

LINES ARE DRAWN: Recommendations must be studied by Parliamentary committee
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New electoral boundaries would leave Northumberland's name, area intact

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NORTHUMBERLAND — The federal boundaries commission has listened to people in Northumberland by responding with a new proposal that would keep the county name in place and its entire geographic area in one

riding, local federal and county representatives say. "It's important that Northumberland is one constituency," Northumberland County's economic director Dan Borowec said in an interview, particularly as it relates to government funding initiatives.

Retaining the historical

name of Northumberland is also important because it is the branding used in economic development and tourism initiatives, and has been for many years. The previous suggestion would have seen the name disappear as the riding became a north/south one instead of the current more east/west con-

figuration that has been proposed and previously existed. Quinte West would no longer be part of the federal riding. The new proposed riding of Northumberland-Pine Ridge is to include all of Northumberland plus: Asphodel-Norwood and Otonabee-South Monaghan in Peterborough County; and the eastern side

of Clarington in Durham Region. Cobourg Mayor Gil Brocner, the county's warden at the time the Commission made its initial report, undertook a formal presentation to the Commission when it held a session in Cobourg seeking

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public input on its initial recommendations and Borowec said that the grassroots showing obviously put the message to the Commission.

"We packed that room with people with good ideas," he said.

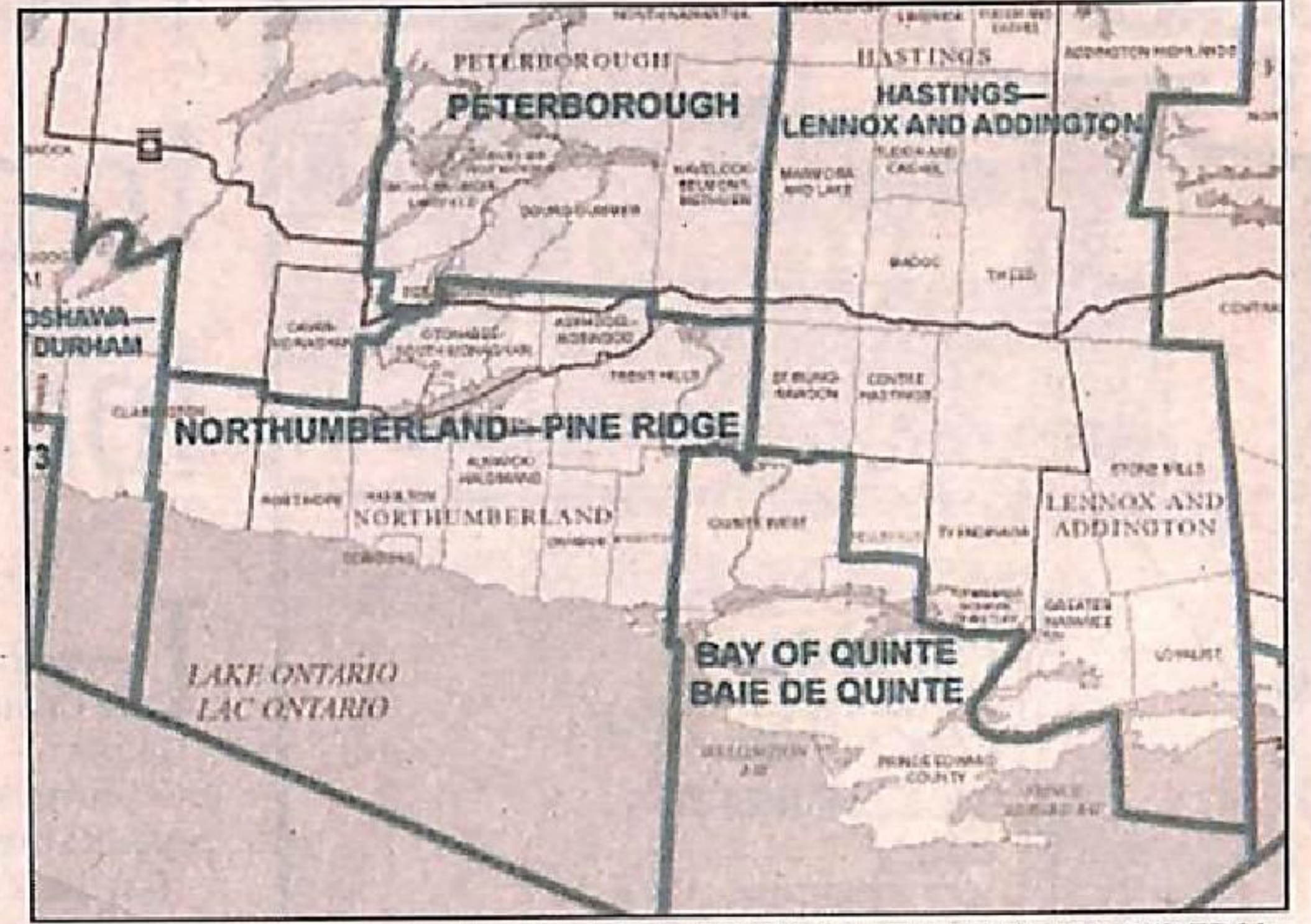
In addition, there were about 2,000 signatures on an online survey / petition, a county initiative, that was presented to the Commission as well, Borowec added.

Before that, county councillors passed a resolution that stated "that only options where Northumberland County remained intact be considered and that the name Northumberland remain in the electoral district name," deputy chief administrative officer Jennifer Moore said. "Both of these objectives have been met."

Two county staff suggestions were offered: Northumberland - Pine Ridge, which was to include the county plus the Township of Cavan-Millbrook and Clarington Ward 4 (formerly Clarke Township); and Northumberland - South Peterborough, which would have been the county plus the townships of Asphodel-Norwood, Otonabee-South Monaghan and Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan.

"The revised boundaries combine elements of both options being Northumberland County, Asphodel-Norwood, Otonabee-South Monaghan and a portion of the Municipality of Clarington," Moore noted.

Local MP Rick Norlock was likewise pleased with the



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This map shows the electoral boundaries for the proposed Northumberland - Pine Ridge riding.

retention of Northumberland in name and form, noting that he has been part of numerous elections (either as a candidate himself or assisting a fellow Conservative). He said that residents of this county would be happy with the proposal and hoped that those in municipalities newly added to the riding would be also.

Provincial riding boundaries usually follow the configurations set by the federal government and at the time of the original proposal, local MPP Rob Milligan opposed it. He could not be reached for comment by press time.

In handing down its recent recommendations, the Commission explained that changes made in parts of Eastern Ontario outside of Ottawa affected the counties of Northumberland, Peterbor-

ough and Haliburton. Part of the rationale for the recent boundary change included the following:

"There was strong opposition to the Commission's division of Northumberland; residents also opposed the removal of 'Northumberland' from the name of the electoral district, since it had been one of the original 19 founding counties in Upper Canada.

"The new federal boundary for this area has a population of 115,269 which is 8.53% above the provincial quota (target)," it also noted.

The Commission's recommendations must now be studied by a Parliamentary committee before a decision is finalized.

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