



2020 FARMLAND FORUM

The Shifting Landscapes of Farmland Protection



Thursday, March 26th, 2020

The Grand Banquet & Event Centre, Guelph

FORUM PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies: Sara Epp, *Assistant Professor, University of Guelph, SEDRD*

8:30 am **Registration** (Refreshments and light breakfast provided)

9:00 am **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Land Acknowledgement

Kathryn Enders, *Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust*

Hon. Ernie Hardeman, *Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs* (video)

Rene Van Acker, *Dean, Ontario Agricultural College*

Ralph Martin, *OFT Member and Representative for MPP Schreiner*

9:30 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*

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?

10:30 am **Panel - The Shifting Landscapes of Farming and Farmland Protection**

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, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture*

Facilitator:

Margaret Walton, *RPP, Planscape*

11:45 am **Lunch and Networking**

12:45 pm **Plenary – Understanding Opportunities by Mapping the Agri-Food Value Chain**
Philly Markowitz, *Local Food Economic Development Officer, Grey County*

Agriculture is a major economic and social driver in Grey County. It is also undergoing rapid change which mirrors global trends, but in some cases, opposes them. Mapping the local agri-food value chain is a way to gather data and measure change across the system that compliments federal and provincial data sets and other regional mapping and data projects. In this session, we will explore Grey County's Agri-food asset map, and see how the data it gathers overlaps with the county's economic development priorities, Official Plan, Community Improvement Plan, tourism marketing and other initiatives.

1:30 pm **Panel – Farmland Easement Agreements: Stories from the Field**

Introduction: Kathryn Enders, *Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust*

Stories from the Field:

Martin Tamlyn, Easement Steward
Susan Chan, Easement Steward
Murray Morrison, Easement Donor
Kathryn Dean, Easement Donor

Facilitator:

Matt Setzkorn, *Easement Landowner, Ontario Farmland Trust Volunteer*

2:15 pm **Networking and Health Break**

2:45 pm **Plenary & Table 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 is implemented by municipalities in other areas of the Province. As the agricultural system expands what are the key things you should know about it?

Panelists:

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

Facilitator:

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

4:00 pm **Wrap up & Concluding Remarks**

Bernard Pope, *Chair, Ontario Farmland Trust*

4:10 pm **Adjournment**

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