

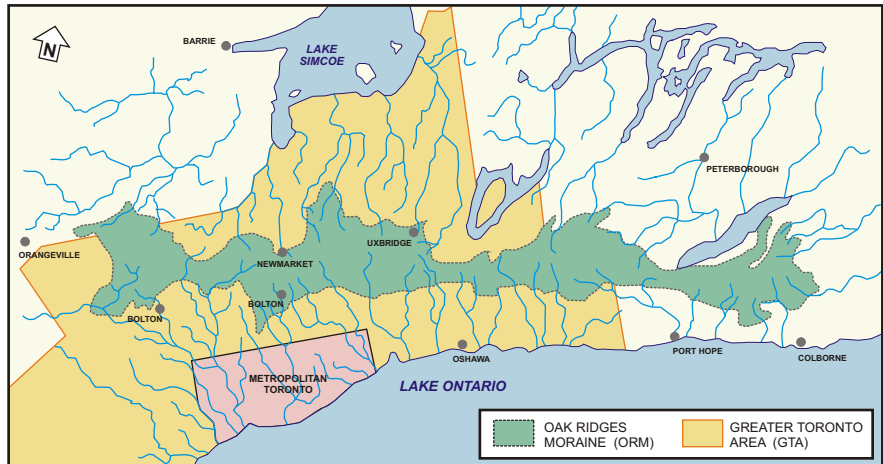
# OAK RIDGES MORAINE NATURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION

## PROBLEM

A client was interested in purchasing a country property on which to build a residential dwelling. The subject property lay within the identified boundaries of the Oak Ridges Moraine and required the completion of a Natural Heritage Evaluation. Jagger Hims Limited was retained by the client to prepare the Natural Heritage Evaluation to ensure the proposed development conformed to the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan.

## APPROACH

Natural Heritage Evaluations require an assessment for the presence of Natural Heritage features and functions which include wetlands, natural science areas, valleylands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, fish habitat, and species at risk. Jagger Hims Limited initiated preconsultation discussions with municipal, Conservation Authority and Ministry of Natural Resources planners, ecologists and biologists. During discussions, key concerns relating to the proposed development on the site were raised. A site visit was conducted with the Conservation Authority to confirm the ecological, terrestrial and aquatic features present on the property, and to assess any potential impacts the development may have on sensitive habitat features or landforms. The property was further mapped to include Ecological Land Classes, vegetative, and areas of development and replantation.



## SOLUTION

A Natural Heritage Evaluation report was prepared in consultation with the client and their architect to design a dwelling that met the needs of the client while conforming to the restrictions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan. Upon final consultations with the client, the Town, and the Conservation Authority, an agreement was reached that allowed the client to purchase the property and build their home, as well as ensuring that the integrity of the forest system and the landform was maintained. The agreement included using construction products and best management practices to protect ecological features present. Several hundred native trees were also planted to compensate for vegetation removed within the development footprint.