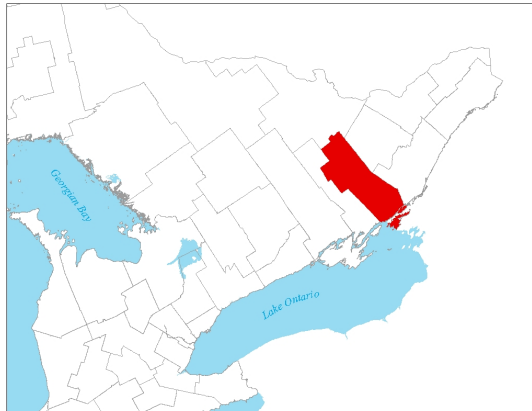


FRONTENAC COUNTY



Total Land Area (Census 2016)¹: 378,776 ha
Area of Census Farms (2001)²: 83,179 ha
Area of Census Farms (2016)²: 61,896. ha
Gross Farm Receipts (2016)⁴: \$43,805,645
Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare of Census Farm: \$707.73
Population (2016)¹: 150,475
Growth Rate 2006–2011⁵: 4.1%
Growth Rate 2011–2016¹: 0.5%

Purpose of the Summary

This county summary is part of a wider study on farmland availability in Ontario. The study quantifies the conversion of prime agricultural areas based on Official Plan Amendments in upper and single-tier municipalities across the province over a 17-year study period from 2000–2017. This summary is meant to provide detail of the findings in by Frontenac County. In conjunction with similar case studies from other counties/regions in Ontario, these findings will form the basis of the University of Guelph's *Measuring Farmland Conversion* research project.

Methods in Brief

The study involved the examination of Official Plan Amendments (OPAs) approved by Frontenac County, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and/or the Ontario Municipal Board during the years 2000–2017. Frontenac County is an upper-tier municipality that adopted its first Official Plan (OP) on October 15, 2014. It was later approved by Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs in 2016. Frontenac's OP recognizes and emphasizes lower-tier municipal land use designations and priorities and places them within a broader framework. Though lower-tier municipalities must conform to Frontenac County's OP, land use designations are first established within lower-tier Official Plans.

The lower-tier municipalities that comprise Frontenac County include the Township of Central Frontenac, the Township of Frontenac Islands, the Township of North Frontenac, and Township of South Frontenac. During data collection, planners from the lower-tier throughout Frontenac County confirmed that zero OPAs relevant to prime agricultural soils have been approved within the County during the timeframe of this study. The assistance of planning staff is greatly appreciated in making this research possible.

Agricultural Land Use Designations in Frontenac County

Prime agricultural lands in Frontenac County are designated under the *Agriculture*, and are identified in lower-tier OPs including the Township of Frontenac Islands, the Township of Central Frontenac, and Township of South Frontenac. There is no prime agricultural land in the Township of North Frontenac. *Agricultural* areas were identified based on the presence of prime agricultural soils according to the Canada Land Inventory system (Classes 1–3), or in recognition of a concentration of farms that have been in long-term production that may also include Class 4–7 lands. Prime agricultural lands are protected through local and County level policies.

Trends in Agricultural Land Conversion

Zero approved OPAs in Frontenac County affecting prime agricultural land from 2000–2017 were captured in this study. OPA No. 3 was highlighted as it redesignated a 107 hectare *Agricultural* parcel to a *Rural* designation in the Township of Fontenac Islands, however this was not captured in this study as it was permitted in response to a soil study that identified the soil to be non-prime (Class 5).

Both Frontenac County’s and lower-tier’s OPs have included some flexibility regarding *Agricultural* land. The Township of South Frontenac’s OP notes, for example, that limited (1) farm and infill residential consents may be permitted in the *Agricultural* designation. The Townships of Central Frontenac’s OP also confirms that lot sizes may be adjusted in the circumstance that they remain consistent with agricultural uses in the area and are sufficiently large enough to maintain flexibility for the future. Throughout Frontenac County, OPs recognize the forest resource as an integral part of agricultural operations as well. Agricultural landowners are encouraged to engage in proper forest management practices, retaining existing tree cover when practical, establish tree and shrub cover on low agriculture capability soils, establish windbreaks, and reforest non-productive farmland in addition to regular farming practices.

Provincial Land Use Plans:

Frontenac County’s Official Plan is subject to the Provincial Policy Statement, however Frontenac County does not fall under the Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, or the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

1. Statistics Canada. 2017. Frontenac County, CV [*Census subdivision*], Ontario and Canada [*Country*] (table). *Census Profile*. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed April 26, 2020).

2 OMAFRA (adopted). 2017. Area of Census Farms (Acres) by County, Ontario: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016. With data from Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture.

3 Statistics Canada. Table 004-0233 –Census of Agriculture, farms classified by total gross farm receipts in the year prior to the census, every 5 years (number of farms reporting unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database).

4 Statistics Canada. 2012. Frontenac County, Ontario (Code 3531) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.

5. Statistics Canada. 2012. Frontenac County , *Ontario (Code 3506008) and Ottawa, Ontario (Code 3506)* (table). *Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed April 26, 2020).