

2012 Annual Report



Message from the Chair

The Ontario Farmland Trust has made significant progress in our three focus areas in 2012: direct land securement, farmland policy and education/outreach. The Trust has now protected over 900 acres, and continues to be instrumental in leading new dialogue and collaboration among diverse landowner, farm, conservation and government stakeholders to move farmland preservation efforts in Ontario forward.

Each of the many achievements highlighted in this Annual Report reflects the hard work of staff and the dedication of hundreds of hours of volunteer time and commitment over the past year. Our team of Board members, committee members, staff and interns worked together enthusiastically to rise to the challenge of managing a non-profit, charitable organization even as we faced financial challenges and made strategic organizational improvements to enable us to do our good work.

I am very encouraged and optimistic about how far we have come and where we are headed as we enter

2013. The external success we have seen mirrors a lot of internal, invisible organizational development, and I am very grateful to everyone who contributed to this process, as it positions the Trust to remain worthy of the trust that our donors and sponsors place in us. The very fact that we currently have more people willing to donate conservation easements than we can afford to work with attests to that trust, and inspires our 2013 imperative of diversifying our financial support and deepening our partnerships so we can protect more Ontario Farmland.

Norman Ragetlie

Photo: Belain Farm, Caledon, Protected by Easement

Protecting Farmland Forever

The Mission of the Ontario Farmland Trust is to protect and preserve Ontario farmlands and associated agricultural, natural and cultural features of the countryside through direct land securement, stewardship, policy research and education for the benefit of Ontarians today and future generations.





Protecting Farms

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

In 2012, OFT completed two important easement projects. A donation by Ms. Lorna Bethell at *Tarquinnie Ridge Farm* has permanently protected 100 acres of prime agricultural soils, and significant wetland, wildlife habitat and woodland features in Caledon. Thanks to Credit Valley Conservation as a key partner on this project. The second easement built on an earlier partnership with Simcoe County to complete a 300 acre farm preserve in Tiny Township – a unique site formerly designated for a landfill and now being returned to agriculture.

Policy Development

2012 saw OFT actively support improved farmland protection policy in Ontario, including:

- Agriculture and conservation planning in York, Halton and Simcoe, where there are strong development pressures on farmland
- Innovative policy change at Queen's Park as part of the Aggregate Resources Act review to prevent aggregate mining on prime farmland
- Improvements to the Provincial Policy Statement, Ontario's guiding land use and farmland policies
- Protection of over 5,000 acres of prime farmland in Parks Canada's planning for the new Rouge National Urban Park east of Toronto



"I am thrilled to be working with the Farmland Trust to protect our farm. If we aren't proactive about preserving the countryside, we have no assurance that there will be any farmland (or food) left for our grandchildren – that's not a future any of us want."
– Lorna Bethell, 2012 easement donor

Education & Outreach

OFT facilitated enhanced dialogue and collaboration in support of farmland protection:

- Convening 150 farmers, municipal councillors, planners and provincial policy-makers at our 2012 Farmland Forum to discuss *Balancing Agriculture & Resource Demands in Rural Ontario*
- Presenting information about land trusts and farmland easements to over 500 farm advisors across the province in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food
- Engaging 160 people from 80 different land trusts, conservation authorities, municipalities, land stewardship groups, and farm organizations in workshops throughout Southern Ontario to strengthen connections between the protection of farmland and natural heritage. The *Linking Land Protection and Stewardship* dialogue was supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and is a launching point for enhanced collaboration between OFT and local land conservation groups.

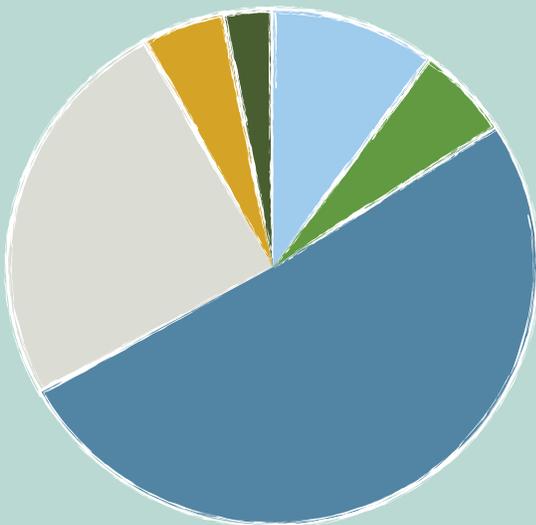


2012 Financial Report

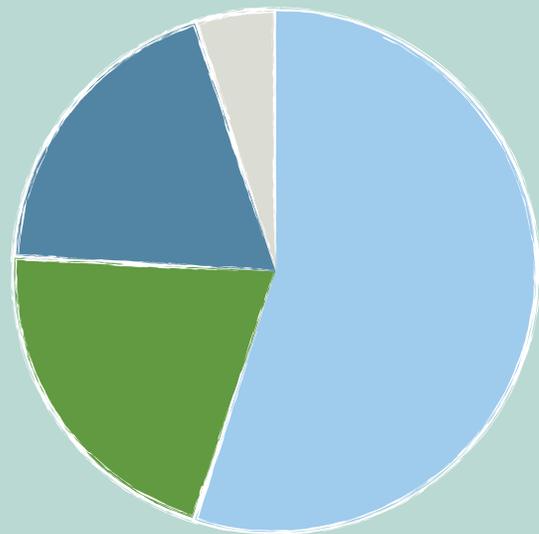
For the year ended December 31, 2012

REVENUES	2012	2011
Member contributions & donations	18,676	16,350
Donations in kind	10,000	16,500
Land Easement donations (in-kind)	310,000	-
Foundation donations	90,163	163,233
Government grants	44,719	6,276
Event income	8,945	4,492
Other	4,791	3,803
	487,294	210,654

EXPENDITURES	2012	2011
Research, education & outreach	92,079	163,316
Land securement	35,851	6,978
Project management & operating	31,052	35,915
Events	8,937	1,321
	167,919	207,530
Net Revenue	9,375	3,124
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	451,277	448,153
Net Assets at End of Year	770,652	451,277



- Member contributions & donations **10%**
- Donations in kind **6%**
- Foundation donations **51%**
- Government grants **25%**
- Event income **5%**
- Other **3%**



- Research, education & outreach **55%**
- Land securement **21%**
- Project management & operating **19%**
- Events **5%**

Land Easement donations not included in the above graph.

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.





Farmland Forever

Help Make it Happen!

Join us in protecting local food and farmland **forever**.

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.

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 x 52686, or email matt@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca

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Our Vision is for a future where Ontario's best 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.

Supporters

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