

# **APPENDIX A**

## **DEFINITIONS**

# City of Thorold Official Plan

## APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS

This appendix of definitions has been appended to the Thorold Official Plan to provide ease of reference primarily for terms defined in Provincial and Regional plans and legislation. Where a defined term is in dispute, the term as defined in external Provincial or Regional documents shall prevail.

Abbreviations:

CWA	Clean Water Act
GP	Greenbelt Plan
NEP	Niagara Escarpment Plan
NEPDA	Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act
ORMCP	Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
PA	Planning Act
PPS	Provincial Policy Statement
PTGA	Places to Grow Act
PTGGP	Places to Grow Growth Plan

### Access Standards

Means methods or procedures to ensure safe vehicular and pedestrian movement, and access for the maintenance and repair of protection works, during times of flooding hazards, erosion hazards and/or water-related hazards. (PPS)

### Active Transportation

Means human-powered travel, including but not limited to, walking, cycling, inline skating and travel with the use of mobility aids, including motorized wheelchairs and other power-assisted devices moving at a comparable speed. (PPS)

### Adjacent Lands

Means:

- a) those lands contiguous to existing or planned corridors and transportation facilities where development would have a negative impact on the corridor or facility. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives; or
- b) those lands contiguous to a specific natural heritage feature or area where it is likely that development or site alteration would have a negative impact on the feature or area. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended by the Province or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives; or,
- c) those lands contiguous to lands on the surface of known petroleum resources, mineral deposits, or deposits of mineral aggregate resources where it is likely that development would constrain future access to the resources. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended by the Province; or
- d) those lands contiguous to a protected heritage property or as otherwise defined in the municipal official plan. (PPS)

### Adverse Effects

As defined in the Environmental Protection Act, means one or more of:

- a) impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it;
- b) injury or damage to property or plant or animal life;
- c) harm or material discomfort to any person;
- d) an adverse effect on the health of any person;
- e) impairment of the safety of any person;
- f) rendering any property or plant or animal life unfit for human use;

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- g) loss of enjoyment of normal use of property; and
- h) interference with normal conduct of business. (PPS)

#### **Affordable**

Means:

- a) in the case of ownership housing, the least expensive of:
  - i) housing for which the purchase price results in annual accommodation costs which do not exceed 30 percent of gross annual household income for low and moderate income households; or
  - ii) housing for which the purchase price is at least 10 percent below the average purchase price of a resale unit in the regional market area;
- b) in the case of rental housing, the least expensive of:
  - i) a unit for which the rent does not exceed 30 percent of gross annual household income for low and moderate income households; or
  - ii) a unit for which the rent is at or below the average market rent of a unit in the regional market area. (PPS, PTGGP)

#### **Agricultural Condition**

Means:

- a) in regard to specialty crop areas, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored, the same range and productivity of specialty crops common in the area can be achieved, and where applicable, the microclimate on which the site and surrounding area may be dependent for specialty crop production will be maintained or restored; and
- b) in regard to prime agricultural land outside of specialty crop areas, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored. (PPS)

#### **Agricultural Uses**

Means the growing of crops, including nursery, biomass, and horticultural crops; raising of livestock; raising of other animals for food, fur or fibre, including poultry and fish; aquaculture; apiaries; agro-forestry; maple syrup production; and associated on-farm buildings and structures, including, but not limited to livestock facilities, manure storages, value-retaining facilities, and accommodation for full-time farm labour when the size and nature of the operation requires additional employment. (PPS, GP, PTGGP)

#### **Agri-tourism Uses**

Means those farm-related tourism uses, including limited accommodation such as a bed and breakfast, that promote the enjoyment, education or activities related to the farm operation. (PPS)

#### **Agriculture-Related Uses**

Means those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are directly related to farm operations in the area, support agriculture, benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations, and provide direct products and/or services to farm operations as a primary activity. (PPS, GP, PTGGP)

#### **Airports**

Means all Ontario airports, including designated lands for future airports, with Noise Exposure Forecast /Noise Exposure Projection mapping. (PPS)

#### **Alternative Energy Sources**

Means a system that uses sources of energy or energy conversion processes to produce power,

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heat and/or cooling that significantly reduces the amount of harmful emissions to the environment (air, earth and water) when compared to conventional energy systems. (PPS)

#### **Alvars**

Naturally open areas of thin or no soil over essentially flat limestone, dolostone or marble rock, supporting a sparse vegetation cover of mostly shrubs and herbs. (GP)

#### **Archaeological Resources**

Includes artifacts, archaeological sites, marine archaeological sites, as defined under the Ontario Heritage Act. The identification and evaluation of such resources are based upon archaeological fieldwork undertaken in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act. (PPS)

#### **Areas of Archaeological Potential**

Means areas with the likelihood to contain archaeological resources. Methods to identify archaeological potential are established by the Province, but municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives may also be used. The Ontario Heritage Act requires archaeological potential to be confirmed through archaeological fieldwork. (PPS)

#### **Areas of Mineral Potential**

Means areas favourable to the discovery of mineral deposits due to geology, the presence of known mineral deposits or other technical evidence. (PPS)

#### **Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs)**

Areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study, or education. (PPS)

#### **Brownfield Sites**

Means undeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant. (PPS, PTGGP)

#### **Built Boundary**

The limits of the developed urban area as defined by the Minister of Infrastructure in accordance with Policy 2.2.3.5. of the Places to Grow Growth Plan. (PTGGP)

#### **Built Heritage Resource**

Means a building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including Aboriginal community. Built heritage resources are generally located on property that has been designated under Parts IV or V of the Ontario Heritage Act, or included on local, provincial, and/or federal registers. (PPS)

#### **Built-Up Area**

All land within the built boundary. (PTGGP)

#### **Coastal Wetland**

Means:

- a) any wetland that is located on one of the Great Lakes or their connecting channels (Lake St. Clair, St. Marys, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers); or
- b) any other wetland that is on a tributary to any of the above-specified water bodies and lies, either wholly or in part, downstream of a line located 2 kilometres upstream of the 1:100 year floodline (plus wave run-up) of the large water body to which the

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tributary is connected. (PPS)

### **Combined Sewers**

Means a sewer designed to convey both sanitary sewage and storm water through a single pipe to a sewage treatment plant.

### **Committee of Adjustment**

Means a committee of adjustment constituted under Section 44 of the Planning Act RSO 1990. (PA)

### **Complete Communities**

Complete communities meet people's needs for daily living throughout an entire lifetime by providing an appropriate mix of jobs, local services, a full range of housing, and community infrastructure including affordable housing, schools, recreation and open space for their residents. Convenient access to public transportation and options for safe, non-motorized travel is also provided. (PTGGP)

### **Complete Streets**

A complete street is a public right-of-way where the transportation facilities and adjacent land uses are planned, designed and constructed to accommodate users of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles, automobiles and freight traffic.

### **Comprehensive Rehabilitation**

Means rehabilitation of land from which mineral aggregate resources have been extracted that is coordinated and complementary, to the extent possible, with the rehabilitation of other sites in an area where there is a high concentration of mineral aggregate operations. (PPS)

### **Comprehensive Review**

Means:

- a) an official plan review which is initiated by a planning authority, or an official plan amendment which is initiated or adopted by a planning authority, which:
  - i) is based on a review of population and employment projections and which reflect projections and allocations by upper-tier municipalities and provincial plans, where applicable; considers alternative directions for growth or development; and determines how best to accommodate the development while protecting provincial interests;
  - ii) utilizes opportunities to accommodate projected growth or development through intensification and redevelopment; and consider physical constraints to accommodating the proposed development within existing settlement area boundaries;
  - iii) is integrated with planning for infrastructure and public service facilities, and considers financial viability over the life cycle of these assets, which may be demonstrated through asset management planning;
  - iv) confirms sufficient water quality, quantity and assimilative capacity of receiving water are available to accommodate the proposed development;
  - v) confirms that sewage and water services can be provided in accordance with PPS policy 1.6.6; and,
  - vi) considers cross-jurisdictional issues.

In undertaking a comprehensive review the level of detail of the assessment should correspond with the complexity and scale of the settlement boundary or development proposal. (PPS)

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#### **Connectivity**

Means the degree to which *key natural heritage* or *key hydrologic features* are connected to one another by links such as plant and animal movement corridors, hydrologic and nutrient cycling, genetic transfer, and energy flow through food webs. (GP)

#### **Conserved**

Means the identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value, or interest is retained under the Ontario Heritage Act. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches can be included in these plans and assessments. (PPS)

#### **Cultural Heritage Landscape**

Means a defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Aboriginal community. The area may involve features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association. Examples may include, but are not limited to, heritage conservation districts designated under the Ontario Heritage Act; villages, parks, gardens, battlefields, mainstreets and neighbourhoods, cemeteries, trailways, viewsheds, natural areas and industrial complexes of heritage significance and areas recognized by federal or international designation authorities (e.g. a National Historic Site or District designation, or a UNESCO World Heritage Site). (PPS)

#### **Defined Portions of the Flooding Hazard along Connecting Channels**

Means those areas which are critical to the conveyance of the flows associated with the one hundred year flood level along the St. Marys, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, where development or site alteration will create flooding hazards, cause updrift and/or downdrift impacts and/or cause adverse environmental impacts. (PPS)

#### **Density, Gross**

Means a density figure that reflects the number of dwelling units within a broad neighbourhood or community area that includes roads, parks and other non-residential lands.

#### **Density, Net**

Means the total number of dwelling units divided by the net area of the lot or site. The net area excludes streets, alleys, public open spaces, utility rights-of-way, easements, and other public facilities or utility facilities.

#### **Deposits of Mineral Aggregate Resources**

Means an area of identified mineral aggregate resources, as delineated in Aggregate Resource Inventory Papers or comprehensive studies prepared using evaluation procedures established by the Province for surficial and bedrock resources, as amended from time to time, that has a sufficient quantity and quality to warrant present or future extraction. (PPS)

#### **Designated and Available**

Means lands designated in the official plan for urban residential use. For municipalities where more detailed official plan policies (e.g., secondary plans) are required before development applications can be considered for approval, only lands that have commenced the more detailed planning process are considered to be designated and available for the purposes of this definition. (PPS)

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#### **Designated Greenfield Area**

The area within a settlement area that is not built-up area. (PTGGP)

#### **Development**

Means the creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings and structures requiring approval under the *Planning Act*, but does not include:

- a) Activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process; or
- b) Works under the *Drainage Act*.

#### **Dynamic Beach Hazard**

Means areas of inherently unstable accumulations of shoreline sediments along the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes, as identified by provincial standards, as amended from time to time. The dynamic beach hazard limit consists of the flooding hazard limit plus a dynamic beach allowance. (PPS)

#### **Ecological Function**

Means the natural processes, products or services that living and nonliving environments provide or perform within or between species, ecosystems and landscapes, including hydrologic functions and biological, physical, chemical and socio-economic interactions. (GP)

#### **Ecological Value**

The value of vegetation in maintaining the health of the key natural heritage or key hydrologic feature and the related ecological features and ecological functions, as measured by factors such as the diversity of species, the diversity of habitats, and the suitability and amount of habitats that are available for rare, threatened and endangered species. (GP)

#### **Employment Area**

Means those areas designated in an official plan for clusters of business and economic activities including, but not limited to, manufacturing, warehousing, offices, and associated retail and ancillary facilities. (PPS, PTGGP)

#### **Endangered Species**

Means a species that is listed or categorized as an “Endangered Species” on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s official Species at Risk list, as updated and amended from time to time. (PPS, GP)

#### **Erosion Hazard**

Means the loss of land, due to human or natural processes, that poses a threat to life and property. The erosion hazard limit is determined using considerations that include the 100 year erosion rate (the average annual rate of recession extended over an one hundred year time span), an allowance for slope stability, and an erosion/erosion access allowance. (PPS)

#### **Essential Emergency Service**

Means services which would be impaired during an emergency as a result of flooding, the failure of floodproofing measures and/or protections works, and/or erosion. (PPS)

#### **Existing Uses in the Greenbelt**

Uses legally established prior to the date that the Greenbelt Plan came into force. Existing agricultural accessory buildings and structures including farm dwellings can expand on the same lot subject to the provisions of the municipal zoning by-law. (GP)

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### Existing Uses in the Niagara Escarpment Plan

Uses of any land, building or structure legally:

- i. Existing on the day of approval of the Niagara Escarpment Plan, i.e. June 12, 1985; or
- ii. Approved in accordance with the provisions of the Niagara Escarpment Plan since June 12, 1985 but prior to the date of any amendment to the Plan that prohibited the use; or
- iii. Existing, or approved, in an area added to the Niagara Escarpment Plan at the date of the amendment to the Plan adding the lands to the Plan. (NEP)

### Farm Consolidation

Means the acquisition of additional farm parcels to be operated as one farm operation. (GP)

### Fish

Means fish, which as defined in the Fisheries Act, includes fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and marine animals, at all stages of their life cycles. (PPS)

### Fish Habitat

As defined in the *Fisheries Act*, means spawning grounds and any other areas, including nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes. (PPS, GP)

### Flood Fringe

For river, stream and small inland lake systems, means the outer portion of the flood plain between the flowway and the flooding hazard limit. Depths and velocities of flooding are generally less severe in the flood fringe than those experienced in the floodway. (PPS)

### Floodplain

For river, stream and small inland lake systems, means the area, usually low lands adjoining a watercourse, which has been or may be subject to flooding hazards. (PPS)

### Flooding Hazard

Means the inundation, under the conditions specified below, of areas adjacent to a shoreline or a river or stream system and not ordinarily covered by water:

- a) along the shorelines of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes, the flooding hazard limit is based on the one hundred year flood level plus an allowance for wave uprush and other water-related hazards;
- b) along river, stream and small inland lake systems, the flooding hazard limit is the greater of:
  - i) the flood resulting from the rainfall actually experienced during a major storm such as the Hurricane Hazel storm (1954) or the Timmins storm (1961), transposed over a specific watershed and combined with the local conditions, where evidence suggests that the storm event could have potentially occurred over watersheds in the general area;
  - ii) the one hundred year flood; and
  - iii) a flood which is greater than 1 or 2 which was actually experienced in a particular watershed or portion thereof as a result of ice jams and which has been approved as the standard for that specific area by the Minister of Natural Resources; except where the use of the one hundred year flood or the actually experienced event has been approved by the Minister of Natural Resources as the standard for a specific watershed (where the past history of flooding supports the lowering of the standard). (PPS)

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### **Floodproofing Standard**

Means the combination of measures incorporated into the basic design and/or construction of buildings, structures or properties to reduce or eliminate flooding hazards, wave uprush and other water-related hazards along the shorelines of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes, and flooding hazards along river, stream and small inland lake systems. (PPS)

### **Floodway**

For river, stream and small inland lake systems, means the portion of the flood plain where development and site alteration would cause a danger to public health and safety or property damage. Where the one zone concept is applied, the floodway is the entire contiguous flood plain. (PPS)

### **Freight-Supportive**

In regard to land use patterns, means transportation systems and facilities that facilitate the movement of goods. This includes policies or programs intended to support efficient freight movement through the planning, design and operation of land use and transportation systems. Approaches may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives. (PPS)

### **Greater Golden Horseshoe**

The geographic area designated as the Greater Golden Horseshoe growth plan area in Ontario Regulation 416/05. (PTGGP)

### **Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System**

Means the major water system consisting of Lakes Superior, Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario and their connecting channels, and the St. Lawrence River within the boundaries of the Province of Ontario. (PPS)

### **Green Infrastructure**

Means natural and human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes. Green infrastructure can include components such as natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces, and green roofs. (PPS)

### **Ground Water Feature**

Means water-related features in the earth's subsurface, including recharge/discharge areas, water tables, aquifers and unsaturated zones that can be defined by surface and subsurface hydrogeologic investigations. (PPS, PTGPPTGGP)

### **Growth Plan**

Means a plan approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as a growth plan under subsection 7 (6). (PTGA)

### **Growth Plan Area**

Means an area of land designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as a growth plan area under clause 3 (a). (PTGA)

### **Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species**

Means:

- a) with respect to a species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as an endangered or threatened species for which a regulation made under clause 55(1)(a) of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 is in force, the area prescribed by that regulation as the habitat of the species; or

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- b) with respect to any other species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as an endangered or threatened species, an area on which the species depends, directly or indirectly, to carry on its life processes, including life processes such as reproduction, rearing, hibernation, migration or feeding, as approved by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; and

Places in the areas described in clause (a) or (b), whichever is applicable, that are used by members of the species as dens, nests, hibernacula or other residences. (PPS)

#### **Hazardous Forest Types for Wildland Fire**

Means forest types assessed as being associated with the risk of high to extreme wildland fire using risk assessment tools established by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time. (PPS)

#### **Hazardous Lands**

Means property or lands that could be unsafe for development due to naturally occurring processes. Along the shorelines of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System, this means the land, including that covered by water, between the international boundary, where applicable, and the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard, erosion hazard or dynamic beach hazard limits. Along the shorelines of large inland lakes, this means the land, including that covered by water, between a defined offshore distance or depth and the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard, erosion hazard or dynamic beach hazard limits. Along river, stream and small inland lake systems, this means the land, including that covered by water, to the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard or erosion hazard limits. (PPS, GP)

#### **Hazardous Sites**

Means property or lands that could be unsafe for development and site alteration due to naturally occurring hazards. These may include unstable soils (sensitive marine clays [leda], organic soils) or unstable bedrock (karst topography). (PPS)

#### **Hazardous Substances**

Means substances which, individually, or in combination with other substances, are normally considered to pose a danger to public health, safety and the environment. These substances generally include a wide array of materials that are toxic, ignitable, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or pathological. (PPS)

#### **Heritage Attributes**

Means the principal features or elements that contribute to a protected heritage property's cultural heritage value or interest, and may include the property's built or manufactured elements, as well as natural landforms, vegetation, water features, and its visual setting (including significant views or vistas to or from a protected heritage property). (PPS)

#### **High Quality**

Means primary and secondary sand and gravel resources and bedrock resources as defined in the Aggregate Resource Inventory papers (ARIP). (PPS)

#### **Hydrologic Function**

Means the functions of the hydrological cycle that include the occurrence, circulation, distribution and chemical and physical properties of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, and water's interaction with the environment including its relation to living things. (PPS, GP)

#### **Individual On-site Sewage Services**

Means sewage systems, as defined in O.Reg. 332/12 under the Building Code Act, 1992, that are

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owned, operated and managed by the owner of the property upon which the system is located. (PPS)

#### **Individual On-site Water Services**

Means individual, autonomous water supply systems that are owned, operated and managed by the owner of the property upon which the system is located. (PPS)

#### **Industrial Effluent Systems**

Means systems which convey and discharge the by-product from an industrial process that can contain contaminants from non-domestic wastes.

#### **Infill**

Development on vacant land in the built-up area.

#### **Infrastructure**

Means physical structures (facilities and corridors) that form the foundation for development. Infrastructure includes: sewage and water systems, septage treatment systems, stormwater management systems, waste management systems, electricity generation facilities, electricity transmission and distribution systems, communications/telecommunications, transit and transportation corridors and facilities, oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities. (PPS)

#### **Intake Protection Zone**

Means an area as delineated in Schedule C of this Plan and in the Source Protection Plan for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area that surrounds a municipal surface water intake and within which it is desirable to regulate or monitor drinking water threats. Where a conflict in mapping arises, the Source Protection Plan shall prevail.

#### **Intensification**

Means the development of a property, site or area at a higher density than currently exists through:

- a) Redevelopment, including the reuse of brownfield sites;
- b) The development of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas;
- c) Infill development; and
- d) The expansion or conversion of existing buildings (PPS, GP, PTGGP).

#### **Intensification Areas**

Lands identified by municipalities or the Province within a settlement area that are to be the focus for accommodating intensification. Intensification areas include urban growth centres, intensification corridors, major transit station areas, and other major opportunities that may include infill, redevelopment, brownfield sites, the expansion or conversion of existing buildings and greyfields. (PTGGP)

#### **Intensification Corridors**

Intensification areas along major roads, arterials, or higher order transit corridors that have the potential to provide a focus for higher density mixed-use development consistent with planned transit service levels. (PTGGP)

#### **Intermittent Streams**

Stream-related watercourses that contain water or are dry at times of the year that are more or less predictable, generally flowing during wet seasons of the year but not the entire year, and where the water table is above the stream bottom during parts of the year. (GP)

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### Key Hydrologic Features

Means an important hydrologic feature located within the boundary of the Greenbelt Plan and includes:

- a) permanent and intermittent streams;
- b) lakes (and their littoral zones);
- c) seepage areas and springs; and
- d) wetlands.(GP)

### Key Natural Heritage Features

Means an important natural heritage feature located within the boundary of the Greenbelt and includes:

- a) significant habitat of endangered species, threatened species and special concern species;
- b) fish habitat;
- c) wetlands;
- d) life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs);
- e) significant valleylands;
- f) significant woodlands;
- g) significant wildlife habitat;
- h) sand barrens, savannahs and tallgrass prairies; and
- i) alvars. (GP)

### Legal or Technical Reasons

Means severances for purposes such as easements, corrections of deeds, quit claims, and minor boundary adjustments, which do not result in the creation of a new lot. (PPS)

### Low and Moderate Income Households

Means:

- a) in the case of ownership housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for the regional market area; or
- b) in the case of rental housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for renter households for the regional market area. (PPS)

### Major Facilities

Means facilities which may require separation from sensitive land uses, including but not limited to airports, transportation infrastructure and corridors, rail facilities, marine facilities, sewage treatment facilities, waste management systems, oil and gas pipelines, industries, energy generation facilities and transmission systems, and resource extraction activities. (PPS)

### Major Goods Movement Facilities and Corridors

Means transportation facilities and corridors associated with the inter- and intra-provincial movement of goods. Examples include: inter-modal facilities, ports, airports, rail facilities, truck terminals, freight corridors, freight facilities, and haul routes and primary transportation corridors used for the movement of goods. Approaches that are freight-supportive may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives. (PPS)

### Marine Facilities

Means ferries, harbours, ports, ferry terminals, canals and associated uses, including designated lands for future marine facilities. (PPS)

### Minerals

Means metallic minerals and non-metallic minerals as herein defined, but does not include

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mineral aggregate resources or petroleum resources.

Metallic minerals means those minerals from which metals (e.g. copper, nickel, gold) are derived.

Non-metallic minerals means those minerals that are of value for intrinsic properties of the minerals themselves and not as a source of metal. They are generally synonymous with industrial minerals (e.g. asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, and wollastonite). (PPS)

#### **Mineral Aggregate Operation**

Means:

- a) lands under license or permit, other than for wayside pits and quarries, issued in accordance with the Aggregate Resources Act;
- b) for lands not designated under the Aggregate Resources Act, established pits and quarries that are not in contravention of municipal zoning by-laws and including adjacent land under agreement with or owned by the operator, to permit continuation of the operation; and
- c) associated facilities used in extraction, transport, beneficiation, processing or recycling of mineral aggregate resources and derived products such as asphalt and concrete, or the production of secondary related products. (PPS)

Note: Asphalt and concrete production is not permitted within NEP Areas (see Part 1.9, Permitted Use #9 of the NEP).

#### **Mineral Aggregate Resources**

Means gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite, rock or other material prescribed under the Aggregate Resources Act suitable for construction, industrial, manufacturing and maintenance purposes but does not include metallic ores, asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, wollastonite, mine tailings or other material prescribed under the Mining Act. (PPS, PTGGP)

#### **Mineral Aggregate Resource Conservation**

Means:

- a) the recovery and recycling of manufactured materials derived from mineral aggregates (e.g. glass, porcelain, brick, concrete, asphalt, slag, etc.), for re-use in construction, manufacturing, industrial or maintenance projects as a substitute for new mineral aggregates; and
- b) the wise use of mineral aggregates including utilization or extraction of on-site mineral aggregate resources prior to development occurring. (PPS)

#### **Mineral Deposits**

Means areas of identified minerals that have sufficient quantity and quality based on specific geological evidence to warrant present or future extraction. (PPS)

#### **Mineral Mining Operation**

Means mining operations and associated facilities, or, past producing mines with remaining mineral development potential that have not been permanently rehabilitated to another use. (PPS)

#### **Minimum Distance Separation Formulae**

Means formulae and guidelines developed by the Province, as amended from time to time, to separate uses so as to reduce incompatibility concerns about odour from livestock facilities. (PPS, GP)

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#### **Multimodal Transportation System**

Means a transportation system which may include several forms of transportation such as automobiles, walking, trucks, cycling, buses, rapid transit, rail (such as commuter and freight), air and marine. (PPS)

#### **Municipal Sewage Services**

Means a sewage works within the meaning of section 1 of the Ontario Water Resources Act that is owned or operated by a municipality. (PPS, GP)

#### **Municipal Water Services**

Means a municipal drinking-water system within the meaning of section 2 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002. (PPS, GP)

#### **Natural Heritage Features and Areas**

Means features and areas, including significant wetlands, fish habitat, significant woodlands and significant valleylands, habitat of endangered species and threatened species, significant wildlife habitat, and significant areas of natural and scientific interest, which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area. (PPS, PTGGP)

#### **Natural Heritage System**

Means a system made up of natural heritage features and areas, and linkages intended to provide connectivity (at the regional or site level) and support natural processes which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems. These systems can include natural heritage features and areas, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, other natural heritage features, lands that have been restored or have the potential to be restored to a natural state, areas that support hydrologic functions, and working landscapes that enable ecological functions to continue. The Province has a recommended approach for identifying natural heritage systems, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used. (PPS)

#### **Natural Self-Sustaining Vegetation**

Means vegetation dominated by native plant species that can grow and persist without direct human management, protection, or tending. (GP)

#### **Negative Impacts**

Means:

- a) degradation to the quality and quantity of water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their related hydrologic functions, due to single, multiple or successive development. Negative impacts should be assessed through environmental studies including hydrogeological or water quality impact assessments, in accordance with provincial standards;
- b) degradation to the quality and quantity of water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their related hydrologic functions, due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities;
- c) in regard to fish habitat, any permanent alteration to or destruction of fish habitat, except where, in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, it has been authorized under the Fisheries Act; and
- d) in regard to other natural heritage features and areas, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or ecological functions for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities. (PPS, GP)

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### **Niagara Escarpment Plan**

Means a plan, policy and program, or any part thereof, as approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under this Act on June 12, 1985 and amended and revised in accordance with this Act, covering the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area, or any part thereof defined in the Plan, designed to promote the optimum economic, social, environmental and physical condition of the Area, and consisting of the texts and maps describing the program and policy. (NEPDA)

### **Normal Farm Practices**

Means a practice, as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, that is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances; or makes use of innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices. Normal farm practices shall be consistent with the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 and regulations made under that Act. (PPS)

### **Oil, Gas and Salt Hazards**

Means any feature of a well or work as defined under the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act, or any related disturbance of the ground that has not been rehabilitated. (PPS)

### **On-Farm Diversified Uses**

Means uses that are secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property, and are limited in area. On-farm diversified uses include, but are not limited to, home occupations, home industries, agri-tourism uses, and uses that produce value-added agricultural products. (PPS)

### **One Hundred Year Flood**

For river, stream and small inland lake systems, means that flood, based on an analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period of 100 years on average, or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year. (PPS)

### **One Hundred Year Flood Level**

Means:

- a) for the shorelines of the Great Lakes, the peak instantaneous stillwater level, resulting from combinations of mean monthly lake levels and wind setups, which has a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year;
- b) in the connecting channels (St. Marys, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers), the peak instantaneous stillwater level which has a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year; and
- c) for large inland lakes, lake levels and wind setups that have a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year, except that, where sufficient water level records do not exist, the one hundred year flood level is based on the highest know water level and wind setups. (PPS)

### **Other Water-related Hazards**

Means water-associated phenomena other than flooding hazards and wave uprush which act on shorelines. This includes, but is not limited to ship-generated waves, ice piling and ice jamming. (PPS)

### **Partial Services**

Means:

- a) municipal sewage services or private communal sewage services and individual on-site water services; or
- b) municipal water services or private communal water services and individual on-site sewage services. (PPS)

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### **APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS**

#### **Petroleum Resource Operations**

Means oil, gas and salt wells, and associated facilities and other drilling operations, oil field fluid disposal wells and associated facilities, and wells and facilities for the underground storage of natural gas and other hydrocarbons. (PPS)

#### **Petroleum Resources**

Means oil, gas and salt (extracted by solution mining method) and formation water resources which have been identified through exploration and verified by preliminary drilling or other forms of investigation. This may include sites of former operations where resources are still present or former sites that may be converted to underground storage for natural gas or other hydrocarbons. (PPS)

#### **Permanent Stream**

Means a stream that continually flows in an average year. (GP)

#### **Planned Corridors**

Means corridors or future corridors which are required to meet projected needs, and are identified through provincial plans, preferred alignment(s) determined through the Environmental Assessment Act process, or identified through planning studies where the Ontario Ministry of Transportation is actively pursuing the identification of a corridor. Approaches for the protection of planned corridors may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province. (PPS)

#### **Portable Asphalt Plant**

Means a facility:

- a) with equipment designed to heat and dry aggregate and to mix aggregate with bituminous asphalt to produce asphalt paving material, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project. (PPS)

#### **Portable Concrete Plant**

Means a building or structure

- a) with equipment designed to mix cementing materials, aggregate, water and admixtures to produce concrete, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is designed to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project. (PPS)

#### **Prime Agricultural Area**

Means areas where prime agricultural lands predominate. This includes areas of prime agricultural lands and associated Canada Land Inventory Class 4 through 7 lands and additional areas where there is a local concentration of farms which exhibit characteristics of ongoing agriculture. Prime agricultural areas may be identified by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs using guidelines developed by the Province as amended from time to time. A prime agricultural area may also be identified through an alternative agricultural land evaluation system approved by the Province. (PPS, PTGGP)

#### **Prime Agricultural Land**

Means specialty crop areas and/or Canada Land Inventory Classes 1, 2 and 3 lands, as amended from time to time, in this order of priority for protection. (PPS)

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#### **Private Communal Sewage Services**

Means a sewage works within the meaning of section 1 of the Ontario Water Resources Act that serves six or more lots or private residences and is not owned by a municipality. (PPS)

#### **Private Communal Water Services**

Means a non-municipal drinking-water system within the meaning of section 2 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 that serves six or more lots or private residences. (PPS)

#### **Protected Heritage Property**

Means property designated under Parts IV, V or VI of the Ontario Heritage Act; property subject to a heritage conservation easement under Parts II or IV of the Ontario Heritage Act; property identified by the Province and prescribed public bodies as provincial heritage property under the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties; property protected under federal legislation, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. (PPS)

#### **Protected Works Standards**

Means the combination of non-structural or structural works and allowances for slope stability and flooding/erosion to reduce the damage caused by flooding hazards, erosion hazards and other water-related hazards, and to allow access for their maintenance and repair. (PPS)

#### **Provincial and Federal Requirements**

Means:

- a) in regard to renewable and alternative energy systems, legislation, regulations, policies and standards administered by the federal or provincial governments for the purpose of protecting the environment from potential impacts associated with energy systems and ensuring that the necessary approvals are obtained;
- b) in regard to fish habitat, legislation and policies administered by the federal or provincial governments for the purpose of fisheries protection (including fish and fish habitat), and related, scientifically established standards such as water quality criteria for protecting lake trout populations; and
- c) in regard to habitat of endangered species and threatened species, legislation and policies administered by the provincial government or federal government, where applicable, for the purpose of protecting species at risk and their habitat. (PPS)

#### **Provincial Plan**

Means a provincial plan within the meaning of section 1 of the Planning Act. (PPS)

#### **Provincial Policy Statement**

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) sets out the Ontario government's interests in land-use planning and development and provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest to those involved in land-use planning. The PPS is the complementary document to the Planning Act and is issued under the authority of section 3 of the Act. (PTGGP)

#### **Public Body**

Means a municipality, a local board, a ministry, department, board, commission, agency or official of a provincial or federal government or a First Nation. (PA)

#### **Public Service Facilities**

Means land, buildings and structures for the provision of programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other body, such as social assistance, recreation, police and fire protection, health and educational programs, and cultural services. Public service facilities do not include infrastructure. (PPS)

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### **Public Work**

Means any improvement of a structural nature or other undertaking that is within the jurisdiction of the council of a municipality or a local board. (PA)

### **Quality and Quantity of Water**

Is measured by indicators associated with hydrologic function such as minimum base flow, depth to water table, aquifer pressure, oxygen levels, suspended solids, temperature, bacteria, nutrients and hazardous contaminants, and hydrologic regime. (PPS)

### **Rail Facilities**

Means rail corridors, rail sidings, train stations, inter-modal facilities, rail yards and associated uses, including designated lands for future rail facilities. (PPS)

### **Recreation**

Means leisure time activity undertaken in built or natural settings for purposes of physical activity, health benefits, sport participation and skill development, personal enjoyment, positive social interaction and the achievement of human potential. (PPS)

### **Redevelopment**

Means the creation of new units, uses or lots on previously developed land in existing communities, including brownfield sites. (PPS, PTGGP)

### **Regional Market Area**

Refers to an area that has a high degree of social and economic interaction. The upper or single-tier municipality, or planning area, will normally serve as the regional market area. However, where a regional market area extends significantly beyond these boundaries, then the regional market area may be based on the larger market area. Where regional market areas are very large and sparsely populated, a smaller area, if defined in an official plan, may be utilized. (PPS, PTGGP)

### **Renewable Energy Source**

Means an energy source that is renewed by natural processes and includes wind, water, biomass, biogas, biofuel, solar energy, geothermal energy and tidal forces. (PPS)

### **Renewable Energy System**

Means a system that generates electricity, heat and/or cooling from a renewable energy source. (PPS)

### **Reserve Sewage System Capacity**

Means design or planned capacity in a centralized waste water treatment facility which is not yet committed to existing or approved development. For the purposes of policy 1.6.6, reserve capacity for private communal sewage services and individual on-site sewage services is considered sufficient if the hauled sewage from the development can be treated and land-applied on agricultural land under the Nutrient Management Act, or disposed of at sites approved under the Environmental Protection Act or the Ontario Water Resources Act, but not by land-applying untreated, hauled sewage. (PPS)

### **Reserve Water System Capacity**

Means design or planned capacity in a centralized water treatment facility which is not yet committed to existing or approved developed. (PPS)

### **Residence Surplus to a Farm Operation**

Means an existing habitable farm residence that is rendered surplus as a result of farm

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### **APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS**

consolidation (the acquisition of additional farm parcels to be operated as one farm operation). (PPS, GP)

#### **Residential Intensification**

Means intensification of a property, site or area which results in a net increase in residential units or accommodation and includes:

- a) redevelopment, including the redevelopment of brownfield sites;
- b) the development of vacant or underutilized lots within previously developed areas;
- c) infill development;
- d) the conversion or expansion of existing industrial, commercial and institutional buildings for residential use; and
- e) the conversion or expansion of existing residential buildings to create new residential units or accommodation, including accessory apartments, second units and rooming houses. (PPS)

#### **Risk Management Official**

Means a person appointed under Part IV of the Clean Water Act, 2006, by the Council of a municipality that has the authority to pass by-laws respecting water production, treatment, and storage under the Municipal Act, 2001.

#### **River, Stream and Small Inland Lake Systems**

Means all watercourses, rivers, streams, and small inland lakes or waterbodies that have a measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event. (PPS)

#### **Rural Areas**

Means a system of lands within municipalities that may include rural settlement areas, rural lands, prime agricultural areas, natural heritage features and areas, and resource areas. (PPS, GP, PTGGP)

#### **Rural Lands**

Means lands which are located outside settlement areas and which are outside prime agricultural areas. (PPS)

#### **Savannah**

Means land (not including lands that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits savannah characteristics) that:

- a) has vegetation cover with a significant component of non-woody plants, including tallgrass prairie species that are maintained by seasonal drought, periodic disturbances such as fire, or both;
- b) has from 25 percent to 60 per cent tree cover;
- c) has mineral soils; and
- d) has been further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time. (GP)

#### **Seepage Areas and Springs**

Seepage areas and springs are sites of emergence of groundwater where the water table is present at the ground surface. (GP)

#### **Sensitive**

In regard to surface water features and ground water features, means areas that are particularly susceptible to impacts from activities or events including, but not limited to, water withdrawals, and additions of pollutants. (PPS)

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#### **Sensitive Land Uses**

Means buildings, amenity areas, or outdoor spaces where routine or normal activities occurring at reasonably expected times would experience one or more adverse effects from contaminant discharges generated by a nearby major facility. Sensitive land uses may be a part of the natural or built environment. Examples may include, but are not limited to: residences, day care centres, and educational and health facilities. (PPS)

#### **Settlement Areas**

Means urban areas and rural settlement areas within municipalities (such as cities, towns, villages and hamlets) that are:

- a) built up areas where development is concentrated and which have a mix of land uses; and
- b) lands which have been designated in an official plan for development over the long-term planning horizon provided for in policy 1.1.2. In cases where land in designated growth areas is not available, the settlement area may be no larger than the area where development is concentrated. (PPS, PTGGP)

#### **Sewage and Water Services**

Includes municipal sewage services and municipal water services, private communal sewage services and private communal water services, individual on-site sewage services and individual on-site water services, and partial services. (PPS)

#### **Significant**

Means:

- a) in regard to wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest, an area identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time;
- b) in regard to woodlands, an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history. These are to be identified using criteria established by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry;
- c) in regard to other features and areas, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system;
- d) in regard to mineral potential, an area identified as provincially significant through evaluation procedures developed by the Province, as amended from time to time, such as the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential Index; and
- e) in regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people.

Criteria for determining significance for the resources identified in sections (c)-(e) are recommended by the Province, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.

While some significant resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation. (PPS)

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### Significant (as per the Greenbelt Plan)

Means:

- a) in regard to wetlands and life science areas of natural and scientific interest, an area identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time;
- b) in regard to the habitat of *endangered species*, *threatened species* and *special concern species*, means the habitat, as approved by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, that is necessary for the maintenance, survival, and/or the recovery of naturally occurring or reintroduced populations of *endangered species*, *threatened species* or *special concern species*, and where those areas of occurrence are occupied or habitually occupied by the species during all or any part(s) of its life cycle;
- c) in regard to woodlands, an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history. The Province (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) identifies criteria relating to the forgoing; and
- d) in regard to other features and areas in section 3.2.4 of the Greenbelt Plan, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of the Natural Heritage System. The Province (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) identifies criteria relating to the forgoing.
- e) in regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that are valued for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people.

While some significant resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation. (GP)

### Significant Drinking Water Threat

Means a drinking water threat that, according to a risk assessment, poses or has the potential to pose a significant risk. (CWA)

### Site Alteration (Greenbelt Plan)

Within land subject to the Greenbelt means activities such as filling, grading and excavation that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of land, but does not include:

- a) the construction of facilities for transportation, infrastructure and utilities uses by a public body;
- b) activities or works under the *Drainage Act*; or
- c) the carrying out of agricultural practices on land that was being used for agricultural uses on the date the Plan came into effect. (GP)

### Site Alteration

In areas outside of the Greenbelt means activities, such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site. (PPS)

### Special Concern Species

Means a species that is listed or categorized as a “special concern species” on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’ official species at risk list, as updated and amended from time to time. (GP)

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### **Special Needs**

Means any housing, including dedicated facilities, in whole or in part, that is used by people who have specific needs beyond economic needs, including but not limited to, needs such as mobility requirements or support functions required for daily living. Examples of special needs housing may include, but are not limited to, housing for persons with disabilities such as physical, sensory or mental health disabilities, and housing for older persons. (PPS)

### **Specialty Crop Areas**

Means areas designated using guidelines developed by the Province, as amended from time to time. In these areas, specialty crops are predominantly grown such as tender fruits (peaches, cherries, plums), grapes, other fruit crops, vegetable crops, greenhouse crops, and crops from agriculturally developed organic soil usually resulting from:

- a) soils that have suitability to produce specialty crops, or lands that are subject to special climatic conditions, or a combination of both;
- b) farmers skilled in the production of specialty crops; and
- c) a long-term investment of capital in areas such as crops, drainage, infrastructure and related facilities and services to produce, store, or process specialty crops. (PPS, GP, PTGGP)

### **Stable Top of Bank**

Means the edge of the channel or bank, if there is a sharp change from the steep slope of the channel or bank to the shallower slope of the field area, or the normal full extent of the watercourse when it contains the maximum volume of water without flooding, if the change in slope does not exist. (GP)

### **Stormwater Management Facility**

Means a facility for the treatment, retention, infiltration or control of stormwater.

### **Subwatershed**

Means an area that is drained by a tributary or some defined portion of a stream. (ORMCP)

### **Surface Water Feature**

Means water-related features on the earth's surface, including headwaters, rivers, stream channels, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs, wetlands, and associated riparian lands that can be defined by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation or topographic characteristics. (PPS, PTGGP)

### **Tallgrass Prairies**

Means land (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits tallgrass prairie characteristics) that:

- a) has vegetation dominated by non-woody plants, including tallgrass prairie species that are maintained by seasonal drought, periodic disturbances such as fire or both,
- b) has less than 25 percent tree cover;
- c) has mineral soils; and
- d) has been identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time. (GP)

### **Threatened Species**

Means a species that is listed or categorized as a "Threatened Species" on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry' official Species at Risk list, as updated and amended from time to time. (PPS, GP)

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### **Total Developable Area**

Means the total area of the property less the area occupied by *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features*, including any related *Vegetation Protection Zone*. (GP)

### **Transit-Supportive**

Makes transit viable and improves the quality of the experience of using transit. When used in reference to development, it often refers to compact, mixed-use development that has a high level of employment and residential densities to support frequent transit service. When used in reference to urban design, it often refers to design principles that make development more accessible for transit users, such as roads laid out in a grid network rather than a discontinuous network; pedestrian-friendly built environment along roads to encourage walking to transit; reduced setbacks and placing parking at the sides/rear of buildings; and improved access between arterial roads and interior blocks in residential areas. (PTGGP)

### **Transportation Demand Management**

Means a set of strategies that result in more efficient use of the transportation system by influencing travel behaviour by mode, time of day, frequency, trip length, regulation, route, or cost. (PPS)

### **Transportation System**

Means a system consisting of facilities, corridors and rights-of-way for the movement of people and goods, and associated transportation facilities including transit stops and stations, sidewalks, cycle lanes, bus lanes, high occupancy vehicle lanes, rail facilities, parking facilities, park'n'ride lots, service centres, rest stops, vehicle inspection stations, inter-modal facilities, harbours, airports, marine facilities, ferries, canals and associated facilities such as storage and maintenance. (PPS)

### **Valleylands**

Means a natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year. (PPS, GP, ORMP)

### **Vegetation Protection Zone**

A vegetated buffer area surrounding a *key natural heritage feature* or *key hydrologic feature* within which only those land uses permitted within the feature itself are permitted. The width of the *vegetation protection zone* is to be determined when new development or *site alteration* occurs within 120 metres of a *key natural heritage feature* or *key hydrologic feature*, and is to be of sufficient size to protect the feature and its functions from the impacts of the proposed change and associated activities that will occur before, during, and after, construction, and where possible, restore or enhance the feature and/or its function. (GP)

### **Vulnerable**

Means surface and/or ground water that can be easily changed or impacted. (PPS, GP)

### **Waste Management System**

Means sites and facilities to accommodate solid waste from one or more municipalities and includes recycling facilities, transfer stations, processing sites and disposal sites. (PPS)

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant/Facility**

Means the part of a sewage works that treats or disposes of sewage but does not include that part of the sewage works that collects or transmits sewage.

### **Watershed**

An area that is drained by a lake or river, and its tributaries. (PTGGP)

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### **Watershed Plans**

A watershed plan is a plan used for managing human activities and natural resources in an area defined by watershed boundaries. Watershed plans shall include, but are not limited to, the following components:

- a) a water budget and conservation plan;
- b) land and water use and management strategies;
- c) a framework for implementation;
- d) an environmental monitoring plan;
- e) requirements for the use of environmental management practices and programs;
- f) criteria for evaluating the protection of water quality and quantity, and *key hydrologic features* and functions; and
- g) targets on a watershed or sub-watershed basis for the protection and restoration of riparian areas and the establishment of *natural self-sustaining vegetation*. (GP)

### **Wayside Pits and Quarries**

Means a temporary pit or quarry opened and used by or for a public authority solely for the purpose of a particular project or contract of road construction and not located on the road right-of-way. (PPS)

### **Wetlands (Greenbelt Plan)**

Within the Greenbelt boundary means land such as a swamp, marsh, bog or fen (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes and no longer exhibits wetland characteristics) that:

- a) is seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water or has the water table close to or at the surface;
- b) has hydric soils and vegetation dominated by hydrophytic or water-tolerant plants; and
- c) has been further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the , as amended from time to time. (GP)

### **Wetlands**

Within areas outside of the Greenbelt means lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens. Periodically soaked or wet lands being used for agricultural purposes which no longer exhibit wetland characteristics are not considered to be wetlands for the purposes of this definition. (PPS)

### **Wildland Fire Assessment and Mitigation Standards**

Means the combination of risk assessment tools and environmentally appropriate mitigation measures identified by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to be incorporated into the design, construction and/or modification of buildings, structures, properties and/or communities to reduce the risk to public safety, infrastructure and property from wildland fire. (PPS)

### **Wildlife Habitat**

Means areas where plants, animals and other organisms live, and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific wildlife habitats of concern may include areas where species concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual life cycle; and areas that are important to migratory and non-migratory species. (PPS, GP)

## **City of Thorold Official Plan APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS**

### **Woodlands**

Means treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits to both the private landowner and the general public, such as erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, provision of wildlife habitat, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the sustainable harvest of a wide range of woodland products. Woodlands include treed areas, woodlots or forested areas and vary in their level of significance at the local, regional and provincial levels. Woodlands may be delineated according to the Forestry Act definition or the Province's Ecological Land Classification system definition for "forest". (PPS)

### **Zoning By-Law**

Means a by-law passed under section 34 of the *Planning Act*.