

CONSERVATION HALTON
 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 Mountsberg Conservation Area is part of more than 9000 acres of conservation lands that are being protected and are available for recreational and educational experiences.

Welcome to Mountsberg

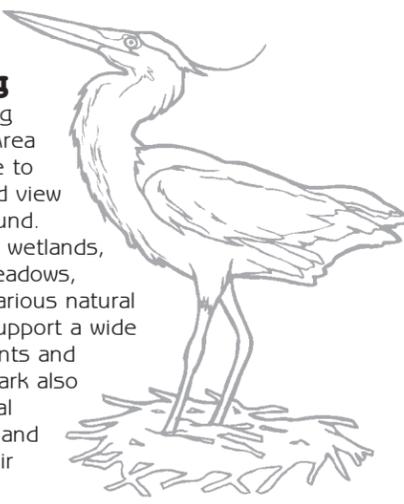
The Mountsberg Conservation Area is a natural environment park that is protected and managed by Conservation Halton. The 472 hectare park includes extensive wetlands, forests, fields and a 202 hectare water control reservoir that was built in 1966. The conservation area is a unique blend of wildlife sanctuary and environmental education centre. The park includes 16 km of nature trails, a demonstration sugar bush, visitors centre, a wildlife walkway with elk, bison and birds of prey and a children's PlayBarn.

The Mountsberg Reservoir and Bronte Creek

The Mountsberg Reservoir was created by building a dam on Bronte Creek as it flows through the park on its way to Lake Ontario. The wetlands in the park and to the north of the reservoir are considered provincially significant. These wetland complexes include various habitats for uncommon birds, amphibians and reptiles. Wetlands are critical to creek systems by retaining flood waters, filtering sediment and pollutants to improve water quality, and providing rich and diverse habitats for many species of flora and fauna. This reservoir offers fishing, canoeing, kayaking and waterfowl viewing opportunities.

Wildlife at Mountsberg

The Mountsberg Conservation Area is a great place to watch birds and view wildlife year round. With extensive wetlands, forests and meadows, the park has various natural habitats that support a wide diversity of plants and animals. The park also includes several creeks, ponds and a large reservoir that attracts hundreds of birds, particularly waterfowl and shore birds during spring and fall migration. The visitors centre has displays and educational programs on the park's natural and cultural resources.



Support Conservation!

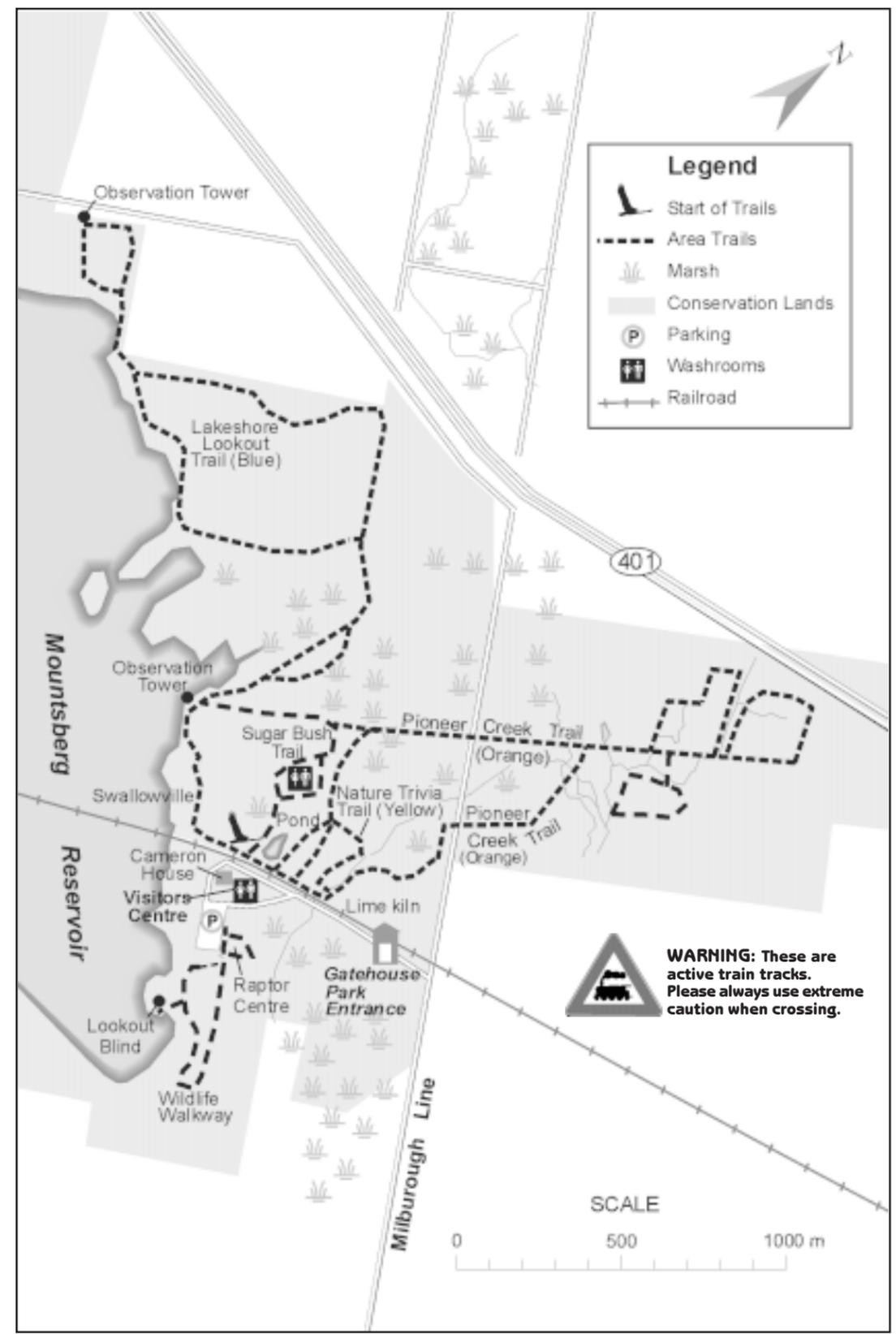
Visit the Mountsberg Gift Shop!
 Visit our unique gift shop and take home a reminder of your visit to Mountsberg.

- Books and art cards
- Nature gifts, wildlife souvenirs and gardening items
- Maple syrup products
- Jewelry, clothing, crafts

All gift shop proceeds stay at Mountsberg to support the programs and facilities.

Mountsberg Trails

Mountsberg has 16 km of colour coded trails for hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. The trails follow old farm roads, lakeshore, and woodland paths through a wide variety of natural habitats.



Note: Trail distances are measured from the start of trails.

Wildlife Walkway
1.6 km (30 minutes)

This hard packed trail begins at the Raptor Centre where birds of prey are featured. The trail passes several specially designed enclosures with hawks, falcons, eagles and owls that are non-releasable due to permanent injuries. The trail also includes enclosures with bison and elk. Near the end of the trail a boardwalk leads to a Lookout Blind that overlooks the reservoir.

Pioneer Creek Trail
6.5 km (2 hours)

This natural earthen trail is well sheltered, wooded and gently rolling. The trail passes pioneer fences, lime kilns and several small creeks and swampy areas. Trail users should be careful at 2 points where the trail crosses the Milborough Line. The looped trail returns to the starting point by way of the Mountsberg sugar bush.

Sugar Bush Trail
1.5 km (20 minutes)

This looped trail follows old farm roads and passes through a working sugar bush that is operated during March and April. The trail returns to the starting point at the edge of a wooded area near the Mountsberg Reservoir.

Nature Trivia Trail
1.5 km (15 minutes)

The Nature Trivia Trail is a small loop off the Pioneer Creek Trail. This earthen trail includes a number of stops that test your knowledge about nature. Pick up a Nature Trivia Quiz sheet at the visitors centre.

Lakeshore Lookout Trail
5.6 km (2 hours)

The Lakeshore Lookout Trail follows the shoreline of the Mountsberg Reservoir. This scenic earthen trail features two, 10 metre high observation towers where hundreds of birds can be seen, especially during migration. The trail includes three smaller loops that pass through woodlands, plantations and marsh areas.

Please help protect this sensitive area by following our trail regulations.

- Trail Regulations**
- Dogs must be kept on leash and are not allowed on the Wildlife Walkway.
 - Do not litter trails or remove any natural materials.
 - Stay on the marked trails.
 - Horseback riding requires a special permit.
 - Caution must be taken when crossing the marked rail crossing.
 - Take only photos and walk softly on the earth.
- Thank you.*



The Douglas G. Cockburn Raptor Centre

Since 1994 The Douglas G. Cockburn Raptor Centre has provided educational and entertaining displays and presentations regarding local birds of prey. The Centre includes an exhibit gallery, video theatre, flyway, and our resident population of owls, hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures.

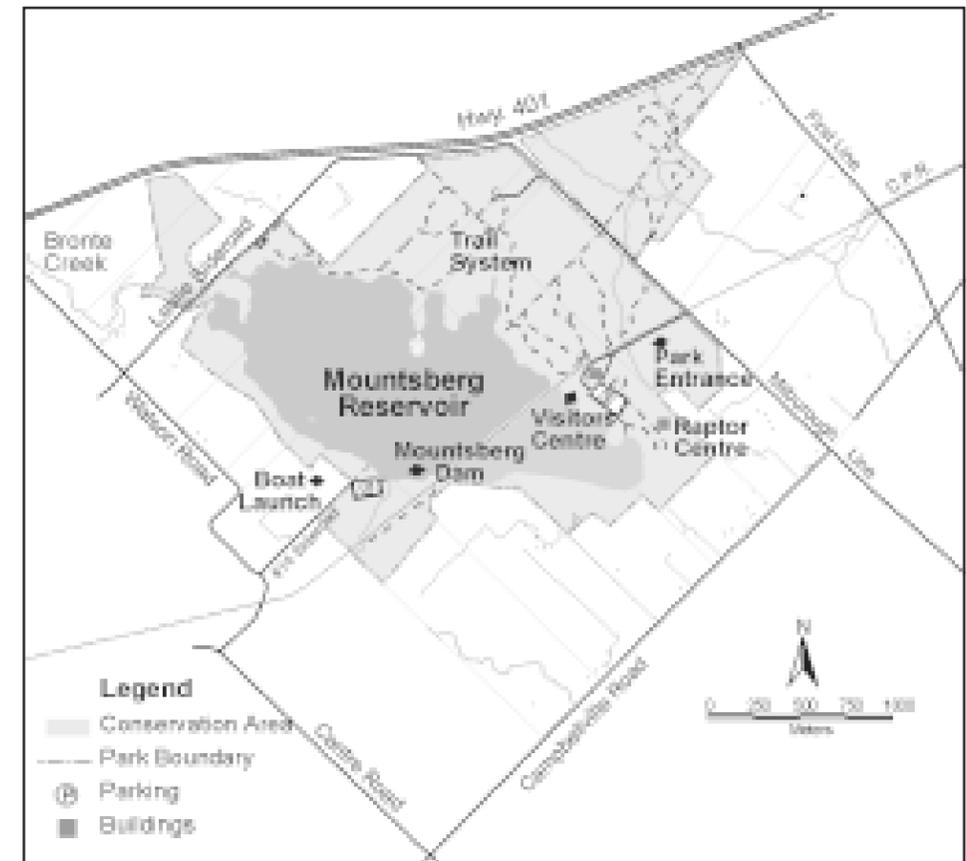
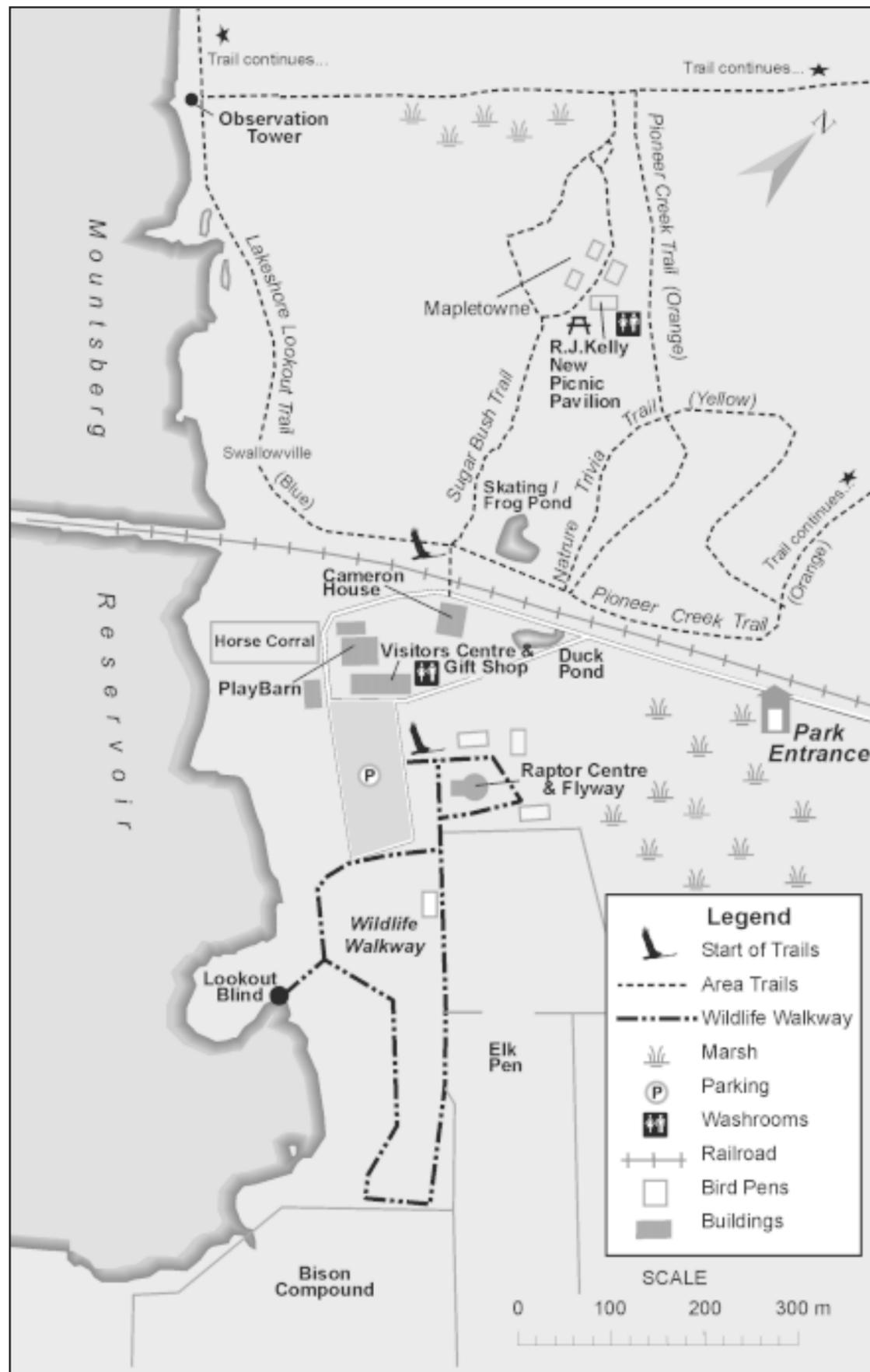
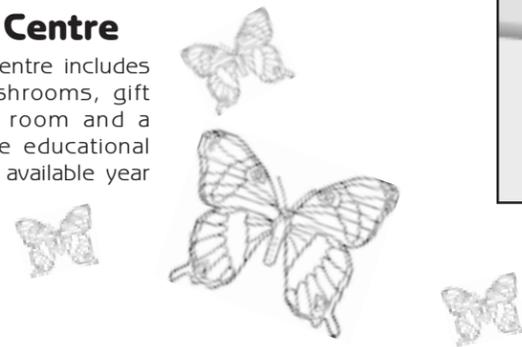
Mountsberg's Mapletowne



During March and April, visitors can enjoy the first taste of spring at the Mountsberg Sugar Bush. The trail to the sugar bush passes by a 120 year old house and barn built by the Camerons. Archibald Cameron's family first settled in East Flamborough in 1833. His son, Duncan Cameron purchased 40 hectares and constructed the stone house and barn that is now part of the conservation area. Interpretive plaques and displays in the sugar bush tell the story of the maple syrup harvest. Visitors can relive the early settlers first rite of spring by walking through the hardwood forest and touring the sugar and candy houses where the smell of smoke and steaming sap conjure up nostalgic images of past times.

Visitors Centre

The visitors centre includes displays, washrooms, gift shop, lunch room and a theatre where educational programs are available year round.



Bird's Eye View of the Mountsberg Conservation Area

The Mountsberg Conservation Area is one of the largest parks operated by Conservation Halton. The area includes provincially significant wetlands and a large water control reservoir located at the headwaters of Bronte Creek, an important natural waterway in the watershed. The conservation area is a significant wildlife refuge and environmental education centre.

Visit Mountsberg every season...
and experience the area's unique natural heritage programs.

Winter Days in the Country (January and February)
 Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating on the farm pond, bird of prey presentations.

Changing Seasons (September, October, November)
 View the fall colours, wagon rides, bird of prey presentations, great hiking, biking and fishing.

Maple Syrup Days (March and April)
 Maple syrup demonstration with pancake pavilion and sugar bush, horse-drawn wagon rides, and bird of prey presentations.

Education Programs (Year Round)
 Reservations are required for school and group education programs. The Ways of the Woods Summer Day camp is offered during July and August for children 6 – 14 years old with busing provided and many other sites visited. Youth Group Programs for scouts, cubs, beavers, guides and brownies are also available year round.

Spring Fever Days (April, May and June)
 Wildflower viewing and bird watching, bird of prey presentations, hiking and biking.

Summer Days (July and August)
 Picnicking, birdwatching, fishing, bird of prey presentations, leisurely walks and biking.

Park Open (Year Round)
 Weekends and holidays throughout the year. Weekdays with limited facilities and services. Please inquire with area staff about seasonal facilities and services availability. Hours of operation: 10 am – 4 pm unless otherwise posted.

Visit these other Conservation Halton parks for more great natural experiences

Kelso
(905) 878-5011
 Swimming, boating, biking, downhill skiing, snowboarding, group camping, fishing, museum

Mount Nemo
(905) 336-1158
 Hiking, scenic viewing, Bruce Trail, Interpretive lookout

Rattlesnake Point
(905) 878-1147
 Scenic cliff lookouts, hiking, rock climbing, group camping



Crawford Lake
(905) 854-0234
 Reconstructed Iroquoian village, visitors centre, rare lake with boardwalk, hiking trails and Niagara Escarpment Lookout

Hilton Falls
(905) 854-0262
 Hiking, biking, cross country skiing, Bruce Trail, waterfall, mill ruins