

Clause No. 7 in Report No. 7 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 17, 2014.

7

**PRELIMINARY INPUT - UPCOMING REVIEWS OF THE GREENBELT PLAN
AND THE OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ CONSERVATION PLAN**

Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1. Receipt of the communication from Debbe Crandall, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine, dated February 17, 2014.**
- 2. Receipt of the communication from Cam Milani, Rizmi Holdings Limited, dated March 31, 2014.**
- 3. Adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated March 20, 2014 from the Executive Director, Corporate and Strategic Planning, with the following amendment:**

Add a further recommendation as follows:

- 3. York Region staff host a Public Information Centre (PIC), if scheduling allows, to inform the next phase of input to the Province regarding reviews of the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.***

and change recommendation 3 to recommendation 4.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1. Council endorse this report as preliminary input to the Province regarding pending reviews of the *Greenbelt Plan* and the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*.**
- 2. The Minister of Infrastructure and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to formally coordinate the 2015/2016 reviews of the *Greenbelt Plan*, the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan* and *Places to Grow - Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, and to merge all future 10-year reviews.**

3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Infrastructure.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an overview of the upcoming Provincial reviews of the *Greenbelt Plan*, the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP)* and *Places to Grow - Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (the Growth Plan)*, summarizes focussed consultation undertaken by Regional staff, and outlines preliminary input that the Province should consider as they begin their review.

3. BACKGROUND

A number of Provincial Plans create a unique context for planning within York Region

Within Ontario, the *Planning Act* sets out the ground rules for land use planning, and describes how land uses may be controlled and by whom. Under the *Planning Act*, a network of provincial and municipal plans work together to protect provincial and municipal interests (see *Attachment 1*). These Plans include the *Provincial Policy Statement*, the *Greenbelt Plan*, the *ORMCP*, the *Growth Plan*, and municipal Official Plans.

The Province is mandated to initiate a review of the *Greenbelt Plan* and *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan* in 2015, and a review of the *Growth Plan* in 2016

The *Greenbelt Plan*, released in 2005, protects a large area of agricultural lands within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Included within the *Greenbelt Plan* area are lands subject to the *Niagara Escarpment Plan* and lands subject to the *ORMCP*. To coordinate reviews of these three Plans, the Province delayed reviews of the latter two Plans until 2015, ten years following the release of the *Greenbelt Plan*. This report speaks to reviews of the *Greenbelt Plan* and the *ORMCP*, but not the *Niagara Escarpment Plan* as it is located entirely outside of York Region.

The *Growth Plan*, *ORMCP* and *Greenbelt Plan* are inherently related

The *Greenbelt Plan* is effective in identifying lands protected for their agricultural and natural heritage values, and generally precludes major development outside of existing settlement areas. In 2006, the Province released the *Growth Plan*, a framework for implementing the Province's vision for building stronger, prosperous communities by

better managing growth. Building upon the *Greenbelt Plan* (and other Provincial initiatives), the *Growth Plan* provides growth management policy direction for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The 10-year review of the *Growth Plan* is not mandated to begin until 2016. Successful implementation of the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP* is reliant upon successful implementation of the *Growth Plan* and vice versa. Section 4 of this report includes a more detailed discussion of how these reviews are related.

Proactive input to the Provincial review is appropriate given York Region's key role leading to the release of these Plans

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Province recognized the importance of the Oak Ridges Moraine through the release of the GTA Greenlands Study (Kanter Report, 1989), declaration of Provincial Interest in the Moraine in 1990, and release of interim implementation guidelines for protecting the Moraine in 1991. Later in the 1990s, the Regions of York, Peel and Durham, with the support of grass-roots conservation organizations, initiated the Tri-Region Strategy to address long term protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Key reports coming out of this collaboration included:

- The Oak Ridges Moraine – Towards a Long Term Strategy (1999)
- The Oak Ridges Moraine – Proposals for the Protection and Management of a Unique Landscape, Results of Public Participation and Recommendations (August 2001)

These documents included recommendations for a clear mapped vision for the Oak Ridges Moraine, renewed focus on growth management in the GTA, a coordinated groundwater management strategy, coordinated accessible natural heritage data management, stronger coordinated policy in Regional plans and the *Provincial Policy Statement* and a land securement strategy. These strategic directions were fundamental in advancing a Provincial agenda which ultimately resulted in the release of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and Plan* in 2001, the *Greenbelt Act and Plan* in 2005 and the *Places to Grow Act and Plan* in 2005/2006.

Since the release of these plans, York Region Council has supported their implementation and incorporated implementing policies into the *York Region Official Plan – 2010 (YROP-2010)*.

Given York Region's proactive role leading to the release of these plans and continued support, taking a proactive role with the Province in this review is appropriate. Throughout our consultation, we have referred to this preliminary input as Phase 1 of the Region's review. Additional, more detailed and comprehensive comments will be provided through Phase 2, the Region's response to the Province's official 2015 review.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

A variety of stakeholders and professionals provided input, confirming the desire for a comprehensive and coordinated review of Provincial Plans

By getting ahead of the process, the Region is able to provide this proactive input which will assist the Province in developing a review process that is responsive and comprehensive. In developing this preliminary input, Regional staff consulted key stakeholders. *Attachment 2* includes a list of the stakeholders invited to participate. The slide deck included in *Attachment 3* generally forms the basis for the presentation used to facilitate discussions with various stakeholders and municipal professional staff.

The input received through this consultation reinforces that:

- Implementation of the Plans has resulted in significant successes in a number of areas related to environmental and agricultural land protection and promotion.
- There are a few key areas that present ongoing challenges to planning authorities, landowners and other stakeholders.

In addition to informing this preliminary input, some detailed comments were also received through the Region's consultation process. These detailed comments will be carried forward as input to inform the Region's response to the formal Provincial process, when initiated.

There is general consensus on the success of the *ORMCP* and *Greenbelt Plan*, and the Province should be commended on the resulting benefits to the natural and agricultural landscape of the Greater Golden Horseshoe

The *ORMCP* has improved environmental protection and has facilitated environmental enhancement through stewardship and a successful grant program administered by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. Likewise, the *Greenbelt Plan* has been integral in protecting a contiguous agricultural land base, increasing agricultural awareness, and improving private land stewardship, also through a grant program, administered by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.

Both Plans have identified a connected natural heritage system and imposed policies which prevent incompatible uses from occurring within it. The Plans have also slowed outward urban growth by directing development to existing settlement areas within the Plan area boundaries.

Some key, high level challenges that the Province should consider have been identified through consultation to date

As one would expect with new, comprehensive legislation and policy, challenges have been experienced through the initial 10+ years of implementation. Some of these

challenges were anticipated by York Region and were expressed to the Province prior to the Plans being finalized, including the need to link the successful completion of Environmental Assessments for infrastructure projects to tests under these Plans and to recognize the need for strategically located employment lands along 400 series highways (see *Attachment 3*).

With no intent to diminish the importance of a comprehensive Provincially-led 2015 review of all aspects of the Plans, the Region encourages the Province to be aware of the following areas when conducting their review:

- Providing for agricultural viability and a strong rural economy
- Providing infrastructure (including the relationship with *Growth Plan* policies)
- Managing fill
- Meeting the need for strategic employment lands in the long term
- Reconciling Provincial legislation
- Facilitating consistent implementation, including definitions and policy interpretation
- Locating community services and facilities

When conducting their 2015 review, the Province should involve an appropriate cross-section of stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the implications of the plans in these areas (both through policy and interpretation), the extent of these challenges, and potential solutions.

There are benefits to integrating the upcoming review of the *Growth Plan* with the review of the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP*

The impacts of merging the review of the *Growth Plan*, scheduled for 2016, with the reviews of the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP* were discussed during some of the consultation sessions. Some benefits include:

- Recognition of overlapping Plan objectives and coordinated policies.
- Reinforcing that the success of each Plan is reliant on the success of the others.
- A meaningful and fulsome discussion between Provincial Ministries, stakeholders and the public about growth management and the environment in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- Addressing some logistical issues related to the inputs and requirements of the three Plans for the addition or removal of lands associated with growth.

While there are challenges associated with a merged review (including broader scope, timelines, and stakeholder involvement), it was concluded that there are greater benefits of combining the reviews. The Province should be requested to coordinate the 2015/2016 reviews and that all future reviews be formally merged.

Comprehensive stakeholder and public consultation will be key to a successful Provincial review process

The *ORMCP* and the *Greenbelt Plan* were developed with extensive public and stakeholder input. Prior to the release of the Plans, the Province established the Oak Ridges Moraine Technical Working Committee and the Greenbelt Foundation Task Force. These committees included representatives from municipalities, Provincial Ministries, Conservation Authorities, Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations, and industry (development, agricultural, aggregate, etc.). Additionally, public consultation sessions were hosted in a variety of locations, both within and outside of normal business hours. One can attribute the comprehensiveness and success of these Plans, in part, to the breadth of consultation that was undertaken prior to their release.

Given the history and foundation of these Plans (see *Attachment 3*), involvement of the same spectrum of stakeholders, as well as those people living and working within the Plan areas, will be key to successfully reviewing their effectiveness after 10 years of implementation. The Region recommends that the Province embark on a consultation process comparable to that undertaken in the early 2000s, prior to release of the Plans. The Region would be pleased to assist the Province with this consultation, including providing venues and stakeholder contact lists (as appropriate and on consent).

Next steps for Regional staff will include inter-departmental technical reviews of the Plans and working with the Province through their comprehensive consultation and review

To date, Regional staff have requested that local municipal staff and all affected Regional departments develop and provide comments on the Plans. The Province is expected to formally initiate their review in 2015. At that time, staff will work with the Province to gather detailed input from stakeholders and residents on Plan and policy effectiveness and potential opportunities for improvement.

After full consideration of the detailed comments received through the consultation undertaken to date and further consultation through the Province's process, staff will report back to Council with a proposed submission in response to the Provincial review process.

Link to key Council-approved plans

The *Greenbelt Plan* and the *ORMCP* are essential to delivering the Region's commitments as outlined in the Strategic Plan, the *YROP-2010* and *Vision 2051*. In accordance with the *2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan*, this review is an example of how the Region will "apply continuous improvement activities to core business systems and processes" and "continue to partner with all levels of government to facilitate the delivery of environmentally-sustainable infrastructure".

The *YROP-2010* is the tool through which the Region implements the policies of these Provincial Plans. By working closely with the Province, the Region will reinforce its commitment to environmental and agricultural protection as currently articulated within Chapters 2 and 6 of the *YROP-2010*.

Further, the Region's commitment to continuous improvement of the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP* will help ensure that in 2051, York Region will include "A Resilient Natural Environment and Agricultural System"; a goal of the Region's *Vision 2051*. Some of *Vision 2051*'s action areas that will be satisfied include "A Protected, Connected and Enhanced Regional Greenlands System", "A Healthy Environment for a Healthy Population", and "Protect[ed] Vital Water Systems".

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Regional expenditures associated with the review of these plans is expected to be minimal and is available within existing budgets

Preparation of these preliminary comments, including stakeholder consultation, was undertaken within the existing Long Range Planning staff complement and 2013 budget allocation. Further expenditures related to the Region's role in the Provinces 2015 review will likely be limited to costs associated with public and stakeholder consultation.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local municipal staff has been consulted prior to the preparation of this report. The contents of this report are consistent with input received. As part of the Province's formal review, local municipalities will be invited to participate with the Region in a coordinated fashion and/or submit comments directly to the Province.

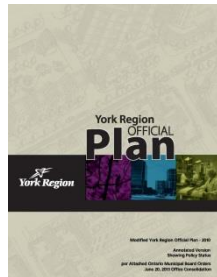
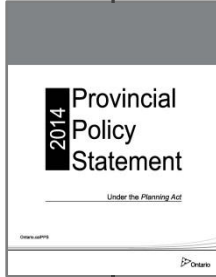
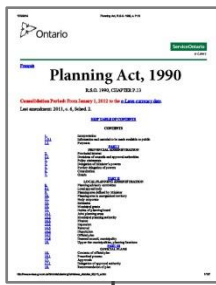
7. CONCLUSION

The Province should be commended on these Plans and the successes achieved through 10+ years of implementation of the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP*. The Region encourages comprehensive and coordinated consultation involving the *Greenbelt Plan*, the *ORMCP*, and the *Growth Plan*. Notwithstanding the success of these plans, improvements can still be made during the upcoming Provincial review. The Province is requested to both conduct a comprehensive and collaborative review process and consider the input provided in this report to ensure that these Plans continue to protect and enhance environmental and agricultural protection with the Greater Golden Horseshoe, while providing for growth and economic vitality in a sustainable manner.

For more information on this report, please contact Valerie Shuttleworth, Director of Long Range Planning at Ext. 71525.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

Attachments (3)



Planning Act

- *Province-wide*
- Provides for a land use planning system led by provincial policy
- Establishes authority for Province to issue policy statement

Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

- *Province-wide*
- Decisions affecting planning matters “shall be consistent with” the PPS

Other Provincial Plans

- *Area-specific*
 - e.g. Greater Golden Horseshoe, Lake Simcoe Watershed
- Consistent with the PPS, but may be more restrictive
- Includes:
 - Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
 - Greenbelt Plan
 - Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe
 - Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

Municipal Plans

- Consistent with the PPS and relevant Provincial Plans
- May be more restrictive, where it does not conflict with above

Invited Organizations and/or Participants in Preliminary Consultation by York Region

Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD)
Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT)
Earthroots
Ecospark
Greater Toronto Countryside Mayors Alliance
Greenbelt Foundation
Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority
Local Municipal
 Agricultural Advisory Committees
 CAOs
 Environmental Advisory Committees and/or Sustainability Committees
 Planning Commissioners & Directors
 Planning Staff
 Public Works Commissioners and Directors
Local Municipal Chambers of Commerce & Boards of Trade
Nobleton Alert Residents Association
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Ontario Nature
Ontario Sand, Stone and Gravel Association (OSSGA)
Region of Durham
Region of Peel
Rouge Park
Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
York Federation of Agriculture
York Region Agricultural Advisory Liaison Committee



The Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan: 10 Years of Implementation - Input to the 2015 Review

Foundation for York Region-led discussions
on upcoming ORMCP & GBP review

Presentation Overview

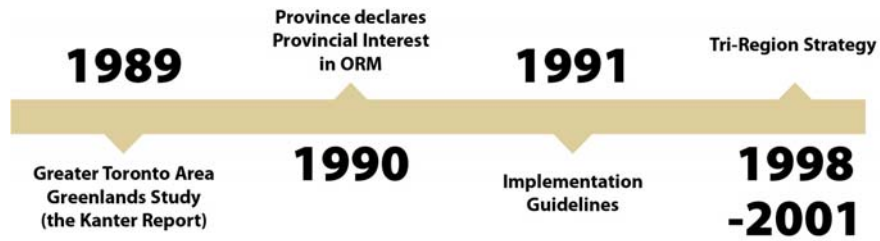
- History of ORMCP & GB Plans
- Successes of the Plans
- Province's 2015 Review & Region's Current Initiative
- Challenges Raised
- Next Steps



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Slide 2

Setting the Stage for Provincial Action



Grassroots groups fundamental throughout the process.



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Slide 3

Award Winning Tri-Region Strategy

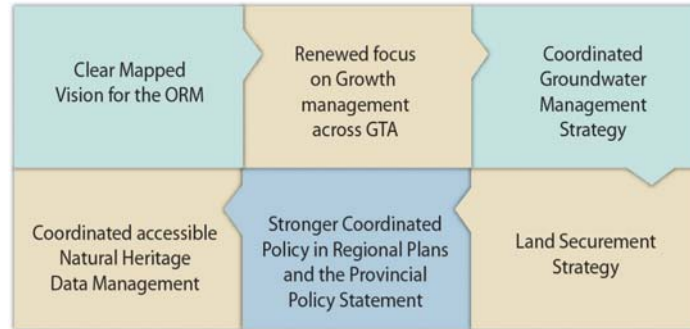


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Slide 4

Tri-Region Strategy

Strategic Directions



Tri-Region Strategy was instrumental in advancing the Provincial agenda.



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Slide 5

Provincial Action



2001: Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

2005: Greenbelt Plan

2006: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Updates to the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) in 2005 included revisions that complimented the new Provincial Plans.



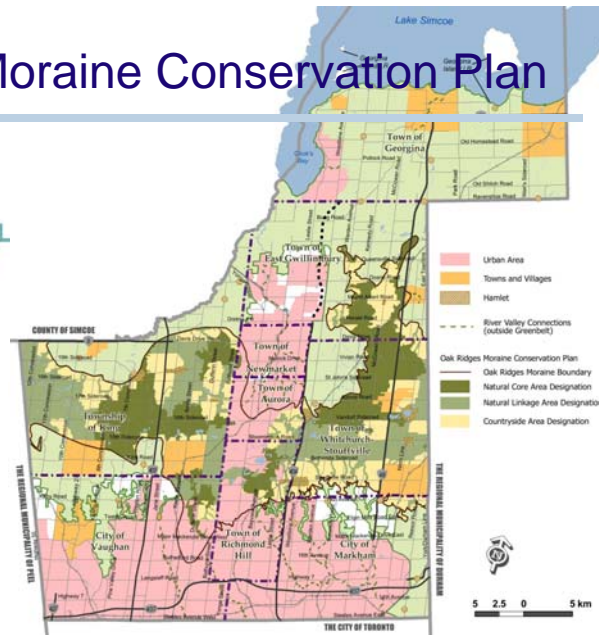
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Slide 6

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan



Development restricted outside of settlement areas.



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Slide 7

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

- ORM Advisory Panel
- Key 2001 Regional Council Comments to Ministry:

Transition	✓	Clearly established transition provisions with dates
Funding	✗	Requested funding for data management not provided
Definitions	✓ ✗	Some terms still require definitions
Mapping	✓	Requested mapping was provided
Infrastructure	✓ ✗	Master Planning permitted No link to successful completion of EA as requested; further, substantial tests introduced

York Region congratulated the Province on the ORMCP and provided comprehensive comments.



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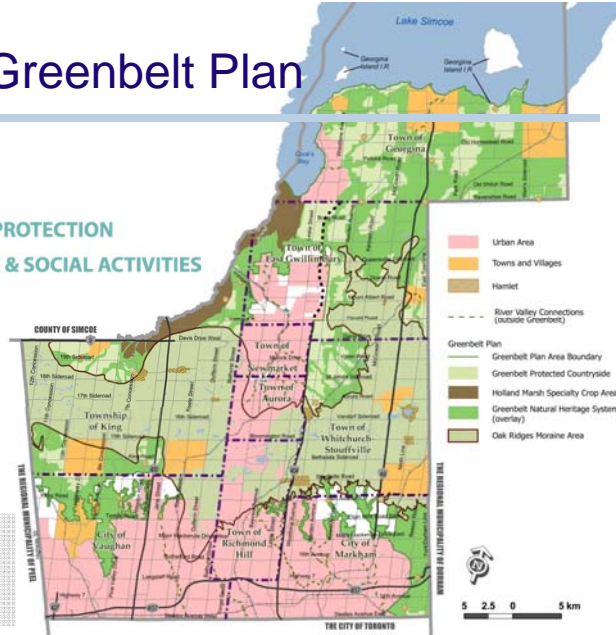
Slide 8

Greenbelt Plan

AGRICULTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
RURAL ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Greenbelt Plan solidified the "system-based" approach to natural heritage protection.



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Greenbelt Plan

- Greenbelt Task Force
- Key 2004 Regional Council Comments to Greenbelt Task Force:

Transition	✓	Clearly established transition provisions with dates
"Leap-frogging"	✓ ✗	Greenbelt Plan does not extend to Simcoe, Growth Plan restricts
Employment on Highways	✗	Does not specifically permit strategically located employment lands along 400 series highways as requested
Natural Features	✓	Plan modified to include feature protection similar to ORMCP
Settlement Area	✓	Community Plan boundaries to define settlement areas
Infrastructure	✓	Expansions to Great Lake based water and sewer system for Health and Safety permitted
	✗	No default to successful completion of an EA, as additional tests are still required

York Region supported the Plan's intent to provide growth management initiatives and to protect environmental and agricultural lands.

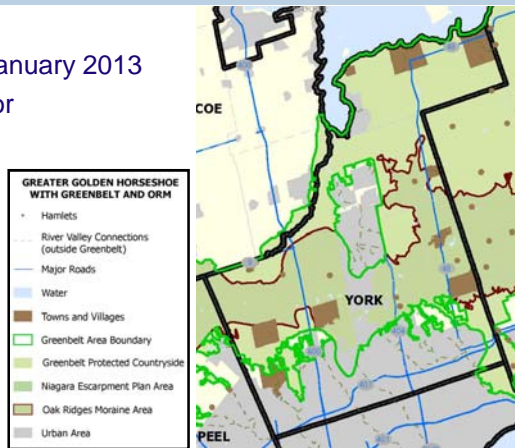


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Slide 10

Greenbelt Plan

- Amendment 1
- Comments to Ministry in January 2013
- Urban River Valley Corridor
 - Publically owned
 - Outside Greenbelt Plan Area



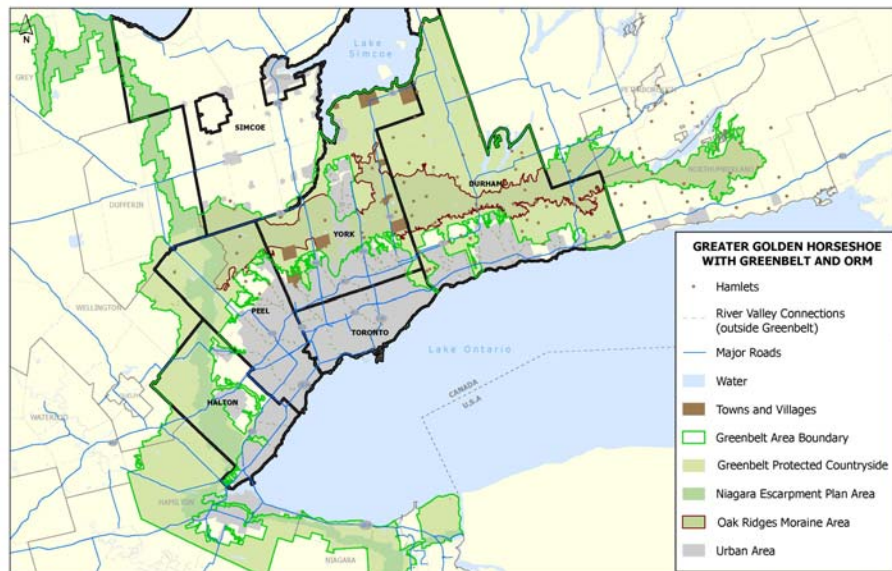
Staff will readdress these issues during the Province's formal review in 2015.



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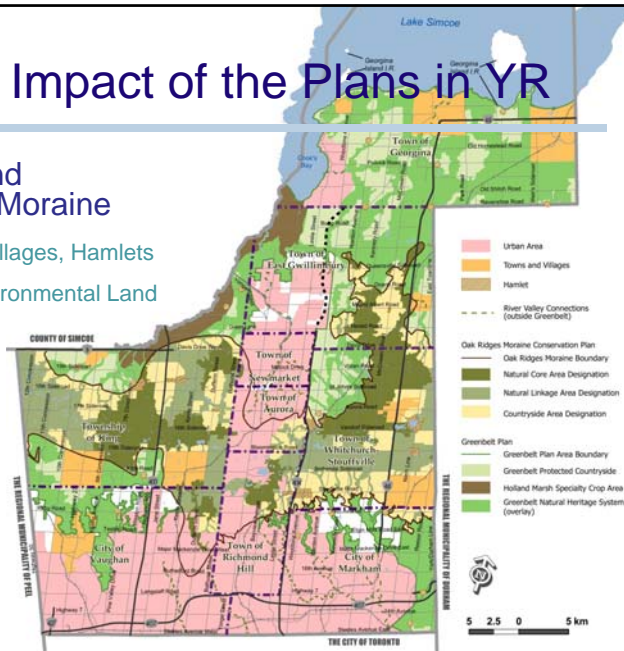
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Geographic Extent of the Plans



Geographic Impact of the Plans in YR

69% Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine
 11% Urban, Towns & Villages, Hamlets
 58% Agricultural & Environmental Land
31% Outside



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Slide 13

Success of the Plans

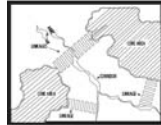
Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan	Greenbelt Plan
Environmental protection	Contiguous agricultural land base
Environmental enhancement	Increased agricultural awareness
\$15M dedicated to ORM Foundation	Connected natural system
Curtailed low density development (i.e. sprawl)	\$25M dedicated to Friends of Greenbelt Foundation
	Further curtailed low density development (i.e. sprawl)



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Impact within York Region



Facilitated connected Greenlands Systems



Facilitated complete communities



Supports intensification



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Slide 15

Province's 2015 Review

- ORM Act (2001) & Greenbelt Act (2005)
- Coordinated reviews in 2015
 - Assess effectiveness
 - Revisions
 - Restrictions
 - Cannot consider removing land from Natural Core Area or Natural Linkages Area of ORM
 - Can only consider urban boundary modifications with a municipal growth management study
 - Cannot reduce the total land area of the Greenbelt Plan
 - Consultation
 - Process details currently unknown



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Region's Current Initiative

- Two stages of input
 - Pre-2015 Review (Phase 1)
 - Successes
 - Previously identified challenges
 - High-level areas of concern through implementation
 - Recommendations for format of 2015 review
 - Formal 2015 Review (Phase 2)
 - Participate in Provincial process
 - Detailed, comprehensive comments on Plans



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Challenges Raised

- Promoting Agricultural Viability and the Rural Economy
- Providing Infrastructure and Managing Fill
- Constraints on Strategic Employment Land
- Reconciling Provincial Legislation & Policy Interpretation
- Locating Community Services and Facilities



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Slide 18

Promoting Agricultural Viability & the Rural Economy

- ❑ Impact on viability of agricultural community & rural economy
- ❑ Normal farm practices and activities



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Slide 19

Providing Infrastructure & Managing Fill

- ❑ New & expanding infrastructure
- ❑ Servicing
- ❑ Fill placement

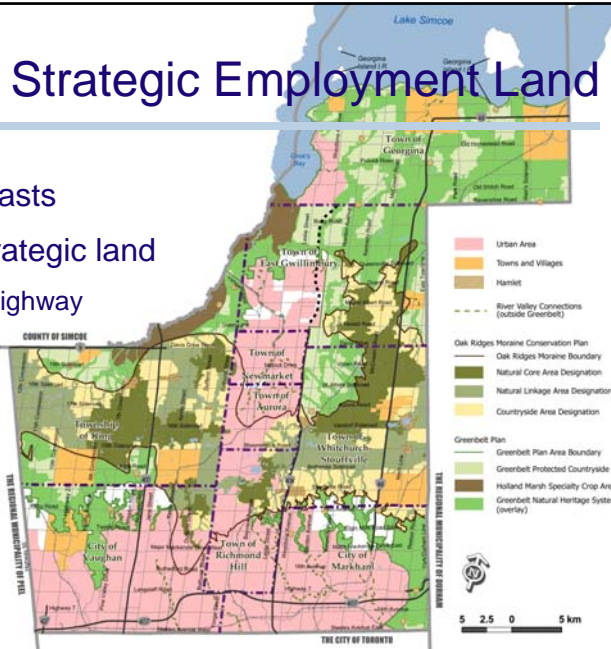


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Slide 20

Constraints on Strategic Employment Land

- ❑ Growth Plan forecasts
- ❑ Finite supply of strategic land
 - ❑ e.g. 400-series highway
- ❑ Choice & flexibility

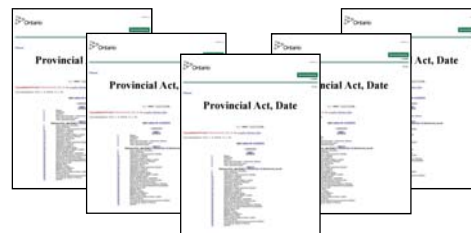


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Slide 21

Reconciling Provincial Legislation & Policy Interpretation

- ❑ Consistency
- ❑ Clarity
- ❑ Reconciliation



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Slide 22

Locating Community Services & Facilities

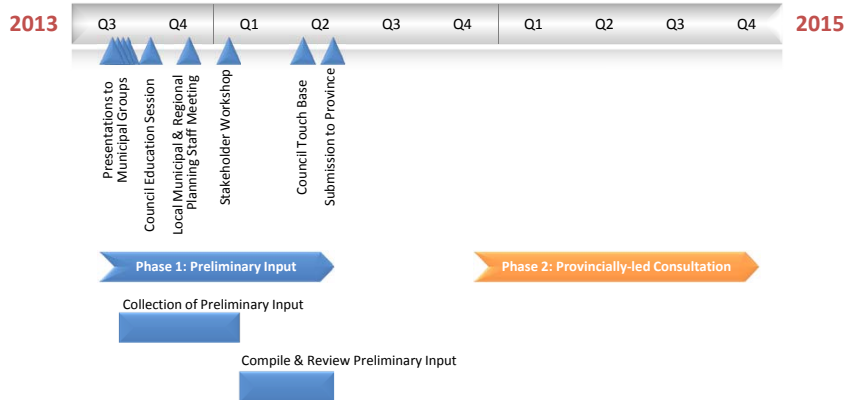
- ❑ Traditionally land consumptive
- ❑ e.g. active recreation facilities, cemeteries



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Next Steps



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February 17, 2014

Open letter to Mayors and Members of Council: Oak Ridges Moraine/Greenbelt Municipalities

Dear Mayors and Members of Council:

Re: Public participation in the upcoming Review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Protected Countryside Areas of the Greenbelt Plan

In 2015 the province of Ontario will launch a review of the three plans covering the Oak Ridges Moraine, Niagara Escarpment and Protected Countryside Areas of the Greenbelt. The above listed groups have been anticipating this review and are pleased to announce a renewed and invigorated campaign to protect our water, land and rural communities through the 2015 review. The Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership for 2015, comprising four leading environmental organizations – STORM, Ontario Nature, Earthroots and EcoSpark, will be active in the lead up and throughout the review to help strengthen environmental policies and build public support for the Oak Ridges Moraine and Protected Countryside Areas of the Greenbelt.

We are aware that some of the municipalities on the moraine have already begun to develop preliminary policy positions about changes to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) and Greenbelt Plan. While this early engagement is encouraging, it has come to our attention that some municipal positions are being developed with little or no input from either the public and/or their elected representatives. This is concerning and shows a disregard for the knowledge and efforts of dedicated people and community groups involved in the decades-long campaign to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Our groups feel it is necessary for this review to be conducted with strong public participation and stakeholder involvement. To this end, we would ask that our Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership be made aware of and have the opportunity to participate as early as possible as you develop your municipal policy position. In particular we'd like the chance to understand more fully how Greater Toronto Area rural and urban municipalities can and will develop the necessary capacity to prosper and protect our land and water in the face of increased population pressures and climate change. It is a daunting task requiring as many perspectives and participants as possible.

We would be pleased to share with you our campaign overview including early announcements of planned events so that you and your colleagues will be able to attend, when possible. As well, we look forward to forwarding our draft policy positions for your review and input.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt, and on behalf of our ORM Partnership, we look forward to working with you to bring about a successful outcome to the 2015 review.

With best regards,

Debbe Crandall
Save the Oak Ridges Moraine
905 841-9200 debbeday@rogers.com

On behalf of:

Josh Garfinkel, Earthroots
Joshua Wise, Ontario Nature
Joyce Chau, EcoSpark
Debbie Gordon, STORM

Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership for 2015: Land, Water and Community



Earthroots is a grassroots conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of wilderness, wildlife and watersheds in Canada, with a focus on Ontario. Some of their current campaign areas focus on Temagami's ancient red and white pine ecosystems, wildlife such as wolves and woodland caribou, and southern Ontario greenspaces.

Contact: Josh Garfinkel, Senior Campaigner
416 599-0152 ext 15 joshg@earthroots.org
www.earthroots.org



EcoSpark works with communities and schools, providing them with the knowledge and tools to monitor their environment and take action for positive environmental change. They believe that by encouraging and empowering those who they work with to take action, they can create and sustain a healthy environment.

Contact: Joyce Chau, Executive Director
647 258-3280 ext 2005 joyce@ecospark.ca
www.ecospark.ca



Established in 1931 as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Ontario Nature protects wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement. Some of their accomplishments include spearheading the creation of a wilderness area in Algonquin Park in 1934, working for the creation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan in 2001 and publishing science-based research for scholars and education materials for young naturalists.

Contact: Joshua Wise, Greenway Program Coordinator
416 444-8419 ext 273 joshuaw@ontarionature.org



Save The Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition is focused on protecting the ecological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Since 1989, STORM has been working at the local and regional levels to ensure that municipalities make good planning decisions that respect the environmental significance of the moraine and that take into account its ecological and hydrological functions.

Contact: Debbie Gordon, Outreach Coordinator
416 841-9200 dgordon@stormcoalition.org

Contact: Debbe Crandall, Policy Analyst
905 841-9200 debbeday@rogers.com
www.stormcoalition.org

Martin, Carrie

From: Cam Milani [<mailto:cammilani@bellnet.ca>]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 6:01 PM
To: Fisch, Bill; Mayor Virginia Hackson East Gwillimbury; Regional Councillor Gino Rosati Vaughan; Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase Vaughan; Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua Vaughan; Mayor Robert Grossi Georgina; dwheeler@georgina.ca; Regional Councillor Gordon Landon Markham; Mayor Frank Scarpitti Markham; Regional Councillor Joe Li Markham; Regional Councillor Jim Jones Markham; Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Markham; Mayor David Barrow Richmond Hill; Deputy Mayor Vito Spatafora; Regional Councillor Brenda Hogg Richmond Hill; mayor@king.com; Mayor Tony Van Bynen Newmarket; mayor.emmerson@townofws.ca; mayor@aurora.ca; Regional Councillor John Taylor Newmarket
Cc: Regional Clerk
Subject: Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt Reviews - York Region Planning Committee Meeting April 3rd

Dear Regional Council Members,

<http://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/b11bddb7-a41d-4c42-a7cb-949aaca1c95e/apr+3+upcoming.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

I have reviewed the above referenced item and have the following comments.

Stakeholder Consultation

First and foremost, the item reflects a substandard cross section of affected stakeholder consultations. Attachment 2 indicates potentially only 1 stakeholder from the development community was consulted (BILD), which Association by itself does not reflect the development industry as a whole, but more importantly, it doesn't necessarily reflect the development industry as specifically affected by these particular pieces of legislation. Rizmi Holdings Limited for example, is not a member of BILD. Contrast that with the 12-15 "environmental groups" who were consulted. Why did Regional Staff choose to invite only one land development community representative, which representative may not even maintain membership of the most affected? How did staff determine the list in Attachment 2? Why did staff choose not to invite a whole slew of developers (including us) who are clearly known to them to have concerns over the Legislation or at least within 1 concession block of the urban boundaries ("Urban Boundary Developers")? Rizmi Holdings Limited alone has had several site specific items before Regional Council over the years on this very issue, taking up many hours of Regional Council's time affecting hundreds of acres of land, yet, Regional Staff have chosen not to even invite us to the consultation process?

There are Urban Boundary Developers I am sure (including us), who have expressed to staff a great deal of concern over the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine legislation over the last 13 years. The vociferous nature of concerns expressed by us likely mirror the passion of concerns expressed by some of the 12-15 "environmental groups" mentioned in Attachment 2, yet, we were not given the same opportunity to sit down and see the "slide deck" of Regional staff and help inform Regional Council of some high level comments to the Legislative Review. To put it plainly, "the deck" seems to be stacked to favor the "environmental groups" while completely ignoring many of the actual landowners close to the urban boundaries.

It would be a tragedy if this Regional Council allowed such a poorly conducted special interest group consultation process to form the basis of its endorsements to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in a review that only happens *once a decade*. I don't believe these are the standards accepted by this Regional Council.

Conclusion

Without getting into the details of what may or may not be of concern to this Regional Council in this report (and there are many), I believe it fair and appropriate that the report be referred back to staff for a more comprehensive consultation process that includes not only Rizmi Holdings Limited but also the other Urban Boundary Developers. A small level of diligence can be put in from Regional Staff to determine who this group may include. This will give Regional Council the opportunity to at least hear from the stakeholders who actually own the most heavily affected land, so as to make properly informed decisions before endorsing comments to the Ministry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,
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