

Notes from the Town of Victor Conservation Board

By Matt Matteson, Victor Conservation Board Member

The Town of Victor Conservation Board was established in 1970 and strives to protect and promote the environmental resources of the Town of Victor. The Conservation Board is an Advisory Board, making recommendations to the Town's Planning and Zoning Boards regarding natural resources that exist on land in the Town of Victor. Board members are charged by the State of New York to assist Town officials "in the development of sound open area planning and assure preservation of natural and scenic resources." The Board works to protect environmentally sensitive areas in the Town, striving to strike a balance between Victor's small-town character and future growth and development.

The Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) is one of several data sources that the Conservation Board uses to review development applications and prepare comments, and to complete environmental assessment Forms. The NRI is located on the Town of Victor Conservation Board website <http://www.victorny.org/>. Follow the Town Government link, through Boards and Committees, to the Conservation Board Document site.

Many of the natural resources that exist in the Town were left behind by receding glaciers about 18 thousand years ago! The next time you are driving (or better yet, hiking) through Victor, look for these features that make Victor unique. Page 15 of the NRI contains a shaded relief map of Victor indicating where these features are evident in the Town.

DRUMLIN

Drumlins are glacial landforms characterized as low, smoothly-rounded elongated hills sculpted

beneath the ice of a flowing glacier. The classic Drumlin shape is blunt at one end and tapered at the other. The blunt end faces the direction from where the glacier originated while the gentler slopes indicate the direction the glacier was moving. Boughton Hill is one example of a large drumlin.



Drumlin - Source: Town of Victor, NY NRI
(Photographer Marge Elder)

ESKER

Eskers are ridges of sand and gravel created by glacial retreat or stagnation. Eskers can be 100 or more feet high and hundreds of miles in length!

KAME

Kames are hills or small mounds of glacial sediments composed of sand and gravel. The largest Kame hills in Western New York are in the southwestern part of the Town of Victor, extending into East and West Bloomfield as well as the Southwest corner of Mendon. At an elevation of over 1100 feet, the Hopper Hills area is a Kame and is also the highest point in the Town of Victor.



Kame - Source: Town of Victor, NY NRI
(Photographer Lorraine Atwood)

MORAINE

Moraines consist of unsorted rock material transported by a glacier and mark the outermost extent of a glacier's progression. As the last ice sheet retreated from our area, it created two important ridges (Moraines) along its track. Look for the larger of these Moraines in the Southwest portion of the Town between Dryer Road and County Road 41. The mowed area at the top of this Moraine is Fort Hill. A smaller, discontinuous Moraine can be found in the area just north of the NYS Thruway.

KETTLE (HOLES)

Kettles are bowl-shaped features found only in glacial deposit areas. Kettles are formed when blocks of ice break away from the glacier and become buried. When the block eventually melted, the cover slumped in, creating the Kettle. Kettles can fill with groundwater creating a kettle lake. Crossman's Pond on Lower Fishers Road is a kettle lake estimated to be 60 feet deep.



Kettle - Source: Town of Victor, NY NRI
(Photographer Larry Fisher)

Source: Town of Victor, NY
Natural Resources Inventory