

A photograph of a shale rock outcrop. The rock is light-colored and shows clear horizontal layering and vertical fractures. A grid of thin lines is overlaid on the rock surface, likely for geological surveying. The text is overlaid on the image.

# **Shale Gas Opportunities in Southern Ontario – an Update**

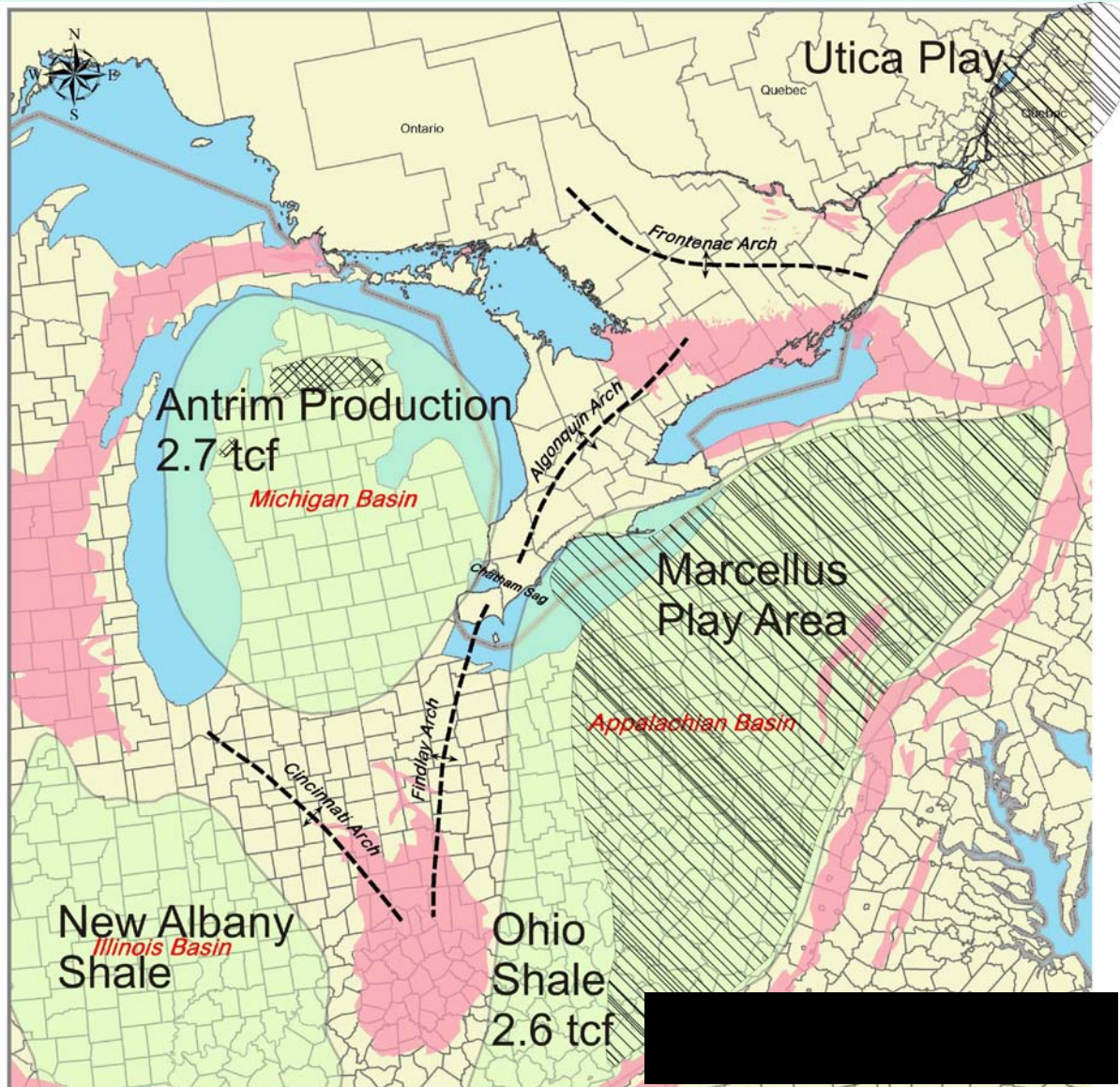
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Lee Fortner, Ministry of Natural Resources, London, ON  
Catherine Béland-Otis, Ontario Geological Survey, Sudbury, ON**

**48<sup>th</sup> Annual OPI Conference and Trade Show  
Sarnia, Ontario**

# Acknowledgements

- Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library
- Staff of Petroleum Resources Centre, MNR
- Tony Hamblin, GSC – Open File Report 5384

# Regional Geological Setting and Shale Gas Plays



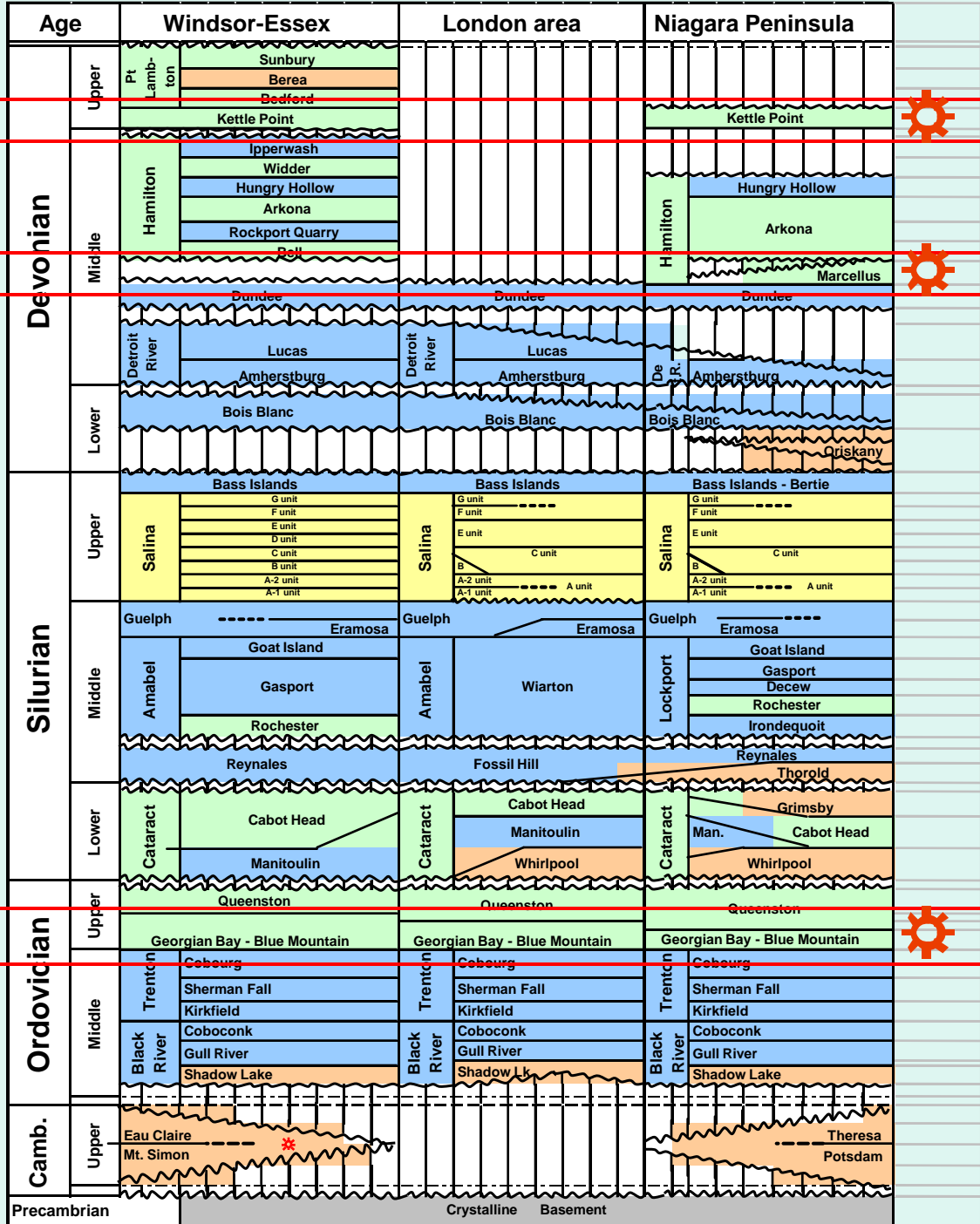
# Potential gas shales in Ontario

Same plays as in NE U.S. and Quebec

Best potential in:

- U. Devonian **Kettle Point Fm** (Antrim shale equivalent)
- M. Devonian **Marcellus Formation**
- U. Ordovician **Blue Mountain Formation and Collingwood shale** (Utica equivalents)
- Gas shows, no current production
- Unexplored (only one shale gas exploratory well)
- Large prospective areas

# Subsurface Paleozoic Stratigraphic Chart



Kettle Point

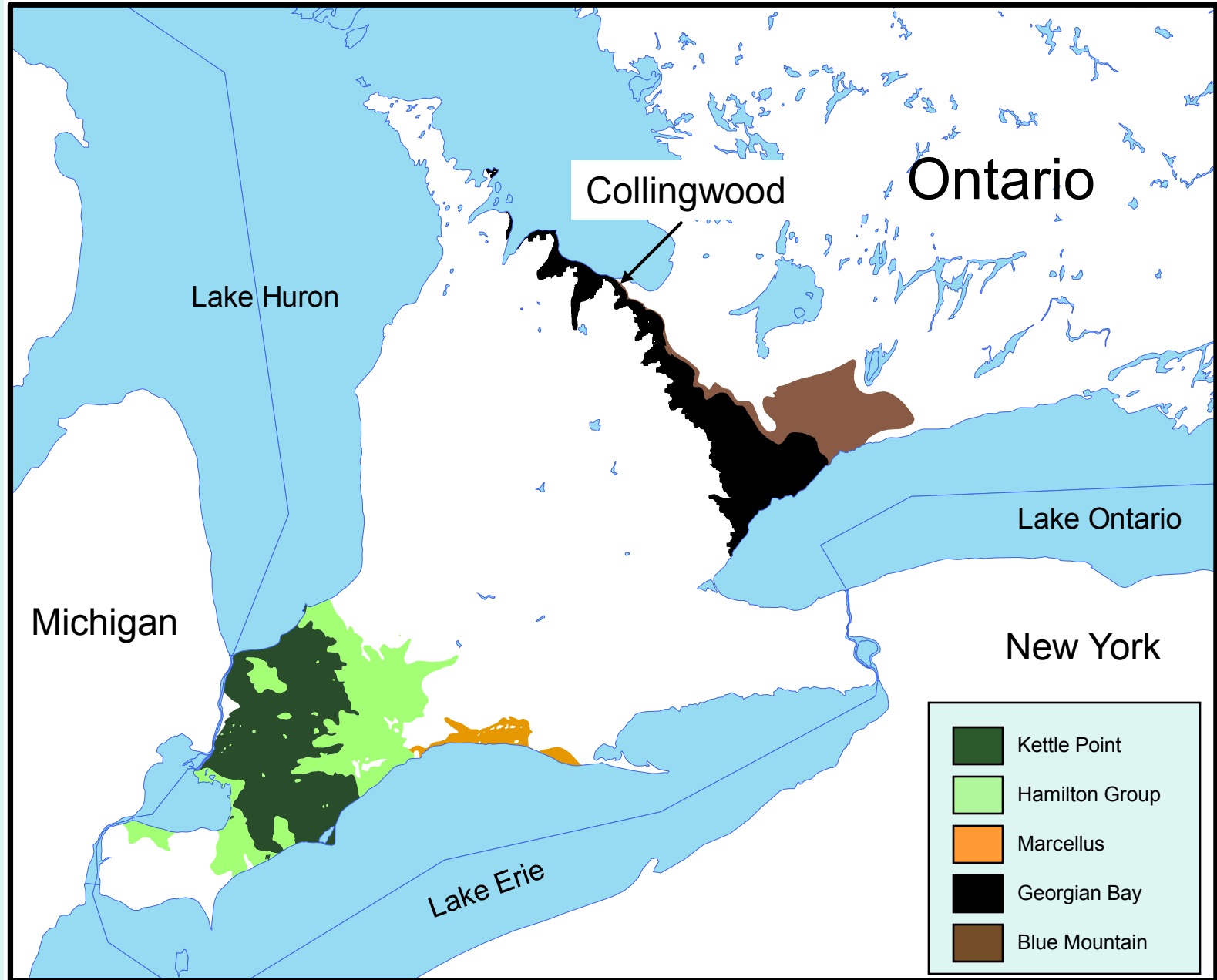
Marcellus

Blue Mountain + Collingwood

- Clastics
- Carbonates
- Evaporites
- Shales



# Potential Gas Shales in Southern Ontario - outcrop



# Georgian Bay-Blue Mountain / Collingwood outcrop



# Blue Mountain / Collingwood (Utica)

- **Collingwood**

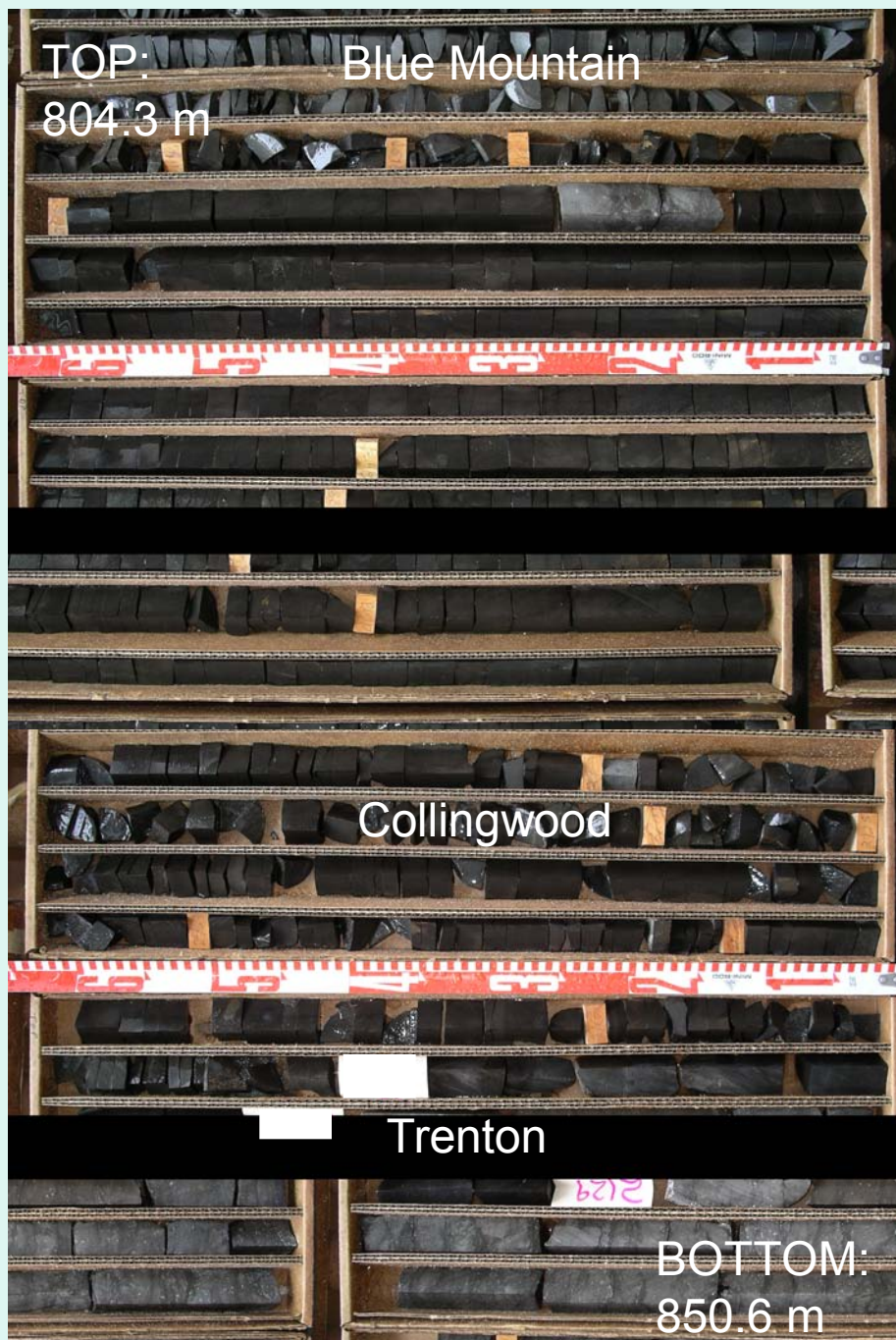
- Calcareous shale; average thickness 4 to 6 m, max 12 m
- TOC: 1 to 11%, marginally mature to mature
- Depth to top: outcrop - 175 m
- 25,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Attempts to extract oil in 1860's

- **Blue Mountain Formation**

- Unsubdivided Georgian Bay-Blue Mountain Formation in subsurface
- Non-calcareous shale approximately 75 m thick
- Lowermost 2 to 50 m is black organic-rich with up to 3 % TOC
- Depth to top: outcrop - 1000 m
- 70,000 km<sup>2</sup>



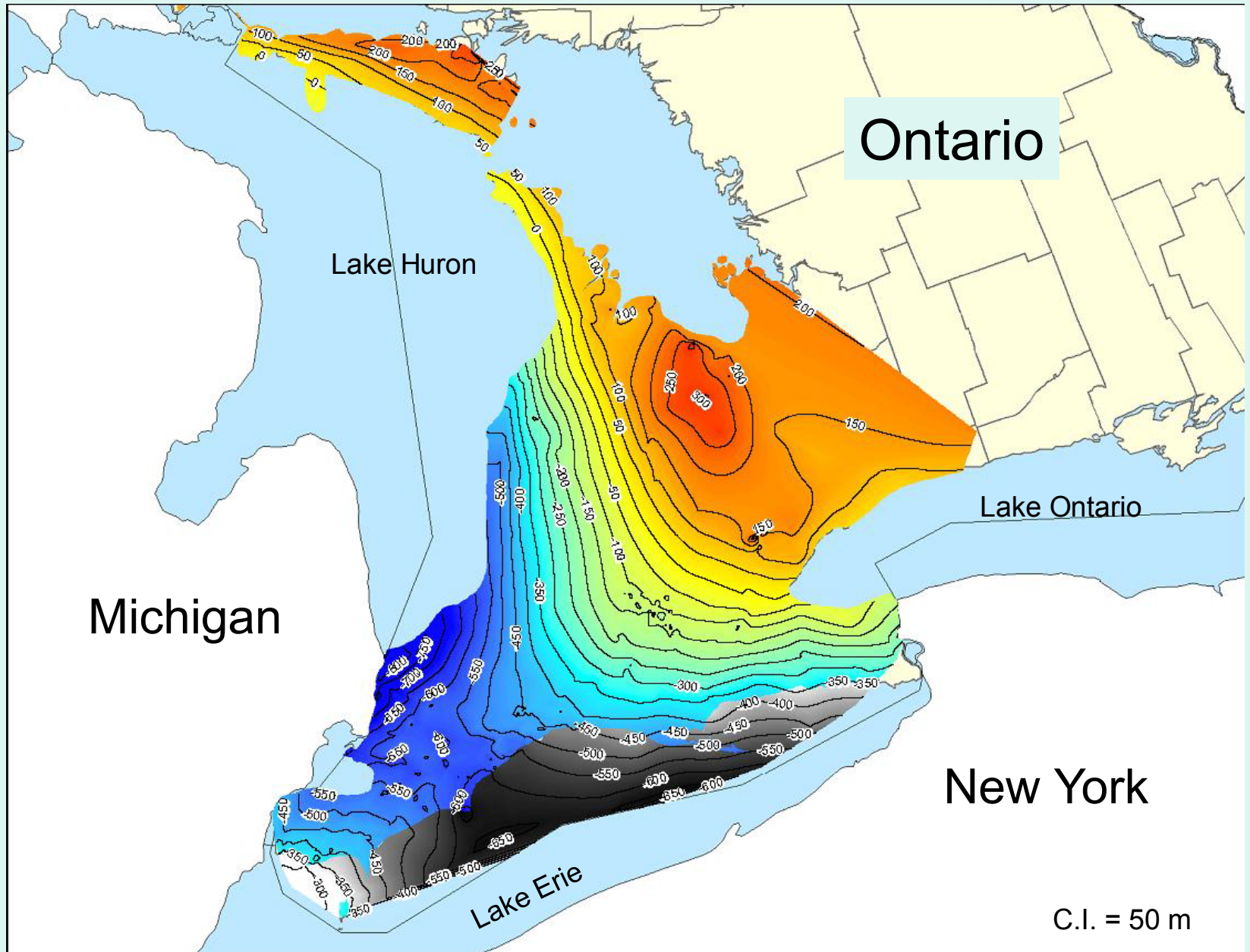
# Blue Mountain / Collingwood



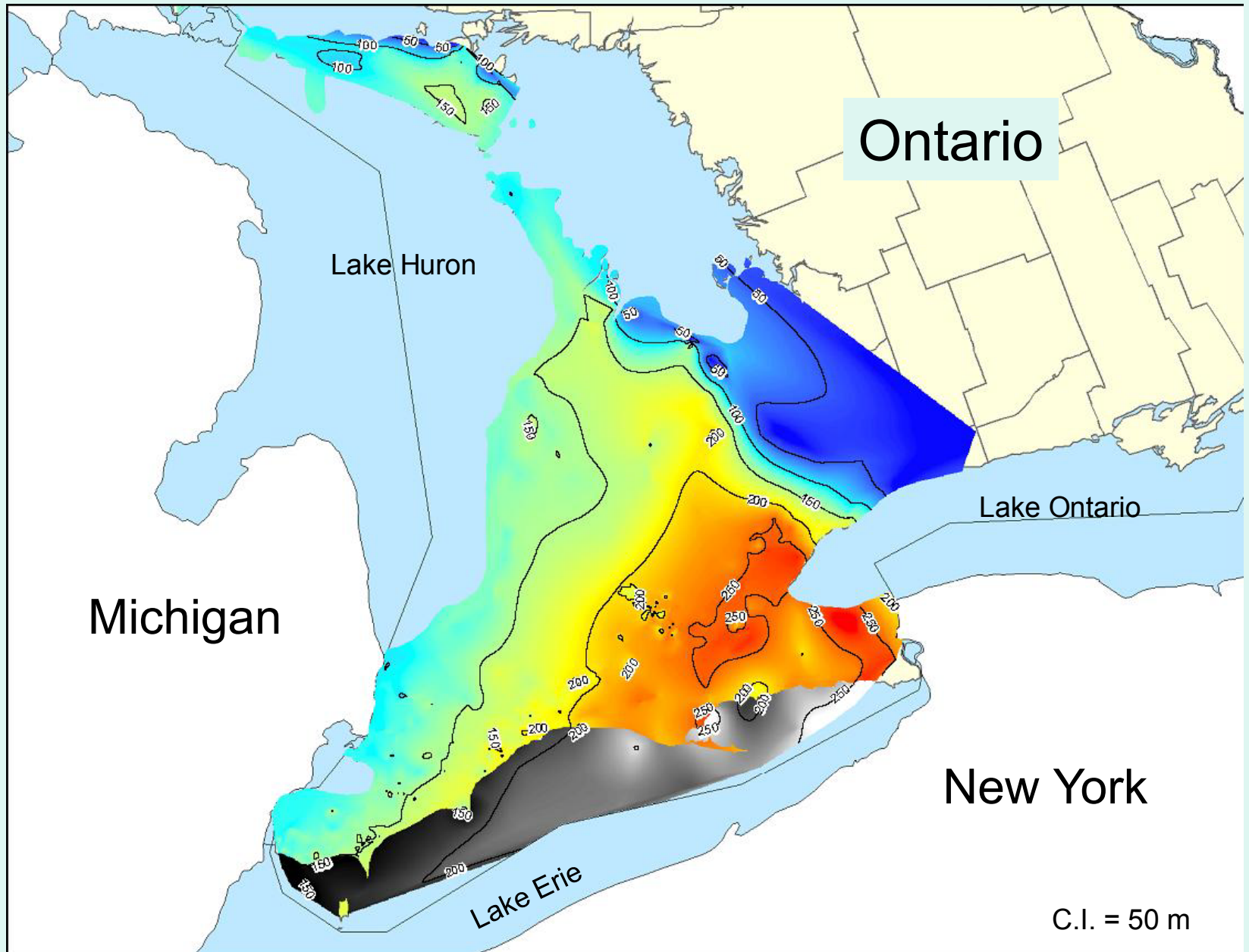
# Collingwood subcrop / outcrop



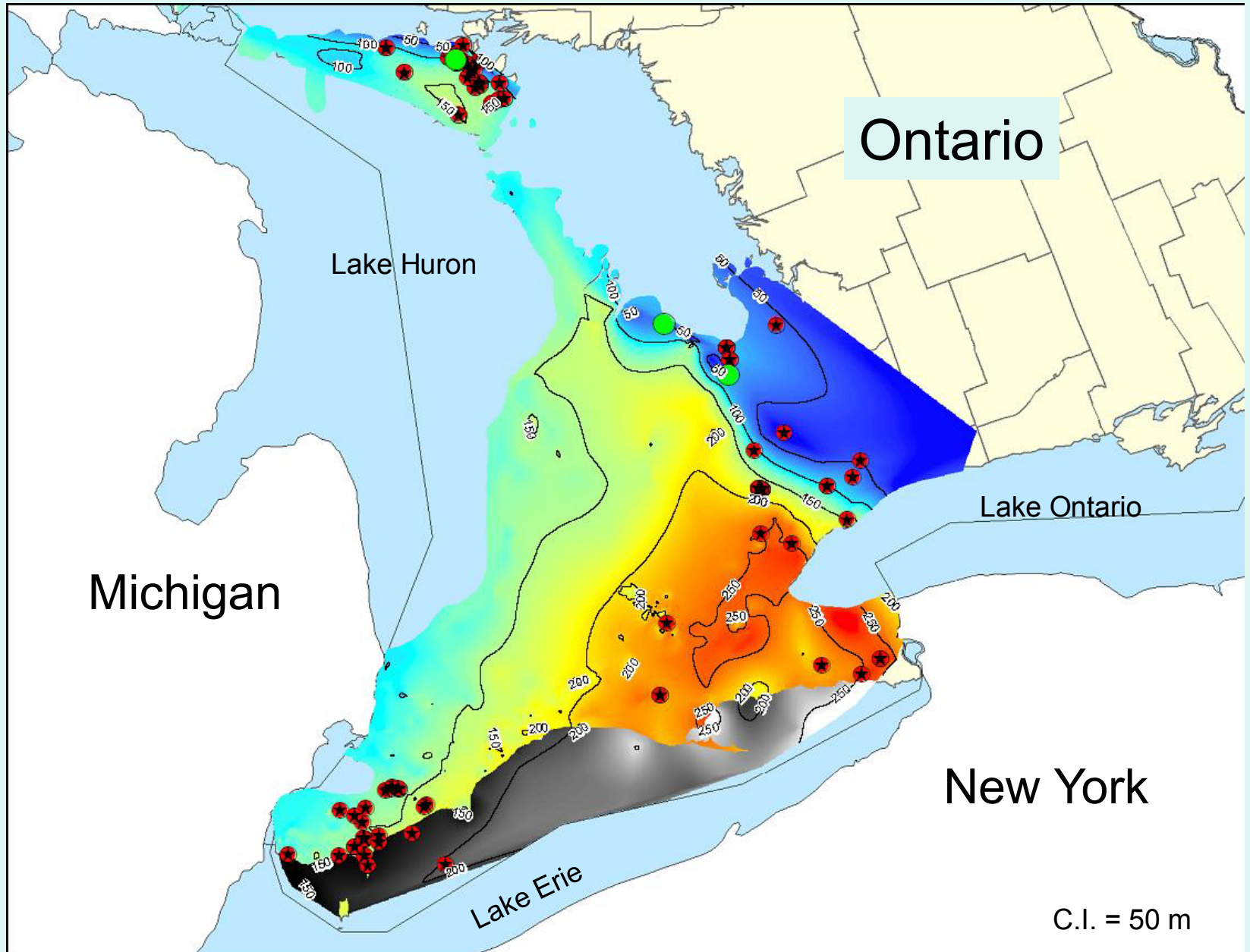
# Georgian Bay-Blue Mountain Structure



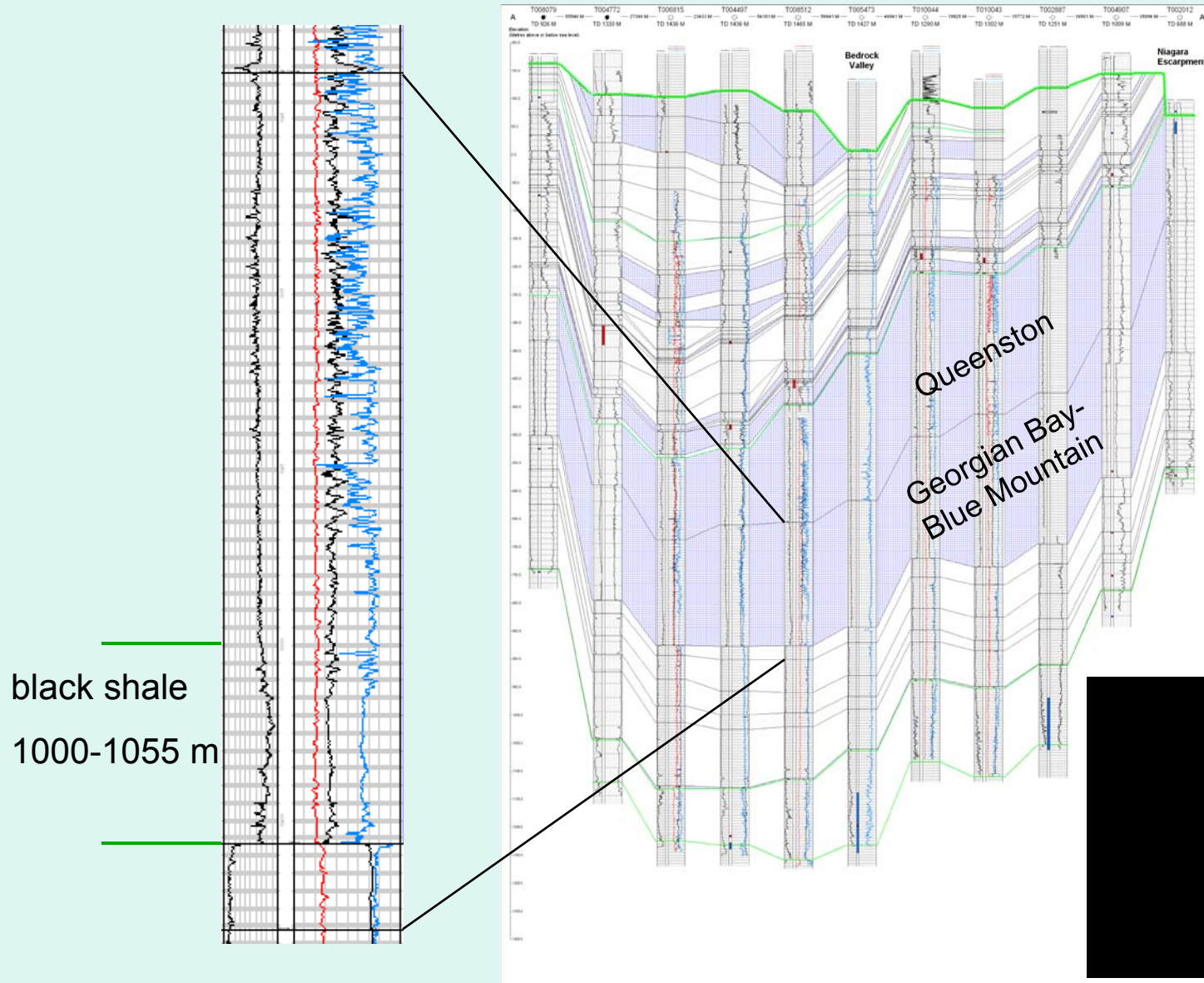
# Georgian Bay-Blue Mountain Isopach



# Georgian Bay-Blue Mountain Gas Shows

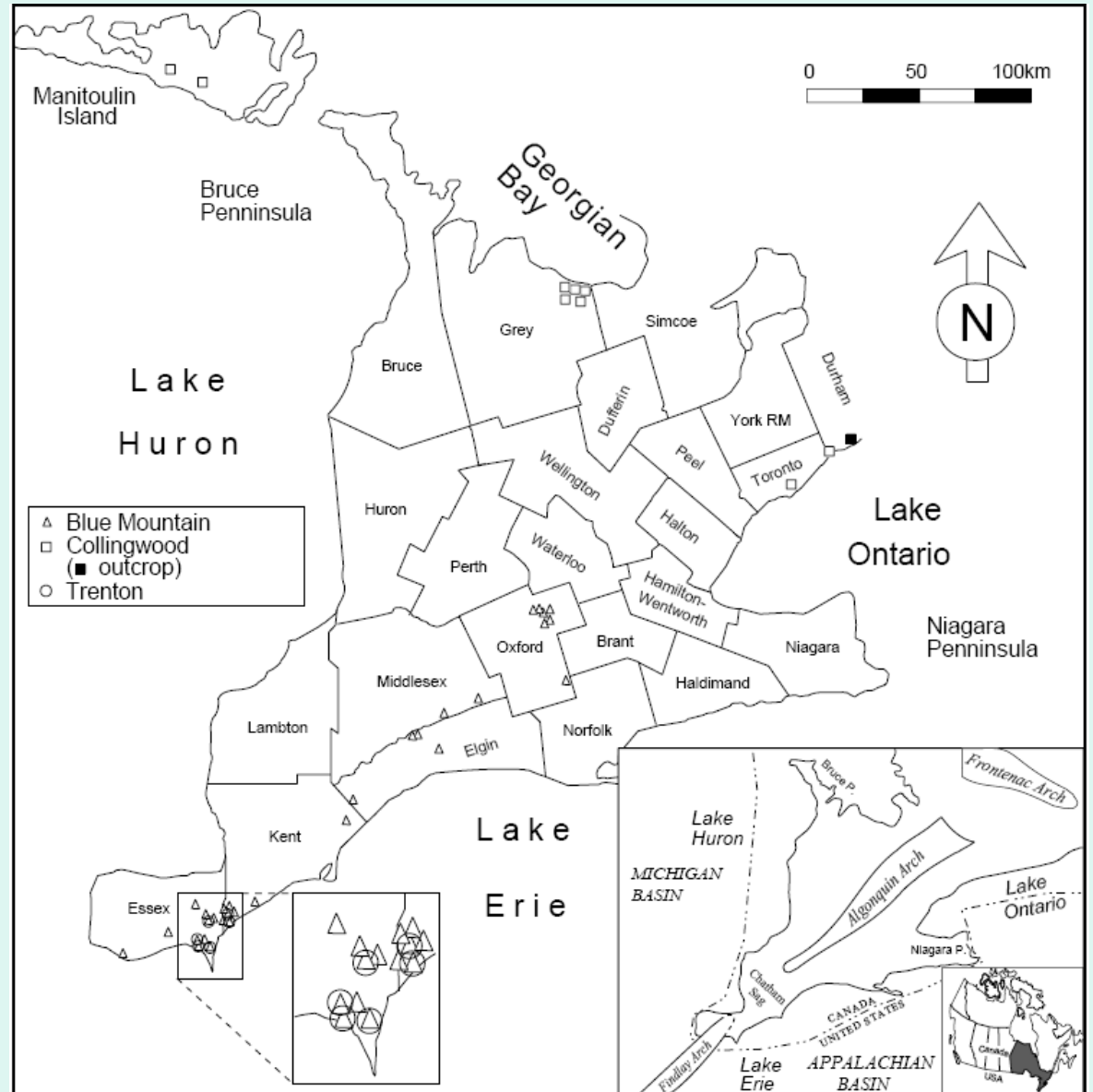


# Blue Mountain black shales



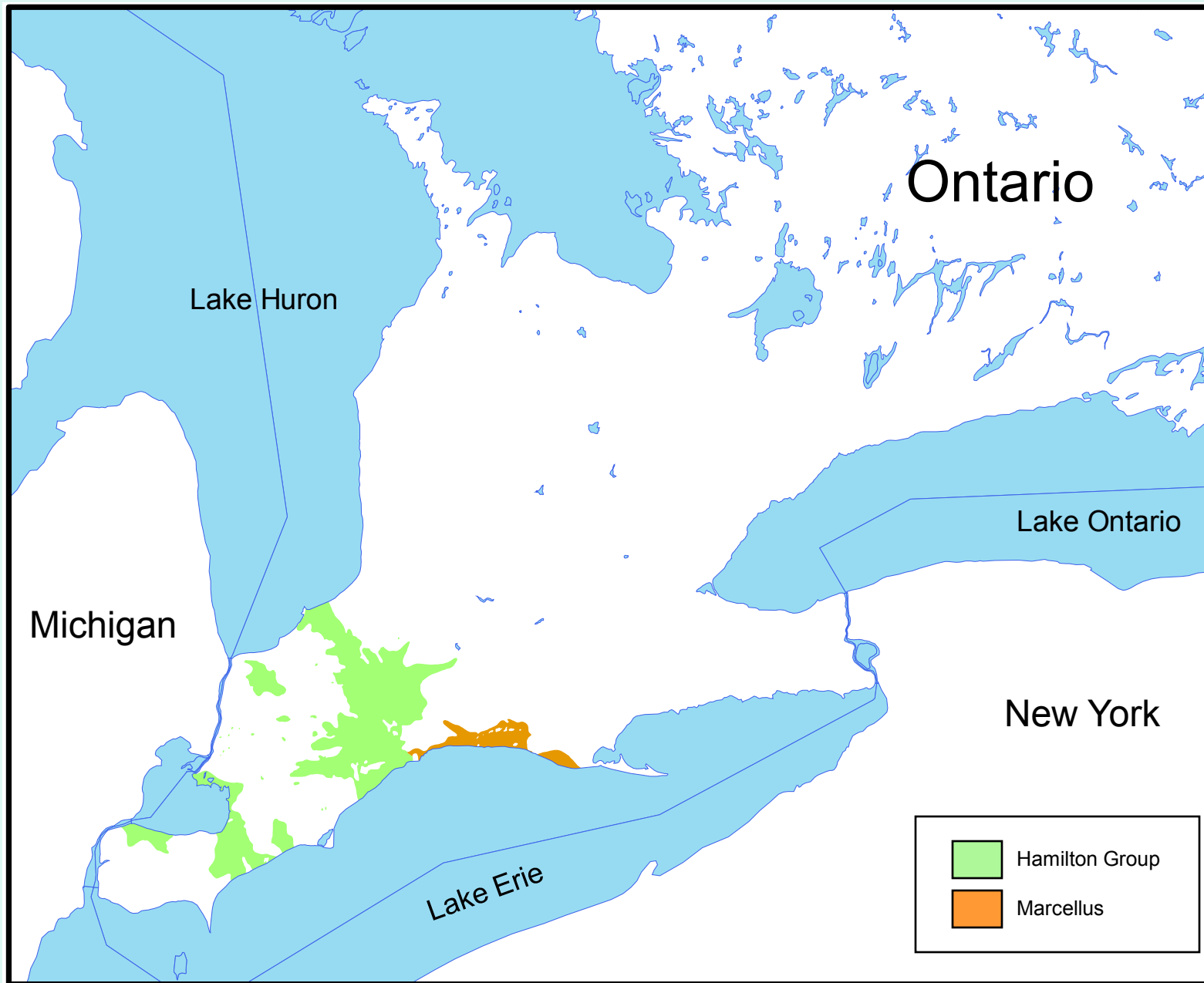
# Maturity Studies

- Obermajer, Fowler & Snowdon, AAPG 1999
- Core, cuttings, outcrop
- Most samples are mature, in oil window
- Increase in maturity to southeast (Repetski et al, 2008)
- Lack of samples in southeast where shales are thickest – gas window?



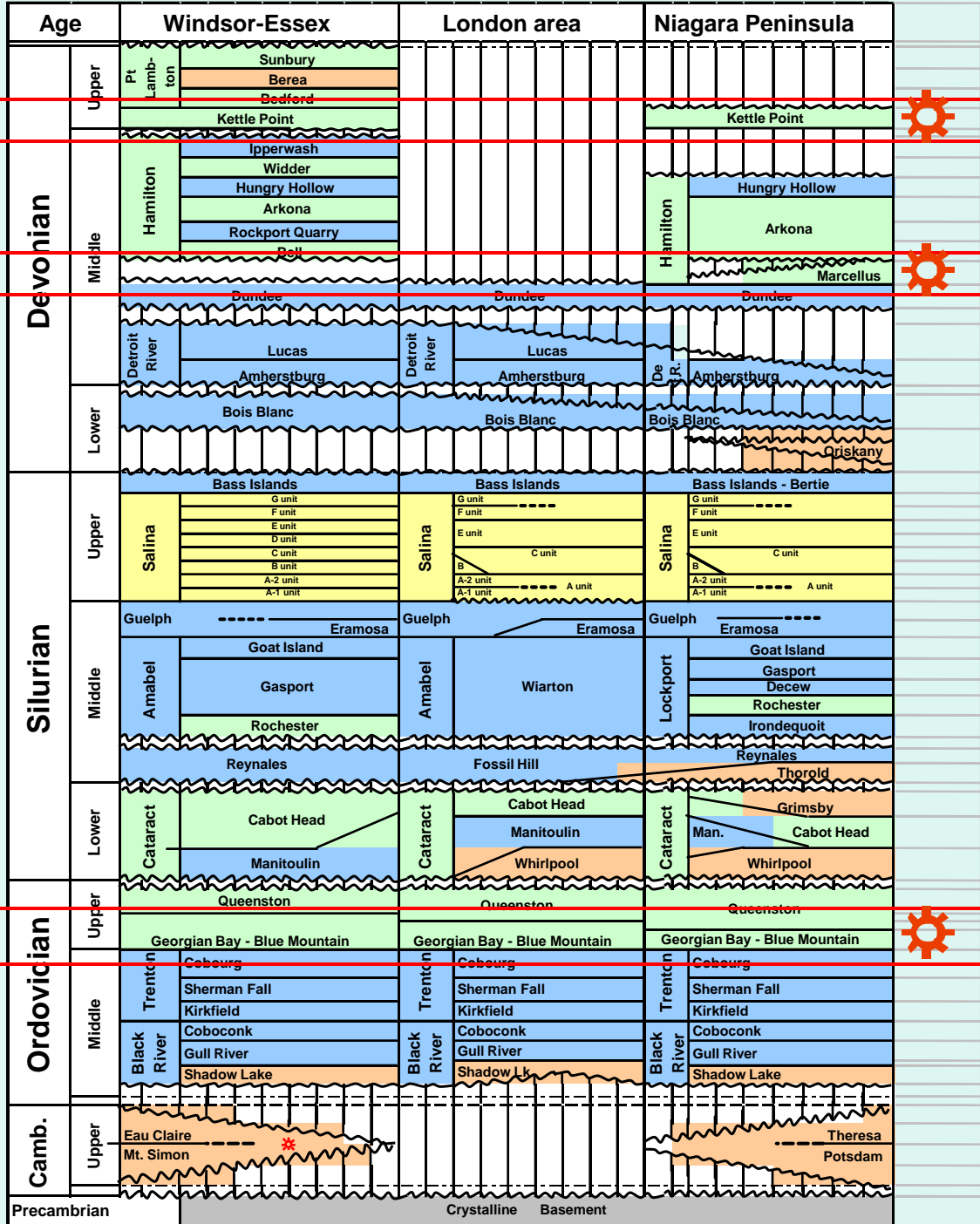
Obermajer, Fowler & Snowdon, 1999

# Marcellus shale





# Subsurface Paleozoic Stratigraphic Chart



Kettle Point

Marcellus

Blue Mountain + Collingwood

- Clastics
- Carbonates
- Evaporites
- Shales



# Marcellus Shale

- No surface outcrop, subcrop beneath glacial drift
- Max 12 m thick beneath Lake Erie
- TOC: 1 to 11%
- Depth to top: subcrop to 225 m
- 4700 km<sup>2</sup>, mostly beneath Lake Erie
- Marginally mature

# Marcellus Formation

No outcrop at  
surface



# Marcellus shale subcrop



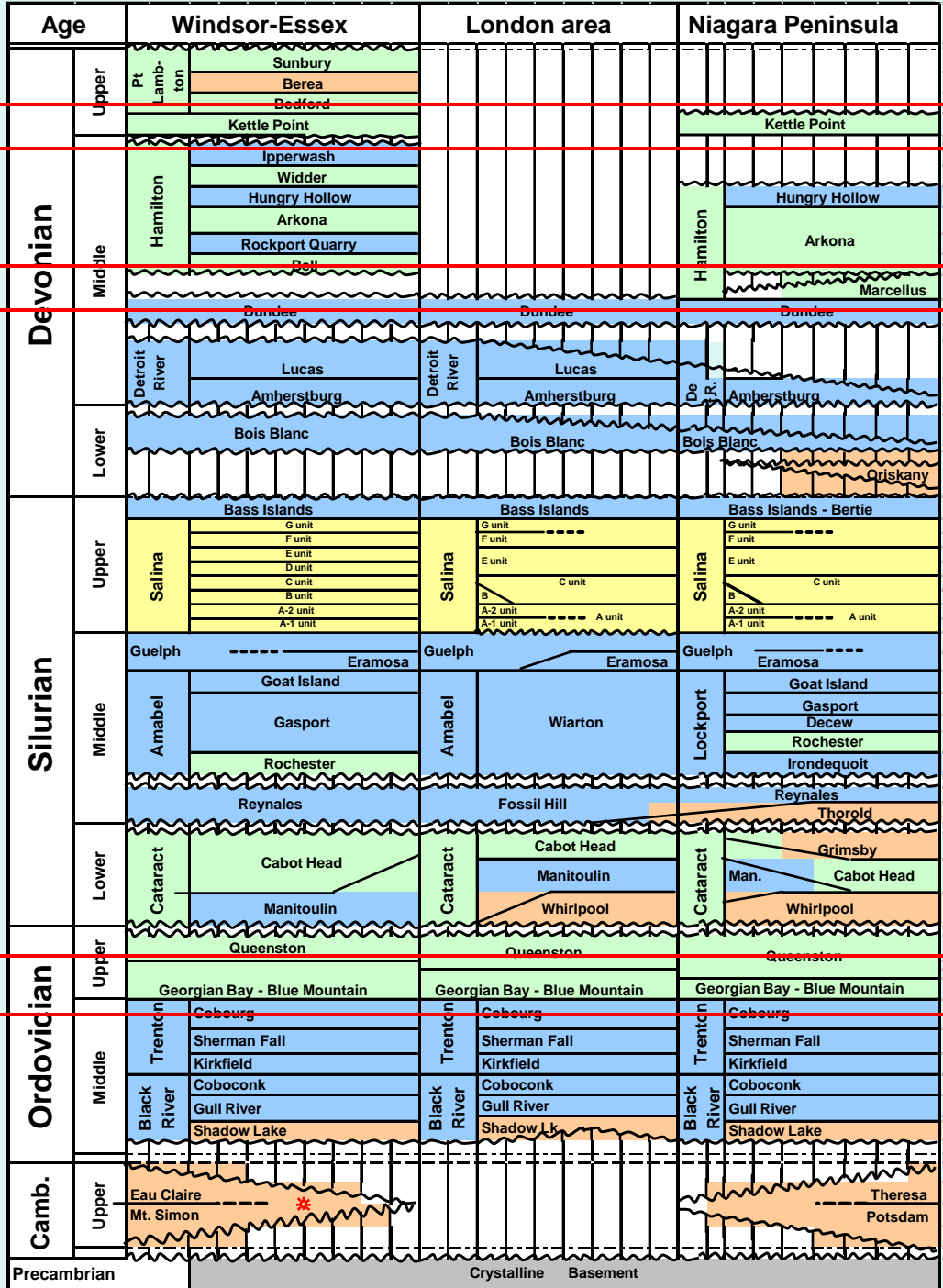
# Gas shows in Marcellus



# Kettle Point Formation - outcrop



# Subsurface Paleozoic Stratigraphic Chart



Kettle Point

Marcellus

Blue Mountain + Collingwood

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# Kettle Point Formation

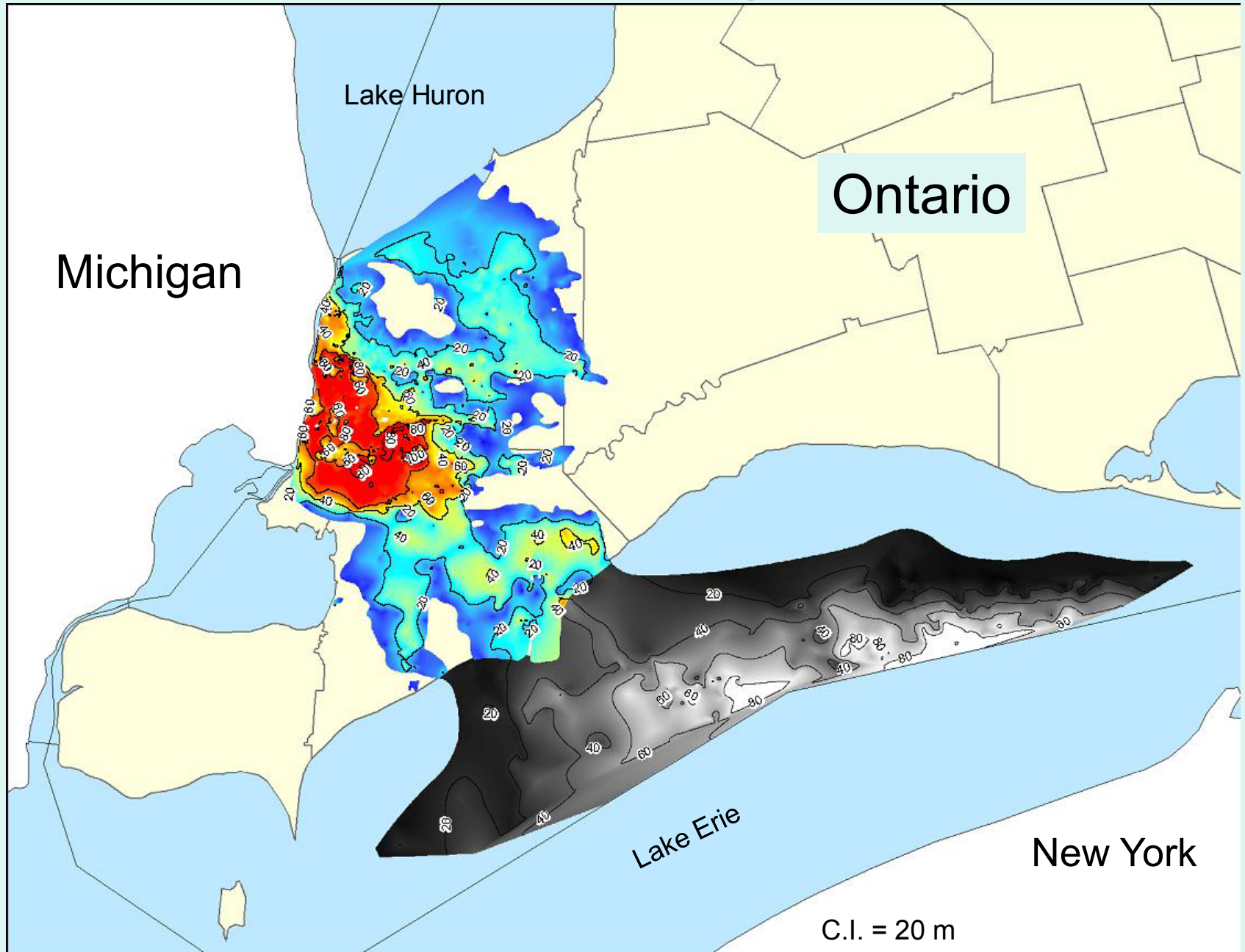
- Subcrop beneath glacial drift – only 3 outcrops
- Max 105 m thick, average 28 m
- TOC: 3 to 15%
- Depth to top: outcrop to 143 m
- 9500 km<sup>2</sup>, 50% beneath Lake Erie
- Thermally immature
- Numerous gas shows in petroleum wells and water wells
- Production in late 1800's near Ridgetown for street lighting
- One exploratory well: OSN Gore of Chatham, Chatham 7-16-IV in 2006 – reported as plugged & abandoned with gas show



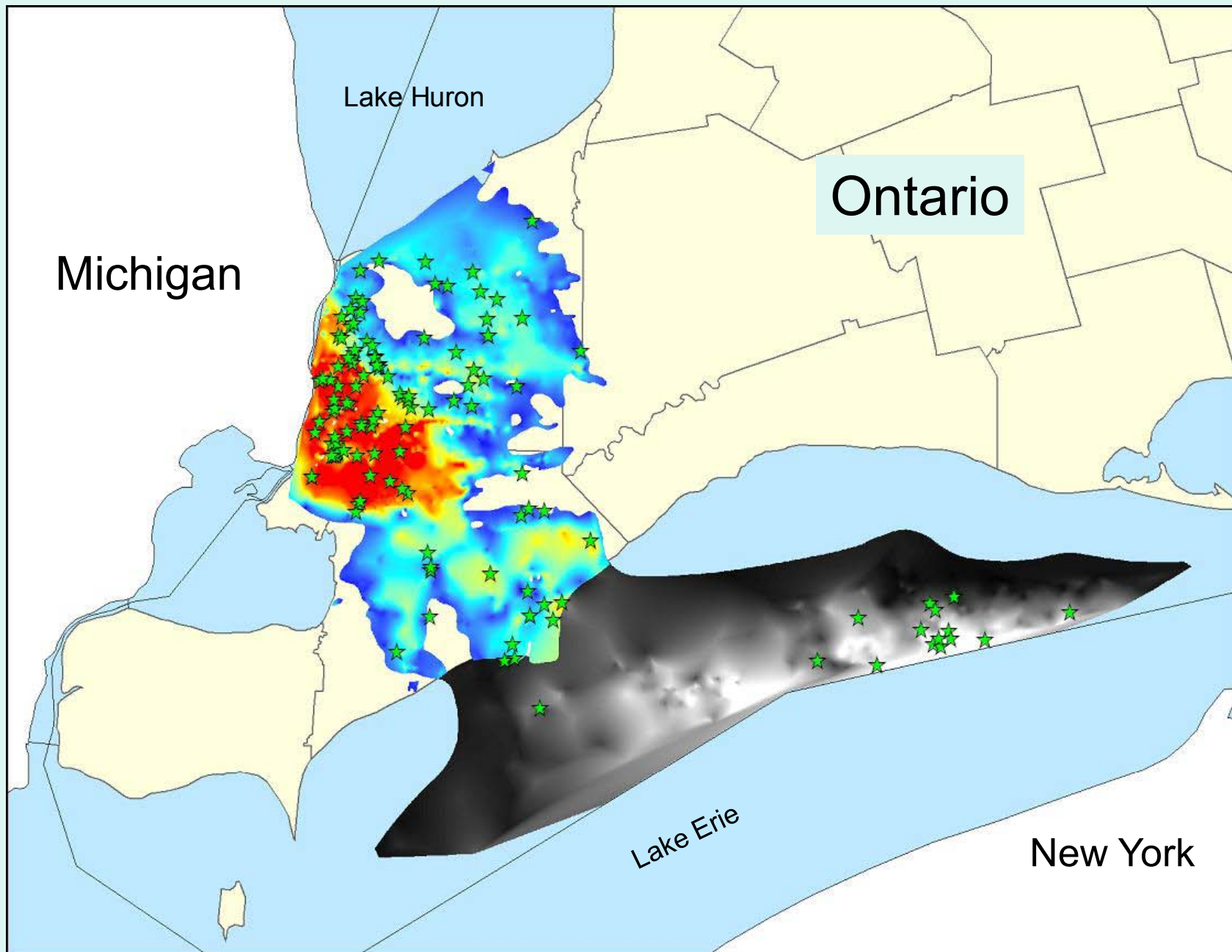
# Kettle Point Formation



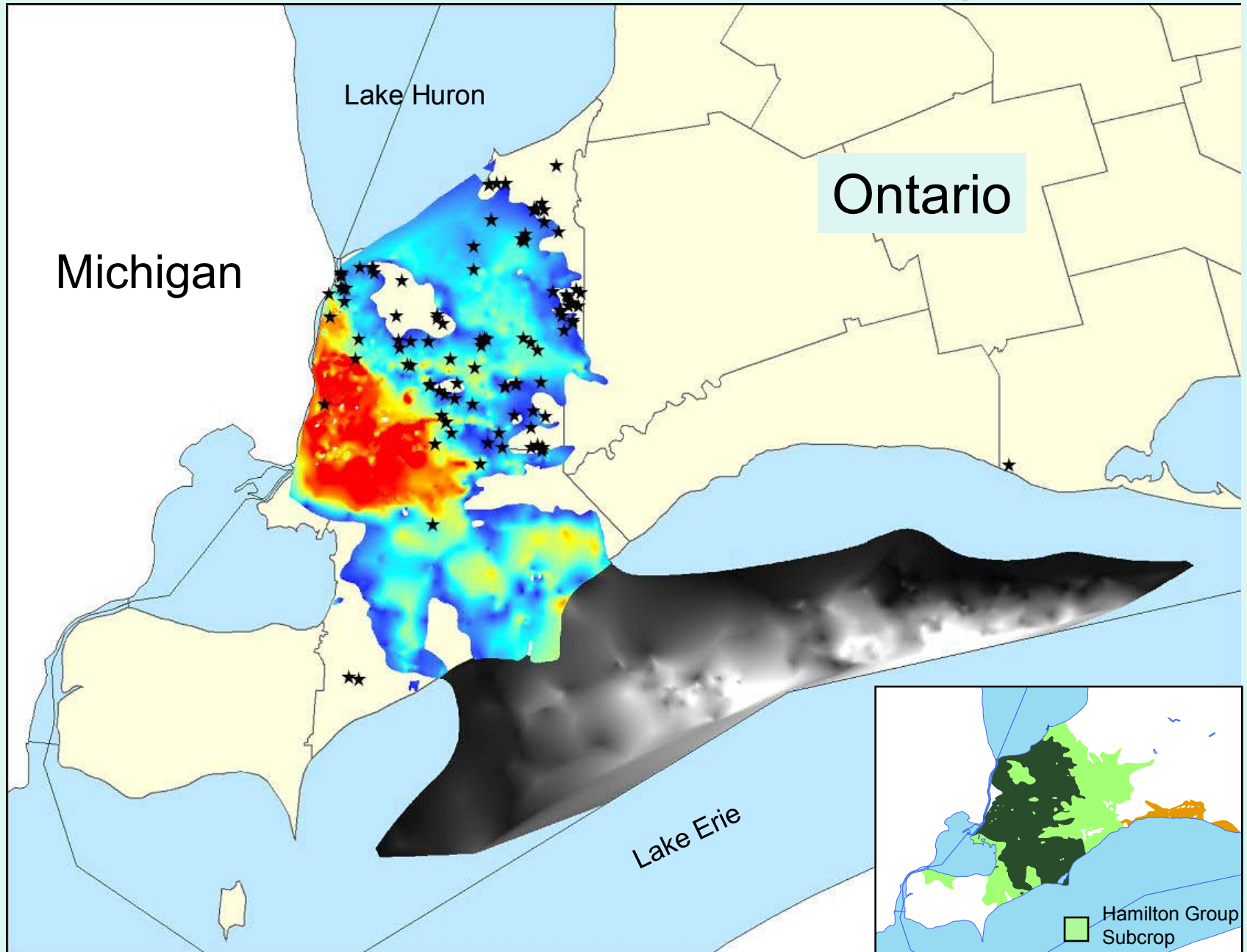
# Kettle Point Isopach



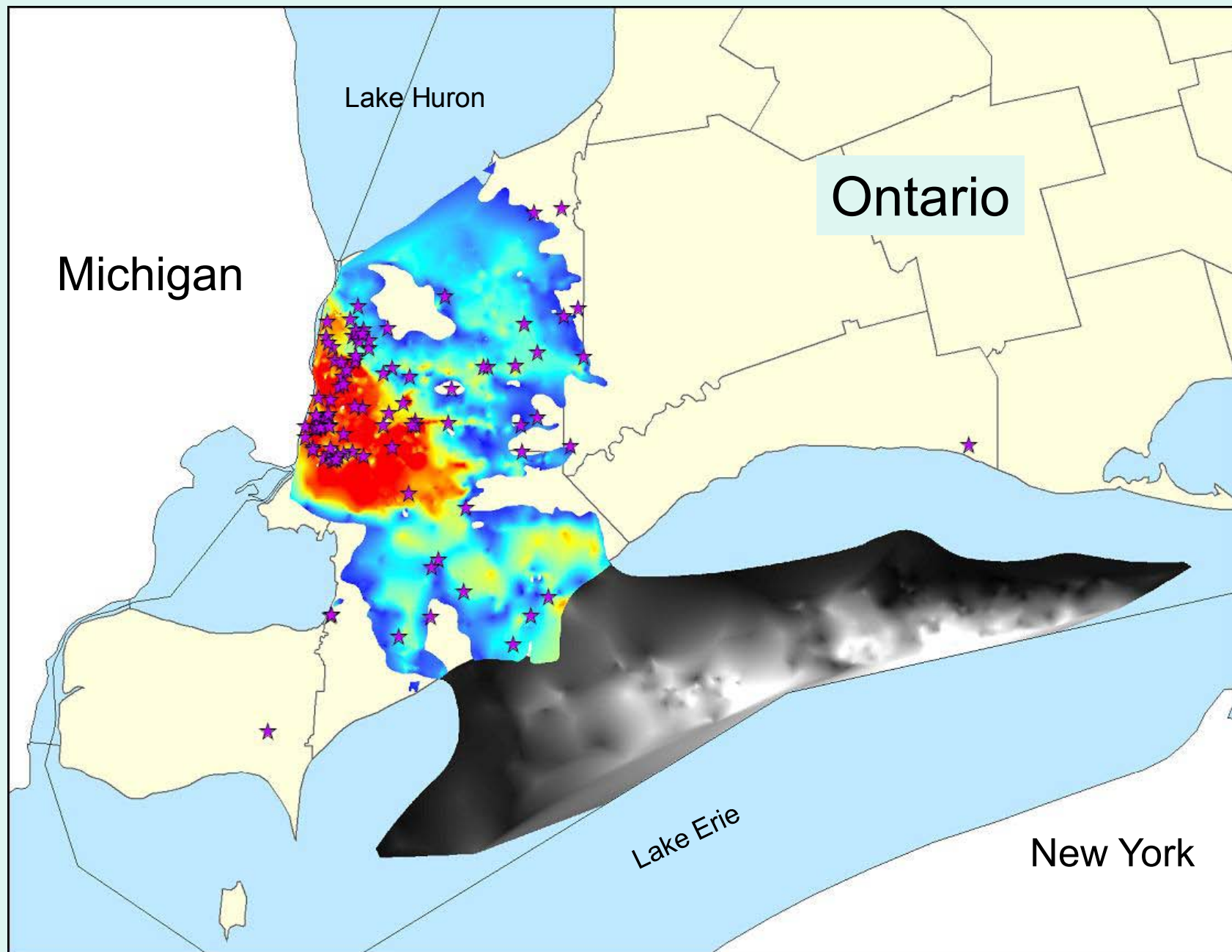
# Gas Shows in Kettle Point



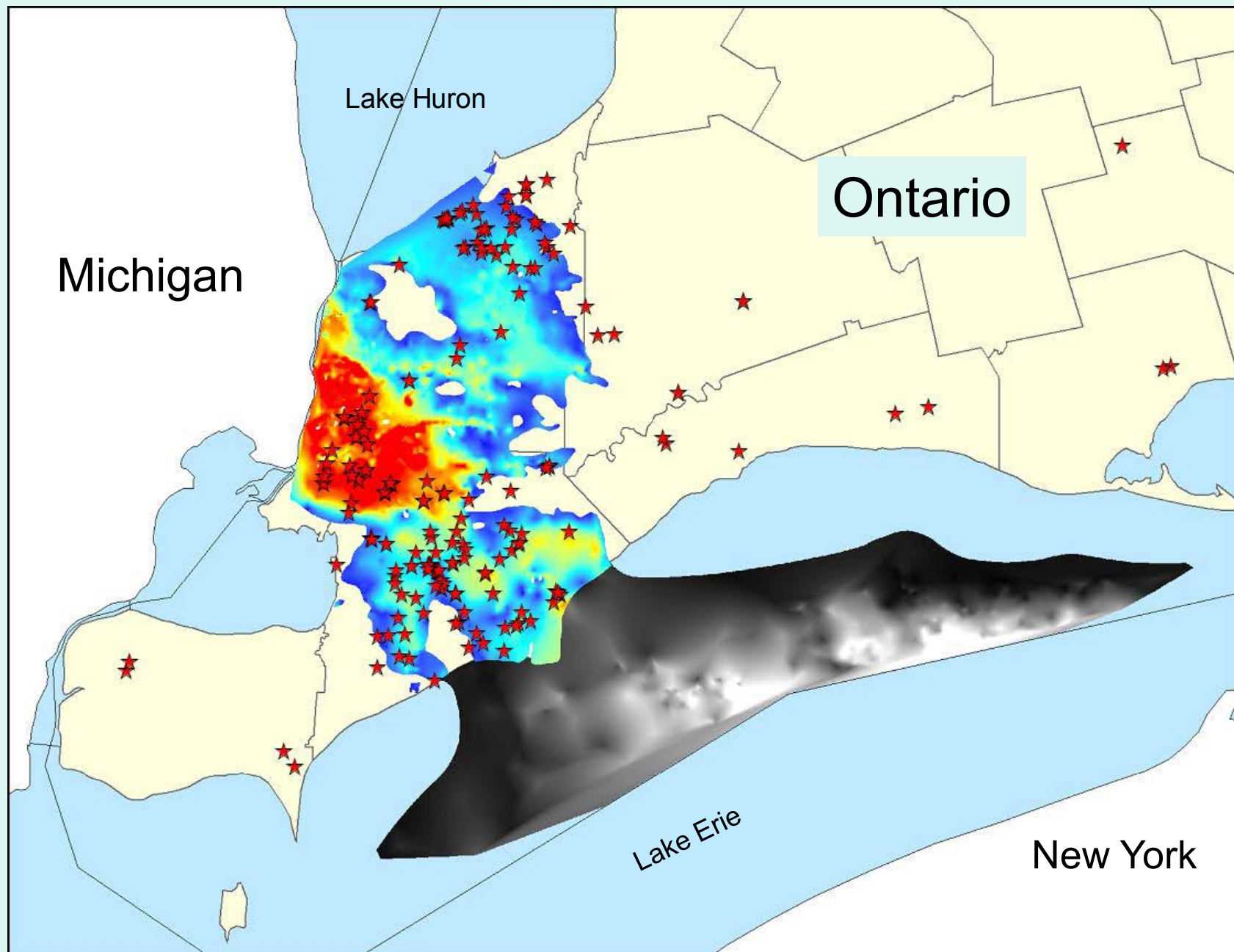
# Gas Shows in Hamilton Group



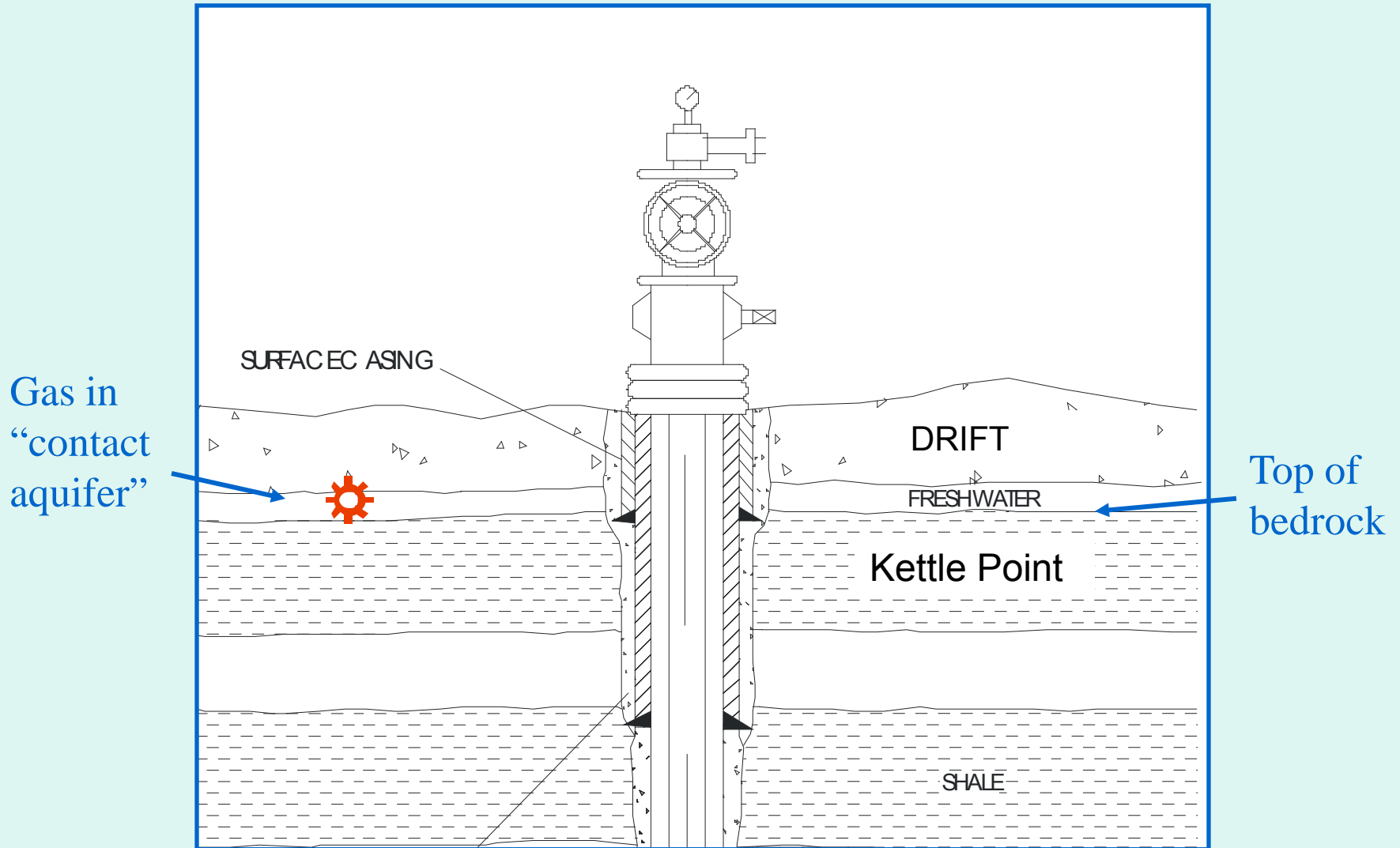
# Gas Shows in Drift



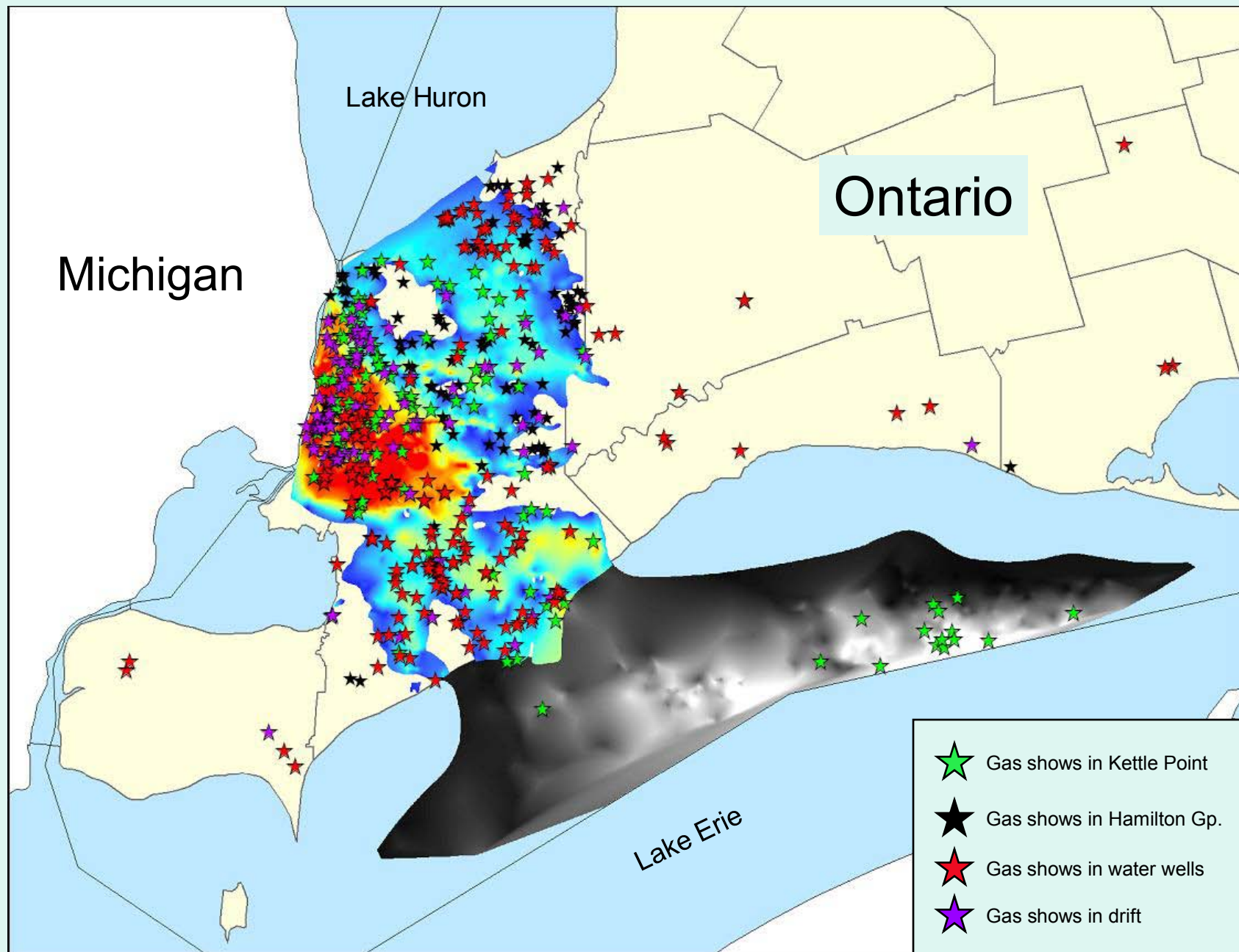
# Gas Shows in Water Wells



# Natural Gas in Groundwater “Contact Aquifer”



# All Gas Shows associated with Kettle Point





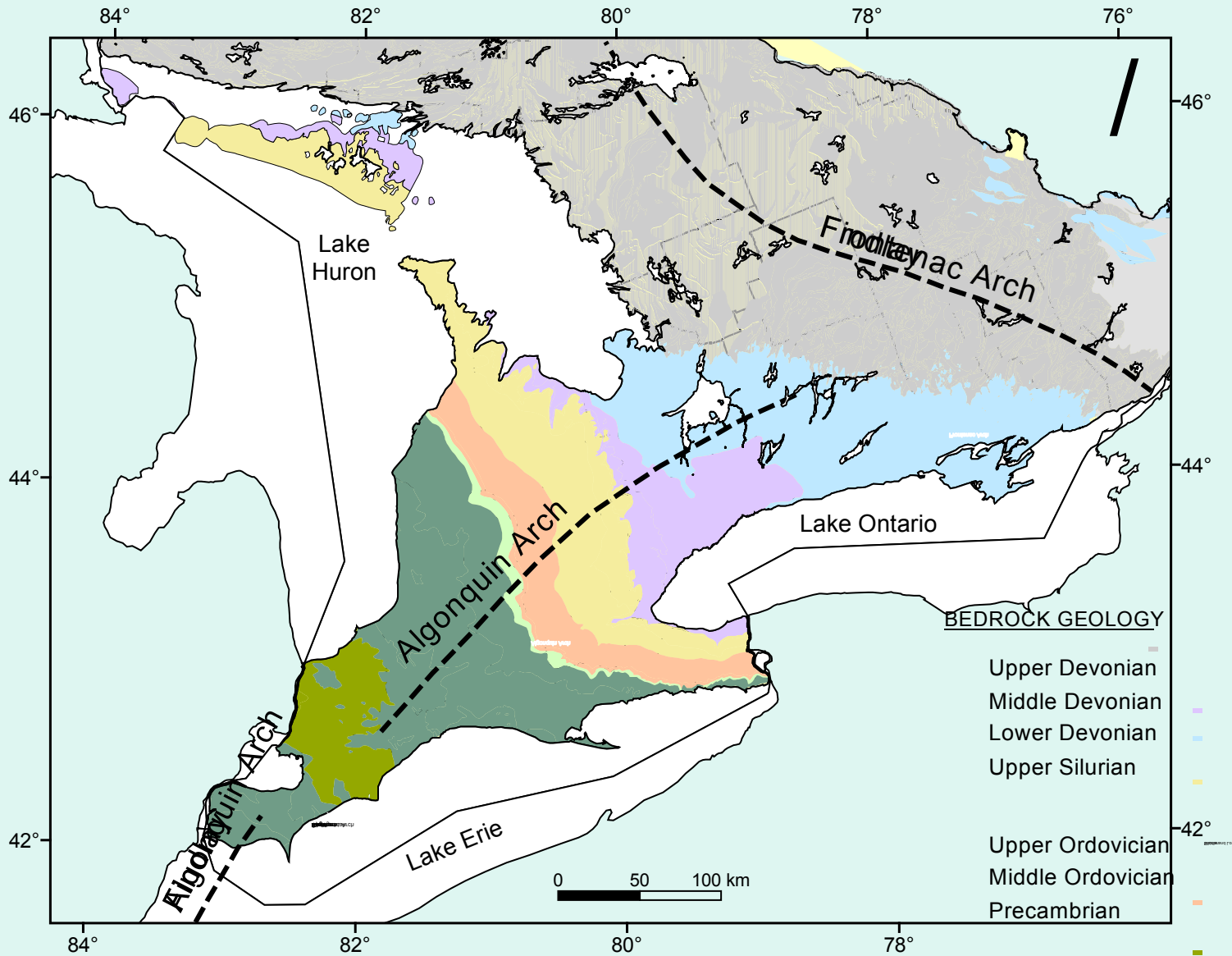
# Biogenic or Thermogenic ?

- No direct evidence for any of the Ontario shales
- Natural gas in drift and bedrock over prospective shales is associated with fresh water and may be biogenic
- Shallow, low temperature
- Antrim shale in Michigan is at least in part biogenic
- Best potential for thermogenic gas may be in the deeper thermally mature Blue Mountain / Collingwood shales

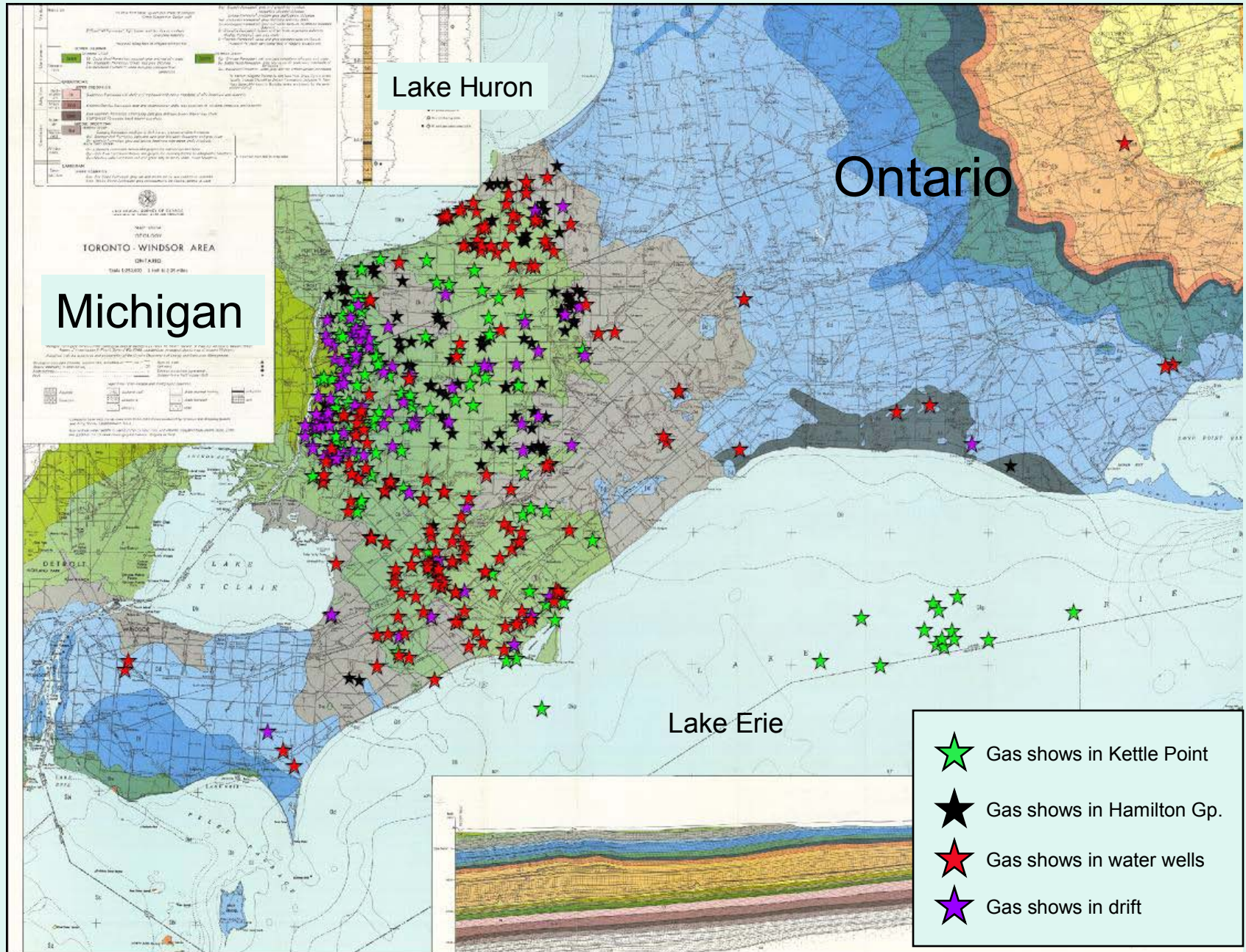
# Summary

- Shale gas potential in Kettle Point, Marcellus, and Blue Mountain / Collingwood formations
- Large prospective areas
- Thermally immature to mature
- Favourable depths and thicknesses
- Natural gas shows reported – large number in Kettle Point formation
- Gas is there - Can it be commercially recovered?
- Research project initiated by Ontario Geological Survey in 2009 – Catherine Béland-Otis

# Ontario Bedrock Geology



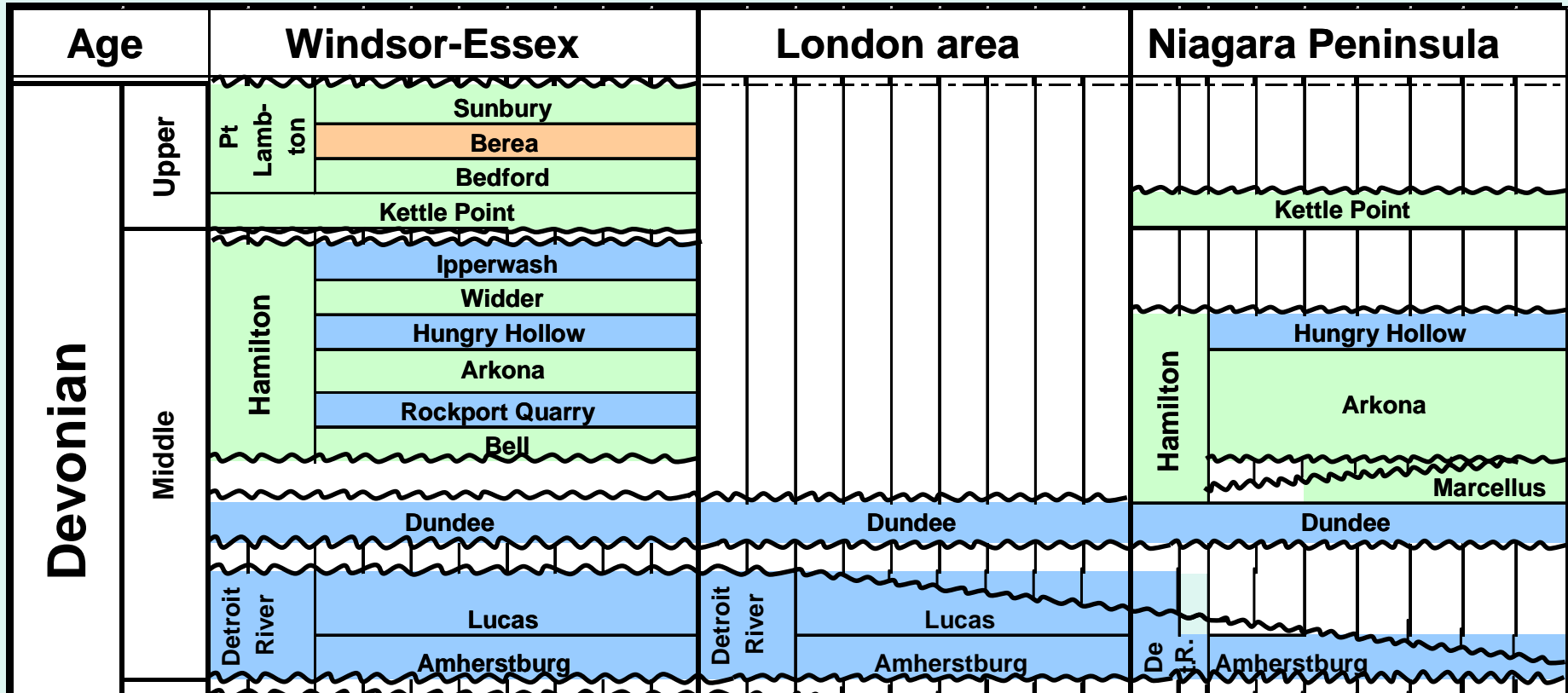
# All Gas shows associated with Kettle Point



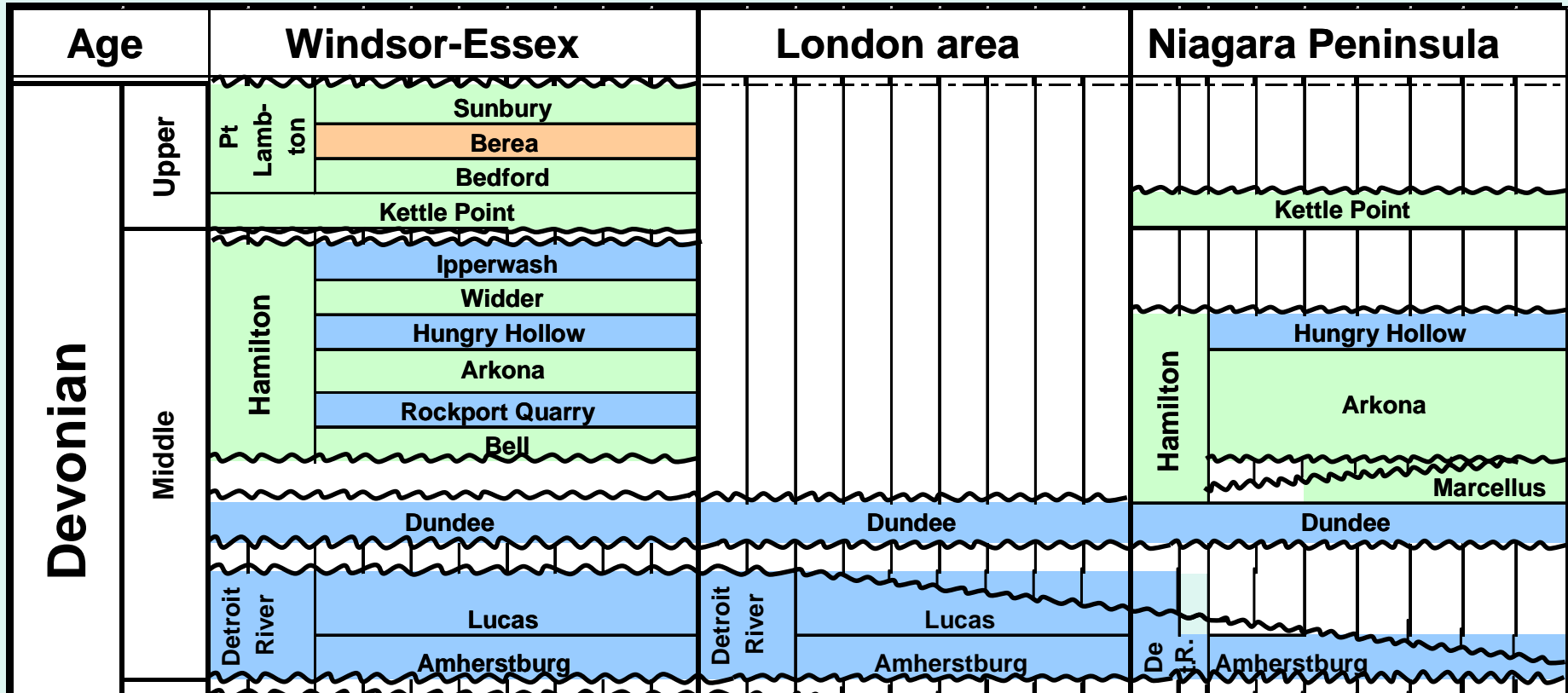
# Blue Mountain / Collingwood Stratigraphy

		Subsurface Terms		Outcrop Terms			
<b>Ordovician</b>	Upper	Queenston		Queenston			
		Georgian Bay - Blue Mountain		Georgian Bay			
				Blue Mountain			
		Trenton	Cobourg	✱	●	Simcoe	Lindsay (+ Collingwood)
			Sherman Fall	✱	●		Verulam
			Kirkfield	✱	●		Bobcaygeon
		Black River	Coboconk	✱	●		Gull River
			Gull River	✱			Shadow Lake
			Shadow Lake				

# Stratigraphy



# Stratigraphy



# Stratigraphic Correlations

