

14. CANDIDATE CHLS REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION

14.1 CALEDON LAKES

This area, including both the main and smaller upper lakes and the associated wetlands is not only a scenic natural environment but potentially a CHL. The resort community along the eastern shore represents more than 120 years of recreational use, the southwestern shore forms a Conservation Area used by the local school board to teach Nature Studies and the northern lakes and ponds provided marl to the early concrete industry at the turn of the century. Shaw's Creek, critical to the development of northwest Caledon issues from the southwest corner of the main lake. It is a unique integration of natural and cultural elements within Caledon.



Source: Caledon Lake Club

In the Peel County Atlas of 1877, the Caledon Lakes were already being touted as “the resort of disciples of Issac Walton, from all parts of the continent. A large hotel is proposed being erected close to their borders, which will be a great convenience to the many visitors who flock to this beautiful pic-nicking (*sic*) place.”

Writing in 1934, William Perkins Bull states: “A smaller but older group is the Caledon Lake Club with headquarters at Caledon lakes. It was organized in 1885 as a fishing and aquatic club.....During the first ten of fifteen years of this club’s

existence, a feature of its activities was the annual sports day held 1st July. Boat races of various types and other aquatic sports were then conducted and open to all comers. The happy social atmosphere persists today. The members or shareholders are permitted to erect cottages on the lakefront, and retain ownership of these. In addition they are given all the privileges of the club, including use of the dance pavilion. During the season, euchres and other events are staged. Twenty-five members have erected cottages, which are grouped at the northwest corner of the largest of the lakes.”¹

Unfortunately up to the time of the writing of this report no access into this private resort community on Caledon Lake has been available and thus the identification of the community as a CHL must still await first hand examination/evaluation. However, based on the research into the unique nature of Caledon Lake itself, the extremely early development of the east shore of the lake as a recreation destination, the reports regarding the character of 19th and early 20th century hotels, cottages and boathouses and the tantalizing views from air photos, it would appear to have very high potential for identification as a CHL.

¹ Bull, Wm. Perkins, [From rattlesnake hunt to hockey](#) : *the history of sports in Canada and the sportsmen of Peel, 1798 to 1934* , Toronto : The Perkins Bull Foundation, 1934, p. 103

14.2 REMAINING EVIDENCE OF THE TORONTO GREY & BRUCE RAILWAY, LOTS 18, 19, CON. II WHS AND ASSOCIATED LOCATIONS

At the request of municipal staff, the area noted above was investigated on foot to check on the possibility that evidence of the important cultural feature, the Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway (TG&B), its right of way, track location and embankment, still survived through this property. Access was along the western edge of the property via the unopened right of way for McLaren Road. The 1877 Map was compared to the current air-photo for orientation. There was no access to the property (barbed wire fence) through much of this area but at the wooded windrow between Lots 18 and 19 access was readily obtained. Historically the TG&B line came through the northern offset corner between the western and eastern halves of Lot 18 and tended northwest from that point. It was this area, now well wooded, where investigation focused. Sure enough the line is evident as a relatively narrow (narrow gauge track) flat depression surrounded by embankments and now collects and drains water through the wooded section. It has very much naturalized in this area. Wild turkeys were plentiful in this woodlot.

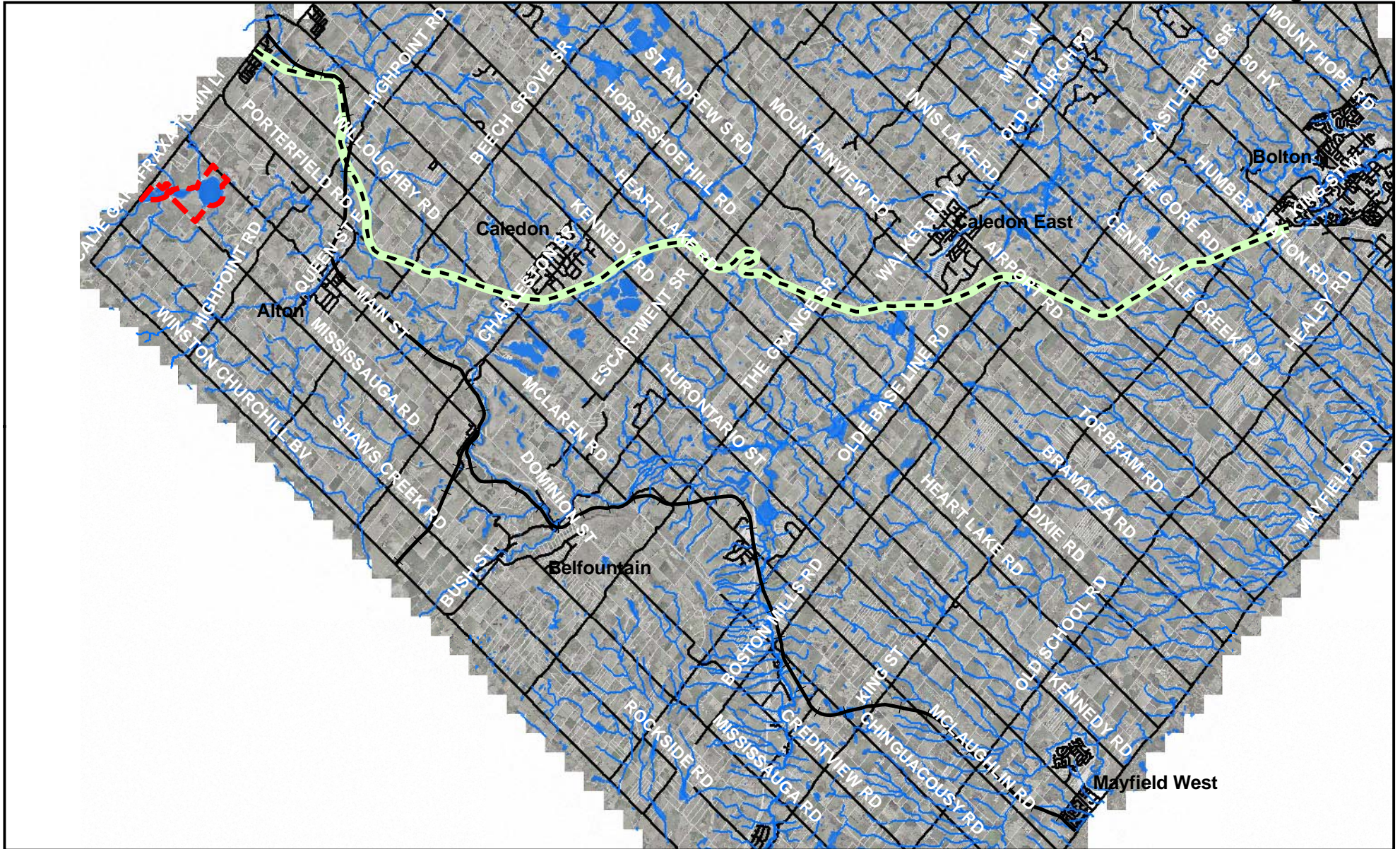
As a follow-up other locations within this Concession block were examined to the extent possible. It appeared from the road that at least the embankment ridge still remained within the eastern half of the property though its crossing point at Willoughby was difficult to discern. Not so its northern point of emergence at Beech Grove, close to the northwestern corner of the block (Lot 20), where it is very clear as an unusually regular (from nature's standpoint) grassed depression. It has this form as well as it extends into Lot 21 across Beech Grove. The historic stone house, shown on the 1877 map retains its historic relationship with this rail feature.

The TG&B, though relatively short-lived, represents an extremely important era for the original Township and the development of regional railways across the Province. The terrible 1907 derailment at The Horseshoe Hill curve, possibly in part a result of attempting to push the potential of narrow gauge track too far, has become an important story in local folklore, like the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald for Lake Superior. The railway plays an important role in the history of Caledon Village as well as Alton and Melville, both identified as CHLs. For these reasons the systematic preservation of evidence of the TG&B, and its commemoration, is an important cultural heritage landscape objective.

The typical approach to defunct rail line preservation has been to create a trail along its former route as Caledon itself has done with the Caledon Trailway. This would be very appropriate as well for the TG&B, given that Caledon is already a hikers destination, though perhaps much more difficult given that much of the right of way may have reverted back to private ownership. Still it is important that any remaining signs of this feature not be obliterated so that at least the potential continues to exist for the creation of, what in effect would be a linear cultural heritage landscape, particularly focusing on areas where its context remains intact, e.g. W ½ Lot 20, Con. II WHS.

Candidate CHLs:

Candidate CHLs Requiring Further Investigation Figure 15



- Former Toronto Grey Bruce Railway
- Caledon Lakes Candidate CHL
- Road
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes / Ponds
- Former Credit Valley Railway
- Property Boundary (2006)