



## NATURAL HERITAGE STRATEGY GIS-BASED MODEL

*Client: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority*

**Malone Given Parsons Ltd.** was retained by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to develop an application to aid in the preparation of a Natural Heritage Strategy for the Town of New Tecumseh, Ontario.

A vital part of the Natural Heritage Strategy was to identify significant natural features and develop a scoring and ranking system for the features based upon their ecological significance and local conservation priorities.

The solution designed and implemented by MGP utilized a simple user interface which allowed a score to be derived for every natural feature in the study area using a pre-determined model based on a variety of ecological, physiographic and hydrological parameters. The application allowed for rapid editing of the parameters utilized by the model and had the capability of creating saved profiles for parameter settings. This flexibility and ease of use allowed Conservation Authority staff to calibrate the model to local conditions and to explore and compare the impact of proposed development or restoration scenarios on the Natural Heritage value of the local natural areas.