







## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
Project Description      Objective and Scope of Work	
2.0 METHODOLOGY	1
2.1 Desktop Review	
3.0 RESULTS	2
3.1 Desktop Screening Results 3.2 Vegetation Communities 3.3 Wildlife 3.4 Fish Habitat. 3.5 Species at Risk 3.5.1 Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Wood Thrush 3.5.2 Eastern Small-Footed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, and Tri-Colored Bat.	. 5 . 6 . 6 . 7
4.0 AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES	8
5.0 CLOSURE	9
6.0 REFERENCES	10
LIST OF TABLES	
Table 3.1 Summary Results of Desktop SAR Screening	3
Table 3.2 Vegetation Communities On-site	5

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A Report Figures

APPENDIX B Site Visit Photographs



### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

GEMTEC Consulting Engineers and Scientists Limited (GEMTEC) was retained by The Big Apple Inc. to undertake a Species at Risk (SAR) Screening Assessment in support of a proposed official plan amendment and zoning amendment for a property located at 218 Orchard Road, Colborne.

### 1.1 Project Description

The proponent is seeking an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning Amendment for the property located at 218 Orchard Road. The study area is defined as the property boundary and the adjacent lands encompassing an area of 120 m beyond the property boundary. The general project area is illustrated on Figure A.1 in Appendix A, while a detailed site layout is provided on Figure A.2.

## 1.2 Objective and Scope of Work

The objective of the SAR Screening Assessment presented herein is twofold; 1) to identify the presence or potential presence of any SAR and their regulated habitat within the project area, 2) to recommend established and effective avoidance and mitigation measures to ensure that the project is completed in accordance with the provincial *Endangered Species Act*, 2007, the federal *Species at Risk Act*, and the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

To meet the objectives outlined above, the following scope of work was completed:

- Task 1 Desktop Assessment
- Task 2 Site Investigation
- Task 3 Assessment and Reporting

### 2.0 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Desktop Review

A desktop information gathering exercise was completed to aid in the scoping of field investigations and to gather information relating to natural heritage features which may be present on the subject project or within 1 km of the subject property. An additional component of the desktop review was to assess the potential presence of SAR to occur on the subject site or within the study boundary based on a review of publicly accessible occurrence records and review of SAR habitat requirements and range maps.

Information regarding the potential presence of natural heritage features and SAR within the vicinity of the site was obtained from the following sources:

- Make a Map: Natural Heritage Areas (OMNRF, 2023);
- Land Information Ontario (OMNRF, 2011);



- Ontario Geological Survey (OGS, 2019);
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Aquatic SAR Maps (DFO, 2023);
- Fish ON-Line (ONMRF, 2023);
- Breeding Bird Atlas of Ontario (Cadman, et al., 2007);
- eBird Canada Hotspots (eBird Canada, 2023);
- Atlas of Mammals of Ontario (Dobbyn, 1994);
- iNaturalist Explore Observations Map (iNaturalist, 2023);
- Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (Ontario Nature, 2020).

## 2.2 Field Investigation

A single field investigation was completed on October 6, 2023, from approximately 11:00 to 12:15. Conditions during the site investigation were partly sunny (60% cloud cover), 17°C, Beaufort wind 3, with no precipitation.

The field investigation was undertaken to describe in general, the natural and physical setting of the subject property with a focus on natural heritage features and to identify any potential SAR or their habitat that may exist at the subject property.

Photographs of site features taken during the field investigation are provided in Appendix B.

#### 3.0 RESULTS

## 3.1 Desktop Screening Results

Results of the desktop screening exercise are summarized in Table 3.1 below. The desktop screening exercise identified the potential for three avian and three mammalian SAR within the project area.



# TABLE C.1 SCREENING RATIONALE FOR POTENTIAL SPECIES AT RISK ON-SITE OR WITHIN STUDY AREA

Species	ESA Status	Habitat Use	Probability of Occurrence On-Site or Within Study	Rationale
Avian				
Bank Swallow	Threatened	Colonial nester, burrows in eroding silt or sand banks, sand pit walls, etc.	Low	Site lacks suitable habitat for nesting.
Barn Swallow	Special Concern	Nests in barns and other semi-open structures. Forages over open fields and meadows.	Low	Site lacks suitable structures and habitat to support species nesting.
Bobolink	Threatened	Nests in dense tall grass fields and meadows, low tolerance for woody vegetation.	Low	Suitable grassland habitat not present on-site.
Canada Warbler	Special Concern	Prefers wet forests with dense shrub layers	Low	Forest on-site is unlikely to provide preferred habitat.
Cerulean Warbler	Threatened	Prefers mature deciduous forest habitat.	Low	Forest on-site is unlikely to provide preferred habitat.
Chimney Swift	Threatened	Nests in traditional-style open brick chimneys.	Low	No anthropogenic structures on-site to provide preferred habitat; however, may occur within the study area.
Common Nighthawk	Special Concern	Nests in a variety of open sites: beaches, fields and grave rooftops.	Low	Suitable habitat does not occur on-site.
Eastern Meadowlark	Threatened	Nests and forages in dense tall grass fields and meadows, higher tolerance to woody vegetation.	Moderate	NHIC data indicates eastern meadowlark to have occurred within 1km of site. Species not observed during investigations. Suitable habitat not present on-site.
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Threatened	Nests on the ground in open deciduous or mixed woodlands with little underbrush, and bedrock outcrops.	Low	No suitable habitat may be present on-site or within the study area.
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Special Concern	Woodland species, often found near clearings and edge habitat.	Low	Forest on-site is unlikely to support nesting habitat, however, it may be suitable for foraging. No historical occurrences have been reported, nor was the species observed during the site investigations.
Evening Grosbeak	Special Concern	Nests in trees or large shrubs, preference to large coniferous forests, will use deciduous. Overwinters in Ottawa.	Low	Forest on-site is unlikely to support nesting habitat, however, it may be suitable for foraging. No historical occurrences have been reported, nor was the species observed during the site investigations.
Golden Eagle	Endangered	Nests on remote, bedrock cliffs, overlooking large burns, lakes or tundras	Low	Suitable nesting habitat does not occur on-site.
Golden-winged Warbler	Special Concern	Ground nesting, edge species. Breeds in successional scrub habitats surrounded by forests.	Low	Site is unlikely to provide suitable habitat for golden-winged warblers due to the lack of successional scrub habitat.  NHIC data indicates grasshopper sparrow to have
Grasshopper Sparrow	Special Concern	Ground-nesting grassland species. Prefers fields with low sparse vegetation on sand, alvars or poor soils.	Moderate	occurred within 1km of site. Species not observed during investigations. Suitable habitat not present on-site.
Henslow's Sparrow	Endangered	Prefers open, moist, tallgrass fields. Prefers marshes, shrub swamps,	Low	Suitable grassland habitat not present on-site.  No suitable habitat on-site or within the study area
Least Bittern	Threatened	usually near cattails	Low	to support preferred habitat.
Loggerhead Shrike	Endangered	Prefers grazed pastures with short grass and scattered shrubs, especially hawthorn.	Low	Preferred pasture habitat and shrub vegetation does not occur on-site.
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Special Concern	Forest edge species, forages in open areas from high vantage points in trees.	Low	Suitable habitat with clearings does not occur onsite.
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Nests on cliffs near water and on more anthropogenic structures such as tall buildings, bridges, and smokestacks.	Low	Suitable nesting habitat does not occur on-site.
Red-headed Woodpecker	Endangered	Prefers open deciduous woodlands, particularly those dominated by oak and beech.	Low	No suitable forest on-site to provide suitable habitat.
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Wet wooded or shrubby areas (nests at edges of Boreal wetlands)	Low	Suitable habitat does not occur on-site.
Short-eared Owl	Threatened	Ground nester, prefers open habitats, fields and marshes.	Low	No suitable field or marsh on-site to support nesting habitat.
Wood Thrush	Special Concern	Prefers deciduous or mixed woodlands.	Moderate	NHIC data indicates wood thrush to have occurred within 1km of site. Forest on-site may provide foraging habitat. Species not observed during investigations.
Mammalian		B		during invostigations.
Eastern small-footed Myotis	Endangered	Roosts in rock crevices, barns and sheds. Overwinters in abandoned mines. Summer habitats are poorly understood in Ontario, elsewhere prefers to roost in open, sunny rocky habitat and occasionally in buildings (Humphrey, 2017).	Moderate	Available habitat on-site unlikely to meet bat maternity colony requirements however the site and surrounding area may provide foraging and non-maternal roost habitat.
Little Brown Myotis	Endangered	Maternal colonies known to use buildings, may also roost in trees during summer. Affinity towards anthropogenic structures for summer roosting habitat and exhibit high site fidelity (Environment Canada, 2015).	Moderate	Available habitat on-site unlikely to meet bat maternity colony requirements however the site and surrounding area may provide foraging and non-maternal roost habitat.



# TABLE C.1 SCREENING RATIONALE FOR POTENTIAL SPECIES AT RISK ON-SITE OR WITHIN STUDY AREA

Northern myote (Northern Large aread of Control Part Part Part Part Part Part Part Part		OOKLEKIIKO	TOTAL CONTROL OF LOND	, an amond on a	one on within or ob i Aire.	
Endangered Principles of Concern Reputition (Control Parison in Covern and training). Control Preputition (Covern Internal Process of Engage and a surrounding are many provide Sengang non-insternal roots habitat.  Eastern Musik Turtle Endangered Special Concern Richards and Watersources. Special Concern Shapping Turtle Special Concern Shapping Turt	(Northern Long-eared	Endangered	America in associated with Boreal forests. Roosts mainly in trees, occasionally anthropogenic structures during summer (Environment Canada, 2015). Overwinters in caves and	Low	Species affinity is for Boreal forests and rarely roosts in anthropogenic structures. Subject property occurs at extreme southern end of species range and lacks preferred boreal forest habitat.	
Blanding's Turtlo   Threatened westands with abundant energent vegetation. Frequently occurs in which abundant energent vegetation is provided by the provided of the provided of the provided occurs. Wellands step to the provided of the provided occurs in the provided occurs of the provided occurs occurs of the provided occurs occ	Tri-colored Bat	Endangered	occasionally buildings during summer.	Moderate	Available habitat on-site unlikely to meet bat maternity colony requirements however the site and surrounding area may provide foraging and non-maternal roost habitat.	
## Wellands with abundant emergent. Low vegetation. Frequently occurs in aglocart upland forests.  Eastern Ribbornsko Spocial Concern Northern Map Turtle Spocial Concern Special Concern Spec	Reptilian					
Eastern Ribbonsnake Northorn Map Turtle Special Concorn Northorn Map Turtle Special Concorn Sp	Blanding's Turtle	Threatened	wetlands with abundant emergent vegetation. Frequently occurs in	Low	Suitable aquatic habitat is not present on-site.	
Northern Map Turtie Special Concern Highly acquatic species. Found in a wide variety of wellands, water bodies and water work water by wellands, water bodies and water water with interest species. Special Concern Spotted Turtle Endangered Wood Turtle Endangered Wood Turtle Endangered Primarily terrestrial forest species. Associated with clear, gravely streams. Primarily terrestrial forest species. Associated with clear, gravely streams. Primarily terrestrial forest species. Associated with clear, gravely streams. Primarily terrestrial forest species. Associated with clear, gravely streams. Primarily terrestrial forest species. Associated with clear, gravely streams. Primarily terrestrial forest species. Associated with clear, gravely streams. Primarily terrestrial forest species. Associated with clear, gravely streams. Black Ash Endangered Black Ash Endangered Butternut Endangered  Endangered Lichens  Grows on the bark of hardwood troes such as write ash, black walnut, Amorcian en and normood cold Can also be found growed wegetation during the day. Primarily nocturnal, Inding in soft of hardwood troes such as write ash, black walnut, Amorcian en and normood. Can also be found growed wegetation during the day. Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation over silly or sandy Vegetati		•			Suitable aquatic habitat is not present on site.	
Snapping Turtle Special Concern Highly aqualities species. Sound in a wide variety of welfands, water bodies and watercourses.  Spotted Turtle Endangered Findingered Finderingered Find		•	Highly aquatic species, found only in			
Snapping Turtle Spacial Concern variety of wellands, valar bodies and variety of wellands, valar bodies.  Spotted Turtle Endangered Wood Turtle  Plants American Ginseng Endangered Black Ash Endangered Black Ash Endangered Butternut Endangered Circhens  Pale-bellied Frost Lichens  Pale-bellied Frost Lichen  Pale-bellied Frost Lichen  Endangered Bride Shiner Special Concern Channel Darter  Channel Darter  Channel Darter  Special Concern  Freders clear water with abundant vegetation over silty or sandy vegetation Auding upware.  Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation over silty or sandy vegetation Auding the days.  Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation over silty or sandy vegetation Northern Brook Large Bales and Stowers.  River Rednorse Special Concern  Silver Lamprey Special Concern  Silver Lamprey Special Concern  Frefers Stablowing clear rivers over Coks or gleans of Industries for prefers of the Strillowing areas or rocks or gleans of the Strillowing areas or rocks or glean of the Strillowing areas or rocks or glean of the Strillowing Septem of the Strillowing areas or rocks or glean or rocks or g	rioration map ratao	opoolal Collecti	lakes and large rivers.	2011		
Spotted Turtle   Endangered   Secretive wetland species.   Low   Suitable aquatic habitat is not present on-secretive with cloar, gravely streams.   Low   Suitable aquatic habitat is not present on-secretive   Suitable aquatic habitat on-site.   Cow   No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.   Species observed on-site.   Low   No suitable wetland habitat on-site.   Species observed on-site.   Low   Species not observed on-site.   Low   Species habitat on-site.   Low   No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.   Low   No sui	Snapping Turtle	Special Concern	variety of wetlands, water bodies and	Low	occurred within 1km of site. However, no suitable aquatic habitat is present on-site to support snapping turtle. Species not observed during	
Plants American Gimeng Black Ash Black Ash Black Ash Bulternut Endangered Lichens  Findangered Lichens  Pale-bellied Frost Lichens  Fish American Eel Bridle Shiner Special Concern Channel Darter Channel Darter  Northem Brook Lamprey  Northem Brook Lamprey  Northem Brook Bridle Sturgeon  Northem Brook Bridle Sturgeon  Silver Lamprey  Northem Brook Bridle Sturgeon  Silver Lamprey  Northem Brook Bridle Shiner Special Concern Silver Lamprey  Northem Brook Bridle Shiner  Special Concern  Northem Brook Bridle Concern Silver Lamprey  Special Concern  Special Concern  Special Concern  Special Concern  Special Concern  Silver Lamprey  Special Concern  Special Concern  Silver Lamprey  Special Concern  Special Concern  Special Concern  Special Concern  Special	Spotted Turtle	Endangered	·	Low	Suitable aquatic habitat is not present on-site.	
Black Ash		Endangered		Low	Suitable aquatic habitat is not present on-site.	
Black Ash Endangered Endangered Endangered Endangered Endangered Suthernut Endangered Inhabits a wide range of habitats including upland and lowland deciduous and mixed forests.    Comparison of the Dark Channel Dark Special Concern Firsh		Endangered	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Low	No suitable habitat on-site.	
Butternut Endangered Endangered Lichens  Fish  American Eel Endangered Endangered Channel Darter Special Concern  Channel Darter Special Concern  Lake Sturgeon Endangered Endangered Endangered Channel Darter Special Concern  Fish  Northern Brook Lamprey Special Concern  Silver Redhorse Special Concern  Silver Lamprey Special Concern  Fish  Northern Brook Lamprey Special Concern  Silver Lamprey Special Concern  Fish  Northern Brook Lamprey Special Concern  Silver Lamprey Special Concern  Silver Lamprey Special Concern  Firefers dear water with abundant vegetation over sity or sandy vegetation over si	Black Ash	Endangered	Predominantly a wetland species, found	Low	No suitable wetland habitat on-site. Species not observed on-site.	
Crows on the bark of hardwood trees such as white sah, black wahrut. American elem and fromwood. Can also be found growing on fence posts and boulders.	Butternut	Endangered	Inhabits a wide range of habitats including upland and lowland deciduous	Low	Species not observed on-site.	
Pale-bellied Frost Lichen  Bridangered American Eel Endangered Frish  American Eel Endangered Bridle Shiner  Special Concern Channel Darter  Channel Darter  Endangered  Endangered  Endangered  Endangered  Special Concern  Channel Darter  Channel Darter  Endangered  Endangered  Endangered  Lake Sturgeon  Endangered  Lage lakes and rivers. Forages in cool water, 4-9m deep over soft substrates. Spawns in shallower, fast-flowing areas over rocks or gravel.  Prefers shallow areas with warm water. Larvae burrows in soft substrates for up to 7 years.  Silver Redhorse  Special Concern  Insects  Prefers fast-flowing, clear rivers over rocky substrate.  Bogbean Buckmoth  Endangered  Endangered  Frefers dod plant is bog bean, present in a variety of wetlands including bogs, swamps and fens.  Monarch Butterfly  Monarch Butterfly  Monarch Butterfly  Monarch Butterfly  Endangered  Endangered  Endangered  Endangered  Monarch Butterfly  Monarch Butterfly  Endangered	Lichens		and mixed forests.			
Fish American Eel Endangered Sepecial Concern Bridle Shiner Special Concern Channel Darter Special Concern Channel Darter Special Concern Endangered Sepecial Concern Channel Darter Special Concern Channel Darter Special Concern Endangered Sepecial Concern Channel Darter Special Concern Channel Darter Special Concern Channel Darter Special Concern Channel		Endangered	such as white ash, black walnut, American elm and ironwood. Can also be found growing on fence posts and	Low	Species believed to be extirpated from the Ottawa area.	
American Eel Endangered substrate or submerged vegetation during the day.  Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation over sity or sandy vegetation  Channel Darter Special Concern Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation over sity or sandy vegetation  Lake Sturgeon Endangered Endangered Large lakes and rivers. Forages in cool water, 4-9m deep over soft substrates. Spawns in shallower, fast-flowing areas over rocks or gravel.  Northern Brook Lamprey Special Concern Lamprey River Large burrows in soft substrate for up to 7 years.  River Redhorse Special Concern Silver Lamprey Special Concern Silver Lamprey Begetation Description Silver Lamprey River Large burrows in soft substrate for up to 7 years.  Bogbean Buckmoth Endangered Preferred food plant is bog bean, present in a variety of weltands including bogs, swamps and fens.  Monarch Butterfly Special Concern Monarch Butterfly Special Concern Readows, apprehensive shall be advantaged in a variety of weltands including bogs, swamps and fens.  Mottled Duskywing Endangered Mottled Duskywing Reader Beetle Rusty-patched Bumble Bee Endangered Finangered Habitat generalist Low Currently the only known population is in Pi Provincial Park.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated Currently the only known propresent in the sarea.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Pi Provincial Park.  No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle Finangered Habitat generalist Low Ontario, species thought to be absent in for	Fish					
Bridle Shiner   Special Concern   vegetation over silty or sandy vegetation   Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation   Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation over silty or sandy vegetation   Prefers clear water with abundant vegetation over silty or sandy vegetation   Low No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	American Eel	Endangered	substrate or submerged vegetation during the day.	Low	No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	
Channel Darter Special Concern vegetation over silty or sandy vegetation  Lake Sturgeon Endangered Large lakes and rivers. Forages in cool water, 4-9m deep over soft substrates. Spawns in shallower, fast-flowing areas over rocks or gravel.  Northern Brook Lamprey Special Concern Larvae burrows in soft substrate for up to 7 years.  River Redhorse Special Concern Silver Lamprey Special Concern Special Conc	Bridle Shiner	Special Concern	vegetation over silty or sandy	Low	No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	
Lake Sturgeon Endangered Special Concern Claring Prefers shallower, fast-flowing areas over rocks or gravel.  Northern Brook Lamprey Special Concern Claring by to 7 years.  River Redhorse Special Concern Silver Lamprey Special Concern Coky substrate for up to 7 years.  Prefers shallow areas with warm water. Larvae burrows in soft substrate for up to 7 years.  Prefers fast-flowing, clear rivers over rocky substrate  Larvae live 4-7 years in burrows, preference to soft substrate.  Bogbean Buckmoth Endangered Preferred food plant is bog bean, present in a variety of wetlands including bogs, swamps and fens.  Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee Endangered Special Concern Caterophical Formation of the food plant is a wide range of habitats: open meadows, agricultural and urban areas, boreal forests and woodlands.  Caterpillars require milkweed plants confined to meadow and open areas. Adult butterflies use more diverse habitat with a variety of wildflowers  Mottled Duskywing Endangered Sundangered Find plant (New Jersey Tea) found in sandy areas and alvars.  Mottled Duskywing Endangered Endangered Find plant (New Jersey Tea) found in sandy areas and alvars.  Mottled Duskywing Endangered Endangered Habitat generalist Low Currently the only known population is in Pi Provincial Park.  No recent occurrence reports in the sarea, the second currence reports in the area, the second currence	Channel Darter	Special Concern	vegetation over silty or sandy	Low	No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	
Northern Brook Lamprey  Special Concern Larvae burrows in soft substrate for up to 7 years.  Prefers fast-flowing, clear rivers over rocky substrate  Silver Lamprey Special Concern Silver Lamprey Special Concern Insects  Bogbean Buckmoth Endangered Bread Bee  Endangered  Monarch Butterfly Monarch Butterfly Monarch Butterfly  Montiled Duskywing Montiled Duskywing Montiled Duskywing Special Concern Northern Frook Larvae burrows in soft substrate.  Larvae live 4-7 years in burrows, preference to soft substrate.  Preferred food plant is bog bean, present in a variety of wetlands including bogs, swamps and fens. Inhabits a wide range of habitats: open meadows, agricultural and urban areas, boreal forests and woodlands.  Caterpillars require milkweed plants confined to meadow and open areas. Adult butterflies use more diverse habitat with a variety of wildflowers  Mottled Duskywing Endangered  Monarch Gutterfly Beetle  Endangered  Endangered Habitat generalist  Low Currently the only known population is in Pingeren areas, Moderate Moderate  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Pinger area.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Pinger area.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Pinger area.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Pinger area.  No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle Traverse Lady Beetle Endangered Habitat generalist Low Ontario, species thought to be absent in for	Lake Sturgeon	Endangered	water, 4-9m deep over soft substrates. Spawns in shallower, fast-flowing areas	Low	No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	
Silver Lamprey Special Concern Larvae live 4-7 years in burrows, preference to soft substrate.    Silver Lamprey   Special Concern   Larvae live 4-7 years in burrows, preference to soft substrate.   Low   No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.		Special Concern	Larvae burrows in soft substrate for up	Low	No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	
Insects  Preferred food plant is bog bean, present in a variety of wetlands including bogs, swamps and fens.  Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee Endangered Endangered Special Concern Monarch Butterfly Special Concern Monarch Butterfly Beetle Endangered Endangered Habitat generalist Low Currently the only known population is in Piprovincial Park.  Monarch Butterfly Special Concern Monarch Butterfly Special Concern Monarch Butterflies use more diverse habitat with a variety of wildflowers Larval food plant (New Jersey Tea) found in sandy areas and alvars.  Mottled Duskywing Endangered Endangered Habitat generalist Low Currently the only known population is in Piprovincial Park.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Piprovincial Park.  No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle Endangered Habitat generalist Low Ontario, species thought to be absent in for	River Redhorse	Special Concern	rocky substrate	Low	No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	
Preferred food plant is bog bean, present in a variety of wetlands including bogs, swamps and fens.		Special Concern		Low	No suitable aquatic habitat on-site.	
Monarch Butterfly  Special Concern  Monttled Duskywing  Beetle  Rusty-patched Bumble Bee  Endangered  Rusty-patched Bumble Bee  Traverse Lady Beetle  Traverse Lady Beetle  Endangered  Monarch Butterfly  Endangered  Meadows, agricultural and urban areas, boreal forests and woodlands.  Caterpillars require milkweed plants confined to meadow and open areas.  Adult butterflies use more diverse habitat with a variety of wildflowers  Larval food plant (New Jersey Tea) found in sandy areas and alvars.  Habitat generalist  Low  Currently the only known population is in Pinarch Provincial Park.  Low  Sandy areas and alvars not present in the same areas, Monarch on-site.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the same areas, Monarch on-site.  Currently the only known population is in Pinarch Provincial Park.  No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle  Traverse Lady Beetle  Endangered  Habitat generalist  Low  Ontario, species thought to be absent in for		Endangered	present in a variety of wetlands	Low	Preferred wetland habitat is not present on-site.	
Monarch Butterfly Special Concern Confined to meadow and open areas. Adult butterflies use more diverse habitat with a variety of wildflowers  Mottled Duskywing Endangered Nine-spotted Lady Beetle Rusty-patched Bumble Bee  Endangered Traverse Lady Beetle Traverse Lady Beetle  Special Concern Confined to meadow and open areas. Adult butterflies use more diverse habitat use more diverse habitat with a variety of wildflowers Larval food plant (New Jersey Tea) found in sandy areas and alvars.  Low Sandy areas and alvars not present in the sarea. No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Piperovincial Park. No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle Traverse Lady Beetle Endangered Traverse Lady Beetle Endangered  Contario, species thought to be absent in for		Endangered	meadows, agricultural and urban areas,	Low	Currently the only known population is in Pinery Provincial Park.	
Mottled Duskywing Endangered Larval food plant (New Jersey Tea) found in sandy areas and alvars.  Nine-spotted Lady Beetle Endangered Habitat generalist Low Sandy areas and alvars not present in the sarea.  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated to be locally extirpated Currently the only known population is in Pin Provincial Park.  No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle Endangered Habitat generalist Low Ontario, species thought to be absent in for	Monarch Butterfly	Special Concern	confined to meadow and open areas.  Adult butterflies use more diverse habitat with a variety of wildflowers	Moderate	Potentially suitable foraging habitat available for Monarch on-site.	
Nine-spotted Lady Beetle  Rusty-patched Bumble Bee  Endangered  Habitat generalist  Habitat generalist  Low  No recent occurrence reports in the area, the to be locally extirpated  Currently the only known population is in Pi Provincial Park.  No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle  Traverse Lady Beetle  Endangered  Habitat generalist  Low  Ontario, species thought to be absent in for	Mottled Duskywing	Endangered		Low	Sandy areas and alvars not present in the study area.	
Rusty-patched Bumble Bee Endangered Habitat generalist Low Currently the only known population is in Pi Provincial Park. No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle Traverse Lady Beetle Endangered Habitat generalist Low Ontario, species thought to be absent in for		Endangered	•	Low	No recent occurrence reports in the area, thought	
Traverse Lady Beetle Endangered Habitat generalist Low Ontario, species thought to be absent in for	Rusty-patched Bumble	Endangered	Habitat generalist	Low	Currently the only known population is in Pinery Provincial Park.	
าเลมแลเอ.	Traverse Lady Beetle	Endangered	Habitat generalist	Low	No new records of Traverse Lady Beetle in Ontario, species thought to be absent in former habitats	
West Virginia White Butterfly  Special Concern  Requires mature moist deciduous woods with larval host plant toothwort.  Requires mature moist deciduous butterfly  Necessary vegetation and toothwort plant present on-site or within study area.	_	Special Concern		Low	Necessary vegetation and toothwort plant not	
Yellow-banded Special Concern Habitat generalist; mixed woodlands, Bumble Bee Special Concern Variety of open habitat Woodlands, Special Concern Variety of open habitat Woodlands, Special Concern Variety of open habitat Woodlands,		Special Concern	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Moderate	Potentially suitable foraging habitat available for	



## 3.2 Vegetation Communities

Vegetation communities on-site were confirmed by GEMTEC in 2023, following protocols utilized in the Southern Ontario Ecological Land Classification System (Lee et al., 2008). Vegetation at the site represents a mosaic of cultural meadow, deciduous forest, and commercial areas.

Table 3.1 below provides a summary of the various vegetation communities identified on-site.

Table 3.2 Vegetation Communities On-site

ELC Type	Description	Size (ha)
Cultural Meadow (CUM)	The majority of the site, fronting to Orchard Road, is comprised of a cultural meadow. Comprised primarily of old agricultural fields, species consisted of mullein (Verbascum sp.), goldenrod (Solidago sp.), Queen Anne's lace (Daucus carota), red clover (Trifolium pratense), cow vetch (Vicia cracca), green bristlegrass (Setaria viridis), daisy (Bellis perennis), legumes (Fabaceae sp.), switchgrass (Panicum virgatum), bull thistle (Cirsium vulgare), chicory (Cichorium intybus), and panicled aster (Symphyotrichum lanceolatum).	9.27
	Located along the north property boundary, adjacent to Highway 401 was an area dominated entirely by common reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> ).	
Fresh – Moist Sugar Maple – Hardwood Deciduous Forest (FODM6-5)	Located in the northwest portion of the site is a deciduous forest, dominated by sugar maple (Acer saccharum) and American elm (Ulmus americana), with other common constituents including white ash (Fraxinus americana) and bitternut hickory (Carya cordiformis). The shrub layer included ironwood (Ostrya virginiana), American beech (Fagus grandifolia), basswood (Tilia americana), and buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica). Herbaceous vegetation consisted of large-leaved aster (Eurybia macrophylla), broadleaved goldenrod (Solidago flexicaulis), and wood fern (Dryopteris sp.).	2.49
Fresh – Moist Poplar Mixed Forest (FOMM8-1)	The southeastern corner of the property is comprised of a mixed forest. Tree species consisted of a mixture of eastern white cedar ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ), balsam poplar ( <i>Populus balsamifera</i> ), and trembling aspen ( <i>Populus tremuloides</i> ), white ash, river birch ( <i>Betula nigra</i> ), willow ( <i>Salix</i> sp.), with the addition of black walnut ( <i>Juglans nigra</i> ) in the shrub layer. Herbaceous vegetation was comprised of goldenrod, wild raspberry ( <i>Rubus moluccanus</i> ), milkweed ( <i>Asclepias</i> sp.), horsebane ( <i>Ambrosia trifida</i> ), New England aster ( <i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i> ), cattail ( <i>Typha</i> sp.), red osier dogwood ( <i>Cornus sericea</i> ), and joe-pye-weed ( <i>Eutrochium purpureum</i> ).	0.58

ELC Type	Description	Size (ha)
Commercial (CVC)	Located along the west side of the property is an existing commercial area comprised of a parking lot and petting zoo.	1.18

No plant SAR were observed on-site during the field investigation.

#### 3.3 Wildlife

Targeted wildlife surveys were not completed as part of this project. During the field investigation, four avian species were observed or noted as flying overhead within the study area: American crow, American goldfinch, field sparrow, and mourning dove. A larger diversity of avian species would be expected to occur on-site during the active breeding season.

No animal SAR were observed during the field investigation.

No other evidence of wildlife activity, including amphibian, reptilian, mammalian, or fish species, were observed on-site during the time of the field investigation.

### 3.4 Fish Habitat

No surface water features were identified on-site through the desktop review and confirmed through the field investigation. Within the study area, to the southeast of the subject property, are three local, unevaluated wetlands, a watercourse, and three small waterbodies.

No aquatic SAR were identified during the desktop review or the field investigation.

## 3.5 Species at Risk

As outlined in the Endangered Species Act (Ontario, 2007), only species listed as threatened or endangered and their general habitat receive automatic protection. When a species-specific recovery strategy is developed, a specific habitat regulation will be established, which eventually replaces the automatic habitat protection. Species of special concern and their habitat do not receive protection under the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA).

As discussed in Section 3.1, the desktop screening exercise identified the moderate to high potential for three avian (eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow, and wood thrush) and three mammalian (eastern small-footed myotis, little brown myotis, and tri-colored bat) SAR to be present within the project area.

Following completion of the field investigation, no SAR species have been confirmed to occur onsite or within the immediate study area.

Potential impacts associated with the proposed project to SAR identified as having a moderate or high potential to occur on-site, are discussed in the subsections below.



### 3.5.1 Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Wood Thrush

Eastern meadowlarks are listed as threatened under the ESA, meaning that both individuals and habitat receive automatic protection. Grasshopper sparrow and wood thrush are listed as special concern; therefore, only individuals receive protection. All three species were identified on the Natural Heritage Information Centre database as historically occurring in the area.

Eastern meadowlark nest and forage in dense tall grass fields and have a higher tolerance for woody vegetation, no suitable grass fields were identified during the field investigation. As such eastern meadowlark are not anticipated to occur on-site or be impacted by any future development on-site.

Similarly, grasshopper sparrows are area-sensitive grassland species that nest on the ground. The site does not contain suitable grassland habitat for grasshopper sparrow. As such grasshopper sparrow are not anticipated to occur on-site or be impacted by any future development on-site.

Wood thrush nest in moist, deciduous forests stands with dense deciduous undergrowth. Deciduous woodlands on-site may support wood thrush, however as a species of special concern, wood thrush habitat is not protected under the ESA. The potential for wood thrush to occur on-site can be addressed through the application of standard avoidance and mitigation measures.

Considering the mobile nature of the three avian species, any future development on-site is not anticipated to impact any of the avian species discussed above. Mitigation measures to protect avian SAR are provided in Section 4.

### 3.5.2 Eastern Small-Footed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, and Tri-Colored Bat

Three mammalian SAR were identified as having a moderate potential to occur on-site or within the project area. Eastern small-footed myotis (*Myotis leibii*), little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), and tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) are all provincially listed as endangered under the ESA.

Potential roosting habitats for mammalian SAR is limited to the forested areas on-site and anthropogenic buildings and structures within the study area.

Future development on-site may directly impact eastern small-footed myotis, little brown myotis, and tri-colored bat through the loss of wooded habitat and possible roosting trees. Potential indirect impacts include temporary increased disturbances due to human presence and elevated noise levels during construction, and habitat encroachment.

Avoidance and mitigation measures to prevent harm to eastern small-footed myotis, little brown myotis, and tri-colored bat and associated habitat are provided in Section 4.



### 4.0 AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following avoidance and mitigation measures are recommended in order to minimize or avoid, to the greatest extent possible, the potential impacts from potential future development on the local environment, including potential SAR and their habitat:

- Vegetation removal should occur outside of March 15 to November 30 to avoid the key breeding bird period, and bat summer active season. The timing windows provides protection of migratory birds, roosting bats and avoids contravention of the Migratory Bird Convention Act and ESA.
  - If vegetation clearing activities must take place during the aforementioned timing window than a nest survey and site sweep shall be conducted by a qualified professional to ensure no impacts to birds or turtles.
  - Vegetation removal within the forest has the potential to impact SAR bats, if the timing window cannot be adhered to consultation with the MECP is required to determine whether the project will required an authorization.
- To protect trees identified to be retained during construction, the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) should be identified and fenced. The CRZ is defined as 10 cm from the base of the tree for every centimetre in diameter of the tree trunk at breast height.
- Perform daily pre-work sweeps of any construction areas to ensure no species at risk are
  present and to remove any wildlife from inside the construction area.
- Erosion and sediment control, prepared by a qualified person and measures implemented prior to any construction works and be maintained until all disturbed ground has been permanently stabilized.
- During construction if any SAR are identified on-site all work should stop and a qualified professional and the MECP should be contacted for next steps.

In addition to the measures above, exclusion fencing is recommended to be installed along the edge of any future construction areas for the protection of wildlife SAR:

- To protect migrating turtles associated with the off-site habitat, exclusion fencing should be installed around the any future construction areas prior to construction commencing to prohibit the movement of turtles into the construction area. Following installation of exclusion fencing, a qualified professional should be retained to sweep the construction area to remove any turtles which may be trapped within the exclusion fencing.
  - Exclusion fencing should follow the protocols outlined in the Species at Risk Branch: Best Practices Technical Note: Reptile and Amphibian Exclusion Fencing Version 1.1 (MNRF, July 2013).
- To prevent turtles nesting within the construction zone, all stockpiled materials should be covered with a geotextile between May 1 and August 1 of any year.



### 5.0 CLOSURE

This Species at Risk Assessment was completed based on our understanding of the project at the time of writing. The investigation undertaken by GEMTEC with respect to this report and any conclusions or recommendations made in this report reflect the best judgements of GEMTEC based on the site conditions observed during the investigations undertaken at the date(s) identified in the report and on the information available at the time the report was prepared.

This report has been prepared for the application noted and it is based, in part, on visual observations made at the site, all as described in the report. Unless otherwise stated, the findings contained in this report cannot be extrapolated or extended to previous or future site conditions or for portions of the site that were unavailable for direct investigation.

Should new information become available during future work or other studies, GEMTEC should be requested to review the information and, if necessary, re-assess the conclusions presented herein.

We trust this report provides sufficient information for your present purposes. If you have any questions concerning this report, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Emily Pentz, B.Sc. Junior Biologist

Taylor Warrington, B.Sc. Biologist

/Warringson

### 6.0 REFERENCES

Cadman M.D., D.A. Sutherland, G.G. Beck, D. Lepage, and A.R. Couturier. 2007. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005. Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature. Toronto.

City of Ottawa. 2023. Species at Risk in Ottawa.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). 2023. Aquatic Species at Risk Map. Accessed October 20, 2023. Available: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/map-carte/index-eng.html

Dobbyn, J.S. 1994. Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario. Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Toronto.

eBird Canada. 2023. Explore Hotspots Map. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: https://ebird.org/canada/mapiNaturalist

Explore Observations Map. 2023. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place\_id=any

Government of Ontario. 2010. Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List. September 29, 2010 version. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/2ColumnSubPage/276722.html

Land Information Ontario. 2011. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: https://www.ontario.ca/page/land-information-ontario

Make A Map: Natural Heritage Areas. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/Natural\_Heritage/index.html?viewer=Natural\_Heritage. Natural Heritage&locale=en-CA

Ontario Geological Survey (OGS, 2019) http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/index.html

Ontario GeoHub. 2023. Geographic Township Improved. Accessed: July 10, 2023. Available: https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/datasets/lio::geographic-township-improved/explore?location =45.356692%2C-74.717856%2C11.10

Ontario Legislative Assembly (Ontario). 2007. Endangered Species Act.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). 2023. Fish ON-Line. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available:

https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/fishonline/Index.html?viewer=FishONLine.FishONLine 2022



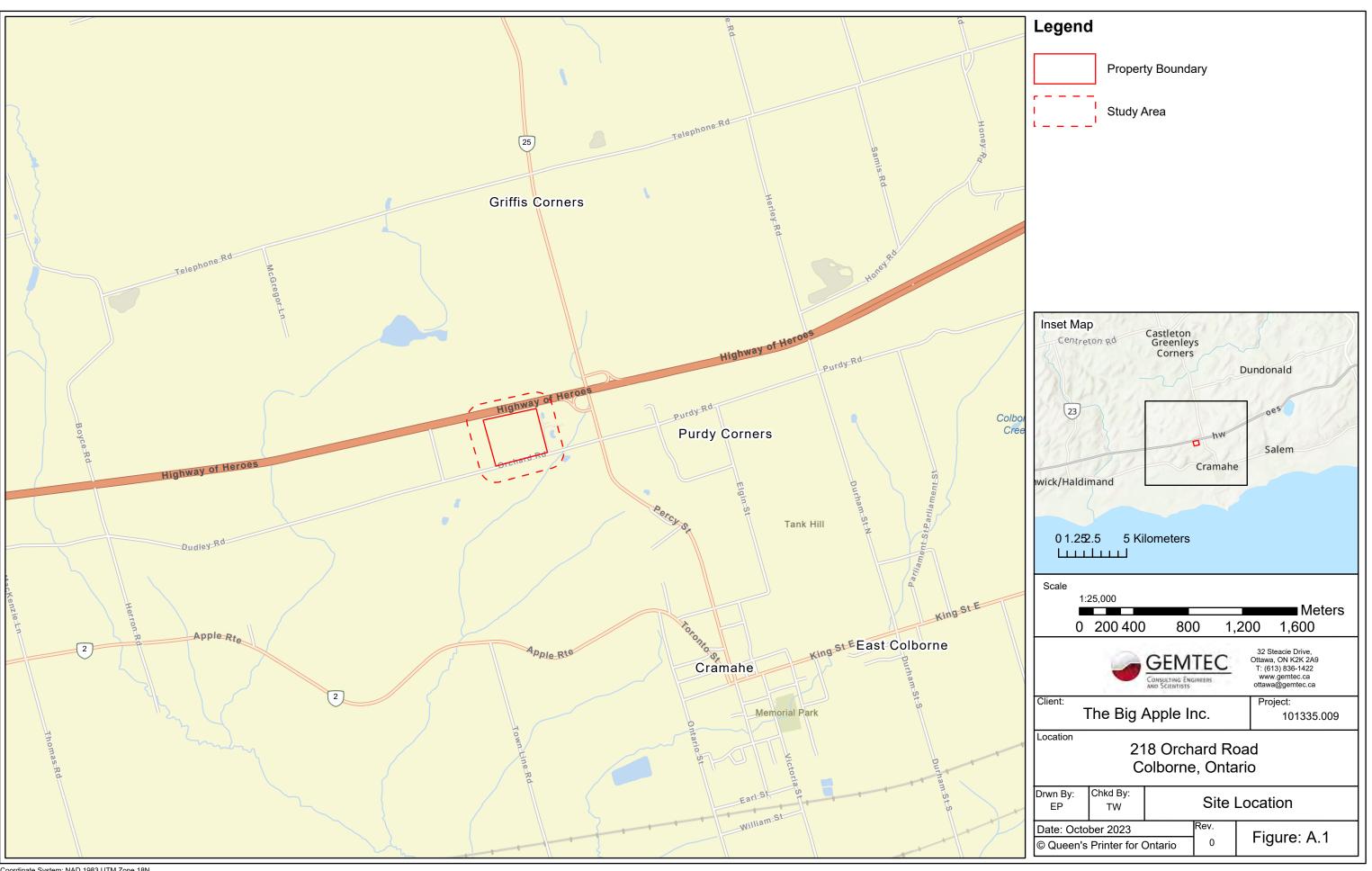
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). 2018. Natural Heritage Information Request Guide. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-natural-heritage-information

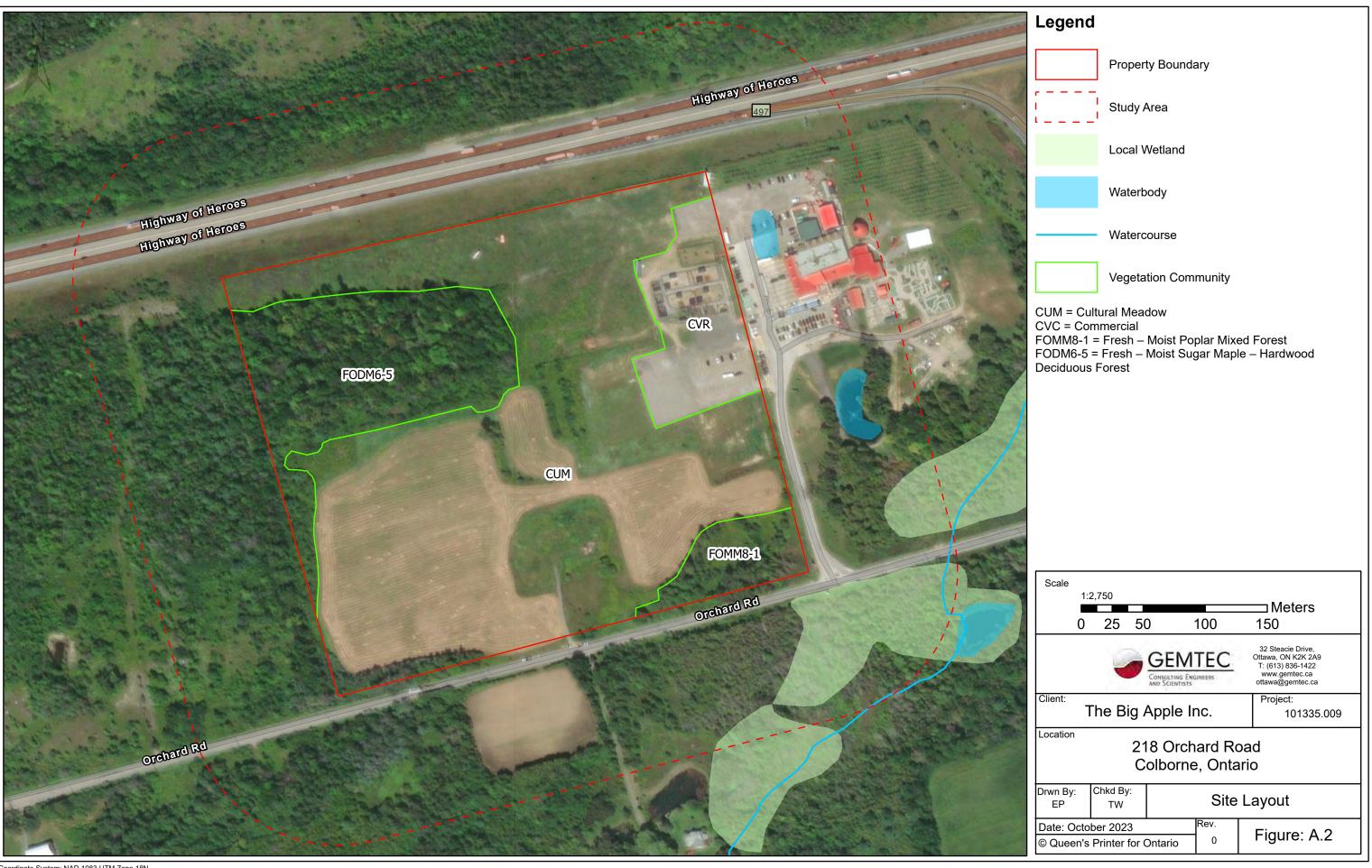
Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery. 2023. The Changing Shape of Ontario. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/maps/counties/glengarry.aspx

Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. Ontario Nature. Accessed: October 20, 2023. Available: https://www.ontarioinsects.org/herp/index.html?Sort=0&area2=squaresCounties&records=all&myZoom=5&Lat=42.97&Long=-74.32













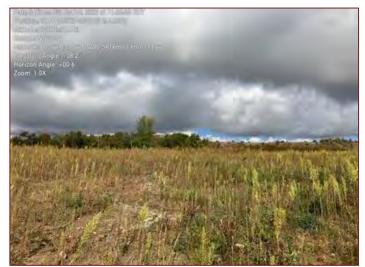
Site Photograph 1: Fresh – Moist Sugar Maple – Hardwood Deciduous Forest (FODM6-5).



Site Photograph 3: Cultural meadow (CUM)



Site Photograph 2: Fresh – Moist Poplar Mixed Forest (FOMM8-1).



Site Photograph 4: Cultural meadow (CUM).



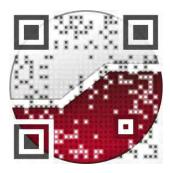
Project

218 Orchard Road Colborne, Ontario **APPENDIX B** 

File No.

101335.009

Site Photographs



civil

geotechnical

environmental

field services

materials testing

civil

géotechnique

environnementale

surveillance de chantier

service de laboratoire des matériaux

