

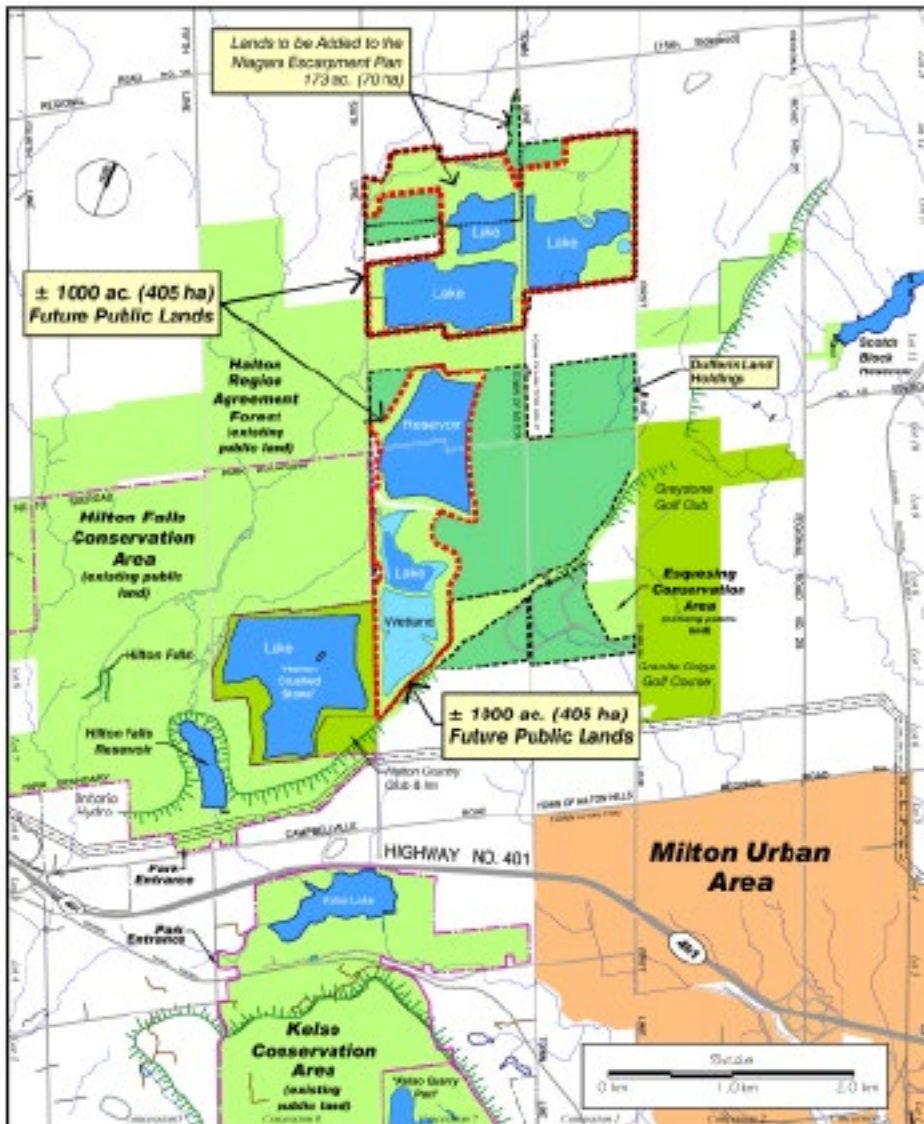
# The Milton area

## What the future has in store

By Nick Bogaert and Brian Zeman

The future looks bright for Milton as more recreational and natural areas are planned

Future lands to be added to Conservation Halton ownership. Source: MHBC Planning



This is the final article in a three-part series related to the area surrounding the Kelso and Hilton Falls Conservation areas in the Town of Milton.

The first article examined the history of the Milton area with respect to aggregate extraction. The second reviewed present land uses and evolving recreation nodes near Highway 401. In this final piece, we provide an overview of the future recreational land uses in the Milton area, which has been supplying key construction materials to the local economy since the 1800s.

Situated in close proximity to two local quarries, the growing Town of Milton has developed into a key recreation node, serving the western end of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and beyond.

Conservation areas, golf courses, a large lake and ski hill provide a scenic outdoor playground for year-round recreational activities of all sorts – including some of the best hiking and biking in southern Ontario.

### FUTURE RECREATIONAL NODE PLANS

The good news is that along with population growth in the area, more recreational lands will be added as part of the future rehabilitation of aggregate production lands.

As noted in the second article in this series, Dufferin Aggregates obtained approval for an extension to its operations at the Milton Quarry in 2007. As part of this approvals process, approximately 1,000 acres were identified for future transition to Conservation Halton, with an additional 173 acres being added to the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Former aggregate extraction sites provide unique opportunities to create recreational and natural areas through rehabilitation efforts – answering a growing need in growth communities

As a result, Milton Quarry will provide future open space and water management opportunities through a long-term agreement. The lands to be transferred to Conservation Halton include several existing and future lake features, wetland areas and a large reservoir. As part of the Milton Quarry lands, the reservoir includes potential water storage for flood control and a low flow augmentation of 16 Mile Creek. A master plan is being developed for the lands that will map out long-term public and private uses of the property.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Highway 401, Kelso Quarry Park will continue to be integrated into Kelso Conservation Area

## Population growth

- The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is expected to grow by 2.7 million people by 2031, with an additional 1.4 million people between 2031 and 2041.
- Locally, Halton Region is expected to grow by 390,000 people by 2031, with another 220,000 residents by 2041.
- There will be great demand for large recreational and natural areas close to the high-growth GTA region.
- Growth in the municipalities surrounding the GTA is also expected to remain strong, further highlighting the importance of recreational areas.

Source: MHBC Planning

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## Recreation in the Milton area:

- Kelso Conservation Area (1,000 acres), Hilton Falls Conservation Area (1,600 acres), the former Milton Limestone Quarry (175 acres – now part of Kelso Conservation Area), Crawford Lake Conservation Area (575 acres), Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area (650 ac), other lands owned by Halton Region, Granite Ridge Golf Course and Greystone Golf Club.
- Total area of current recreation node is approximately 4,800 acres.
- Portions of Dufferin Aggregates’ Milton Quarry (1,000 acres) will be included in the node following extraction.
- The Halton Crushed Stone quarry (adjacent to Milton Quarry) will also provide additional natural features.
- The Bruce Trail generally follows the Niagara Escarpment and traverses the area.

2012 ‘Mine Over Matter’ event at Kelso Quarry Park  
Source: MHBC Planning



through final rehabilitation work. Future uses planned for the site include a 45-acre swimming and fishing lake, a board and lookout, comfort station, picnic pavilions, playing fields, and expanded hiking and biking trails. The site already played host to the “Mine Over Matter” Off-Road Triathlon/ Duathlon and Trail Run for the past four years – an event that has been successful in promoting the park while supporting a worthwhile cause ([www.elementracing.ca](http://www.elementracing.ca)).

The Halton Crushed Stone Quarry (immediately west of Milton Quarry) will also contribute to open space in the Kelso/Hilton Falls area by providing an additional lake.

Once the rehabilitation efforts at the existing quarries have been completed, the total size of the node at Milton will total over 6,000 acres, creating a substantial natural area.

### RECREATIONAL NEED

As the GTA continues to grow at a rapid pace, there will be a strong need for more recreational lands offering a wider variety of recreational uses within close proximity to major population centres. The Milton area represents a unique montage of public lands offering a diversity of landscapes, and is well-positioned to provide a key recreational resource to the western GTA and surrounding areas.

Former aggregate extraction sites provide unique opportunities to create recreational and natural areas through rehabilitation efforts. In the nearby City of Brampton, for instance, a number of former gravel pits have been rehabilitated to provide urban growth areas, as well as an inter-connected park system. The city was awarded the Bronze Plaque — the most prestigious award for state of the art rehabilitation for the Brampton Esker Park System in 2010 by the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association.

Other areas in the province that have served as key suppliers of aggregate resources, such as the Town of Caledon, Township of Puslinch and Town of Uxbridge, may also present opportunities for collaboration in the creation of large future recreational areas for everyone to enjoy. ●

*Prepared by MHBC (Nick Bogaert, Brian Zeman), in consultation with the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA).*



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