



## Membership Information Sheet

### Welcome

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Thank you for your interest in farmland protection and for choosing to become a member with the Ontario Farmland Trust. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Your membership supports on the ground protection of farmland in Ontario. It also comes with voting rights and a few responsibilities to uphold. This information sheet provides more details on OFT's mission and vision, who our members are, and the role of our members.

### About OFT

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#### Who We Are

OFT is a provincial charity that works with farmers and farmland owners to protect Ontario farmland for the future. OFT has been partnering with farmers and farmland owners since 2004 helping to ensure the long-term protection of farmland in Ontario.

#### OFT Mission and Vision

OFT's Mission is to protect and preserve Ontario farmlands and associated agricultural, natural, and cultural features of the countryside for the benefit of Ontarians.

Our Vision is for a future where Ontario's farmland is valued and permanently protected through sound policy, partnerships, and proactive community engagement; where diverse farming communities thrive; and where the protection of farmland, agriculture, and local food production is recognized as the foundation of a sustainable rural economy in Ontario.

#### Governing Body and Practices

OFT is part of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA), and adheres to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. Our volunteer Board of Directors is elected at the Annual General Meeting with specific governing duties to guide OFT's strategic direction.



## What We Do

OFT actively promotes farmland protection through these focus areas:

- **Farmland Easement Agreements** - OFT permanently protects farmland by working directly with farmers and other rural landowners to place farmland easement agreements on their land. These agreements protect farmland from future non-agricultural uses. OFT is the only province-wide land trust in Ontario that protects and stewards the agricultural values of farm properties in addition to the protection of associated natural features.
- **Farmland Policy** - The Ontario Farmland Trust works with the province and municipal planners to encourage greater protections for agriculture and farmland in planning and policy development.
- **Farmland Forum** – OFT hosts an annual farmland forum, bringing together planners, politicians, farmers, farmland owners, researchers and conservationists to discuss the most current issues related to farmland protection in Ontario.
- **Outreach and Education** – OFT hosts presentations, attends farmers’ markets and events, and engages with the public about farmland protection in Ontario.

## OFT Members

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In accordance with the Ontario Farmland Trust’s (OFT) governing by-laws and membership policy, membership is available to individuals who are interested in furthering OFT’s purposes and who have applied for, and been accepted into, OFT membership by resolution of the Board of Directors. Every year, in advance of the Annual Members’ Meeting, the Board reviews the list of members who have made a membership donation with OFT, and approves this member directory.

Membership is open to individuals that make a donation and select the membership option, or pay a membership fee of at least \$50 to OFT each year (\$25 for students, ages 18-30). Land and easement donors are lifetime members. Monthly donors are automatically registered as members. Other organizations, non-profit groups and corporations are not eligible for voting membership, but are invited to become subscribers and sponsors.

All registered members receive an invitation to the Annual General Meeting, held in June each year. Members have voting rights on OFT bylaws, boards, policies, and programs.



By joining as a member, individuals agree to:

- Fulfill and uphold the roles and responsibilities of members in accordance with OFT's by-laws, Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest Policy, and the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act;
- Support the interests of OFT and its charitable purposes;
- Exercise voting privileges to support organizational development and program directions that are consistent with OFT's Strategic Plan and the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices; and
- Fully support the mission and vision of OFT.

## More Information

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For more information, or to receive copies of OFT's By-laws, Annual Report, Strategic Plan, Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest Policy, or the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices, please email us at [info@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca](mailto:info@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca).

OFT is always looking for [volunteers](#) for our [Board of Directors](#) and Committees. If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you again for your membership support and commitment to farmland protection in Ontario!



Kathryn and the [OFT Team](#)