

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE KITCHENER MAP SHEET AREA, 40 P.O.

The area covered by the Kitchener map sheet comprises a rectangular block of land, more than 6000 miles square in Southern Ontario. The area extends from London in the south to just north of Mount Forest, and from Sarnia in the west to the outskirts of Hamilton in the east.

Like the rest of Southern Ontario, the area consists of glaciated soils over limestone bedrock. Glacial and glaciofluvial deposits have formed eskers, drumlins, kames, moraines, and other glacial landforms. The bedrock is mostly deeply buried and outcrop in only a few places. The soil depth is from 0 to over 250 feet. The deepest cover is usually found where preglacial valleys are buried.

The bedrock is mainly limestone, but some other sedimentary rocks and clays are found in the southwestern part of the area. Most bedrock exposures are in stream valleys and old spillway channels, such as at Rock Glen near Arkona along the Ausable River, near the village of Cromarty, along the Grand River near Guelph, especially at Elora Gorge, near St. Mary's, in the vicinity of Mineral Springs, and southeast of Acton.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Physiographically, the area is in the West St. Lawrence Lowland Region. Specifically, the physiography of the area has been determined by glaciation. The western and eastern arms of the Horseshoe Moraines are located in the area. The eastern arm extends from Acton in the northeast, east of Guelph and Galt, to Paris. The western arm extends from west of Wingham to north of Arkona. The moraines form irregular knobs and ridges, and there are steep-sided spillway valleys dissecting them. Erosion and erosion occur on the steeper slopes, and the spillways are usually wet.

East of the eastern arm of the Horseshoe Moraines and north of Sheffield, there is a small tract of shallow drift called the Flamborough Plain. Drumlins and swamps are scattered across the plain. The Beverly Swamp west of Galt is one of the larger swamps. Good soils are rare and most are either wet or stony and shallow.

The Dundalk Till Plain extends from Brussels to the Grand Valley, between Listowel and Mount Forest. The gently undulating topography of the plain is characterized by many poorly drained depressions, such as the large Luther Swamp that surrounds Luther Lake. The soils of the Dundalk Till Plain are wetter and cooler than most other soils in the area.

To its south, the Dundalk Till Plain merges with the Stratford Till Plain, which extends from London to Blyth and the Grand Valley. The surface has an overall faint knoll and gullied relief. Subdued moraines cross the plain and are sources of sand and gravel at certain locations, such as the gravel and sand pits around St. Mary's. North of Stratford and south and northwest of Milverton, large tracts of muck soils, such as the Ellice Marsh, are found.

The Hillsburg Sand Hills, located between Orangeville and Hillsburg, form a region of rough topography, sandy materials, and flat-bottomed swampy valleys. Wetlands occur in many spillways crossing the Sand Hills; the region around Orton is the largest of these. Wind erosion of the sandy kame moraines is common.

Much of Waterloo County is dominated by the sandy Waterloo Hills, some of these hills are formed of sandy till, and others are kames. The Baden Hills region near New Hamburg is typical of the rugged topography that is found occasionally in the area. The well-drained soils are susceptible to erosion where the slopes are steep.

The Teeswater Drumlin Field, a group of about 300 drumlins, is located in the region bounded by Guelph, Bridgeport, Fergus, and the Hillsburg Sand Hills. The drumlins are separated by low ground covered with alluvial materials and by many interconnecting valleys that have broad gravel terraces. The esker that extends from Guelph to West Montrose is typical of the eskers that cross the Guelph Drumlin Field.

The Oxford Till Plain is located in the northeastern part of Huron County. The plain surface is drumlinized, and three large spillways cross it. Generally, the Oxford Till Plain is characterized by good drainage and gentle slopes. The Mount Elgin Ridges are a series of clay moraine ridges located south of the Oxford Till Plain. The valleys between the ridges contain gravel, sand, and silt alluvium. The relatively smooth, broad ridges have few steep slopes. A small part of the Caradoc Sand Plain is located east of London and south of the North Thames River. The plain consists of sand or light-textured waterland deposits. The Norfolk Sand Plain in Brantford County intrudes into Oxford and Waterloo counties, and is an extension of the large delta sand and silt deposit located south of the area. The sand partly buries the Horseshoe Moraines. Generally, the plain has good drainage. A small part of the Haldimand Clay Plain extends into the area south and east of Brantford. The Grand River cuts a deep valley through the gently undulating plain surfaces.

The Huron Slope, located between Lake Huron and the western arm of the Horseshoe Moraines, is a plain of lucidous, clean sand over till. The sand forms narrow strips parallel to the shoreline. Old deltas of the Ausable and Bayfield rivers have formed large deposits of sand on the plain where it is crossed by these rivers. Bluffs along Lake Huron have deep gullies that are about 50 to 75 feet deep and extend back into the plain. The deep soil deposits are dry, but where it is thinly spread over clay the soil is wet.

The Huron Fringe is a narrow strip of land that extends along Lake Huron from Sarnia to Grand Bend. From Grand Bend to Kettle Point, there is a belt of sand dunes a mile and half wide called 'The Pinery'. The Theford Marsh, a lagoon behind the sand dunes, is located behind the dunes. Kettle Point is a shelf of exposed bedrock extending into Lake Huron.

CLIMATE

The climate of the area is moderate. The average annual temperature ranges from about 44°F in the southwest to 45°F along the Lake Huron shore and 46°F in the southeast. The mean temperature for July is 65°F to 66°F. The temperature is higher in the southeast, whereas the temperature along the Lake Huron shore is moderated by the lake. The maximum temperature is generally in the low 80's, but maximum daily temperatures occasionally reach 90°F to 95°F.

In the winter, the daily minimum temperature seldom falls below 10°F in the south, but in the northern parts of the area, temperatures around 0°F are common. The mean temperature for January in the central and northeastern parts of the area is from 19°F to 21°F. The mean temperature increases to about 37°F in the south. The mean temperature is also higher along the Lake Huron shore, where the presence of water moderates the climate.

There are 125 frost-free days in the northeast, increasing towards the south and west to 145 frost-free days along the Lake Huron shore. The growing season varies from 189 to 195 days in the central and northeastern parts, and from 196 to 200 days along the shore of Lake Huron.

The annual precipitation averages from 32 to 39 inches inland, and increases from south to north. The Lake Huron shore has 28 to 30 inches of rain annually. Snowfall varies over the area from 20 inches in the south to over 90 inches in the north. The snowfall is greatest through the central part of the area from London to Mount Forest. Precipitation is highest where there are large, level tracts of imperfectly and poorly drained soils; this causes late spring seeding. The lowest precipitation occurs in the warmer zones, but there is little chance of drought.

NATURAL VEGETATION

The original vegetative cover of Southern Ontario was dense forest. This early forest was predominantly oak (*Quercus spp.*) and pine (*Pinus spp.*), interspersed with sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) on the best soils, and cedar (*Thuja spp.*) and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) on the wet soils. Most of this forest has been cleared for agriculture or modified by cutting.

The present forest is composed of sugar maple and beech on well-drained soils, pine on the sandy dry soils, silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and elm (*Ulmus spp.*) on the imperfectly drained soils, and elm, ash and cedar on the poorly drained soils. There are also numerous areas of scrub vegetation, such as willows (*Salix spp.*) and dogwood (*Cornus spp.*). The forest mainly hardwood, mixed with a gradually increasing number of coniferous trees from south to north.

LAND USE

Before settlement, the area was heavily forested by hardwoods, such as maple (*Acer spp.*), birch (*Betula spp.*), elm, and basswood (*Tilia americana*). Softwoods, such as pine, were found in abundance along the creeks and rivers. Now the forests are restricted to sites and landforms unsuitable for agricultural production, such as steep slopes, excessively drained soils, and poorly and imperfectly drained soils. Where the topography is flat, such as the Stratford Till Plain, the forests are usually found at the back of farms between concession roads.

Forest and scrub vegetation cover about 15 percent of the area, but in some parts of the area, more than 25 percent of the land is forested. One zone of more widespread forest includes the northern part of the eastern arm of the Horseshoe Moraines, the Flamborough Plain, the Guelph Drumlin Field, and the Hillsburg Sand Hills.

The Beverly Swamp is one of the largest forested zones in the area. Another forested zone is the northern part of the western arm of the Horseshoe Moraines and the Teeswater Drumlin Field.

In the central and southern parts of the area, including the Stratford Till Plain, the Oxford Till Plain, and the Norfolk Sand Plain, less than 10 percent of the land is forested. The largest forested zones are centered on a few large tracts of muck soils, such as Ellice Marsh and some poorly drained stream valleys. 'The Pinery', a region of sand dunes along Lake Huron near Grand Bend, supports a widespread growth of conifers. The main tree species are red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) mixed with some white pine (*Pinus strobus*). Most of 'The Pinery' is now a provincial park.

Most farm woodlots are small and covered with young, low-grade stands. About 75 percent of the forests is considered productive, but forest resources are not fully utilized, mainly because management is inadequate and the individual stands are too small and uneconomic for the owner to operate. The main use of the forest resources is for fence posts.

In the past, many woodlots have been damaged by grazing. In the early 1950s, about 50 percent of the woodlots were grazed. Since then, farmers have become aware of the low quality of forage that woodlots provide for their herds and conscious of the need to preserve the regenerative capability of their woodlots.

After the initial land clearing, when steep and wetlands proved uneconomic agriculturally, they were abandoned, and scrub willows, wild apple (*Malus spp.*), and sumac (*Rhus spp.*) have recovered them. Scrub vegetation covers a very small part of the area, and equals only about 8 percent of the total forested lands. Marshes also cover a very small part of the total land area. The largest marshes are the Luther Marsh, the Theford Marsh, and the Ellice Marsh. There are many other small marshes not shown on the map scattered across the area.

Improved agricultural land covers more than 60 percent of the total area. As much as 75 percent of the Stratford Till Plain, the Waterloo Sand Hills, the Mount Elgin Ridges, and the land around Brantford, and Guelph has been improved. The eastern arm of the Horseshoe Moraines, the Flamborough Plain, and the Six Nations Indian Reserve southeast of Brantford have little improved land.

The pasture and forage crops dominate the improved agricultural land, and the main farming activity is livestock raising. The main crops include permanent pasture, tame hay, corn for ensilage, oats for hay, and other fodder crops. Land in pasture and forage crops is most extensive in the Teeswater Drumlin Field and the northern part of the Stratford Till Plain. The amount of land in pasture decreased slightly between 1961 and 1966.

The pasture and forage crops are used for the production of livestock, such as cattle for beef and for dairy products, and pigs and sheep. Beef cattle raising is dominant over much of the area, but is highest in the Teeswater Drumlin Field, the northern part of Stratford Till Plain, the western part of Dundalk Till Plain, the northern part of the Waterloo Sand Hills, and between Paris and Galt. The main centers of dairy farming are in Oxford County and the region south of Listowel. Dairy cattle represent about 45 percent of all cattle in the area.

Pig raising is no longer associated with dairy farming. Pig farming is an important activity in Waterloo County, the Guelph vicinity, eastern Oxford County, and the region immediately south of Mitchell and Seaford. A large meat-packing industry is located in Kitchener.

Sheep raising is a less important farming activity in the area. Sheep are usually found where the land has low productivity and rougher topography. The eastern arm of the Horseshoe Moraines has the highest sheep densities.

Land used for growing crops, such as mixed grains, oats, corn for grain, barley, wheat, flaxseed, rye, potatoes, and tobacco, dominates the improved land only in Waterloo and Brantford counties. From 1961 to 1966, there was a trend toward increased acreage in crops. Mixed grains occupy the most land under crops in the area, and represent the biggest percentage of cropland in Perth, northern Waterloo, and northern Wellington counties. Oats are grown mainly in the south and southeast, and corn is grown for grain in the south. Flaxseed is an important crop in the Erin to Grand Valley region around Milverton, and north of Seaford.

Potatoes are a less important crop, and in most regions they constitute less than 1 percent of the improved land. The main potato-growing locations are around Brantford and east of Brantford, which are both in the Norfolk Sand Plains, and in the vicinity of Theford Marsh.

Tobacco growing is an important farming activity on the Norfolk Sand Plain in Brant and Oxford counties. Each county has about the same acreage in tobacco.

Intensive agricultural land use, such as orchards, represents less than one-fifth of one percent of the total land area. Most of the area is outside the climatically best locations on Ontario. The best climatic zones in the area are located along Lake Huron and in the southeast, but the chances of winter injury are much higher here than in the Niagara orchards. Apples are hardy enough to be grown over most of the region, but other fruits are not. The three main locations of orchard land use are the lands around Kitchener - Waterloo, Arkona - Forest, and Paris - Brantford. There are many smaller locations throughout the area. Orchards are usually combined with other types of farming, often as a side or cash crop. Orchards are more common on the upland ridges and on the south-facing slopes than as an important part of the farm operation. Orchard sites on the south-facing slopes that have light-textured, well-drained soils, and are composed more than 75 percent of the crop, Peaches and equal importance in Lambton County. Other orchard crops are pears, plums, and cherries, and sour cherries. The agriculture census statistics show that there has been a steady decline in the total orchard acreage in the area.

Horticulture is another important intensive agricultural land use. The largest horticultural acreages are found on the Norfolk Sand Plain of Brant and Oxford counties, the Caradoc Sand Plain east of London, on the strips of sand on the Huron Slope, and in the Theford Marsh. The small amount of vegetable acreage that constitutes part of each farm is not large enough to appear on the map. The largest single block of land used for horticulture is around the Theford Marsh, where the bogs and part of Smith Lake have been artificially drained to expose the muck deposits. Garden crops, such as celery, mint, onions, beets, and other cash crops, are grown on the muck deposits. Much of the produce is used for canning. Sweet corn and peas are the main vegetable crops in acreage in most other locations, and other vegetables are produced on smaller acreages. Between 1961 and 1966, vegetable acreages more than doubled in Brant and Huron counties, and increased by 50 percent in Middlesex County and decreased by half in Oxford County. East of Sarnia and east of London, good soils for vegetables are decreasing because of urban expansion.

Unimproved pasture or rough grazing land is usually located on the same types of soils as most woodlands. Typical locations are on poorly drained or excessively dry soils, or on steeply sloping land. Most of this land has been cleared of forest, but because of one or more limitations, it has not been cultivated. Land speculation adjacent to growing urban centers has resulted in considerable acreage of unimproved pasture. Some of the unimproved agricultural land adjacent to Brantford, Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, London, and Guelph has good potential for agriculture. Regions of 15 percent or more unimproved pasture are located in the eastern arm of the Horseshoe Moraines, the Flamborough Plain, the Waterloo Hills, and the southern end of the western arm of the Horseshoe Moraines in Middlesex County.

Unimproved pasture may be used for grazing beef cattle or allowed to grow into scrub bushland, and is usually most conducive to reforestation. The Six Nations Indian Reserve southeast of Brantford has soils similar to the surrounding farms, but because the land is unimproved, little of it is used for agriculture. It appears as an anomalous land use pattern on the map.

In 1971, the 3 percent of the land that was urbanized accommodated about 73 percent of the total population of the area. The main population centers, which have more than 10,000 people, are Brantford, Paris, Cambridge (Galt, Preston, and Hespeler), Guelph, Kitchener - Waterloo, London (Part), Sarnia (Part), Stratford and Woodstock. In 1971 these cities represented about 45 to 50 percent of the urban land and about 80 percent of the urban population of the area. The main centers of urban growth in the decade up to 1971 were Kitchener - Waterloo and Cambridge; they showed increases in population of 45 percent and 41 percent respectively. Guelph was a third center of growth and had a population increase of 32 percent. The agricultural land adjacent to these cities is subject to the greatest pressure from urbanization. In 1973, it was calculated that the amount of agricultural land absorbed because of urban population growth was 380 to 385 acres per 1000 additional people. Even though some of the land around the growth centers is rated for agricultural uses, it may be held by speculators for potential urban uses. At the time of mapping, however, the land was used for agricultural purposes.

Outdoor recreation land is a very small part of the total land use of the area. Except for the Lake Huron shore, there are few natural attractions because of the generally subdued nature of the landscape and the limited number of lakes in the area. Cottage development is extensive along the sandy Lake Huron shore. Centers of outdoor recreation for cottages are Goderich, Bayfield, Grand Bend, Port Franks, Hillsborough Beach, and Brights Cove. About 90 percent of the cottages in the area are located along the shore of Lake Huron.

Public recreation lands on the Lake Huron shore are Point Farms Provincial Park north of Goderich, Ipperwash Provincial Park near Kettle Point, and Pinery Provincial Park near Grand Bend.

Away from the Lake Huron shore, there are scenic attractions associated with the downcutting of rivers. Notable examples are Rock Glen Falls near Arkona, the Elora Gorge, and Rockwood Gorge. The Rock Glen Falls site has a gorge, falls, rock formations, and fossil beds. The largest natural lake in the area, other than Lake Huron, is Puslinch Lake northeast of Galt.

Manmade lakes that were built for flood control purposes and have been developed for recreation include Belwood Lake on the Grand River, Conestoga Lake on the Conestoga River, and Fanshawe Lake on the North Thanes River. Many small outdoor recreation lands are associated with the larger river valleys. The steep sides of some spillway channels have been developed into ski hills. Smith Lake in Theford Marsh and Luther Marsh Lake are bird sanctuaries. The Smith Lake region has an excellent variety of birds and plants not commonly found in Ontario.

Land use in the form of excavation is a very minor part of the total land area. The main types of excavation are sand and gravel pits and limestone quarries. Limestone quarries are found near Beachville, St. Mary's, Woodstock, Ingersoll, Guelph, Rockwood, and Ipperwash. Most of these locations are associated with exposure of the bedrock in spillways of main streams. At Ipperwash, bedrock has been exposed by wave action. The limestone is mined for stone, cement, and lime.

Gravel and sand pits are usually found in spillways, old beach deposits, cutwash kame deposits, and eskers. The large gravel pits are near the main urban centers and usually in spillways. The largest gravel pits are near Brantford, Paris, Kitchener, and Guelph.

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DESCRIPTION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA FEUILLE DE KITCHENER - 40 P.O.

Le territoire qui représente la feuille de Kitchener est un rectangle d'une superficie de plus de 6 000 milles carrés, situé dans le sud de l'Ontario. Il s'étend de London dans le sud jusqu'au nord de Mount Forest, et de Sarnia dans l'ouest jusqu'aux limites de Hamilton, à l'est.

Comme dans le reste de l'Ontario méridional, les assises rocheuses calcaires sont recouvertes de sols développés sur des matériaux glaciaires. Des dépôts glaciaires et fluvioglaciaires ont formé des eskers, des drumlins, des kames, des moraines et d'autres types de formes glaciaires. La roche en place est la plupart du temps recouverte d'un épais manteau de débris et les affleurements rocheux sont rares. L'épaisseur des sols varie de 0 à plus de 250 pi. C'est habituellement à l'emplacement de vallées préglaciaires ensevelies qu'on retrouve les formations rocheuses les plus épaisse.

Les assises rocheuses sont surtout calcaires mais on trouve d'autres types de roches sédimentaires et des couches inclinées dans le sud-ouest du territoire. La plupart des affleurements rocheux se trouvent dans des vallées de rivières et d'anciens chenaux d'écoulement comme il y en a à Rock Glen près d'Arkona, le long de la rivière Ausable, près du village de Cromarty, le long de la rivière Grand près de Guelph, surtout à l'emplacement de la gorge Elora, près de St. Mary's, dans les environs de Mineral Springs et au sud-est d'Acton.

PHYSIOGRAPHIE
Le territoire appartient à la région occidentale des basses terres du Saint-Laurent. Les glaciations en ont fortement modifié les paysages. Les bras (arms) ouest et est des moraines Horseshoe se trouvent dans le territoire. Le bras oriental va d'Acton dans le nord à Paris en passant à l'est de Guelph et de Galt. Le bras occidental commence à l'ouest de Wingham et va jusqu'au nord d'Arkona. Les moraines forment des buttes et des crêtes irrégulières et, des chenaux d'écoulement aux parois escarpées les entaillent. Les versants les plus abrupts sont soumis au ravinement et à l'érosion et les déversoirs sont