



# 2010 Annual Report



**2010** was an important year for the Ontario Farmland Trust's outreach efforts. This year marked the third and final year of our Places to Grow Food (PTGF) project. This major education and outreach initiative was launched in response to the province's Places to Grow Act which dictates where Ontario's fastest growing urban communities will be located and how they will be designed. PTGF raises awareness of the need to plan for the future of rural and agricultural areas of the province in addition to our major urban centres.



Outreach to the planning community was an important part of our work over the past year. Given the large role that land use planning plays in protecting farmland across the province, it is important that OFT remain in dialogue with planners and work to improve municipal planning for farmland protection. This work is also a response to the growing interest among planners in food and agricultural issues. In 2010 the Planning for Agriculture and Food Network was established to facilitate information sharing and dialogue amongst professional planners who have an interest these issues. The Ontario Professional Planners Institute also recognized the growing involvement of their members in food system planning and made local food the focus of their annual conference in 2010. The workshops OFT hosted across southern Ontario for planners were very well attended, demonstrating the high level of interest amongst professionals for more information about planning for food and agriculture.

Through the PTGF project we have made a significant contribution to the dialogue around farmland protection and planning for sustainable food systems in Ontario. This work has included groundbreaking research and policy development. We have produced a number of practical resources for professionals, facilitated dialogue about responding to challenges and opportunities in agriculture, and encouraged cross-sectoral collaboration. OFT is uniquely positioned to draw diverse stakeholder groups together and inform the conversation about farmland protection, local food system development and the sustainability of rural communities in Ontario. The connections between the farm community, municipal planners, the conservation sector and the Province are much stronger as a result of our work through the Places to Grow Food project.



The PTGF project has allowed us to reach new audiences, helped raise the profile of farmland protection and brought new partners. PTGF also allowed us to develop expertise in land use and food systems planning. Our detailed response to the Provincial Policy Statement review in 2010 is one example of a higher level of expertise we have developed and can now share.

In addition to our research, education and outreach work, OFT's core focus as a land trust is in assisting landowners to protect their farm properties to ensure that these lands continue to be used for agriculture. In 2010 we continued to work with farmers and farmland owners across southern Ontario to assist them in meeting their conservation goals. We look forward to announcing the protection of three more properties in 2011. This work has also benefited from new partnerships that bring additional expertise, knowledge and resources. We are very pleased to have Halton Region come on board in 2010 as a partner in helping to protect on the Samuel-Stevens Property in Milton. We hope that this partnership will serve as a model for working other municipalities in the near future. Looking to the future and the ongoing stewardship of the farm properties we have protected, OFT has partnered with the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation to establish a Stewardship Endowment Fund. This fund, to be held by the

Community Foundation, will provide permanent sources of funds specifically dedicated to the future stewardship of OFT protected farms.

In our work over the past year we have witnessed a growing concern about ensuring that Ontario's agricultural land base is protected for the future. The concern is shared by many professional planners, public and private agencies, and individual farmers and farmland owners who are all taking actions to protect this valuable resource. In this report you will read about some of these efforts. In the coming years OFT will continue to support these initiatives at all levels. We will build our capacity to support private farmland protection and to influence public policy in support of greater farmland conservation and food systems development.

We are very appreciative of the generous support of our many members, donors, funders, partner organizations and volunteers who have all helped to make our successes over the past year possible. Thank you for your continued support.



Stew Hilts, Chair



Bruce Mackenzie, Executive Director



## Protecting Farms

---

One of the primary roles of the Farmland Trust is to work with farmers and other public and private landowners to protect and preserve working farms across the province. The Trust helps to facilitate land donations or donations of farmland conservation easements that ensure landowners' conservation goals are realized and the agricultural and natural features of their farm properties are protected forever.

OFT's Land Securement and Stewardship Committee has been busy this year meeting with potential land and easement donors, as well as making progress on finalizing several property deals. We look forward to announcing the protection of three farms in 2011 – one in Simcoe County, one in Peel Region and one in Brant. In addition to their strong agricultural values, all three properties have significant natural features and two have received Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts certification. The conservation easements on these properties also help to support existing land use policies, such as the Greenbelt.



Our dedicated Land Securement Committee members continue to forge strong working relationships with municipal staff and elected officials in Simcoe, Peel, Brant, Halton, York and Durham. We were very pleased to receive our first municipal grant this year from Halton Region in support of a farmland conservation easement on the Samuel-Stevens farm, just north of Milton. The easement on this farm complements the Region's *Greenlands Securement Strategy*, enhancing wildlife habitat linkages and protecting significant forested areas, in addition to preserving the farm's high quality agricultural soils.

---

## New Stewardship Endowment Fund

---

One of our most exciting OFT projects this year is a new partnership with the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation that has enabled us to set up an endowment fund and create a permanent source of revenue for our land stewardship activities.

This partnership grew out of a broader initiative of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) and Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), titled Caring for the Land you Love. Supported through the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Future Fund Program, the initiative pairs up land trusts and community foundations across Ontario with the goal of strengthening land trusts' capacity to meet ongoing stewardship obligations.

The new OFT Stewardship Fund will ensure that annual monitoring of easement properties will be carried out properly and that natural heritage and

agricultural landscape features are maintained and enhanced over time.

OFT's relationship with the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation provides an additional opportunity to deepen local engagement with the land conservation sector and develop new funds to support the protection of significant lands in this community.

OFT and the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation have set a goal of raising \$20,000 for the Stewardship Fund by December 2011. During this time donors can double their contribution and multiply the impact of their gift, as funds will be matched 1:1 by the Ontario Land Trust Alliance!



## Engaging Planners & Municipalities

The Farmland Trust's three-year education and outreach project, *Places to Grow Food*, is nearing completion. 2010 was an important year for developing resources for planners and municipalities as part of this project. The intent of *Places to Grow Food* is to raise awareness of the need to plan for the future of rural and agricultural areas in Ontario in addition to planning for our major urban centres. The project aims to bring issues of rural economic development and farmland conservation to the forefront, present municipalities with new tools and ideas, and inform food and agricultural policy directions at all levels of government.

A *Places to Grow Food* Plan is the ultimate goal, and will include the following components:

- 1) Planning Regional Food Systems: A Guide for Municipal Planning and Development in the Greater Golden Horseshoe
- 2) Food Systems Planning by Design: A Blueprint for Food Systems Evaluation.
- 3) Farmland Requirements for Ontario's Growing Population: 2010 to 2036

OFT completed the Planning Regional Food Systems Guide in 2009 after extensive consultation with farm organizations, municipal planners and the Province. In summer 2010, the planning guide became the basis for a series of five workshops held with planners across the Greater Golden Horseshoe area. The workshops were OFT's first outreach activity to the planning profession in Ontario, and have led to a new and growing relationship with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canada-wide Planning for Agriculture and Food Network. Over 100 planners attended the workshops, and the feedback has been very positive.



**Planning Regional Food Systems**

OFT was very fortunate to have Margaret Walton of Planscape Consulting, an expert in agricultural planning, as a facilitator for the workshops. Referencing the planning guide, Margaret led discussion about the challenges of sustaining agriculture in urbanizing environments and highlighted tools planners can use to support and encourage regional food system development.

## Farmland Preservation Research

Research on the other two major components of the *Places to Grow Food* Plan took place during 2010. Dr. Charlotte McCallum, a University of Guelph geographer, was hired 2010 to prepare the OFT report on *Farmland Requirements for Ontario's Growing Population: 2010 to 2036*. This research report quantifies the amount of farmland required to feed Ontario's growing population now and in the future, considering factors such as population growth, available farmland and agricultural productivity.

Calculating the carrying capacity of Ontario's landbase and the province's level of food self-sufficiency provides important information for OFT and other groups interested in local food, health and planning, and will be instrumental in guiding OFT's future research, education and land securement activities.

The final *Places to Grow Food* report, titled *Food Systems Planning by Design: A Blueprint for Food Systems Evaluation*, will help to guide OFT's future work in food and farmland policy and planning. It builds on the 2009 planning guide and offers a unique spatial planning approach to food systems development through a series of maps and visual scenarios that will encourage municipalities to imagine how dynamic our future farm landscapes could be.

The *Farmland Requirements* report and the *Blueprint* will be released in 2011.

## Farmland Policy Review

---

In 2010 OFT submitted extensive comments to the Province during a consultation process leading up to the review of the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). The PPS sets the Ontario government's policy direction for all land use planning and development, providing a framework for guiding and regulating local land use decisions.

The protection of Ontario's farmland depends largely on land use planning policies within the PPS. As the only province-wide agency dedicated to farmland protection in Ontario, OFT had a unique voice during the PPS consultation process pushing for improved farmland preservation policies.

The Farmland Trust offered 33 recommendations to enhance the protection of Ontario's prime agricultural land and farming communities. These included comments related to development and land use patterns, transportation infrastructure planning, specialty crop areas and aggregate extraction in prime agricultural areas. Many of OFT's comments were developed with the PPS recommendations of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Ontario Professional Planners Institute in mind.

## Supporting New Farmers

---

The Farmland Trust continues to partner with FarmStart and the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy to deliver FarmLINK Ontario, an online "match-making" tool that helps connect new farmers with affordable farmland. Access to land is one of the biggest barriers to starting a farm business in Ontario. By creating new linkages between farm-seekers and farmland owners, and exploring opportunities for creative and secure land tenure arrangements for new farmers, we are supporting the next generation of farmers who will help protect and steward Ontario farmland for years to come.

In 2010, FarmLINK has grown to serve 700 online users. An average of 62 contacts are now being made each month between farm-seekers and farm owners. New resources and events led by FarmStart are being designed to complement this web-based tool.



*Matt Setzkorn, OFT's 2010 Metcalf Foundation Intern appears (second from left) with Executive Director Bruce Mackenzie, Stew Hiltz, OFT Chair, and Board member Peter Mitchell.*

## A New Face at OFT

---

A big thank you to the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation for its support of intern Matt Setzkorn in 2010! Through the Foundation's Leaders in the Field Internship program, Matt was able to join the organization in the summer to begin the one-year position. Matt is a recent graduate from the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph where he studied agroecology. He has a keen interest in farmland preservation, becoming familiar with OFT's work during his degree, and catering much of his coursework to studying land conservation issues in agriculture. In only a few months, Matt has already become very active in the Farmland Trust's research, policy and land securement activities, taking full advantage of all the learning opportunities and taking on various leadership roles, such as drafting OFT's comments on the Provincial Policy Review.

## A Party for Stew Hilts

---

We hosted a fun retirement celebration in September for Dr. Stew Hilts, our Board Chair. The event was a hit with over 100 people in attendance. Stew's university colleagues, former students, fellow conservation enthusiasts, canoeing buddies and family were all there. Stew was honoured for his 30-plus years of service in conservation education and land stewardship through stories and reflections presented by many friends, both young and grey.

At Stew's request, the event also helped to raise funds for both OFT and the Young Conservation Professionals Career Development Program, two organizations Stew was instrumental in helping to form. As a result, several thousand dollars were raised to support both our work on farmland protection and the leadership development of young people working in the conservation sector. Many thanks, Stew, for all your contributions to the Farmland Trust over the past six years!



*OFT Board of Directors Chair, Stew Hilts, with his wife Maria at our Fall fundraiser event.*

---

## Looking Ahead to 2011

---

We're looking forward to another great year in 2011. We expect to protect at least three more farms permanently for agriculture, alongside a number of generous landowner partners. These farmland conservation easement and land donations will be located in Peel Region, Simcoe County and Brant County.

We are also excited to release our final Places to Grow *Food* Plan in 2011 and all the great food system planning resources we have developed for municipalities that will challenge them to consider developing more holistic and dynamic approaches to supporting local food and farming.

Thanks to a new grant from the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation, beginning in summer 2011, we will be able to build on the momentum gained through Places to Grow *Food* and our land securement projects by expanding our policy work and outreach to municipalities. Through this new funding, we will be promoting reform of planning and taxation policies in support of greater farmland conservation in Ontario. We will also begin tracking farmland loss more closely across the province.

The Farmland Trust will continue to focus on collaboration and strategic partnership opportunities in 2011, strengthening existing relationships and forging new partnerships with private landowners, the farm community, conservation groups, municipalities and the Province.



## Thank You!

The Ontario Farmland Trust thanks all of the individuals and organizations who generously supported our work in 2010. Every donation we receive helps us protect farms and farming in Ontario.

### ***Foundations***

George Cedric Metcalf Foundation  
Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation  
EJLB Foundation  
Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation  
George Lunan Foundation  
HIVA Environmental Fund  
Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation  
McLean Foundation

### ***Government***

Halton Region

### ***Other***

Ontario Land Trust Alliance Assistance Program  
Canadian Land Trust Opportunities Fund

### ***In Kind Support***

University of Guelph  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Ontario Professional Planners Institute

### ***Volunteers and University of Guelph Work Study Students***

Meagan Cameron  
Ivan Lee  
Heather Vandevoren

### ***Partner Organizations***

FarmStart  
Credit Valley Conservation  
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority  
Maitland Trail Association  
Kawartha Heritage Conservancy  
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust  
Ontario Land Trust Alliance  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

Thank you also to Margaret Walton of PlanScape Consulting



## Financial Report

*For the year ended December 31, 2010*

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Member contributions and donations	9,187	3,183
Donations in-kind	21,472	†479,500
Foundation donations	122,029	214,946
Interest	-	558
Conference/ Project admin	5,608	3,500
Government grants	6,504	22,482
Other	3,536	1,976
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>168,336</b>	<b>726,145</b>
 <b>Expenditures</b>		
Payroll and benefits	78,325	80,646
Project and administrative Communications	51,056	34,748
Annual Conference	5,037	7,594
Land Securement	9,015	4,272
Research, education and outreach	30,434	75,596
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>173,996</b>	<b>202,856</b>
	(129)	
<b>Net Revenue (Deficiency)</b>	<b>(5,660)</b>	<b>523,289</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>517,720</b>	<b>(5,569)</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>512,060</b>	<b>517,720</b>

†In-kind donations include \$465,000 invested in property

*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 the OFT upon request.*

## Board of Directors and Staff

### **Chair**

Stewart Hilts

### **Vice-Chair**

Nancy Walther (OFA Representative)

### **Board Members**

Rodger Cummins

Bruce Flattery

Tony Fuller

Peter Mitchell

Gerald Poechman (CFFO Representative)

Don Prince

Elbert van Donkersgoed

Bronwynne Wilton

### **Executive Director**

Bruce Mackenzie

### **Metcalf Foundation Intern**

Matthew Setzkorn

### **Places to Grow Food Project**

Project Coordinator - Arthur Churchyard

Workshop Coordinator – Ruth Silver

Researcher – Charlotte McCallum

### **Accountant**

Jean Labrecque

### **Auditor**

Sam Landzberg,

Akler, Browning, Frimet & Landzberg LLP



*c/o University of Guelph  
Alexander Hall  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1  
(519) 824-4120 ext. 52686  
info@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca  
[www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca](http://www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca)*