



Cheltenham Badlands Visitor Infrastructure Project

November 19, 2019

Latornell Conference, Nottawasaga Inn,
Alliston, Ontario

Overview

- Background
- Partner consultation
- Visitor infrastructure considerations
- Visitor infrastructure
- Benefits and results

The Ontario Heritage Trust

Vision and Mandate



Ontario's Heritage agency with a legislated mandate to identify, protect, promote and conserve Ontario's heritage:

- To be the centre for heritage expertise, information, and knowledge
- To lead by demonstrating excellence in cultural and natural conservation
- To foster an understanding and appreciation of our past through our programming and events; and
- To give voice to diversity of Ontario's people and places.

Cheltenham Badlands

- 36.6 hectares (~90 acres); within 1 hour drive of Toronto
- Within Credit Valley watershed, Town of Caledon, Region of Peel
- Within the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- 1.3 km of Bruce Trail
- Property is an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

Prior to 2015



Traffic issues prior to 2015



Erosion issues-prior to 2015



Partners

The Cheltenham Badlands Management Planning Team (CBMPT), established to discuss stewardship issues and work through the Master Plan, helped establish visitor infrastructure for site.

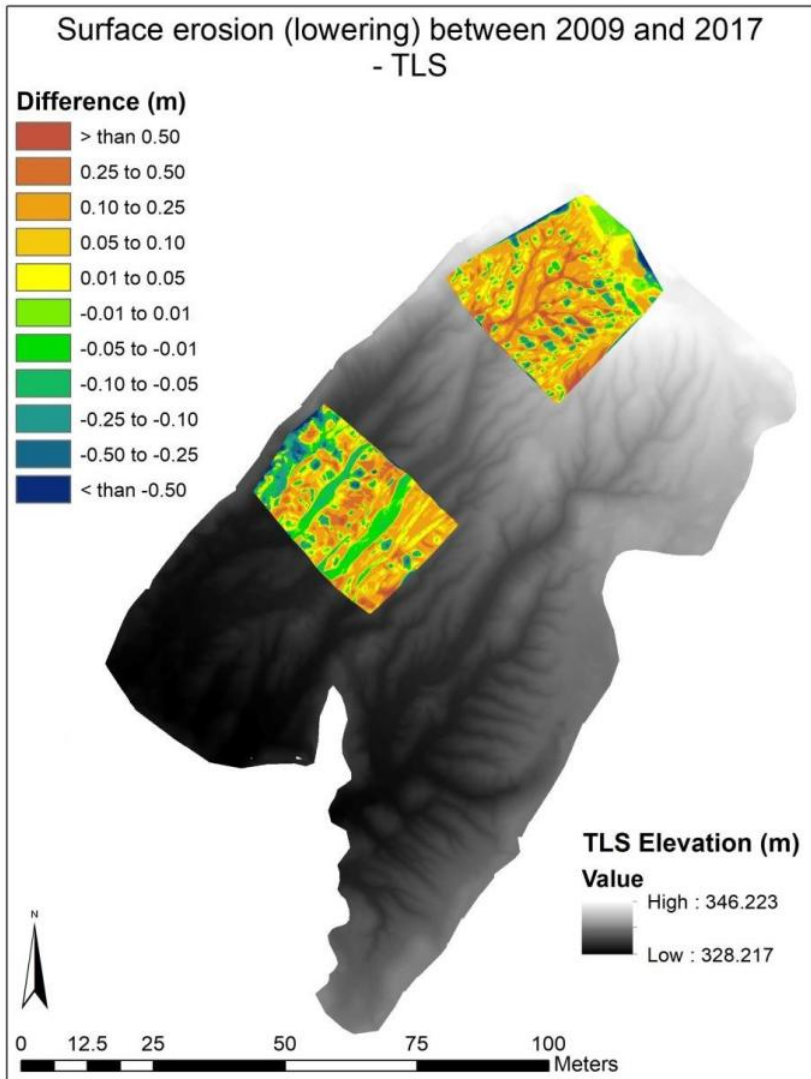
The guiding principles for the property include:

- Conservation of the property's cultural and natural heritage values
- Safety for all individuals who visit the site
- Improved accessibility for those who wish to access the site
- Enhanced opportunities for interpretation and public education

Research partnerships with universities also helped guide decisions and interpretation.



What did/does the research tell us?



Geological studies (Tato and UofT) over the decades starting in 1974 identified:

- There is continued erosion of the rills and collection of material in the gully bottoms of the badlands.
- Erosion was taking place at a rapid rate and increased as a result of human foot traffic. This is one of the reasons the Trust closed the site in 2015.

Visitor Infrastructure Overview







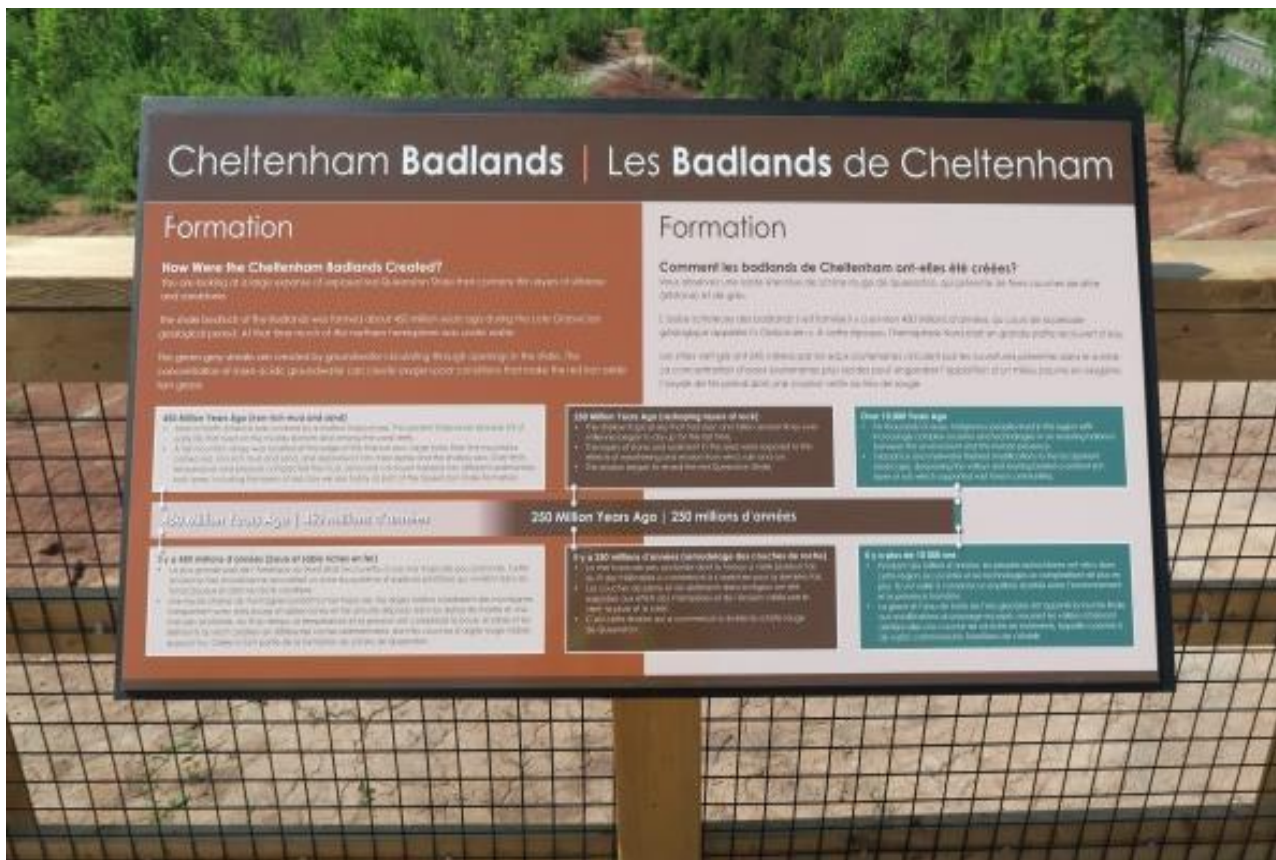
Visitor Infrastructure-Boardwalk



Trailhead



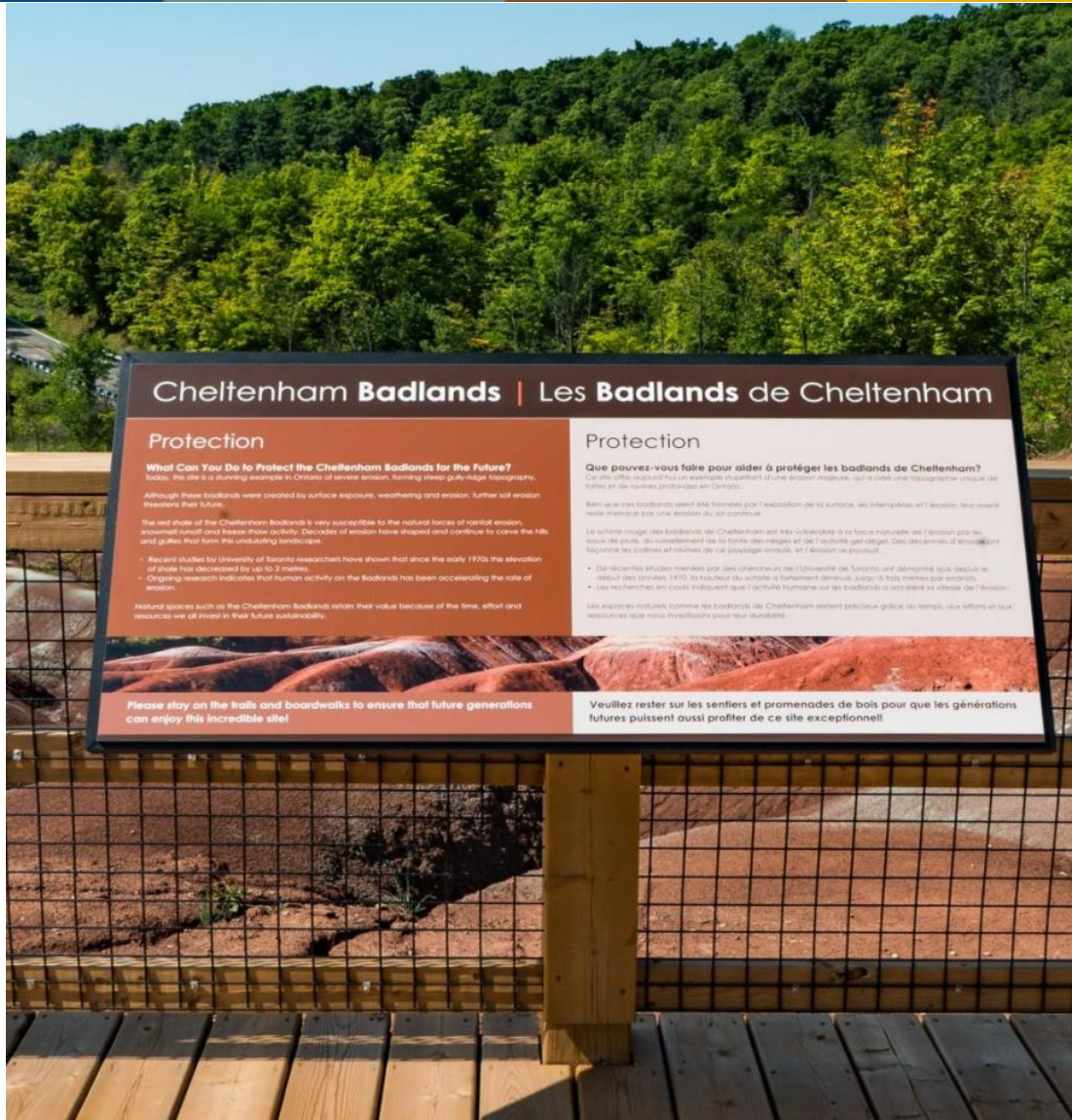
Visitor Infrastructure-Signs



Visitor Infrastructure-Signs



Visitor Infrastructure-Signs



Cheltenham Badlands | Les Badlands de Cheltenham

Protection

What Can You Do to Protect the Cheltenham Badlands for the Future?

Today, the site is a stunning example in Ontario of natural erosion, forming steep, colorful topography. Although these badlands were created by surface exposure, weathering and erosion, further soil erosion threatens their future.

The red shale of the Cheltenham Badlands is very susceptible to the natural forces of wind, erosion, animal runoff and freeze-thaw activity. Decades of erosion have shaped and continue to carve the hills and gullies that form the underlying landscape.

- Recent studies by University of Toronto researchers have shown that since the early 1970s the elevation of shale has decreased by up to 3 metres.
- Ongoing research indicates that human activity on the Badlands has been accelerating the rate of erosion.

Natural spaces such as the Cheltenham Badlands retain their value because of the time, effort and resources we invest in their future sustainability.

Please stay on the trails and boardwalks to ensure that future generations can enjoy this incredible site!

Protection

Que pouvez-vous faire pour aider à protéger les badlands de Cheltenham?

Aujourd'hui, le site est un remarquable exemple en Ontario de l'érosion naturelle, qui a créé une topographie unique de falaises et de ravins profondes en Ontario.

Malgré le fait que ces badlands aient été formés par l'exposition de la surface, les intempéries et l'érosion, leur avenir reste menacé par une érosion de sol continue.

Le schiste rouge des badlands de Cheltenham est très vulnérable à la force naturelle de l'érosion par les forces de pluie, du ravinement de la fonte des neiges et de l'activité gel-dégel. Des décennies d'érosion ont façonné les collines et ravins de ce paysage unique, et l'érosion se poursuit.

- De récentes études menées par des chercheurs de l'Université de Toronto ont démontré que depuis le début des années 1970, la hauteur du schiste a fortement diminué, jusqu'à trois mètres par endroit.
- Les recherches en cours indiquent que l'activité humaine sur les badlands de Cheltenham accélère le processus de l'érosion.

Les espaces naturels comme les badlands de Cheltenham restent précieux grâce au temps, aux efforts et aux ressources que nous investissons pour leur durabilité.

Veuillez rester sur les sentiers et promenades de bois pour que les générations futures puissent aussi profiter de ce site exceptionnel!

Pay stations



Cheltenham Badlands

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: STEWARDSHIP THE CHELTENHAM BADLANDS

The Ontario Heritage Trust – along with its managing partners, the [Credit Valley Conservation](#) and the [Bruce Trail Conservancy](#) – are proud to announce the reopening of the Cheltenham

Visitor information

Hours of operation

Location: 1739 Olde Base Line Road, Ingelwood [\[Map\]](#)

Parking: \$10 per vehicle

Positive Impacts

- Infrastructure conserves sensitive shale feature and achieves our goals!!
 - consistent with guiding principles we set out for property of conservation, safety, accessibility and interpretation
- Signage helps visitor awareness and experience
- Media attention:
 - Opening day: 56 media coverage pieces, 10.05M impressions
 - Ongoing attention
- Visitor management: 72,000 visitors since last September
- Strong partnerships with stewards

#Begoodtothebadlands



Thank you!

Kathy Hering,
Manager
Ontario Heritage Trust