NEW RESOLVE
PRESERVING PRETTY RIVER PROVINICAL PARK

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MAJOR ISSUES

• 1/WHY IS THE PRETTY RIVER PROVINICAL PARK UNIQUE?

• 2/HOW WAS PRETTY RIVER PARK PROTECTED IN THE PAST?

• 3/IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GIBRALTAR PIT EXPANSION POSE AN ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL THREAT TO THE PARK?

• 4/WHAT ARE THE POLICY OPTIONS FOR THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS?
Proposed Application:
To Change the Official Plan
To Re-Zone
PRETTY RIVER AS NODAL PARK

• SPECIAL CATEGORY: ONLY 9 CREATED IN 1985
• DISTINCITVE FEATURES OF THE ESCARPMENT IN THE 10 MAJOR REGIONS OF THE 725 KM AREA
• ORIENTATION: PARK ACTIVITIES, AND POINTS OF INTERESTS
• EDUCATION: NATURAL AND CULTURAL VALUES
• INTERPRETATION: AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS; ) ROLE IN UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE SYSTEM
• ONLY NODAL PARK IN GEORGIAN BAY TRIANGLE
PROTECTION FOR ESCARPMENT PARKS

• PRETTY RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK IS PART OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PARK SYSTEM (160)

• ONLY SUCH DEVELOPMENT OCCURS AS IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

• SHARED STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES: NEC AND LOCAL GOVT.
• LAND USE RESTRICTIONS ON AGGREGATE EXTRACTION
OTHER PROTECTIVE FACTORS

• HIGH STATUS AS BIOSPHERE PARK—FEATURED IN TEN YEAR UNESCO REVIEW (2022—NEW FORMAT)

• ACCEPTED PRACTICE OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOT TO LOCATE GRAVEL PITS NEXT TO PROVINCIAL PARKS

• PRETTY RIVER PARK POTENTIAL AS CATALYST FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY AND ECOTOURISM IN TOBM
ToBM OFFICIAL PLAN AND GREEN OPTIONS

• “THE OVERALL INTENT TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE...[AND] SUPPORT THE TOURISM AND RECREATION SECTOR IN THE TOWN”

• “REINFORCE KEY POLICIES IN THE OFFICIAL PLAN THAT HAVE WORKED WELL...DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE RIGHT PLACES”

• “BASED ON THE PROMINENCE OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT THE TOWN SERVES AS A FOUR SEASONS RECREATIONAL AND TOURIST DESTINATION “

• “MINIMIZE THE TOWN’S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT AND THE IMPACTS OF GROWTH BY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT THAT IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.”
MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH EXPANSION

• REMOVAL OF TRADITIONAL BUFFER FROM EXISTING EDEN OAKS PIT

• PLANS TO CLEAR-CUT REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT FOREST (4 HA.) AND FRAGMENT PRETTY RIVER BASED FOREST SYSTEM

• DISRUPT WILDLIFE CORRIDOR-THREAT TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

• NEW PIT OBSTRUCT ACCESS TO PRETTY RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK

• CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF LONG TERM AGGREGATE MINING
ARGUMENTS AGAINST EXPANSION

• MAJOR FLAWS IN STAFF REPORT PRS-18-18 REMAIN UNRESOLVED

• LACK OF EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE MHBC CLAIMS ABOUT AGENCY ENDORSEMENTS FOR PIT EXPANSION

• MHBC TECHNICAL REPORTS REMAIN UNCHALLENGED BY OUTSIDE EXPERTS

• NARROW FOCUS ON LEGAL ISSUES NOT WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY

• EFFECTIVE PEER REVIEW—Sufficient Doubt Proponent Demonstrated “NO UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT.”

• “THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS BORN BY THE PROPONENT”

• MYTH OF INTERIM USE: “ IMPLIES THAT LAND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SAME USE ...DURING A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.” (Gord Miller)

• PROTECT SPECIES AT RISK –-(2008 Act) ANIMALS, BIRDS, AMPHIBIANS, PLANTS S

• CELEBRATE NATURE HERITAGE TREASURES SUCH AS MOUNT NEMO (BURLINGTON ESCARPMENT)
NO MAJOR ECONOMIC ASSET IN DEVELOPING SUBJECT LANDS (GIBRALTAR PIT)

• GRAVEL OF MARGINAL QUALITY—MANY LOCAL SUPPLIERS
• COMPANY’S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION TO THE ToBM RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT
• GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION AGAINST BELOW THE WATER-TABLE EXTRACTION

• ECOMOMIC BENEFITS OF ECOTOURISM FAR GREATER

IN 2018 OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY IN THE US GENERATED MORE THAN $367 BILLION-EXCEEDING COMBINED TOTAL FOR RESOURCE SECTOR (OIL, GAS, MINERALS, LUMBER).
FUNDAMENTAL GOALS

• SAVE SIGNIFICANT WOODLANDS AND PRESERVE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

• ENSURE ECOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES

• PROVIDE AREA FOR GATEWAY TO PRETTY RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK (FUTURE VISITORS-RECREATIONAL CENTRE)

* PROVIDE A MODEL FOR CREATIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE RESOURCE SECTOR AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY
SUMMARY

• 1/THE PRETTY RIVER PROVINICAL PARK IS AN SPECIAL PART OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE RESERVE

• 2/THE PRETTY RIVER PARK HAS BEEN A PROTECTED NODAL PARK SINCE 1973—KEY ROLE IN LOCAL ECOTOURISM

• 3/GIBRALTAR PIT EXPANSION A SERIOUS ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL THREAT TO THE OPERATION OF THE PR PARK WITH LITTLE ECONOMIC BENEFIT

• 4/THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS MUST NOT ESTABLISH THE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT—THAT GRAVEL PITS CAN ENCROACH ON ESCARPMENT NODAL PARKS