

The Shifting Landscapes of Farmland Protection



2021 Farmland Forum

A day of sharing, networking, and exploring policy and land-use planning innovation for the changing landscapes of farmland protection in Ontario

#2021FarmlandForum

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Thursday, March 25th, 2021
Online

Speaker Bios



Jocelyn Beatty, Rural Planner, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Jocelyn Beatty is one of five Rural Planners with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and has been in this position since October 2016. In her role she provides support in interpreting and implementing provincial policies relating to prime agricultural areas, covering both the Northwest and Central East regions of Ontario. Jocelyn completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph and her Masters degree in Environmental Studies (Planning) at the University of Waterloo. Before coming to the Ministry, Jocelyn worked at Long Point Region Conservation Authority and has experience developing research projects that have looked at food insecurity in small communities as well as Indigenous participation in collaborative land use planning.



Jennifer Best, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner, Regional Municipality of York

Jennifer Best is a Senior Planner in York Region's Long-Range Planning division currently holding the agricultural, source protection and water/wastewater servicing profiles. Currently with an update to the York Region Official Plan, Jennifer is focused on policy writing for these areas of interest. She brings over 20 years of both development and policy planning working at both the local and regional municipal levels. Jennifer is a collaborator and believes that bringing people together is the best method for implementable policy. She holds a degree in urban and regional planning and a master's in public administration. Jennifer loves everything about rural planning as she grew up in a small town surrounded by a prosperous farming community.



Wayne Caldwell, Professor, University of Guelph, SEDRD

Wayne Caldwell is a Professor in Rural Planning and Development. Dr. Caldwell has lectured across Canada on the future of rural communities and has published extensively in the areas of planning, community development, agricultural land preservation, siting livestock facilities, rural land use, and the environment. He is an experienced facilitator with a primary focus on issues of change in rural and agricultural communities. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and Past President of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. He holds a Ph.D. in Regional Planning and Resources Development from the University of Waterloo, and is an active member in the planning profession.





Keith Currie, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Keith Currie, a Collingwood-area farmer, is the President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and has more than 25 years of experience with OFA and agricultural advocacy, which began with an appointment to the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture, where he held numerous positions including President from 2004-2006. He has served on and chaired many local and provincial agriculture organizations as well as many conservation initiatives during his career. Currie's career in advocacy has led to numerous appointments to provincial government advisory panels such as the 2015, 4-Plan Review Panel: a review of significant land use plans in Ontario, and recently to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Minister's Advisory Panel. In February of 2019, Currie was elected as the First Vice President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) at the CFA annual meeting in Ottawa.



Victor Doyle, MCIP, RPP

From 1988-2017 Victor held several senior planning positions in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs where he was at the epi-centre of provincial planning in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. A staunch advocate of protecting farmland by curbing urban sprawl, he has extensive experience and played central roles in the design, development, implementation, defense and educational outreach on Ontario's farmland protection policies and plans.



Kevin Eby, RPP, former Director of Community Planning, Waterloo Region

Kevin was the Director of Community Planning with the Regional Municipality of Waterloo from 1999 to 2015. Kevin also participated in the preparation of the Province's Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe while on part-time secondment to the Province between 2004 and 2006. During his time at the Region of Waterloo, Kevin supervised the development and implementation of the Region of Waterloo's Growth Management Strategy. Since 2015, Kevin has been providing consulting services through EBY GMPS.



John Fedorkow, Grape and Tender Fruit Grower, Niagara-on-the-Lake

John Fedorkow was born and raised on a mixed tender fruit farm in St. David's, and graduated from the University of Guelph in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. In 1984 he purchased Fruithaven Farms, not far from where he grew up. A current member of the Grape Growers of Ontario's Growers' Committee and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Agricultural Sub Committee, John is also the past president of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association (NPF&VGA), past Vineland Growers director, and past member of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Irrigation Committee.





Peter Lambrick, Farmer, Halton Region

Peter farms grains and oilseeds in Halton Region, near Campbellville, and has since 1975. His property is located in the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), and since 2005, also the Greenbelt. He was formerly part of the GTA Agricultural Action Committee, which was the forerunner to the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance. He has also been active in the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee, and more recently has gone to the dark side and become a member of the Halton Natural Heritage Advisory Committee.



Chhavi Narula, Planner, Regional Municipality of York

Chhavi has an academic background in Biology and Environmental Science and is a certified LEED Green Associate. She has been working with York Region's Planning and Economic Development Branch since 2017. In her time at the Region, she has worked on a number of data and policy related projects such as Natural Heritage System and Agriculture Planning, Climate Change Action Plan and Employment Survey.



John O'Neill, Rural Planner, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

John O'Neill is one of five Rural Planner's with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and has been in this position since February 2008. In his role he provides support interpreting and implementing agricultural policies of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), covering both the Northeast and Eastern regions of Ontario. These responsibilities include providing training on Ministry tools/guidance such as the Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) Formula and Permitted Use Guidelines. During his time with OMAFRA, he has also taken a secondment with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to work with the Provincial Policy Branch to support the review of the PPS. John completed his undergraduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Waterloo and later obtained a Masters degree in Urban Development from Ryerson University. He grew up on a farm east of the City of Belleville and has a long-standing interest in promoting and protecting agricultural resources.



Scott Taylor, RPP, Senior Planner, Grey County

Scott Taylor is a planner with Grey County, where he has worked for the past 14 years. Scott grew up on farms, but now lives in the City of Owen Sound. In his spare time he volunteers with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners.





**Stephanie Vanthof, Member Service Representative,
Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

Stephanie Vanthof is the Northeastern Ontario Member Service Representative for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, supporting farmers and local federations in their initiatives. Prior to this role, Stephanie managed the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance, a non-profit organization that works to advance agriculture in Northern Ontario. Stephanie was raised on a dairy farm in Northern Ontario and has experienced first-hand the unique challenges and opportunities faced by both large and small farms in Northern Ontario. Her education includes a Master of Science in Geography and Environmental Studies from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Environmental Science in Environment and Business with a diploma in Human Resource Management from the University of Waterloo.



Margaret Walton, RPP, Planscape

Margaret is an Ontario Farmland Trust Board Member and a partner in PLANSCAPE, a planning firm that specializes in planning for rural and recreational lands and small communities. Margaret is considered a leading expert in agricultural planning, with over 30 years of practice in developing planning policies to support the agricultural sector, specifically in areas subject to urban growth pressures. Margaret has worked for all of the Regions, and a number of municipalities, in the GGH developing policies to sustain their agricultural communities. She is a proponent of a comprehensive systems-based approach to planning for agriculture that recognizes the need for flexibility and economic success for the sector to flourish. She is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI).

