

2011 Annual Report

Message from the Chair

2011 was a busy year for the Farmland Trust on all fronts – from direct land protection to agricultural policy, research and education. In the fall, we were very honoured to be recognized by the Ontario Land Trust Alliance with their **2011 Land Trust Achievement Award for making substantial contributions to the broader land trust movement in Ontario.**

A major highlight of the year was a groundbreaking new partnership with the County of Simcoe that saw us **working alongside farmers and local residents to protect over 250 acres of prime farmland** on 'Site 41', originally planned by the County to become a landfill. After decades, the land is once again being cultivated and planted this spring.

2011 brought a close to our three-year *Places to Grow Food* project, a research and education initiative supported by the Metcalf Foundation that allowed us to develop new resources and hosting workshops with a focus on **drawing stronger connections between farmland protection, agricultural planning and regional food system development.** Thanks to another generous two-year grant from Metcalf, beginning in Fall 2011, we are now building on the materials and interest generated by the *Places to Grow Food* project to inform provincial policy more directly, and promote farmland protection as a foundational part of all land use policy development in Ontario.

2012 will be an exciting year of transition and planning for the future of the Farmland Trust. After nine great years, I will be retiring from my role as Chair and passing the torch to new leadership at the Board level. We have launched into strategic planning as part of this transition, setting goals for the future and strengthening our impact on farmland protection across the province. We will continue expanding partnerships and growing our support base over the next year that will enable us to protect even more farms.

It has been a pleasure to serve as OFT's founding Chair, to work alongside so many friends that share a passion for land conservation, and to see the organization's success and growth over the years. I also feel it is a very exciting time for the Farmland Trust because of the recent groundswell of public interest in **supporting local agriculture and farmland protection in Ontario.**

I wish the very best to the new OFT leadership team, and look forward to hearing about more successes protecting farmland and the business of farming in the months and years ahead.



Protecting Farmland for Farmers

Through research, education and direct land securement, the Ontario Farmland Trust works to protect farmlands and associated agriculture, natural and cultural features of the countryside to improve quality of life for current and future generations.





Protecting Farms

The Ontario Farmland Trust (OFT) Land Securement and Stewardship team continues to meet regularly with farmers and other landowners interested in leaving a legacy in land for future generations. We are now working with dozens of landowners who would like to donate land or agricultural conservation easements to OFT **to ensure their farms always remain protected from non-farm developments, and available for ongoing agricultural and conservation uses.**

The big 2011 land securement success story is a unique agreement with Simcoe County that has resulted in 250 acres of prime farmland being brought back into farm production and permanently protected through conservation easements. The County originally intended to develop a landfill in this area, but after decades of community concern about impacts on local agriculture and water quality, the County decided to cancel the 'Dump Site 41' plans and work with OFT to secure agricultural easements on the site before selling it back to farmers, giving the community assurance that the farmland and water will be protected forever. This represents the first municipal partnership of its kind in Ontario, and **we hope these easements will serve as a model for expanded commitment to farmland protection among municipalities across Ontario.**

Policy Development

With the support of the Metcalf Foundation, we hired Matt Setzkorn as OFT's new Policy Coordinator to help us expand our capacity to improve farmland protection policy across the province, alongside our direct land securement program. This has given OFT the ability to prepare recommendations in 2011 for:

- Strengthening the provincial Growth Plan for Simcoe County to ensure farmland is protected and urban and rural sprawl are minimized.
- Rejecting the application for the proposed mega-quarry in Dufferin County, given adverse impacts on the farming community and loss of prime farmland.
- Improving York Region's "Greening Strategy" to include farmers as partners in conservation and promote farmland preservation.



Education & Outreach

As part of our *Places to Grow Food* project, supported by the Metcalf Foundation, we were able to:

- Lead important research on *Farmland Requirements for Ontario's Growing Population: 2011 to 2036*. Results indicated that in all population growth scenarios, **Ontario has the potential to lose food self-sufficiency within the next 25 years.** This certainly strengthens case for protecting Ontario's best farmlands and building regional food systems in Ontario.
- Develop a "Blueprint" for future food production in Ontario. *Food Systems Planning by Design: A Blueprint for Food Systems* encourages municipalities and planners to consider ways to support agriculture and food-related activities in their communities, beginning with a landscape-level analysis of community food and agricultural assets.

Some successful education and outreach events in 2011 include:

- Our annual Farmland Preservation Forum that engaged over 130 farmers, municipal councillors, planners, economic development officers and provincial policy-makers on the topic of *Renewing Rural Economies*, **seeing agricultural development as a part of farmland protection strategies.**
- A focused dialogue with FarmStart and other partners in Spring 2011 about the potential for *Farming in the Park*, **seizing opportunity to protect public lands for agriculture** and support new farmers who have difficulty accessing farmland. Since then, it is exciting to see Parks Canada's interest in including some 5,000 acres of farmland in the new Rouge National Urban Park east of Toronto with the intention of supporting farmers in the area.
- A joint workshop with FarmStart on Investing in *Farmlands and a New Generation of Farmers: Connecting Social and Community Finance Initiatives with Farmland Preservation and New Farmers* at Sustain Ontario's *Bring Food Home* conference.
- A tour of the Belain Farm, an OFT easement property, as part of a fall *City to County* bus tour organized by Sustain Ontario and the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee.

2011 Financial Report

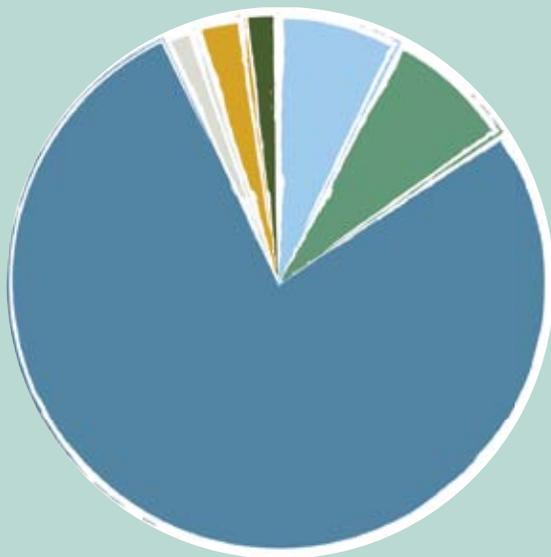
For the year ended December 31, 2011



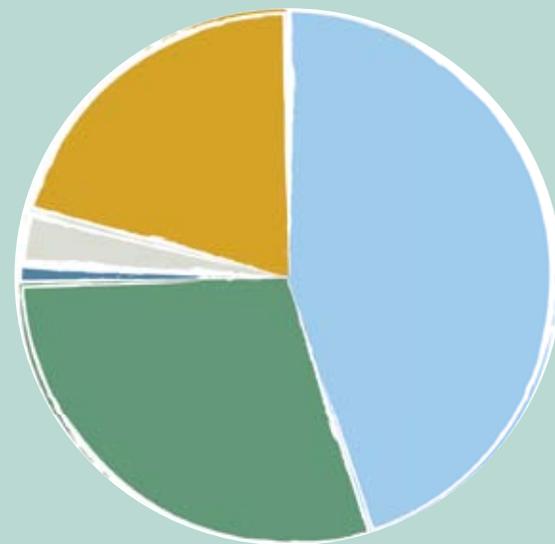
REVENUES	2011	2010
Member contributions and donations	16,350	9,187
Donations in kind	16,500	21,472
Foundation donations	163,233	122,029
Conference/project administration	4,492	5,608
Government grants	6,276	6,504
Other	3,803	3,536
	210,654	168,336

EXPENDITURES	2011	2010
Payroll and benefits	93,964	78,325
Project and administrative	59,743	51,185
Communications	3,962	5,037
Land Securement	6,978	9,015
Research, education and outreach	42,883	30,434
	207,530	173,996

Net Revenue (Deficiency)	3,124	(5,660)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	512,060	517,720
Net Assets at End of Year	515,184	512,060



- Member contributions and donations 8%
- Donations in kind 8%
- Foundation donations 77%
- Conference/project administration 2%
- Government grants 3%
- Other 2%



- Payroll and benefits 45%
- Project and administrative 29%
- Communications 2%
- Land Securement 3%
- Research, education and outreach 21%

This report is a summary based on audited financial statements prepared for the Ontario Farmland Trust by Akler, Browning, Frimet & Landzberg LLP. The complete statements with auditor's notes are available from OFT upon request.

Join Us in Protecting Local Food & Farmland

We welcome your support as we actively protect Ontario's best farmlands to sustain local food and farm livelihoods in communities across the province.

Make farmland protection part of your legacy for future generations.

It's simple to do. Contact us to learn more about how to incorporate a gift to the Ontario Farmland Trust in your will, or to explore other giving options, including individual donations and corporate giving.

Call Matt Setzkorn at (519) 824-4120 ext. 52686, or email matt@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca.



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