

# THE ROAD TO 2051

An agricultural trends study for planning policy in the Town of Caledon

May 18<sup>th</sup>,  
2021

Council Planning and  
Development Committee  
Presentation



# Project Purpose

1. Research and identify current and emerging agricultural trends in Ontario, up to the year 2051
2. Review and identify planning policy that can support the identified agricultural trends.

Findings will inform the direction of Caledon's agricultural and agriculture-related Official Plan policy as part of the Municipal Comprehensive Review.

# Agenda

- 1 Methods: What did we do?
- 2 Key Findings: What did we learn?
- 3 Recommendations: What does this mean for the Town of Caledon?

# Methods

## Community Survey

- 230 participants

## Interviews

- 23 provincial, municipal and agri-food industry stakeholders

## Literature Review

- Studies and reports assessing current and future agricultural trends

## Policy Review

- Provincial and municipal review and national and international policy examples

## SCOT Analysis

- Strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats

## ConnectON Asset Mapping

- Geographic dimensions of Caledon's agri-food sector assets



# Future Trends: Agri-food production

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- Increased interest in local food (from farm to fork)
- Widening consumer palate
- Climate-focused diets
- Increased focus on plant-based proteins
- Increased automation
- Farmer 4.0



# Future Trends: Social and Community

- Increased interest in local food (from farm to fork)
- Widening consumer palate
- Social innovation
- Climate-focused diets
- Increased focus on plant-based proteins
- Agritourism and 'stay-cationing'
- Intensive indoor agriculture
- Urban agriculture





# Key Findings & Recommendations

- 1 Agriculture is a valued part of Caledon's economy and local heritage.
- 2 Caledon has an opportunity to embrace innovative agri-food technologies and urban agriculture.
- 3 Caledon's rural landscape and agricultural system has the potential to provide a unique visitor experience.



# Agriculture is a valued part of Caledon's economy and local heritage

## KEY FINDINGS

- The agricultural sector plays a role in improving food security.
- Agricultural landscapes provide ecological goods and services.
- There is intense development pressure and speculation on agricultural lands in Caledon.
- Educating residents about agriculture is important.

58% of survey respondents predicted that a typical plate of food in Canada in 2051 will contain primarily locally grown food.



# Agriculture is a valued part of Caledon's economy and local heritage

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALEDON

- Establish a countryside line.
- Implement a transition-to-farming designation.
- Strengthen requirements for agricultural impact assessments.
- Manage non-farm uses on agricultural land.
- Enact policies to foster positive urban-rural relationships.
- Strengthen the use of minimum distance separation policies.





# Spotlight on Implementation: Region of Waterloo, On

## ESTABLISH A COUNTRYSIDE LINE

- Established a countryside line between rural and urban areas.
- Official Plan only allows development in countryside areas under selected circumstances such as the expansion of an existing operation or development where need is clearly demonstrated, and alternatives are unavailable.



# Caledon's rural landscape and agricultural system has the potential to provide a unique visitor experience

## KEY FINDINGS

- Agritourism and "stay-cationing" presents a significant opportunity as a growth sector in Caledon.
- The Town should support on-farm diversified uses.
- The equine sector is a key part of Caledon's economy.

"Agritourism is the future of Caledon. We are on the doorstep of millions of tourists who will flock here under the proper guidance of city council and support of small businesses in the region."

- Survey Respondent



# Caledon's rural landscape and agricultural system has the potential to provide a unique visitor experience

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALEDON

- Support policy options to promote on-farm diversified uses.
- Support agriculture-related uses.
- Implement an agricultural-sector focused community improvement plan.



# Spotlight on Implementation: Haldimand County, On

## RURAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Five grant programs to meet five strategic outcomes:
  - Improve the physical and visual qualities of the County's Hamlets
  - Support Value-Added Agricultural uses such as agri-tourism or small scale on-farm processing
  - Encourage the development of Commercial Roofed Accommodations
  - Develop key tourism supportive uses in the Hamlets
  - Preserve Heritage Buildings by investing in heritage features and encouraging commercial uses



# Caledon has an opportunity to embrace innovative agri-food technologies and urban agriculture

## KEY FINDINGS

- Opportunity for Caledon to support urban agriculture development.
- Opportunity for Caledon to support innovation and diversification of agriculture sector.

80% of survey respondents believe that municipal support for local food initiatives, like market gardens and farmers' markets, is "very important".



# Caledon has an opportunity to embrace innovative agri-food technologies and urban agriculture

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALEDON

- Promote urban agriculture.
- Allow or provide greater flexibility for small lot agriculture.
- Enable investment in food processing.
- Incorporate agriculture in community greenspace.



# Spotlight on Implementation: City of Edmonton, AB

## POLICY TO ENABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE

- Allow for urban agricultural uses without conflating conventional agricultural uses.
- established three land designations for urban agriculture in the City's Zoning By-law:
  - Urban Outdoor Farms,
  - Urban Indoor Farms, and
  - Urban Gardens

