

Official Plan Update Issue Sheet Series

- 1: What is an OP Update
- 2: Land Division
- 3: Natural Heritage
- 4: Waterfront Development
- 5: Private Road Development
- 6: Cultural Heritage
- 7: Alternative Energy
- 8: Growth Areas
- 9: Land Use Compatibility

Purpose of Issue Sheet Series

To inform the public about major aspects of the Township's Official Plan, how the existing Official Plan addresses the issue, and how the issue is affected by Provincial Planning Policies.

Who to Contact to Comment or Learn More?

Sheldon Laidman, Manager
Development Services

Greg Newman, Associate
Planner

Phone: 800-928-2250
Fax: 613-928-3097
gnewman@twprideaulakes.on.ca
slaidman@twprideaulakes.on.ca



Published: 1/27/09

Issue 3: Natural Heritage

What Is Natural Heritage?

- The Province defines this as Significant Wetlands, Fish Habitat, Significant Woodlands, Significant Valleylands, Significant Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species, Significant Wildlife Habitat, and Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area.

Provincial Planning Policy

- The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) Section 2.0 includes policies for all Natural Heritage features
- Development and site alteration are not permitted in Significant Wetlands, and Significant Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species
- Development and site alteration are not permitted in Significant Woodlands, Valleylands, Wildlife Habitat, ANSI's, and Wetlands on the Canadian Shield unless it is demonstrated there will be no negative impacts to the natural feature or its ecological functions
- Development and site alteration are also not permitted on lands adjacent to the Natural Heritage feature unless it can be demonstrated there will be no negative impacts to the feature
- Adjacent areas are defined as 120m for Wetlands and Endangered Species Habitat, 50m for all other features
- Agricultural uses are permitted to continue in or adjacent to Natural Heritage features

Existing Official Plan Policies (Section 2.21)

- All Natural Heritage features are protected through policies conforming to the PPS
- Locally significant wetlands have also been protected
- Schedules (maps) depict the location of wetlands, and ANSI's but not other features as detailed information was not available in 2004
- Schedules are based entirely on information provided by Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

Natural Heritage Issues To Consider During Review of Official Plan

- MNR has provided Significant Woodlands mapping to the Township for inclusion in the Schedules which covers a significant portion of the Township
- MNR has provided Significant Wetland mapping to the Township which should be reviewed for accuracy by all landowners. If an error has been made the Township can request MNR investigate the possible error to amend their mapping
- The Township is obligated by the PPS to protect Provincially Significant Wetlands; however, it is discretionary whether to protect smaller locally significant wetlands
- MNR has provided mapping of 1 sq km blocks indicating the presence of Endangered and Threatened Species. The number of protected species has increased from 2 in 2004 to 12.

Information Sources

Provincial Policy Statement <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Asset1421.aspx>

Official Plan 2004 <http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca/development/official-plan.html>

Ministry of Natural Resources mapping www.mnr.gov.on.ca