ONTARIO FARMLAND TRUST

Building Farmland Viability in Ontario

Thursday, April 5th, 2018
Wellington & District Community Centre, Prince Edward County
Co-hosts: Prince Edward County, Prince Edward Federation of Agriculture, Prince Edward Chamber of Commerce, and the Prince Edward County Winegrowers Association

Program

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

9:00 am   **Welcome, Opening Remarks**
Kathryn Enders, Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust
Bill Roberts, Chair, Community Economic Development Commission
Robert Quaiff, Mayor, Prince Edward County

9:30 am   **Keynote Speaker – British Columbia's Experience in Farmland Protection and Viability: Perspectives and Experiences from the Agricultural Land Commission**
Kim Grout, RPP, CEO, Agricultural Land Commission
The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a provincial zone within British Columbia where agriculture is recognized as the priority use. Through the ALR, 4.6 million hectares of agriculturally suitable land is protected across the Province. We will hear from the Agricultural Land Commission, an independent administrative tribunal that administers the ALR, about their experience protecting agricultural land and preserving its viability. This session will provide a valuable opportunity for Ontario land use planners and policy makers to learn more about this unique agricultural land protection model used in British Columbia.

10:30 am   **Panel – Planning Strategies and Tools to Preserve and Support Agricultural Viability**
LEAR – A Method for Determining Prime Agricultural Designations in Prince Edward
        County, *Paul Walsh, RPP, Manager of Planning, Prince Edward County*
Harvesting the Benefits of Agricultural Advisory Committees: Perspectives from Halton
        Region, *Anna Demarchi-Meyers, Agricultural Liaison Officer, Halton Region*
Community Improvement Plans: Aligning fiscal tools, land use regulations, and processes
        to support rural business and tourism in Haldimand County, *Craig Manley, RPP,*
        General Manager Planning & Economic Development, Haldimand County

        Facilitator: Margaret Walton, RPP, Ontario Farmland Trust Board Member

11:30 am   **Lunch and Networking**

12:30 pm   **PLENARY: Provincial Policy Perspectives: How the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,**
        Food and Rural Affairs is Promoting Integration of Farmland Protection and Viability
Helma Geerts, RPP, Policy Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

OMAFRA will present on how provincial land use policy supports agricultural viability in Ontario. In particular, Helma will discuss how provincial policy and Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Prime Agricultural Areas help to maintain the agricultural land base and support a viable agriculture industry and rural economy. Examples will be provided of how farms are diversifying, particularly in Eastern Ontario. New Agricultural System policies for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and OMAFRA implementation procedures will also be touched on, as a new way of supporting a thriving agri-food sector.

1:20 pm   **PLENARY: Success Stories from the Field – How has planning positively influenced these**
        Prince Edward County agricultural businesses?
The Grange of Prince Edward Estate Vineyard & Winery, *Caroline Granger*
The Campbell's Orchards, *Colin Campbell*
Sunset Farms & Cabins, *Matt Rabbie*

        Facilitator: **Former Minister of Agriculture Hon. Lyle Vanclief**

2:05 pm   **Networking and Health Break**

2:30 pm   **PLENARY: Viable Farmland: Ontario's Past, Present, and Future**

Sara Epp, PhD Candidate and Sessional Lecturer, University of Guelph

Ontario farmland viability has morphed and evolved over time. Together, we will travel through the province's history to determine how agriculture viability was supported during Ontario's past and present, as well as its future directions. Examples of current initiatives in support of agriculture from both southern and northern Ontario will be presented.

3:15 pm   **Wrap up & Concluding Remarks**
Bernard Pope, Chair, Ontario Farmland Trust
Kathryn Enders, Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust

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