



Terra-Dynamics Consulting Inc.

432 Niagara Street, Unit 2 St. Catharines, ON L2M 4W3

September 12, 2022

Amy Parks, Manager, Planning Ecology
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
250 Thorold Road, 3rd Floor
Welland, ON L3C 3W2

Re: Wetland Catchment Assessment, 9304 McLeod Road, Niagara Falls, ON

Dear Ms. Parks,

1.0 Introduction and Background Information

Terra-Dynamics Consulting Inc. (Terra-Dynamics) respectfully submits this wetland catchment assessment of 800480 Ontario Limited's 9304 McLeod Road development, located in Niagara Falls, Ontario (Site) (Figure 1). The proposed development of the 22.82 hectares includes townhouses, single residential and apartments (Upper Canada Consultants, 2021, Appendix A).

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) (City of Niagara Falls, 2022) had initially indicated that they "*may require a small scale water balance report*" and have since clarified that "*a water balance is not required*" (NPCA, 2022). However, a technical memo is to be provided describing "*how the surface water catchments of the development are separate from those of the Thompson Creek Wetland Complex to the southeast*" (Terra-Dynamics, 2022). Consequently, this work includes a wetland catchment assessment for the nearby swamp polygons of the Thompson Creek Wetland Complex located to the southeast (MNRF, 2009, Figure 2).

2.0 Methodology

Tasks completed as part of the surface water catchment assessment included:

- A. Characterization of the physical setting using published information from the following government agencies: (i) the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), (ii) the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), (iv) the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), (v) the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) and (vi) the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The Summary of Headwater Drainage Feature Assessment (LCA Environmental Consultants, 2022) was also reviewed; and
- B. Modelling of the surface water catchments for the on-site watercourses and the nearby wetlands was completed using the most recent NPCA Digital Terrain Model (2018).

3.0 Physical Setting

The Site is located on the Haldimand Clay Plain (Chapman and Putnam, 1984). The Site was historically used for agricultural and growing grain crops.

3.1 Topography

Overall, the topography of the Site generally slopes towards the south (Figure 2). The elevation of the Site is about 184 metres above sea level (m ASL) in the northwest corner to about 180 m ASL in the southwest corner of the Site (Figure 2).

3.2 Surface Water

The Site is located within the Thompson's Creek subwatershed of the Lower Welland River Watershed Planning Area (Figure 1) (AquaResource Inc. and NPCA, 2009). The Thompson's Creek watershed has a total area of 1,458 hectares (Catchments), making the Site 1.6% of the Thompson's Creek watershed. NPCA historically modelled two catchments for Thompson's Creek, the Lower Welland River Thompson Creek catchment W200 (LWR_TSC_W200) and catchment W100 (LWR_TSC_W100) (Figure 1).

Within the Site, two southwards flowing watercourses have been mapped as part of a Headwater Drainage Feature Assessment (LCA Environmental Consultants, 2022): a natural ephemeral agricultural drainage channel (EBW-03), and a constructed open ephemeral agricultural drainage channel (BRE-04) (Figure 2 and Appendix C). The easternmost on-site watercourse (BRE-04) was recently realigned in February 2021 under NPCA Permit 202001142 (LCA Environmental Consultants, 2022).

To the east of the Site (i.e. off-site), within the nearby northern wetland polygon, NPCA (2017) have mapped the watercourse GRE-01 (Appendix C) as a natural ephemeral slough (Section 3.7), and within the nearby southern wetland as a natural ephemeral watercourse, identifier BRE-01 (Figure 2, Appendix C). The off-site watercourses converge downstream with the on-site watercourses at a culvert at Brown Road.

The NPCA (2018) digital terrain model was processed in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to determine the surface water catchments for the watercourses as shown on Figure 2. There is a topographic/surface water divide roughly along the western boundary of the northern wetland and through the central portion of the southern wetland (Figure 2).

3.3 Soils

The on-site soils are of low permeability and are not tile-drained (OMAFRA, 2022). The soils consist of (Kingston and Present, 1989, Figure 3):

1. Beverly – Loamy Phase (approximately 50% of the Site), developed on silty clays, imperfectly drained, 50% hydrologic soil group (HSG) C/50% HSG D (Table 1);
2. Peel (approximately 50% of the Site), developed on glacial till, imperfectly drained, 70% HSG C/30% HSG D (Table 1); and
3. Chinguacousy – Loamy Red Phase (<1% of the Site), also developed on glacial till, imperfectly drained, HSG C (Table 1).

The Provincially Significant Wetland polygons to the east, and southeast of the Site (Figure 2), are underlain by less permeable silty clay Welland soils of hydrologic soil group 70% D/ 30% C.

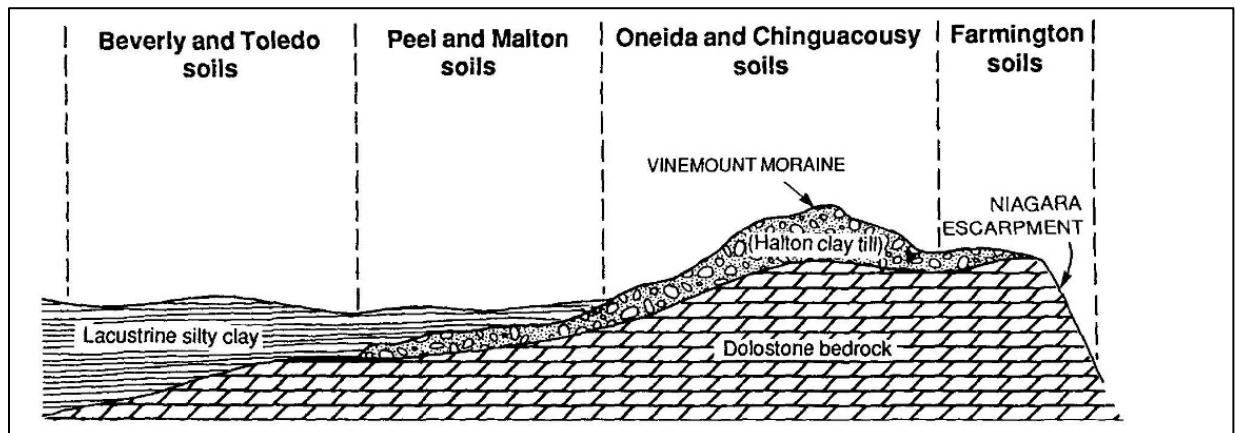


Figure 3 - Schematic landscape cross-section showing the relationship of soils in the area of the Vinemount Moraine, between the Niagara Escarpment and the Haldimand Clay Plain (Kingston and Presant, 1989).

Table 1 - Hydrologic Soil Groups (USDA, 1986)

HSG Group	Soil description	Infiltration Rates (mm/hour)
A	sand, loamy sand or sandy loam	>7.6
B	silt loam or loam	7.6-3.8
C	sandy clay loam	3.8-1.3
D	clay loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay, silty clay or clay	<1.3

3.4 Surficial Geology

The Site is underlain by low permeability silty clay (Feenstra, 1984). For example, the geologic log for a water well record at the Site (6604452, Appendix B) recorded 8.5 metres (28 feet) of stoney clay over 0.6 metres (2 feet) of gravel on bedrock (MECP, 2022) (Figure 2). Regional modelling of the overburden thickness provides an average value of 13 metres over bedrock for the Site (NPSPA, 2013). The relative position of the Site over the sequence of low permeability glaciogenic deposits is shown on regional cross-section Figure 4.

The nearby wetlands are also underlain by silty clay (Feenstra, 1984) as is documented by the adjacent Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks geotechnical record 7345789 (Appendix B), where a minimum of 12.2 metres (40 feet) of silty clay was documented (MECP).

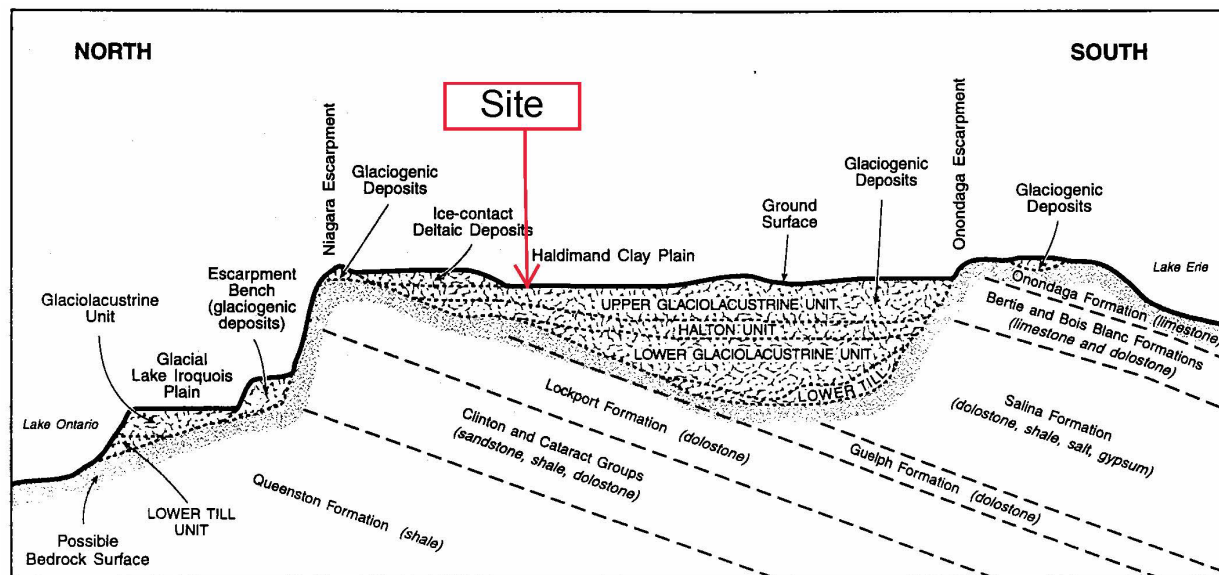


Figure 4 -

Cross-section of Surface geology in Region Niagara from North to South (Menziés and Taylor, 1998)

3.5 Hydrogeologic Setting

The underlying silty clay is an aquitard with a hydraulic conductivity of 10^{-7} m/s or less (Gartner Lee Limited (GLL), 1987). This is further supported by the low infiltration rates modelled for the Site (see Section 3.5.1 below).

The limited groundwater flow in the overburden aquitard is expected to follow topography (Haitjema and Mitchell-Bruker, 2005), being limited in velocity by the low hydraulic conductivity. The surface water catchments (Figure 2) are consequently an acceptable surrogate for shallow groundwater flow.

Gartner Lee Limited (1987) provides a description of the expected water table conditions within the overburden aquitard materials at the Site:

“Detailed studies indicate that the water table fluctuates over the weathered/fractured upper two to three metres of the glaciolacustrine silts and clays comprising the overburden aquitard...flow in this shallow zone responds to daily climatic changes such that, during precipitation, the open fractures from weathering will quickly fill with water. The bulk of the discharge will then occur locally in swales that carry intermittent surface water...”

The regional vertical groundwater gradient is downwards from the overburden aquitard to the bedrock aquifer (WHI, 2005) and this is observed at MECP water well record 6604452 with a static water level of 7.6 metres below ground surface (MECP, 2022).

3.5.1 Modelled Recharge and Runoff

NPCA previously completed water balance modelling for 1991-2005, as part of provincial water budgeting for the source water protection program (AquaResource Inc. and NPCA, 2009). This

modelling was completed at 1-hour time steps with a filled-in meteorological dataset including solar radiation and a crop coefficient for improved calculation of evapotranspiration.

Modelled annual water balance results for the Lower Welland River Thompson's Creek catchment W100 (LWR_TSC_W100) are shown in Table 2 (AquaResource Inc. and NPCA, 2009). The groundwater recharge rates for the catchment are low with 74% (229 mm/year) of the annual water surplus being modelled as direct runoff. The annual surplus is precipitation minus evapotranspiration which is then partitioned according to site conditions between runoff and infiltration. The average infiltration rate for the Site is calculated as 75 mm/year reflecting (i) the appropriateness of the catchment calculations for consideration of the Site, (ii) the low infiltration potential of the Site and (iii) the modelled results match expected infiltration rates for the silty clay geology (Table 3).

Table 2 - Water Balance 15-year (1991-2005) Averages

Catchment	Precipitation	Actual Evapotranspiration	Annual Surplus	Infiltration*	Recharge	Runoff
LWR_TSC_W100	881	572	309	79	39	229

Notes: * - Infiltration is interflow plus recharge

Table 3 – Typical Infiltration Rates (MECP, 1995)

Soil Texture	Infiltration Rate (mm/year)
Coarse sand and gravel	>250
Fine to medium sand	200-250
Silty sand to sandy silt	150-200
Silt	125-150
Clayey silt	100-125
Clay	<100

3.6 Wetlands

There are no wetlands mapped at the Site, however, two swamp polygons associated with the Provincially Significant Thompson Creek Wetland Complex are located 50 metres to the east and 430 metres southeast of the Site (MNRF, 2009, Figure 2, Table 4). These northern and southern wetlands are listed by the MNRF as Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) polygons 5 and 6, respectively (2009). As the Thompson Creek Wetland Complex is 129.74 ha, the northern and southern wetlands represent 6.5% and 2.7% of the wetland complex, respectively. As NPCA (2017) have identified the watercourse of the northern wetland as slough and MNRF has identified the dominant form as silver maple, it can be classified as a slough forest: "*Slough forests are forested areas with undulating land that contain both seasonally ponded areas, referred to as sloughs or vernal pools; and ridges of higher land*" (NPCA, 2010).

Table 4 – Summary of Nearby Wetlands (MNRF, 2009)

OWES Polygon	Area (ha)	Dominant Form	Other Forms	Wetland Type	Soil
5	8.52	h (Silver Maple)	ts, re	Palustrine	Clay/loam

OWES Polygon	Area (ha)	Dominant Form	Other Forms	Wetland Type	Soil
6	3.55	re (Broadleaf Cattail)	ne, ts	Palustrine	Clay/loam

Notes: h – Deciduous Trees, re – Robust emergents, ts – tall shrubs, ne – Narrow-leaved emergents

Emergents are defined as “herbaceous plants which rise out of the water” (MNRF, 2014).

3.6.1 Wetland Hydrologic Characterization

The wetlands are classified as *surface water depression wetlands* (Figure 5) (Mitsch and Gosselink, 2007). A surface water depression wetland is summarized as a:

“wetland...dominated by surface runoff and precipitation, with little groundwater outflow due to a layer or low-permeability soils...”. Low permeability soils have been noted beneath the wetlands (e.g Sections 3.3 and 3.4, and MNRF, 2009).

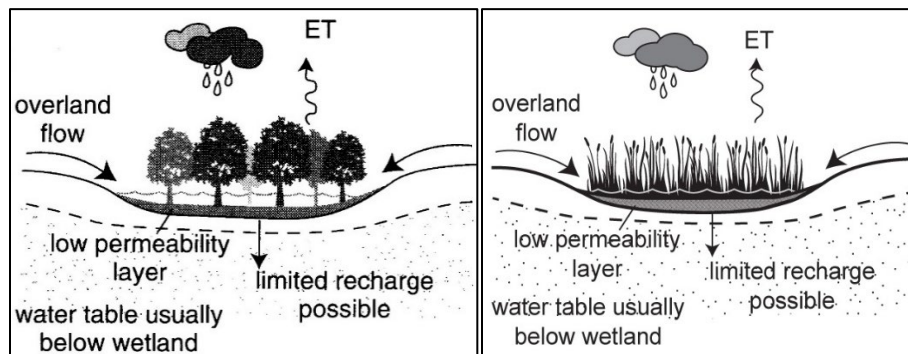


Figure 5 - Surface water depression wetlands (modified after Mitsch and Gosselink, 2007)

3.6.2 Wetland Surface Water Catchments

A digital terrain model from NPCA (2018) was processed in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to determine the surface water catchments at the Site and to the east (Section 3.2).

The northern wetland (Polygon 5) catchment outlets to Garner Road with the western edge of the wetland polygon roughly matching the surface water drainage divide, and the Site is within a separate surface water catchment (Figure 2).

The more southerly wetland (Polygon 6) is upgradient of both watercourses BRE-01 and BRE-02, being located on a drainage divide, consequently surface water flow from the Site does not support the hydroperiod as it would remain within the BRE-02 watercourse (Figure 2).

4.0 Discussion of Wetland Impacts

Development of the Site will not introduce (i) any impervious cover in the wetland catchments, (ii) nor any change in wetland catchment size (TRCA, 2017). This is because the wetlands are surface water

wetlands and their water supply by either precipitation or overland flow will not be interrupted by development of the Site.

No impacts to the wetland recharge areas are predicted from development of the Site because the wetlands are surface water dependent wetlands on low permeability soils with no surface water flow changes to the wetlands from development of the Site. In addition, there are no locally significant recharge areas to be impacted as these are defined by TRCA (2017) as “*highly porous sedimentary deposits or otherwise having high hydraulic conductivity*” which the Site does not have (Section 3.4).

Therefore, no negative hydrologic impacts to the downgradient wetlands are predicted.

5.0 Conclusions

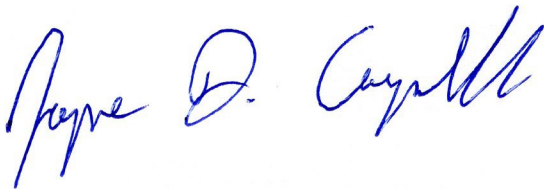
The following conclusions are provided:

1. The Site is 22.82 hectares, with no wetlands on-site.
2. The Site is located on the Haldimand Clay Plain, a regional aquitard comprised of silty clay soils.
3. The nearby off-site wetlands are classified as swamp and perched on low permeability silty clay, and are surface water depression wetlands.
4. Residential development of the Site should not negatively impact the hydrology of the nearby wetlands because the nearby wetlands are within separate surface water catchments.

We trust this information is sufficient for your present needs. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

TERRA-DYNAMICS CONSULTING INC.



Jayme D. Campbell, P. Eng.
Senior Water Resources Engineer

cc. Matt Kernahan, MCIP, RPP
Lisa Price, LCA Environmental
Eric Henry, 800460 Ontario Limited

Attachments

Figure 1 – Location of Subject Lands

Figure 2 – Site Details

Appendix A – Concept Plans

Appendix B – MECP Water Well Records

Appendix C – Thompson Creek Stormwater Master Drainage Plan Headwater Drainage Feature Assessment

6.0 References

AquaResource Inc. and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), 2009. Water Availability Study for the South Niagara Falls and Lower Welland River Watershed Plan Areas, Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area.

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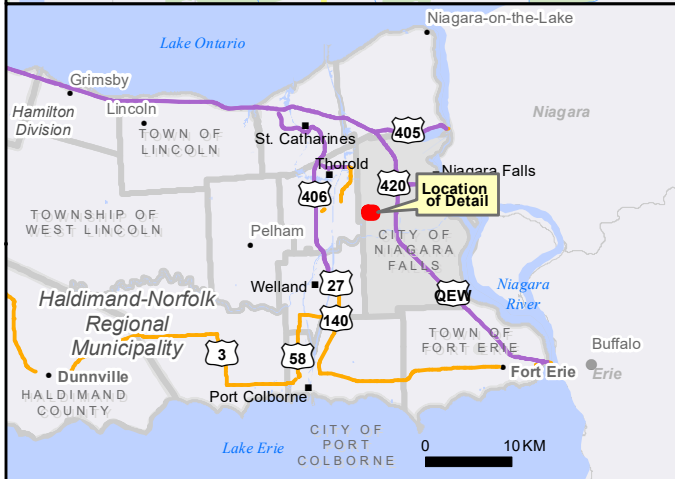
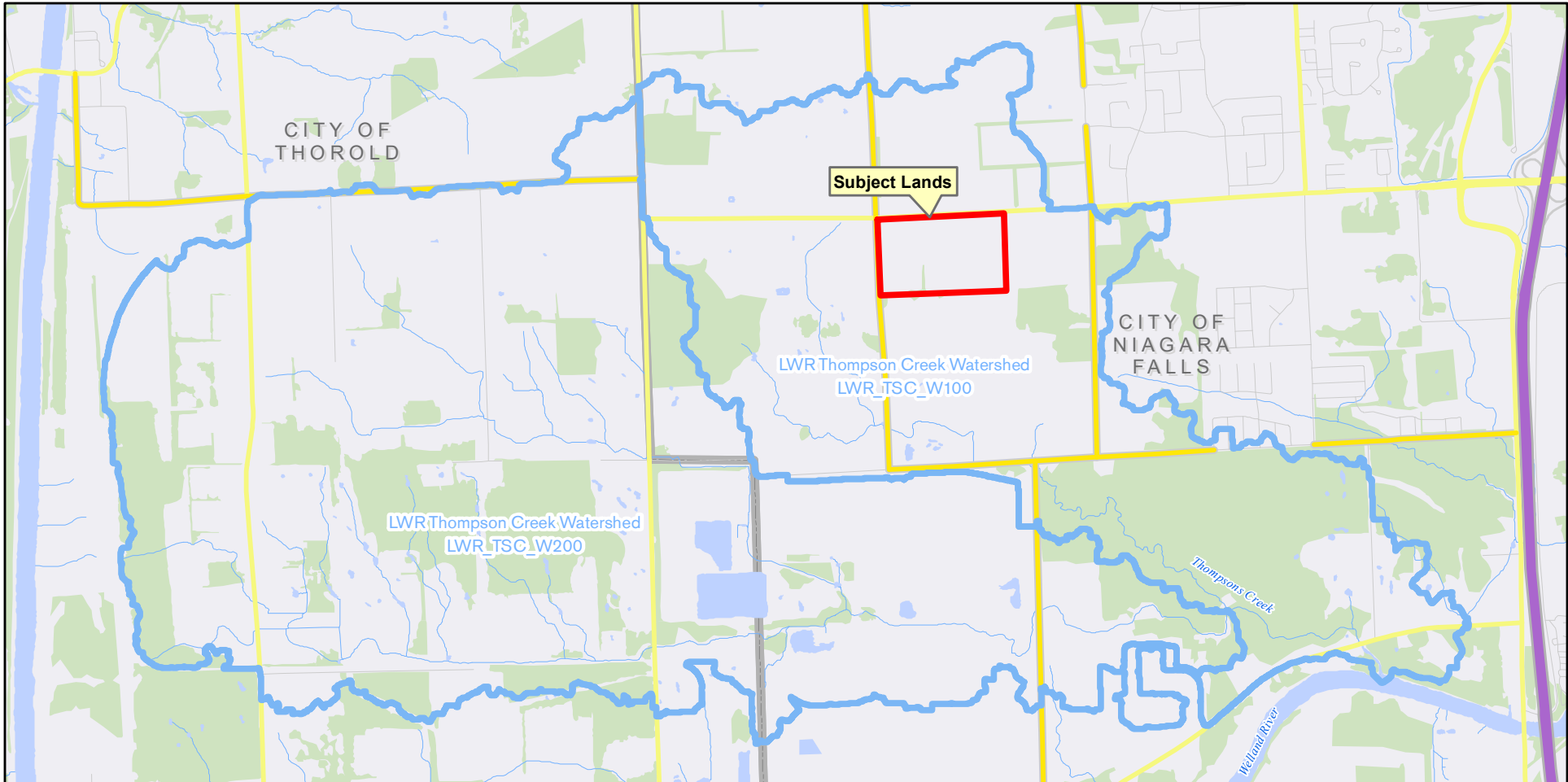
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- Subject Lands
- Subwatershed Boundary (NPCA)

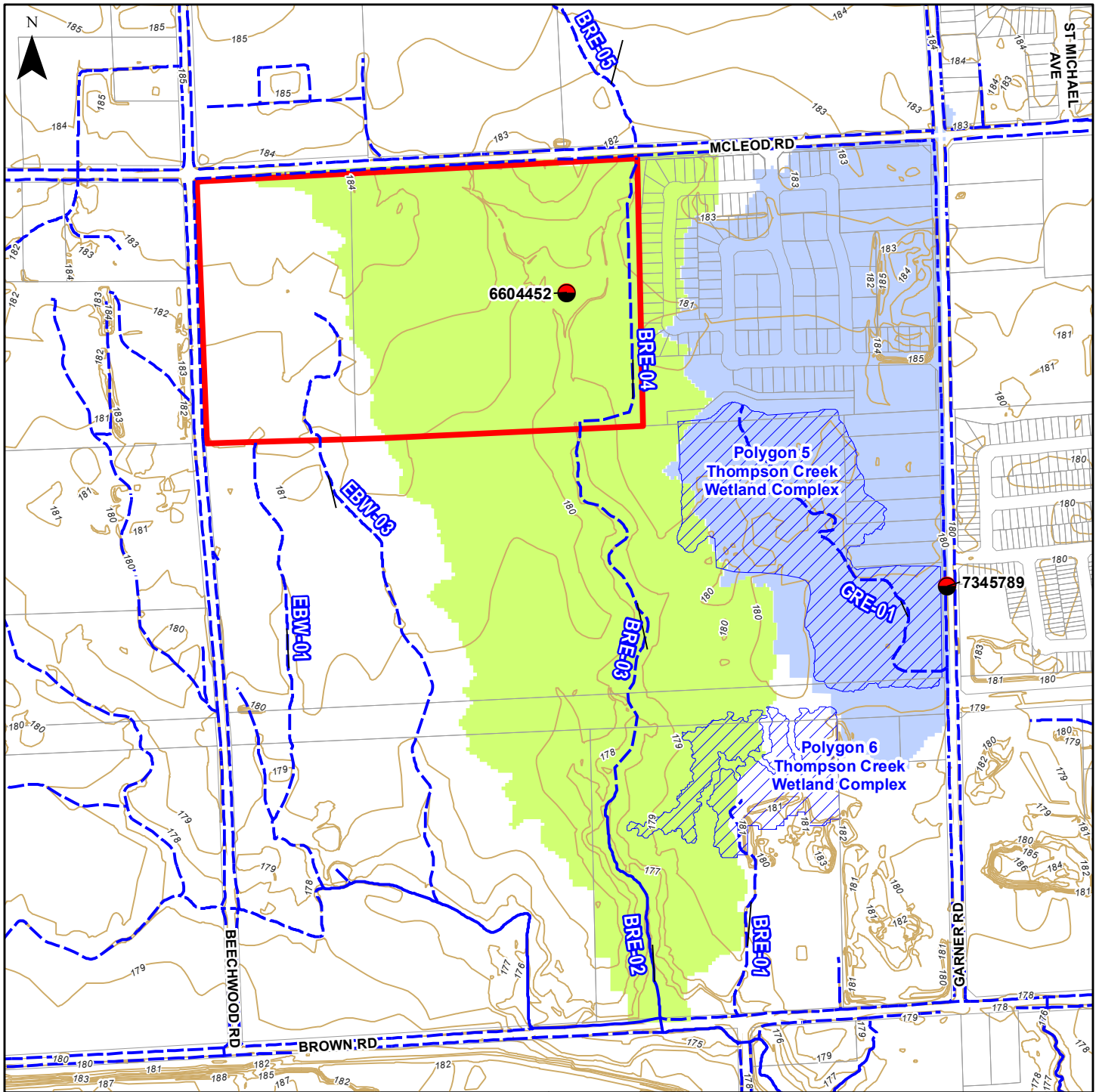
Location of Subject Lands

McLeod Meadows, 9304 McLeod Road
Niagara Falls, ON.



0 500 M
1:30,000

Figure 1



- Subject Lands
- Select Water Well (WWIS)
- Surface Contour 1m (NPCA)
- Provincially Significant Wetland (MNR)
- Surface Water Catchment GRE-01
- Surface Water Catchment BRE-02/03/04
- Watercourse Permanency (NPCA)**
- Ephemeral
- Intermittent or Ephemeral
- BRE-03** Headwater Drainage Feature Identifier

Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Ontario. Base map data from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario GeoHub Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data Product. <https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/> Coordinate system: NAD 1983, UTM Zone 17T. Air photo: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Site Details

McLeod Meadows, 9304 McLeod Road
Niagara Falls, ON.



Terra-Dynamics Consulting Inc.

0 200 M

 1:8,000

Figure 2

Appendix A

Concept Plans

Appendix B

MECP Water Well Records

Measurements recorded in: Metric Imperial

Well Owner's Information

First Name: CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
Last Name / Organization: NIAGARA FALLS
E-mail Address: ngolic@niagarafalls.ca
Well Constructed by Well Owner:
Mailing Address (Street Number/Name): 4310 QUEEN ST.
Municipality: NIAGARA FALLS ON
Province: ONTARIO
Postal Code: L2E 6X5
Telephone No. (inc. area code): 905 356 7521

Well Location

Address of Well Location (Street Number/Name): GARNER RD, north of Brown Road
Township: NIAGARA FALLS
Lot: [blank]
Concession: [blank]
County/District/Municipality: R.M. of NIAGARA
City/Town/Village: NIAGARA FALLS
Province: ONTARIO
Postal Code: [blank]
UTM Coordinates: Zone 8, Easting 17650777, Northing 4769571
Municipal Plan and Sublot Number: [blank]
Other: [blank]

Overburden and Bedrock Materials/Abandonment Sealing Record (see instructions on the back of this form)

General Colour	Most Common Material	Other Materials	General Description	Depth From (m/ft)	Depth To (m/ft)
Brown	Silty Clay			0	20
Gray	Clay	Sand Silt		20	40

Annular Space

Depth Set at From (m/ft)	Depth Set at To (m/ft)	Type of Sealant Used (Material and Type)	Volume Placed (m³/ft³)
0	34	BELOW PCC CAPS	450 LB
34	40	#3 GRAVEL	100 LB

Results of Well Yield Testing

Time (min)	Water Level (m/ft)	Time (min)	Water Level (m/ft)
Static Level	40		
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
10		10	
15		15	
20		20	
25		25	
30		30	
40		40	
50		50	
60		60	

After test of well yield, water was:
 Clear and sand free
 Other, specify _____
If pumping discontinued, give reason: _____
Pump intake set at (m/ft): _____
Pumping rate (l/min / GPM): _____
Duration of pumping: _____ hrs + _____ min
Final water level end of pumping (m/ft): _____
If flowing give rate (l/min / GPM): _____
Recommended pump depth (m/ft): _____
Recommended pump rate (l/min / GPM): _____
Well production (l/min / GPM): _____
Disinfected? Yes No

Method of Construction

Cable Tool
 Rotary (Conventional)
 Rotary (Reverse)
 Boring
 Air percussion
 Other, specify: ROTAR

Well Use

Public
 Domestic
 Livestock
 Irrigation
 Industrial
 Other, specify _____

Commercial
 Municipal
 Test Hole
 Cooling & Air Conditioning
 Monitoring
 Not used
 Dewatering

Construction Record - Casing

Inside Diameter (cm/in)	Open Hole OR Material (Galvanized, Fibreglass, Concrete/Plastic, Steel)	Wall Thickness (cm/in)	Depth (m/ft) From	Depth (m/ft) To	Status of Well
2"	PCC	1/4"	0	35	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation and/or Monitoring Hole <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration (Construction) <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned, Insufficient Supply <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned, Poor Water Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned, other, specify _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify _____

Construction Record - Screen

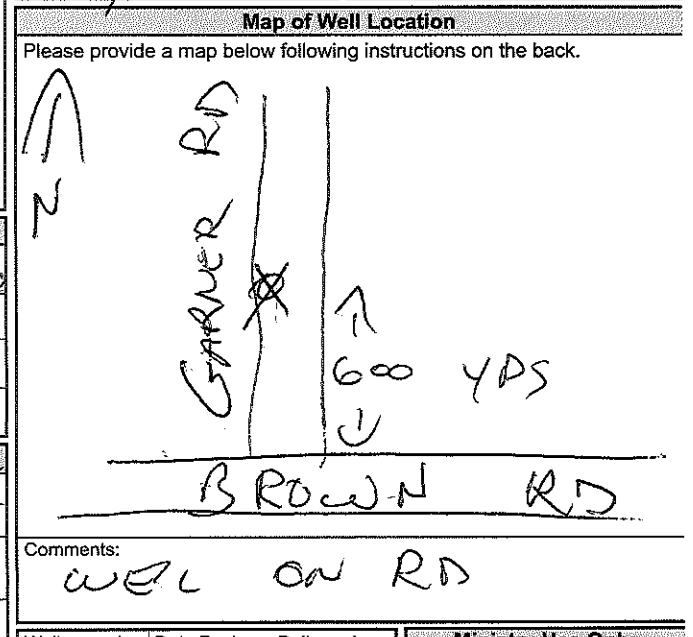
Outside Diameter (cm/in)	Material (Plastic, Galvanized, Steel)	Slot No.	Depth (m/ft) From	Depth (m/ft) To
2.2"	PCC	010	35	40

Water Details

Water found at Depth (m/ft)	Kind of Water: <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh <input type="checkbox"/> Untested	Hole Diameter Depth (m/ft) From	Hole Diameter Depth (m/ft) To	Hole Diameter (cm/in)
40	<input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify _____	0	40	6

Well Contractor and Well Technician Information

Well Contractor: ELITE DRILLING SERVICES
Address: PO BOX 20062, St. Catharines, ON L2M 7W7, 905 687-8691
Well Contractor's Licence No.: 74814
Municipality: [blank]



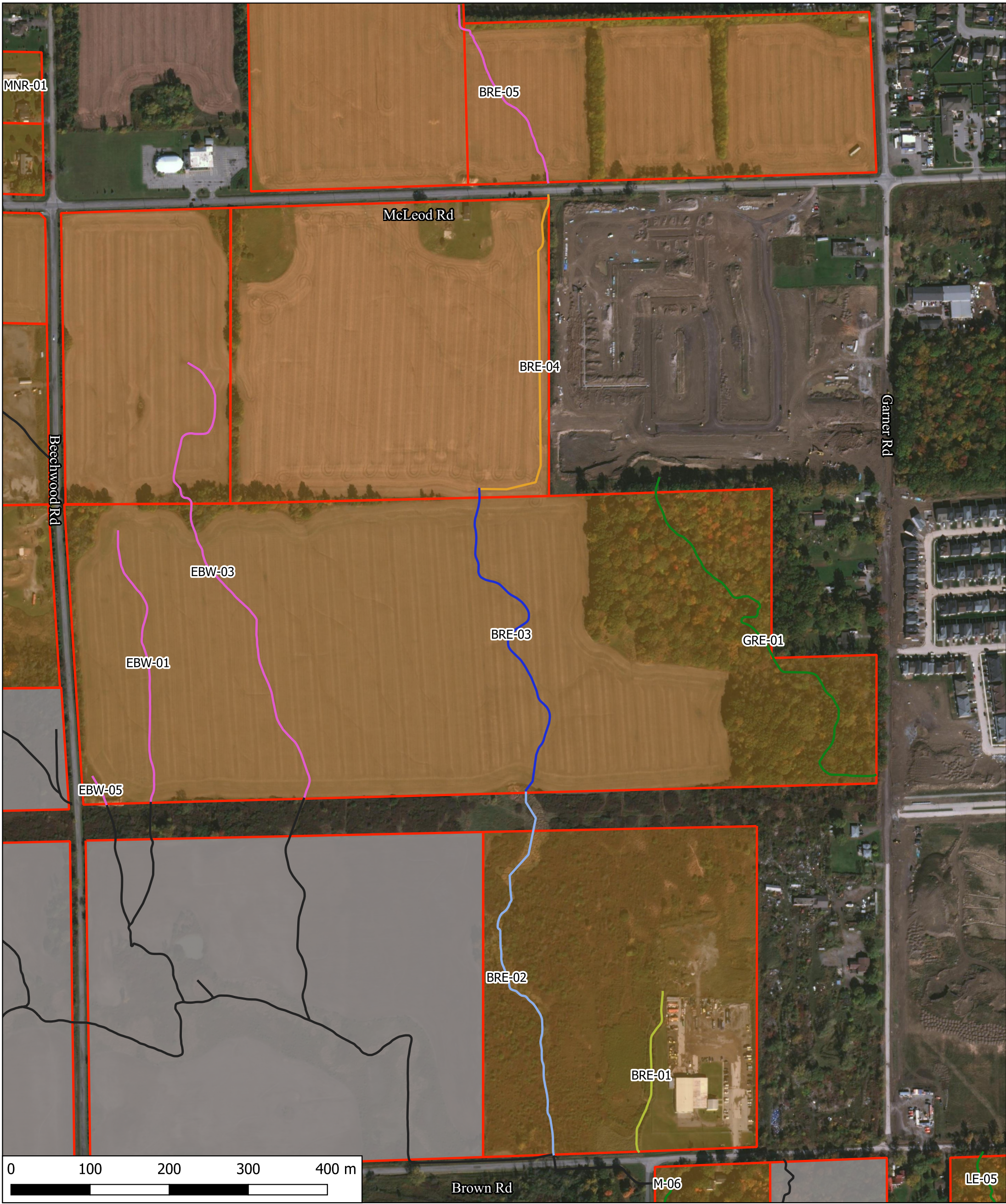
Bus. telephone No. (inc. area code): [blank]
Name of well technician (Last Name, First Name): JOHN EDWARDS
Well Technician's Licence No.: 2617
Signature of Technician and/or Contractor: [Signature]
Date Submitted: 20190919

Well owner's information package delivered: Yes No
Date Package Delivered: 20190802
Date Work Completed: [blank]
Ministry Use Only
Audit No.: 2295791
Received: OCT 30 2019

Appendix C

Thompson Creek Stormwater Master Drainage Plan

Headwater Drainage Feature Assessment



Legend

Thorold-Niagara Falls Municipal Boundary

Properties Thompson Creek Crosses:

Access Granted

No Access Granted

Level of Conservation:

Protection

Conservation

Mitigation

Maintain/Replicate Terrestrial Linkage

No Mitigation Required

Previously Realigned

Reach Not Studied

Map 2 of 3

Imagery: ESRI 2020
Satellite Imagery

Data: Niagara Navigator
and Niagara OpenData

**Thompson Creek Stormwater
Drainage Master Plan**
CONSERVATION LEVEL - EAST



Scale: 1:6,000
UTM NAD 83 17N
Date: January 11, 2022