

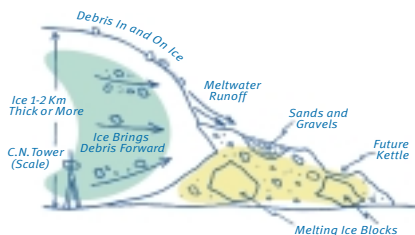
Flesherton Hills

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

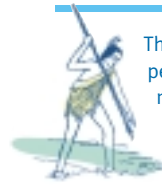
Physical Environment

Underlain by the limestone of ancient sea floors and surfaced by the debris of continental glaciers retreating 10,000 years ago, the Flesherton Hills have a complex history. Hills of sand and gravels washed from the ice front, boulders tumbled out of the ice, and steep, rather round depressions called kettles are all typical of a glacial landscape. The kettles remained when huge ice blocks buried beneath the sediments finally melted. In the resulting hills and depressions, wetlands and mixed forests became home to a diversity of plants and wildlife.

A Glacial Legacy



Cultural History



The original residents, First Nations peoples, fished and hunted in the nearby Boyne and Beaver River valleys. Although there are no known village sites in the vicinity, the Thompson Point, an arrowhead found in Flesherton, indicates a native presence.

In the mid-1800's the first European settlers carved fields from the maple-beech forests and built their homes and mills. Pioneer farms and villages covered the landscape within a couple of generations. Their efforts presented a countryside much less forested than the one we see today.



In the late 1800's exploration in the Flesherton Hills for oil and gas revealed insufficient and "sour" deposits.

Remnants of the drilling equipment can still be seen near Beaver Pond. The maple-beech woodlot at the back of the property was selectively logged about 70 years ago and today's pine plantations were cultivated fields into the early 1970's.



Friends Of Flesherton Hills

In 1993, a group of committed staff and students from Macphail and Grey Highlands, along with community volunteers, undertook the care of the 101 acre property adjacent to the two schools. The mandate of the new group, the Friends of Flesherton Hills, is to ensure the development of a plan that preserves the natural and cultural heritage of the Flesherton Hills Environmental Education Centre.

The Friends have undertaken the work of protecting the natural environment; grooming trails; building boardwalks, a picnic shelter and nesting boxes. They are also conducting forest and meadow regeneration and have completed a plant inventory. The centre is used annually by local and visiting classes and serves as "classroom" for the Environmental Studies Programme of Grey Highlands Secondary School.

The Flesherton community is encouraged to use and enjoy Flesherton Hills in ways that respect the environmental mandate of the Friends of Flesherton Hills.

You Can Help!

- stay on the trails
- take away your litter and pick up after your pet
- protect the plants and animals in their own habitat
- park all vehicles, including bicycles outside the Hills
- respect the neighbouring properties

Leave ONLY FOOTPRINTS, take ONLY MEMORIES.