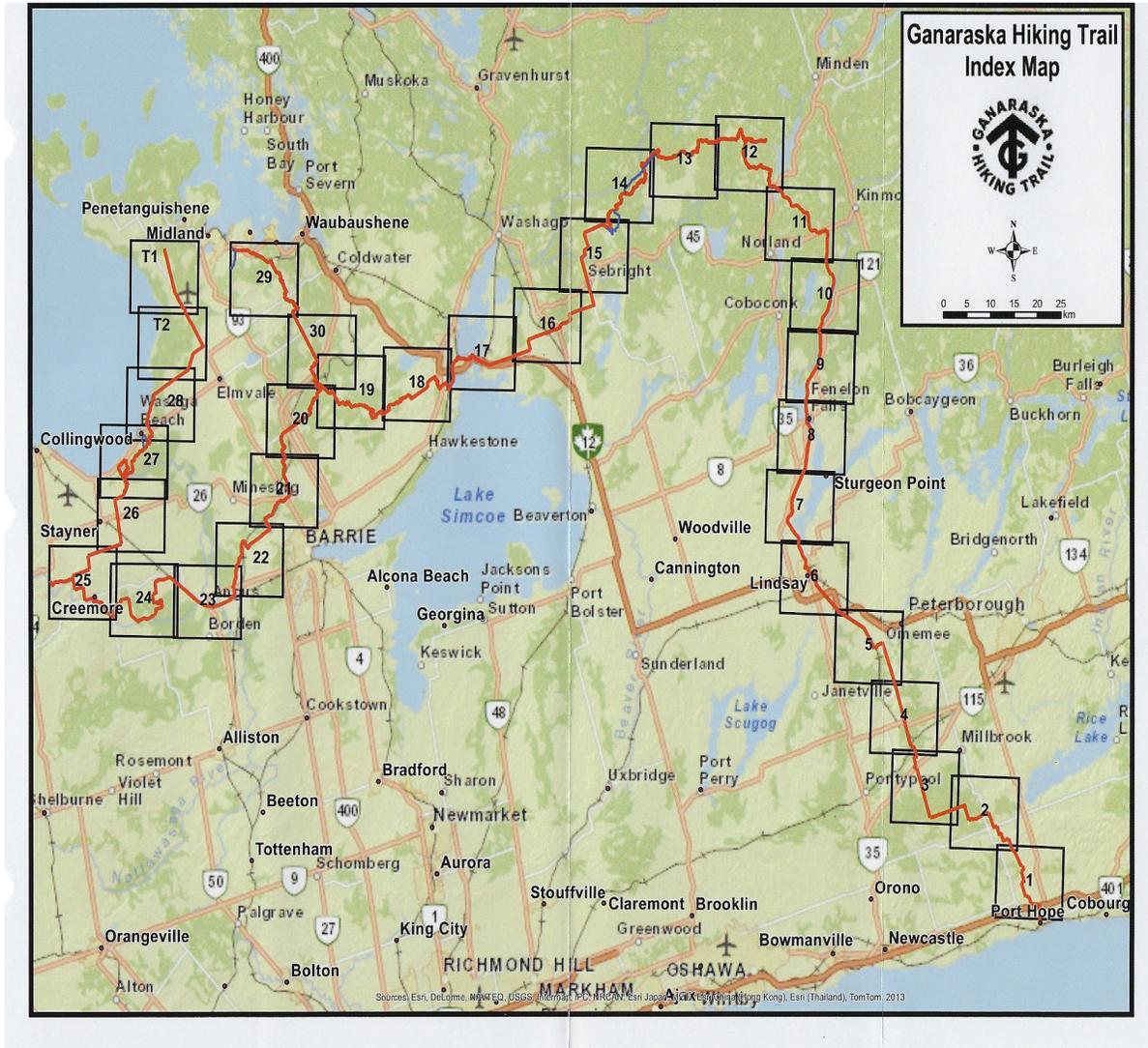


Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association 2013 Guidebook



GHTA Mad River Club Maps 22, 23, 24 & 25

Check the GHTA website 'Trail Changes' link for the latest revisions to these 2013 vintage maps.

MAD RIVER SECTION

Maps 22, 23, 24, 25

Mostly flat, with a couple of hills. Suitable for beginners.

The Mad River Section derives its name from the river which is parallel in many places. Sometimes in the spring, west of Avening, trout can be seen going upstream to spawn. The spawning ritual itself can often be seen. There are some outstanding scenic views from Ten Hill and McKinney's Hill. The Mad River Section of the Ganaraska Trail goes through the New Lowell, GlenCairn and Carruthers Conservation Areas and several Simcoe County tracts. At its terminus, the trail links up with the Bruce Trail, just outside of Glen Huron.

Km

0.0 **Hwy. 90.** Stile over the fence on north side of County Rd. 90. Cross the road and proceed east for a short distance and turn south on the 6th Line of Essa and continue for about 1.3 kilometres.

1.3 **30th Sideroad.** Turn right (west) on 30th Sideroad until house number sign "6059" appears on the south side of the road and turn left just past the house. Follow the blazes through the property and through a field (old Algonquin shoreline) to the railway bed.

1.8 **Railway bed.** Follow the railway bed westward for 10 kilometres through downtown Angus.

The railway bed is still used from Utopia to Collingwood twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday, by the Barrie-Collingwood Railway (BCRY), a short-line railway operation. If a train should approach, move well off the track. Following the trail, you will encounter several rivers which all merge in the Angus area. There are the two branches of the Bear Creek, the Nottawasaga River, the Pine River and, for the first time, the Mad River. In Angus, you will be close to several donut shops, and washroom facilities at the Library. (Look for the Clock Tower). The trail skirts Canadian Forces Base Borden before heading northwest, bypassing Brentwood. Here are some landmarks:

3.5 Nottawasaga River Bridge

4.8 Mad River Bridge. Compare this view with other sightings of the river. At this point, the river is more mature.

6.6 Bridge over the Mad River.

7.2 Sunnidale-Tosorontio Town Line.

9.4 McCarthy Dr.

10.4 Conc. 2 Sunnidale.

11.0 Sunnidale 12/13 Sideroad.

11.9 Turn west, off the rail trail. The trail comes off the Barrie/Collingwood railway right-of-way southeast of New Lowell onto a short sideroad. The trail follows this gravel road to the Hogback Rd., a SW diagonal route between New Lowell and Glencairn. As the trail meets the Hogback Rd., it turns a very short distance north, and then turns west into the main gate of the New Lowell Conservation Area.

13.2 **New Lowell Conservation Area.** The 140-acre New Lowell reservoir is located on Coates Creek. It offers swimming, canoeing, and fishing opportunities. The Ganaraska Trail winds its way through the southwest end of the property, an area that is famous for its old growth cedar forest. The 140-acre property is operated as a recreational facility. A reservoir separates the property into two parts, the north side is managed for "Day Use" only, while the south side operates as a seasonal campground. There are no overnight sites; seasonal permits only. For a nominal fee, visitors have access to all "day use" facilities including a large clean beach, plenty of picnic tables, fishing docks, canoe access and a roofed pavilion for special events, weddings, etc.

The trail follows the main access road to the left into the seasonal camping area, and follows open ground to the area of picnic tables, close to the water's edge. At this point the trail enters into the mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands for about 1.5 kilometres of undulating topography, that parallels the south shore of the reservoir. The tree cover is age-variable and includes Ash, Maple, Poplar, American Beech, as well as Spruce, Pine, Hemlock and Balsam Fir.

The walking experience is interesting because hikers are moving up and down and across drainage gullies, leading from the southern height of land towards the reservoir. This overland route is an excellent habitat for birds, animals and wildflower species in the spring. It ends at a cleared forest trail that leads upslope southerly. Take a short walk to the right, for an excellent viewpoint or picnic spot on the shore of the reservoir. Then proceed up the sloped forest road to almost the top of the valley height of land, where there is a double blaze turning right for about 50 metres, where it meets another double right hand blaze, at the edge of Staghorn Sumac on the right and an evergreen reforestation stand on the left. Now, this westerly heading part of the trail is relatively easy walking, with a broad, needle-based surface that gradually enters a mature Red Pine forest, where the tops of little valleys can be viewed on the right. This part of the trail is also a snowmobile route, running all the way to the property boundary of the New Lowell Conservation Area, then turning left. At this NW corner of the Conservation Authority lands, it veers abruptly south, and follows the limits of the Simcoe County Forest tract all the way along its west boundary, down close to Conc. 2 Sunnidale, where the trail veers south-east into the forest and then follows a forest track again to Conc. 2. A fascinating feature of local property in this section of the trail is the incidence of blow out sand dunes. These are examples of why the County of Simcoe and Conservation Authorities purchased Class 5, 6 or 7 lands in the area, so that reforestation would heal such wind eroded sites.

16.4 Just west of Hogback Rd. and Conc. 2, the trail turns west along Conc. 2 for about 500 metres.

16.9 Go south on 6/7 Sideroad Sunnidale, on sand road until reaching Hogback Rd. After crossing Hogback Rd., now paved, watch for trail turning east into Simcoe County Forest. Follow the trail as it winds through this scenic Red Pine and deciduous forest. You will also see Simcoe County Trail signs which follow the Ganaraska Trail for about 3 kilometres. If you have GPS, a Geocache can be found on this section of trail.

21.5 You are back on 6/7 Sideroad Sunnidale. Turn left on the sandy trail alongside the road to

21.8 Sunnidale-Tosorontio Townline line. Turn west and follow the road, around the bend, to just before the bridge over the Mad River.

22.9 Mad River. Good off road parking is available here. The trail turns west onto private property. The trail parallels the Mad River to the Glencairn Conservation Area. This section is in fairly rough shape from off road vehicles, but is being repaired by cadets each summer. There is good parking as well, which can be accessed by a lane just south of the bridge on the east side.

25.3 **Glencairn Conservation Area** is a small area overlooking the Mad River in the Village of Glencairn (located at the junction of Webster and Hogback Rds. at the northwest corner of Adjala-Tosorontio Township). The area is a pleasant spot for a picnic or short hike along the Mad River. It also provides opportunities for angling.

Walk out to the road and turn northwest. Follow Webster Rd. and turn north on Centre Line Rd.

29.6 Turn west onto a beautiful forest path, which winds its way through a Simcoe County Forest tract.

32.9 Airport Rd. Turn south to:

34.3 **Carruthers Memorial Conservation Area.**

Enter this scenic and interesting conservation area, which provides facilities such as parking, picnic tables and outdoor toilets. The Ganaraska Trail follows the Mad River again and is especially appealing for hiking with children. Proceed through the site beside the river, where many photo opportunities present themselves in this beautiful natural watercourse. Just follow the white blazes to an un-opened road allowance, that directs you north to the Nottawasaga Concession 3 S road (emergency property number 7273). At this point continue north on Nottawasaga Concession 3 S road to George St. E. Go left on George St. E. to Mary St.

37.9 Turn right on Mary St. and follow north to Edward St. Turn left on Edward St. and follow west to Library St. (Visit Canada's smallest jail). Turn right and follow north to Caroline St. Turn left and follow Caroline St. west to Collingwood St. Turn right and follow Collingwood St. north going past the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 397 and the Creemore Community Centre and Arena until you reach County Rd. 9.

This community has a number of great tea rooms and restaurants and is renowned for its brewery. Also observe the beautiful business signs along the main street and the old Victorian homes. It is also the location of the smallest jail in Canada which, luckily, is no longer in use.

39.5 Turn left (west) and follow County Rd. 9 until you reach km 40.5

40.5 Turn north on an unopened road allowance (Conc. 5 South Nottawasaga) which takes you to the top of Ten Hill, from which there are many great views.

42.3 Turn west on 12-13 Sideroad Nottawasaga and make a gradual descent from Ten Hill.

43.6 Turn north onto Conc. 6 South Nottawasaga, which after a while runs into Riverside Dr. Continue north to the top of a rise.

45.0 Turn west into the fields over a stile. This is also the point where the Wasaga Beach Section continues north along Riverside Dr.

The Mad River section descends into the pasture land which can be very wet, particularly in the spring. Look for a footbridge, built by Army Cadets from Blackdown Cadet Summer Training Centre in the summer of 2004, to cross the creek before entering a Cedar forest, which is shared with a herd of cows. Don't enter this part of the trail with clean white running shoes, as they will certainly be coming out muddy!

46.4 **Old Websterville Steel Bridge** over the Mad River was moved there from its original position over the Noisy River. The legend has it that it was here that many years ago, in the midst of a very cold winter, a lady who had brought away wheat to the mill to be milled, and brought it back as flour, lost her balance while crossing the icy river, and lost all the flour. She was so mad, that she cursed this "mad river", which from then on was known as the Mad River!

The trail then continues through an apple orchard, which when timed right in the spring, can be quite a beautiful and fragrant sight! Apples from the orchard can be bought at the Glen Huron Apple Storage or indulge in one of the best apple pies ever!

48.5 Cross Conc. 8 South Nottawasaga (just west of Glen Huron) on gravel road. Look back for the view. In the spring, you can see beautiful yellow fields of canola.

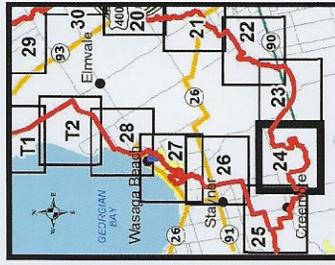
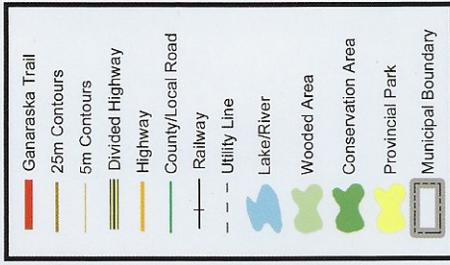
50.0 **McKinney's Hill. End of Mad River Section**, where it meets the Bruce Trail. At this point there is a cairn with an engraving which indicates the end of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail.

A worthwhile side route is from km 48.5 into Glen Huron, past the running water wheel. (Be sure to visit the General Store with its fresh eggs and washroom facility). Then hike up the blue Mad River side trail, maintained by the Bruce Trail, which takes you along several ponds and the rushing waters of the Mad River to Devil's Glen Ski Resort. Stop for a look on the bridge over the Mad River, and then go up the ski slope and left along the Bruce Trail to the cairn, which marks the end of the Ganaraska Trail.

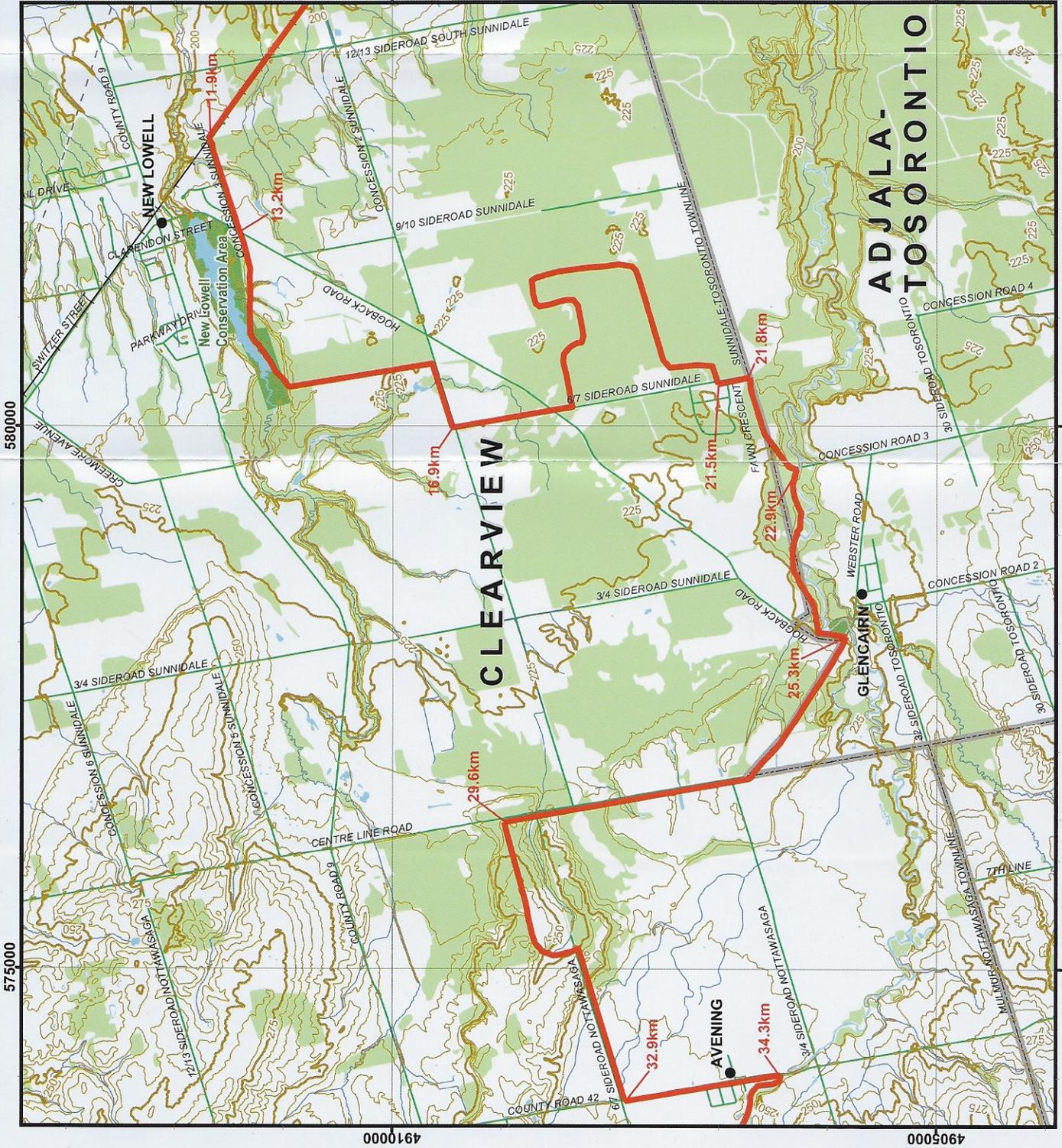
Ganaraska Trail

Mad River Section

Map 24



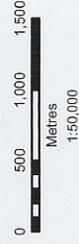
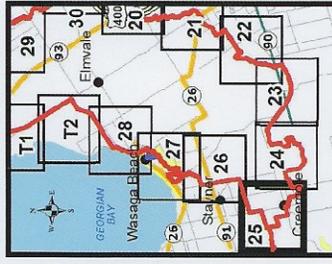
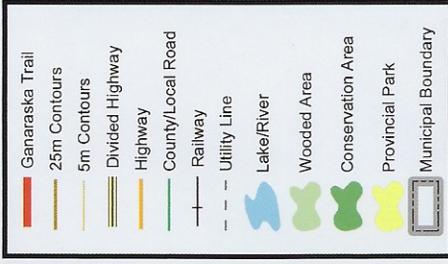
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Ganaraska Trail

Mad River/
Wasaga Beach Section

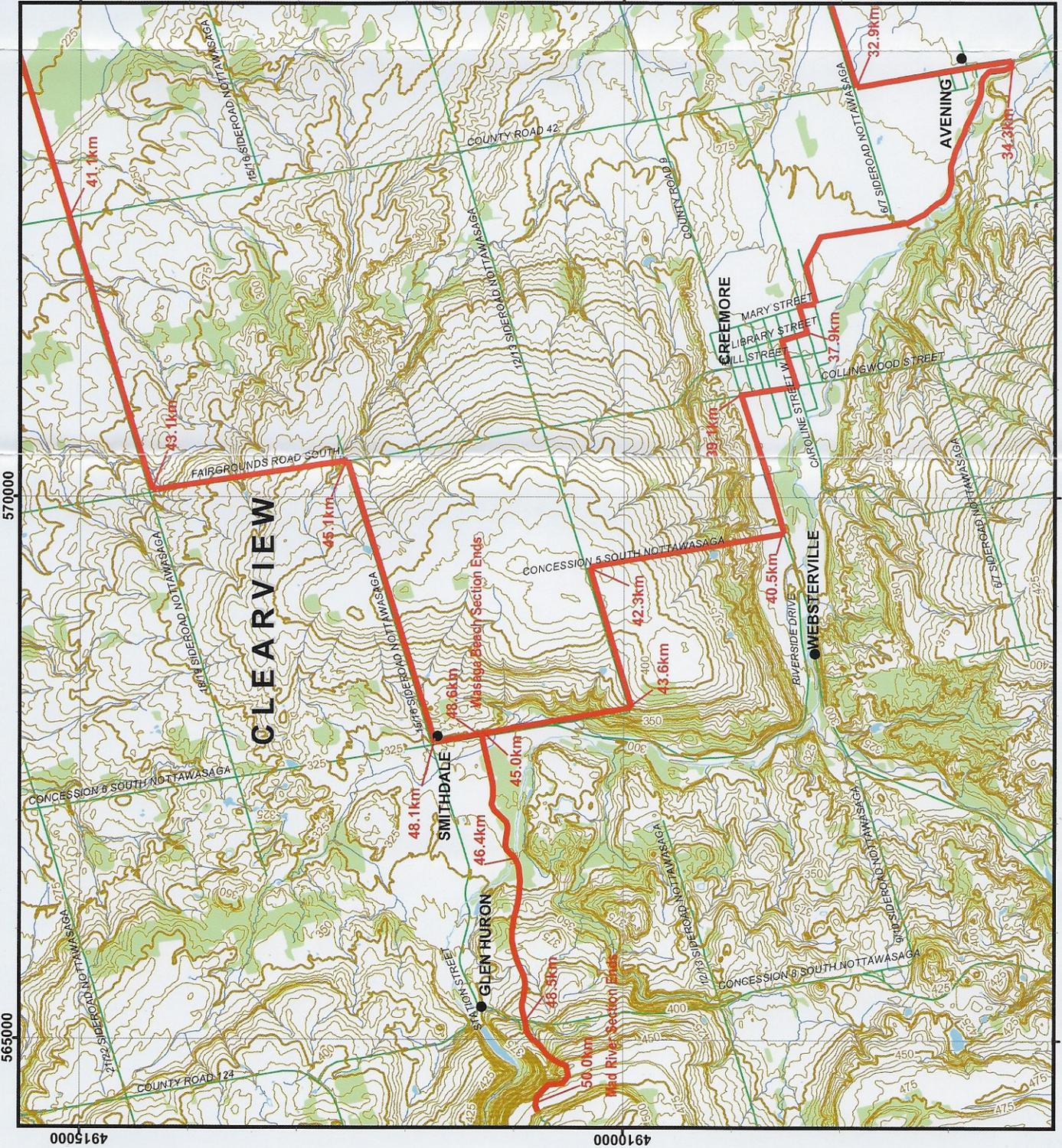
Map 25



UTM Projection Zone 17
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