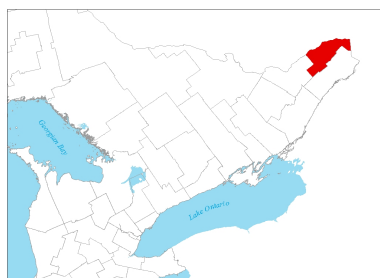


# PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL



**Total Land Area (Census 2016)<sup>1</sup>:** 200,447 ha  
**Area of Census Farms (2001)<sup>2</sup>:** 120,347 ha  
**Area of Census Farms (2016)<sup>2</sup>:** 123,837 ha  
**Gross Farm Receipts (2016)<sup>4</sup>:** \$343,890,158  
**Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare of Census Farm:** \$2776.95  
**Population (2016)<sup>3</sup>:** 89,333  
**Growth Rate 2006-2011<sup>5</sup>:** 4.6%  
**Growth Rate 2011-2016<sup>1</sup>:** 6.5%

Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Development Designation (Including Urban, Residential, And Employment) 2000–2017	<b>50.59 ha</b>
Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Rural Designation 2000–2017	<b>136.82 ha</b>
Land Designated As A Prime Agricultural Area With A Site-Specific Amendment To Allow Additional Uses 2000–2017	<b>29.14 ha</b>
<b>Total Amount of Prime Agricultural Land Loss 2000-2017</b>	<b>216.55 ha</b>
<b>Total Prime Agricultural Land Loss as a Percentage (Per Census Farm Area 2001)</b>	<b>0.18 %</b>

## 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 the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. 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 the United Counties of Prescott and Russell's Official Plan and Official Plan Amendments (OPAs). In Prescott and Russell, the files that document OPAs approved by the county and/or the Ontario Municipal Board during the years 2000 to 2017 were compiled and provided electronically by staff at the County's planning department. The assistance of staff at Prescott and Russell's Planning and Forestry Department are appreciated in making this research possible. Farmland conversion has 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 Official Plan schedules are updated to align land use designations with more accurate parcel lines, or to reflect existing physical features.

#### **Agricultural Land Use Designations in Prescott and Russell**

Prescott and Russell designates agricultural lands under two categories in the county Official Plan. These designations include *Agricultural Resource Policy Area* and *Rural Policy Area*. The *Agricultural Resource Policy Area* is identified as:

1. Soil capability for agriculture, primarily soil classes 1, 2 and 3 (Canada Land Inventory classification system);
2. Agricultural designations from local Official Plans; and
3. The extent of land fragmentation and the presence of conflicting land uses in the area.

The *Rural Policy Area* designation is composed of lands which are located outside of the primary development and resource areas. For this study, only lands in the *Agricultural Resource Lands* were considered to be of relevance and interest.

#### **Trends in Agricultural Land Conversion**

**Development Designations:** Over the course of the study period only one amendment in Prescott and Russell converted prime agricultural land to a development designation. The re-designated land use is 'Trade and Industry' which allows commercial and industrial developments. This amendment is captured in category 1 of Table 1.

**Rural Designation:** Over the course of the study period, three OPAs redesignated agricultural lands in the *Agricultural Resource Policy Area* to *Rural Policy Area*. The first OPA was approved to allow for the development of a golf driving range and the expansion of an existing commercial operation. The other two OPAs were comprehensive 5-year reviews of the County Official Plan which amended the county's geographic boundary and converted a number of prime agricultural lands to various other uses. As most of these cases were redesignation to the *Rural Policy Area*, this OPA is included in the 'Rural Designation' category. The amount of redesignated area was calculated by adding the available land areas and measuring the map in the schedules in the planning documents. This category encompassed 135.22 hectares and is captured in category 2 of Table 1.

**Site-Specific Amendments:** Only one site-specific amendment was captured in Prescott and Russell during the study period. This amendment applied to a 29.14 hectares land and permitted an academic institution and related athletic facilities on it. Category 3 of Table 1 reflects this amendment.

Table 1. Prime Agricultural Area Converted Through ROPAs In Prescott and Russell 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	0	0	0	0
2001	1	0	15.22	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	1	0	0	29.14
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	1	0	120	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	0	0	0	0
2016	1	0	1.6	0
2017	1	50.59	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50.59</b>	<b>136.82</b>	<b>29.14</b>

\*\*Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Provincial Land Use Plans:** The United Counties of Prescott and Russell's Official Plan is subject to the Provincial Policy Statement, however Prescott and Russell 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> MMAH. 2005. "Greenbelt Outer Boundary" and MMAH, 2012. "Municipal Boundary - Upper Tier and District" data projected in UTM 17N.

<sup>4</sup> 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).

<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. Perth, Ontario (Code 3531) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.

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