

# Changes in Major Roads

## Natural Areas of Southern Ontario 1935-1995



1935



1965



1995

### Niagara Escarpment

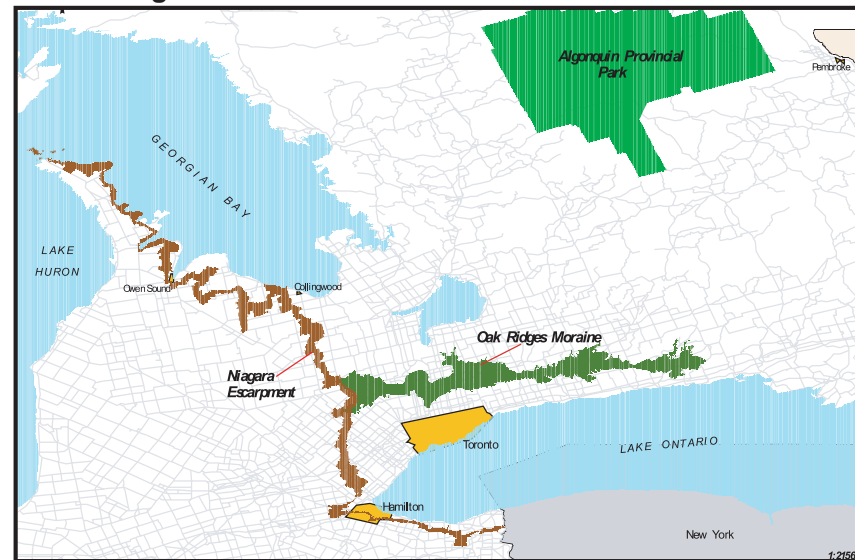
The southern Ontario portion of the Niagara Escarpment stretches 725 kilometres from Queenston (near Niagara Falls) to Tobermory (part of the Bruce Peninsula) with a total protected area of 1,837 square kilometres.

In 1973, the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act was enacted to: "provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment" - a natural corridor for wildlife movement and habitat. Given its unique topography, the Niagara Escarpment supports an especially high diversity of plant and animal species - 36 amphibians and reptile species, 55 mammal species, and over 300 species of birds. Many plant species found on the Escarpment are regionally, and even globally, significant.

There is an increasing number of roads on the Niagara Escarpment that are intersecting the natural corridor that the Niagara Escarpment is intended to protect - fully 88 percent of the roads on the Niagara Escarpment are in the natural, protected and rural land designations. By 1995, there are 9 points at which multi-lane highways cross the Niagara Escarpment, presenting a significant barrier for wildlife movement.

- Legend**
- multilane paved
  - 2-lane paved
  - 2-lane loose
  - earth/unimproved
  - Natural Area Boundary

### Significant Natural Areas of Southern Ontario



### Oak Ridges Moraine

The Oak Ridges Moraine spans 160 kilometres east-west from the Niagara Escarpment to the Trent River. The diverse tracts of woodland and wetland on the Moraine provide habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species, many of which require large, undisturbed natural areas. The Moraine harbours many plant and animal species that are rare in the Greater Toronto Area and several that are threatened in the province. The Moraine serves over 4 million people of the Greater Toronto Area for recreation, industry, agriculture, residential and as a water supply. An extensive network of roads has developed throughout the Moraine fragmenting the remaining natural habitat and creating barriers to wildlife movement. Today, there is a high development pressure on the Moraine with forecasts of a 175 percent increase in urbanized area over the next 20 years that will increase the impacts on the natural area.



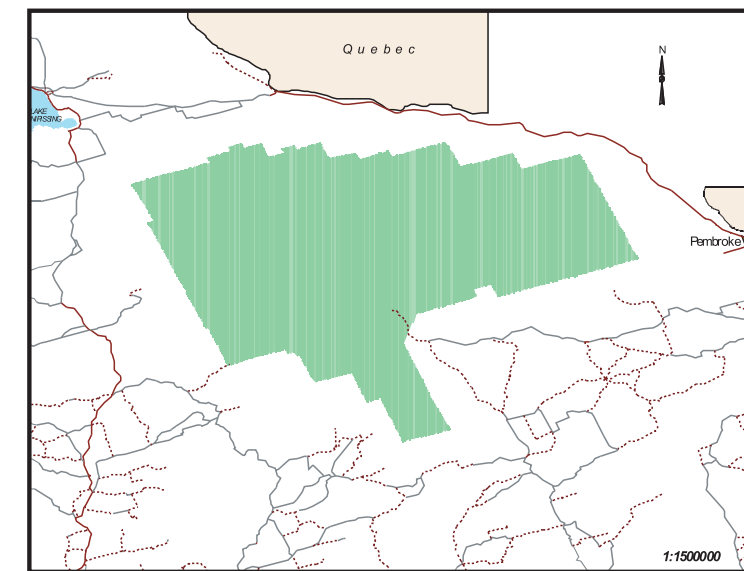
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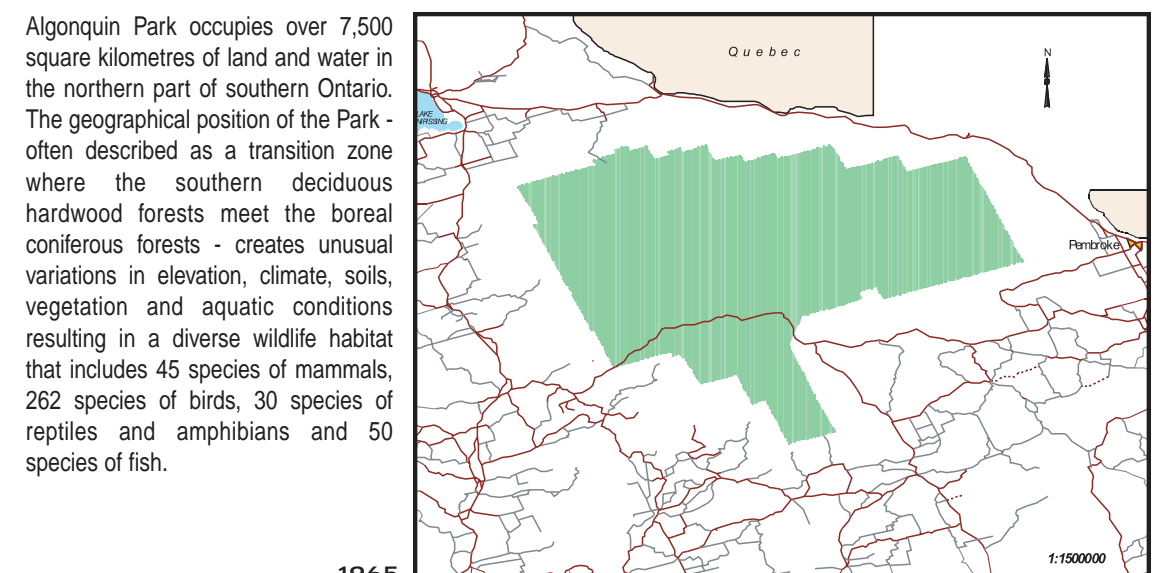
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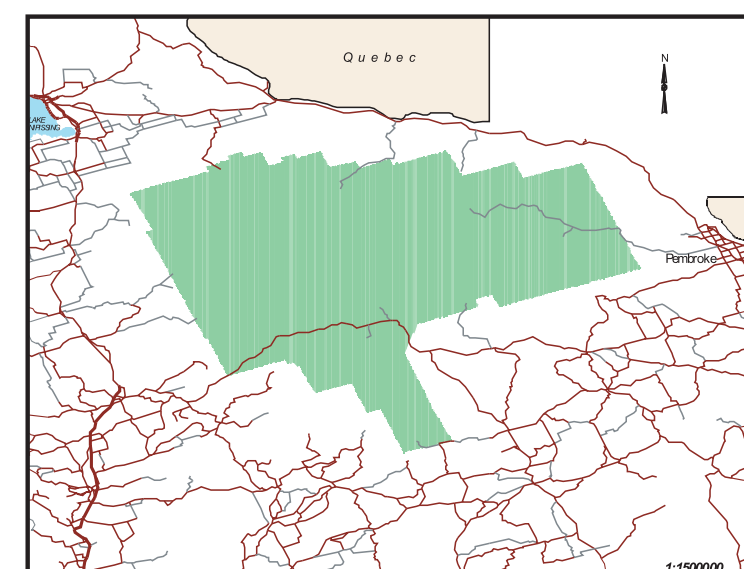
### Algonquin Park

Given the learning experiences from the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment, it is especially important and timely to examine a historical park that was established in 1893 with the similar overriding objective as "the maintenance of the Park in a state of nature".

1935



1965



1995

The Park's Master Plan of 1974 encouraged the development of "a comprehensive road system both leading into, and inside, the Park" to encourage recreational use of the park. Today, a series of major roads branch into the Park, creating a "ring of roads" for visitor access points. The authors intend to examine the history of logging roads and settlement within the Park.

