



# 2021 FARMLAND FORUM

## The Shifting Landscapes of Farmland Protection

Thursday, March 25th, 2021

ONLINE CONFERENCE:

### FORUM PROGRAM

8:45 am Sign-in/Check in

9:00 am **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Land Acknowledgement  
Kathryn Enders, *Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust*

9:10 - 9:40 am **Keynote Speaker – Competing Provincial Growth Forecasts and Changing Housing Preferences: How do they affect the need for urban boundary expansions and the financial well-being of municipalities?**  
Kevin Eby, *RPP, Former Director, Community Planning, Regional Municipality of Waterloo*

Q&A

9:40 - 9:50 am

This presentation examines the potential impact of changing growth forecasts and housing preferences on the need for urban expansions. In October 2019, the Ministry of Finance issued updated 2041 population projections that vary dramatically for many municipalities from the corresponding population forecasts contained in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. This presentation looks at the potential impacts on urban land needs and municipal infrastructure financing depending on which of these forecasts proves to be correct, and how is that further complicated by changing housing preferences?

9:50 - 10:00 am Break

10:00 - 10:30 am **Panel & Plenary Discussion – Building a Successful Province-Wide Agricultural System**  
The identification of an Agricultural System and inclusion of corresponding policies has become a requirement for municipalities located within areas covered by the GGH area specific provincial plans. With the new changes to the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), the Agricultural System as applied in the GGH will become an approach that may be implemented by municipalities in other areas of the Province. As the agricultural system expands what are the key things you should know about it? How can the Agricultural System support a local food system?

Discussion/Q&A  
10:30 – 10:45 am

**Panelists:**

John O'Neill, *Rural Planner, OMAFRA*  
Jocelyn Beatty, *Rural Planner, OMAFRA*  
Jennifer Best, *MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner, York Region*  
Chhavi Narula, *Planner, York Region*  
Scott Taylor, *RPP, Senior Planner, Grey County*

**Facilitator:**

Wayne Caldwell, *Professor, University of Guelph, SEDRD*

10:45 - 10:55 am

Break

10:55 – 11:35 am

**Panel - The Shifting Landscapes of Farming and Farmland Protection**

Discussion/Q&A

11:35 – 11:50 am

Farming in Ontario is changing. Planning controls tend to be based on the historic 100-acre land unit which is no longer the norm. Are the emerging trends in farm businesses, ownership models, niche markets, farm holdings and agri-businesses being adequately served by existing planning controls?

**Panelists:**

Stephanie Vanthof, *Member Service Representative, Ontario Federation of Agriculture*  
Peter Lambrick, *Farmer, Halton Region*  
John Fedorkow, *Grape and Tender Fruit Grower, Niagara-on-the-Lake*  
Keith Currie, *Farmer, Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture*

**Facilitator:**

Margaret Walton, *RPP, Planscape*

11:50 - 12:00 pm

Break

12:00 – 12:30 pm

**Keynote Speaker – Agricultural Sustainability in Post-Covid Ontario**

Q&A

12:30 - 12:45 pm

Victor Doyle, *MCIP, RPP*

This talk will speak to the multi-dimensional importance of the agricultural sector and agricultural land and the ongoing threats to it. It will then highlight some of the key land use planning policy frameworks with an emphasis on protection of the land base and support for integrated, value added agricultural related uses and infrastructure. It will conclude with some overarching observations about future steps agricultural organizations might consider to enhance the protection of our farmland.

12:45 pm

**Wrap up & Concluding Remarks**

Kathryn Enders, *Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust*

12:50 pm

Adjourn

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