

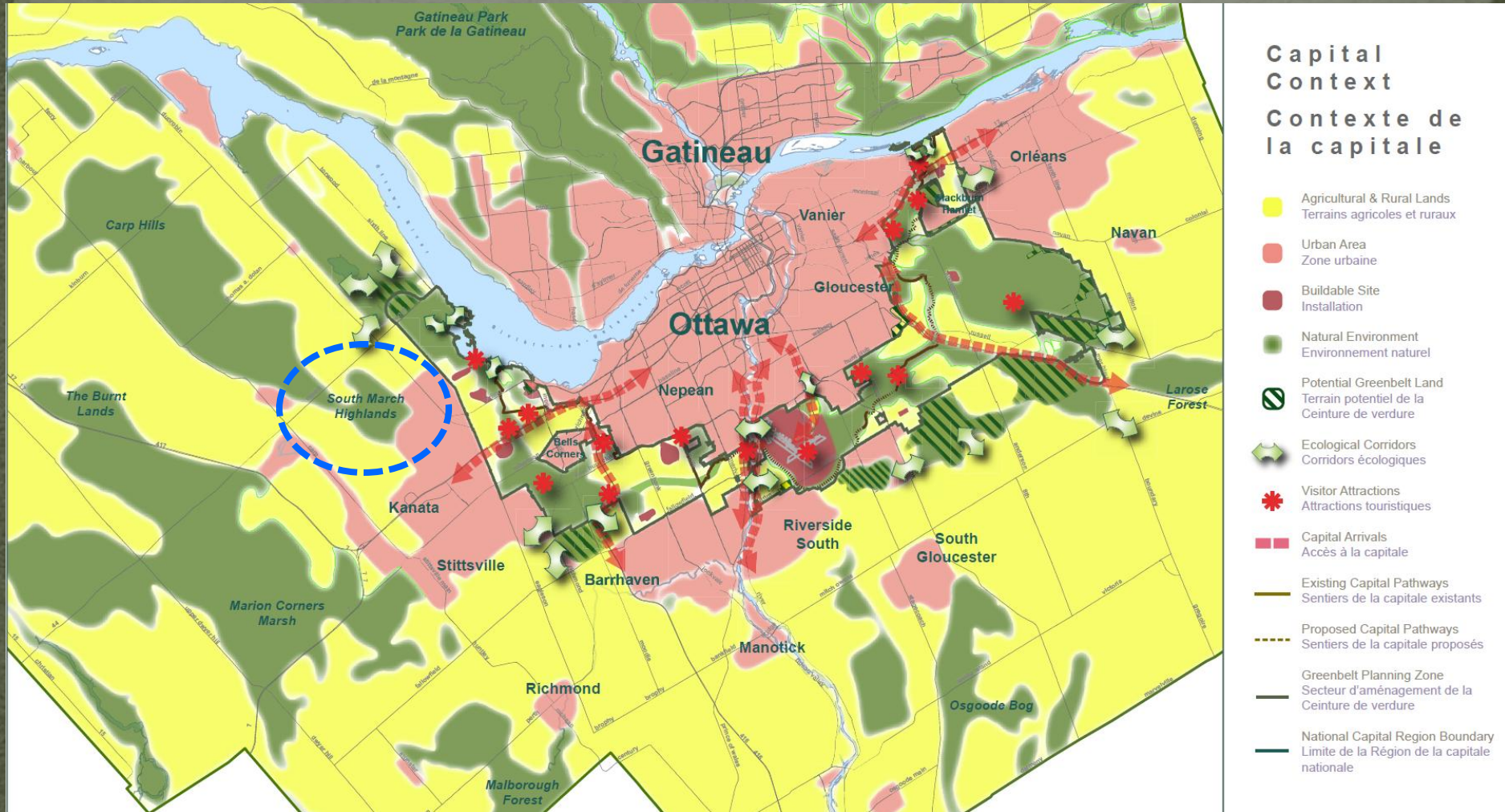


Ottawa's Great Forest: The South March Highlands

South March Highlands – Carp River Conservation Inc.

[All photos in this presentation were taken in or of the South March Highlands]

Where are the South March Highlands?



A “Wild Island” Inside Ottawa

10,000 Years Old

3x Larger Than Stanley Park



30 Eco-Types
Of Vegetation

Visible Canadian
Shield

10 Distinct
Habitats

National Capital's 3 Major Eco-Corridors



SMH is the Aquifer for North Kanata



Hydrology Affects 3 Sub-Watersheds

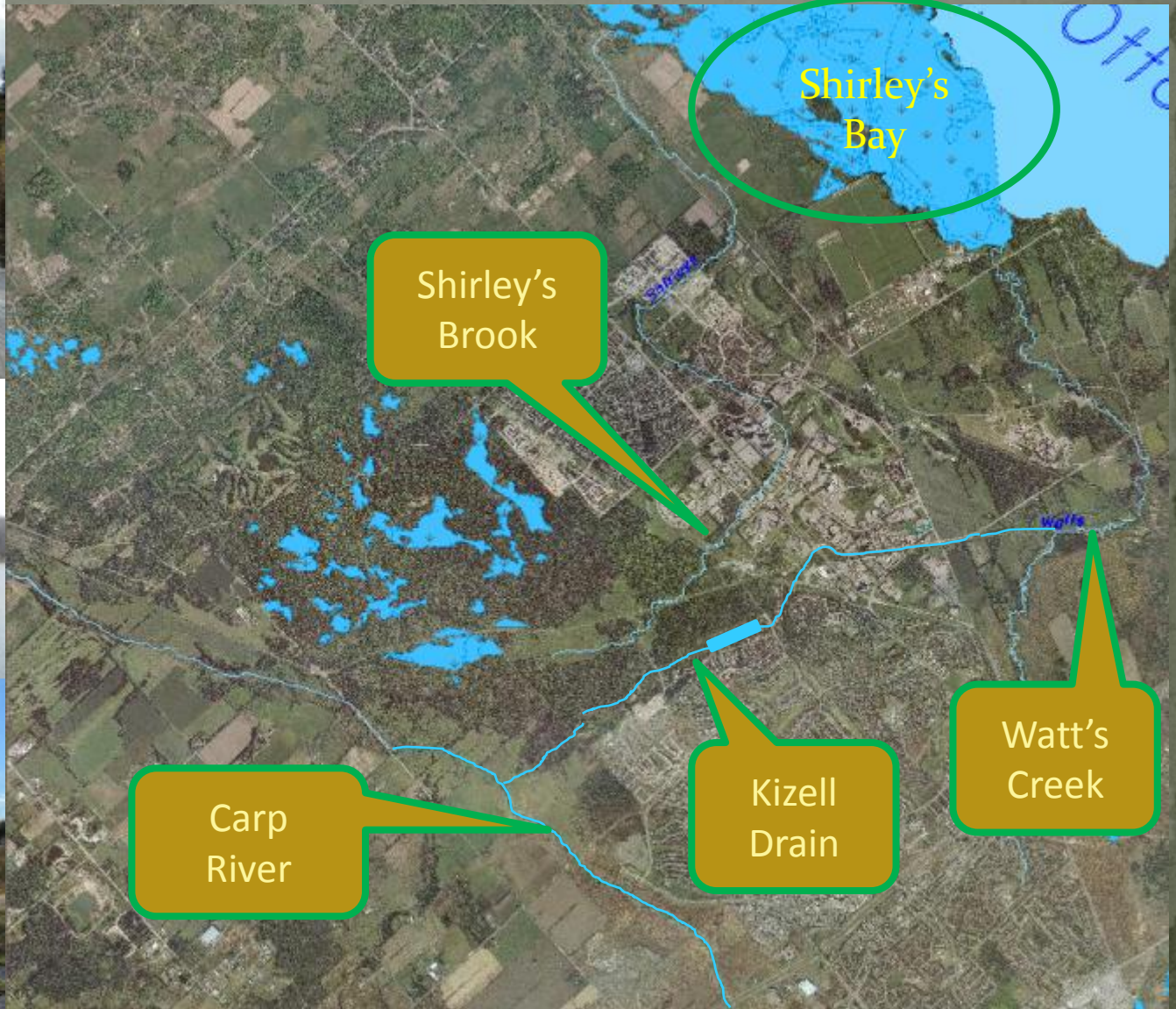
Klondike Pond



Goose Pond



Heron Pond



Only Location In Ottawa with Exposed Canadian Shield



One of Many Locations Where Shield
is Magnificently Displayed



Impressive Even after “Development”

Many Grandfathers



Heron Pond's Sandstone Barren Was Once Polished Like a Mirror

500m Long
Nepean
Sandstone
Pavement
Barren



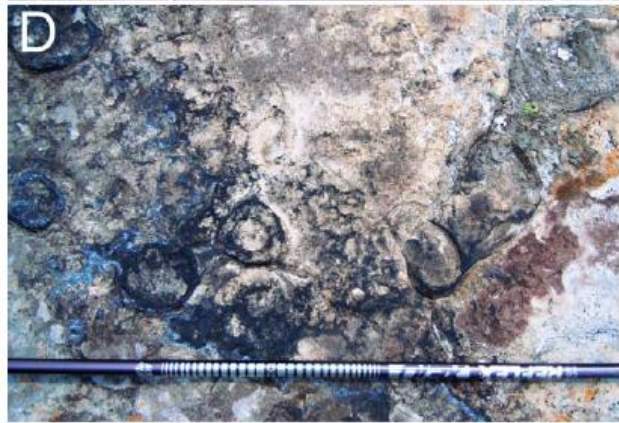
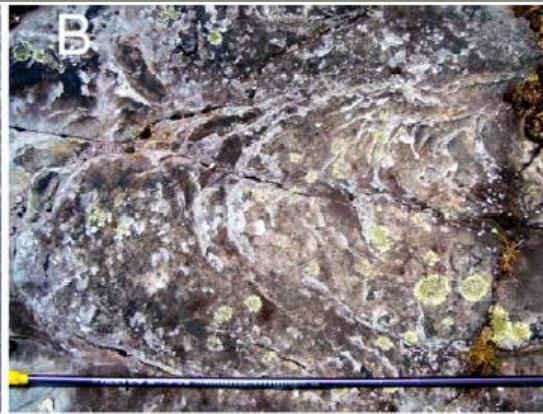
Reminders of Ancient Glaciers



In area B, glacial chatter marks (above); striations (top right) and crescent gouges are evident. Only chatter marks and crescent gouges provide ice movement direction. The striated surface retains a remnant mm-thick glacial pavement of semi-fused quartz grains.



Ancient Sea Also on Display

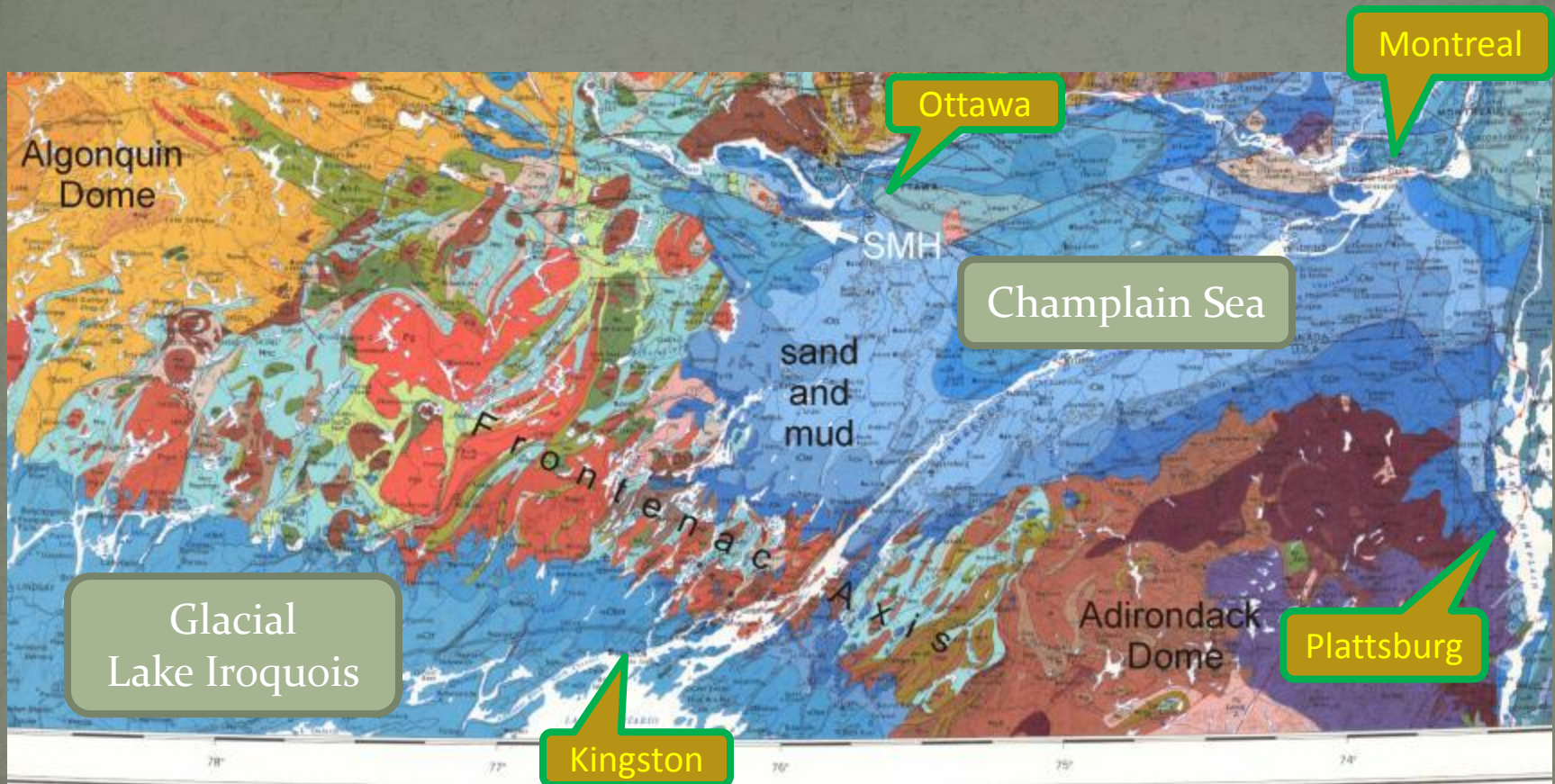


The only known area in Ottawa with unequivocal dewatering cylinders preserved in Paleozoic sandstone – An Ancient Spring



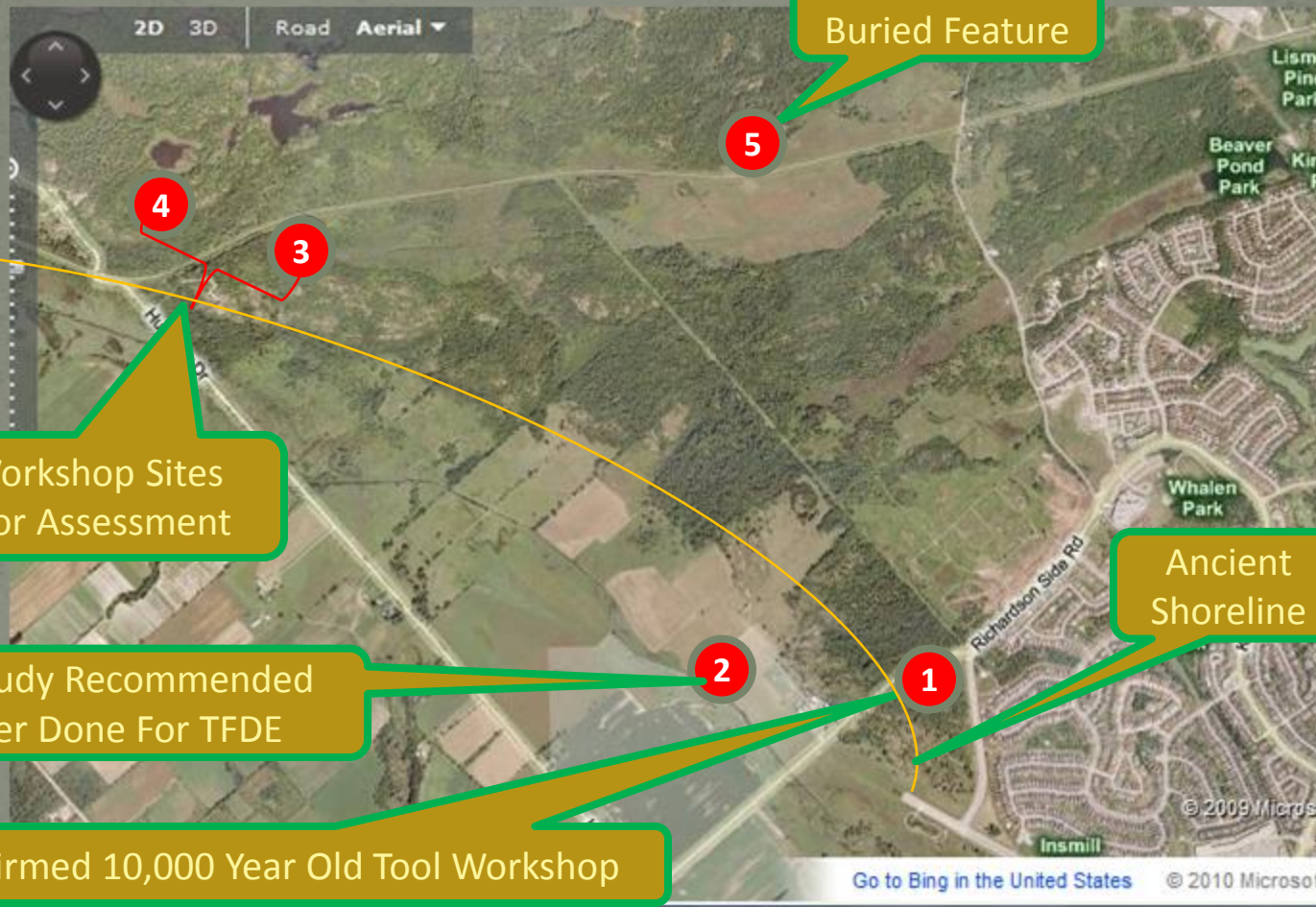
A – remnant (symmetrical?) ripple marks; B, C - trough cross beds; D- Eroded Algal mounds? All features suggest a low energy tidal, perhaps estuarine, setting when the area was close to the equator with no vegetation as we know it.

A Freshwater Island in a Salt-Water Sea



The SMH was an island at a time when Frontenac Axis geological formation separated Glacial Lake Iroquois (precursor to Lake Ontario) from salt waters of the Champlain Sea 8,000 - 12,000 years ago

National Historic Value Known Archaeological Sites In SMH



Old Growth Commonly Found


MNR Technical Handbook: “Old Growth” (pages 45-46)

- ✓ Large proportion of trees in older age classes
- ✓ Many 120 – 140 years old
- ✓ Broad spectrum of tree sizes with some very tall trees
- ✓ Uneven canopy due to fallen trees
- ✓ Abundant fallen logs various stages of decomposition
- ✓ Forest supports a high diversity of wildlife species



Natural Heritage: Densest Bio-Diversity In Ottawa

[*Gidakiiminaan*]

A photograph of a Canada goose sitting on a nest made of sticks and twigs. The nest is situated in a dense thicket of tall, dry reeds. The goose has a black head and neck with a white chin strap, and its body is covered in grey and white patterned feathers. The background is filled with the vertical stalks of reeds, creating a textured, natural setting.

Unknown Number of
Insect, Fungi &
Bryophyte Species

Over 798 Species:
448 Native Plants
168 Birds, 62 Butterflies,
42 Mammals, 15 Fish,
24 Amphibians & Reptiles

All Within an
Area of 3 x 4 km

Provincially Significant Life Science Area

895 Hectares
Rated ANSI

Highest Floristic
Diversity of Any
Natural Area in
Ottawa

5.08 = Highest
Coefficient of
Conservation in
Ottawa

448 Species
Native Vascular Plants

26 Species
Traditionally Used for
Native Medicine

2 Endangered
6 Provincially Rare
64 Regionally Rare
50 Uncommon
Native Vascular Plants



+ Provincially Significant Wetland Complex

114 Hectares
Rated ANSI

168 Bird Species
136 Nesting Species

1 Endangered Species
4 Threatened Species
5 Special Concern
30 Regionally Rare
Bird Species

Shirley's Pond

Undocumented Number of Vernal Pools

Over 24 species of
Amphibians and Reptiles

62 Species of Butterfly,
Monarch Butterfly is Species-at-Risk
in South March Highlands

3 Threatened Species
2 Special Concern Species



Yet No Comprehensive Biological Survey Ever Done

Wildlife
Movement
Only Studied
In Winter

SMH Is
Unevaluated
Candidate ANSI
For 20 Years?

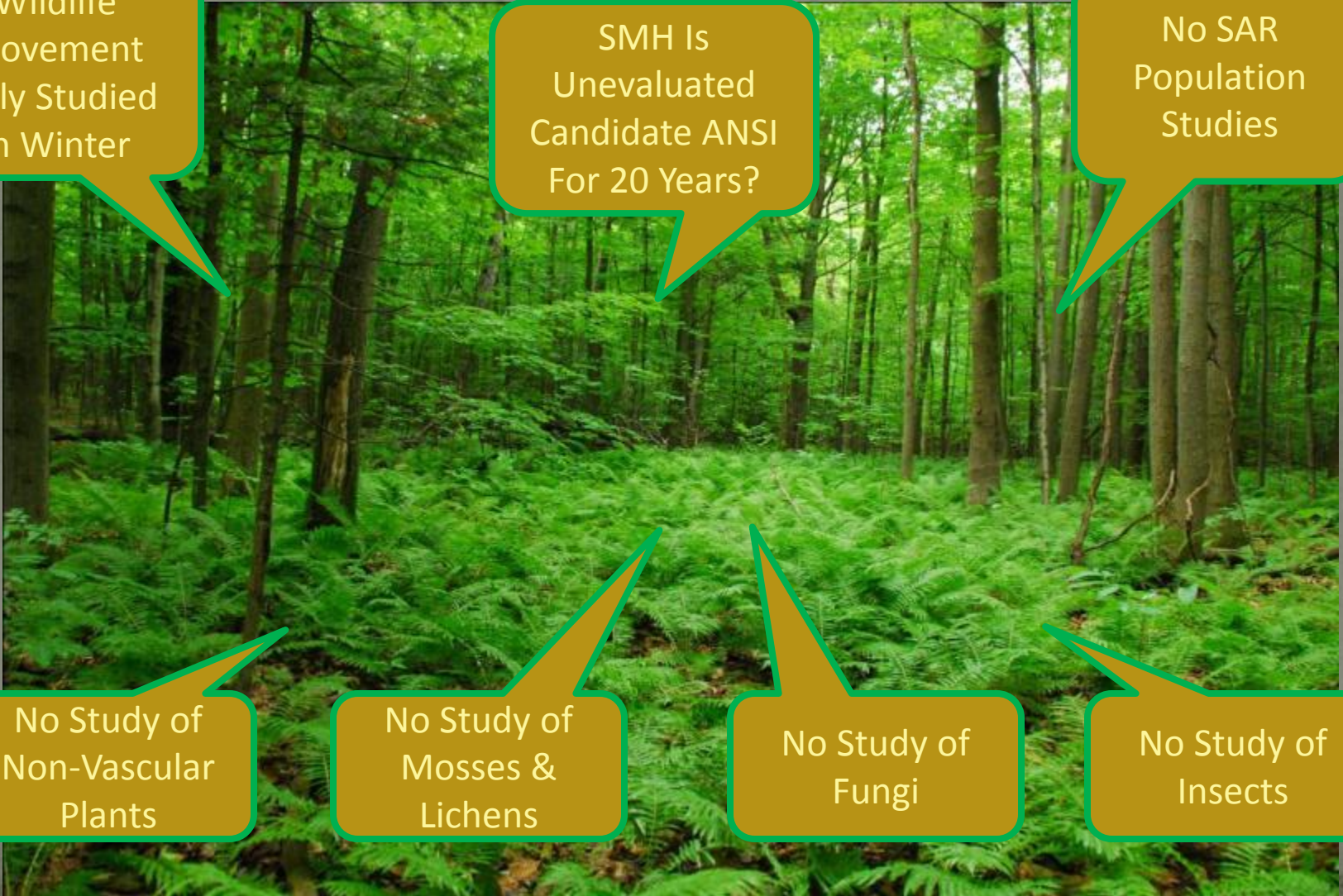
No SAR
Population
Studies

No Study of
Non-Vascular
Plants

No Study of
Mosses &
Lichens

No Study of
Fungi

No Study of
Insects



20 Documented Species At Risk

Endangered or Threatened

- American Ginseng
- Butternut
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Bobolink
- Whip-poor-will
- Golden Winged Warbler
- Olive Sided Flycatcher
- Western Chorus Frog
- Blanding's Turtle
- Eastern Musk Turtle
- Chimney Swift

Special Concern

- Bridle Shiner
- Short Eared Owl
- Black Tern
- Common Nighthawk
- Snapping Turtle
- Eastern Milksnake
- Monarch Butterfly
- Bald Eagle
- Red Headed Woodpecker



18 Future SAR Are Also Found in SMH

- 
- A photograph of a turtle, likely a Painted Turtle, resting on a log in a pond. The turtle's shell is dark with light-colored patterns, and its head and legs are visible. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding environment.
- Evening Grosbeak
 - Eastern Wood Peewee
 - Wood Thrush
 - Bank Swallow
 - American Bullfrog
 - American Kestrel
 - Belted-Kingfisher
 - Field Sparrow
 - Eastern Red-Backed Salamander
 - Blue-Spotted Salamander
 - American Toad
 - Bluntnose Minnow
 - Boreal Chickadee
 - Killdeer
 - Midland Painted Turtle
 - Green Frog
 - Wood Frog
 - Northern Two-Lined Salamander

Species Found In SMH That Are Also Listed For Evaluation by COSEWIC as Potential Species at Risk

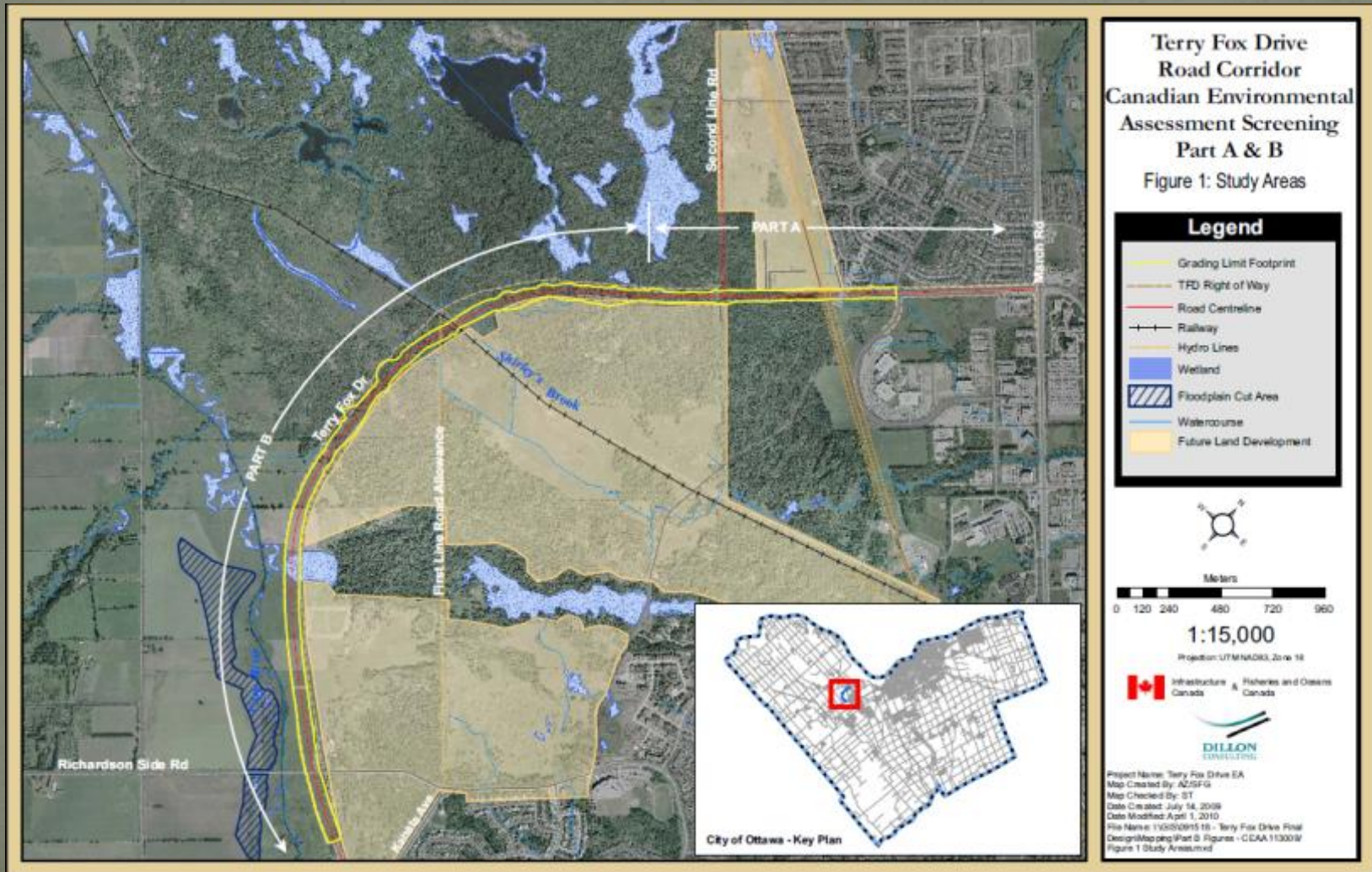
11 Species Already Eradicated By Development

- Cathcart's Woodsia
- Oregon Woodsia
- Spiny Coon-tail
- Adder's-tongue Fern
- Large Duckweed
- Long-spurred Violet
- Showy Orchis
- Back's Sedge
- Southern Arrow-wood
- Strawberry-blight
- Virginia Spring Beauty

Development Eats Away at Ottawa's Great Forest

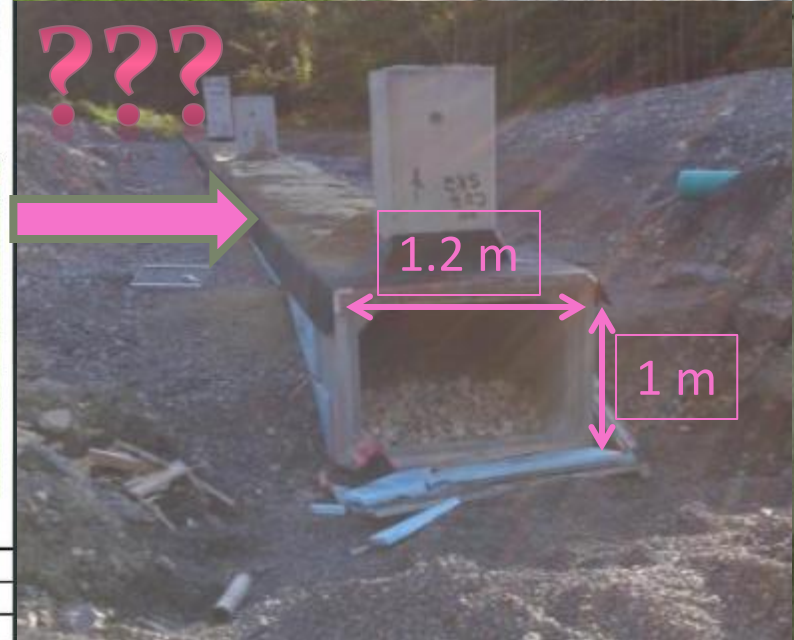
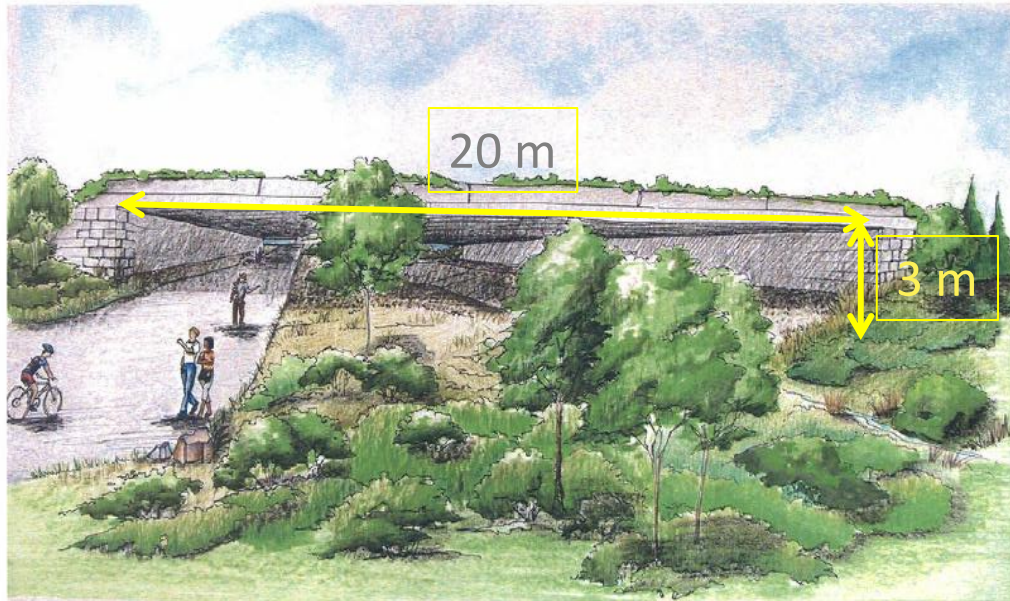


Terry Fox Drive Extension Severs SMH by 1/2 Development Currently Underway in Interior Half

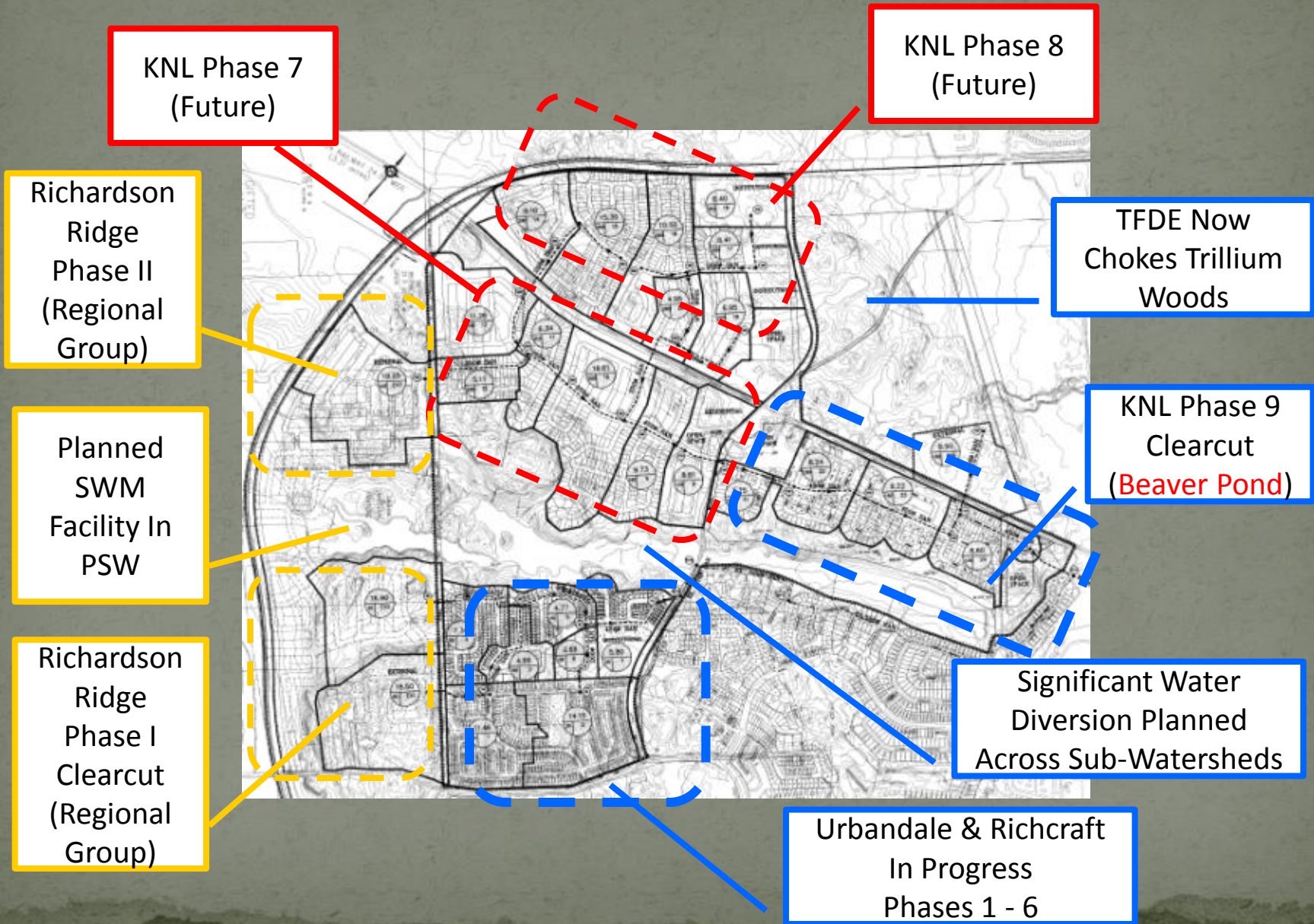


Unmitigated Environmental Impact

- 2007 EA Addendum
 - Promised Eco-passages & No Fencing
- 2010 As-Built Road
 - Eco-passages replaced by unusable tunnels
 - Fencing creates “Berlin Wall”



Current Status of Development



Alternative Vision of Eco-Corridors Forming an Emerald Necklace



Will You Defend This Forest?



Questions About South March Highlands?

