



KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

Discover • Protect • Restore



Strengthening Relationships between Conservation and Agriculture

Presentation to Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance

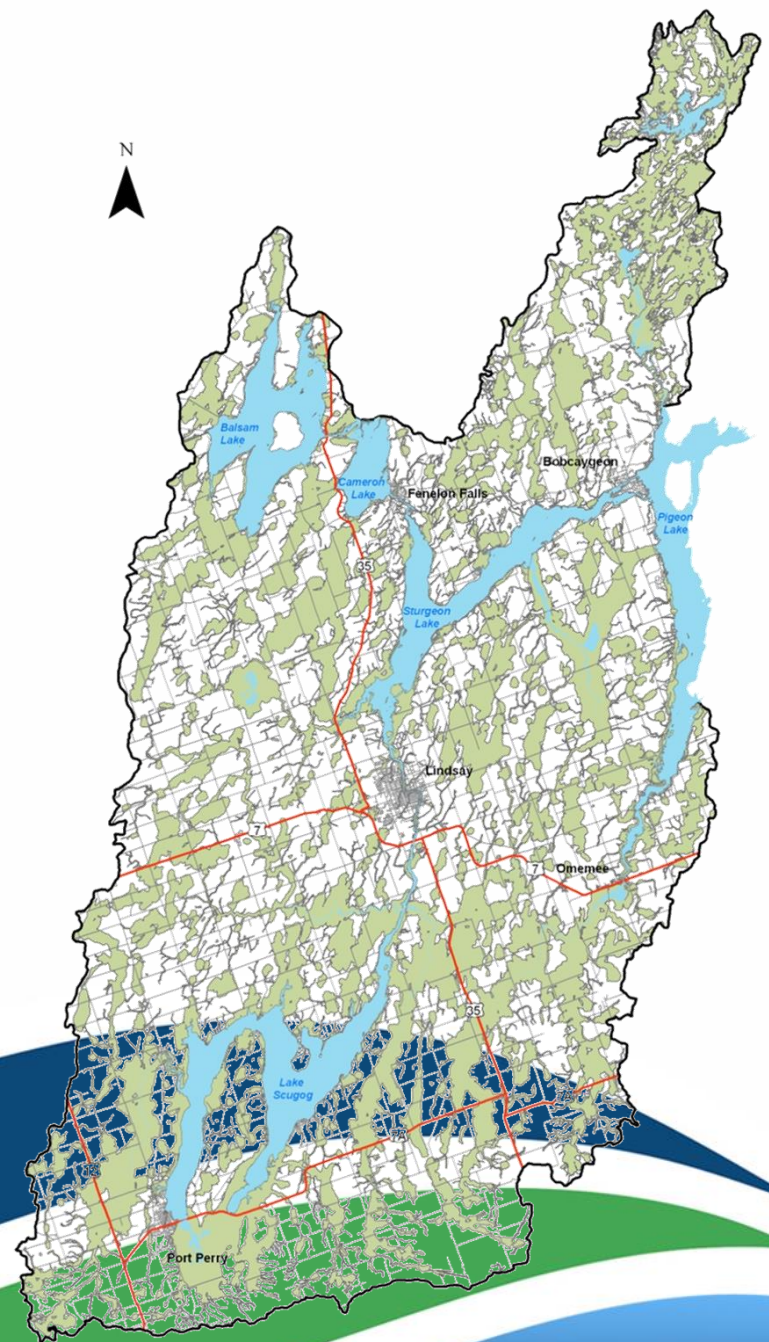
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Agriculture Development Officer

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Landscape Context

- Agriculture comprises approximately 50 percent of the land base in the Kawartha Conservation watershed
 - Increase in land values
 - Change in farming practices
 - Larger equipment /larger fields
- Regulated areas comprise a large portion
 - Wetlands , Watercourses, Floodplains, etc.
 - Potential conflicting interests
- Striking a balanced approach



Updating Plan Review and Regulation Policies - Consultation with the Agriculture Community

- Build on existing relationships with farming community
- Need for two way information sharing regarding respective interestsagriculture/CA
- Clarify and Inform:
 - Agriculture operational and environmental stewardship interests
 - CA regulatory interests
- Consultations
 - Durham Agricultural Advisory Board
 - City of Kawartha Lakes Agricultural Development Advisory Board
 - OFA, Soil and Crop etc.
 - **Core Group (local farm leadership – significant source of feedback/input)**
 - Tile Drain Installers/Drainage Superintendants

Consultation Process

- Initial outreach session early (Jan –March 2011)
 - Opportunity to identify interests/concerns
 - wide range of issues largely related to regulation policies (greater clarity, simpler , more flexibility , need for exemptions, permit process concerns etc.)
 - Consultations included: Durham Agricultural Advisory Board, City of Kawartha Lakes Agricultural Development Advisory Board, OFA, Soil and Crop Tile Drain Installers/Drainage Superintendants etc.)
- Draft policies circulated for review late summer – a number of specific outstanding concerns
- Core working group of local farmers + City Kawartha Lakes ADAB
 - Focus sessions to address specific areas of concern (Nov 2011 - Feb 2012)
- Revised policy document presented to wider agriculture community (March 2012)
 - Received endorsement from farming community for policies/process

Plan Review and Regulation Policies, 2011

Policy Manual Outcomes

- Clear identification of activities that are not regulated (cultivation, fencing , ponds for watering livestock, beaver dam removal etc.)
- Exclude drain outlets from permitting (subject to BMPs)
- Wetland compensation policy to allow for land conversion (some conditions apply)
- Option to realign watercourse drainage features providing no fish habitat issues
- Streamlined authorizations to include
 - replacement of same size culverts
 - maintenance of existing ponds
- Increase building size limits for additions in flood hazards

Other Outcomes

- Local Advisory Committee: permit issues, policy development and communication tools
- **Guide to Permitting**
 - Information about regulation and importance of agriculture
 - Guide to policy requirements
 - Permit process decision chart
 - Permit Services
- Agricultural Endorsement (public meeting/follow-up news article)
- Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan – key element of our Vision is “partnering with the agricultural community to advance stewardship”
- Sharing policies and Permitting Guide with other CA’s – several have adopted our practices – consistency in approach across larger geography
- Fee Schedule Consultations

Consultation Lessons Learned

- Be sector focused and engage at earliest possible opportunity
- Opportunity to understand respective interests – key to getting on base
- Be prepared to give careful thoughtful consideration to what you have heard
- Have to build trust in exploring solutions that are mutually acceptable
- Be creative and flexible – we had to push bounds of our regulatory authority to land practical solutions (vetted with MNR, adjacent CA's, CO, OFA, OMAFRA to ensure acceptable precedents)
- Not always possible (unacceptable implications) - follow-up with clear and transparent explanation
- Stay engaged

Agricultural Guide to Permitting

- Why do farmers need a permit - explanation of the regulation and its objectives
- How do you know if you need a permit- where the regulation applies and what farm projects need permits
- A permit decision chart that focuses on farming
- What is involved in getting a permit and the permit services that are available e.g. pre – consultations, application checklist
- Description of the regulated features (wetlands watercourses floodplains etc.)

Translation Needed

- > the addition does not exceed 50% of the ground floor area of the existing structure or 100 metres², whichever is less, OR in the case of multiple additions, all additions combined do not exceed 50% of the ground floor area of the existing structure or 100 metres², whichever is less;
- > no basement is proposed;
- > where dry floodproofing cannot be achieved, wet floodproofing is undertaken in accordance with floodproofing standards identified in Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines;
- > an improvement in the existing building or structure will occur with respect to floodproofing of the building or structure (unless the existing building or structure adheres to floodproofing standards outlined in Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines); and,
- > the risk of property damage and pollution is minimized through site and facility design to ensure that the development will not result in a pollution hazard (e.g., release of a biohazard substance, nutrients, pesticides or other chemicals during a flood event).

b. If the addition is situated outside of the flooding hazard, that:

- > no basement below the regulatory flood elevation is proposed;
- > where dry floodproofing cannot be achieved, wet floodproofing is undertaken in accordance with floodproofing standards identified in Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines;
- > an improvement in the existing building or structure will occur with respect to floodproofing of the building or structure (unless the existing building or structure adheres to floodproofing standards outlined in Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines); and,
- > the risk of property damage and pollution is minimized through site and facility design to ensure that the development will not result in a pollution hazard (e.g., release of a biohazard substance, nutrients, pesticides or other chemicals during a flood event).

4.5.2(13) Flood susceptible additions to existing agricultural buildings or structures greater than the size provision identified in Policy 4.5.2(12)a. would be considered New Agricultural Development and, therefore, subject to Policy 4.5.2(11).

Agricultural Replacement

4.5.2(14) Replacement of agricultural buildings or structures located within a flooding hazard may be permitted provided it can be demonstrated that:

- > the building or structure to be replaced is relocated outside the flooding hazard, where feasible;
- > the new building or structure is the same size or smaller;
- > the new building or structure is securely anchored to either a concrete pad or footings;
- > the risk of property damage and pollution is minimized through site and facility design to ensure that the development will not result in a pollution hazard (e.g., release of a biohazard substance, nutrients, pesticides or other chemicals during a flood event);
- > no basement is proposed; and,
- > where dry floodproofing cannot be achieved, wet floodproofing is undertaken in accordance with floodproofing standards identified in Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines.

4.5.2(15) Replacement of agricultural buildings or structures located within a flooding hazard that would result in an increase in building or structure size may be permitted provided it can be demonstrated that the conditions for Minor Agricultural Additions (Policies 4.5.2(12) and 4.5.2(13)) can be satisfied AND that the building or structure to be replaced is relocated outside the flooding hazard, where feasible.

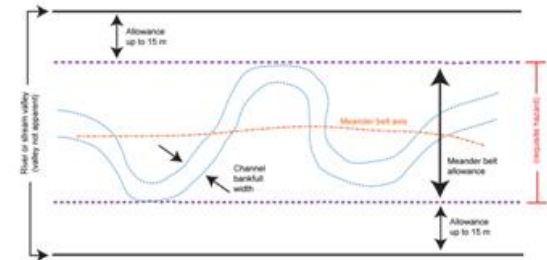


Figure 3: Regulated feature – Not apparent river, stream or lake valley

Meadow belt refers to the area within which the sideways movement of the watercourse is expected to occur over time, whereas *bankfull* width refers to point at which the channel is full of water just prior to flows overtopping the banks and occupying the floodplain. Note that the regulated area includes the watercourse, its meander belt, as well as a 15 metre (50 foot) allowance beyond the meander belt OR the floodplain limit whichever is greater.

In addition to the general policies in Section 4.3 of the Manual, the specific policies that apply to development within River, Stream or Lake Valleys are located in Section 4.4.2.



Watercourse with Not Apparent Valley



Watercourse with Apparent Valley

Thank you!

Questions?

