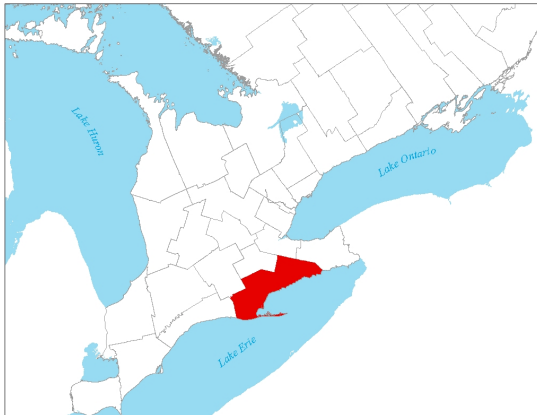


HALDIMAND COUNTY



Total Land Area (Census 2016)¹: 125,154 ha
Area of Census Farms (2011)*: 86,590 ha
Area of Census Farms (2016)²: 86,909 ha
Area of Region in the Greenbelt³: 0 ha
Percent of Region in the Greenbelt: 0%
Gross Farm Receipts (2016)⁴: \$295.92 million
Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare of Census Farm: \$3,404.94
Population (2016)¹: 45,608
Growth Rate 2006-2011⁵: -0.7%
Growth Rate 2011-2016¹: 1.6%

Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Development Designation (Including Urban, Residential, And Employment)	71.2 ha
Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Rural Designation	0 ha
Land Designated As A Prime Agricultural Area With A Site-Specific Amendment To Allow Additional Uses	214.9 ha
Total Amount of Prime Agricultural Land Loss 2000–2017	286.1 ha
Total Prime Agricultural Land Loss in Relation to Census Farm Area 2011*	0.33%

**Haldimand specific census data was only available from 2011. Earlier census data calculates Haldimand-Norfolk as one region.*

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 Haldimand 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

This study involved the examination of the Official Plans (OPs) and Official Plan Amendments (OPAs) approved during the years 2000 to 2017 for Haldimand County. The current OP for Haldimand County

was adopted in 2006, and as such, the OPs and OPAs for the former Towns of Dunnville and Haldimand and the former City of Nanticoke were also examined. For data collection in Haldimand, the original files that document OPAs approved by the County and/or the Ontario Municipal Board during study timeframe were provided by staff at the Clerks Division and Planning and Development Division. Files were provided electronically where available, while physical copies were provided at the Haldimand County Cayuga Administration Building. The assistance of Haldimand County staff is appreciated in making this research possible. Changes in farmland availability have been captured in three categories:

- 1) Prime agricultural areas redesignated to a development designation (including but not limited to urban, residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational designations);
- 2) Prime agricultural areas redesignated to a rural designation;
- 3) Land designated as a prime agricultural area with a site-specific amendment to allow additional uses.

Housekeeping type amendments have not been tallied as contributing to farmland conversion. Housekeeping type amendments arise as OP schedules are updated to align land use designations with more accurate parcel lines, or to reflect existing physical features.

Agricultural Land Use Designations in Haldimand County

Haldimand County recognizes prime agricultural lands in their official plans under the designation *Agricultural*. The *Agricultural* designation covers areas where Class 1 to 3 soils predominate, but may also include some Class 4 to 7 lands that are a part of the broader prime agricultural area.

Trends in Agricultural Land Conversion

Development Designations: Over the course of the study period, six amendments occurred in Haldimand County that converted prime agricultural lands from the *Agricultural* designation to a non-agricultural designation for development purposes. Each of these amendments was for the purpose of residential development, the majority of which facilitated new lot creation under the *Resort Residential* designation. These amendments are captured in category 1 of Table 1.

Rural Designation: No amendments occurred in Haldimand County during the study period that converted prime agricultural lands to a rural designation.

Site-Specific Amendments: Fifteen OPAs occurred in Haldimand County from 2000 – 2017 that enabled site-specific uses on prime agricultural lands. The purpose of the site-specific amendments varied greatly, including permissions to establish places of worship, daycares, and garden centres. Many of the site-specific amendments were small in size, however one OPA that permitted

motorsports and trailer camping accounted for 150 of the total 198 ha repurposed through special policies. Category 3 of Table 1 captures these amendments below.

Table. 1 Prime Agricultural Area Converted Through OPAs In Haldimand County By Adoption Date (2000–2017)

Year Of Regional OPA Adoption Or Approval By The OMB	Number of OPAs Related To The Conversion Of Prime Agricultural Area	CATEGORY 1 Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Development Designation (ha)	CATEGORY 2 Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Rural Designation (ha)	CATEGORY 3 Land Designated As A Prime Agricultural Area With Additional Site-Specific Permitted Uses (ha)
2000	1	0.6	0	0
2001	1	0	0	0.8
2002	1	0	0	150
2003	1	27.4	0	0
2004	2	0	0	2.4
2005	1	0	0	1.9
2006	1	0	0	0.4
2007	1	0	0	9.4
2008	2	0	0	4.6
2009	2	0	0	26.4
2010	1	1.3	0	0
2011	1	33	0	0
2012	0	0	0	0
2013	1	5.5	0	0
2014	2	3.5	0	1.9
2015	0	0	0	0
2016	2	0	0	15.3
2017	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	21	71.2	0	214.9

**Totals may not add due to rounding.

Provincial Land Use Plans:

Haldimand County does not fall into the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine, nor the Niagara Escarpment, and as such OPAs in Haldimand County are not subject to the policies of these provincial plans.

Haldimand County is covered by the *Places to Grow Plan*, in particular the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. An amendment occurred in 2009 that brought the Haldimand County Official Plan into conformity with the *Growth Plan*. This OPA was largely focused on intensification in urban areas, and agricultural land loss was not captured.

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- ¹ Statistics Canada. 2017. *Haldimand County, CY [Census subdivision], Ontario and Haldimand-Norfolk, CDR [Census division], Ontario (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released May 3, 2017.*
- ² Statistics Canada. *Table 004-0204 – Census of Agriculture, tenure of land owned, leased, rented, crop-shared, used through other arrangements or used by others, every 5 years, CANSIM (database).*
- ³ MMAH. 2005. “Greenbelt Outer Boundary” and MMAH, 2012 “Municipal Boundary – Upper Tier and District” data projected in UTM 17N.
- ⁴ Statistics Canada. *Table 004-0233 – Censure 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).*
- ⁵ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Haldimand County, Ontario (Code 3528018) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.*