Planning For Clarington’s Agricultural System

“Protecting farmland helps to preserve a productive land base for the agricultural economy, preserve the amenity values of open space and rural character, slow suburban sprawl, provide wildlife habitat, and provide an opportunity for groundwater recharge in areas where suburban development is occurring.”

Source: Ontario Farmland Trust (http://www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca/resources/saving-farmland)

Faye Langmaid, Manager of Special Projects
Agricultural Land Base for the GGH

Legend:
- Prime Agricultural
- Candidate Area

Source: OMAFRA Agricultural System Portal
## 17.3 Special Study Area 2 - Greenbelt Expansion

### 17.3.1
Special Study Area 2 is all of the lands east of Highway 418 south and east of the Greenbelt boundary, north of Highway 401 and outside of the urban area boundaries in Clarington.

### 17.3.2
In May 2015, Clarington Council requested that the Province undertake an appropriate science-based study of agricultural capability to identify high yielding agricultural lands to be added to the Greenbelt for permanent protection.

### 17.3.3
The draft Greenbelt Plan (2016) identifies that the Government of Ontario will lead a process to identify potential areas to be added to the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt. The Province will work with municipalities and others using a systems approach considering the connections with the Agricultural, Natural Heritage and Water Resource systems of the plan. Where it is determined that identified areas would benefit from Greenbelt protection, the Province may initiate amendments to the Greenbelt Plan.

### 17.3.4
Special Study Area 2 identifies the lands which the Municipality considers appropriate as an area for the future Greenbelt expansion study.
Agricultural System with Greenbelt Overlay

LEGEND
- Greenbelt
- Prime Agricultural
- Candidate Area

Source: OMAFRA Agricultural System Portal
Durham Region Analysis of Agricultural System Impacts

Source: Durham Region's Official Plan
2017 Clarington Official Plan

LEGEND
- Environmental Protection Area
- Hamlet
- Estate Residential
- Rural
- Prime Agricultural Area
- Aggregate Extraction Area

Source: Municipality of Clarington
Northumberland and Durham Atlas, 1878
Darlington Township
1958 Zoning

“On a clear day, over one-third of Canada’s best agricultural land can be seen from the top of Toronto’s CN Tower.”

Source: (Statistics Canada, 1999)
1968 Soil Capability

Source: Canada Land Inventory Soil Capability for Agriculture, 1968
1996 Agricultural Production

LEGEND
- Agricultural Land
- Intensive Agricultural Operation
- Agricultural Land Taken Out of Production

Data Source: Ministry of Revenue Property Codes, June 1992
1996 Tile Drainage

LEGEND
- Black: Systematic Tile Drainage
- Dotted: Random Tile Drainage

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1992
1996 Clarington Official Plan

Source: Clarington’s Official Plan, 1996
Greenbelt and Whitebelt

“The overall vision for the Greenbelt Plan is protection against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and supports agriculture as the predominant land use”

Source: Greenbelt Plan - Introduction
Courtice-Bowmanville Whitebelt LEAR

“Many farmers questioned why the best farm land is not being protected by the Greenbelt”. Source: Cummings and Juhasz, 2007

Map Source: OMAFRA, 2006
For Durham Region’s Greenbelt Conformity Exercise
Schedule F
Durham’s Vision to 2050

Source: Region of Durham
AACC Resolution – August 25, Endorsed by Council September 19, 2011

Whereas the Municipality of Clarington is in the process of reviewing the Official Plan;

And whereas part of the mandate of the Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington is to advise Council with regard to:

a) implementation of municipal agricultural goals, objectives and policies;

b) alternative solutions, approaches, plans or studies dealing with agriculture and related rural issues which are within the responsibilities and financial capabilities of the Municipality of Clarington; and

c) monitor and report on changes within the agricultural industry including agricultural land inventory;

And Whereas agriculture is the #1 industry in Clarington;

And Whereas agriculture is necessary for food security;

And Whereas some of Canada’s best agricultural land is in Clarington, more particularly immediately adjacent to the current urban boundaries and in the “whitebelt” areas;

And Whereas there are not stringent tests for the expansion of urban settlement area boundaries with regard to prime agricultural lands and soil capability;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council instruct Planning Staff to include additional policies in the Growth Management and Agricultural Sections of the OP to ensure:

a) growth be provided through intensification, and redevelopment; and within the existing urban boundaries;

b) that agricultural soil capability be included as an additional criteria for determining where future growth happens (e.g. avoid Classes 1, 2 and 3 soils, in this order of priority);

c) that impacts from settlement areas on agricultural operations be mitigated; and

d) that all types, sizes and intensities of agricultural uses and normal farm practices be promoted and protected in accordance with Provincial standards.
4 Plan Review
The soil of the Townships of Darlington and Clarke is of very considerable variety, and that fact has had great influence upon what has been produced in the area, whether we regard the forest growth of early days, or the field, or orchard crops of later times.

John Squair, 1927, Page 443.
Agricultural Advisory Committee Accomplishments

- Tax reduction to 20%, first in Clarington and then Durham Region been in place now for over 10 years.
- Respect, listening to the committees concerns
- Relationship with staff across all departments with the agricultural community, road works, design standards, ditching ……
- Clarington Board of Trade which has the Economic Development Contract for Clarington has a focus on agriculture, holds an Agriculture Summit annually, spread of knowledge within the business community about agriculture, familiarization tours to agri-businesses, growth of agri-tourism
- Support for projects such as: Farm Connections, 150 years of families in Agriculture, the small things like flowing the FCC funds for grants through the Municipality for various projects
“The great factors to consider in the matter of agriculture are the men and women engaged in it, the soil upon which they work, the climate of their region, the forms of rival like surrounding them, and the markets for their produce.”

Source: The Townships of Darlington and Clarke, page 440
Those that work the land, know the land

Questions?

THANK YOU