

Experience nature at scenic Hilton Falls

Hilton Falls offers a variety of activities for the outdoor enthusiast.

Its land sculptured by the glacial retreat 12,000-14,000 years ago, Hilton Falls Conservation Area is located just north of Highway 401 near Campbellville, and is run by the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

More than 15 kilometers of hiking and groomed cross-country ski trails trace the 1,393-acre site, taking visitors on a tour of wetlands, forest, streams, and a 35-acre man-made reservoir.

There are three park trails which can be hiked or skied in a morning or afternoon — the longest, at 9.5 kilometers, takes two hours to ski and less than three to hike. The main Bruce Trail also goes through the area, as well as "blue" side trails. Bass and trout fishing is also allow-

ed at the park, when in season.

Families and groups can picnic near the visitor centre at the park entrance, or have cookouts at fire rings located throughout the park.

For those hungry after a day of the outdoors, there is a convenient snack bar at the visitor centre.

Two tributaries of the Sixteen Mile Creek flow through the site. One stream drops over the escarpment at "Hilton Falls", and the second flows over a series of beaver dams and into a 35-acre reservoir created for flood control.

In the early 1800s, settlers used the falls to run a mill. Long abandoned and now in ruins, the mill dates to 1835. Built it is thought by Edward Hilton, the mill was in constant operation until it burned down in 1863.

Legend has it that gold was found in the area during the mill's operation, and that the area was a stop on

the underground railway, an escape route for slaves fleeing the U.S.

Conservationists and naturalists will find a wide variety of plant and animal life in the park, thanks to the diversity of habitats.

Mixed and soft maple swamps, beaver ponds, streams and wetland pools support a variety of aquatic plants — including the rare small-fruited bur-reed.

An abundance and diversity of animal life fills the park. Twenty-two species of warblers have been sighted, including seven significant varieties — the Nashville and Blackburnian warblers among them. Turkey vultures nest in the Hilton Falls area.

There is also a large population of white-tailed deer, a regional concentration of porcupine and a beaver colony.

Excellent wetland habitats provide the homes for salamander species found together at few other places in North America.

The falls is the breeding ground for the endangered West Virginia white butterfly. In the larval stage it feeds off toothwort, found in the mature maple forest in the park. The butterfly and its habitat are protected in Ontario under the endangered species act.



A 35-acre man-made reservoir is one of the most prominent features of the 1,393-acre Hilton Falls Conservation Area. One of the two streams on the site runs into this flood control reservoir. The other flows over the escarpment and creates the scenic Hilton falls.



More than 15 kilometers of nature trails take visitors to Hilton Falls Conservation Area through a variety of different terrain, from forests to wetlands. Trails can also be cross-country skied in the winter.

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