information report to Commission April 2013                                                                    |

| <b>Amendments approved by Minister</b>     | <b>Date approved by Minister</b>     |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| PG 182 Weinberg                            | April 25, 2012                       |
| PB 193 NEC (EBC)                           | April 25, 2012                       |
| PH 186 Milton Limestone and Hanson Brick   | March 7, 2013                        |
| PB 189 Bruce Trail Conservancy             | March 7, 2013                        |
| <b>Amendments sent to Minister</b>         | <b>Date sent</b>                     |
| PH 186 Milton Limestone and Hanson Brick   | Dec. 14, 2012; recommending approval |
| <b>Found to be Urban Use by Commission</b> |                                      |
| - None -                                   |                                      |
| <b>Closed</b>                              |                                      |
| - None -                                   |                                      |
| <b>Awaiting hearing dates</b>              |                                      |
| PC 178 NEC – Species at Risk               | Deferred for more discussion         |
| <b>Awaiting decision</b>                   | <b>Date sent</b>                     |
| PD 191 Former LaFarge Lands                | Oct. 26, 2011                        |

## **Plan Amendment highlights 2012-13**

### PS 161 05 Walker Aggregates Inc.

To amend the NEP from Escarpment Rural Area to Mineral Resource Extraction Area to permit a quarry expansion.

The decision of the Joint Board in the matter of an application by Walker Aggregates Inc., regarding a proposal to develop and operate a quarry on Lot 25 and Part Lot 26, Concession 12 and Part of Lot 25 Concession 11 in the Township of Clearview, was given on June 18, 2012.

The Joint Board was comprised of three members, two Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) members and one Vice-Chair of the Environmental Review Tribunal. The two OMB members delivered a majority decision to approve the applications required to permit the quarry expansion. The ERT member delivered a dissenting decision.

At its meeting in August 2012, the NEC made a decision to seek a Judicial Review of the Joint Board's decision, on the grounds of legal errors in the decision. The Judicial Review took place on April 25, 2013 and a decision is pending.

### PG 167 07 Harold Sutherland Construction Ltd.

To amend the NEP from Escarpment Rural Area to Mineral Resource Extraction Area on a part of Lots 26, 27 and 28, Concession 10 Township of Georgian Bluffs (formerly Township of Keppel), County of Grey, as shown on Schedule A to permit a below-the-water table quarry. To permit the existing asphalt plant to remain within the existing quarry in Lot 28 until December 31, 2014 and to permit the existing processing plant and other accessory uses to remain in the existing quarry for a period of seven years from issuance of the ARA licence as an exception to the permitted uses of the Mineral Resource Extraction Area designation, and to amend the permitted uses of the Escarpment Rural Area to permit water management and monitoring activities outside the proposed quarry and a conveyor tunnel under County Road 17.

In August 2011, the NEC took the position to support the Amendment application and conditionally approve the Development Permit application with regard to the proposed expansion of the existing Keppel Quarry and the establishment of a new quarry immediately to the west, located in the Township of Georgian Bluffs.

As there were objectors to the Amendment and the decision on the Development Permit application was appealed, a hearing administered by the Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office of the Environmental Review Tribunal was required. In January 2012 a pre-hearing was held and parties were directed to proceed with facilitation in an effort to focus and/or resolve the issues. Numerous meetings took place resulting in the resolution of many issues.

A four-day hearing was convened in December 2012. The hearing officer released his report and recommendation on the applications in May 2013, recommending the applications be approved. This documentation, along with the NEC's position will be submitted to the MNR and/or Cabinet for a final decision.

#### PH 179 09 Pleasant View

The NEC is nearing completion of the processing of Amendment 179 to the NEP. This Amendment will bring approximately 399 hectares (985.95 acres) of sensitive Escarpment lands into the NEP in an area of Hamilton known as the Pleasant View Survey. The addition to the NEP is strongly supported by conservation agencies and the public. The Amendment was authorized through a regulation by the Provincial Cabinet in 2010 with an Order-in-Council. The NEC is currently working with the municipality, agencies, interest groups and landowners to address remaining issues and concerns, to perfect the Amendment so that it can be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources for approval.

#### PH 186 10 Milton Limestone Quarry and Hanson Brick

To amend the Mineral Resource Extraction Area designation of the NEP on the former Milton Limestone Quarry (Kelso Quarry Park) and Hanson Brick lands to Escarpment Natural Area and Escarpment Protection Area to reflect the surrender of the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) licenses which once covered the 71.6- and 90.1-hectare (176.9- and 222.6-acre) properties. The MNR cancelled the licences for Milton Limestone Quarry in July 2006 and Hanson Brick in November 2010 after rehabilitation was deemed complete.

This Amendment modifies Map 4 of the NEP with respect only to these properties. The Kelso Quarry property is now owned by Conservation Halton and will be managed in conjunction with Kelso Conservation Area. Ownership of the Hanson Brick property will be transferred to the Town of Milton as part of a parkland agreement. The Town plans to manage the lands as passive open space. Approved by the minister in March 2013.

#### PS 194 12 Covingtonhouse Investments

To amend the Niagara Escarpment Plan to permit development on the prominent Escarpment slope which includes: the creation of a new lot which is subject of an application for a five-lot residential plan of condominium, associated dwellings, an access road, common open space and related servicing; as an exception to the Development Objectives of the Escarpment Recreation Area designation. The review of this amendment is nearing completion.

#### PW 195 12 Coverdale Pit

To amend the Mineral Resource Extraction Area designation of the NEP on the former gravel pit portion of the Cabai property to a combination of Escarpment Rural Area and Escarpment Natural Area, to reflect the surrender of the Aggregate Resources Act licence which once covered a portion of the 36.9-hectare (91.2-acre) property. The MNR

cancelled the licence for the pit on the property in September 2012. The amendment is under discussion with the land owner.

PB 196 13 Ontario Heritage Trust

To amend the NEP by redesignating Hunter Court and Lots 9-20, Plan 3M-117, from the Escarpment Recreation Area designation to the Escarpment Natural Area designation. The intent is to set aside the lands for permanent conservation notwithstanding the other permitted uses set out in the NEP. The review of this amendment will be initiated in summer 2013.

# Environmental Monitoring

## Forest Biodiversity Monitoring

As part of a larger provincial, national and international network, government, conservation agencies, academic institutions and non-government organizations are undertaking forest biodiversity monitoring in permanent plots within the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. These plots are located in deciduous forest and range in size from one-hectare to 20m x 20m, depending on project objectives and available resources. The purpose of these plots is to collect quantitative data on forest biodiversity, growth, mortality and health to examine change over time.

In August 2012, NEC staff instructed a class of third-year University of Waterloo (UW) Environment and Resource Studies students in the collection of forest biodiversity and tree health monitoring within the Hockley Valley Provincial Nature Reserve. This NEC-UW partnership has been in place since 1996, with annual monitoring occurring at one of five one-hectare plots. Information gathered through this exercise is intended to contribute to evaluating NEP policy effectiveness in protecting core areas of the NEP Area.

## The Escarpment Forest Plot Network

In spring of 2012, organizations involved in forest biodiversity plot monitoring along the Escarpment formalized a group—The Escarpment Forest Plot Network (EFPN)—to provide a forum for discussion and to share knowledge about monitoring protocols, data management, analysis techniques and advances in science related to forest biodiversity. The formation of the EFPN and the plot work helps fulfill one of the key functions of Biosphere Reserves—to provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange.

Coordinated and led by NEC staff, the purpose of the group is:

- i) to facilitate a supportive network and a forum for discussion for those undertaking similar forest biodiversity work within the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve;
- ii) to provide an opportunity for agencies and organizations to work collaboratively to achieve project objectives through sharing information on data collection, analysis and management based on the latest science.

The formation of the group will expand and contribute to the NEC's existing plot network data.

## Re-Sampling of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve

Initiated in 2011, as a partnership project, the second year of a two-year field survey to sample forested vegetation communities along the Niagara Escarpment was completed in 2012. This project aimed to determine if vegetation communities have changed since they were last surveyed in 1979–1981. Some sites visited also have vegetation data

records that were first collected in 1957 by Dr. Paul F. Maycock and again in 1973. Sites revisited were those listed in the Ecological Survey of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve by Riley et al. 1996. In total, 149 sites were sampled over the two field seasons.

Complementary sampling methods were employed at each site, the original Point-Quarter methodology used during the original inventories and a new, plot-based sampling protocol, the Vegetation Survey Protocol. Each sampling methodology captured some aspects of vegetation composition and structure.

Analysis of changes to species composition and structure over the 1957–2012 time period collected will contribute to assessment of the effectiveness of the land use protection designations in the NEP and may contribute to the 2015 Plan Review. A total of 434 plant species were recorded along the Escarpment, including a number of invasive species. Four invasive species are of particular concern: two herbaceous species, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and coltsfoot (*Tussilago Farfara*), and two medium-sized shrubs, common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*).

With this data in hand, the types of vegetation present spatially north to south, as well as vertically by elevation on the Niagara Escarpment are confirmed. Detailed observations on individual stands have been recorded. The project also collected data on species at risk, which has contributed to the MNR's Natural Heritage Information Centre database. A database has been developed which will support data management and analysis.

#### Regionally Significant Life Sciences Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest project

The NEP includes policies to protect the values of both Provincially and Regionally Significant Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). Building upon the methodology developed and undertaken by the ONE Monitoring Program to review change over time for Provincially Significant Life Science ANSIs, a project has been initiated to conduct GIS landscape-level analysis of Regionally Significant Life Sciences ANSIs. The purpose is to assess if, where and what type of development has been permitted by the NEP within these ANSIs.

Development outside the NEP but within Regionally Significant Life Science ANSIs located inside the greater Niagara Escarpment Planning Area is also being examined as part of this exercise for inside/outside the NEP comparisons. The project requires a comparison of historic and recent aerial photos for permitted development which is near completion.

# The Niagara Escarpment Parks & Open Space System (NEPOSS)

The Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS) consists of more than 143 publicly-owned parks and open spaces acquired to protect the Escarpment's natural and cultural heritage. Largely connected by the Bruce Trail, lands within the System are owned by a number of partner agencies including the Ministry of Natural Resources, conservation authorities, Ontario Heritage Trust, the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The NEPOSS agencies are responsible for managing public land on the Niagara Escarpment and for developing and supporting NEPOSS initiatives and programs.

The NEPOSS Council is organized to advance the NEPOSS objectives identified in the Niagara Escarpment Plan. It was created in recognition of the need to foster dialogue on NEPOSS issues and improve communication, shared resources and coordinated action among various NEPOSS agencies. The Council provides advice to the MNR and the NEC on NEPOSS policies and programs and brings awareness to Council issues, and is comprised of public park and natural space agencies that own and/or manage land in the NEPOSS. The Council strives to maintain a membership that has strong geographic representation to ensure the diverse needs of the park agencies are met. Both the MNR and NEC staff serve as non-voting advisors.

Two major objectives of the NEPOSS are to complete a system of publicly-owned parks and open spaces and to secure a permanent route for the Bruce Trail through additional land acquisition. In 2012, two parks were added to NEPOSS: (1) Short Hills Nature Sanctuary (18-hectare nature reserve park) in Niagara Region, which is owned by the Hamilton Naturalists' Club; and (2) Campbellville Pond Conservation Area (1.6-hectare Escarpment Access park), which is located in Halton Region and owned by Conservation Halton. In addition, the Bruce Trail Conservancy acquired five properties—Songbird Nature Reserve, Cedar Springs Woods, Fairmount Wetland, Kimberley Springs and Pinnacle Rock—totalling 118 hectares which increased the proportion of Escarpment lands under public owner ship. Several other agencies acquired lands to expand existing park boundaries.

Additional NEPOSS highlights include:

- The Hamilton Naturalists' club was approved as a Conservation Organization under the NEP.
- NEC and MNR staff worked with agencies, including Conservation Halton and the Hamilton Conservation Authority, to undertake master planning exercises for some of their conservation areas.
- The NEPOSS Council met on several occasions to discuss park activities and management issues. The MNR sponsored and coordinated NEPOSS Council workshops on topics including: Sustainable Trail Design (International Mountain Biking Association Canada); Enforcement (Environment Canada); and Risk Management and Recreation Lands (Municipal Risk Services Ltd.).

## Compliance and Enforcement

The NEC's compliance officer is responsible for addressing land use compliance matters under the Niagara Escarpment Planning & Development Act (NEPDA). The compliance officer deals with public complaints and works with other regulatory agencies (municipal, regional, conservation authorities, provincial and federal) in carrying out inspections on approved Development Permits. In addition, the compliance officer provides direction and informs Escarpment landowners and contractors about the application processes for development within the NEP. As a Provincial Offences Officer, the NEC compliance officer has the authority to issue Part 1 offence notices.

Provincial Offences (tickets) issued: 6

Provincial Offence Court Issued fines: 2

Total fines: \$20,190.

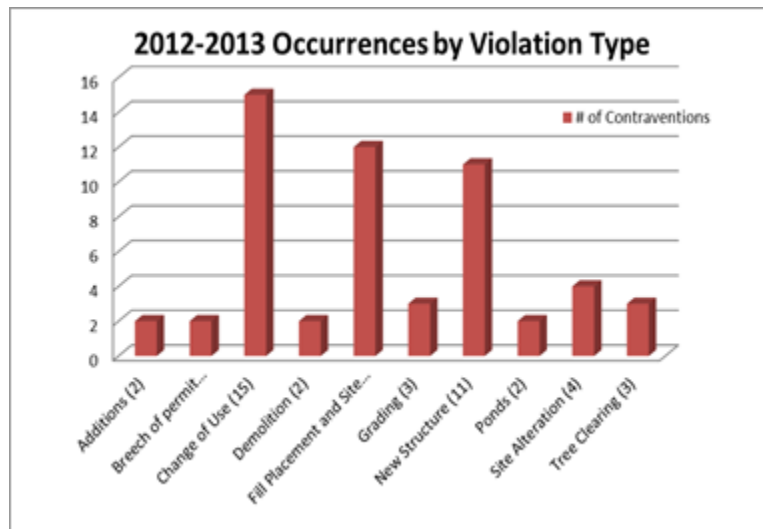
Contraventions (by-year comparison): 2008–2009 = 86

2009–2010 = 90

2010–2011 = 92

2011–2012 = 75

2012–2013 = 57



# Park Plans, Environmental Assessments, Transportation Master Plans and Official Plans

NEC staff led or participated in the following processes during the 2012-13 fiscal year:

- Cheltenham Badlands Management Plan
- Mount Nemo Conservation Area Master Plan
- Hilton Falls Conservation Area Master Plan
- Crawford Lake Conservation Area Master Plan
- Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area Master Plan
- Len Gertler Memorial Loree Forest
- CVCA Recreation Project – Terra Cotta Conservation Area and Terra Cotta Forest
- Niagara Parks Commission "Draft" Land Mgmt Strategy
- New NEPOSS Manual
- Database for tracking status of NEPOSS Management Plans
- Management Plan Review for Bruce Peninsula National Park
- Kolapore Uplands Management Strategy
- Vinemount and Winona Conservation Area – Llewellyn Smith lands
- Spencer Gorge – Webster's Falls Conservation Area Master Plan
- Mount Albion Master Plan
- Churchill Park Master Plan (City of Hamilton)
- Ken Whillans Management Plan
- Belfountain Conservation Area Management Plan
- St. Lawrence Seaway – name change and mapping update
- Lowville Park Master Plan
- Donated Paletta lands to Hamilton Conservation Authority – added to NEPOSS
- Application for Conservation Organization Status – Hamilton Naturalist Club
- Application for Conservation Organization Status – Nature Conservancy Canada
- Delphi Point – addition of lands
- Letter to NEPOSS Council re: Intensive recreational uses and commercialization in NEPOSS
- Letter to NEPOSS Council re: mountain biking
- Addition of Campbellville Pond Conservation Area (Escarpment Access Park) to NEPOSS
- Addition of Short Hills Nature Sanctuary (Nature Reserve) to NEPOSS
- Ontario's Protected Spaces Planning Guidelines, MNR

## Environmental Assessments and Transportation Master Plans

- Alton Class Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Castle Glen Class EA
- Blue Mountains servicing
- Transportation Master Plan Review (Trinity Neighbourhood)
- MNR Credit River Trout Barrier
- Dundas Street, Halton
- GTA West
- Halton Hills Transportation Master Plan
- Hwy 5/6 interchange
- Niagara to GTA Corridor
- Waterdown Road
- Lindsay Court Well, Halton Hills
- EIS - 6444 Cedar Springs Road
- City of Hamilton Rapid Transit Initiative
- Glendale/QEW/405 Transportation EA
- Mississauga Road Class EA
- City of Hamilton Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan – Municipal Class EA
- Scoped EIS: Ark Property – Appleby Line
- Scoped EIA for a property along Rockcliffe Rd. (100 Sunnycroft) in Waterdown (City of Hamilton)
- Hwy 6/10 Upgrade (Owen Sound Chatsworth)
- Hwy 7 and 22 Sideroad, Halton Hills
- Woodend Conservation Area District School Board of Niagara, Niagara on the Lake, ON EIS
- Rothsay Ave. Stormwater Management (Hamilton)
- Niagara Region Truck Route (Niagara Region)
- Mountain Park Ave. Bridge EA (Hamilton)
- Decew Falls Water Treatment Plant EA
- City of Hamilton Greenhill Ave. Storm Class EA Report

## Official Plans, Zoning and Municipal Reviews

- Kerbel, Meyer & Meyer Official Plan Amendment (OPA)
- Grimsby Official Plan (OP)
- Sherwood Survey OPA, Zon, Subdivision
- Havens Subdivision, OPA, Zon
- Roitman - OPA, Zon, Condo
- Waterdown Secondary Plan and Subwatershed Study
- Eagle Heights OPA, Subdivision
- Hamilton Rural OP
- Halton ROPA 38
- Kaneff Properties Ltd. OPA/Rezoning (Caledon)
- Camperdown OPA
- Melancthon OPA (Prime Agriculture)
- Terrasan Developments OPA, Zone, Subdivision
- Halton ROPA 38 Guidelines
- City of St. Catharines OP
- Niagara-on-the-Lake OP
- Grey County Official Plan – Five-year Review
- Simcoe County Official Plan – Five-year Review
- Bruce County Official Plan – Five-year Review
- Town of The Blue Mountains OP – Five-year Review
- Municipality of Meaford Official Plan – Five-year Review
- Georgian Bluffs Official Plan (new municipal
- Township of Chatsworth Zoning – Development Control Removal – Walter's Falls MUC
- Talisman Condo
- Georgian Gate OPA, Zoning, Subdivision
- Ancaster Wilson Street Secondary Plan
- Craighleith Ski Club Condominium
- Beaver Valley Woodlands Subdivision
- Thom Construction Subdivision
- East Mountain Estates Subdivision
- Georgian Woodlands Subdivision
- Georgian Bay Estates Subdivision
- Consent Appeal (Lesaliniuks and Kirsteins)
- Town of Milton zoning bylaw
- Town of Milton Education Village Secondary Plan
- Medallion Properties, 195 Wellington St. S., Hamilton (zoning)
- Vetco Holdings Inc., 467 Charlton Ave. E., Hamilton (OPA and zoning)
- 200 Forest Ave., Hamilton (zoning)
- City of Burlington OP review
- City of Owen Sound OP – Five-year Review
- Osler Bluff Ski Club ZBA (reservoir)
- Osler Bluff Ski Club ZBA (maintenance building)
- Eden Oak – Indian Valley Subdivision
- Milton Heights

OP)

- Town of The Blue Mountains Zoning
- Town of Mono OPAs 35, 36, 37
- Town of Pelham OPA – Five-year Review
- Niagara Region Regional Policy Plan Amendment

## Engagement highlights 2012-13

Niagara Escarpment Achievement Awards – Celebrating projects and people in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area  
The NEC's biennial Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award series, established in 1987, recognizes individuals and groups for outstanding initiatives undertaken in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, including wetland restorations, park enhancement projects, land stewardship, and lifelong contributions to the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve.

Nominations for the Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award or Lifetime Achievement Award are submitted to the NEC by members of the public, conservation authorities, Niagara Escarpment Commissioners and staff, project neighbours, and provincial government representatives and are evaluated based on their compatibility with the NEP vision and support of Biosphere Reserve objectives.

Since its inception in 1987, the program has recognized community associations, schools, individuals, architects and volunteer groups for completing projects that have restored environmentally sensitive areas, demonstrated exceptional visual and environmental design principles, enhanced Escarpment landscapes and stewardship of the Niagara Escarpment.

The Niagara Escarpment Lifetime Achievement Award is a special component of the series, and is awarded to deserving individuals and groups for exceptional leadership and contributions to the Niagara Escarpment. Past winners have included the University of Guelph's Cliff Ecology Research Group, Malcolm "Mac" Kirk, Robert Bateman and Dr. Walter Massey Tovell.

Proposed candidates are assessed by NEC staff based on the environmental policies and criteria of the Niagara Escarpment Plan, and the objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. A candidate short list is brought forward for consideration by the Commission and selected recipients are contacted by NEC staff. In 2012, eight candidates received Achievement Awards:

### Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award winners:

1. The students of West Hill Secondary School (Owen Sound) and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority for Operation Green Sweep at the West Rocks Conservation Area.
2. Derek Ham (owner) and Jamie Douglas (architect) for the design of a residence in Clearview Township.
3. Allan Clarke and Jacqueline Tilford for the sensitive development and stewardship of their property in Mulmur Township.
4. The Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of Bethell Hospice in the Town of Caledon for their overall site design, development and program facilitating patient and caregiver access to the Niagara Escarpment.

5. Trout Unlimited Canada and the City of Burlington for their rehabilitation of Bronte Creek in Lowville Park.
6. Douglas and Sharon Leavens for their stewardship and sensitive development over many years on their property in Pelham, Ontario.

Niagara Escarpment Lifetime Achievement Award candidates:

7. Dr. Greg Michalenko, Assistant Professor Emeritus, University of Waterloo's Environment and Resource Studies, in recognition of his 16 years of collaboration with the NEC on the Forest Biodiversity Monitoring on the Escarpment program. His commitment and enthusiasm in carrying out this program led to successful long-term collaboration between the university and the NEC.
8. Lyn MacMillan in recognition of her stewardship, dedication to environmental ideals, advocacy for the creation of the Niagara Escarpment Plan and success in promoting Ontario's Niagara Escarpment with the creation of the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment.

Niagara Escarpment Plan Review

The NEC has commenced its preparatory work for the 2015 review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan as required under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA). This Review is being coordinated with the review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan. The NEC has approved the preparatory background research of 17 topics related to the NEP. These include, but are not limited to possible land use mapping updates, improvements to policies governing ground and surface water, policies to encourage modern agriculture, consideration of aggregate extraction standards and rehabilitation, the issue of fill and its acceptability, urban expansion and related growth pressures, the need for second-dwelling units and the development of the Escarpment's parks and open space system. Working with other provincial ministries, municipalities, conservation agencies and the public, over the next two years the NEC will consider potential changes to the NEP. The objective is to have a set of NEC recommendations ready to submit to the Minister of Natural Resources in 2015. The minister will then be able to consider this advice and determine which matters are made part of the NEP review for the purpose of formal public consultation.

Niagara Escarpment UNESCO Biosphere Reserve 10-year review

A 10-year periodic review of the Niagara Escarpment's United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designation as World Biosphere Reserve commenced in 2012. The review examined the activities in the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve in relation to the goals of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program. This is the second periodic review for the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve (NEBR) since the designation in 1990. The first review was carried out in 2002.

The Review provided an opportunity to highlight and share the numerous successes and accomplishments of Biosphere Reserve partners over the past 10-year period, while identifying areas that we may wish to develop and strengthen in the years ahead. The Review process engaged a diverse array of partners in the NEBR in an exercise to identify and evaluate initiatives that have taken place since 2002.

The purpose of the periodic review was:

- a) to update information on the changes to and within a Biosphere Reserve region, and in the governance processes and activities that correspond with MAB objectives;
- b) to reflect on the successes and challenges of the Biosphere Reserve partner organizations in meeting MAB objectives;
- c) to identify strategic priorities and actions for the next 10 years, for both the Biosphere Reserve under review and the Canada-MAB committee; and,
- d) to help UNESCO-MAB determine whether the Biosphere Reserve continues to meet the criteria of a functional Biosphere Reserve.

The Review process commenced with the preparation of a 'self-study' document which was prepared and submitted by the NEC on behalf of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO on June 30, 2012. The self-study served as the first and key contribution to the final Review document. The self-study highlighted changes to the land area of the Biosphere Reserve, habitat and ecosystem health, and communications and partnership initiatives. The periodic review process in Canada is undertaken in collaboration between reviewers selected by the Canada-MAB committee and local Biosphere Reserve practitioners.

The review team visited the NEBR from Niagara to Tobermory for three days, hosted by NEC staff. Throughout the site visit, which included sites from north to south across the Escarpment, the review team met with groups of individuals in an informal dialogue in order to validate information provided in the self-study and to review how the Biosphere Reserve is pursuing the three functions of conservation, sustainability and logistics required of a Biosphere Reserve, with a focus on the activities that have been undertaken since the last Periodic Review in 2002.

The final Periodic Review report prepared by the reviewers identifies the main conclusion that "...the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve definitely merits continued membership in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves." The reviewers provided a number of recommendations to pursue based on the findings of the Review. The recommendations are classified under the categories of Governance, Awareness Building and Zonation. The Final Periodic Review Report has been submitted to the UNESCO for final review and approvals. The UNESCO will make the final determination on the status of the biosphere reserve designation and the Reviewers' recommendations in 2014.

#### Niagara Escarpment Commission permit system improvement

In November 2012 the Development Permit regulation (O. Reg. 828) was amended by the Minister of Natural Resources to improve, modernize and streamline the administration of the Niagara Escarpment Permit System. This update was consistent with the provincial government's general initiative to modernize approvals, be more efficient, provide cost-effective service and reduce unnecessary regulatory processes. The NEC had been championing such improvements on the basis of its experience with the operation of the Regulation over a significant period of time. The revised and improved Regulation has expanded the range of land use and development exemptions and clarified the wording and the meaning of certain terminology. This now means that certain additional 'routine' or 'minor' approvals will no longer require NEC approvals if specified conditions are met, which ensures that natural resources associated with the Escarpment continue to be managed sustainably.

## Performance Measures

| Targets          | Measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Results                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Public Access    | <p>Provide Accessible public service; respond to public and client inquiries in a timely manner.</p> <p>Provide relevant informational application guidelines, maps, publications, and application forms to customers and stakeholders.</p>                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelve public Commission meetings were held this fiscal year (including two policy meetings).</li> <li>• The NEC provided accessible hours of customer service, and responded to requests for information in a timely manner with a first response to telephone and email inquiries within 24 hours.</li> <li>• Written inquiries were addressed within two weeks of receipt.</li> <li>• Current guidelines, maps and applications were provided to clients and the public in both electronic and printed formats.</li> <li>• 55,073 visits to the NEC website with 20,107 page views of the Plan Maps section.</li> <li>• In addition to electronically available materials, 19,648 informational publications were circulated.</li> </ul> |
| Customer Service | <p>Ensure timely customer service, following the processing requirements of the NEPDA, in processing Development Permit and Amendment Applications.</p> <p>Ensure timely customer service in responding to requests for comments from external stakeholders and for compliance and enforcement related matters.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processing of Development Permit Applications and Plan Amendment Applications was performed in a timely manner, factoring staff resources and application timelines that include commenting periods of external agencies.</li> <li>• Review of municipal Official Plans, zoning by-laws and consents took place within the specified due dates.</li> <li>• Compliance and enforcement matters were addressed within 24 hours of notification.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                   |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Service Standards | Apply appropriate Government of Ontario standards of service to maintain ethical and fair business practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission meetings are open to the public. Applicants are provided opportunities to address the Commission in writing and in person.</li> <li>• Applications reviewed by the NEC were considered in conformity with policies of the Niagara Escarpment Plan.</li> <li>• Plan amendments are posted on the NEC website (escarpment.org) and on the Environmental Registry (EBR) for public review.</li> </ul> |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Financial Summary

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| <b>Approved Budget</b> |                    | <b>Actual Expenditures</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Salaries               | \$1,735,122        | \$1,658,665                |
| Employee Benefit       | 242,513            | 211,417                    |
| Litigation             | 110,000            | 7,146                      |
| Commissioners          | 155,000            | 173,221                    |
| Operating Budget       | 166,227            | 219,091                    |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$2,408,862</b> | <b>\$2,269,540</b>         |

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# Niagara Escarpment - Ontario's Natural Edge

*A World Biosphere Reserve*

