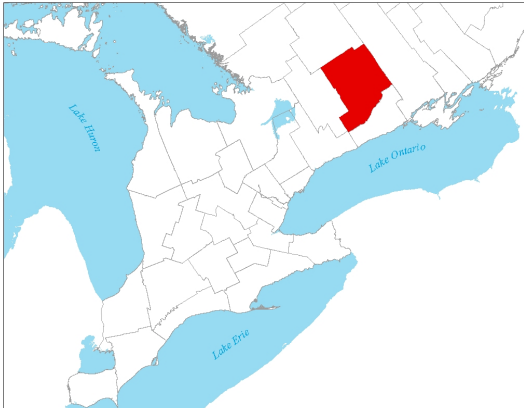


PETERBOROUGH COUNTY



Total Land Area (Census 2016)¹: 378,395 ha
Area of Census Farms (2001)²: 104,668.7 ha
Area of Census Farms (2016)²: 81,844 ha
Area of Region in the Greenbelt³: 7,080 ha
Percent of Region in the Greenbelt: 1.87%
Gross Farm Receipts (2016)⁴: \$94.3 million
Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare of Census Farm: \$1,152
Population (2016)¹: 57,204
Growth Rate 2006-2011⁵: -2.6%

Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Development Designation (Including Urban, Residential, And Employment) 2000–2017	745.7 ha
Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Rural Designation 2000–2017	15.4 ha
Land Designated As A Prime Agricultural Area With A Site-Specific Amendment To Allow Additional Uses 2000–2017	34.4 ha
Total Amount of Prime Agricultural Land Loss 2000–2017	795.5
Total Prime Agricultural Land Loss as a Percentage (Per Census Farm Area 2001)	0.76%

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 Peterborough. 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 Plans (OPs) and Official Plan Amendments (OPAs) that were approved in Peterborough County from 2000–2017. In Peterborough, the upper-tier OP does not include all of the lower-tier member municipalities. As such, OPs and OPAs were examined at the county-level, and also at the lower-level. The lower-tier municipalities in Peterborough County are the townships of Asphodel-Norwood, Cavan Monaghan, Douro-Dummer, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen,

North Kawartha, Otonabee-South Monaghan and Selwyn, and the municipality of Trent Lakes. For data collection in Peterborough, the files which document OPAs approved by the County and/or the Ontario Municipal Board during the years 2000–2017 were provided both electronically and in physical formats from the county and lower-level planning offices. The assistance of staff in making this research possible is appreciated. 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 Peterborough County

The Peterborough County OP currently acts as the planning document for the townships of Selwyn, Asphodel-Norwood, North Kawartha and Douro Dummer. Within the local plan policies for land use in the county OP, there are two agricultural land use designations. The *Prime Agriculture* designation applies to prime agricultural lands of Class 1, 2 and 3 soils. The *Rural* designation permits all agricultural activities; however, it is generally applied to areas with less capability for agriculture and Class 4 to 7 soils. The municipality of North Kawartha does not contain any prime agricultural lands and as such, was excluded from this study. The remaining four lower-tiers, Cavan Monaghan, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, Otonabee-South Monaghan and Trent Lakes, each have their own respective OP. Cavan Monaghan and Otonabee-South Monaghan have similar designations as the county OP; an *Agriculture* designation is used for prime agricultural areas, while a *Rural* designation is used for areas of lower capability for agriculture, defined by their soil class. Trent Lakes and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen do not have a prime agricultural designation due to their geography and were excluded from the study.

For the purposes of this study, both the *Prime Agriculture* designation and the *Rural* designation of the county OP, as well as the *Agriculture* and *Rural* designations of the lower-tier OPs were considered. A number of OPAs occurred in the county that eliminated the *Agriculture* designation from some OPs or converted *Agriculture* and *Rural* designations in other OPs. Due to this, both designations were considered, and supplemental information including Canada Land Inventory mapping was used to determine if the loss was in fact prime agricultural land.

Trends in Agricultural Land Conversion

Development Designations: Seven OPAs were approved within Peterborough County that redesignated prime agricultural lands to a non-agricultural designation for the purpose of residential, industrial and commercial development. These amendments were generally quite small in size. The largest OPA amendment is the 2015 Official Plan Update approved by the OMB, which converted 688 ha of agricultural lands for various uses including Rural or Hamlet as a part of the Settlement Area Review. Lands taken out of the prime agriculture designation during this update were identified with the assistance of OMAFRA in 2012. These amendments are captured in category 1 of table 1.

Rural Designation: Conversion of prime agricultural lands to a rural designation occurred twice in the study period from 2000 to 2017. These amendments did not capture conversions as the result of LEAR studies, which were considered housekeeping amendments. For the two amendments in Peterborough County, one permitted a severance from the lands, while the other permitted a group home to be allowed on the subject lands. Category 2 of table 2 captured these amendments.

Site-Specific Amendments: Over the course of the study period, site-specific amendments were approved three times in Peterborough County. These amendments covered a total of 34 ha, and allowed uses such as a camping facility, home-based businesses and trailer sales. These amendments are shown in category 3 of table 1 below.

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

Year of 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	4	4.4	15	14
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	2	6.6	0	0
2004	1	0	0	15.1
2005	2	0.9	0.4	0
2006	1	46.5	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0
2012	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0

2014	0	0	0	0
2015	2	687.6	0	5.4
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	12	745.74	15.4	34.4

*Totals may not add due to rounding

Provincial Land Use Plans: A very small proportion, less than 2%, of Peterborough County is covered by the *Greenbelt Plan*. No amendments were captured within the Greenbelt Area of the county either before or after the *Greenbelt Plan* implementation in 2005. Table 2 captures the amendments before and after the *Greenbelt Plan* implementation.

Table 2. Prime agricultural area converted through OPAs in Peterborough County by application date and location relative to the Greenbelt Plan

	Outside the Greenbelt		Within the Greenbelt		Total
	Application date		Application Date		
	Pre 2005	2005-2017	Pre 2005	2005- 2017	
Prime Agriculture Area Redesignated To A Development Or Rural Designation (ha)	26	735.4	0	0	761
Prime Agricultural Area With Site-Specific Policies Allowing Additional Uses (ha)	29.1	5.3	0	0	34.4
Total	55.1	740.3	0	0	795.4

*Table 1 includes files based on their approval date within the 2000-2017 study time frame. Table 2 is organized based on application date so that we can determine what policy regime the approved amendments were evaluated under, and may include files that were initiated prior to the 2000-2017 study time frame.

¹ Statistics Canada. 2017. *Peterborough, CTY [Census division], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released May 3, 2017.*

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 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 – 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).*

⁵ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Peterborough, Ontario (Code 3515) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-WXE. Ottawa, Released October 24, 2012.*