

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FROM LAKE TO ESCARPMENT

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Conservation Halton is a community based environmental agency that protects local ecosystems and contributes to the quality of life in communities throughout its area of jurisdiction known as the watershed. The Kelso Conservation Area is part of more than 9000 acres of conservation lands that are being protected and are available for recreational and educational experiences.

Conservation Halton

Welcome

..... to Kelso

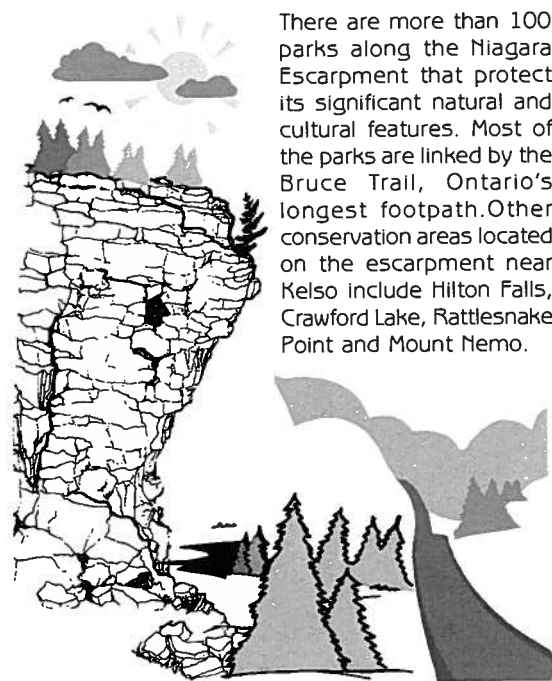
The Kelso Conservation Area is a recreation and natural environment park that is protected and managed by Conservation Halton. The 980 acre park includes a dam and reservoir, built in 1961 for flood protection and to augment summer stream flows on 16 Mile Creek. Kelso is located on the Niagara Escarpment which has unique geological features and spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. The park also includes the Glen Eden Ski and Snowboard Centre, a lake for fishing, boating and swimming and 16 km of hiking and biking trails. The Halton Region Museum is also located in the park.



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A Masterpiece Carved in Limestone

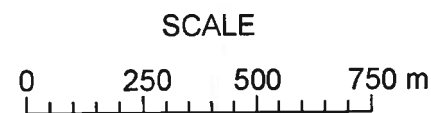
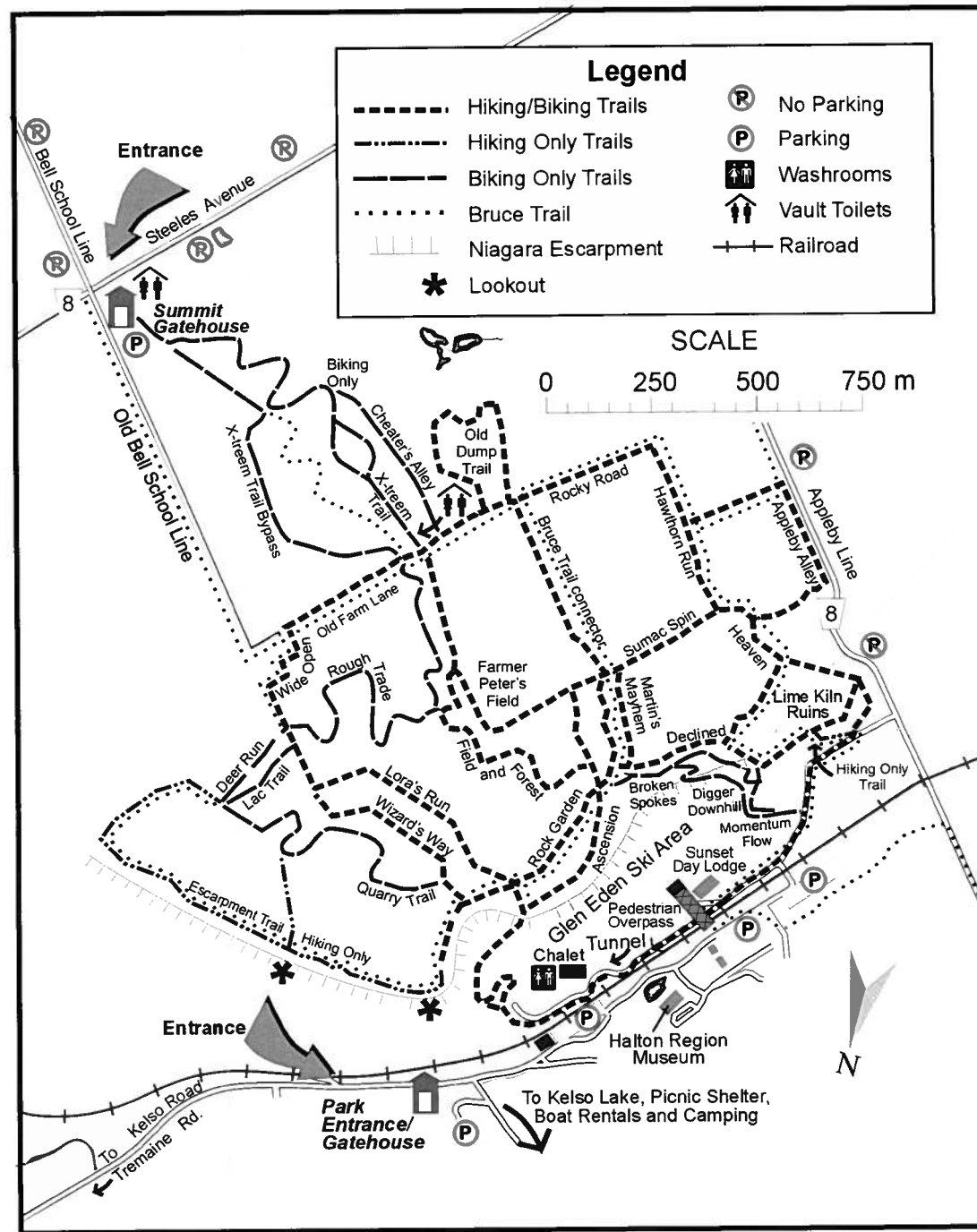
The limestone cliffs of Kelso are part of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment. This well-known landform winds 725 km from Queenston near Niagara Falls to the islands off Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. The escarpment was formed over 400 million years ago when a vast tropical sea covered much of North America. The erosive power of preglacial rivers and glacial melt waters sculpted this geological masterpiece. Kelso is located on an isolated rock outlier separated from the escarpment and overlooking the park and west Milton.



There are more than 100 parks along the Niagara Escarpment that protect its significant natural and cultural features. Most of the parks are linked by the Bruce Trail, Ontario's longest footpath. Other conservation areas located on the escarpment near Kelso include Hilton Falls, Crawford Lake, Rattlesnake Point and Mount Nemo.

Kelso Mountain Bike and Hiking Trails

Kelso has 16 km of overlapping trails that are located primarily on top of the escarpment in the southern part of the park. The trails are used extensively for hiking and mountain biking.



Biking and Hiking Trails 16 km

Many trail sections are challenging and technically difficult like Ascension, Rough Trade and the new X-Treem trail. The overlapping trail loops have coloured signs to indicate the level of difficulty-Blue: easy, Yellow: moderate, Red: moderate to advanced. Persons use these trails at their own risk.

Bruce Trail 725 km

Ontario's longest foot path, the Bruce Trail passes through Kelso park. You can access the trail at the chalet tunnel and from the summit parking lot. From the tunnel, the trail travels to the west side of the park and then north on Appleby Line on its way to Hilton Falls Conservation Area. In the southerly direction, the Bruce Trail crosses the tracks and ascends the escarpment where the trail winds its way out of Kelso to Appleby Line and then proceeds west toward Rattlesnake Point.

Parking Access

Kelso has two access points. The main gate is located on Kelso Road. The summit access is located on Steeles Avenue and is available from April 15 - October 31. Hours vary. Call 905-878-5011 for operating hours. Surrounding roadways are posted NO PARKING. Please enter the park through these two access points.

Park Regulations

- Swimming is permitted only in the designated swimming areas.
- Motorized boats are prohibited.
- Approved floatation devices must be worn by all persons using watercraft on the reservoir.
- Valid Ontario Fishing License is required (for ages 18 & over). Ontario Fishing Regulations apply.
- Dogs must be kept on a maximum 2 metre lead and are prohibited in the beach area.
- Possession of alcohol is prohibited in the park.
- Bikes are permitted on designated trails and roads only with a valid day pass. Biking is prohibited on ski slopes.
- Vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas only. No parking on grassed areas.
- Wood must NOT be taken from forest areas. Firewood is sold at the gatehouse.
- Open fires are restricted to fire rings and barbecues.
- Boats must be put in the water at the boat rental area. All other areas are off limits.
- Permits are required for all day use and camping groups.
- Groups must report to the Head Lifeguard upon arrival at the beach area.
- Helmets must be worn at all times when riding a bicycle.
- Cyclists must adhere to the "offroad cyclists responsibility code" as posted at the park.

Thank you.

