

Cultural Heritage Landscape Study & Inventory of the Township of Centre Wellington - Volume 1

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Executive Summary

The Township of Centre Wellington retained Archaeological Services Inc. (A.S.I.) in collaboration with The Landplan Studio Inc. and Fotenn Planning + Design to undertake a Cultural Heritage Landscape Study and Inventory of the Township. Centre Wellington is a community in southwestern Ontario with a rich geological and cultural history with many sites of provincial or national significance. The Township was formed in 1999 through an amalgamation of the Town of Fergus, the Village of Elora, and portions of Nichol, Pilkington, West Garafraxa, and Eramosa Townships. The Grand River, which is recognized as a Canadian Heritage River, is at the heart of the Township. The Grand River and its major tributaries are recognized for their deep cultural history and outstanding recreational opportunities.

The Cultural Heritage Landscape Study and Inventory was initiated to identify, evaluate, inventory, and map significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes (C.H.L.s) throughout the Township. The Township of Centre Wellington has taken a proactive approach to protecting properties of cultural heritage value or interest through their Heritage Register which includes 1,049 properties. This study makes recommendations for identified significant C.H.L.s and the ongoing identification and evaluation of areas which may be recognized as C.H.L.s in the future.

The study was undertaken in three key phases and included a community and Indigenous engagement program. This study has resulted in the recommendation that 18 areas be considered significant C.H.L.s. The areas range in scale and age from the Grand River Corridor which extends the width of the township and represents thousands of years of human activity to the Churchill Crescent Neighbourhood which developed in the post-Second World War period and

demonstrates the continued growth of the village of Fergus before being incorporated as a town. Overall, the significant C.H.L.s have cultural heritage value, retain historical integrity, and have distinct community value.

Study recommendations are made for the short, medium and long-term. Recommendations for the short-term are:

- That the Township of Centre Wellington Council endorse the Inventory of Cultural Heritage Landscapes.
- That the Township of Centre Wellington collaborate with Wellington County to determine if any of the Significant C.H.L.s are regionally significant.
- That the Township of Centre Wellington staff utilize the information contained in this study to inform the prioritization of technical studies and other initiatives.
- That the Inventory of Cultural Heritage Landscapes be made publicly available as a means of celebrating the unique identity of the township, to further foster the current culture of conservation and cultural heritage appreciation of these places.

Recommendations for the medium and long-term relate to the initiation of technical studies towards the ongoing conservation of these significant places, the ongoing identification of C.H.L.s, and collaboration with the Grand River Conservation Authority (G.R.C.A.) for the ongoing stewardship of properties in their ownership.

1.0 Introduction

The Township of Centre Wellington was formed in 1999 with the amalgamation of the Town of Fergus, the Village of Elora, and portions of Nichol, Pilkington, West Garafraxa, and Eramosa Townships. Despite its recent formation, Centre Wellington has a rich history that dates back thousands of years and is filled with unique cultural, archaeological, and natural features.

The Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River, forms the heart and backbone of Centre Wellington. The Township is further characterized by a broad range of spaces and places that form the hallmarks of the municipality, that contribute to the character of the different communities within the Township, and are places for tourism, environmental stewardship, recreation, community collaboration, and remembrance. The Township is distinguished by historical downtowns as well as historical rural landscapes, dramatic geological features as well as streetscapes of limestone buildings, mill ruins as well as more recent industrial complexes, accounts of Mississauga encampments as well as early Black settlement, among many others. These spaces and places create a type of heritage form called a C.H.L., one that is distinctive from that of its constituent parts.

The Township of Centre Wellington is committed to protecting and celebrating its heritage for generations to come. As part of this commitment, the Township of Centre Wellington retained Archaeological Services Inc. (A.S.I.), in collaboration with the Landplan Studio Inc., and Fotenn Planning + Design to undertake a C.H.L. study and inventory in order to identify, evaluate, inventory, and map significant C.H.L.s in Centre Wellington. This study represents an initial step in conserving significant C.H.L.s as required by provincial, regional, and municipal policy.

Building on an extensive public and Indigenous engagement process, the project was completed in three phases. Phase 1, which was conducted in the

summer of 2019, focused on the review of background information and development of a preliminary list of Candidate C.H.L.s. This phase included the development of an analytical framework to guide the study, as well as general background research and fieldwork. Phase 2 of the project, which was conducted over the fall and winter of 2019, focused on the development of the final list of Candidate C.H.L.s. This phase included more focused historical research and field survey. Phase 3, completed in autumn 2020, focused on evaluation and reporting. Candidate C.H.L.s were evaluated and significant C.H.L.s were inventoried and mapped, and recommendations for

next steps were developed.

This report includes the results of the inventory work, including:

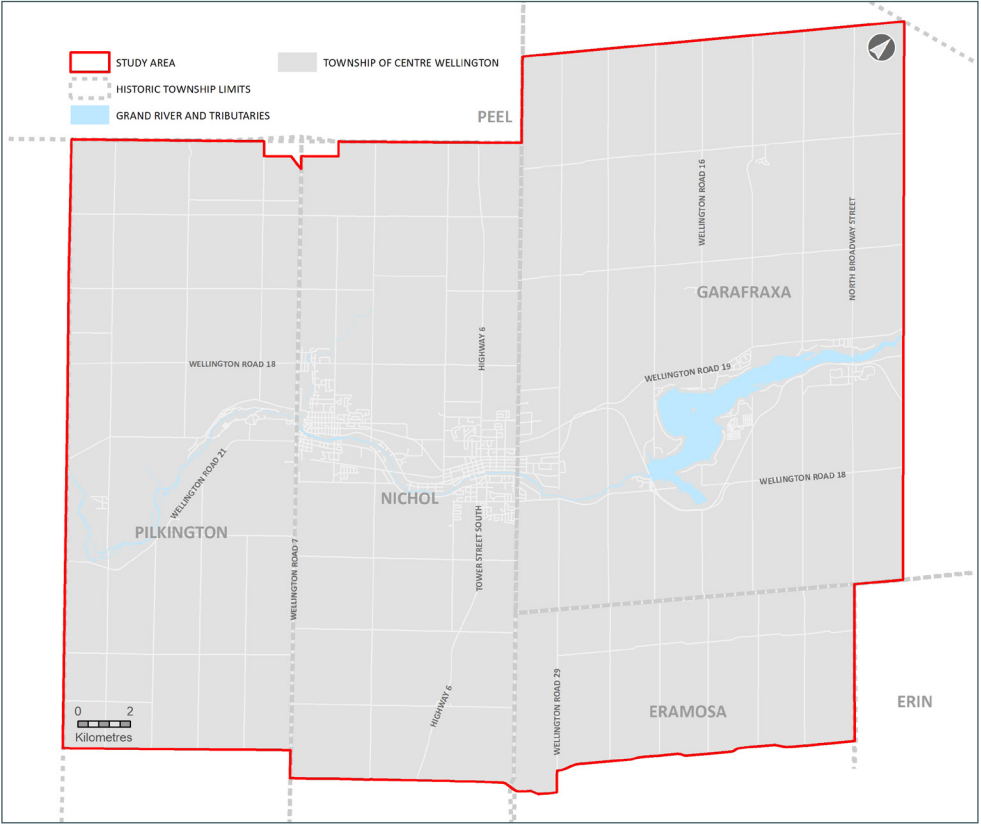
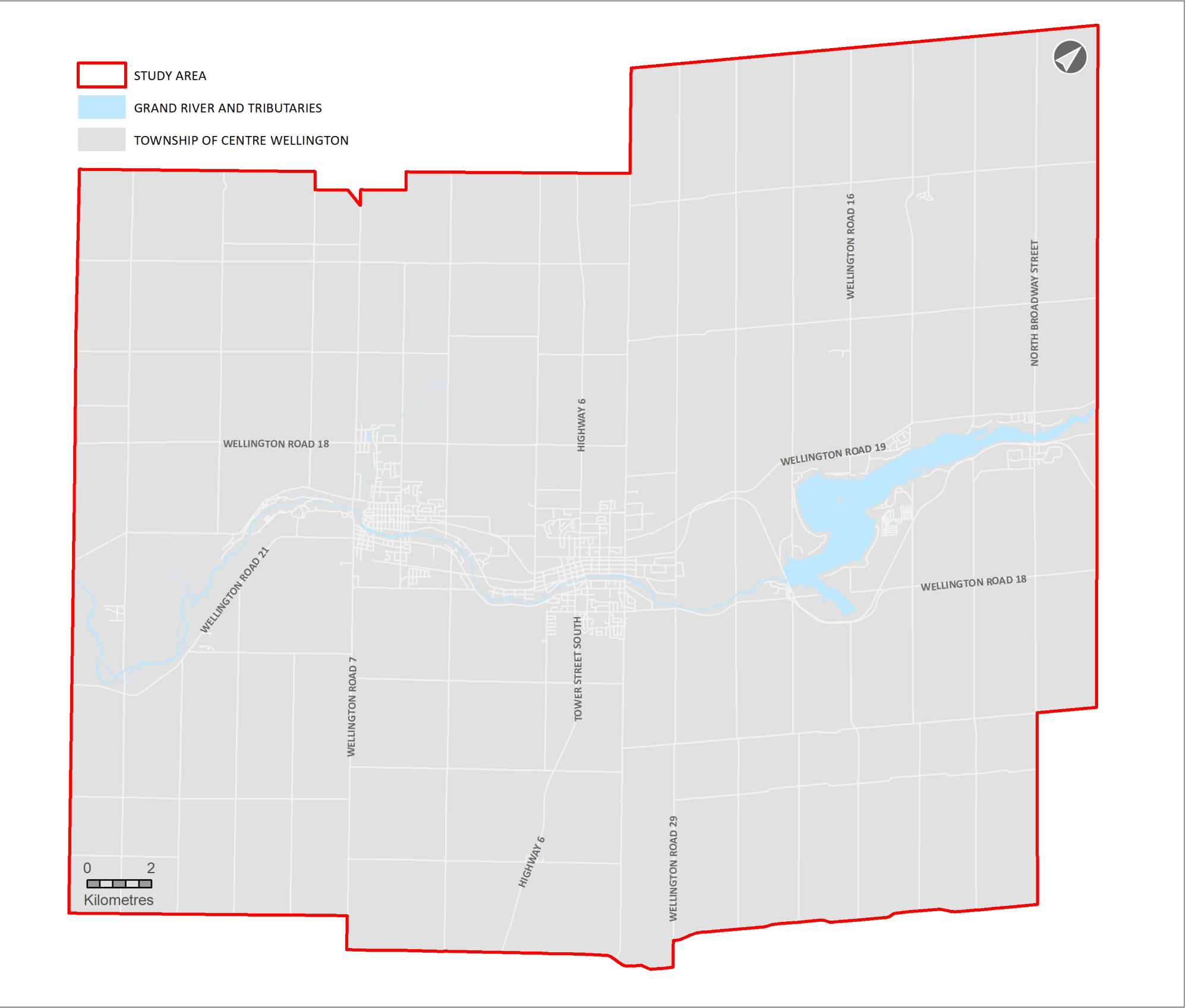
- Context and Policy Framework for Cultural Heritage Landscapes (Section 2.0)
- Methodology and Approach (Section 3.0)
- Thematic Heritage Framework (Section 4.0)
- Local Factors Influencing the Formation of Cultural Heritage Landscapes (Section 5.0)
- Conclusions and Next Steps (Section 6.0)
- Recommendations (Section 7.0)

1.1 Study Purpose

This study identifies, evaluates, inventories, and maps significant C.H.L.s located in the Township of Centre Wellington. While the inventory itself does not protect C.H.L.s or their component cultural heritage resources or attributes, the study provides recommendations on priorities for conservation. This will provide the Township with a starting point for subsequent studies and initiatives that will determine how best to conserve and celebrate the identified significant C.H.L.s. These subsequent studies and initiatives will be developed to address the specific needs of the C.H.L. and will be subject to public consultation and Council approval.

Through public consultation, the project was also intended to facilitate an exchange of information and promote awareness between members of the public and Township staff about the existence and importance of C.H.L.s in Centre Wellington.

Phase 1
Development of Analytical Framework
Background Research and Fieldwork
Preliminary List of Candidate Cultural Heritage Landscapes
Open House and Community Workshops
Phase 2
Historical Research
Field Review
Final List of Candidate Cultural Heritage Landscapes
Open House
Phase 3
Evaluation and Inventory
Development of Recommendations
Reporting



Left: Township of Centre Wellington, study area corresponds with Township limits, top: the Township of Centre Wellington is comprised of portions of the former Townships of Pilkington, Nichol, Garafraxa and Eramosa.



2.0 Context and Policy Framework for Cultural Heritage Landscapes

Considerations of C.H.L.s in land use and infrastructure planning is a requirement of provincial, regional, and municipal policy. The Provincial Policy Statement (P.P.S.) and the County of Wellington Official Plan require that significant C.H.L.s be conserved. The County's Official Plan also commits to working with area municipalities to identify and implement protection measures for their significant C.H.L.s. Reflecting this planning framework, the Township of Centre Wellington Official Plan provides a framework for the identification of significant C.H.L.s.

The following sections provide more detailed information regarding specific C.H.L. policies, guidelines, and definitions.

2.1 Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statement

The Planning Act (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 1990) and related P.P.S. (2020) make several provisions relating to heritage conservation (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2020).¹ One of the objectives of the Planning Act is to integrate matters of provincial interest in provincial and municipal planning decisions. Matters of provincial interest shall be regarded when certain authorities, including the council of a municipality, carry out their responsibilities under the Planning Act. One of the matters of provincial interest is:

2.(d) the conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest

The P.P.S. provides for land-use policy direction across Ontario, requiring that communities across Ontario are healthy, livable, and safe. Generally, the P.P.S. recognizes and highlights the important links

between all matters related to land use planning, including growth and cultural heritage, and provides for policies to manage growth in the context of these other matters.

Section 1.2 of the P.P.S. requires that a coordinated approach to planning must be used when dealing with planning matters within municipalities, including but not limited to managing cultural heritage resources.

Section 1.7 of the P.P.S. encourages long-term economic prosperity in Ontario, including encouraging a sense of place by promoting well-designed built form and cultural planning, and by conserving features that help define character, including built heritage resources and C.H.L.s.

Those policies of relevance for the conservation of heritage features are contained in Section 2- Wise Use and Management of Resources, wherein Subsection 2.6 - Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resources, makes the following provisions:

2.6.1 Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved.

2.2 County of Wellington Official Plan

Through their Official Plan (County of Wellington 2019), the County of Wellington commits itself to promoting land use decisions which protects natural and cultural heritage, while providing an economically strong, healthy and socially responsible community (2.1.5).

Section 4.1 of the Official Plan outlines policies which, in conjunction with the O.H.A., provides a framework for the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage resources in Wellington County, including built heritage, C.H.L.s, and archaeological resources. The County states that "significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved" (4.1.5 a).

Specifically, in regard to the identification of C.H.L.s:

4.1.5 c) Wellington County will work with its local municipalities to identify cultural heritage landscapes. The identification of significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be implemented through at least one of the following options:

- i) Added to an Official Plan through an Amendment that shows the resource as an overlay designation on the Schedule, and adds site-specific policies where needed;
- ii) Included in the municipal register of properties that Council considers to be of cultural heritage value or interest but have not been designated;
- iii) Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

2.3 Township of Centre Wellington Official Plan

The Township of Centre Wellington Official Plan (Township of Centre Wellington 2013) provides a framework for the identification of significant cultural heritage landscapes (C.2.21):

Heritage Centre Wellington may record and identify significant cultural heritage landscapes, resulting in the creation of a mapped inventory of cultural heritage landscapes in Centre Wellington. The inventory may lead to the preparation of development design guidelines in identified cultural heritage landscapes, including preferred development types and densities, height restrictions, building styles and materials.

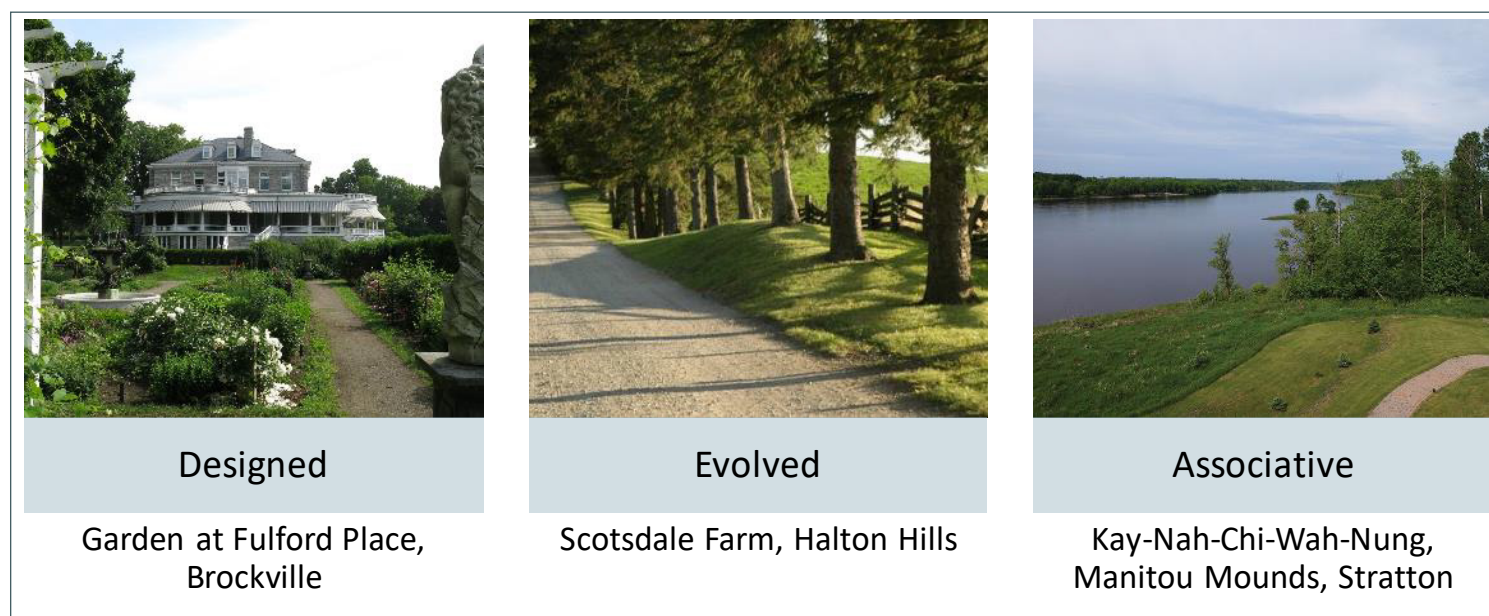
2.4 What are Cultural Heritage Landscapes?

International Context

The term cultural heritage landscape initially evolved out of investigations centered on cultural geography and was officially coined in 1926 to describe any place modified by humankind. By the mid-twentieth century, the concept and its comprehensive approach to the investigation of resources emerged at the international level when the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (U.N.E.S.C.O.) adopted a 'Recommendation Concerning the Safeguarding of the Beauty and Character of Landscapes and Sites'. This recommendation called for the "preservation and, where possible, the restoration of the aspect of natural, rural, and urban landscapes and sites, whether natural or man-made, which have a cultural or aesthetic interest or form typical natural surroundings".

By 1975, the General Assembly of the International

¹ The P.P.S., 2020 came into effect May 1, 2020. This study was conducted within the framework of the 2014 P.P.S. and updated to the 2020 P.P.S.



Examples of Cultural Heritage Landscapes in the Provincial Context (Ontario Heritage Trust).

Council on Monuments and Sites (I.C.O.M.O.S.), the international professional membership N.G.O. that acts as the custodian of conservation doctrine, further recognized the importance of C.H.L.s as an integral unit of analysis by passing Resolutions on the Conservation of Smaller Historic Towns. During the 1980s, additional declarations and charters issued by I.C.O.M.O.S. emerged, with special attention placed on defining C.H.L.s.

In 1992, the World Heritage Convention was amended to include the concept of C.H.L.s, resulting in the first legal instrument able to recognize and protect C.H.L.s. Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention now acknowledges that C.H.L.s represent the 'combined works of nature and man.' The World Heritage Convention further developed this concept by identifying three categories of C.H.L.s. The three C.H.L. categories identified by U.N.E.S.C.O. include:

"Clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man": These embrace garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other

monumental buildings and ensembles.

Organically evolved landscapes: This results from an initial social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative and has developed its present form by association with and in response to its natural environment. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component features. These landscapes fall into two sub-categories:

Relict (Fossil) Landscape: one in which an evolutionary process came to an end at some time in the past, either abruptly or over a period. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form.

Continuing Landscape: one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time, it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time.

Associative cultural landscape: The inclusion of such landscapes on the World Heritage List is justifiable by virtue of the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.

Federal Context

The Parks Canada *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* defines a cultural landscape as "any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people, and that has been formally recognized for its heritage value" (Parks Canada 2010:49). It further identifies the following categories of cultural landscapes, in line with the categories identified by U.N.E.S.C.O.: 1) designed cultural landscapes; 2) organically evolved landscapes, including both relict and continuing landscapes; and 3) associative landscapes (Parks Canada 2010:49).

Provincial Context

The P.P.S. provides the following definition of a C.H.L.:

Cultural heritage landscape: means a defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association. Cultural heritage landscapes may be properties determined to have cultural heritage value or interest under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, or have been included on federal and/or international registers, and/or protected through official plan, zoning by-law, or other land use planning mechanisms. (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2020).

In addition, the P.P.S. defines significance which is assigned a specific meaning according to the subject matter or policy context, such as wet lands or ecologically important areas. With regard to cultural heritage and archaeological resources, resources of significance are those that have been determined to have cultural heritage value. Processes and criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest are established by the Province under the authority of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2020). While some significant resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, Culture Industries (M.H.S.T.C.I.) provides non-legislative resources for communities to assist with the conservation of cultural heritage resources, including the *Ontario Heritage Toolkit* (2006). The *Ontario Heritage Toolkit* indicates that cultural heritage resources should be identified, listed, researched, evaluated and protected, yet it is to municipalities to use the most effective and appropriate tools available at each step of this process to ensure the ongoing conservation of C.H.L.s within each municipality. The *Ontario Heritage Toolkit* identifies municipal criteria Ontario Regulation 9/06 (O.Reg. 9/06) as laid out in the *Ontario Heritage Act* (O.H.A.), a test against which properties must be assessed and the criteria for determining property of cultural heritage value or interest in a municipality, and includes design value or physical value, historical value or associative value, and contextual value, and identifies the three categories of C.H.L.s recognized by U.N.E.S.C.O. (M.H.S.T.C.I. 2006).

As the lead heritage agency of the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Heritage Trust (O.H.T.) introduced C.H.L.s as part of its toolkit. "Cultural Heritage Landscapes: An Introduction" (2012) identifies the three categories of



C.H.L.s identified by U.N.E.S.C.O.: designed, evolved and associative. The O.H.T. defines C.H.L. as “a property or defined geographic area of cultural heritage significance that has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community” (Ontario Heritage Trust 2012).

Regional Context

The County of Wellington provides the following definition for significant C.H.L.s (4.1):

A cultural heritage landscape is a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. (...) For cultural heritage landscapes to be significant, they must be valued for the important contribution they make to our understanding of a place, an event, or a people.

The County has identified a C.H.L. as part of a Concept Plan prepared for the Wellington Place Lands (PA1-1). The C.H.L. includes the Wellington County Museum and Archives, which was originally a “House of Industry” and has been designated a National Historic Site by the National Historic Board of Canada, as well as lands between the museum and the Grand River.

The County also recognizes the important cultural significance of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River, and the need to conserve its inherent values (4.5.1 h).

Municipal Context

The Township of Centre Wellington characterizes C.H.L.s as follows (C.2.21):

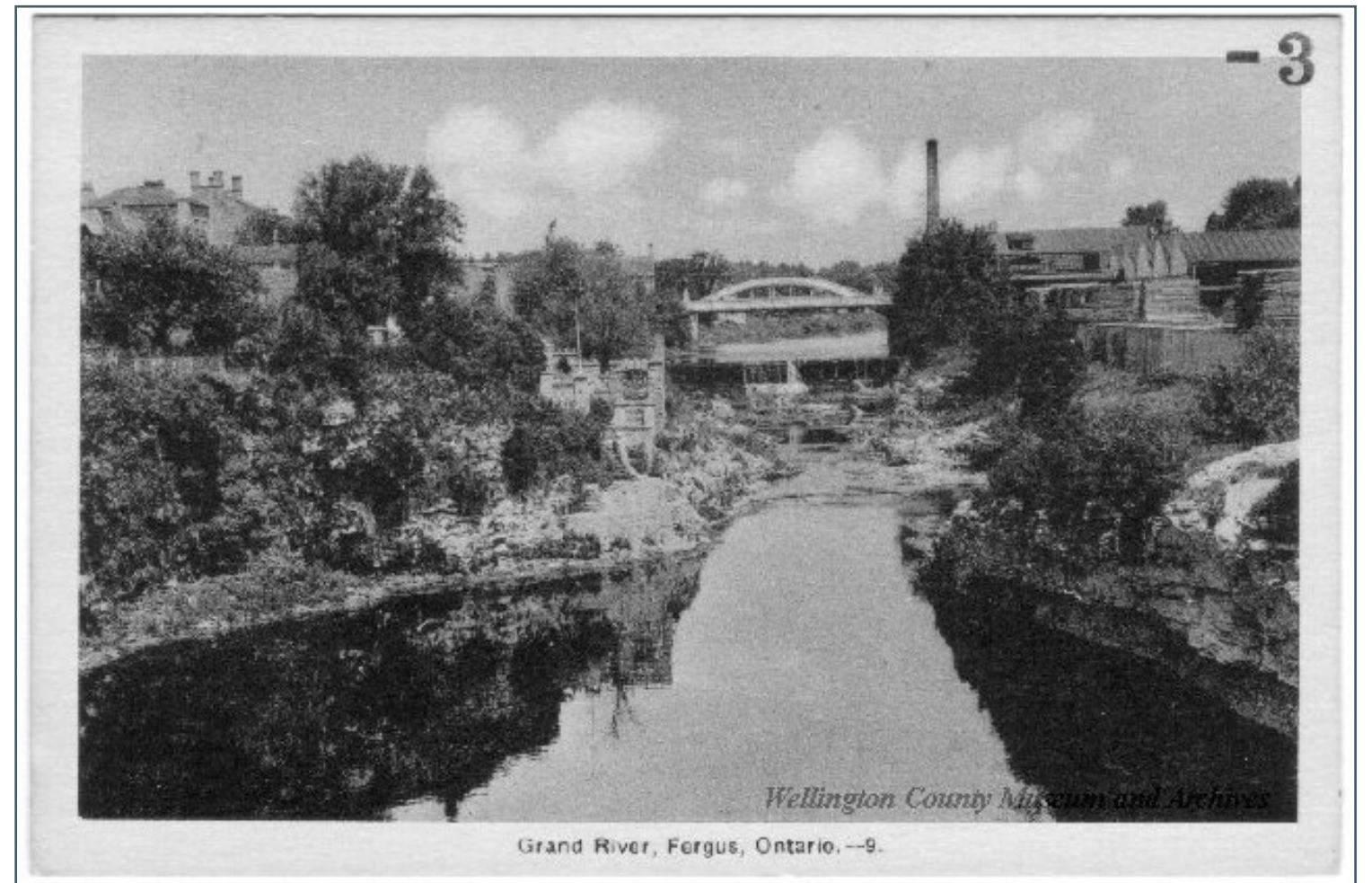
Heritage resources encompass more than just “old buildings”; they can include complete landscapes as well. Cultural heritage landscapes represent the interrelationship between people and the natural environment, and the combined works of nature and man. Cultural heritage landscapes provide a sense of place and identity to the community.

The Township of Centre Wellington currently has two C.H.L.s designated under the O.H.A. The Brock Avenue Heritage Conservation District in Fergus was designated under Part V in 1998. More recently in 2019, the Township of Centre Wellington designated Templin Gardens under Part IV of the O.H.A. as a designed C.H.L. walled garden (By-law 2019-02).

2.5 Cultural Heritage Resources in the Township of Centre Wellington

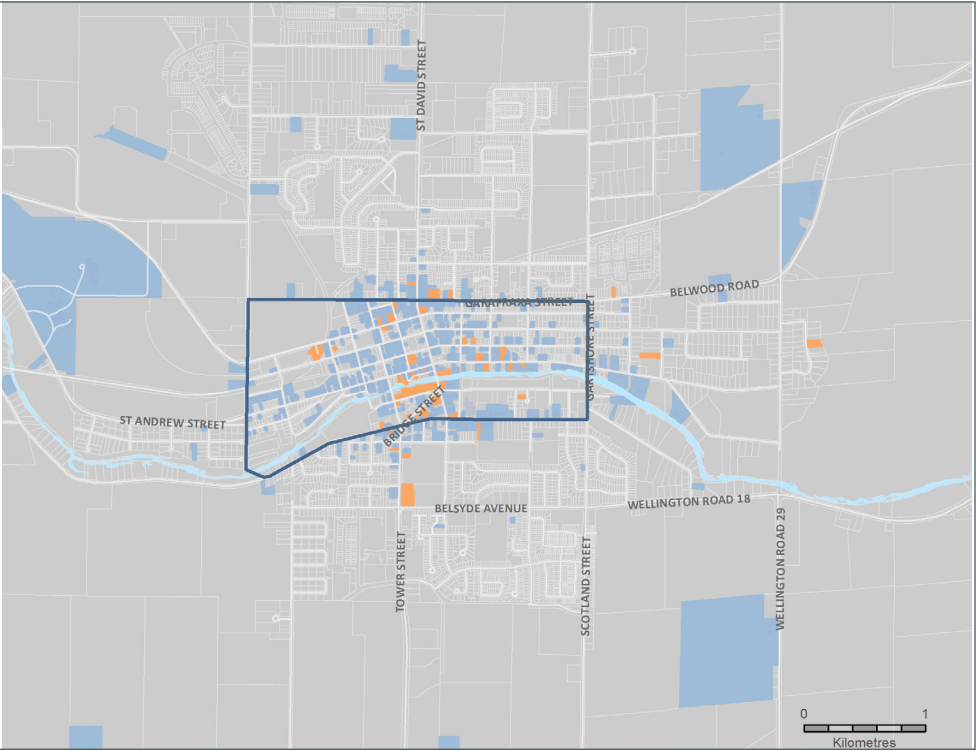
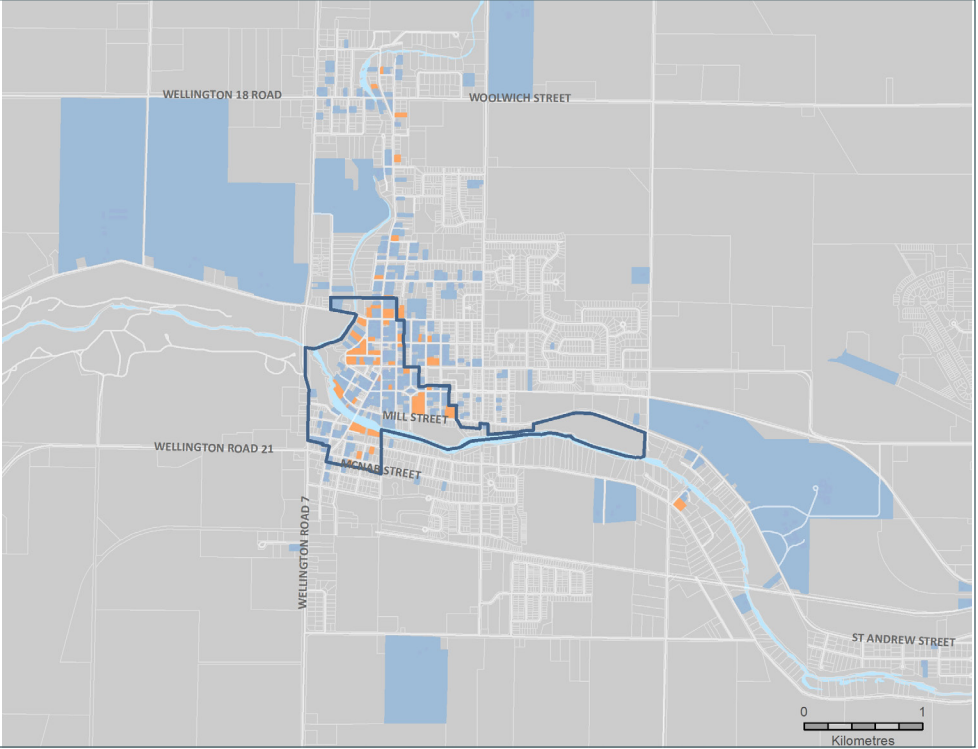
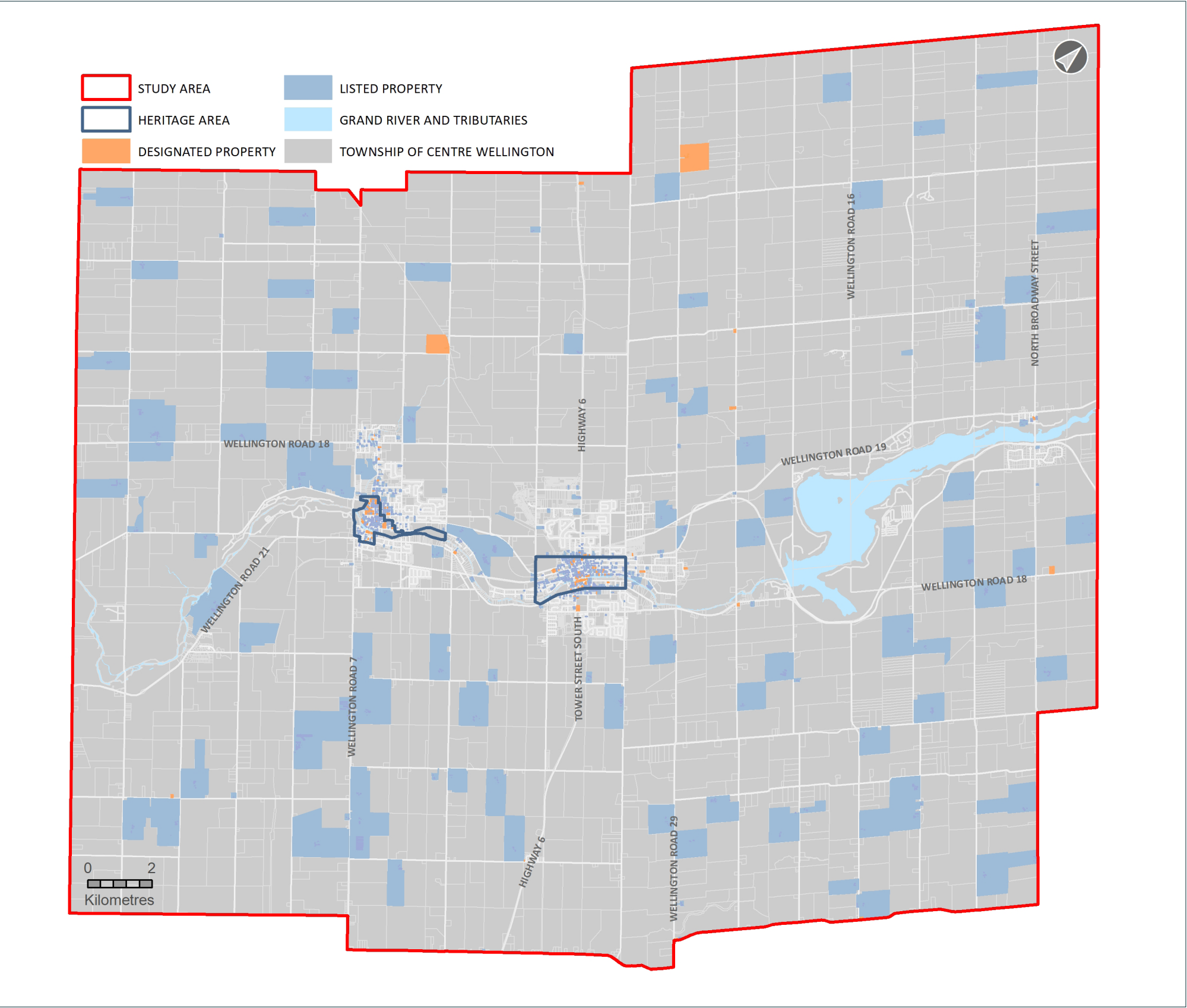
Through its Official Plan (C.2), the Township of Centre Wellington has set out several ways to approach the protection and awareness of the Township’s cultural heritage resources. The Township has taken a proactive approach to protecting properties of cultural heritage value or interest through their Heritage Register which includes 1,049 properties. These include: 111 properties designated under Part IV of the O.H.A.; six properties designated under Part V of the O.H.A. (Brock Avenue H.C.D.); 931 non-designated, or ‘Listed’, properties; and one demolished property. These properties are located throughout the Township and represent a range of property types, built form, ages and styles.

The Official Plan also identifies “broadly defined” Heritage Areas in Fergus and Elora (Schedule “A”). The intent of Heritage Areas is “to identify an area in which a significant number of buildings contain heritage values and to ensure proper consideration is



Templin Gardens Cultural Heritage Landscape, Fergus, 1950, gardens on the left of the Grand River (W.C.M.A A1986.49 ph7685).

given to protecting these buildings when development proposals are put forward” (C.2.10). The Plan indicates that the boundaries and policies of the Heritage Areas may be amended, as required, should lands within the Areas be designated as a Heritage Conservation District.



Township of Centre Wellington Heritage Register and Heritage Areas, clockwise: Township, Elora-Salem, Fergus.



3.0 Methodology and Approach

Cultural and natural heritage are inextricably linked. While C.H.L.s can be evaluated within the commonly used categories of design, history, and context, they must be examined in their entirety as C.H.L.s are often greater than the sum of their parts. It is imperative to consider aspects such as land use, evidence of traditional practices, land patterns, spatial organization, visual relationships, circulation, ecological features, vegetation, landform, water features, and built features, among others, and how these are linked and may have developed and changed over time. C.H.L.s must also be reviewed through the lens of local knowledge and collective memory. The following section provides an overview of the methodology and approach for the identification, evaluation, inventory, and mapping of significant C.H.L.s.



Members of the consultant team conducting field review, bridge over Irvine Creek (Landplan 2019).

3.1 Identification and Evaluation Framework

The framework for this study is provided by international, federal, and provincial guidance, legislation and policies as outlined in Section 2.0. The study team identified the P.P.S. (2020) definition of cultural heritage landscape and significant as its working definitions for the identification and evaluation of C.H.L.s in the Township (see Section 2.1). The P.P.S. states that criteria for determining significance are recommended by the Province. In the case of cultural heritage O.Reg. 9/06 is the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

As the Township of Centre Wellington and the County of Wellington do not currently have established guidelines or a process for the identification and evaluation of C.H.L.s, a best practice review was conducted to inform development of a methodology for the identification and evaluation of C.H.L.s to be used as part of this study.

The City of Kitchener’s 2014 Study of C.H.L.s, which earned a National Award of Excellence from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and a National Award of Merit from the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, was of interest in identifying additional criteria to determine cultural heritage value or interest. This study identified a three-pronged approach to determine whether a landscape has Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, Community Value, and Historical Integrity, an approach implemented by the Region of Waterloo’s *Regional Implementation Guideline for Cultural Heritage Landscapes* (Region of Waterloo 2013). This three-pronged approach was determined to be the most well rounded and inclusive identification and evaluation strategy for this study.

Historical and Background Research

The goal of the historical and background research was to support the identification, documentation and evaluation of candidate C.H.L.s. Research was conducted to identify the overarching themes and periods of development which shaped the development of the Township and the evolution of its C.H.L.s. This Historical Thematic Framework (Section 4.0) informed the identification and evaluation of candidate C.H.L.s.

The Historical Thematic Framework was compiled based on a review of primary and secondary source documents, historical maps, aerial photography, and local history files. The historical research was directed to identify early land use and settlement patterns and broad agents of change within the Township and to generate an understanding of various historical events, themes, and processes that have shaped neighbourhoods, public spaces, and areas in the Township. The research was focused to assist in illustrating how candidate C.H.L.s may have evolved over time, including development of their natural, built, and cultural landscape features.

Properties currently designated and listed in the Township’s Heritage Register were reviewed in terms of their potential contribution to potential candidate C.H.L.s as reflected by the historical themes identified to be of significance in the development of the area. Other relevant inventories, studies, databases, and secondary sources were reviewed to gather information on previously identified cultural heritage resources, including archaeological sites, and their potential contributions to candidate C.H.L.s. This also included a review of the Township’s topography, physiography, tree cover, and natural environment, and how these have evolved over time and/or have influenced land use and development over time.

Community members participate in Mapping Workshop (Fotenn 2019).



Field Review

In order to identify, document, and evaluate candidate C.H.L.s, field review was undertaken by members of the consultant team on numerous dates and with different objectives. Members of the consultant team who participated in field review activities include: Eric Beales, Kristina Martens, Rebecca Sciarra, Meredith Stewart, Annie Veilleux, and Laura Wickett of A.S.I.; Rod MacDonald and Mark Steeles of Landplan Studio Inc.; and Jennifer Maestre, Ute Maya-Giambattista, and Mina Seddigh of Fotenn.

Windshield surveys were conducted to document baseline data for the review and identification of candidate C.H.L.s. The primary objective was to review: the character of the Township in general; the preliminary list of candidate C.H.L.s provided by the Township; areas of interest identified through the development of the Historical Thematic Framework based on their relation to historical themes; areas with a concentration of cultural heritage resources as identified in the Municipal Heritage Register; and the rural areas where considerably less cultural heritage resources have been identified. Windshield survey activities were conducted from public rights-of-way on 1 May 2019, 22 July 2019, and 9 September 2019.

Focused field survey of the identified candidate C.H.L.s was conducted to: document the existing conditions of the candidate C.H.L.s; assess the integrity of the candidate C.H.L.s; identify preliminary heritage attributes; and for the purposes of preliminary boundary recommendations. It should be noted that since the field review was conducted from public rights-of-way, this information may be refined upon closer inspection in future studies, as appropriate. Field survey activities were conducted on 26 September 2019 and 29-30 October 2019.

The Township of Centre Wellington is characterized by its large expanse of rural and agricultural lands. Specific, rural-focused fieldwork was conducted to identify the most appropriate candidate C.H.L. that reflects the rich agricultural history of the area. This

fieldwork was conducted on several occasions in July and September 2019 and between December 2019 and February 2020.

Community Engagement

The project's community engagement strategy was aligned with the Township's emphasis on public consultation and public awareness. The community engagement strategy was centered on the importance of establishing an open dialogue between the team's heritage expertise and local knowledge and collective memory. The community engagement strategy was also centered on the understanding of the need to establish clear goals and objectives for each engagement session, ensuring that material, surveys and activities were properly structured and conducted at key study milestones.

The Township of Centre Wellington covers an extensive geographic area. In order to reach as many people as possible, digital and community-based engagement tools were included to compliment traditional face-to-face techniques. These included two public meetings, focused mapping workshops, multiple online surveys and a community mapping tool, presentations, and outreach to a broad list of individuals and organizations involved in all aspects of the community. The approach to and results of each public consultation initiative is described in Appendix A.

Indigenous Engagement

The Indigenous engagement program for the Township of Centre Wellington C.H.L. Study and Inventory followed the approach of separate and direct engagement with rights-bearing Indigenous communities or organizations. A list of Indigenous communities or nations that have established or potential Aboriginal or Treaty rights within the Township, or who have an established interest in the region, has been consolidated from several sources. Based on these criteria, six communities or organizations were contacted about the project:



- ♦ Conseil de la Nation Huronne-Wendat
- ♦ Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council via Haudenosaunee Development Institute
- ♦ Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (formerly Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation)
- ♦ Métis Nation of Ontario
- ♦ Saugeen Ojibway Nation
- ♦ Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation Elected Council

The approach to and results of the Indigenous program is described in Appendix B.

Stakeholder Engagement

As part of this study, the Township of Centre Wellington has reached out to various stakeholders for input, including the County of Wellington and the G.R.C.A.. In a letter dated January 23, 2020, the G.R.C.A. raised concerns with “the potential inclusion of lands, infrastructure and assets owned by the G.R.C.A. as candidate C.H.L.s.” Concerns were raised in regard to the “ability of the G.R.C.A. to manage these lands, operate [their] Conservation Areas, and maintain and operate [their] infrastructure now and into the future.” The letter can be found in Appendix C.

Identification of Candidate C.H.L.s

A preliminary list of 17 candidate C.H.L.s was provided by the Township of Centre Wellington in collaboration with the Heritage Committee. Additional candidate C.H.L.s were identified based on the following criteria:

- areas that correspond to the historic themes and associations important to the development of the municipality;
- areas that contain a grouping of cultural heritage resources identified through a visual survey; and
- landscapes valued by a community suggested by the public through consultations or in written documents such as local histories, planning

documents, listings of important landscapes, etc.

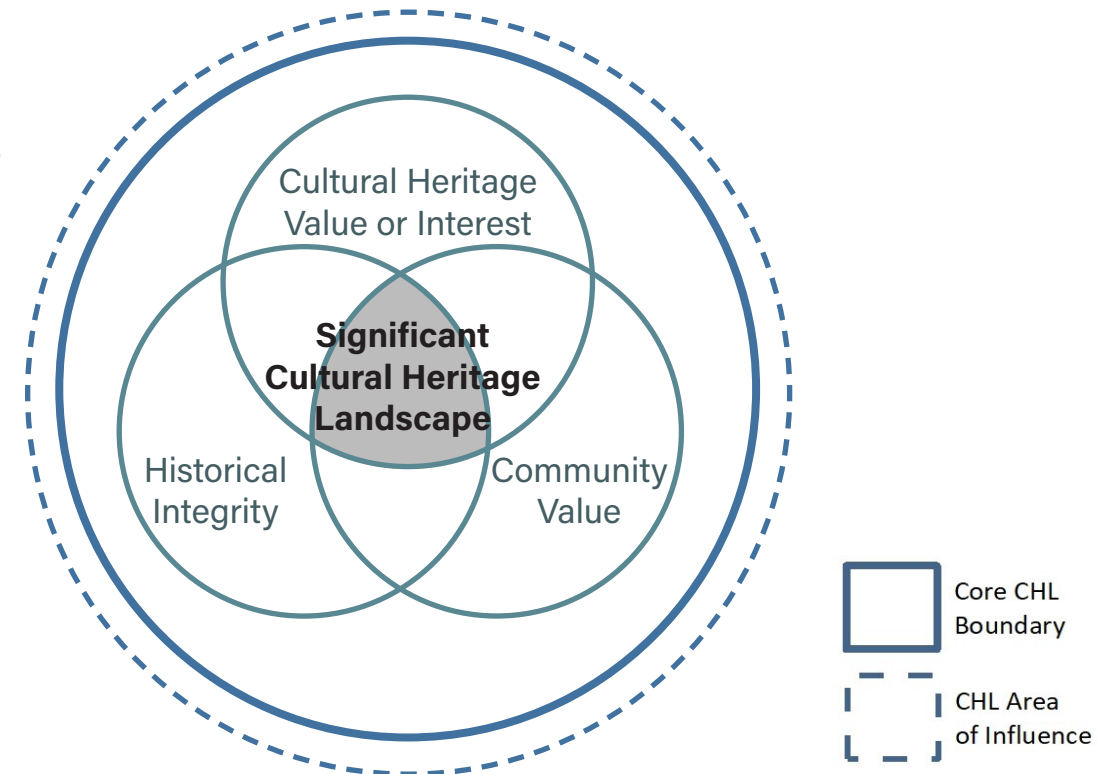
Candidate C.H.L.s were identified based on background research to establish key historical themes and associations as outlined in the Historical Thematic Framework, review of historical mapping and aerial photography as well as topography, physiography and natural environment to understand how township lands have evolved over time, and through windshield survey. Through the course of the study, a more detailed identification methodology was developed for agricultural areas and is included as Appendix D.

The identification of Candidate C.H.L.s was informed by the following:

- ♦ Project Team Meetings with the Township
- ♦ On-Line Mapping Exercise and On-Line Survey #1
- ♦ Open House 1 and Mapping Workshops
- ♦ Indigenous engagement
- ♦ Historical Research
- ♦ Field Survey

Prioritization of Candidate C.H.L.s

Given the rich history and intact heritage of the Township of Centre Wellington, and the high level of public input, it was necessary to prioritize the candidate C.H.L.s for evaluation as part of this study. While individual properties, including agricultural properties, can be considered C.H.L.s, for the purposes of this project priority was given to larger geographical areas or areas containing multiple properties that are known to be valued by multiple community sources. An exception was given to a few individual public properties of significant design, historical/associative, or contextual value. The Township of Centre Wellington currently has 1,049 properties listed or designated on their Heritage Register, some of which could be considered C.H.L.s. As heritage protection measures are already in place for these properties, identification of these as significant C.H.L.s is not a priority at this



Criteria used for the identification and evaluation of candidate cultural heritage landscapes.

time.

Individual features and properties such as bridges, stone barns, rural cemeteries, schoolhouses, churches, and others which were identified by stakeholders and the public were considered and incorporated as part of larger candidate C.H.L.s as appropriate.

Appendix E lists all candidate C.H.L.s that were considered, as well as recommendations for prioritization for the evaluation phase. Candidate C.H.L.s were prioritized as High, Medium, Low, or Not Recommended for evaluation at this time. High and Medium were those recommended for evaluation as part of this project while Low and Not Recommended were not recommended for evaluation at this time. The Township of Centre Wellington may, in future studies, consider those candidate C.H.L.s that did not move forward to evaluation at this time.

Evaluation of Candidate C.H.L.s

As discussed above, a three-pronged approach to determine whether a landscape has Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, Community Value, and Historical Integrity was determined to be the most well rounded and inclusive strategy for evaluating candidate C.H.L.s in Centre Wellington. A Candidate C.H.L. that has been evaluated and found to have cultural heritage value or interest, community value, and historical integrity will be considered as **significant**. The Candidate C.H.L.s were also further considered against the UNESCO definitions to ensure that they appropriately demonstrated a high degree of significance and to establish that these candidate sites conform to definitions used in international jurisdictions.

Criteria used for evaluation are outlined in detail in Appendix F.

In addition to the information gathered as part of the first two phases of the project, the evaluation of Candidate C.H.L.s was further informed by the following:

- Communication with the Township
- On-Line Survey #2
- Open House #2
- Additional historical research and field survey

Boundary Considerations

Preliminary boundaries for the significant C.H.L.s were identified based on the information gathered as part of this project and were informed by any of the following:

- Historical/Existing Legal Boundaries
- Historical Land Use Boundary Demarcations
- Roads, Right of Ways, Rail Lines, Paths
- Natural Features
- Mature Vegetation Marking the Edges
- Changes in Development Pattern/Spatial Organization
- Edges of New Development
- Historic Themes, Physical Linkages
- Spiritual Associations, Cultural Tradition/ Practice, Kinship/Social Relationships
- Community Input

The preliminary boundaries may be refined upon closer inspection in future phases of study. In some cases, core zones and zones of influence have been identified as part of the preliminary boundary.

The Core C.H.L. Boundary is defined as the area which contains the cultural heritage values and heritage attributes of the C.H.L. The C.H.L. Area of Influence is a broader area than the Core C.H.L. Boundary. It is defined as an area that is outside the core but has been integral to the evolution and

development of the C.H.L. This area may contain cultural heritage values and heritage attributes.

3.2 C.H.L. Inventory Sheets and Mapping

The inventory is presented as a series of information sheets for each significant C.H.L. (Appendix K). The information sheets summarize the results of the background research, site analysis, field review, and public consultation and include the following information:

- Identification number
- C.H.L. name
- Preliminary boundaries of the C.H.L.
- Address/Location
- Associated historical theme(s)
- Spatial pattern type
- UNESCO/OHT category
- Description of place
- Summary of findings related to the CHVI, historical integrity and community value of the C.H.L.
- Preliminary list of heritage attributes
- Historical images and contemporary images

The spatial pattern categorization addresses the composition or pattern of the candidate C.H.L.s in terms of its scale, configuration and layout. Spatial pattern categories include:

- Areas, Districts, Neighbourhoods: tend to be complex environments with many intersecting streets or roadways and many property-uses.
- Linear Corridors, Pathways, Waterways, Streets: defined by their organization of sites arranged along a line, such as transportation routes.

Example of C.H.L. Inventory sheets including mapping.

#4 Elora Municipal Cemetery and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery

Address/Location:
365 and Wellington Road 7, Elora

Associated Historical Themes:
Settlement, Community Development

Spatial Pattern Type:
Nodes, Specific Properties

U.N.E.S.C.O. / O.H.T. Category:
Designed

Description of Place

The Elora Municipal Cemetery (previously known as Elora Union Cemetery) and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery adjoin each other, and are located at 365 Wellington Road 7 and 343 Wellington Road 7, Elora, respectively. Both are active cemeteries located on the former land of Sem Wissler's estate, Con. 11 Lot 17, Nichol Township.

Sem Wissler founded the Village of Salem, and sold eight acres of his land to the Village of Elora in 1862 for use as the Elora Municipal Cemetery, which opened in 1864. Wissler died in 1865 and was one of the first burials in the cemetery (Hutchinson 1998:204). The Wissler family gravestone is located in the north-east corner of the cemetery, which at the time would have had a panoramic view of the Irvine Gorge and the village of Salem. It contains some re-interments from the Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Cemetery (also known as the Old Anglican Cemetery) following its closure in 1883. This cemetery was located at the southwest corner of Wellington Road 21 and Wellington Road 7 and now contains a cairn incorporating the remaining gravestones of early settlers buried at the Anglican cemetery. (Wellington Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society 2014b; Find A Grave n.d.). Stone gate posts were added in 1931 in honour of early settlers and a stone chapel was erected in 1936.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery (also known as the Saint Mary and Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery) was established in 1873. It was sited next to the Elora Municipal Cemetery and in proximity to St. Mary's Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, built 1871, at 267 Geddes Street which is across the Irvine River. This church building replaced an earlier Roman Catholic church built in 1860 on McNab Street. St. Mary's Cemetery also served the St. Joseph's Catholic Parish in Fergus. When the small St. Joseph's churchyard had reached capacity by 1872, interments were made at St. Mary's. Some re-interments from St. Joseph were also made at St. Mary's as land around St. Joseph's church was reclaimed for parking (Wellington Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society 2014c; Find A Grave n.d.).

The northeastern edge of Elora Municipal Cemetery is formed by a mature forested area along the bank of the Irvine River. This forest contains some white pine, spruce and hemlock which are estimated to be over 140 years old and planted by early settlers. They are visible in the 1905 photo (at right) as a straight row of trees to the left of the cemetery and may have marked the original eastern boundary of the eight acre cemetery plot sold by Wissler. One hemlock is 1.7 metres in diameter at the base, making it one of Elora's oldest trees. The forest also contains cedars, poplars and other early succession trees which likely began to fill in the sloped area along the gorge c. 1930 - 1950.

The boundary between the two cemeteries is demarcated by South Street, which runs through the cemetery lands. St. Mary's Cemetery is located south-east of South Street, while Elora Municipal Cemetery is located north of South Street. The topography is generally flat but has some gentle slopes which reflect the natural topography which has not been levelled or graded. The layout of St. Mary's Cemetery consists of one large grassed rectangular block intersected by a U-shaped pathway to access the grave markers arranged in rows. Several groupings of trees and shrubs are located amongst the grave markers. The layout of Elora Municipal Cemetery

Legend:
Preliminary OHT Boundary
Building Footprint
Park

Centre Wellington Cultural Heritage Landscape Inventory **K-9**

consists of multiple blocks and features a more extensive pathway system, including several large circular pathways. It is considerably larger than St. Mary's Cemetery. The grave markers are arranged in rows. The memorial gate posts and stone chapel mark the main entrance to the cemetery off of South Street. Several large unused blocks of the cemetery are located at the northwest end. Mature trees and an iron fence line the edges of the cemeteries, as well as South Street within the cemeteries. The iron fence running alongside St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery on Wellington Road 7 has stone fenceposts topped with crosses.

The property is a modest example of the "rural" (or "garden") cemetery type, popularized in the mid-nineteenth century. This type has a park-like setting and was often established on the outskirts of towns. Typical features of this type include entrance gates, winding pathways giving access to graves and the use of rolling topography and planned plantings of trees, bushes and flowers to create a naturalistic or Picturesque effect.

Cultural Heritage Value

The C.H.L. has physical value for the nineteenth-century evergreen trees contained in the woodlot which backs onto the Irvine Gorge. These trees, which are mixed in with younger trees but identifiable by their size and species (white pine, spruce and hemlock), were likely planted by early settlers. With an estimated age of over 140 years old, they are some of the oldest trees in Elora. They may have been planted to demarcate the eastern boundary of the cemetery plot sold by Sem Wissler in 1862.

The C.H.L. has historical value. It is associated with Sem Wissler (1819-1865), founder of Salem. The cemeteries are located on land purchased from Sem Wissler's estate and Wissler is buried in the Elora Municipal Cemetery. St. Mary's Cemetery is associated with St. Mary's Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, erected at 267 Geddes Street in 1871. St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery is also associated with St. Joseph Parish, Fergus, as it served the Parish starting in the 1870s after the St. Joseph churchyard reached capacity. It also contains some re-interments from the St. Joseph churchyard. Elora Municipal Cemetery is associated with the Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Cemetery. Re-interments from the Anglican Cemetery were made following its

closure in 1883. These cemeteries are valued together by the community members and parishioners of the area and by family member of the deceased who may live locally or away. The stone gateposts at the entrance to Elora Municipal Cemetery are dedicated to the memory of early settlers. Further, the tombstones in the cemeteries provide information important to genealogical research about the history of the area through the names, dates and messages inscribed. These cemeteries are also associated with some of the earliest settlers to the area through the reinterments that have occurred.

The C.H.L. has contextual value as it helps to maintain the semi-rural character of Wellington Road 7 between the entrance to Elora's core at Wellington Road 21 and the former village of Salem at Woolwich Street.

Historical Integrity

The C.H.L. has historical integrity. Its land use and ownership have been maintained over time. The key built elements including tombstones, chapel and stone gateposts are intact and unaltered. The mature woodlot along the Irvine River which contains some of the oldest trees in Elora has been maintained.

Community Value

The C.H.L. has community value. The cemeteries are used by local people to express their funerary traditions. The cemeteries are also written about in local histories. The area was identified as significant by multiple people during public engagement for this project.

Preliminary Heritage Attributes

- Location along Wellington Road 7 and Irvine River.
- Cemetery layout and circulation network of roads and pathways, including the alignment of South Street through the cemetery land.
- Location of the Wissler family gravestone in the north-east corner of the cemetery.
- Mature tree plantings lining the edges of the cemeteries, as well as South Street within the cemeteries.
- Woodlot between northern edge of cemetery and the Irvine River, including white pine, spruce and hemlock trees estimated to be over 140 years old.
- Set of four stone gate posts (1931) with plaque dedicated to early settlers at the main entrance to Elora Municipal Cemetery on South Street.
- Stone Chapel (1936) in Elora Municipal Cemetery and its location set back from the main entrance to the cemetery as demarcated by the stone gate posts.
- Iron fencing along the Wellington Road 7 and along South Street within the cemetery lands.
- Stone fenceposts topped with crosses in St. Mary's Cemetery along Wellington Road 7.
- Mix of mature trees planted along Wellington Road 7 and lining South Street within the cemetery lands.

Centre Wellington Cultural Heritage Landscape Inventory **K-10**



- ♦ Nodes, Specific Properties: tend to be contained to a more confined site with a more direct historical, cultural or physical evolution of the site.

Within these types, differing scales of the candidate C.H.L.s have been identified. There are three distinct scales of C.H.L.s: large-scale, medium-scale, and small scale. These three scales of landscapes create a pattern of C.H.L.s, sometimes nested within each other.

4.0 Historical Thematic Framework

The Township of Centre Wellington is located in south-central Ontario and was established in 1999 by amalgamating the former towns of Fergus, Elora, the Townships of Nichol, Pilkington, West Garafraxa, and the north part of Eramosa. The Township is defined by the Grand River and its spectacular features, the rich agricultural land, history of industry, and the communities of Fergus and Elora. Human inhabitation of the land along the Grand River can be traced back to the Paleo-Indian Period (11,500 to 9,500 years ago) when small nomadic groups followed seasonally available resources. Wellington was formed as a district in 1838 and became an individual county in 1854. The former towns and townships were within the jurisdiction of Wellington County. Today Wellington County is an upper-tier municipality, of which Centre Wellington is one of its seven lower-tier municipalities.

The following sections provide a summary of key periods of development within the Township, a range of historical themes that have been identified as being significant in the Township, as well as a list of significant people that are known to have shaped the Township. This information helps support the identification and evaluation of significant C.H.L.s.

4.1 Key Periods of Development

Identifying key periods of development can assist in telling the history of an area such as the Township of Centre Wellington. It is a useful tool for analyzing a vast amount of information across time and space. While there are many defining moments which could be used to convey the history the Township, the key development periods generally reflect changes

in geographic or political boundaries in the area, or are associated with the establishment of major transportation infrastructure. Changes in political boundaries and the introduction of transportation infrastructure influenced how land was used and developed in the Township. An extensive list of relevant dates organized by village, town or township and historical theme and sub-theme provides a detailed view on the periods (Appendix G).

1784 to 1832

This period is defined by the earliest land transactions occurring in relation to the Haldimand Tract through a period of early settlement across the former townships and ends with the establishment and naming of Elora in 1832, followed by Fergus the next year.

1832 to 1858

This period is defined by the growth of Fergus, Elora, and Salem and the ongoing settlement of the area. During the mid-nineteenth century, communities throughout the townships developed to support the vast agricultural lands. The year 1858 marks the incorporation of Elora and Fergus as villages.

1858 to 1870

This period saw ongoing growth and increased settlement throughout the townships. 1870 marks the arrival of the Wellington, Grey, Bruce Railway, the first to come to townships.

1870 to circa 1900

The arrival of the railway in 1870 changed the landscape of the area with some industries thriving due to access to goods and the ability to reach broader markets through shipping. This also changed the agricultural landscapes from subsistence farming to a commercial economy and resulted in changes to the agricultural built form such as farmhouses and barns.

Circa 1900 to 1952

Following the turn of the century, agriculture in the area shifted due to the introduction of steam engines, threshing cooperatives, and early gas or diesel engine tractors. Some of these were manufactured by local companies while others were brought by train. 1952 marks the incorporation of Fergus as a town.

1952 to 1999

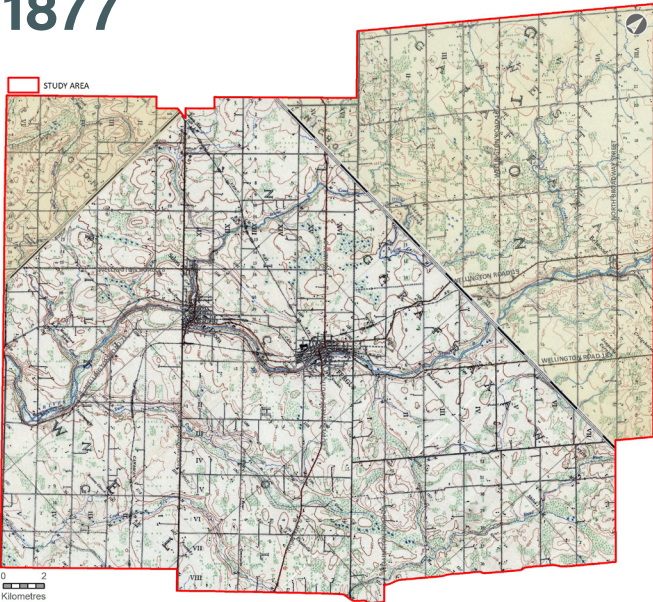
The Township of Centre Wellington was formed in 1999 marking the end of the period of independent townships and towns.



1861



1877



1934



4.2 Identified Historical Themes

As discussed in Section 3.1, candidate C.H.L.s were identified based on a number of criteria, including their association to historical themes determined to be important to the development of the municipality. Key themes that express the history of the Township of Centre Wellington have been identified, as well as a broad range of sub-categories and areas of discussion within these themes.

Physiography and Nature

- ♦ Grand River and its tributaries including the Speed River and Irvine River
- ♦ Elora and Irvine Gorge, Elora Gorge Falls, Islet Rock
- ♦ Creeks, marshes, and wetlands
- ♦ Geology which includes an abundance of limestone
- ♦ Conservation and preservation efforts
- ♦ Scenic views

Settlement

- ♦ Indigenous presence
- ♦ Indigenous-European relations and land transfers
- ♦ Haldimand Tract and Jones Baseline
- ♦ Surveying and pioneer settlement, lot patterns
- ♦ Early Black settlement
- ♦ Influence of topography and physiography on settlement patterns
- ♦ Immigration
- ♦ Village formation around the Grand River

Agriculture

- ♦ Agricultural areas remaining within and around current populated areas
- ♦ Strong integration of agriculture into urban communities due to presence of many mills, train routes, storage warehouses, etc.
- ♦ Initial deforestation and subsequent replanting of trees on farmsteads
- ♦ Farming types/evolution: early subsistence, grain, improved, mixed, livestock, mechanization, later twentieth-century farm amalgamation
- ♦ Livestock shipping (railways)
- ♦ Elora cattle fairs est. 1852 and Wellington County Fair est. 1836 in Fergus

Growth and Urban Development

- ♦ Incorporation of villages and towns
- ♦ Function of Elora/Fergus at significant crossroads of main highways/thoroughfares
- ♦ Architecture including limestone buildings
- ♦ Commerce and businesses
- ♦ Residential growth and creation of neighbourhoods
- ♦ Effects of WWI and WWII on development and housing

Transportation

- ♦ Waterways: Grand River, Irvine River, Speed River, Cox Creek, and resulting bridges
- ♦ Railways and stations (Wellington, Grey and Bruce; Credit Valley) stimulating growth
- ♦ Connections to Indigenous paths and travel routes
- ♦ Early paths/trails/roads: Elora Road, Garafraxa Road, Elora-Saugeen Road
- ♦ Elora/Fergus along major travel routes to Hamilton/Owen Sound (north-south) and Orangeville/Lake Huron (east-west)
- ♦ Stagecoach stops for mail delivery (Fergus was a stop between Owen Sound and Hamilton)

Industry

- ♦ Waterpower: concentration of water-powered grist mills
- ♦ Mills and dams: Elora Mill, Wilson Mills, Salem mills (Wissler's and Erb's)
- ♦ Quarrying: Elora Quarry
- ♦ Miscellaneous factories: Beatty Brothers Ltd., Mundells' Furniture, tanneries, sewing machine factory, etc.
- ♦ Electrical power
- ♦ Infrastructure and public works – Shand Dam
- ♦ Innovation and modernization

Community Development

- ♦ Parks, gardens, trails, valleys, conservation areas
- ♦ Sports and recreation: Fergus Curling Club
- ♦ Institutional growth: libraries, post office, schools, shops, halls, development of medical industry
- ♦ Religion: churches and cemeteries (proliferation of churches as a result of early preachers in the area)
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Social organizations
- ♦ Celebrations, customs, rituals
- ♦ Strong service/volunteer-minded history

Arts and Culture

- ♦ More outwardly expressed in Elora which is home to many artists
- ♦ Prominent artists who painted Elora
- ♦ Evolution of world class festivals and events, i.e. Highland Games

4.3 Significant People

The following lists some of the people that have been identified as being significant to the development of what is now the Township of Centre Wellington. Additional people are included in Appendix H. This information was compiled from a variety of sources, such as David M. Beattie *Pillars and patches along the pathway: a history of Nichol Township*; A.E. Byerly *The beginning of things in Wellington and Waterloo counties : with particular reference to Guelph, Galt and Kitchener...*; John R. Cannon *The Early History of Elora, Ontario and Vicinity*; Historical Atlas of Wellington County, 1906; Jean Hutchinson *The History of Wellington County*.

Indigenous communities including the Conseil de la Nation Huronne-Wendat (Huron-Wendat Nation), Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Six Nations of the Grand River

Charles Allan Builder, many of the first buildings in Fergus erected under his superintendence, in partnership with Ross & Co., elected as member of District Council, first Reeve of Pilkington Township upon its formation, Warden of County for two years, 1857 elected member of Provincial Parliament, founded Aboyne

Roberta Allan Local historian active from 1950s to 1980s who compiled local Tweedsmuir Histories and wrote *The History of Elora*

George Beatty with Matthew Beatty founded Beatty Brothers Ltd, 1874

Torrance Edward Bissell Founded T.E. Bissell Company manufacturing farm machinery, Elora 1901

David Boyle Started teaching at Middlebrook School, upper Pilkington, 1871 became principal of the Elora Public School, reorganize/formed Elora Public Library, his collections formed the basis of the Elora Museum, became first provincial archaeologist in Ontario, first superintendent of the Provincial Museum, and first

secretary of the Ontario Historical Society

Levi Erb Partner in Wissler & Erb, built flour mill in Salem, Trustee S.S. #5

Adam Fergusson with James Webster, purchased northeast quarter of Nichol, founder of Fergus

Douglas Fergusson with John Watt founded Belwood

A.D. Ferrier Associated with Belsyde, made contributions to the community including, elected to District Council 1846

David Foote Carpenter, worked building mill in Elora, took contract with John Cattnach to build first bridge across Irvine River at Elora, assisted in building Elora Hotel, Knox Church, Chalmers Church, old Gilkison



David Boyle with students, Middlebrook School, Pilkington Township, 1871 (W.C.M.A A1979:121:1).

bridge, built oatmeal mill at Aboyne, elected councilor in Township of Pilkington, one of first councilors in Elora following incorporation 1858, selected as first reeve, 1859 appointed assessor, 1881-1888 was reeve again, 1869 appointed as County High School Trustee in Elora, member of Volunteer Rifle Company of Elora

Arthur Dingwall Fordyce Warden 1841

Andrew Geddes Crown Land Agent at Elora, helped organize St. John's Church in Elora, Geddes Street in Elora named after him

William Gilkison Founder of Elora

James Gow Operated lime quarry, Fergus 1897-1915

William Gow Operated lime kiln near Belwood

Dr. Abraham Groves Pioneering surgeon, established early electrical plant in Fergus and established Fergus Royal Alexandra Hospital

Sir Frederick Haldimand Signed proclamation allotting land on either side of the Grand River to the Six Nations people

Augustus Jones Surveyor, defined northern limit of Haldimand Tract

James Mathieson Partner of Charles Allen in the creation of the New Survey, Elora

Roswell Matthews with wife Hannah and 9 children first settlers in Nichol, at Elora, built first dam for mill

John Mundell Founded Mundell Furniture Company in Elora, 1851

Richard Pierpoint Associated with the early Black settlement named for him

Robert Pilkington Purchased part of Block 3, 1799

James Ross Township reeve, 1857

Samuel Ryckman Surveyed Eramosa and West Garafraxa township, first patent for lot

J.M. Shaw Editor of the "The Elora Observer", and later "The Elora Lighting Express"

J.C. Templin Publisher of the Fergus News Record

John Watt with Douglas Fergusson founded Belwood

James Webster with Adam Fergusson purchased northeast quarter of Nichol, founder of Fergus, Merchant and miller in Fergus, elected rep. to the District Council 1842

James Wilson Sr. Built Monkland Mills, Fergus

Mary Wintermute Settled on Lot 9 Con 1, earliest settler named in historical record

Sem Wissler Founder of Salem, built dam, sawmill and tannery, general store and shoe shop



5.0 Local Factors Influencing the Formation of Centre Wellington’s Cultural Heritage Landscapes

A number of factors, both natural and cultural, have influenced the formation of C.H.L.s in the Township of Centre Wellington. Cultural heritage is inextricably linked with natural heritage. Natural elements, such as physiographic features and the Grand River and its tributaries, influenced how people interacted with the land for thousands of years. They influenced where and how people travelled, where and how people settled, and where and how people farmed or developed industries, helping shape the C.H.L.s we see today.



Edge of the Carro Creek spillway northwest of Elora (Landplan 2019).

5.1 Physiographic Influences

The physiography observed in the Township of Centre Wellington today is the result of sedimentary bedrock formations of the Paleozoic era, overlain with unconsolidated sediments from the Wisconsin glacialiation (Janzen 2018, Wilcox et al. 1998). This physical geography is predominantly comprised of four physiographic categories: moraines (kame and till), till plains (drumlinized and undrumlinized), spillways, and drumlin fields (Chapman and Putnam 1984). These are better understood as low hills, hummocky areas, and flatter gently rolling plains accented by the creeks and rivers including the Grand River, Speed River and Irvine River, and Swan Creek, Cox Creek, and other tributaries.

The glacial ice masses were not always static. They went through periods of advancement and recession. As they advanced, “soil and rock were carried forward, mixed together, and milled. The resulting rocky grist is a heterogeneous mass of boulders, stones, and pebbles in a sand, silt and clay matrix, known as till” (Chapman and Putnam 1984). Often, large blocks of Precambian Shield were carried from the Georgian Bay and Shield areas and deposited throughout Southwestern Ontario. These rocks are called erratics and they can be found in granitic houses and barn foundations (Karrow 2011).

It is worth noting here that “the melting and retreat of the glacier was not simply an uncovering of lands from south to north. The wasting glacier consisted of several lobes....” (Chapman and Putnam 1984:26) including: the Huron lobe, the Georgian Bay lobe, the Lake Ontario lobe and the very early Lake Erie lobe. What is important for Centre Wellington is that the first splitting of the Huron, Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario lobes occurred on a line through the northwestern portion of Centre Wellington creating the Elmira Moraine due west of Elora and the Orangeville Moraine, east and west of Belwood. This separation created the first exposed landmass in Ontario and was called the ‘Ontario Island’ by Chapman and Putnam.

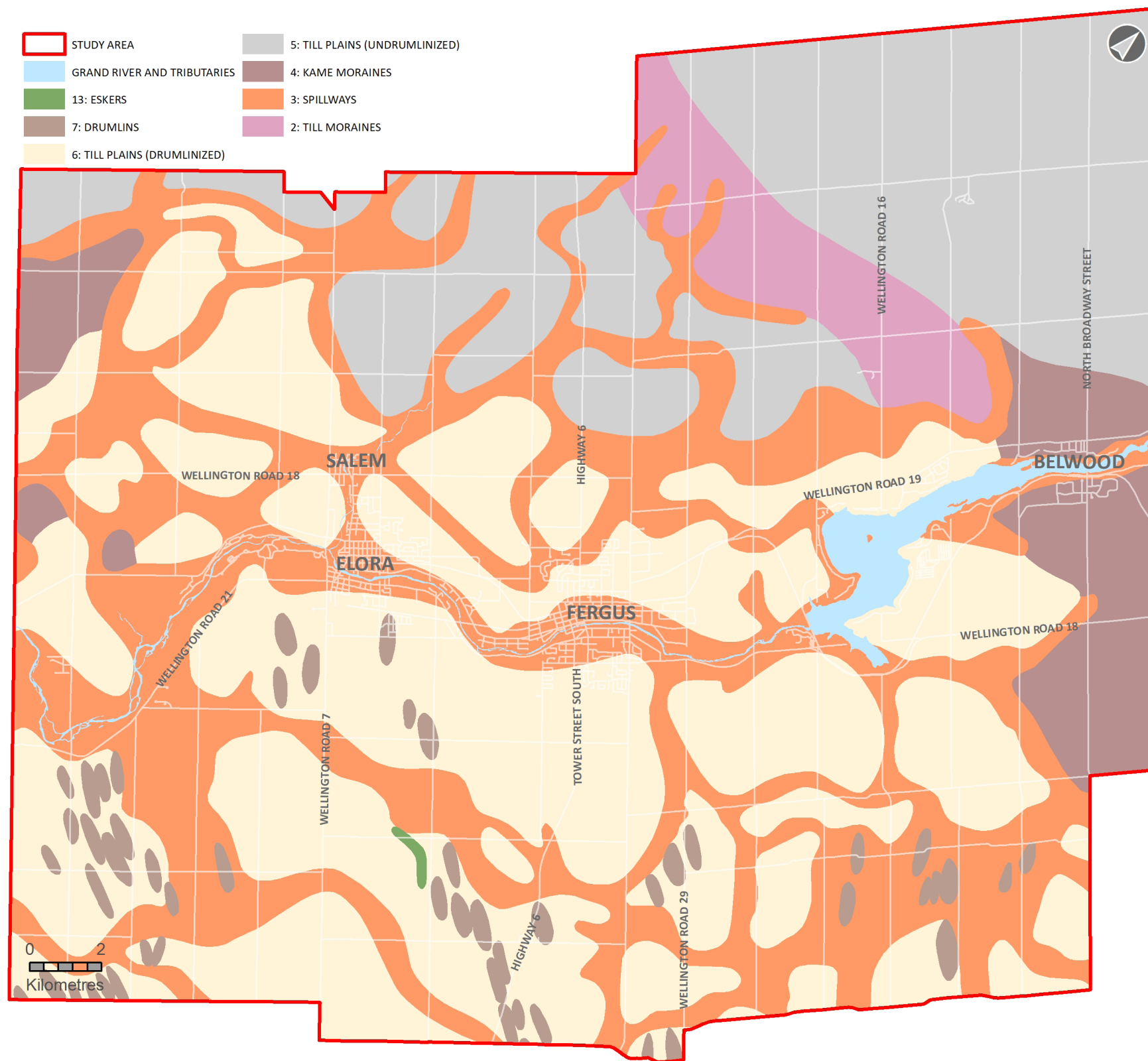
Physiographic Features

As described above the Centre Wellington study area is characterized by four general categories of physiographic features that are the foundation of the modern-day landscapes, including a combination of low hills, hummocky areas, and flatter gently rolling plains accented by the rivers and creeks. Although the physiography of Centre Wellington was often a constraint to agriculture, some early pioneers were able to take advantage of topographic features in the site planning for farmsteads. High points of land were used to locate barns and houses, to take advantage of good views, to assist in proper drainage around buildings, and to shelter from prevailing north-west winter winds. Slopes were used to facilitate the construction of bank barns and a south facing aspect was used to determine how sunshine would enter houses. Orchards and gardens were often located on south facing slopes when the opportunity presented itself. The rolling terrain of drumlins, spillways, and moraines was exploited to advantage where possible.

These features played a significant role in the Indigenous land use and pioneer settlement of the area. As both opportunity and obstacle, they determined the success of many early pioneers and continue to this day to be appreciated for the scenic character they impart to the landscapes of Centre Wellington.

Till and Kame Moraines

A portion of the Elmira Moraine is located in the northwestern corner of Centre Wellington straddling the boundary between the former Pilkington/ Woolwich townline. The Orangeville Moraine encroaches into the former West Garafraxa Township from the east, on a line through the hamlet of Belwood and is a combination of both kame and till moraine. These interlobate (between glacier fronts) landscapes are characterized by hilly and hummocky terrain and provide panoramic views in all directions across the Grand River Valley. The soils on the kames, in particular, are of fine sands and there are a number



Physiographic regions in the Township of Centre Wellington (Base map Chapman and Putnam 1984).



Speed River spillway north of Oustic (Landplan 2020).



Early twentieth century bowstring bridge across the Irvine Creek north of Fergus (Landplan 2019).



of sand and gravel operations associated with these areas. “Finally, the sandy kame moraines...and the silty loam kame moraines in eastern Centre Wellington and northern portions of Erin Township are also well drained and areas important for groundwater recharge” (Grand River Conservation Authority 2018). There are some white pine plant communities that are indicators of early forests on the Elmira Moraine. The slopes of the moraines are complex but not too steep to interfere with, or restrict agricultural activities, such that original nineteenth-century farms were successful in these areas, unlike other parts of Centre Wellington.

Drumlinized Till Plains

This complex landscape is south and east of Elora and Fergus and occupies all the southern portions of the former Nichol, Pilkington, and West Garafraxa Townships, and most of the former Eramosa Township. Also known as the Guelph Drumlin Field, these inverted spoon-shaped hills are peppered over the landscape throughout this portion of the Township and are one of the few remaining glacial artifacts in the study area that identify the direction of glacial ice movement. Their long axis runs parallel to the direction of glacial advance and retreat (Karrow 2011). In the former Nichol and Pilkington Townships where farm fields regularly traverse the drumlins, their slopes are gentle enough that they do not appear to have been much impediment to agriculture. In the south portion of the former Garafraxa Township and the north portion of the former Eramosa Township, the landscape is somewhat more complicated. In this area drumlins are higher, and the side slopes are steeper. In addition, the till plain is uniformly subdivided into what appears, aerially, to be a series of topographic islands separated by variable width spillways. Chapman and Putnam suggest that during the retreat of the Lake Ontario lobe “glacial drainage passed laterally across the Guelph Drumlin Field, cutting channels across the slopes leaving gravel in the hollows” (1984:27). Today the slopes of the spillways merge with drumlin slopes creating more

difficult conditions for cultivation. In addition, the bottom of the spillways, despite their gravelly content, are poorly drained with wet soils subject to seasonal flooding. The area around the former hamlets of Oustic, Speedside, Shiloh, and Armstrong Mills is to this day restricted in its agricultural potential by both the steep topography of the drumlins and the poorly drained soils of the spillways. This had a significant impact on the success of nineteenth-century farming and the pioneer families that attempted to settle this area. Although there are many visually enclosed landscapes, there are localized high points that offer panoramic views across the Oustic and south Centre Wellington countryside.

Undrumlinized Till Plains

Undrumlinized till plains extend across the northern section of the former Garafraxa Township. This area is characterized by gently rolling topography. The gentle slopes are good for farming and had minimal impact on early pioneer settlement. These landscapes offer fewer opportunities for long panoramic views.

Spillways

Although spillways are not unique to the Centre Wellington landscape, the concentration or density of spillways creates a remarkably complex landscape and gives parts of Centre Wellington an unusual landscape character. As noted above, this density of spillways was the result of the initial melting and separation of the glacier lobes, and the necessity for melt-waters to escape from the glacier face. The most notable spillways in the study area are those of the Grand River and Irvine Creek, and their confluence at the Elora Gorge. At the Gorge, the Grand River has cut down 30 metres into the surrounding bedrock since the last glacier melted away almost 14,000 years ago. The walls of the Gorge belong to the geological Guelph Formation and much of this rock can be found in the older limestone homes in the area. The base of the Gorge is the older and more durable Amabel Formation as seen in the nearby caprock of the

Niagara Escarpment (Karrow 2011).

Large rivers and the trails that followed them were vital transportation routes for Indigenous communities and early European settlers that followed. The Grand River was one such corridor which joined the areas to the north of the headwaters in Grey County to the Nith and Thames River systems, as well as to the mouth of the Grand River near Long Point in Lake Erie (Johnston 1964). The Grand River was first documented historically by Jesuit priests Jean de Brébeuf and Pierre-Joseph-Marie Chaumonot in 1640 as they travelled into southwestern Ontario from the Georgian Bay area (Thwaites 1896). These spillways also defined overland travel routes and trailways as there were limited areas where the Grand River can be easily crossed, such as at Elora.

The Gorge and other bedrock edges along the rivers and streams attracted early pioneers, not only for the potential for hydraulic power, but because it was recognized as a scenic landscape. Hydraulic potential created mill sites in Elora, Salem, Fergus, Birge Mills, Armstrong Mills, to name a few, and mills created a local economy essential to the success of early pioneer settlements. At the same time all the spillways, even minor ones, add to the scenic value of Centre Wellington providing both localized panoramic views across river and creek valleys, as well as broad vistas from high points in the kame and drumlin field areas.

The disadvantage of spillways was that they were also obstacles to early agriculture and transportation, as in and around the Oustic community in Eramosa Township. The wet soils and seasonal flooding impacted the amount of arable land and minimized the agricultural success of many of the standard 100-acre farms where large acreages of spillway could not be cropped. This led to the failure of many early farms and the consolidation of properties into larger or smaller land holdings. Today the spillways have naturally regenerated into forests dominated by white cedar and remain the source waters of the Speed River, Cox and Swan Creeks and other minor tributary

streams. Spillways created an industry and specialty in bridge building and created some of the most unique heritage features in the remaining collection of bow string and lattice iron bridges.

Eskers

Although not common in the study area, there were several eskers in Nichol and Pilkington Townships. Most of these have been exploited for their exceptional sand and gravel deposits, but remnants are of interest to locals who recognize their unique ridge-like formations.

5.2 The Grand River

The Grand River forms the core of the Township of Centre Wellington. It has influenced the movement of people through the landscape and their usage of the landscape for thousands of years. Ultimately, the Grand River has shaped how many of the C.H.L.s in the Township were formed.

Indigenous Land Use and Settlement

Southern Ontario has been occupied by human populations since the retreat of the Laurentide glacier approximately 13,000 years before present (B.P.) (Ferris 2013). Populations would have been highly mobile, inhabiting a boreal parkland similar to the modern sub-arctic. At this time, the open boreal woodlands likely offered a rather limited selection of floral resources, hence subsistence would have been primarily oriented towards hunting and fishing. Archaeological data suggests that populations would gather near large bodies of water formed by the melting glaciers and would travel inland in pursuit of large game such as caribou, mammoth, and mastodon. Mammoth and mastodon bones have been found in several locations in the Township (Pat Mestern, personal communication). By approximately 10,000 B.P., the environment had progressively warmed (Edwards and Fritz 1988) and populations now occupied less extensive territories as they were



Glacial spillway with drumlinized till plain in background near Oustic (Landplan 2020).



Undrumlinized till plain with turbines north-west of Elora (Landplan 2019).



able to take advantage of a greater availability of resources (Ellis and Deller 1990).

Between approximately 10,000-5,500 B.P., the Great Lakes basins experienced low water levels, and many sites which would have been located on those former shorelines are now submerged. This period produces the earliest evidence of heavy wood working tools, an indication of greater investment of labour in felling trees for fuel, to build shelter, and watercraft production. These activities suggest prolonged seasonal residency at occupation sites. Polished stone and native copper implements were being produced by approximately 8,000 B.P.; the latter was acquired from the north shore of Lake Superior, evidence of extensive exchange networks throughout the Great Lakes region. The earliest evidence for cemeteries dates to approximately 4,500-3,000 B.P. and is indicative of increased social organization, investment of labour into social infrastructure, and the establishment of socially prescribed territories (Ellis et al. 1990; Ellis et al. 2009; Brown 1995:13).

Between 3,000-2,500 B.P., populations continued to practice residential mobility and to harvest seasonally available resources, including spawning fish. Exchange and interaction networks broaden at this time (Spence et al. 1990:136, 138) and by approximately 2,000 B.P., evidence exists for macro-band camps focusing on the seasonal harvesting of resources (Spence et al. 1990:155, 164). It is also during this period that maize was first introduced into southern Ontario, though it would have only supplemented people's diet (Birch and Williamson 2013:13-15). Bands likely retreated to interior camps during the winter. It is generally understood that these populations were Algonquian-speakers during these millennia of settlement and land use.

The Princess Point complex (A.D. 500-1000) represents the first shift to horticulture in Ontario and is considered to be the precursor to the later Iroquoian-speaking populations in southern Ontario. Princess Point archaeological sites are characteristically located immediately adjacent to

water, and most have been found within the paleosols of the lower reaches of the Grand River floodplain, with concentrations in the Kitchener-Waterloo and Brantford regions, such as the Grand Banks site near Cayuga (Crawford et al. 1998; Walker et al. 1997).

From approximately 1,000 B.P. until approximately 300 B.P., lifeways became more similar to that described in early historical documents. By approximately A.D. 1000-1300, the communal site is replaced by the village focused on horticulture. Seasonal disintegration of the community for the exploitation of a wider territory and more varied resource base was still practised (Williamson 1990:317). By the second quarter of the first millennium B.P., from approximately A.D. 1300-1450, this episodic community disintegration was no longer practised and populations now communally occupied sites throughout the year (Dodd et al. 1990:343). From the middle of the fifteenth century until the period of contact with European explorers (A.D. 1450-1649) this process continued with the coalescence of these small villages into larger communities (Birch and Williamson 2013). Through this process, the socio-political organization of the First Nations, as described historically by the French and English explorers who first visited southern Ontario, was developed.

Samuel de Champlain in 1615 reported that a group of Iroquoian-speaking people situated between the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat were at peace and remained "la nation neutre". In subsequent years, the French visited and traded among the Neutral Nation (Attiwandaron), but the first documented visit was not until 1626, when the Recollet missionary Joseph de la Roche Daillon recorded his visit to the villages of the Attiwandaron, whose name in the Huron-Wendat language meant "those who speak a slightly different tongue" (the Neutral apparently referred to the Huron-Wendat by the same term). Like the Huron-Wendat, Petun, and Haudenosaunee, the Neutral people were settled village agriculturalists. While the Township of Centre Wellington is understood to be within the territory of the Attiwandaron, no archaeological sites have been

recorded within the Township associated with this period of use. (Lennox and Fitzgerald 1990).

Between 1647 and 1651, the Neutral were decimated by epidemics and ultimately dispersed by the Haudenosaunee², who subsequently settled along strategic trade routes on the north shore of Lake Ontario for a brief period during the mid-seventeenth century. Compared to settlements of the Haudenosaunee, the "Iroquois du Nord" occupation of the landscape was less intensive. Only seven villages are identified by the early historic cartographers on the north shore, and they are documented as considerably smaller than those in New York State. The populations were agriculturalists, growing maize, pumpkins, and squash. These settlements also played the important alternate role of serving as stopovers and bases for Haudenosaunee travelling to the north shore for the annual beaver hunt (Konrad 1974).

Peace was achieved between the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabek Nations in August of 1701 when representatives of more than twenty Anishinaabek Nations assembled in Montreal to participate in peace negotiations (Johnston 2004:10). During these negotiations, captives were exchanged and the Iroquois and Anishinaabek agreed to live together in peace. Peace between these nations was confirmed again at council held at Lake Superior when the Iroquois delivered a wampum belt to the Anishinaabek Nations.

In 1763, following the fall of Quebec, New France was transferred to British control at the Treaty of Paris. The British government began to pursue major land purchases to the north of Lake Ontario in the early

2 The Haudenosaunee are also known as the New York Iroquois or Five Nations Iroquois and after 1722 Six Nations Iroquois. They were a confederation of five distinct but related Iroquoian-speaking groups - the Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga, Oneida, and Mohawk. Each lived in individual territories in what is now known as the Finger Lakes district of Upper New York. In 1722 the Tuscarora joined the confederacy.

nineteenth century. The Crown acknowledged the Mississaugas of the Credit as the owners of the lands between Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe and entered into negotiations for additional tracts of land as the need arose to facilitate European settlement. The Township of Centre Wellington was ceded through Treaty 3 and Treaty 19 and is part of the Haldimand Grant to Six Nations (described below). Historical accounts suggest that the Township of Centre Wellington continued to be used by the Mississaugas of the Credit following these cessions.

The eighteenth century saw the ethnogenesis in Ontario of the Métis, when Métis people began to identify as a separate group, rather than as extensions of their typically maternal First Nations and paternal European ancestry (Métis National Council n.d.). Living in both Euro-Canadian and Indigenous societies, the Métis acted as agents and subagents in the fur trade but also as surveyors and interpreters. Métis populations were predominantly located north and west of Lake Superior, however, communities were located throughout Ontario (MNC n.d.; Stone and Chaput 1978:607,608). During the early nineteenth century, many Métis families moved towards locales around southern Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, including Kincardine, Owen Sound, Penetanguishene, and Parry Sound (MNC n.d.). By the mid-twentieth century, Indigenous communities, including the Métis, began to advance their rights within Ontario and across Canada, and in 1982, the Métis were federally recognized as one of the distinct Indigenous peoples in Canada. Recent decisions by the Supreme Court of Canada (Supreme Court of Canada 2003; Supreme Court of Canada 2016) have reaffirmed that Métis people have full rights as one of the Indigenous people of Canada under subsection 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867.

Indigenous Transportation Routes

The primary known Indigenous transportation routes through the area of the Township of Centre Wellington are the Grand River and the necessary

"'The Old Indian Bridge' Formed by a pine tree 26" diameter, felled across the canyon in 1819; chopped down by a woman, who thought it unsafe, in 1865, Photographed in September 1860 by Thomas Connon, Elora" (University of Guelph Library, Archives and Special Collections XR1 MS A114258).



portages related to unnavigable portions, and the route now known as Highway 6. Several land and water routes were used by Indigenous groups to travel from the northeast to the southwest across the southern Ontario peninsula (Heritage Resources Centre 1989:84). One location is a portage at Elora used to by-pass the Elora Falls. The route traces the northern edge of the Elora Gorge (Township of Centre Wellington n.d.). While water was one means of travel, Six Nations oral traditions also tell of many ancient paths created by Indigenous hunters, traders, and diplomats which have evolved into major roads in southern Ontario. These routes connected Indigenous settlements to hunting grounds, trading posts, and forts (Ontario.ca 2016). One of these routes became Garafraxa Road in 1848 between Guelph and Sydenham (now Owen Sound) and is now known as Highway 6 passing through the Township of Centre Wellington at Ennotville and Fergus. The road was established as a provincial highway in 1920 and is a two-lane highway along the majority of its length. A road following the Grand River has also been described as an Indigenous trail which was opened by Robert Pilkington as The Waterloo, or 'river road' (Connon 1975:20).

Treaties Signed within the Township of Centre Wellington

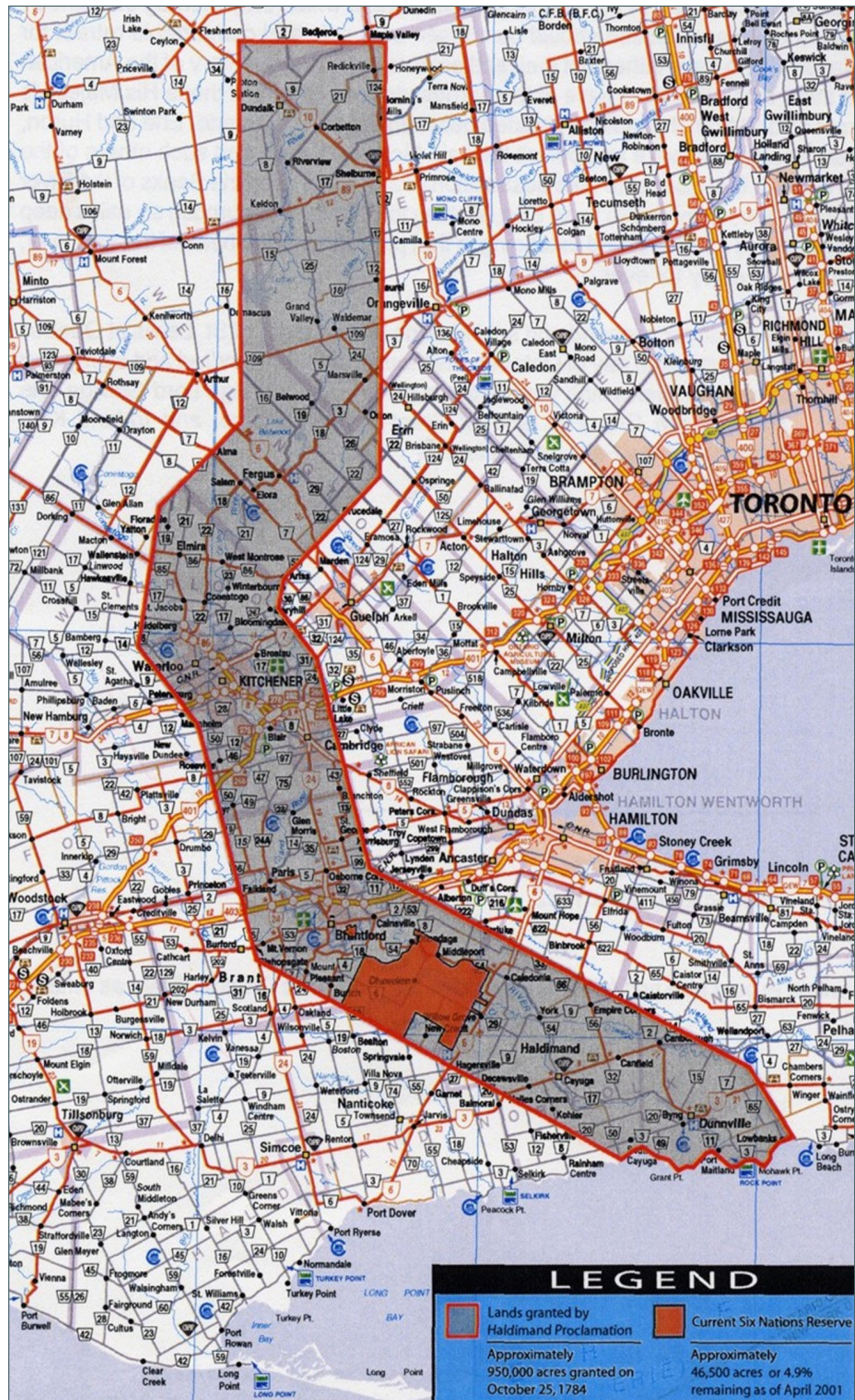
It is important to recognize that long-standing land use practices by Indigenous communities, such as transportation routes, had an effect on the eventual settlement of the area by European communities. This also included the cessions of land in the township through three separate treaties. The land division which occurred in the area of Centre Wellington was strongly influenced by the Grand River and its tributaries. The Grand River dictated Indigenous transportation through the area, defined the Treaties lands, and created a divide between settlement of the north and south halves of the townships, particularly Pilkington and Nichol.

The Township of Centre Wellington is covered by several treaties related to the period of land cessions in

Southern Ontario. These treaties describe the historical Nations with whom the Crown negotiated the transfer of land and in some cases the rights that are assured to these Nations within the lands. Treaty boundaries, in particular the Treaty 3 and the Haldimand Tract, can still be seen in the existing northern and southern boundaries of Centre Wellington and in the boundary between the former Townships of Nichol and Garafraxa. The boundary between the Nichol and Garafraxa was named Jones Baseline Road in 1995 from Guelph to just north of Wellington County Road 17 with the exception of a portion through Fergus and recognizes Augustus Jones role in defining the northern limit of the Haldimand Tract (Thorning 1995).

The advent and significance of historical treaties are rooted in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, issued by King George III. The Proclamation affirmed that Indigenous people lived under the protection of the Crown and that they were not to be "molested or disturbed in the Possession of such Parts of Our Dominions and Territories as, not having been ceded to, or purchased by Us, are reserved to them, or any of them, as their Hunting Grounds...". This statement recognized the existence of Aboriginal rights and title to vast areas within North America. In particular, the Royal Proclamation identified the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains, not including Rupert's Land in the north, as being Indigenous land and therefore subject to land acquisition agreements between the Crown and the affected nations. Between 1764 and 1815, the government acquired the lands of the shoreline of the upper St. Lawrence as well as the lower Great Lakes. While the earliest treaties were related to the use of land for military and defensive purposes, following the American Revolutionary War many treaties were for the purposes of settling the roughly 30,000 United Empire Loyalists who refused to accept American rule. After the War of 1812, the colonial administration of Upper Canada focused on greater settlement of the colony, and land purchases were then concerned with those lands beyond this first range of settlement (Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs 2010; Hall 2018; Surtees 1983).





The Haldimand Tract, as defined by the 1784 Haldimand Proclamation (Six Nations of the Grand River 2019).

The Between the Lakes Purchase and the Haldimand Grant (1784)

Following the American Revolutionary War, the British Crown needed to find lands on which to settle United Empire Loyalists, including approximately 2,000 members of the Six Nations confederacy who had fought alongside British troops. Due to their service to the Crown during this war and the dispossession of Indigenous lands in New York State by American forces, the English Colonial government offered to protect Six Nations peoples and give them land within their boundaries of English territory in Upper Canada. On August 8, 1783, Lord North instructed the Governor of Quebec, Sir Frederick Haldimand, to set apart land for the Six Nations people and ensure that they carried on their hunting and fur trading with the British. The Crown initially planned to provide lands for Loyalist settlers in Quebec and southeastern Ontario, including providing land in the Bay of Quinte for Six Nations peoples. This was not suitable for many of the members of Six Nations and a contingent of approximately 1,800 community members, led by Chief Joseph Brant, requested land north of Lake Erie along the Grand River. Brant felt that the location in the Bay of Quinte was too isolated and that his followers could be better served by being closer to the Six Nations communities that chose to remain in the United States in western New York (Surtees 1984).

Recognizing that under the terms of the Royal Proclamation the land needed to be purchased prior to settlement, Colonel John Butler was sent to negotiate with the Mississaugas of the Credit for lands east of Lake Ontario and north of Lake Erie. On May 22, 1784, the Mississaugas of the Credit agreed to cede approximately 3,000,000 acres of land containing all or part of Brant, Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, and Wellington Counties as well as the Regions of Haldimand-Norfolk, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, and Waterloo. In exchange for these lands, the Mississaugas received £1180.74 worth of trade goods (Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs 2016; Surtees 1984). Of the 3,000,000 acres, approximately 650,000 acres were set aside for the settlement of Six Nations

people.

On October 25, 1784, Haldimand signed a proclamation that allotted land six miles (10 km) on either side of the Grand River from its mouth at Lake Erie to its headwaters near Dundalk, Ontario. This land was to be used solely by the people of Six Nations, who were also granted the right to sell or lease the land within this territory providing the Crown was first offered to purchase the land (Filice 2018; Surtees 1984). Under the terms of the Haldimand Proclamation, Six Nations people were authorized to “Settle upon the Banks of the River” and were allotted “for that Purpose six miles [10 km] deep from each Side of [its] beginning at Lake Erie, & extending in the Proportion to [its] Head.” (Filice 2016; Johnston 1964)

Renegotiation of Treaty 3 and the Simcoe Patent/Treaty 4 (1793)

Due to uncertainties with the description of the lands in the original surrender, Treaty 3 was renegotiated on December 7, 1792 to clarify what was ceded. This largely revolved around the northern boundary of the Treaty area and in particular the area set aside for Six Nations settlement along the Haldimand Tract. The signees of the treaty on the side of the British included Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, John Butler, Robert Kerr, Peter Russell, John McGill, and Davie William Smith. The signees of the treaty on the side of the Mississauga included Chiefs Wabakyne, Wabanip, Kautabus, Wabaniship, and Mottotow (Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs 2016; Surtees 1984).

As part of the 1792 renegotiation of Treaty 3, the Crown also redefined the boundaries of the Haldimand Tract. Upon review of the Haldimand Proclamation, politician and Indian Department official Sir John Johnson noted an error involving the location of the northern boundary of the tract. Haldimand had mistakenly assumed in 1784 that the headwaters of the Grand River resided within the area negotiated under Treaty 3. However, the northern reach of the Haldimand Tract was within lands that were not negotiated until 1818 under Treaties 18 and

"Plan shewing the Lands granted to the Six Nation Indians, situated on each side of the Grand River, or Ouse, commencing on Lake Erie, containing about 674,910 Acres. Thos. Ridout Surveyor General, survey Gen. Office York 2nd February 1821." (Library and Archives Canada. Mikan 4129506).



19 (Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs 2016; Filice 2018; Surtees 1984). In order to clarify the boundaries of the tract, the Crown appointed surveyor Augustus Jones to complete a survey of the Haldimand Tract in 1791. In so doing, Jones redefined the borders of the Six Nations' land parcel. This included defining the northern limit of the Haldimand Tract as Jones Base line near the Town of Fergus in the Township of Centre Wellington. In addition, Jones established straight-lined boundaries, rather than sinuous boundaries following every curve in the river, which can still be seen in today's municipal boundaries. Six Nations and Joseph Brant were not in agreement with this new definition and petitioned the government for control over the tract. This eventually led to the 1793 Simcoe Patent which defined the rules of land ownership and leasing within the revised 30,000 acres of land provided to Six Nations. This 1793 patent did not address those lands northeast of the Jones Base line and continues to be a source of dispute between Six Nations and the Crown.

The difference between the original land grant of the Haldimand Proclamation and the Simcoe Patent was significant. Not only did the new territory remove the upper 275,000 acres of the tract north of Jones Baseline, Jones' redefinition of the boundaries along the portions of the Haldimand Tract within the Treaty 3 lands did not consistently provide 6 miles on either side of the Grand River. Six Nations of the Grand River contend that they were not involved in the renegotiation of this land and therefore the redefined territory is not consistent with the terms of the original land grant. In particular, it is the view of Six Nations of the Grand River that it was the responsibility of the Crown to provide the land that was agreed to in the Haldimand Proclamation (Six Nations of the Grand River 2019, 2020).

Following the establishment of the Haldimand Tract, Six Nations of the Grand River began to negotiate leases within the Haldimand Tract as a means of generating income for the community. In 1796, the Six Nations agreed to share 302,907 acres of land in North and South Dumfries, Waterloo, Woolwich,

Pilkington, and Nichol townships. These transactions were made under the understanding that this would provide a continuous revenue stream for the Confederacy and that these represented long term leases rather than formal land sales (Six Nations of the Grand River 2019). The Crown was responsible for administering these funds which Six Nations of the Grand River argue they never received. Many of the leases were confirmed by the Crown in 1834-5, although unauthorized sales and squatting by settlers remained a significant issue (Johnston 1964; Lytwyn 2005). In 1841, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Samuel P. Jarvis, informed the Six Nations of the Grand River that the only way to keep white intruders off their land would be for the Crown to manage these lands on behalf of the Nation, to be administered for their sole benefit. Under this plan, the Six Nations of the Grand River would retain lands that they actually occupied and a reserve of approximately 20,000 acres near the present-day city of Brantford. This transfer of land to the Crown was made by the Six Nations in January 1841 (Johnston 1964; Lytwyn 2005).

This history and those surrenders are still contested by the Confederacy and there are currently 29 specific land claims that have been filed by the Six Nations of the Grand River with the federal government in regard to lands within the Haldimand Tract (Johnston 1964; Lytwyn 2005; Six Nations of the Grand River 2019).

Ajetance Purchase / Treaty 19 (1819)

The Ajetance purchase, or Treaty 19, included 648,000 acres of land occupying portions of present-day Halton and Peel Regions as well as Dufferin and Wellington Counties. The treaty is surrounded by Treaty 3 (1784/1792) to the west, Treaty 14 (1806) to the south, Treaty 13 (1788/1805) to the east, and Treaty 18 (1818) to the north (Government of Canada 2016). This area was the last large tract of land ceded by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, following the settlement of the Head of the Lake purchase (Treaty 14) in 1806. By 1818, the Mississaugas were experiencing a rapid decline in population due to



increased encroachment by settlers and declining resources, and the area to the north had just been ceded by Chippewa nations (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation 2017a).

On October 23, 1818, Deputy Superintendent William Claus met with Chief Ajetance and other delegates of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to negotiate the sale of the land. The payment offered for this land consisted of “the yearly sum of [522] pounds ten shillings in goods annually”. By 1820, the Mississaugas of the Credit negotiated the sale of the remainder of their lands except for a 200-acre parcel near the mouth of the Credit River (Surtees 1984; Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation 2017b; Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs 2016).

5.3 Township Survey and Settlement along the Grand River and Beyond

A major influence on the landscape has been the early nineteenth-century imposition of a grid structure laid out by surveyors acting in the interest of the British government. Most of the historical townships that comprise the present Township of Centre Wellington were surveyed in lots and concessions with allowances for concession roads running from southeast to northwest. However, in lower Nichol (southwest of the Grand River) the concessions road allowances were surveyed across the width of the township from southwest to northeast. Broken front concessions were surveyed for lots adjacent to the curvilinear Grand River in Nichol and Pilkington. Lot sizes were generally 200 acres in Eramosa, West Garafraxa, and Lower Pilkington (but smaller around the Grand River). Lots were 100 acres in Nichol and Upper Pilkington.

Settlers were drawn to Centre Wellington due to the fertile soil for farming and the proximity to numerous rivers and streams, particularly the Grand River. The majority of settlers arriving in the area were English, Scottish, and Irish (Waterson and Hoffman 1974:31). Crown land grants were given free to settlers with

certain requirements before the issue of a patent, as described by an old couplet:

“Eighteen months to do settlement duties; five acres to clear, and the street;
A house to build eighteen by twenty, and cover with shingles complete” (Lloyd 1906:2).

Settlement within the townships began in earnest in the early 1820s with villages established to take advantage of the rich waterways and included Pierpoint, Fergus, Elora, Salem, and Aboyne. The earliest known settlement was Pierpoint, in West Garafraxa on the eastern edge of present-day Fergus. The settlement was established starting in 1819 by freed black slaves, who were granted their freedom for their service to the British during the American Revolution. The area later became known as Glenlamond (Hutchinson 1998:271).

The early nineteenth-century villages of Fergus and Elora grew into towns while, in contrast, little evidence remains of Pierpoint and Aboyne. Salem remains for the most part in its nineteenth-century form. The village of Belwood and other hamlets formed through the mid- to late-nineteenth century, many of which supported families living and working the agricultural lands. Belwood has remained, supported by the recreational community around Belwood Lake. Many of the hamlets remain evident only through a church or school building.

Pilkington Township

Pilkington Township was originally part of the Haldimand Tract in 1784, and was later purchased from the Six Nations by William Wallace of Niagara consisting of 30,000 acres (Block no. 3) in 1798. Wallace then sold the sold 15,000 acres the following year to Robert Pilkington, Major-General in the Corps of Royal Engineers of Canada and it became known as the Pilkington Block within Woolwich Township (Hutchinson 1997:169).

Settlement at the chosen town site on Broken Front, Lot 1 Concession 2 began around 1819 with the

Lepard, Wolcott, Davis, Reeve, Greenhalgh, and Matthews families. A grist mill was built and a saw mill and lime kiln were built for the construction of a church. These families travelled along the Grand River from Winterbourne and West Montrose to Pilkington. William Wolcott and family are considered the first among these families, arriving in 1817. The Lepard Farm Cemetery remains as evidence of this early period. The town site eventually developed east of this location at Elora. Settlement after 1830 was slow, as land was twice as expensive as in the neighbouring Nichol Township. The Pilkington estate advertised free 100-acre parcels to new settlers to encourage growth, however General Pilkington died in 1835 and his executors did not honour the offer of free land. The estate was surveyed by Charles Rankin in 1845, who created 100 acre lots in Pilkington Township (McIlwraith 1997:57, Fig 4.6). However, settlement on Pilkington’s land continued to be slow to take hold. The first settlers in Upper Pilkington, northwest of the Grand River, were members of the Bon Accord settlement in Nichol Township to the west, who crossed into Pilkington and “squatted,” being given the first opportunity to purchase their improved property once the land was offered for sale. Several small communities, including Jerusalem, Winterbourne, Inverhaugh, Pentland, Ariss, and Wissenburg, developed within Pilkington Township. Thorpville (founded in the 1830s) and Ponsonby developed along the town line between Pilkington and Nichol townships.

Nichol Township

Nichol Township was purchased as part of Block 4 by Col. Thomas Clarke in 1807 (Hutchinson 1997:139). Nichol was surveyed into double front lots of 200 acres (McIlwraith 1997:57, Fig 4.6). Clarke sent Roswell Matthews to the falls on the Grand River in 1819 to build a dam. The first permanent settler arrived in 1827, and settlement in lower Nichol increased considerably after 1829. The development of communities in Nichol started in the early 1830s, when Captain William Gilkison purchased the southwest half of Nichol

Township (13,816 acres), and James Webster and Adam Fergusson bought 7,367 acres around the Fergus area (Hutchinson 1997:185, 211).

Gilkison had the townsite for Elora surveyed in 1832 at the Grand River Falls (now Elora Falls). It is said that the scenery there influenced his choice of location for the village almost as much as the excellent siting for mills at the falls and the fertility of the soil did (Lloyd 1906:9). Gilkison died in 1833, and progress in Elora was slow for the first nine years after his death (Hutchinson 1998:186). Roswell Matthews is recorded as the first settler at Big Falls (now Elora), arriving in 1817 with several sons to build a dam and make a clearing. Matthews stayed in the area for nine years before moving to Guelph. Abram Matthews, an elder son of Roswell Matthews, was hired by General Pilkington to clear the western half of the Guelph–Elora Road (now Wellington Road 7), from the lower end of Pilkington to Elora (Hutchinson 1997:169).

In 1833 Fergus was founded by Scotsmans Adam Fergusson and James Webster. Fergusson did not reside in Fergus aside from spending one summer. Webster was the active developer of the settlement, erecting mills, selling lots and directing the clearing of land in consultation with Fergusson (Byerly 1932:45).

The first of members of the Bon Accord settlement arrived in 1832 and bought land north of Elora, with successive settlement parties arriving from Scotland between 1834 and 1836. Thorpville, on the Nichol-Pilkington town line, was another early settlement, which started in the 1830s (Hutchinson 1997:147). The following decade saw the development of Barnett, later named Ennotville, and the initial settlement at Salem (Hutchinson 1997:142). The mid 1850s brought a boom in the creation of communities in Nichol as the townsites of Gluyasville, Cumnock, Kinnettles and Aboyne were laid out and offered for sale (Byerly 1935:63). None of these villages developed as their founders had hoped.

Elora Falls, undated
(Library and Archives
Canada Mikan 4488645).



Fergus, 1915 (Library and
Archives Canada Mikan
3310156).



Garafraxa Township

Garafraxa was surveyed by Samuel Ryckman and Joseph Griffin in 1821. Garafraxa was surveyed into double front lots of 200 acres (McIlwraith 1997:57, Fig 4.6). In 1869 the township was divided into West Garafraxa and East Garafraxa (Hutchinson 1997:246). The earliest settlement in the township was Pierpoint, established by Africans who were previously enslaved and brought to the United States by their captors. Fleeing slavery, they enlisted themselves in Butler's Rangers to fight for the British during the American Revolution. They regained their freedom through their allegiance to Britain and came to Upper Canada, first being granted land in the Niagara area and then coming to West Garafraxa starting in 1819. The settlement became known as Pierpoint after Richard Pierpoint, who arrived in 1822 and was a leader of the community. By 1826, Pierpoint had six or seven log cabins and at least 35 acres of cleared land. One of the Pierpoint settlers, a Mr. Scott, built the first house in Fergus, on the site of the present Fergus library at 190 St. Andrew Street West, and he built the first bridge across the Grand River on Tower Street with the help of other Pierpoint residents (Hutchinson 271-2). Further settlers arrived in 1826 (Byerly 1935:60). West Garafraxa had one village, Belwood, and a number of small hamlets, including Carmel, Glen Lamond, Living Springs/Green Settlement, Metz, Craigsholme, and Dracon (Byerly 1935, Hutchinson 1997).

Eramosa Township

Eramosa Township was surveyed by Samuel Ryckman in 1819 (Hutchinson 1997:37) into double front lots of 200 acres (McIlwraith 1997:57, Fig 4.6). The first permanent settlers arrived in 1819. Hutchinson (1997:41) notes that settlement in Eramosa Township was slow, as much of the land had been given to non-resident army officers and United Empire Loyalists who were asking high prices for their property. In addition to this, one seventh of the township was owned by the Canada Company,

and another seventh was clergy reserve, both of which blocked progressive settlement. Four small settlements developed in the portion of Eramosa Township included in the Township of Centre Wellington: Speedside, Oustic, Shiloh, and Drumhill.

5.4 Industries that Have Shaped Land Use and Development Patterns

The excellent conditions for agriculture in the rural areas of the Township have likely been a factor in the limited urban development beyond the main centres of Fergus and Elora on the Grand River. Towns and villages served as supply centres with specialized services for people who were clearing the land. Hamlets and villages served the surrounding agricultural communities (Waterson and Hoffman 1974: 36).

Nineteenth-century urban development in Fergus and Elora unfolded as it did in many Ontario villages. Proximity to the waterpower of the Grand and Irvine Rivers guided the initial selection of the locations for settlement, and water-powered grist mills and sawmills were important early infrastructure that enabled further growth. Early bridges were also important to the expansion of the villages. Other early establishments included schools, post offices, churches, blacksmiths, libraries, taverns, and general stores. As their populations grew in the later half of the nineteenth century, the villages could support enterprises such as distilleries, woolen mills, tanneries, foundries, stove factories, carriage works, shoemakers, tailors, and coopers (Hutchinson 1998, Byerly 1932).

Agriculture

The fertile soil throughout Centre Wellington has dictated the agricultural use of much of the land in the township, beginning in the 1820s and continuing today. Proximity to grist and flour mills was of importance to farming families in the early and mid-nineteenth century. Hamlets developed throughout the townships and served a neighbourhood



function. These communities were a centre point providing goods required for daily life, places for social convening, and many included a church with a cemetery and sometimes a school. Post offices were established at these centres and often provided the impetus for naming these communities. Schools were also provided at a greater frequency in the later part of the nineteenth century and could be found throughout the rural communities. Agriculture was also closely integrated with the larger communities of Elora and Fergus in order to take advantage of railways for shipping, storage warehouses, and cattle markets.

In selecting a lot for farming, pioneers tended to avoid wetlands and seek more rolling sites (Waterson and Hoffman 1974:29). Early farmers began by clearing trees off the land to grow crops for subsistence, and as crop production improved into the 1850s and 1860s, so did the transportation network of roads and railways which enabled farmers to ship their products to market. Higher quality livestock was also introduced around this time (Ontario Department of Agriculture 1953:4). Wheat, peas, barley and oats were the chief crops cultivated in Wellington County in 1852 (Delaurentis and Nash-Chambers 2006:7). Wheat was the major export crop, but mixed farming and livestock became increasingly important towards the end of the nineteenth century. Wheat barns were lifted and stone stables were constructed underneath to house livestock (Oakes 1999:23).

The layout of a typical Ontario farmstead was determined by numerous factors. The first building was usually a log cabin, which tended to be set well back into the lot for privacy. Once a more elaborate stone or brick farmhouse was built, it was often placed closer to the road to act as a showpiece and conceal the original house and more utilitarian outbuildings. Buildings tended to be spread out for fire safety and to allow room to turn a horse and wagon. Barns were often nestled into a slope to provide good drainage and a good view, and to allow the barn to be entered on two levels. Rows of trees were planted along the

driveway or across the front of the lot to break the wind (McIlwraith 1997:242-244).

Mechanization in the latter half of the nineteenth century led to the increase of field sizes. The arrival of electricity and tractors by the early twentieth century created another huge increase in efficiency and crop production. Tower silos for storing crops began to appear in the countryside around 1900 (Oakes 1999:23). Many barns are now empty, due to crops being harvested and transported immediately for processing (Oakes 1999:23). With the development of cars and trucks in the early twentieth century farmers could travel further from home and the agricultural industry became less reliant on the small neighbourhood for community and supplies and more dependent on the larger centres.

Milling

The waterpower of the Grand River and Irvine River as well as the many creeks throughout the townships were key to the development of industry in the mid-nineteenth century. Dams were constructed in Elora, Fergus, Aboyne, and Belwood (Thorning 1992:15). Both Fergus and Elora had numerous sawmills and grist mills, and each had woolen mills. Well-known mills included Drimmie's Mill/Elora Mill, and Wilson's Mill/Monkland Mills in Fergus. Salem also had numerous water-powered industries on the Irvine River, including Wissler's Mill and Erb's Mill. Aboyne had several mills. Mills were prone to fires and many mills in the township were rebuilt multiple times. Other water-powered industries included foundries for agricultural implements. The latter half of the nineteenth century saw many industries adopting auxiliary steam power. The popularity of water-powered industries declined due to problems with unreliable water flow, flooding, and the limitations of siting a factory on the river (Thorning 1992:19).

The arrival of electrical power in the early 1890s improved conditions for night shifts and for weaving and sewing operations (Thorning 1992:21). Dr.



An agricultural property in the township (A.S.I. 2019).

Abraham Groves of Fergus used steam power to generate electricity 25 years before hydro-electricity reached the area (Hutchinson 1998:233).

Manufacturing

Beatty Brothers Limited was founded in Fergus in 1874 and began as a manufacturer of farm equipment. It expanded to become a major employer in the area and a major international manufacturer of agricultural machinery, barn and stable equipment, and household appliances. It was considered the "backbone of industrial life in Fergus." The company's success helped to lift Fergus out of an industrial decline in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Its first factory was located in the Old Temperance Hall on St. Andrew's Street on the north side of the river. In 1879 a new water-powered factory was built on the south side of the Grand River (at the present location of Fergus Market on the west corner of St. David Street at Queen Street). In 1911 the Hill Street Plant was built,

with numerous additions ensuing (Byerly 1932-226).

Other manufacturers included the T.E. Bissell Company and Mundell Furniture Factory. The T.E. Bissell Company was a farm machinery factory located in Elora south of Mill Street at the Upper Dam on the Grand River. It operated from 1901 to about 1950 (Hutchinson 1998:198). The Mundell Furniture Factory was Elora's longest operating manufacturer and Elora's largest employer for several decades in the early twentieth century. It operated from 1851 to 1954 in several locations (Hutchinson 1998:198).

Quarrying

Both Fergus and Elora had quarries and kilns to produce lime. This industry took advantage of the area's plentiful limestone bedrock to produce lime for mortar and plaster. James Gow operated a large quarry in Fergus on the south side of the Grand River west of Tower Street from c. 1896 to 1914 (it is now parkland



Beatty Brothers Ltd. Hill Street Factory, 1915 (Top: Library and Archives Canada Mikan 3368743, bottom: Library and Archives Canada 3310158).

and the site of the Fergus sewage plant) (Thorning 2000). The Elora White Lime Company operated at the site of the Elora Quarry Conservation Area from 1914-1932 (Thorning 1991b).

While the earliest pioneer structures were log cabins, limestone was readily available in Wellington County where rivers and streams cut through limestone formations, as at Fergus and Elora. This local limestone was more popular for building construction in urban centres than in rural areas (Couling 2002:8). In particular, the concentration of skilled Scottish masons in Fergus led to a proliferation of sturdy and handsome limestone buildings there. Use of stone masonry in the area declined rapidly after 1890 when railways brought affordable pressed brick into the area. Some stone houses, however, continued to be built in Fergus as late as the 1930s (Couling 2002:29).

Railways

The Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway was completed from Guelph to Fergus, with a stop in Elora, in 1870. The main line extended from Guelph to Southampton by 1872, with another branch running from Palmerston west to Kincardine. Prior to this there was no railway north of Guelph. This railway offered freight and passenger service and connected communities which were not served by large railways (Thorning 1991).

The arrival of the railway in Centre Wellington had mixed results: While the railway led to a population boom during its construction and an initial increase in local traffic upon its opening, it also dispersed the market functions of Fergus and Elora among a number of other towns. Ultimately it devastated the local economies of Elora and Fergus, which were based on farm markets. Fergus fared slightly better than Elora due to its more substantial industrial base. Other smaller hamlets which had served as stops for stagecoaches, such as Cumnock, declined with the loss of traffic (Thorning 1991:13-14, 17).

The Credit Valley Railway was introduced as a competitor to the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway. It ran from Toronto to Orangeville, with branches from Cataract to Elora and Streetsville to St. Thomas. The

Cataract-Elora branch opened in 1880. It became a major exporter of agricultural produce from Wellington County. Grain elevators appeared at Elora and Hillsburgh, while Erin, Hillsburgh, Orton, and Belwood became important shipping points for cattle, grain and eventually turnips (Thorning 1991:19).

The railway age reached its peak in Wellington County between 1910 and the First World War (Thorning 1991:26). The First World War brought a decline in service, with shortages of materials and fuel. Passenger service was reduced through the 1960s and all service on both lines had ended by 1989 (Thorning 1991:30-33).

Shand Dam

Flooding along the Grand River was becoming increasingly frequent and severe in the early 1900s, attributed partially to the deforestation of the river valley (G.R.C.A. 1995). The pollution of the river from industrial and household waste was also becoming a severe problem (Thorning 1992:19). To address these problems, construction of the Shand Dam and Belwood Lake was begun in 1939, following years of political discussion. The Grand River Conservation Commission (formed in 1934) hired engineer H.G. Acres & Co. of Niagara Falls in 1938 to design the dam and supervise its construction (Baine 2009:1). The creation of Belwood Lake necessitated the flooding of approximately half of the village of Belwood, upstream from the dam, as well as farmland in West Garafraxa. The dam also displaced the existing railway line. The Canadian Pacific Railway proposed to close the Elora branch, which was not profitable for the C.P.R., however municipalities along the railway fought the closing. In 1941 the federal Board of Transport Commissioners passed a decision that the railway must continue to operate. Thus the railway was re-routed over the dam, as tests had shown there was no other suitable site for foundations for a railway bridge to cross the lake near Belwood (Templin 1992:33-34). The dam was officially opened to great fanfare on August 7, 1942. It stretches 637 metres





Tourists at Elora Gorge, clockwise 1920, c. 1880 and 2009 (Library and Archives Canada Mikan 3387805, W.C.M.A ph439 Pallister 2009 via Wikimedia).

across the valley of the Grand River and rises 23 feet metres above the riverbed. The top of the dam carried the Canadian Pacific Railway across the river. Lake Belwood, created as a reservoir, is approximately 11 km long and 3.2 km wide at its widest point. Belwood Lake became a summer resort with four beaches and is lined with about 350 cottages (Hutchinson 1998:266–268).

Arts and Tourism

A tourism industry started to develop around the Grand River in 1880 as trainloads of visitors came to see the Elora Gorge and paid to have their photographs taken (Thorning 1992:20). Prior to this period of tourism the Elora Gorge has been logged for timber and was a dumping ground for waste. A crisis was reached in 1868 when the garbage in the gorges caught fire and burned for 10 days. This spurred local citizens to clean up the gorges, plant trees, and build steps and bridges to recapture the beauty of the gorges (Township of Centre Wellington 2011). From this came the creation of Victoria Park (originally Indian Cliff) situated overlooking the Elora Gorge. Planting improved the area and access was built down into the Elora Gorge. Tourism to the Elora Gorge continues today and continues to be supported by the conservation mandate of the G.R.C.A. through their conservation areas at the Elora Gorge and upstream on the Grand River at the Elora Quarry and at Belwood Lake.

In the twentieth century the arts have become a defining feature of the area and has continued to enliven the community and bring tourists into the Township. This artistic movement is supported by the Wellington County Museum and Archives, Elora Centre for the Arts, Fergus Grand Theatre and privately owned art galleries in Elora and Salem. Many of these organizations have made their home in repurposed nineteenth-century buildings. A highlight event is the Elora Fergus Studio Tour which brings people into the studios of local artists. The Highland Games (now the Fergus Scottish Festival) began in

1946, bringing dancers and spectators from across Ontario. Other events include music festivals situated along the Grand River.

6.0 Conclusions and Next Steps

The evaluation of candidate C.H.L.s found 18 of the 23 areas to meet the criteria as Significant C.H.L.s. Significant C.H.L.s met a range of criteria in all three evaluation categories: cultural heritage value or interest, historical integrity, and community value. The information produced at the inventory stage of the identification of C.H.L.s is of a preliminary nature. Further understanding of cultural heritage values, heritage attributes and boundaries, and identification of specific protective measures to enable conservation are recommended to occur as part of future technical studies.

6.1 Significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes

A brief description of each Significant C.H.L. is provided in this section. The location and preliminary boundary of each Significant C.H.L. are mapped on the following page (page 27). The specific criteria met by each Significant C.H.L. is included in the Summary Evaluation Table of Significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes (Appendix I). The C.H.L.s are described, mapped and documented in greater detail in the Inventory of Significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes in the Township of Centre Wellington (Appendix K) including their preliminary boundaries, cultural heritage value, historical integrity, and community value and the preliminary heritage attributes which demonstrate their values. The C.H.L.s have been numbered to reflect their general location from west to east within the Township.

C.H.L. #1 Grand River Corridor

The Grand River flows through the centre of the Township and is one of the oldest and largest rivers in Ontario. As a designated Canadian Heritage River for its cultural history and outstanding recreation opportunities it has value to all Canadians. The Grand River holds strong historical and associative values for the Neutral people, the Mississaugas of the Credit,

and the Six Nations. The Grand River is valued for the landmark features within the Township such as the Elora Gorge, Elora Quarry, Elora-Fergus Buried Valley, the low banks of Wilson's Flats, and the nineteenth-century buildings along its banks.

C.H.L. #2 Elora Cataract Trailway

The Elora Cataract Trailway is a recreational trail that runs in a generally east-west direction between Elora and Belwood, through Fergus, following the railbed of the former Credit Valley/Canadian Pacific Railway and continues beyond the Township to the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park at Cataract. The trailway is primarily valued for its historical associations with the Credit Valley Railway and later the Canadian Pacific Railway which supported the growth and development of major industries and agriculture in the area and for its conversion to recreational use.

C.H.L. #3 Salem

Salem is located between Wellington Road 7 and the Irvine River at the north end of James Street. Founded in 1845 by Sem Wissler, the village supported many nineteenth-century industries which took advantage of the location on the Irvine River for power. The area is valued for the high degree of aesthetic appeal

which represents its nineteenth-century origins in the topography, rural quality of the unpaved, curbless roads, and the triangular road pattern forming the village core.

C.H.L. #4 Elora Municipal Cemetery and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery

The Elora Municipal Cemetery and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery adjoin each other and are located at 365 Wellington Road 7 and 343 Wellington Road 7, Elora. The Elora Union Cemetery was established in 1864 and is now known as the Elora Municipal Cemetery. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery (also known as the Saint Mary and Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery) was established in 1873. Both include re-interments from earlier cemeteries in the area and represent some of the earliest settlers to the area. These cemeteries are valued together by the community members and parishioners of the area.

C.H.L. #5 Elora Gorge

The Elora Gorge is a section of the Grand River located downstream from and just west of Elora. The Grand River and its glacial predecessors slowly dissolved the soluble limestone bedrock here over thousands of years to form a gorge as deep as 28 metres in places (Dahms 2008:13). The Gorge is nearly three kilometres long and includes the Elora Gorge Falls and Islet Rock, a juncture with the Irvine Gorge, and the Elora Gorge Conservation Area. The Elora Gorge Conservation Area is owned and managed by the G.R.C.A.. The Elora Gorge is valued as a unique and exceptional geological feature and as a conservation area, public park, and tourist destination.

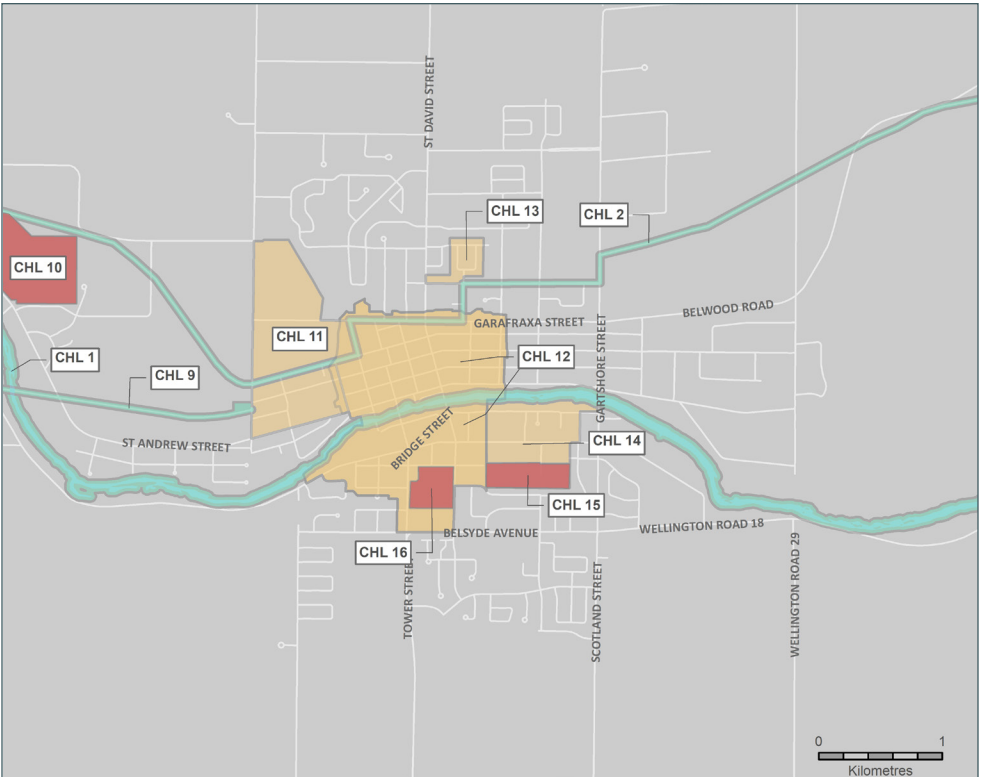
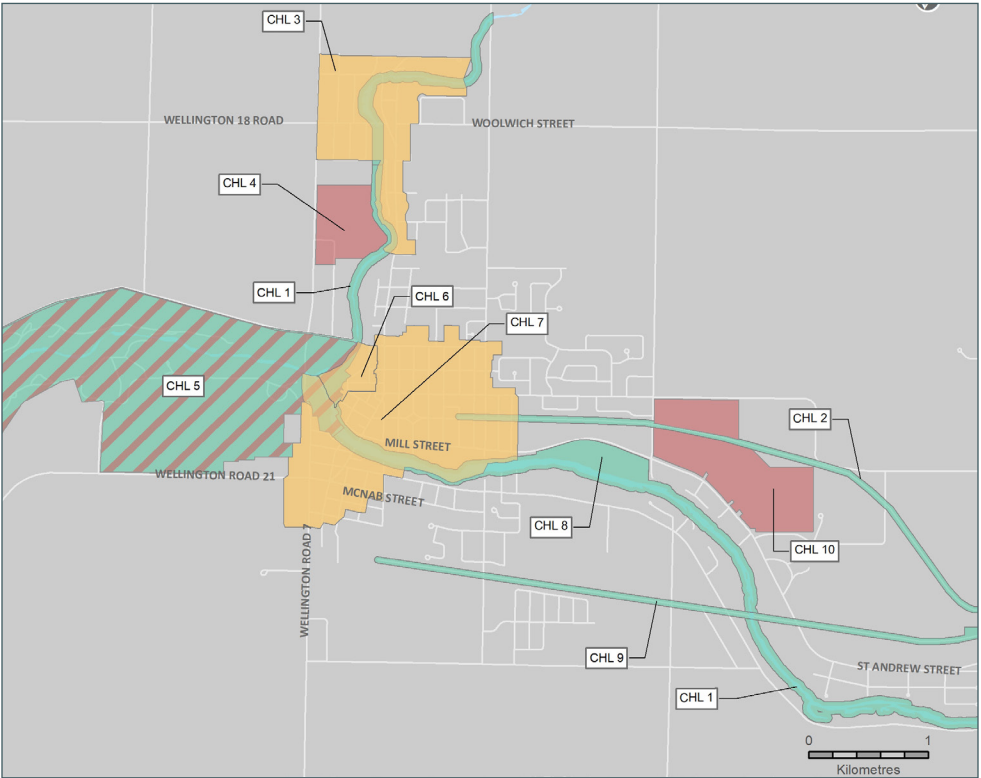
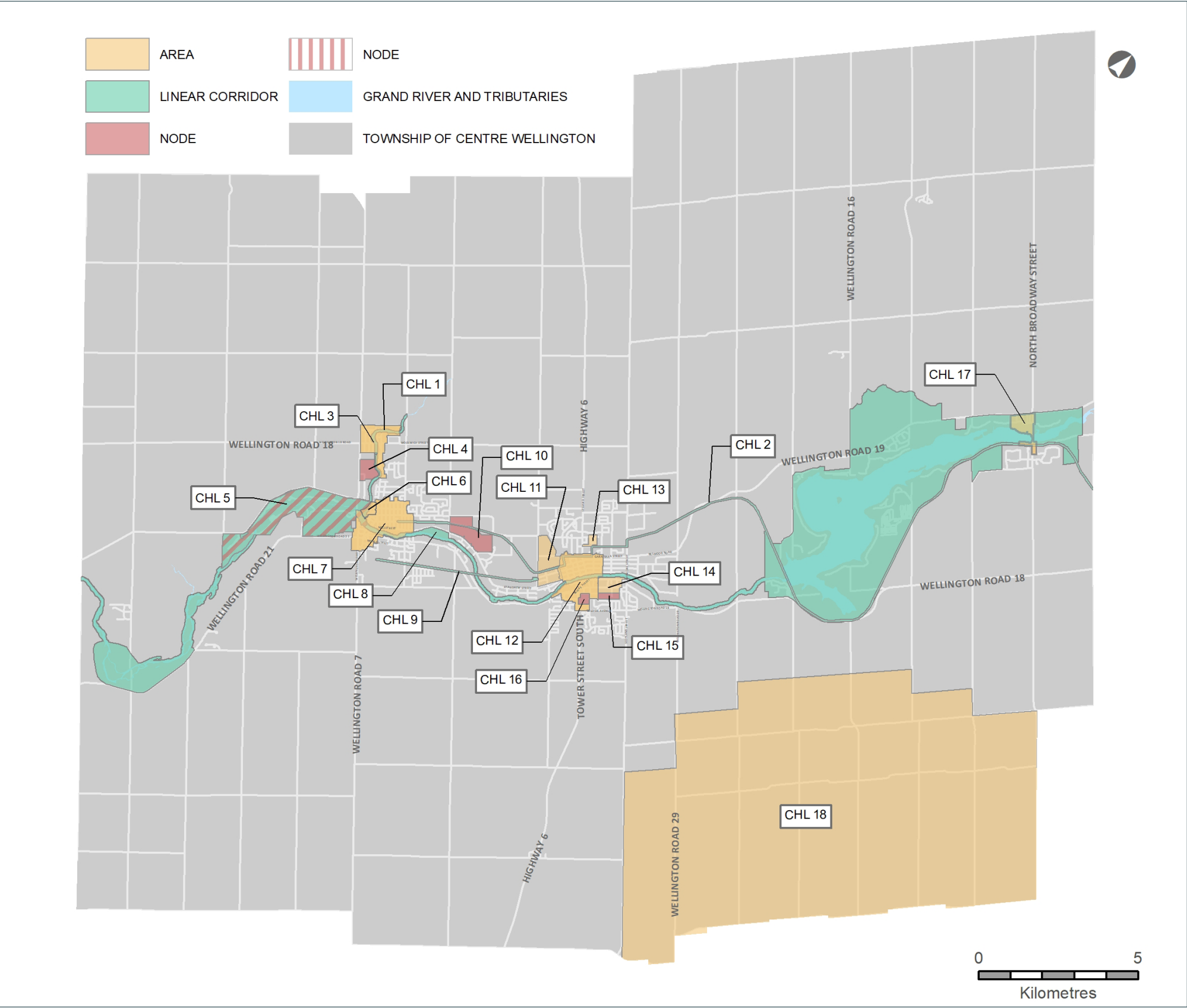


Grand River Corridor C.H.L., Wilson's Flats. looking north from 8th Line West (A.S.I. 2019).



Elora Municipal Cemetery and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery C.H.L., Elora Cemetery stone chapel and memorial gates, looking west from South Street (A.S.I. 2019).





Township of Centre Wellington Significant C.H.L.s, clockwise: Township, Elora-Salem, Fergus.

C.H.L. #6 Victoria Park and Victoria Crescent Neighbourhood, Elora

Victoria Park and the Victoria Crescent Neighbourhood are located northwest of downtown Elora at the point where the Elora and Irvine Gorge meet. The residential neighbourhood was laid out as part of the New Survey in 1857 and the park was created in the 1870s. The area has design and physical value as a unique example of a nineteenth-century residential neighbourhood and park laid out in response to the distinctive natural features of the Elora and Irvine Gorges. It is valued for its associations with Charles Allen, the local natural conservation movement, and as a defining feature of the picturesque character of Elora and the Elora and Irvine Gorges.

C.H.L. #7 Elora Historical Village Core

The Elora Historical Village Core is comprised of the downtown business and industrial district of Elora and the residential areas which developed around it through the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Elora was founded in 1832 by William Gilkison and the settlement grew on the south and north side of the Grand River. The historical core of Elora today retains a high number of nineteenth and early-twentieth-century commercial, industrial, civic, institutional, and residential buildings, many of them stone. The village is a tourist destination, known for its nineteenth-century character, picturesque views, and its thriving arts community. The area is valued as an outstanding example of an Ontario village set on the Grand River.

C.H.L. #8 Elora Quarry

The Elora Quarry is a former limestone quarry now used as a swimming hole, located on the north bank of the Grand River, on the eastern edge of Elora. Limestone extraction was prevalent in the area in the second half of the nineteenth century for use as a building material, to produce lime for mortar, in steel and paper production, and in agriculture. The quarry and lime kiln were established sometime after 1900

and operated until 1932. Shortly after the closure, with pumps no longer keeping the pit dry, the site became a favourite spot for swimmers. The Quarry is associated with Elora's industrial history and is the single largest artifact that expresses this history. The Elora Quarry Conservation Area is owned and managed by the G.R.C.A. As part of the Grand River's Canadian Heritage River designation, the Elora Quarry is provincially significant as a representative section of the Guelph Formation.

C.H.L. #9 Trestle Bridge Trail

The Trestle Bridge Trail is a 3.5 km trail connecting Fergus and Elora. The trail follows a portion of the railbed of the former Wellington Grey and Bruce Railway (later the Grand Trunk Railway and then the Canadian National Railway). The railway was constructed between 1867 and 1870. This section of the line operated until 1988 and has since been converted to public recreational use. The trail is valued for its associations with the railway companies which operated the line and with the growth and development of industries in the area which relied on freight connections.



Present-day view of bridge and trail from Grand River (Wellington.ca, undated).

C.H.L. #10 Allan Farmstead

The Allan Farmstead is a nineteenth-century farmstead located between Fergus and Elora at 378 Wellington Road 18. The property is listed on Centre Wellington's Heritage Register. The property was assessed in association with the former village of Aboyne located immediately south of the Allan Farmstead. It was found that the former village of Aboyne does not have historical integrity while the Allan Farmstead has cultural heritage value, historical integrity, and community value for its associations with the Allan family who have been significant in the establishment of Elora and in the ongoing development of the community.

C.H.L. #11 Beatty Brothers Factory and Residential Areas

The Beatty Brothers Factory and Residential Areas is located at the western edge of Fergus, north of the Grand River. The area developed around the former Beatty Brothers Hill Street Plant, constructed in 1911, and expanded to include a model farm and company housing for its workers and supervisory personnel. Brock Avenue was designated as a Heritage Conservation District in 1998. Beatty Brothers Ltd. was a major employer in Fergus and the surrounding area



Allan Farmstead C.H.L. from Wellington Rd. 18 (A.S.I. 2019).

for almost a century and is valued for its contributions to the economic and social development of the town.

C.H.L. #12 Fergus Historical Village Core

The Fergus Historical Village Core is comprised of the historical downtown business and industrial district of Fergus and the residential areas which developed around it through the nineteenth and early-twentieth century. Fergus was founded in 1833-34 by Scotsmen Adam Fergusson and James Webster. Milling and manufacturing developed along the Grand River, the downtown residential area was built by skilled Scottish masons who made use of the abundance of local limestone, and the town was laid out to highlight St. Andrew's Church. The area is valued as an outstanding example of a late nineteenth-century Ontario village sited on the Grand River, with its high concentration of cut-stone buildings expressing the rich natural resource of the area.

C.H.L. #13 Churchill Crescent Neighbourhood (Wartime Housing)

The Churchill Crescent Neighbourhood is located in Fergus north of the former Canadian Pacific Railway line. The neighbourhood is a residential area



Churchill Crescent Neighbourhood C.H.L., looking west at Churchill Crescent West from Webster Park (A.S.I. 2019)



constructed prior to 1954 in the Victory housing style, a type of wartime housing constructed during and after the Second World War, centred on Webster Park. The neighbourhood is a unique example of a Victory housing neighbourhood in Centre Wellington.

C.H.L. #14 Ferrier Estate and Union Street East

The Ferrier Survey is located in Fergus on the south side of the Grand River along a central axis of Union Street East. The Ferrier Survey originated with A.D. Ferrier's settlement on 100 acres of land in 1834 where he built his home. Today the area includes Confederation Park, Ferrier's home, Union Street East, and Belsyde Cemetery. The area is valued for its associations with Ferrier as an early settler and leader in the community, as an important area in the urban development of Fergus, and for its connections to the Grand River. The area has been identified by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as holding significance as an historical place.

C.H.L. #15 Belsyde Cemetery

Belsyde Cemetery is located at 250 Albert Street, Fergus. The cemetery was established in 1863 and continues in active use. It is valued for its associations



Belsyde Cemetery C.H.L. (A.S.I. 2019).

with A.D. Ferrier and is also part of the Ferrier Survey C.H.L. The oldest part of the cemetery is laid out in a Celtic cross, reflecting the Scottish heritage of many settlers in Fergus.

C.H.L. #16 Victoria Park, Fergus

Victoria Park is located between Tower Street South and St. David Street South, south of Albert Street in Fergus. It is noted by the community as historically being the premiere park for town events. The park originated as a privately-owned racetrack which was made public in 1883 and renamed Victoria Park in c. 1900. Victoria Park has long been known as a local landmark.

C.H.L. #17 Belwood Historical Village Core

The area comprised of the village of Belwood, the Shand Dam and Belwood Lake is situated at the eastern end of the Township on the Grand River between West Mill Street and Victoria Street. The nineteenth-century village of Belwood was dramatically impacted by the construction of the Shand Dam and reservoir, known as Belwood Lake, between 1939 and 1942 when the south end of the village on the north side of the Grand River was



Belwood C.H.L., Shand Dam (A.S.I. 2019).

flooded. Shand Dam and Belwood Lake are valued as an early example of conservation reservoir. The dam was the first large-scale multi-purpose dam in Canada and the first of a series of dams in the Grand River Watershed. The resulting lake has created a tourism and summer resort industry which supports the continuance of the village of Belwood.

C.H.L. #18 Oustic

The hamlet of Oustic is located at the crossroads of Eramosa 5th Line and County Road 22 and is at the centre of a nineteenth-century rural agricultural settlement in the northern half of the former Eramosa Township. This C.H.L. crosses the Centre Wellington municipal boundary into the Township of Guelph/Eramosa. The Oustic area which includes the settlements of Oustic, Speedside, Birge Mills, Shiloh, and Armstrong Mills, expresses an early and rare landscape where a pattern of physiographic obstacles, the glacial spillways, created an unusual agricultural settlement pattern in a very challenging natural landscape. Many of the properties within the area exhibit the authentic physical qualities of a nineteenth-century farmstead. These include: houses set back from the roadways at the end of long lanes often lined with trees; barns, silos and agricultural

outbuildings, field patterns which demonstrate six to eight fields within the lot; fences and hedgerows, windrows; and woodlots.



Oustic C.H.L., example of quality of nineteenth-century stone building (A.S.I. 2019)

6.2 Areas Determined to Require Further Research

The following area was determined to require further research and consultation to determine its cultural heritage value, historical integrity, and community value. Additional information is included in Appendix J.

Pierpoint

This area is located generally in Lot 6, Concession 1, Garafraxa Township, east of Fergus on the north side of the Grand River. Pierpoint is recognized as the earliest known settlement within the former townships and is associated with the early Black Canadian community in the township which demonstrates the area’s cultural heritage value. It is beyond the scope of this study to determine if the archaeological remnants of this important settlement are extant. Based on the current level of analysis, it is recommended that further research be conducted to understand its potential for historical integrity. Specific consultation with the Black Canadian community should be initiated to appropriately determine community value. This area may be considered for an interpretation plan to disseminate the history to the broader community.

6.3 Areas Found to Not Possess Significance as Cultural Heritage Landscapes

The following areas were identified as candidate C.H.L.s through historical review, public feedback, Township input, and/or field review and were prioritized for evaluation. Further research and evaluation determined that these areas did not meet the full range of criteria for significance. These areas are not included in the inventory.

South River Road

This roadway, which connects Elora and Fergus on the south side of the Grand River, was found to possess community value due to its scenic qualities

which include the topography, tree canopy, residential properties on the north side of the road, and the agricultural uses with pastures and open fields as well as farmhouses and barns on the south side. The prominent ridgeline on the south side of the road is believed to be the visible part of the Elora-Fergus Buried Valley. While the area has a distinct character there were no direct associations found to be indicative of the area’s cultural heritage value or interest. This area’s character may be considered for protection through other planning mechanisms such as scenic route policies in the Official Plan and design guidelines.

Wilson’s Flats Area

This area located on the Grand River west of Elora and, for the purposes of this evaluation process, comprised a group of features linked by Wellington Road 21 including the historical settlement of Inverhaugh, Pilkington Overlook, and Wilson’s Flats. Wilson’s Flats and the Pilkington Overlook have community value as public spaces and for the recreation and appreciation of the natural environment. These features have been incorporated as heritage attributes into the Grand River Corridor. The Inverhaugh area is considered of regional significance in the Grand River Canadian Heritage River designation as a good example of a braided river channel however there were no direct associations found to be indicative of the area’s cultural heritage value or interest. Field review of Inverhaugh did not find the area to possess historical integrity.

Highland Park

This area, located between Belsyde Cemetery and Victoria Park in Fergus, was considered individually and as part of the network of public spaces formed by the cemetery and two parks. Belsyde Cemetery and Victoria Park were each found to have individual and distinct cultural heritage values while Highland Park had no direct associations indicative of cultural heritage value on its own or in connection to the adjacent properties.

6.4 Next Steps

The identification and evaluation of C.H.L.s is the first stage in the conservation process. Following identification of significant C.H.L.s, technical studies or other initiatives are recommended to be conducted to provide a more detailed assessment. The goal of this assessment is to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the heritage values and attributes and verify or refine the boundaries. Technical studies and other initiatives will also develop conservation measures for the protection of the C.H.L. Technical studies may include recommendation for individual designations or Heritage Conservation Districts enabled through the O.H.A., or the consideration of new or additional tools focused on the conservation of particular attributes under the Planning Act, such as inclusion in the Official Plan, By-laws, or design guidelines. Technical studies may be directed towards commemorative actions rather than conservation measures as determined to be appropriate based on the threats to and opportunities for the C.H.L. and may include factors such as the needs of the Township, the owners and the users, community interests, potential for environmental impacts, available resources, and external constraints.

The identification of C.H.L.s which include properties that are owned and managed by the G.R.C.A. is not meant to impact regular maintenance and operations of these sites (whether flood control, hydro generation, or recreation), but to recognize the importance of these site and areas to the Township of Centre Wellington. Technical studies for G.R.C.A. sites should be done in consultation and/or collaboration with the G.R.C.A.

Technical Studies

Technical studies should include:

- Further understanding of the C.H.L.s' cultural heritage value, heritage integrity, and community values to further delineate boundaries and further detail the cultural heritage values and attributes embedded in

the significant C.H.L.s. Any relevant potential archaeological site leads should be reviewed.

- A continued program of community and Indigenous engagement.
- The development of recommendations and policies which enable conservation of address not only the physical attributes of the significant C.H.L.s but also the intangible cultural heritage that produces or reproduces landscape features. This may lead to the development of design guidelines.
- A process for monitoring including a timeframe and triggers should be defined. Monitoring should include:
 - a review of the conservation or protection measures applied to a C.H.L. and an assessment of their success or weakness;
 - the utilization of new methods of research or new information to increase knowledge about the C.H.L.;
 - the review of public awareness measures and the community's perception of the C.H.L.; and
 - observing the influence that recognition of the C.H.L. has on the land holders in the area.

For the Oustic C.H.L., which crosses the municipal boundary between the Township of Centre Wellington and the Township of Guelph-Eramosa, the technical study should be done in consultation and coordination with the neighbouring township.

Prioritization for Technical Study

The significant C.H.L.s may be prioritized for technical study. Prioritization considers the threats to and opportunities for the C.H.L. and can include factors such as:

- The needs of the Township, the owners, and users.



- ♦ Community interests.
- ♦ Potential for impacts to cultural heritage resources.
- ♦ Available resources.
- ♦ External constraints, such as development pressures.

Areas where there is a high risk of development within and adjacent to the C.H.L., high risk of alteration to heritage attributes, and opportunities for economic and tourism benefits are priorities for technical study. These risks and opportunities are inherent in urban or more highly developed areas. Therefore, C.H.L.s within the urban areas should be prioritized for technical study while those in the rural areas which tend to be more stable can occur later. Individual properties owned by the Township located within urban areas may be considered a lower priority. Properties owned and managed by the G.R.C.A. are considered a lower priority given their existing regulatory framework and the need to balance heritage conservation with flood control operations. Similarly, the Trestle Bridge Trail is considered a lower priority as it is publicly owned and managed by Wellington County. Threats to and opportunities for C.H.L.s should continue to be monitored and areas reprioritized as required.

Significant C.H.L.s which should be prioritized are:

- ♦ Beatty Brothers Factory and Residential Areas
- ♦ Churchill Crescent Neighbourhood (Wartime Housing)
- ♦ Elora Historical Village Core
- ♦ Fergus Historical Village Core
- ♦ Ferrier Estate and Union Street East
- ♦ Salem
- ♦ Victoria Park and Victoria Crescent Neighbourhood

All other Significant C.H.L.s should have technical studies conducted following those listed above:

- ♦ Allan Farmstead
- ♦ Belsyde Cemetery
- ♦ Belwood Historical Village Core
- ♦ Elora Cataract Trailway
- ♦ Elora Gorge
- ♦ Elora Municipal Cemetery and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery
- ♦ Elora Quarry
- ♦ Grand River
- ♦ Oustic
- ♦ Trestle Bridge Trail
- ♦ Victoria Park, Fergus

7.0 Recommendations

The overall recommendation is that the 18 areas identified in the map included in Section 6.1 and described in the data sheets in Appendix K of this study be identified as significant C.H.L.s in the Township of Centre Wellington. One additional area has been identified as requiring further information to appropriately evaluate as a C.H.L. This study provides the basis for the continued research and understanding of these significant C.H.L.s and for areas that may be evaluated or identified in the future as significant C.H.L.s. Centre Wellington's rich history has created a depth of outstanding landscapes and buildings which are well preserved to this day. To manage this initial identification of C.H.L.s in the Township, this study prioritized broad areas and corridors of significance primarily with public access. Areas comprised of single, private properties which have been previously, or could be studied to be, listed or designated under Part IV of the O.H.A. were not prioritized for evaluation at this time. As such, the inventory of significant C.H.L.s is expected to be added to, reviewed, and evolve over time.

The identification and evaluation of C.H.L.s is one step in the conservation process and will continue to be an on-going planning exercise. The recommendations contained herein are important steps toward proactively planning for and conserving these special heritage places both now and into the future while ensuring the Township meets its legislative obligations to conserve significant C.H.L.s.

Further, the following actions are recommended and have been organized by suggested implementation timeline (i.e. short-, medium- and long-term).

7.1 Short-Term Recommendations

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Township of Centre Wellington Council endorse the Inventory of C.H.L.s.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Township of Centre Wellington collaborate with Wellington County to determine if any of the

Significant C.H.L.s are regionally significant.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Township of Centre Wellington staff utilize the information contained in this study to inform the prioritization of technical studies and other initiatives.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Inventory of C.H.L.s be made publicly available as

a means of celebrating the unique identity of the Township, to further foster the current culture of conservation and cultural heritage appreciation of these places.

7.2 Medium-Term Recommendations

Recommendation: It is recommended that all identified significant C.H.L.s be examined through technical studies or other initiatives aimed at further understanding the significant C.H.L.s, their values and attributes and their boundary, and to determine actions for their conservation based on the prioritization identified in Section 6.4.

Recommendation: Pierpoint is recognized as the earliest known settlement within the former townships and is associated with the early Black Canadian community in the township which demonstrates the area's cultural heritage value. It is recommended that further research be conducted on Pierpoint to understand its potential for historical integrity and boundary delineation for potential identification as a Significant CHL. Specific consultation with the Black Canadian community should be initiated to appropriately determine community value. This area should be considered for an interpretation/commemoration plan to disseminate the history to the broader community.

Recommendation: Further investigation should be conducted into those areas (candidate C.H.L.s) determined to be low priority for the purposes of this study to determine if they are good candidates to include on the Inventory of C.H.L.s.

Recommendation: It is recommended that single privately-owned properties brought forward by the community as being of potential cultural heritage value be studied and considered for inclusion on the Centre Wellington Heritage Register.

Recommendation: The areas outside of Elora-Salem and Fergus which are generally understood as rural agricultural areas should be further investigated

through an inventory and evaluation process based on the methodology for agricultural landscapes developed during this study (Appendix D). The intent of this review would be to develop an inventory that more accurately addresses the wealth of rural and agricultural cultural heritage resources embodied in those areas.

7.3 Long-Term Recommendations

Some of these long-term recommendations relate to current actions, activities or process that should be continued on an ongoing basis.

Recommendation: The Township of Centre Wellington, in coordination with the G.R.C.A., should continue to steward existing public open space and public access points along the Grand River and further develop an interpretive program associated with the river and its sites.

Recommendation: Investment should be made in telling the heritage story of Centre Wellington using the Inventory of C.H.L.s in combination with the Heritage Register as a basis for an understanding of the heritage of the Township.

Recommendation: The Inventory of C.H.L.s is a living document that should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. New resources will present themselves as the Township continues to mature or as values change over time. As new resources become publicly recognized for their potential heritage value and their contribution to the evolution of the Town's physical form and social fabric, the inventory should be reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant and up to date. This open process will require continued funding, staff resources and volunteer time to keep the inventory up to date.



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