

# **“Planning Locally for the Future of Food & Farming”**

## **Fourth Summit of Sustainable Peterborough’s Future of Food & Farming Working Group**

**March 19, 2018**



**Members of the Future of Food & Farming Working Group:** Dawn Berry-Merriam, Merriam & Associates (co-chair), Pat Learmonth, Farms at Work (co-chair), Linda Slavin, Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee, Brad Appleby, City of Peterborough, Jill Bishop, Nourish Project, Marion Burton, Councillor, Otonabee-South Monaghan Township, Julia Wood, Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development, Brenda Dales, Peterborough Social Planning Council, Carolyn Doris, Peterborough Public Health, Viren D’Souza, PKED Agricultural Advisory Committee, Joëlle Favreau, YWCA, Jordan Landry, Councillor, Cavan Monaghan Township, Cheryl Lyon, Transition Town, Tania Clerac, Fleming College, Bryan Weir, County of Peterborough, **Observer:** Judy Coward, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Document prepared by Dawn Berry Merriam, Merriam & Associates

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**“Planning Locally for the Future of Food & Farming”**

**Fourth Summit of Sustainable Peterborough’s Future of Food  
& Farming Working Group**

**March 19, 2018**

**Peterborough Lion’s Centre**

**Goals of the summit:**

- To provide tools for influencing public policy
- To position food and farming on the public radar
- To challenge/encourage decision makers (municipal and provincial) to support local food and farming?
- To illustrate the economic development components of food and farming

**Facilitator for the Day:** Elmer Buchanan who provided the following acknowledgement:

“We acknowledge that where we meet is the land and territory of the Anishnaabeg people. We say “meegwetch” to our Mississauga neighbours and other Aboriginal peoples for taking care of this land and for sharing this land with those of us who are newcomers. “

**Background:**

For the past five years, the **Food and Farming Working Group** of Sustainable Peterborough has ably researched food and farming trends and needs in the city and county, based on the Sustainable Peterborough Plan. The community goal for food and agriculture for 2036 is “we will feed ourselves sustainable with local, healthy foods”. Three strategies were identified in the Plan:

- Maintain adequate farmland availability to support our sustainable agricultural needs.
- Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food.
- Encourage farmers to practice good environmental stewardship.

The continuing changes to our climate and to the demographics of our farming community and consuming public remind us that we are planning for a different future.

The focus today is on protecting farmland. Today's summit is to provide information that will assist participation in the current Official plan reviews in both our City and County. The intent is to provide the research and data that will help inform decision-making over the next couple of years and hopefully everyone in the room will learn a bit more about those issues and how to participate in the process.

Preserving food-producing lands, planning our communities in a sustainable manner and promoting the importance of local food are imperative to our future as a community, as a province, and as a nation.

The decisions made today by our community in 2018 about our agricultural lands and our food and agricultural systems will impact future generations and their ability to feed our communities.

### **Economic Resilience for Local Food: Peterborough County**

**Steve Duff, Chief Economist, Ontario Ministry of Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)**

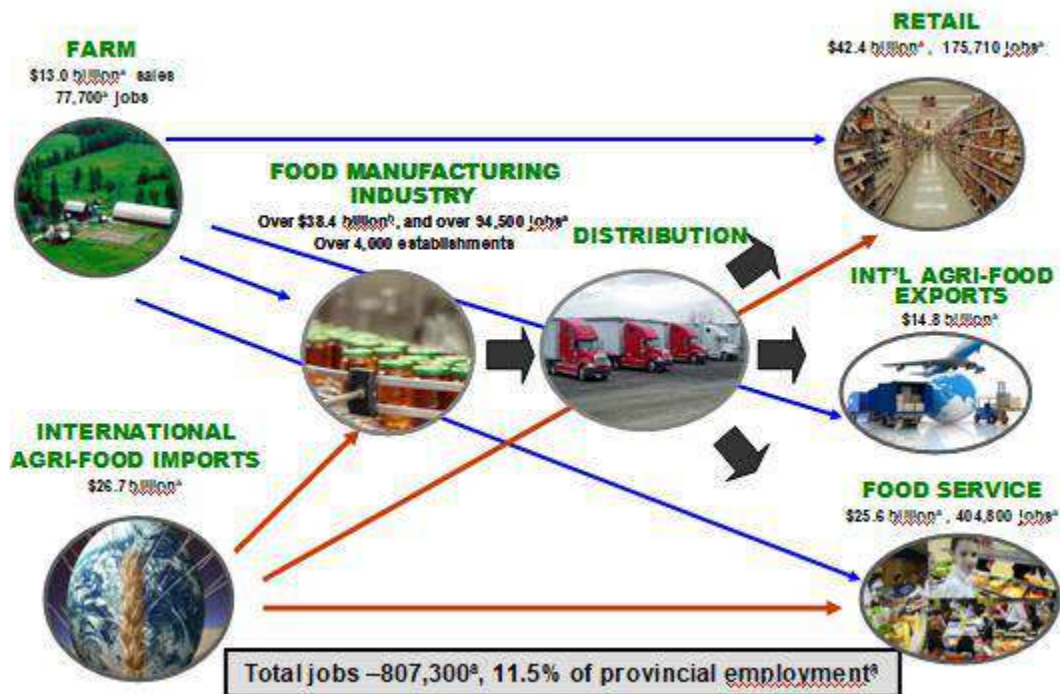
Coming from a dairy and beef background in Northumberland County, Steve completed a Masters in Ag Economics from the University of Guelph in 1996. Steve joined OMAFRA in late 1997 after a year as a policy researcher with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. For close to 15 years, Steve was OMAFRA's lead on business risk management programs such as AgriStability and Crop Insurance. Steve is currently OMAFRA's Chief Economist. Steve is also an adjunct professor at the University of Guelph. Steve and his wife Robyn also operate a beef and cash crop operation near Colborne..

#### **The presentation addressed the following questions:**

- How does a shifting global trade environment affect our local food systems?
- What does the profile of agriculture and the rural population of Peterborough County tell us about opportunities for the local food system?
- How does the local food system create economic value both for its consumers and its producers?

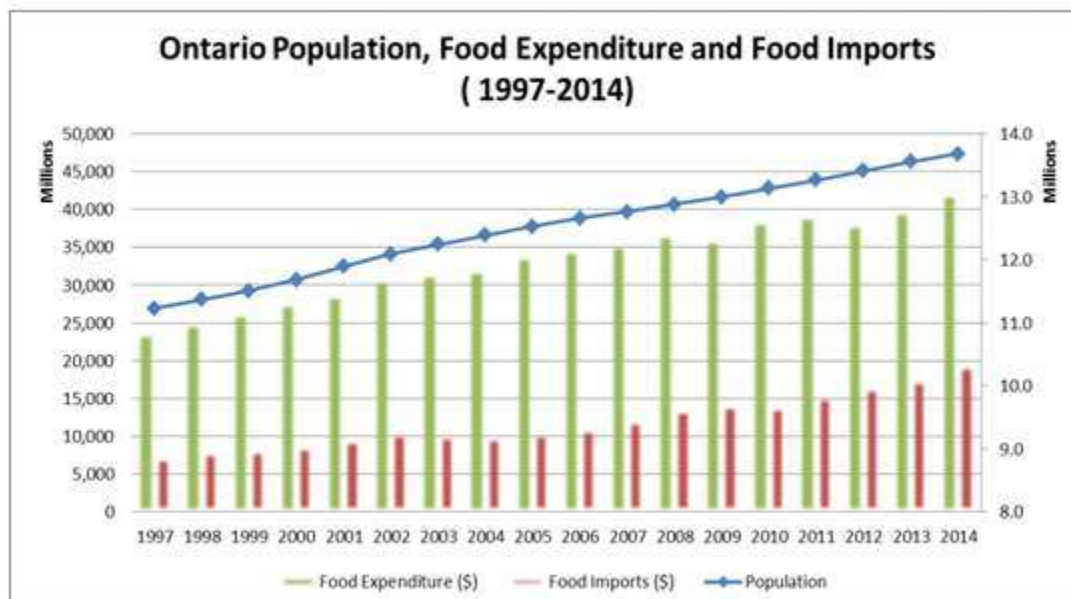
The following is a synopsis of the presentation based on Steve's slides:

## ONTARIO AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AT A GLANCE, 2015



Source: <sup>a</sup>OMAFRA statistics 2016; <sup>a</sup>OMAFRA Statistics 2015

## Ontario Food Consumption



Source: Statistics Canada, [OMAFRA website](#), OMAFRA calculations

## **Integrated North American Food Market**

- Since World War II - steady increase in % of imported foods due to rising incomes, population, changing demographics
- Now about 40 percent
- Top imported foods to including fruits and nuts, beverages and spirits, vegetables, and pasta and other grain preparations.
- Fully integrated North America and world food market
- Global trade has led to specialization which has helped to keep food prices low, but has also increased complexity in the food sector.
- Growing complexity has led to a rise in efforts by companies, and governments to design and implement food traceability initiatives.
- Ontario's vast scale and geographic and climatic diversity, and its immense reserves of fresh water, provide a wealth of natural resources to support food production.
- Combination of our cold climate and a relatively small population means that the potential for domestic growth is somewhat limited
- Companies seeking to expand significantly are putting a large focus on growing their businesses through exports.
- We can create the conditions that support growth while contributing to safe and healthy food, sustaining our environment, and providing greater access to food in Ontario, Canada and around the globe.
- Exports are not the only way to create opportunity.
- Another strategy is to tailor products to specific markets or in some cases market niches.
- Strong opportunity to displace imports in many specific markets but to do so in large volumes requires cost competitiveness.
- It is not always about the lowest cost and largest scale.
- Sometimes it is about innovating to explore specific markets.
- Tailoring to specific strategies is often easier for smaller firms to pursue.
- Food sector in Ontario is in a unique position today.
- Some aspects of food are highly integrated, involving complex relationships and supply chains around the world.
- Other aspects of the sector are intensely rooted in local communities.
- We have the opportunity today to create the conditions that will support growth in both these aspects of Ontario's food sector
- The two together can provide a strong provincial and local economic engine, contribute to safe and healthy food choices and sustain our environment.

## **Agri-Food Trade:**

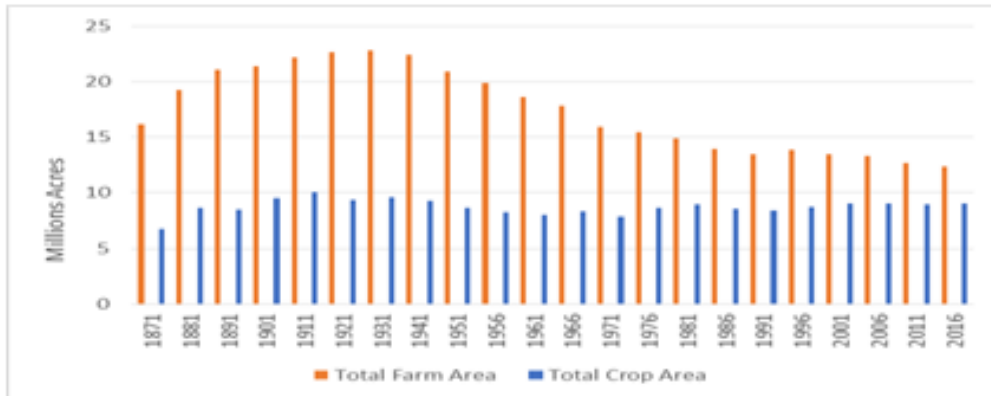
- What is it?
  - commodities trading
  - foods goods, beverages, alcohol

- Equipment, technology
- How does it fit into the current trends?
  - growing & more diverse Canadian population
  - local foods / 100 mile diet
  - healthy living
  - food sovereignty
- The prevailing issues: market integration, mature economies and comparative advantage
- Canada is the sixth largest agri-food exporter after the European Union, the US, Brazil, China and Australia
  - Also world's sixth largest agri- food importer
- Ontario's agri-food export interests tend to be distinct from western commodity focus:
  - 84% of Ontario agri-food exports are intermediate or consumer-ready products – pasta, bakeries/tortilla manufacturing, grain and oilseed milling and meat product manufacturing, and beverages
- About 74% of Ontario exports are destined for the US market – Mexico, EU are other key markets
  - About 53% of Canadian agri-food exports to US
- The vitality of trade activity in the region in perspective: two-way trade crossing the Ambassador Bridge between Michigan and Ontario equals all US exports to Japan
  - one truck crosses the Canada/US border every 2.5 seconds

#### **Ontario Agriculture Profile:**

## Total Farm Area - Ontario

- The **Census of Agriculture** takes place every five years and is conducted by Statistics Canada
  - Only true inventory of farm production assets
  - Only inventory of assets at a sub-provincial level
- Total farm area measures the land used by farmers
  - Includes both owned (workable and non-workable) and rented land (generally just workable)
  - Does not include vacant land could be used for agricultural purposes

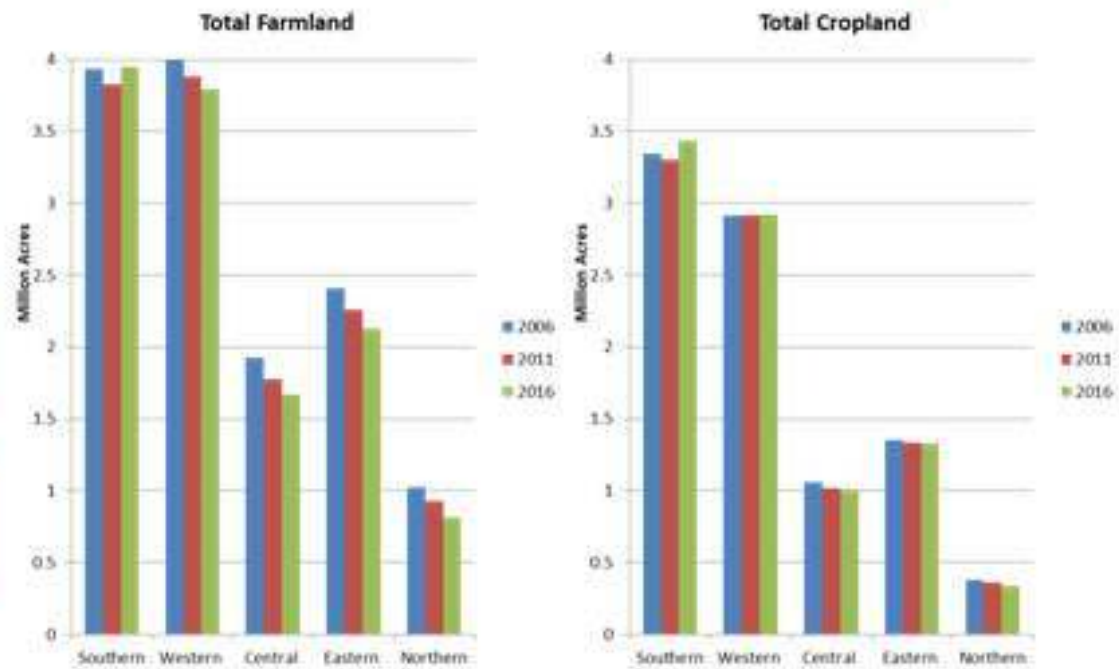


Source : Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

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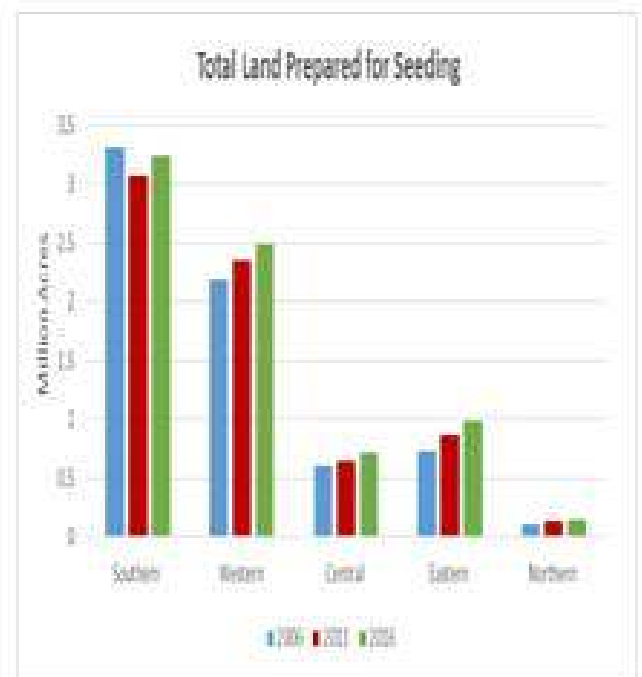
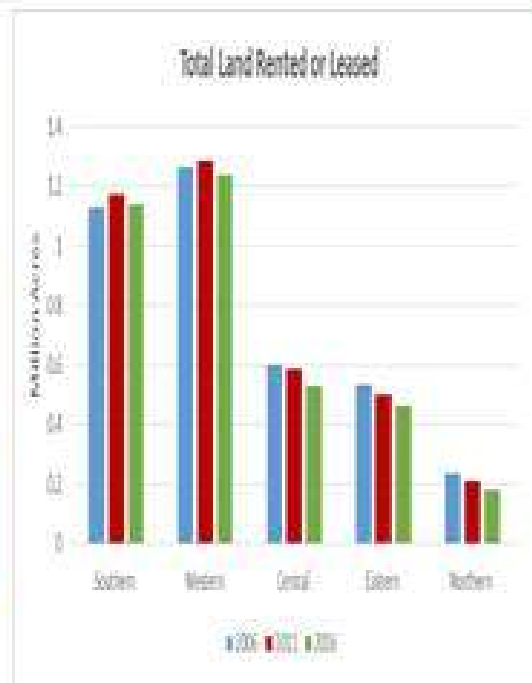
## Total Farm Area and Crop Area - Regions



Source : Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture [CANSIM 004-0002](#) [CANSIM 004-0203](#)

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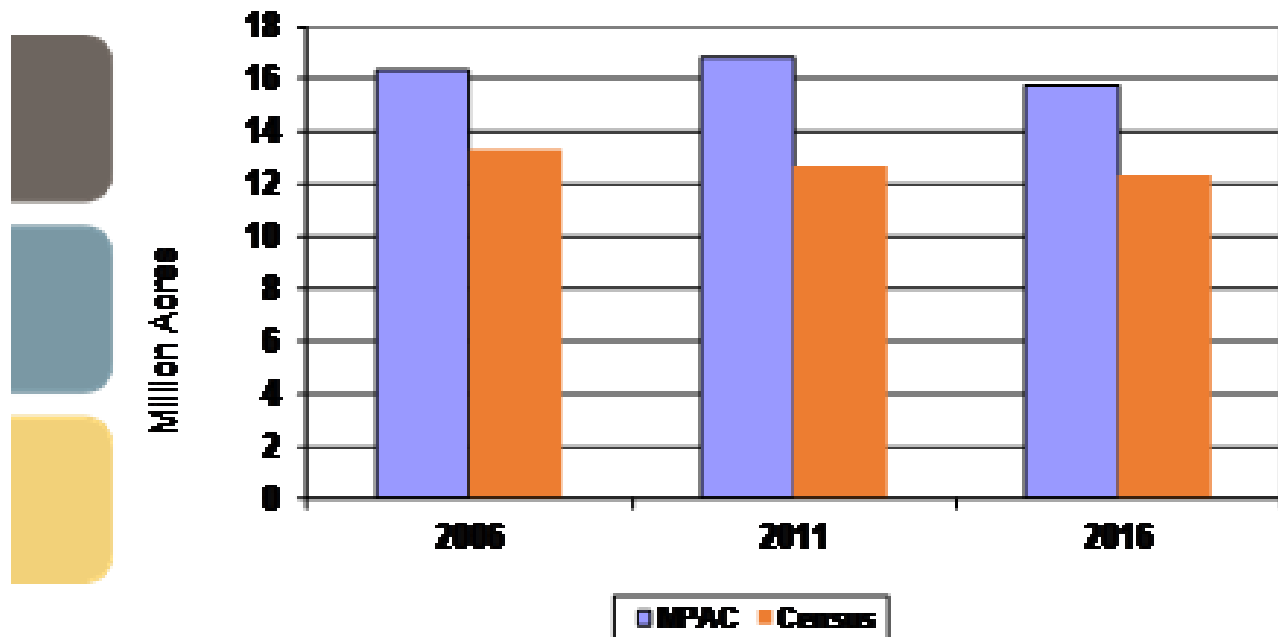
## Tenure and Land Prepared for Seeding - Regions



Source : Statistics Canada, Centre of Agriculture [CANSIM 004-0002](#) [CANSIM 004-0203](#)

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## Land Assessed for Farming (MPAC) vs Total Farm Area (Census) - Ontario



Source: OMAFRA calculations based on MPAC and Statistics Canada data

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### Observations about Ontario Farms & Farmers:

- Average farm family has a before tax income of roughly \$132,000 – (\$25,000 in net farm income and \$107,000 in off farm income)
  - Provincial average household income is about \$98,000
- 51% of Ontario farm operators don't work full-time on the farm
- As farm sales rises – off-farm income decreases in importance
- Even the largest farms in Ontario have significant off-farm income
- Off-farm income isn't just employment, it can be other businesses, rental or investment income
- It generally takes a large scale farm to on its own generate a total family income equivalent to the provincial average family income
  - Sales of at least \$750,000
  - Minimum of about 1,000 acres of cash crops
  - About 100 dairy cows

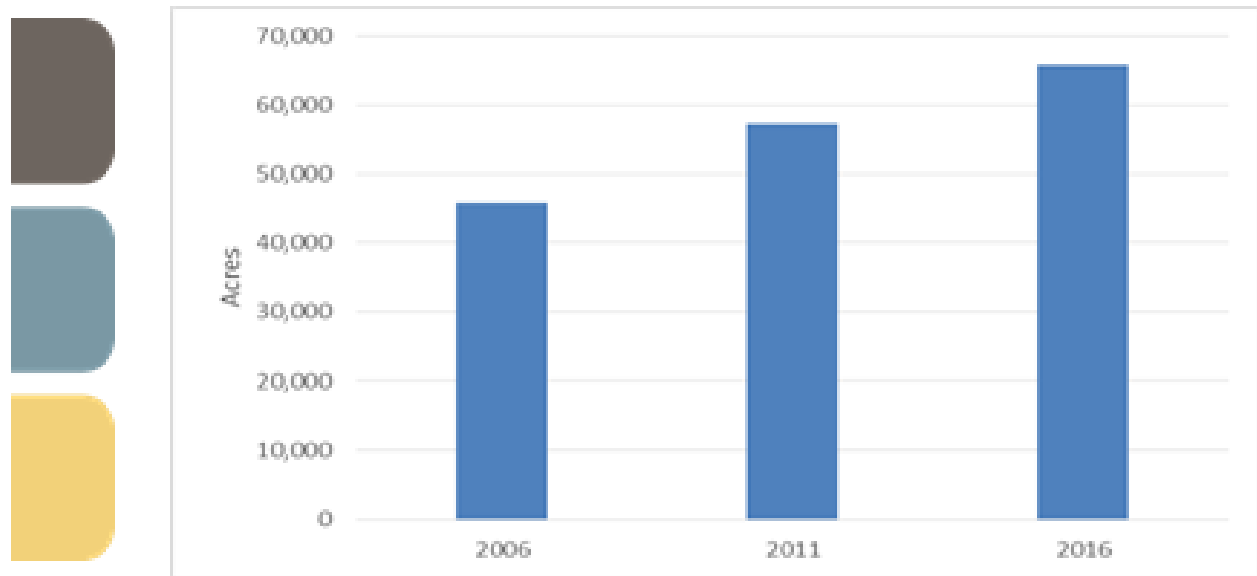
- Minimum 250 beef cows
- Farming today is much more of a complement to other forms of employment and income

## **Peterborough Agricultural Profile:**

### **Observations about Peterborough County Farms & Farmers**

- Compared to the provincial level, Peterborough County has seen a more rapid:
  - Loss of total farm numbers, total farm area and total land in crops
  - Increase in land prepared for seeding
  - Increase in the use of conservation tillage
  - Increase in the number of farm operators under 35 years of age
  - Reduction in the number of farm operators working full-time on the farm
  - Increase in farms less than 10 acres and between 1,100 and 1,600 acres
- Characteristics of farmland in Peterborough County like many parts of central and eastern Ontario has meant that large scale agriculture is not the norm:
  - 27% of farmers work full-time on the farm compared to provincial average of 49%
  - 21% of farmers work full-time off the farm compared to provincial average of 27%
  - Proportionally more farms under 69 acres
  - 72% of farms have under \$50,000 in gross farm sales compared to provincial average of 50%
  - Proportionally more beef and small livestock farms and less fruit and vegetable farms
- Virtually no change in number of farms involved in organic production over last ten years
  - 20 farms are certified organic
- 178 farms sell direct to consumer which is 18% of total farms compared to provincial average of 15%
- 6 farms participate in Community Supported Agriculture type sales

## Land Prepared for Seeding – Peterborough County



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture; CANSIM 004-0205

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### Further Observations about Peterborough County Farms & Farmland

- 41% of total land used by farmers is unimproved land compared to provincial average of 22%
- 59% of total land used by farmers is for crops compared to provincial average of 78%
- In 2016, average value of land and buildings per acre was \$5,071 up 89% from 2006 and compared to provincial average of \$9,580 in 2016
  - Land values on average have risen 30% less than the provincial level
- In 2016 and 2017, University of Guelph Deaton survey suggests median farmland rental rate of about \$50 per acre and sale price of \$4,800 per acre

### Rural Ontario Living Expenditures

- Based on a custom run of the Statistics Canada 2016 Survey of Household Spending, the average Ontario rural household spends \$28,377 per household member per year on living expenses including food, shelter, transportation
  - Almost \$3,000 more than in Toronto or average Ontarian

Category	\$ per Person	% Compared to Toronto
All Expenditures	\$28,377	112%
Food	\$3,889	115%
Accommodation	\$7,006	90%
Heat & Hydro	\$1,907	208%
Transportation	\$5,554	127%
Clothing	\$1,005	68%
Recreation	\$2,652	184%

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### Peterborough County Living Expenditures

- Average Peterborough County household has 2.3 people meaning their total annual living expenditures equal roughly \$65,267
- Average Peterborough County household has an annual income of \$80,787 before taxes – leaving very little for savings, investments, unknown expenses etc
- Some townships in Peterborough county exceed this annual income while others are much lower
- Rural Ontario residents and especially residents in lower income communities are facing living costs across the board that are putting significant stress on personal budgets
- In today's society, consumers have more discretion in controlling food costs than they do transportation, or housing as an example

- This means that many rural Ontario and Peterborough County residents are likely to look at their food purchases, sources and budgets in a much different manner than the average Ontarian.
- Rural residents as well as any lower income consumer are increasingly concerned with stretching their food dollar

## Peterborough County Food Expenditures

Category	\$ per Household	% Compared to Toronto
Total Food expenditure	3,846	116%
Food purchased from stores	3,488	126%
Bakery products	564	118%
Cereal grains and cereal products	347	118%
Fruit, fruit preparations and nuts	935	130%
Vegetables and vegetable preparations	697	105%
Dairy products and eggs	924	133%
Meat	1,518	171%
Meat (except processed meat)	761	127%
Processed meat	577	159%
Fish and seafood	179	82%
Nonalcoholic beverages and other food products	1,476	119%
Food purchased from restaurants	2,477	88%

Sources: OMRF Expenditure based on Statistics Canada chapter 6 (2016 SP 2)

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### Local Food Consumption Example

#### Local Food Demand vs Consumption:

- Like the province itself, no one county or community in Ontario is truly self-sufficient in balancing food demand and production

- In most rural communities while food is a much larger portion of incomes, food is also something with much greater visibility and understanding.
- Inherently food production is intensely rooted in local rural communities.
- The ability of a community, and its food producers to understand the local balance of food demand and production and the income situation of its residents is vital to maintaining an economically resilient local food system

## Local Food Demand vs Production

Pelee Islands Community Glance			Population = 12,670			People per Household = 2.1		
Produce	Annual Consumption per Capita*		Ontario Average Pro/ha/capita*		Crops Grown in 2016 from Ag Centre		Fresh Produce Required for 3 Month Summer	
	Fresh (kg/cap)	Total (kg/cap)	Value (kg/cap)	Fresh (kg/cap)	Total (kg/cap)	Total (kg/cap)	Total Area Required for County (ha)	Fresh - \$/Ft Per Household
Apples	16.16	17.25	16,070	126	221	221	12	22.72
Asparagus	6.24	1.81	2,891	11	66	-	18	7.66
Beetroot/Ginger & Wild	6.91	2.15	2,915	12	106	26	11	7.12
Beets	6.17	1.16	12,710	6	11	6	2	1.71
Broccoli	2.78	1.79	1,511	164	116	2	26	19.21
Cabbage	1.21	1.21	11,126	51	51	1	11	8.11
Corn	7.56	6.56	20,566	16	62	6	12	6.12
Cauliflower	2.17	1.61	7,662	56	56	1	11	16.11
Peppers	1.66	1.66	16,171	52	52	2	11	9.71
Potatoes	22.71	22.67	1,617	156	171	22.7	16	66.66
Pumpkins	1.26	1.26	7,621	54	54	17	11	16.71
Rutabagas	6.51	6.51	5,126	11	11	2	1	2.6
Rutabagas & Turnips	1.67	1.67	16,126	11	11	1	1	2.66
Splach	6.51	1.17	2,167	12	66	1	11	11.6
Squash/Summer	2.17	1.67	1,171	125	106	17	11	20.66
Green Corn	1.67	6.67	1,667	52	266	266	21	17.66
Tomatoes	6.19	16.52	29,617	17	119	26	9	6.51
Total				1,566	2,667	666	266	21,616

1. Statistics Canada, "Food available in Canada", C 66-584 662-6611;

2. Freshness Vegetable Survey, Statistics Canada.



## Economic Resilience of Local Food: Local Food Value Proposition

- How a person/family/community defines what foods are or are not local, depends on the nature and context of that person/family/community.
- No agreed-upon definition of local.
- Local food does however resonate with three major ideas:
  - Close relationship with those who grow food;
  - More likely to be grown and distributed in a sustainable and ecologically-sound way; and
  - Helps support local businesses
- To foster economic resilience, a fourth point needs to be considered which requires there to be a value proposition to the farmer – presumably in the form of larger returns
- Every product needs a value proposition
- Value proposition is how a product is distinguished from all others in its domain so that target customers consciously select it as a superior option.
- Well-defined and effectively articulated value propositions can transform ordinary products into extraordinary experiences.
- A strong value proposition is an attempt to achieve customer loyalty by setting appropriate expectations about a product and ensuring these are consistently confirmed at high levels.
- Setting appropriate expectations is extremely complex
- Peterborough County example: In summer, local stores offer California strawberries, at the same time as local strawberries
- Consumers: taste, freshness, convenience, assurance of safer production methods or price?
- Farmer: increased production, reduced costs, reduced waste, higher price
- Are these value propositions enough for the farmer to ensure a reasonable profit and for the consumer to choose local over California?
- An economically resilient local food system balances these questions.

### Economically Resilient Local Food

- A local food system balances these questions by first recognizing that the answers lie at the individual farm and consumer level.
- Farmers need to:
  - Know their costs in order to appropriately price their products
  - Develop a sound value proposition to articulate to consumers
- Consumers need to:
  - Understand what value propositions matter most to them: price, quality, other attributes
  - Understand what attributes the product offers
  - Recognize seemingly similar products may be different due to value propositions that are not physical in nature – e.g local food

- Balancing these questions enables each party to maximize its own value proposition and adjust their decisions if their value propositions are not adequately met

**Summary:**

- Ontario and Peterborough County are part of an integrated North American food system
- In many respects all food produced in Ontario is local
- Like the province itself, no one county or community is truly self-sufficient in balancing food demand and production
- Local food production in Peterborough County is extremely visible but of smaller scale and size than most other parts of Ontario.
- Food is also a much bigger issue for many residents due to higher overall living costs and lower average incomes.
- The ability of a community, and its food producers to understand the local balance of food demand and production and the income situation of its residents is vital to maintaining an economically resilient local food system.
- The data would suggest Peterborough County has already to some degree embraced this reality but there is considerable room for growth of this trend

## **Future of Food & Farming Working Group: Presentation of local research**

### **Carolyn Doris**



Carolyn Doris, Registered Dietitian, has worked in a variety of nutrition programs at Peterborough Public Health over the last 19 years. Currently she works in the areas of food insecurity, health equity, food systems and food literacy. Outside of work, Carolyn “lives” food literacy and food systems thinking with her family as a mom of 4 busy tweens/teens on their beef, sweet corn and garlic farm that has been in the Doris family for almost 100 years.

**Peterborough Food Charter: for all residents of Curve Lake & Hiawatha First Nations and the County & City of Peterborough.**

**“Our local food system: healthy, sustainable and just food for all”**

### **What is a Food Charter?**

- Local food charter development began after Board of Health suggestion in September 2015
- Examples of Food Charters supporting community action



A Food Charter is “a value, vision, or principle statement and/or a series of goals developed by a city, town or region that has a broad base of support and describes what a community wants their food system to look like”. Charters help to facilitate collaboration across groups/priorities and help guide food policy discussion/development. This food charter, requested and endorsed by the Peterborough Public Health Board of Health, has been an opportunity to integrate food insecurity, community food security, local agriculture, food production, sustainability together to support through food system discussions and work.

There are many examples across Canada/US of successful food charters and strategies that move vision to action (i.e., City of Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Northumberland County, City of Kawartha Lakes, City of Hamilton).

## Peterborough Food Charter

- Recognizes assets of our community
  - Working together
  - Years of local research and projects
- Acknowledges food insecurity and need to implement change
- Collaboration key
- Based on local food system



‘Our Local Food System’ has been discussed at past Sustainable Peterborough Future of Food and Farming Summits. The diagram used in the food charter recognizes key areas/inter-connectedness of the food system, where its happening and potential for further impact. There are opportunities for coordinated community action leading to policy development. Food Charter development has provided an opportunity to review assets, past work, future goals and synergy; has the potential to increase communication and ways to work together to positively impact our food system and vision for future collaborative community work and focus. Importantly for public health, the food charter also notes growing evidence about household food insecurity in our community despite programs, services, actions, and advocacy for policy change. This is an important aspect considering the impact of access/availability of food to overall health.

The Food Charter also recognizes the work has taken place locally over 25 years; we can look back at past accomplishments and look forward to actions/policy that can support increased

access to local, healthy and sustainable food for all residents of Curve Lake & Hiawatha First Nations and the County & City of Peterborough.

## Peterborough Food Charter

### For All Residents of Curve Lake, Hiawatha First Nations and the County & City of Peterborough

#### Visionary Statements:

- Local Food System
- Health
- Social Justice
- Culture & Community
- Education
- Economic Sustainability
- The Environment



[www.foodinpeterborough.ca/food-charter](http://www.foodinpeterborough.ca/food-charter)



Pillars of Food Charter Overview (visit [www.foodinpeterborough.ca/food-charter](http://www.foodinpeterborough.ca/food-charter))

- **Local Food System** – policies, programs/infrastructure to ensure locally grown food is grown & available where people live, learn, work and play
- **Health** – ensure all residents at all time have physical and economic access to nutritious, safe, personally and culturally appropriate foods, communities/neighbourhoods that make healthy food accessible to all, nutrition education & healthy food choices where our residents live, learn, work & play

- **Social Justice** – dignified access, adequate incomes for all farmers and those who work to feed others, education, employment, housing, transportation policies & practices and support access to healthy, sustainable food
- **Culture & Community** – along with cultural aspects of food and farm to table, supporting opportunities for all community members to grow, prepare and eat together
- **Education** – promotion connections between health, environmental & food choices; initiatives and programs that develop food literacy for everyone
- **Economic Sustainability** – increasing demand for local healthy food; increased production, storage, processing, distribution, consumption and marketing of local healthy food; research, protection of land and development of local food related programs and businesses
- **Environment** – promoting environmental stewardship, practices that improve soil, water and air quality for sustainable food production and our community

## Pat Learmonth

Pat Learmonth is Director of Farms at Work, a local non-profit organization. She was the Environmental Farm Plan rep for Peterborough County for 6 years, and is past Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development.

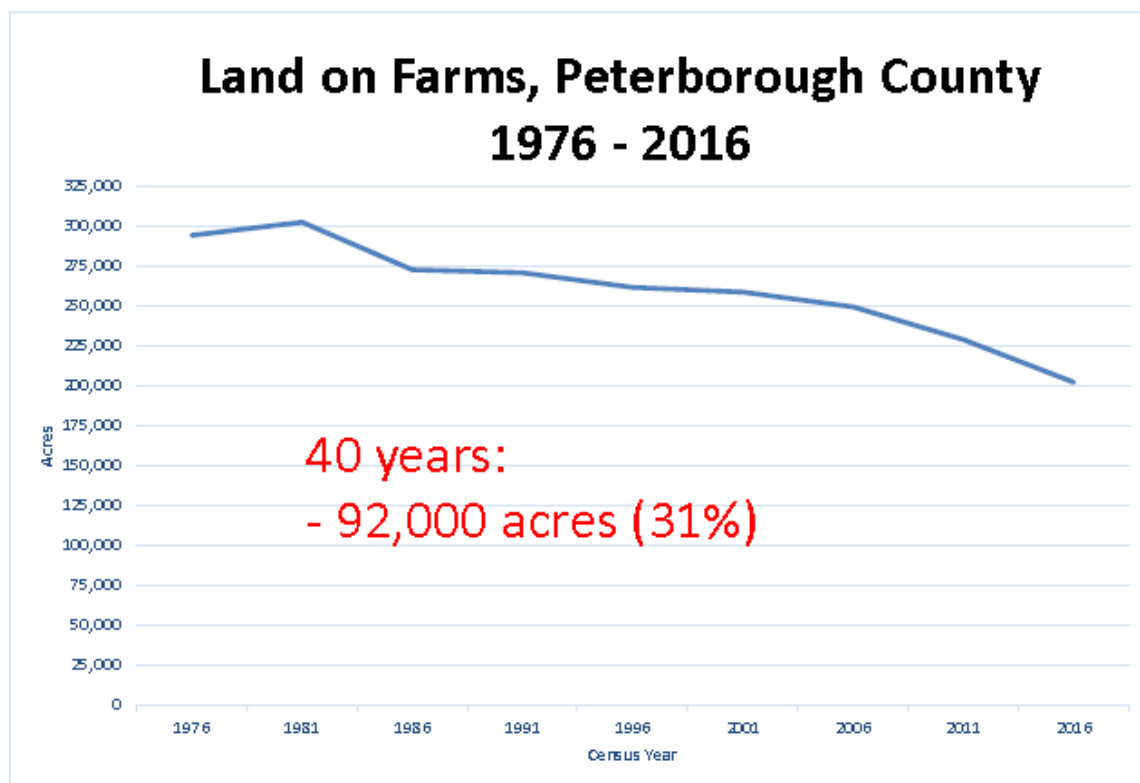
### Farmland, Farmers and Food Production in Peterborough County

This report was produced by the Sustainable Peterborough Working Group on the Future of Food and Farming in 2014 and has since been updated to include 2016 Census of Agriculture data.

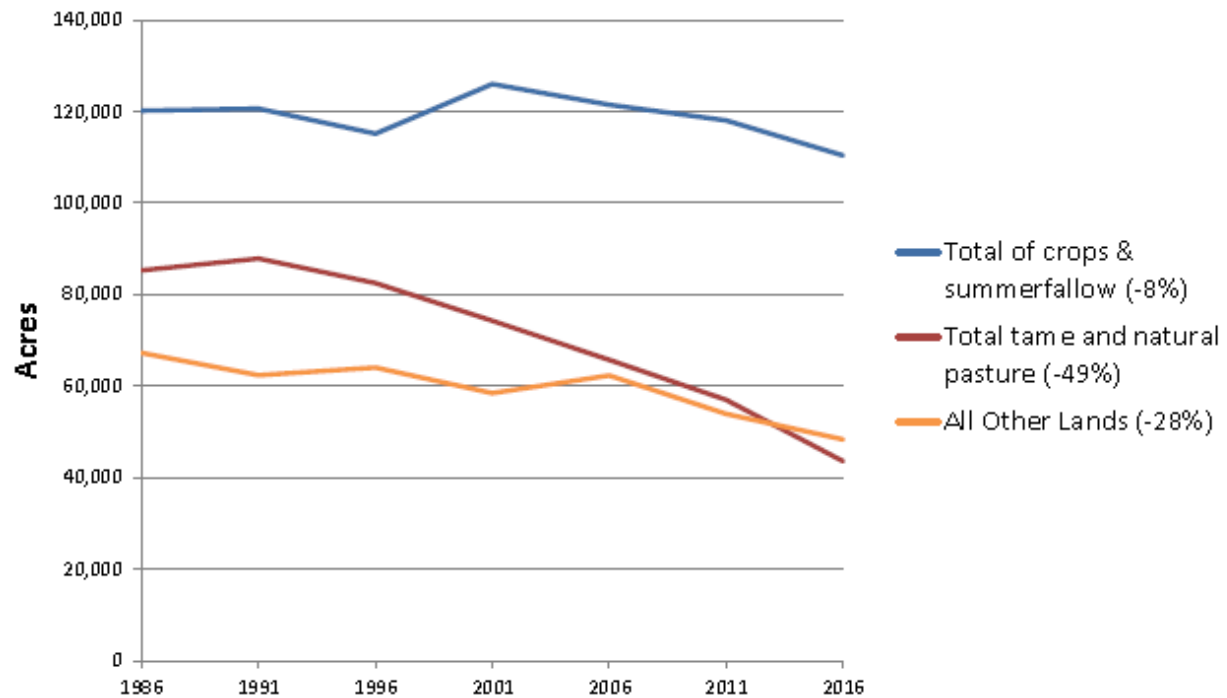
To read the full report go to:

“Farmland, Farmers and Food Production in Peterborough County”

<https://sustainablepeterborough.ca/about-us/working-groups/future-of-food-and-farming-working-group/>

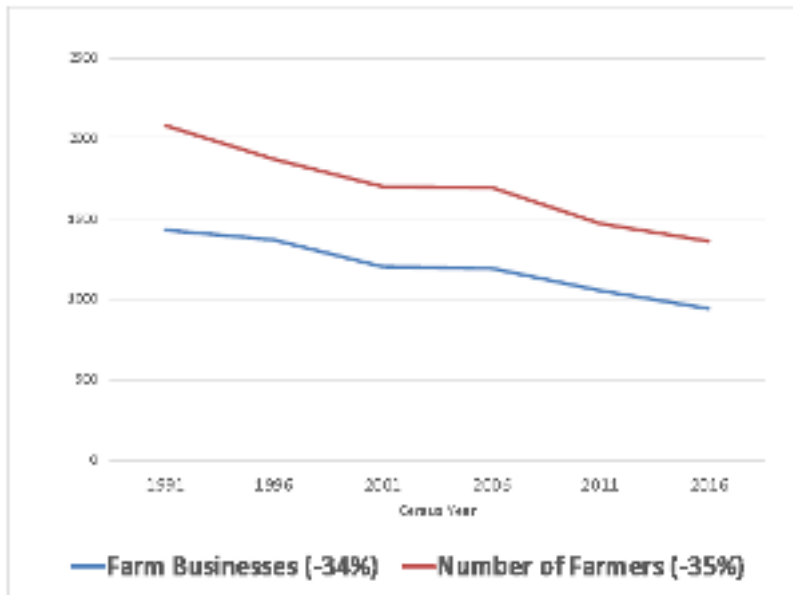


## Use of Farmland Peterborough County 1986-2016

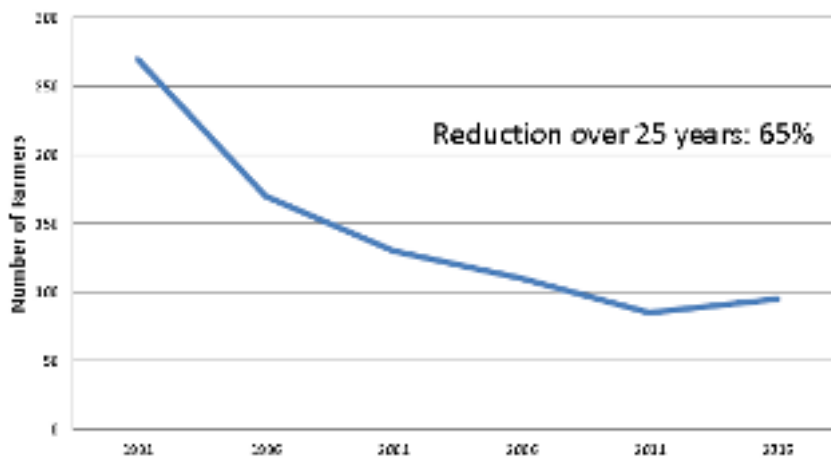




## 25 years: Farm businesses and Farmers in Peterborough County



### Peterborough County Farmers Under 35 Years: 1991-2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

## Projected # of farmers, Peterborough County, 2016-2036

	2016	2026?	2036?	20 Year Percentage Change
Under 35	95	95	95	Kept constant
35-54	440	418	383	-13 %
Over 55	825	633	525	-36 %
<b>Total</b>	1360	1146	1003	<b>-26 %</b>

### Assumptions

1. Number of young farmers under 35 is constant
2. 25% of retiring farmers have successors age 35-54 who have previously been employees
3. Everyone gets older one year every year

### Predicted climate future

- Warming and adequate rainfall lead to increased yields to 2030
- Then drought and increased temps lead to decreasing yields
- Now moving from zone 5 to 6 – with one zone change expected every 10 years
- Increased atmospheric carbon dioxide leads to decreased nutritive value of foods

Peterborough Climate Change Action Plan

## Percentage of farmed land protected in Official Plans

Township	# of Farms Reporting in Census, 2011	# of Acres Farmed, 2011 Census	# Acres Designated as Agriculture in the OP, 2014	% Protected
Ceran-Monaghan	186	36,311	36,311	100%
Otonabee-South Monaghan	223	51,007	43,000	84%
Asphodel-Norwood	136	28,903	17,500	61%
Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield (now Selwyn)	180	36,945	12,500	34%
Howe-Island-Belmont-Medhue	58	13,435	1,500	11%
Douro-Dummer	206	45,074	0	0%
Galway-Oxendish and Harvey (now Trent Lakes)	56	17,351	0	0%
COUNTY TOTAL:	867	226,986	110,811	48%

## Farmland Shortage/Excess for Fruits & Vegetables and Cereals for Peterborough City/County population

	Planted in 2011	For 2011 population	For 2036 population
Fruit & Vegetables	500 ac	2700 ac short	3600 ac short
Cereals	15,000 ac	3500 ac excess	1500 ac excess

## Shortfall in Dairy and Meat Production for Peterborough City/County Population

Food Group in Canada's Food Guide	2011 Shortfall in Servings	Equivalent in Tonnes	2036 Shortfall in Servings	Equivalent in Tonnes
Dairy products	48,002,001	12,006	95,123,655	23,781*
Meat, eggs and dry beans	40,808	4	33,688,880	3470**

\* The equivalent of approximately 2500 cows

\*\* Table-ready

**Jill Bishop**

Jill is the Community Food Cultivator for Nourish, a collaborative partnership between GreenUP, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, and Peterborough Public Health

She is also the owner of Urban Tomato, an urban farm that produces and sells seed, and the Manager of the Wednesday Downtown Farmers Market.

**“Cultivating a Fertile Environment for Urban Agriculture in the Greater Peterborough Area”**

Urban Ag Task Force of the Future of Food & Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough developed this report in 2017. Urban Agriculture is a dynamic concept that includes a multitude of activities, all of which connect growing, processing, and distribution of local food and food- related products in and around cities. As Urban Agriculture takes different forms in different cities, it is best defined locally.



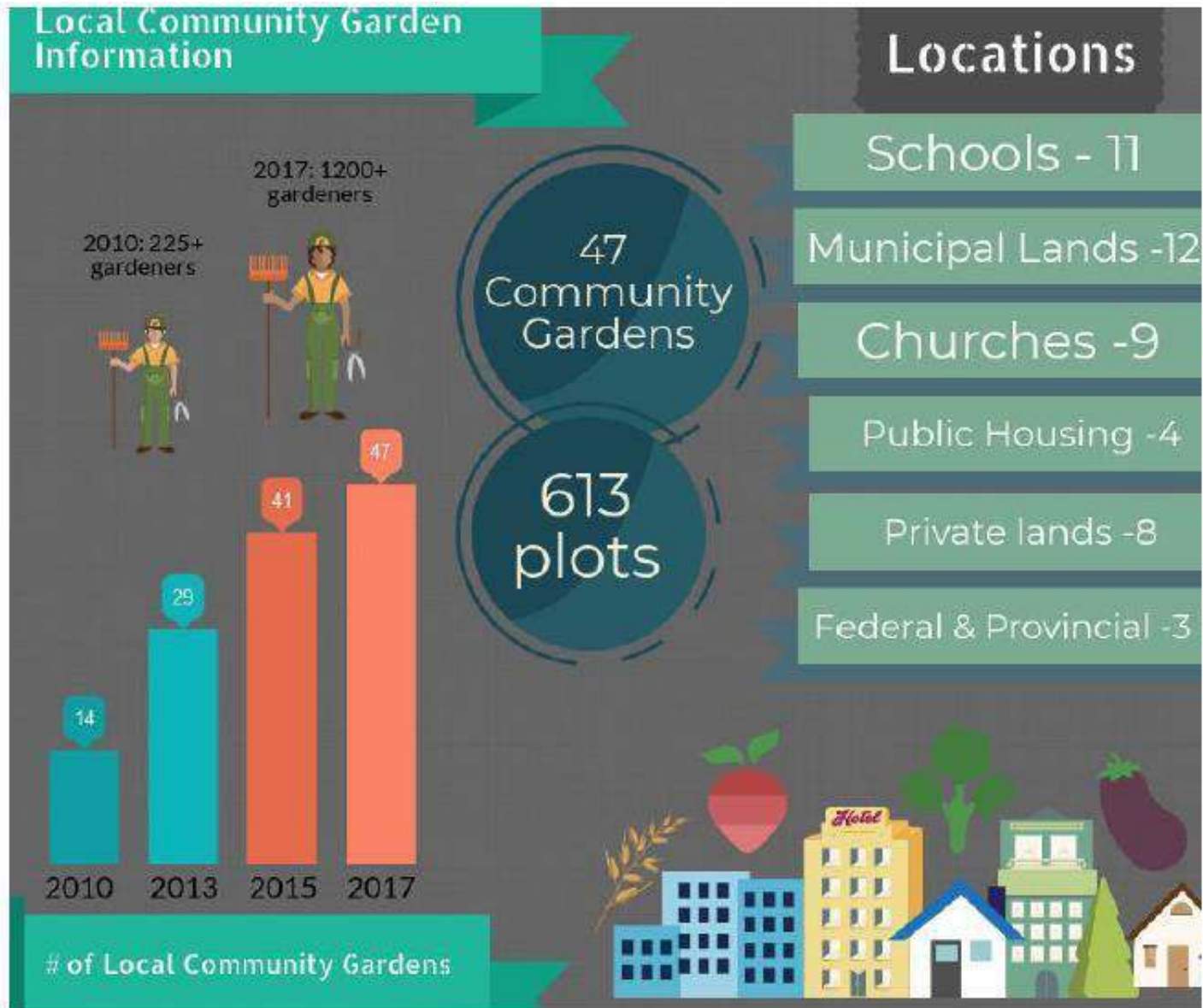
Urban Agriculture includes many things including community gardens, backyard gardening, green roofs.

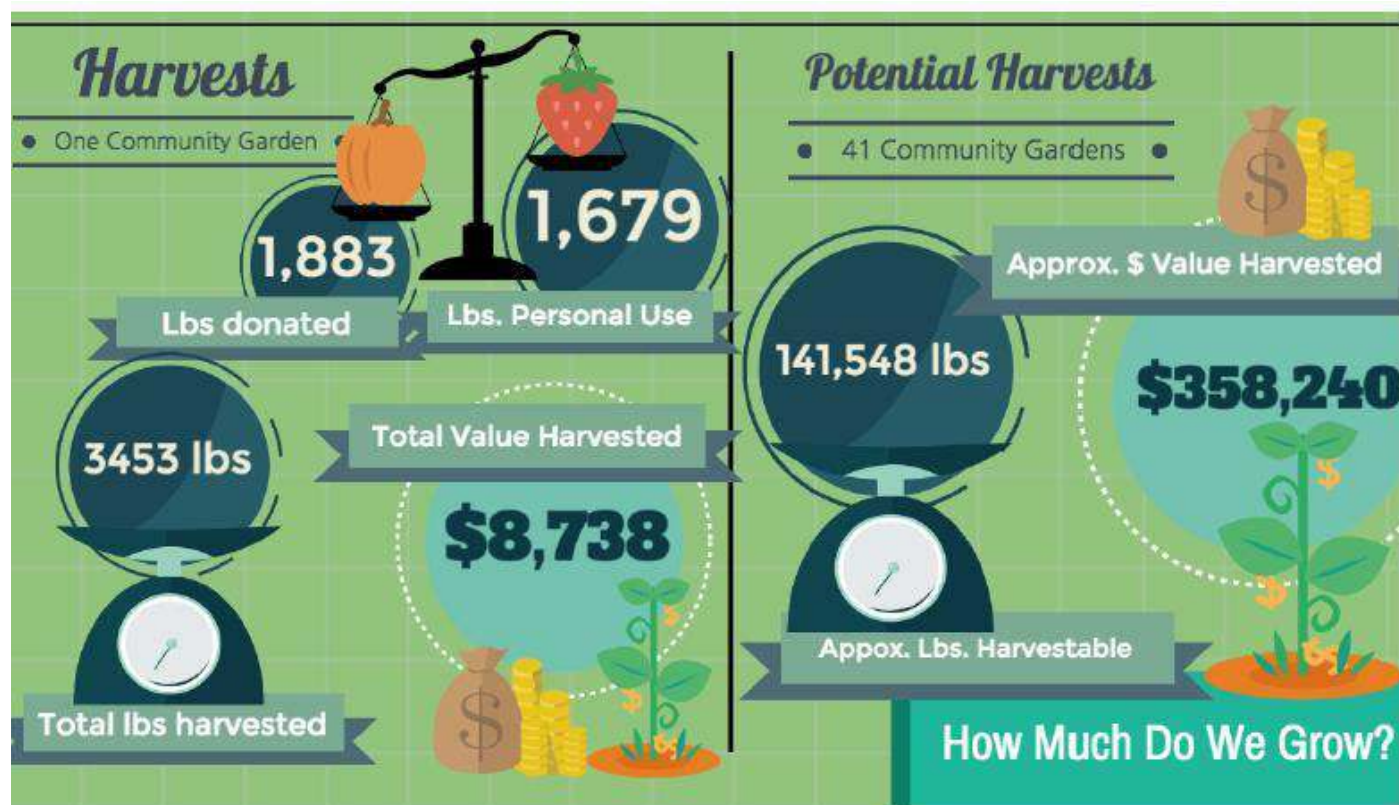
### Community Gardens





Some facts:







**GLEANNING:** the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest.

## 2016 Report: Peterborough Glens



## Edible Landscaping, Gleaning & Foraging



# FOOD FOREST

A food forest is an urban approach to food production that involves the creation of a perennial garden that mimics a woodland ecosystem. These communities of plants are intentionally placed together to optimize space, nutrient exchange, pollination, productivity, and biodiversity.

### Benefits:

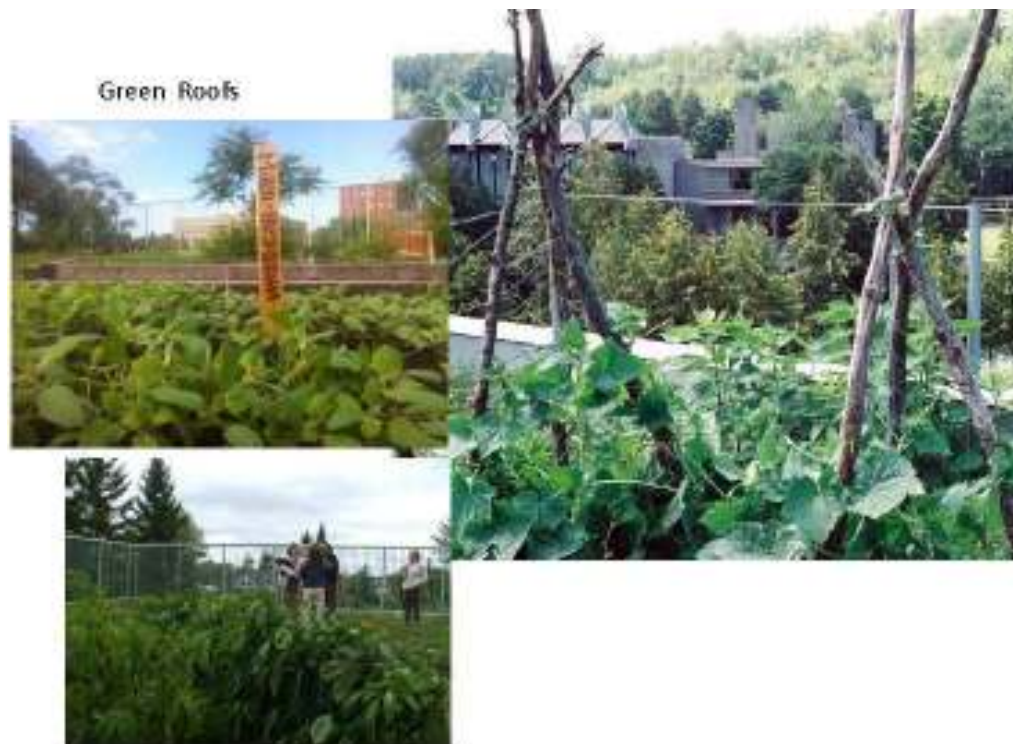
- Provides community food production and security
- Provides habitat for wildlife and insects, including pollinators
- Raises public awareness about seasonal fruits, vegetables and nuts
- Provides an accessible space for foraging, gleaning and eating
- Boosts biodiversity in an urban setting

### Ingredients:

1. Canopy (large fruit trees)
2. Low Tree Layer (dwarf fruit trees)
3. Shrubs (berries & berries)
4. Herbaceous (herbs)
5. Rhizosphere (root vegetables)
6. Soil Surface (ground cover)
7. Vertical Layer (vines and climbers)







Ways of achieving urban agriculture include: green roof gardening, keeping chickens in the backyard, bee keeping, gleaning.



Innovation in urban agriculture includes processes such as urban start ups:



Urban Start Up Farms & Shared Infrastructure



## Municipal Context & Considerations



### Questions to consider:

1. How can urban agriculture encourage linkages between rural and urban food systems?
2. How can urban agriculture combat challenges faced in our food system such as high food insecurity rates (for both producers and consumers) and the loss of farmers/ farmland
3. What role should municipalities play in funding urban agriculture programs?
4. How can the municipality and the development community collaborate to support urban agriculture in new developments and in existing neighbourhoods?
5. How can we enhance the partnership between the municipality and community groups to support the maintenance and stewardship of green spaces?
6. How can urban agriculture be best positioned in upcoming projects, such as the Urban Park, Bethune St. reconstruction, and the Lily Lake Plan?
7. Are these types of initiatives relevant and appropriate for the GPA, in the light of its “unique situation” and the factors outlined in the Back ground section (p.6)?
8. What are the costs of implementation?
9. Are the costs of implementation commensurate with the gains in terms of the benefits of urban agriculture?

10. What are the implications of soil quality in urban areas like the City of Peterborough for food production?
11. What are the implications of commercial production of food within urban areas?
12. How do the opportunities presented here support neighbourhood-centred planning?

### **Panel on the Official Plan Process:**

The purpose of the panel was to explain:

- the relevance of the information presented,
- how it will help people engage in participating in the Official Plan process
- Connecting relative information to the municipal and provincial elections re issues of food and farming

#### **Brad Appleby, Planner of Subdivision Control and Special Projects for the City of Peterborough**

Brad Appleby is the Planner of Subdivision Control and Special Projects for the City of Peterborough. Brad coordinates the City's review and approval process for plans of subdivision and is active in numerous planning policy initiatives. Since 2011, Brad has been directly involved with the City's ongoing Official Plan Review and the writing of the City's new Official Plan.

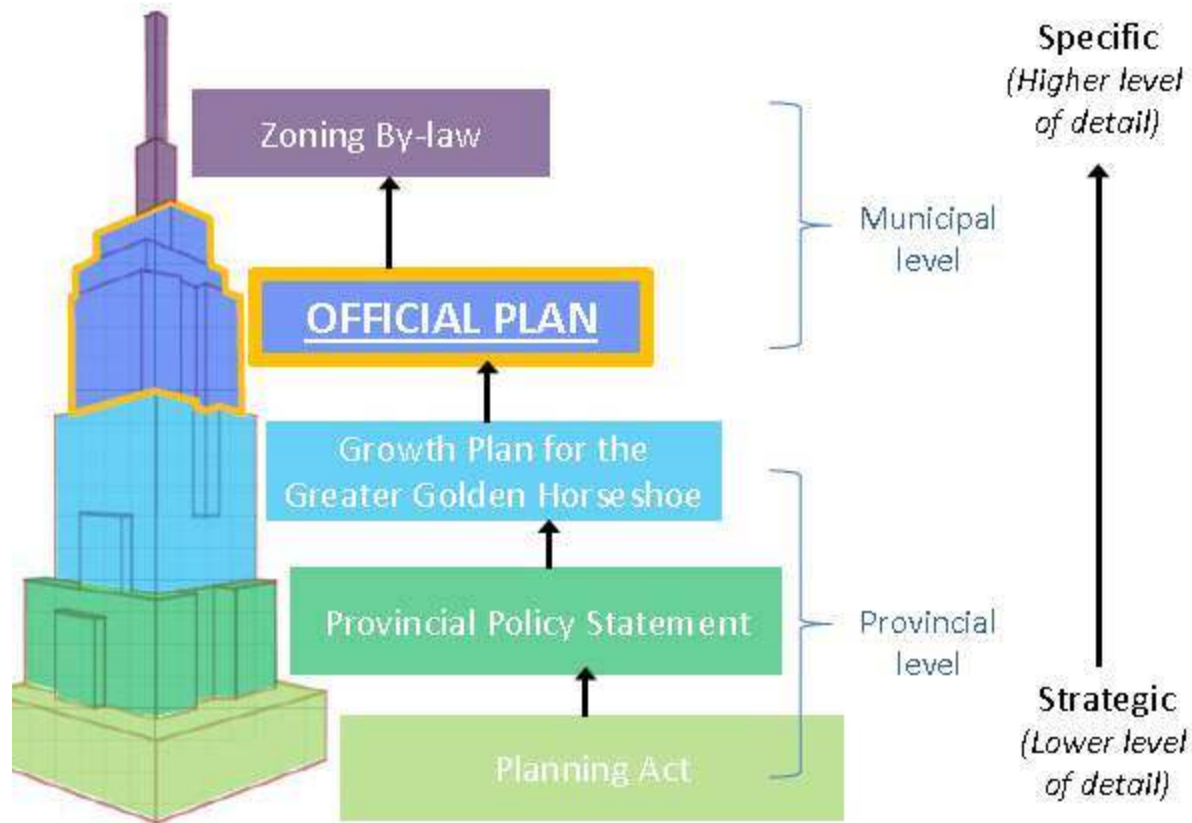
Brad holds Master of Arts in Planning from the University of Waterloo, is a full member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners, and has been a member of the Sustainable Peterborough Future of Food and Farming Working group since 2012.

#### **Official Plan Background: Purpose**

- Outlines the City's growth and development goals, objectives, and policies for the next 20 years
- Shapes how our City will look, feel and function
- Manages the effects on the social, economic and natural environment

# Official Plan Background:

## Ontario Land Use Planning Framework





## Provincial Policy Statement, 2014

- 1.7.1 h) “Long-term economic prosperity should be supported by providing opportunities to support local food, and promoting the sustainability of agri-food and agri-product businesses by protecting agricultural resources, and minimizing land use conflicts”
- 2.3.1 “Prime agricultural areas shall be protected for long-term use for agriculture”
- 2.3.3.1 “In prime agricultural areas, permitted uses and activities are:

– agricultural uses;

– agriculture-related uses; and,

- Directly related to farm operations, support agriculture, benefit from being close to farms, provide direct products/services to farms

– on-farm diversified uses”

- Uses that are secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property
- Home occupations, home industries, agri-tourism, uses that produce value-added agricultural products

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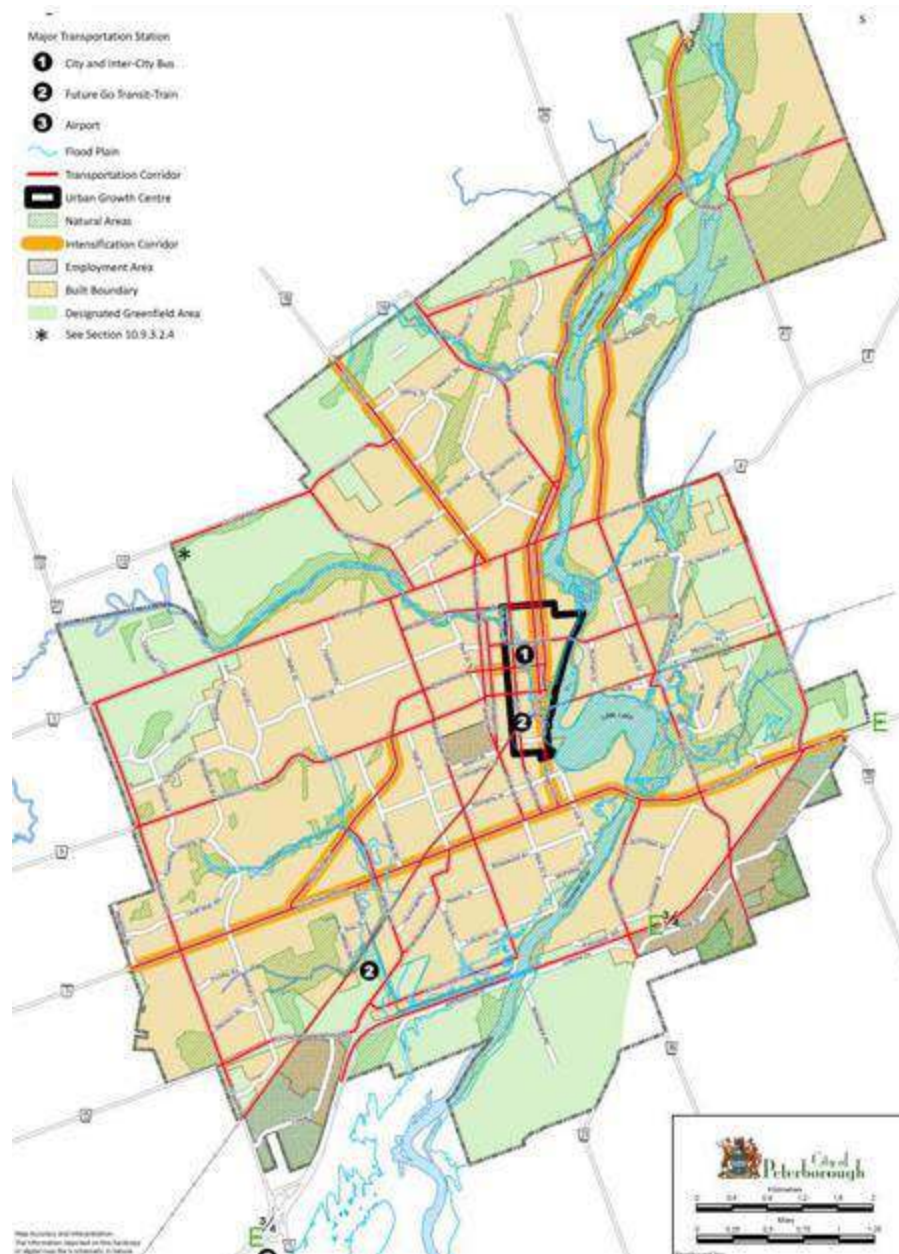
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City of Peterborough

## The Vision:

### 2041 Vision Components

A City that is:

- Sustainable
- Distinctive in character
- Proactive
- Committed to well-being

### Our Ptbo 2041 Vision:

“A prospering community in unity with its natural beauty, rich heritage, and progressive leadership in sustainability with equitable opportunity for continued well-being, engagement, and vitality.”

## Guiding Principles



# Survey Results: Vision/Principles

- Priority ranking of themes (1 = highest)



- Average ranking of theme strategies





## Environmental Sustainability

### Natural Areas / Green Spaces



Civic: Peterborough Greenup

### Sustainable Building Design and Green Energy



Civic: Essex County Market

### Urban Forest



### Local Food / Urban Agriculture



### Greening Industrial/Employment Areas



### Sustainable Servicing Infrastructure and Waste Management



In 2011, when the City commenced its' official plan review process, the Community Food Network prepared a report **Plant It: A Healthy Community Food System Plan for the City of Peterborough** (Available online: <http://www.foodinpeterborough.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CFN-Plan-It-Submission-Aug-2011.pdf>)

The report stated that "Food Security is achieved when:

- all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to nutritious, safe, personally and culturally appropriate foods,
- Food is produced in way that are environmentally sound, socially just, and promote community self-reliance, and,
- Food is provided in a manner that promotes human dignity

Further, local policy should promote:

- the growing of food,
- the processing of food
- equitable distribution of opportunity for selling and accessing healthy food and limit availability of unhealthy food
- procurement of local food
- food education and awareness
- reduction of food waste and the sustainable disposal of food waste

Official Plan Policy Opportunities? When developing the new official plan there is opportunity to consider urban agriculture which could include:

- green roofs, community gardens, urban hens.– Green roofs, community gardens, urban hens
- making land available for food-related businesses and activities
- supporting infrastructure investment to support food
- including parkland, open space and landscaping policies that support food
- protecting land
- providing incentives to developers

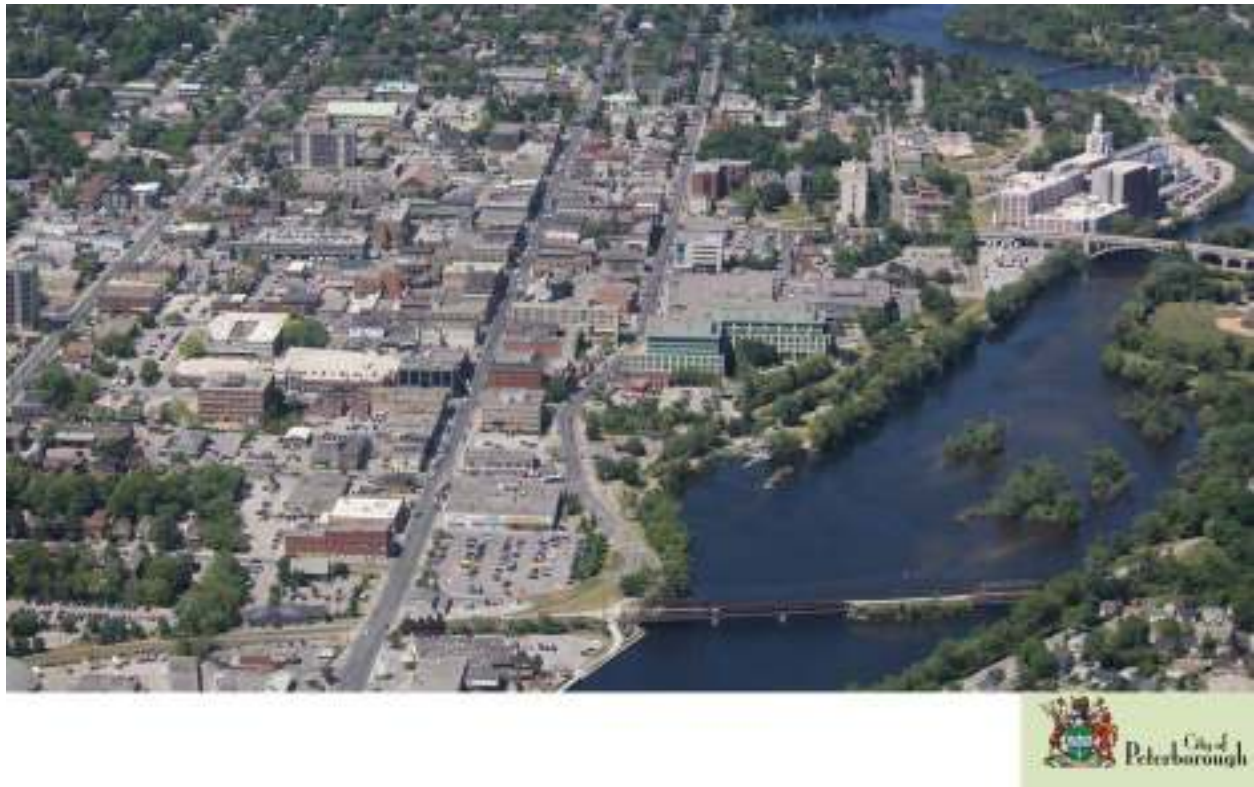
How to be part of the process: go to [http://www.peterborough.ca/Business/Studies/Projects/Official\\_Plan\\_Update.htm](http://www.peterborough.ca/Business/Studies/Projects/Official_Plan_Update.htm)

Forthcoming online surveys:

- Transportation and Land Use surveys active until April 24, 2018

- Additional surveys to come related to Urban Design and Cultural
- Heritage (May-July, 2018)

Comments, questions, and notice requests can be emailed to: [planit@peterborough.ca](mailto:planit@peterborough.ca)



## **Bryan Weir, RPP, MCIP, Director of Planning, County of Peterborough**

Bryan has been the County of Peterborough's Director of Planning for 30 years and includes responsibilities for Planning, Geographic Information Systems, County Forests and the Land Division office. Prior to being with Peterborough County, Bryan was the Director of Planning for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry for 3 years.

Bryan is a Full Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and is a Registered Professional Planner. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the University of Western Ontario and also has a Master of Science degree in Rural Planning and Development from the University of Guelph.

### **Why review the Official Plan?**

- Required by the Planning Act and the Provincial government
- County is due to update its land use planning policies which guide development
- Local situations require attention for land use planning
- Timely given recently approved Provincial Plans, Planning Policies and Planning Act revisions

### **Official Plan Project Process**

There are 4 stages to reach final approval from the Province. Each stage contains several steps. The 4 stages are:

**Stage 1**—Project Launch, Background Review, Preliminary Consultation

**Stage 2**—Draft Official Plan, Agency Consultation and Review

**Stage 3**—Formal Public Consultation, Final Draft, Adoption

**Stage 4**—Post Adoption, Provincial Approval



## Work Plan Stages

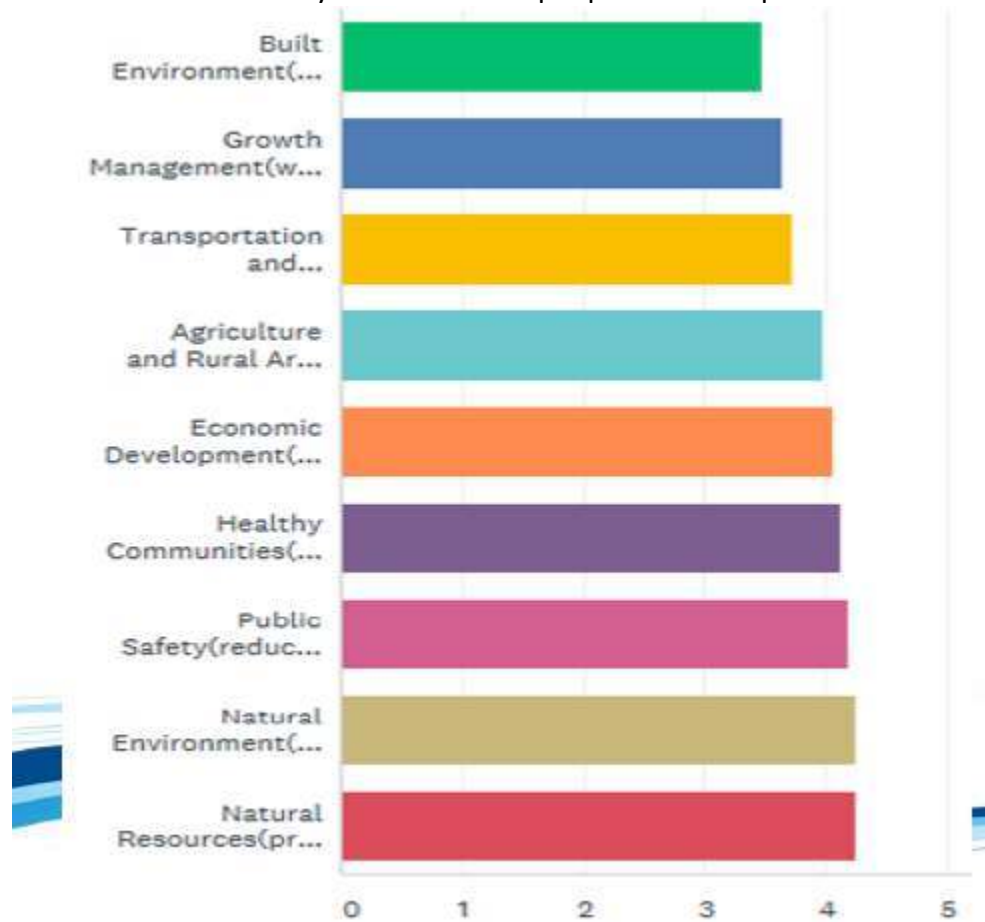
May 2017 : •Project launch

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Document review</li><li>•Preliminary consultation</li><li>•Media materials</li><li>•Issues Report</li><li>•Open Houses</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•First draft OP to Council</li><li>•Includes mapping</li><li>•Release to agencies</li><li>•Review and revise</li><li>•Second draft to Council</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Obtaining public response</li><li>•Open Houses &amp; formal public meeting</li><li>•MMAH's draft comments</li><li>•Final draft to Council</li></ul>	<b>Dec 2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Provision of Notice of Adoption</li><li>•Compilation of OP and supporting material to MMAH</li><li>•Various declarations/affidavits</li></ul>

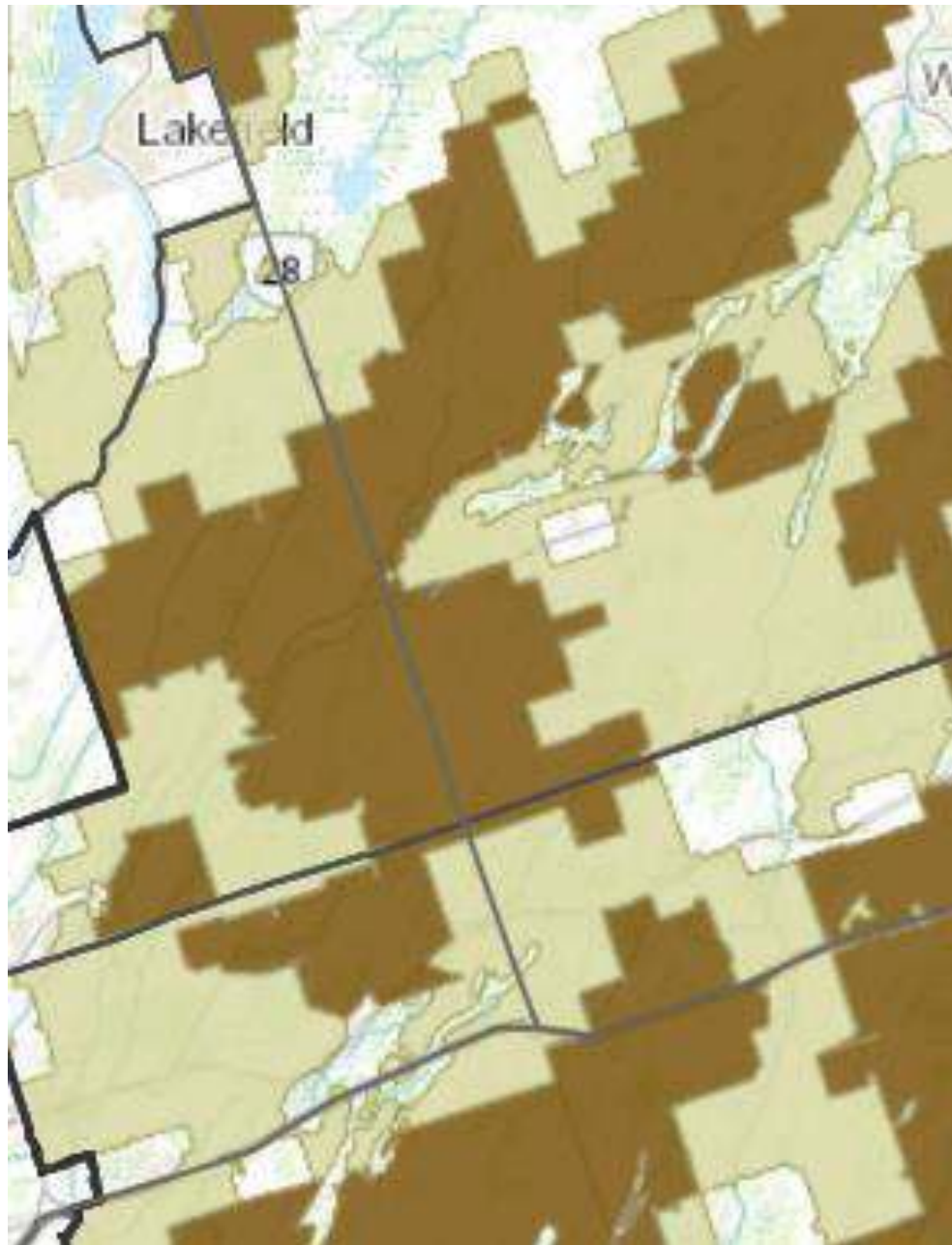
## Who's Interests does the County Official Plan consider?

- Provincial interests as stipulated in the Planning Act, Provincial Plans, and Provincial Policies
- County and regional interests must be considered
- Since there are 8 Townships in the County, these must also be considered
- Residents, landowners, businesses, public agencies, organizations, interest groups

Results of on-line survey indicated what people saw as important in their community:



Agricultural Land Base mapping requires consideration on what should be included in 'candidate areas' and the criteria required to evaluate the areas:



### Things to consider:

- **Secondary uses:** The Province permits “on-farm diversified uses” and “farm-related uses”. Questions to consider: Should these somehow be defined, listed or be limited in nature? • If so, how do we evaluate what should be permitted?
- **Food Production vs. land ownership: Farms owned by non-farmers and left fallow.** Questions to consider: Is there a mechanism to promote the use of quality ag lands for production?
- **Buffering from waterbodies.** Questions to consider: Should we be implementing a setback greater than 30 m for agricultural activities, less than 30 m? Is it dependent upon the type of ag activity?
- **Farm Splits and Agricultural Parcel Size.** Questions to consider: What is the appropriate size? What considerations: land affordability, operational flexibility, scale of economy, type of farm, etc?
- **Allow Separated Merged Properties?** Questions to consider: Should merging with a non-adjacent farm be permitted? Is it a way to eventually circumvent building lot creation restrictions?
- **Improving stewardship of agricultural land.** Questions to consider: Can the Official Plan somehow promote good stewardship through policy direction?

To find out more about how to get involved go to:

<https://www.ptbocounty.ca/en/growing/new-county-op.aspx>



## **Planning Locally for the Future of Food and Farming**

### **Facilitated Session**

The following is a synopsis of the discussion that followed the presentations. Elmer asked participants to consider the following questions and identify other questions that should be considered by decision makers:

- Should we be doing more to protect farm land? Should we be doing more than what is proposed by the province?
- What is the optimal farm-parcel size?
- Is the reduction in the number of farmers and farm businesses a concern?
- Should climate change affect planning? How?
- Is there a place in the Official Plan for farm stewardship and if so what is the main issue that should be included?
- Are their strengths/weaknesses in the existing food system/market linkages?
- How can the Official Plan help to encourage better utilization of agricultural lands in Peterborough County?

Participants discussed the following:

**Should we be doing more to protect farm land? Should we be doing more than what is proposed by the province?**

Yes! Most of the room agrees!

Add Class 4 lands back into prime ag lands (ie candidate lands to be added to ag system)

**How much input does public have on OP?**

Province doesn't provide specifics related to size/on-farm diversified uses/merging lands after severance of surplus, so need to hear from public/farmers what is appropriate (either as individuals or through groups/organizations) and how the policy can assist the ag community. More conversations to be had throughout the process.

**Comment:** that the Province still holds approval authority, so although farmers can provide input, the Province may not ultimately agree with the specifics and may modify the policies at

time of approval. And in reference to the merging of remnant parcels after severance of surplus farm house, the retained parcel can also be rezoned to prohibit a dwelling rather than go through process of separated merger.

**Comment:** that in other areas of the Province (e.g. Huron County) farms are continually consolidated and surplus dwellings are routinely torn down. The result is that extremely large areas become sparsely populated, causing enrollment at rural schools to drop and rural stores to move/go out of business; they can have a severe negative impact on the rural community when done to an extreme degree.

### **How do changes to County OP flow through to local Townships?**

Most Townships have expressed interest in joining County OP (7 out of 8, with an 8<sup>th</sup> Township 'on the fence'), so Township's that are in the Plan will only have to update their ZBL. For any Township that keeps its own local OP, they will have to go through a conformity exercise to comply with County OP policy and mapping.

### **How did province identify prime agricultural lands that form the Agricultural System?**

Based on CLI, but also included areas that are in between those lands which exhibit agricultural characteristics and/or are currently being farmed.

### **Any thought to planning for protection of water?**

Province has released Natural Heritage mapping, which protects water sources (incl. intermittent streams). This provides a great deal of protection to water.

Drinking water sources are currently protected through Trent Source Protection Plan and OP's.

County must also create a Watershed Study (requirement of the Growth Plan) as part of OP process though it is unclear what that will entail at this point in time.

OSM is studying on-farm diversified uses following provincial guidelines. RED funding is being used to conduct this study, and it will help feed into the County OP process.

Question raised re: slide 23 of Steve's presentation, relating to the 6 farms participating in CSA.

Clarification provided as to what a CSA is and the different forms it could take on.

Increasing the productivity of agricultural lands and preventing food fraud are key considerations to be had.

**How can OMAFRA and census of Agriculture stats be used to inform or influence local OP's?**

Consumption vs production of local food and filling in those gaps in both City and County.

**How will OP process assist young farmers who are often financially burdened?**

May not be able to address this specifically through an OP, but information and questions like this should be put to decision makers at federal and provincial level. Goes back to the issue of protecting the farmers as well as the land.

Government and banks need to change in order to allow a young farmer the ability to get financial backing to purchase the land. Suggestion that resurrecting farmer credit unions and/or co-ops would help.

**Comment:** Important that farm lands remain available for future generations to take over, and support the farm as it grows.

**Is the reduction in the number of farmers and farm businesses a concern?**

Yes!