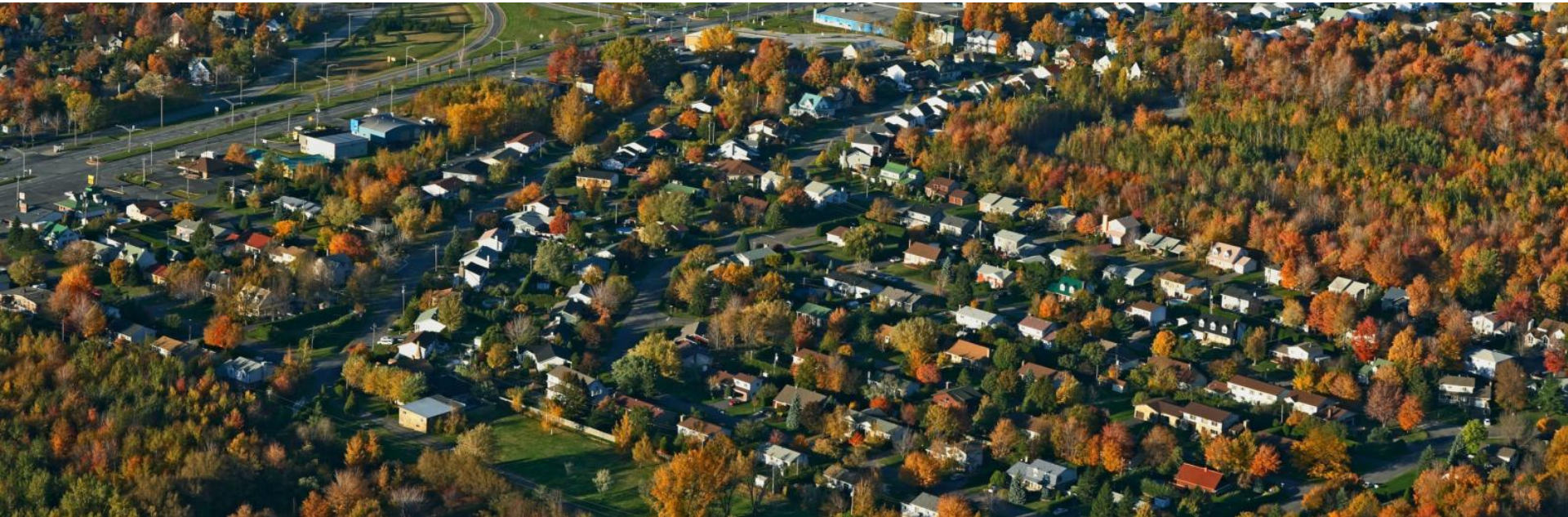


POWER IN POLICY

MEASURING FARMLAND LOSS IN ONTARIO & TESTING THE STRENGTH OF THE GREENBELT ACT



LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM • NOVEMBER 19, 2019

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: WAYNE CALDWELL • RESEARCH ASSISTANT: RACHEL SINGER/SHARON WAN



AGENDA

- Research Project & Methods
- Project Background
- Ontario's Greenbelt
- Findings
- Patterns
- Q&A

GAPS IN MEASUREMENT

- A lack of real-time data
 - Census
 - Financial Information Reports
 - Aerial imagery
- The delay between approvals and development
- Population growth by 27%
- 56% of Canada's class 1 prime agricultural soils



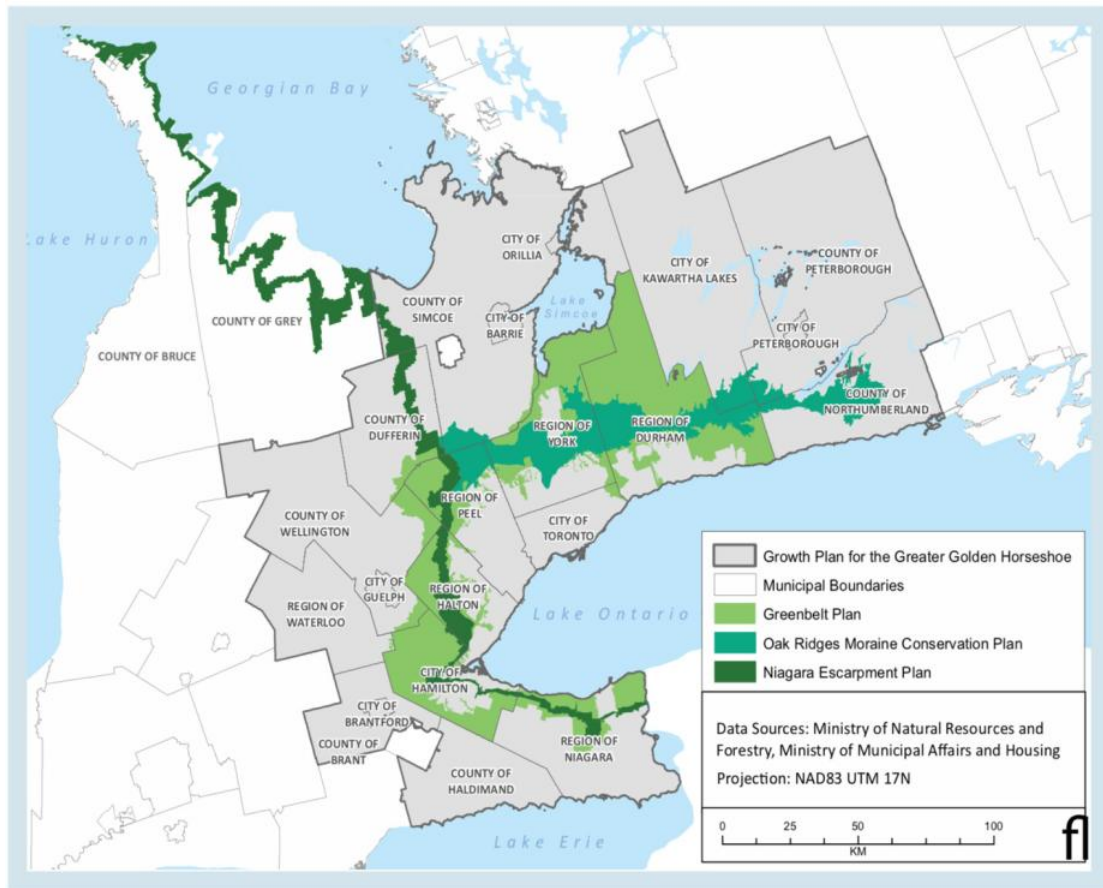
RESEARCH PROJECT & METHODS

- Compile farmland conversions to non-farmland uses across Southern Ontario
- Complete a jurisdictional scan of agricultural land use policies in Ontario
- Track approved Official Plan Amendments:
 - Redesignations to a **development** designation
 - Redesignations to a **rural** designation
 - **Site-specific policy**
- Timeframe: 2000–2017 (Captured both data before and after the 2005 PPS and the Greenbelt Act)



ONTARIO'S GREENBELT

- The world's largest permanently protected Greenbelt
- Employs over 790,000 people
- Provides Local food
- Top Down Planning
- Phase One: 14 Regions



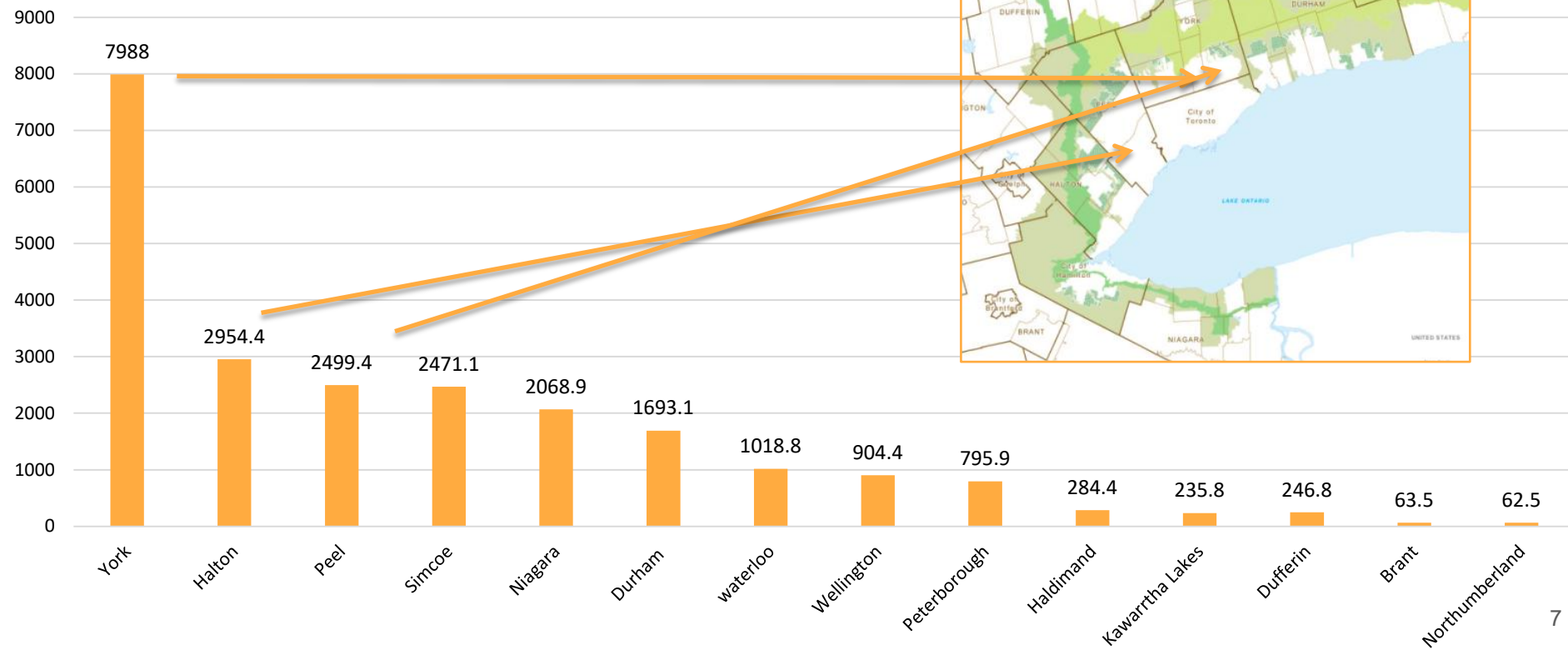
MEASURING LOSS

County	Census Farmland (ha) 2001	Measuring Farmland Loss (ha) 2000–2017	Percentage Loss
Dufferin	78,170	246.8	0.32%
Durham	133,662	1693.6	1.27%
Halton	39,966 ha	2,847 ha lost	7.12%
Kawartha lakes	145,966	235.8	0.16%
Niagara	94,218	2087	2.22%
Northumberland	102,655	151.5	0.15%
Peel	42,263 ha	3442.4 ha lost	8.15%
Peterborough	104,669	795.8	0.76%
Simcoe	218,882	2471	1.13%
Waterloo	91378	1019	1.12%
Wellington	190764	903.3	0.47%
York	71,211 ha	7,989 ha lost	11.22%



2. FARMLAND CONVERSION

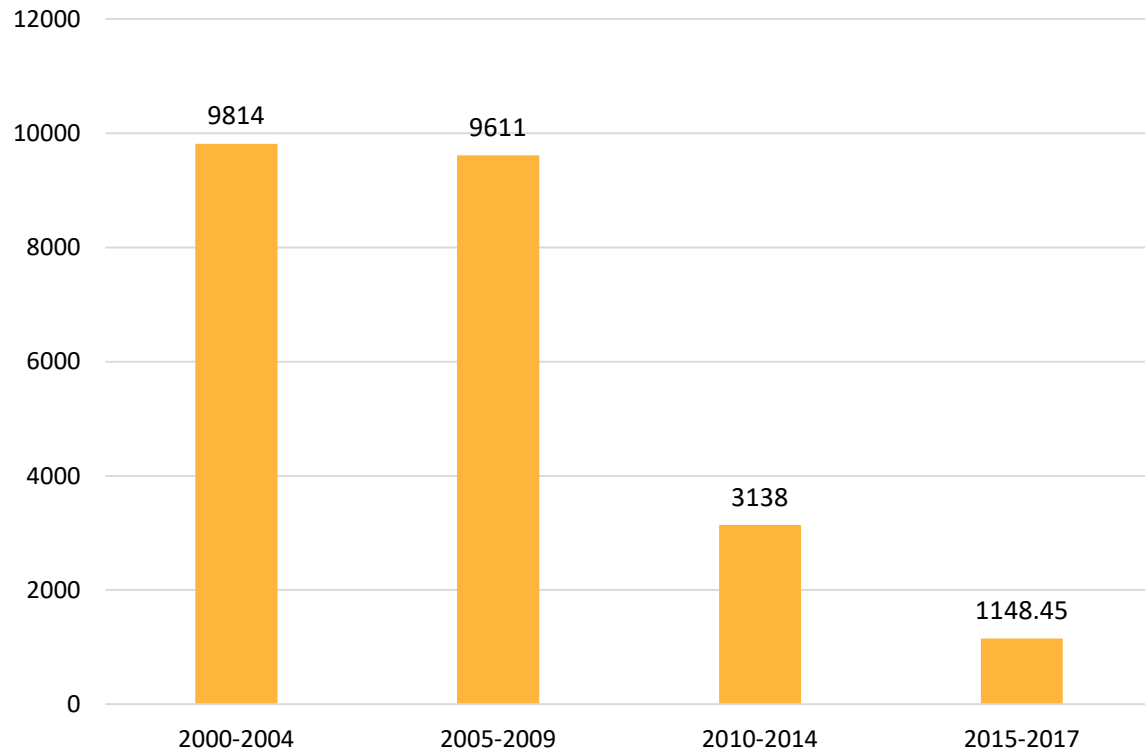
Prime Agricultural Land Loss from 2000-2017 by Region (ha)



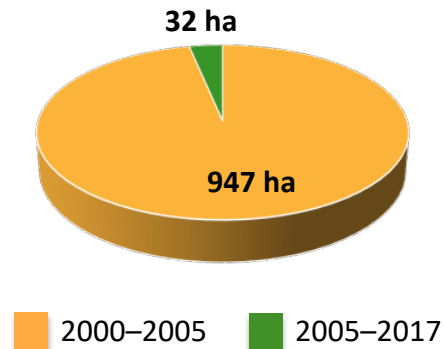


2. FARMLAND CONVERSION

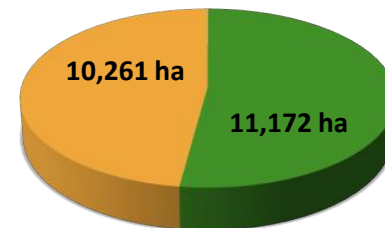
5-Year Total Prime Agricultural Land Loss in The Greater Golden Horseshoe (ha)



Prime Agricultural Land Loss Within the Greenbelt



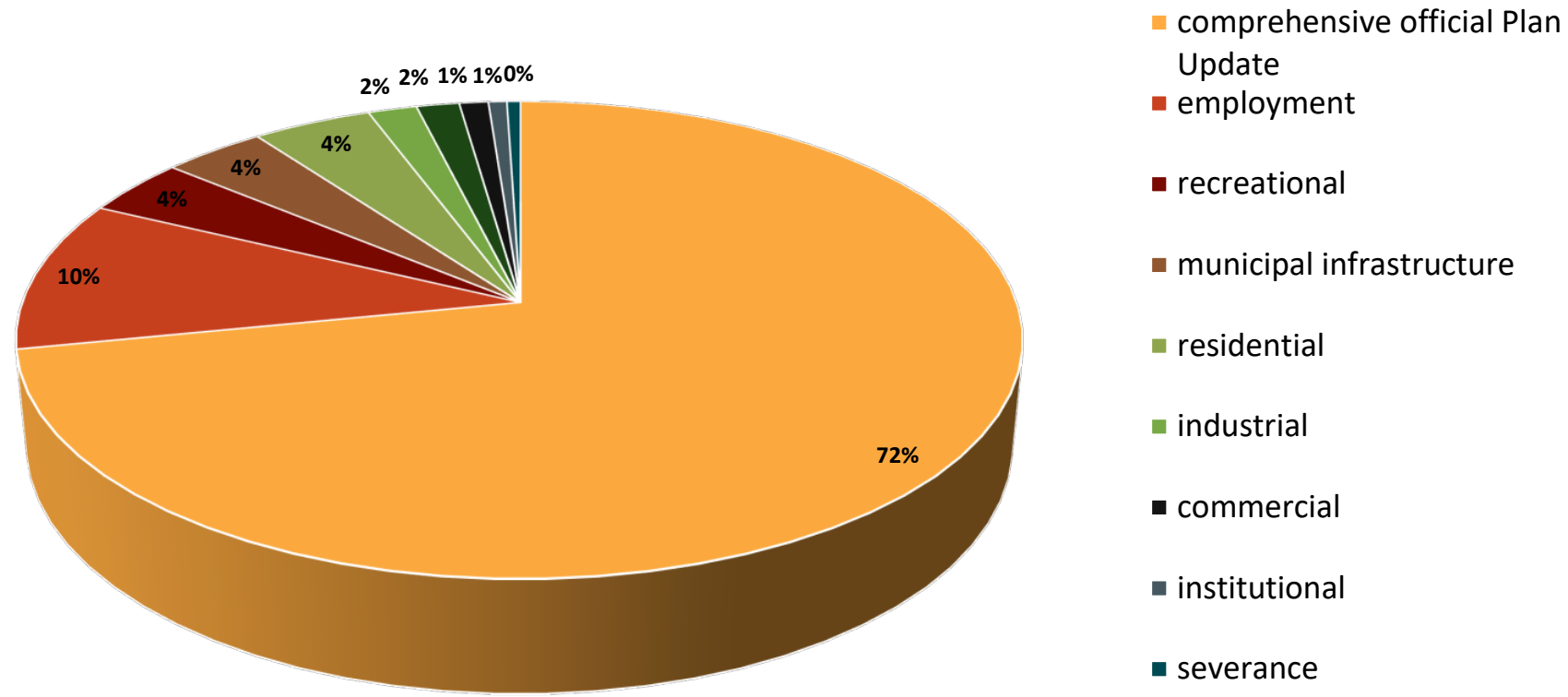
Prime Agricultural Land Loss Outside the Greenbelt








2. FARMLAND CONVERSION

Official Plan Amendments by Purpose



RESULTS: PATTERNS

Location	Map	Characteristics
Inner ring counties		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low OPA number• Large-scale urban boundary expansion
Peripheral outer ring regions		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High OPA number• Combination of large-scale and small-scale redesignation
Further outer ring counties		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low OPA number• Mainly small-scale redesignation

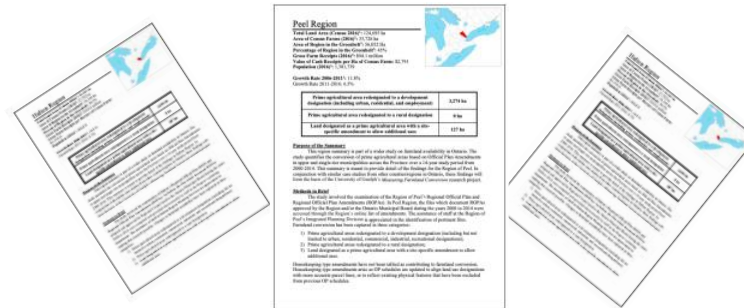
KEY FINDINGS

- Greenbelt has been successful
- Greatest rates of prime farmland loss within the GTA
- Given population growth, farmland will continue to be converted for development
- Prime agricultural land is a finite resource
- Provincial and local planning policies are necessary

Farmland Loss 2000–2017			
County	Census Farmland (ha)	Financial Information Return (ha)	Measuring Farmland Loss (ha)
Halton	12173.8	2087	2885.31
Peel	8536.4	3,809	3442.4
York	13508	4457	7989

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank OMAFRA for their support as well as the numerous planners and staff whose assistance was integral to the data collection process. Please visit www.waynecaldwell.ca to see County Summaries and Phase 1 Report.



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