

**ONTARIO RURAL
RESEARCH AND SERVICES COMMITTEE
(ORRSC)**

**FOUR-YEAR STRATEGIC REPORT
2002 – 2006**

to

Ontario Agricultural Services
Co-ordinating Committee

January 2003

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategic report of the Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee (ORRSC) summarizes the work undertaken by the Committee to identify research priorities for the next four years (2002-2006).

These research priorities are:

- A. **Labour Force Development:** The need to address projected shortages in the quantity and quality of the rural labour force by understanding: factors affecting workers' decisions to locate; the relationship between demographic shifts and labour-force development needs; predictive models of future labour structures; and, the factors which attract industry investment and how these factors affect community development.
- B. **Environmental Sustainability:** The need to understand environmental impacts of rural economic development by: analyzing the extent of integration of environmental concerns in local municipal policy; determining the degree of environmental sensitivity in community development; and examining models of development where environmental concerns are part of the equation.
- C. **Services:** The need to understand, through regional research collaboration, existing delivery models for social, recreation, health/wellness, municipal and business services in rural communities by comparing and assessing according to the following indicators: rural specificity, sustainability, accessibility, and extended support.
- D. **Immigration/Migration:** The need to identify, understand and apply appropriate models of successful rural immigration with particular emphasis on marketing rural communities to attract immigrants.
- E. **Community Capacity:** The need to understand models or approaches directed toward engaging citizens in community building through: assessing leadership skills development resources; examining organizational capacity; exploring urban-rural linkages; and understanding the impact of volunteer and youth development programs.
- F. **Rural Innovation:** The need to identify barriers and enhancements of innovation through understanding: social and cultural attitudes; the affect of economic clustering; locational factors; and institutional and community context in rural places.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee (RRSC) is in its 5th year of operation. This report is the second strategic report produced by the Committee.

RRSC held a Visioning meeting in June 2002 to establish the research priorities. Additional rural stakeholders were invited to participate, representing Community Futures Development Corporations, Community Health Care systems, Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, Economic Developers Council, Women in Rural Economic development, Association of Community Cooperatives, Smart Growth Secretariat, Ontario Agricultural Training Institute Learning Group, Foundation for Rural Living, The Ontario Rural Council, and researchers from Queen's University (Rural Ministries Program of the Theological Institute), University of Waterloo (Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies) and University of Guelph (Department of Landscape Architecture in the College Faculty of Environmental Design and Rural Development).

In a facilitated, day-long session, these participants worked through the following questions:

1. What opportunities may arise over the next 5-10 years that could benefit or strengthen Ontario's rural economy?
2. What are the challenges/ barriers that will affect Ontario's rural economy over the next 5- 10 years?
3. What new information, provided through research, is needed to best meet these opportunities and challenges/barriers?

Table 1 on page 9-10 summarizes the issues identified during the visioning session.

The second meeting was on September 25th and involved only those ORSSC members who participated in the June Visioning Session. The Committee discussed, further refined and ranked the research priorities. A partial listing of relevant and recent (1998 – present) research related to these seven issue areas is summarized in Appendix C on pages 18-21.

3.0 MANDATE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Ontario Rural Community Development Research and Services Committee (ORCDRSC) was established in the fall of 1998. It was renamed the “Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee” in the fall of 1999.

The mandate of the Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee is to identify and prioritize future research and service needs that affect the sustainability of the economic, social and environmental conditions of rural Ontario as determined by Ontario rural stakeholders.

Membership includes:

- rural community development practitioners
- three levels of government (Municipal, Provincial and Federal), and
- researchers.

Goals are:

- to assess and establish priorities for rural economic development research and service programs
- to communicate and discuss on-going rural research with respect to objectives, procedures and results
- to recommend institutions which, or individuals who, could effectively be responsible for particular research and service needs
- for members to be responsible for gathering research and service needs of the organizations that they represent
- to liaise with the Agricultural Economics and Business Research and Services Committee for greater effectiveness and efficiency, and
- to report annually to OASCC summarizing the prioritized needs for rural research and recommendations on resource use and allocations.

4.0 SECTOR SCAN

4.1 Major Accomplishments

Formation of the ORRSC

The Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee (ORRSC) was formed in November 1998 under the umbrella of the Ontario Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee (OASCC) system in response to the increased recognition of the diverse and evolving nature of rural Ontario and the interdependency of healthy rural communities, sustainable agriculture and local economic development.

Committee membership comprises a cross section of rural organizations related to economic development, three levels of government and the research community. Representatives from the newly formed Ontario Rural Council (TORC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada attended ORRSC's first meeting and both organizations remain involved. The first representatives of the research community were from the University of Guelph, but now include other institutions such as Waterloo and Laurentian Universities. Representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) were added to ORRSC when the rural affairs mandate was transferred to MMAH from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in the spring of 2002.

The Economic Development Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) chairs and provides administrative support to the committee in co-operation with the Innovation and Risk Management Branch of OMAF.

Rural Research - OMAF/University of Guelph Agreement

OMAF funds rural research mostly through the Sustainable Rural Communities (SRC) Research Program administered by the University of Guelph/OMAF Agreement. SRC's first four-year program was approved in June 1999. Twenty-one projects were funded during 1999-2003. The number of projects which addressed each ORRSC priority were:

- A. Economic Development – 10 projects
- B. Response to Change and Restructuring – 5 projects
- C. Capacity Building – 5 projects
- D. Information Technology – 1 project

For more information about these projects, see Appendix A on pages 11-15. A brief summary of the previous priorities (1998-2002) is shown in Appendix E on page 24.

The University of Guelph and OMAF signed a new five-year Agreement (effective April 1, 2002-March 31, 2007) which will continue to administer the SRC program.

Rural Research – OMAF Competitive Research Programs

OMAF also funds Rural research through competitive research programs. Eleven projects were funded through the Special Research Program (1999-2003) and one project was funded through the New Directions in Agri-food and Rural Research Program (which replaced the Special Research program in 2002).

More information about these projects and the priorities addressed can be obtained from the table shown in Appendix B on pages 16-17 or from the following web addresses:

http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/research/special_research/index.html
http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/research/new_directions/index.html

Rural Research Highlights Seminars

OMAF and the University of Guelph have held four Highlights presentations with approximately 140 attendees from the academic research community, students, government staff, and representatives from rural organizations. Researchers have taken this opportunity to share highlights of the methodology, results, challenges and outcomes of their respective projects. A discussion period has encouraged further understanding of the application of the project results.

Sustainable Rural Communities in an Era of Globalization

The Ontario Rural Council' Research Committee is also committed to working with OMAF and the University of Guelph to ensure that research-based resources reach practitioners and other rural stakeholders who could most benefit from the information and knowledge gained. TORC funded the production of "*Sustainable Rural Communities in an Era of Globalization*", which is a compendium of research findings from OMAF funded projects that support rural economic development.

Copies of "*Sustainable Rural Communities in an Era of Globalization*" can be purchased from the School of Rural Planning and Development, University of Guelph for \$20.00 (plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling). **Payment is by cheque only, payable to "University of Guelph"**. To obtain a copy, please contact:

Joan Cascio
Johnston Hall (Rm 124)
University of Guelph
Email: jcascio@oac.uoguelph.ca
Phone: 519-824- 4120 ext. 5-2151

4.2 Current State of the Rural Sector

'Rural' in this scan describes the area of Ontario south of Muskoka, excluding the upper tier municipalities of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and the following six large urban

centres: the City of Windsor, the City of London, the Region of Kitchener-Waterloo, the Region of Niagara, the City of Hamilton, and the City of Ottawa. Lower tier municipalities within the GTA, of less than 100,000 population, are defined as 'rural'.

As a result of growth and predicted growth in rural Ontario, many of today's issues facing rural Ontario are similar to the issues facing urban centres. The basic demographics of age, education and employment rates in rural Ontario are similar to the overall population. The significant challenges for rural people and their communities are largely the result of population densities and distance from urban centres. The other primary difference is the important role agriculture and agri-food industries, and other primary resource sectors play in the local economies.

The impact of the growing number of aging baby-boomers and seniors appears to be having a similar impact on population demographics in rural Ontario as in urban centres, reflecting a major trend across the province. The challenge is to ensure that the rural population continues to receive the appropriate level and quality of service in an appropriate manner considering distances and rural population density. Rural Ontario is also facing challenges because, as it grows and economically diversifies, its resources, policies and attitude reflect a history of population migration to urban centres and a resource based economy.

Ontario's population is expected to grow by approximately 31% over the next 25 years (reference Smart Growth). As a percentage of Canada's population, Ontario's share will continue to increase. While the rate of natural increase in population will continue to decline (births – deaths), net migration will drive Ontario's population growth.

The education levels of rural Ontarians are roughly on par with their urban counterparts. Urban Ontario has an advantage in the percentage of people who have attended university (12.5% more) whereas rural Ontario has a greater percentage of high school graduates, trades and other non-university educated people.

The provincial trend to higher education will continue. Occupations requiring a university degree will account for 25% of projected new jobs and those with some post-secondary requirements will account for another 29% (See Ontario Job Futures). Among the skills and occupations expected to continue experiencing shortages are: high tech occupations; industrial/manufacturing occupations, e.g., tool and die maker, pattern maker, industrial electrician; construction and other trades; some health and social/community service occupations. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) in their February 2001 "Help Wanted" reports cited the following challenges caused by skill shortages: inability to meet customer demand and unfilled orders; lost business opportunities and/or customers; new products or services not developed; and impediments to long-term growth.

Some of Ontario's key economic sectors, where industry groups are reporting current or emerging skill shortages are located in rural regions: automotive manufacturing, plastics manufacturing, machining industries, chemical processing industries and construction

trades. A shortage of health care providers is also a serious concern for rural Ontario. An aging workforce threatens to compound these problems further in the future.

Communities of all sizes in Ontario are experiencing tight labour supply conditions and immigration is expected to be the major source of new labour force entrants. Although Ontario receives more than half of the immigrants that come to Canada (148,534 individuals in 2001), only five percent initially settle outside of the major urban centres of Toronto, Ottawa, London and Windsor.

Farm operations are increasing in size and decreasing in number. Farming is changing from the traditional operation to advanced and specialized agricultural businesses. Farm labour requirements are decreasing but required skill sets are rising due to capital substituting for labour. There are an increased number of part-time farmers and an increasing number who work in the non-farm community.

Rural youth often leave their hometowns for post-secondary education; those who stay may incur public transportation challenges. Many do not return to their hometowns upon graduation as appropriate job opportunities may be scarce.

Ontario Government's Focus on Rural Development

In April 2002, Premier Eves announced that his new Cabinet would include an Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Brian Coburn, with responsibility for rural issues and rural development.

The vision for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is an Ontario made up of strong urban and rural communities, each with dynamic local economies and an attractive quality of life.

Extensive consultations with rural Ontario have occurred over the last couple of years. Examples include the Premier's Task Force on Rural Economic Renewal (2000-01), Minister (OMAFRA) Coburn's roundtable meetings with small business leaders in July 2001, the Ontario Smart Growth consultations (2001), Premier Eves' roundtable on agriculture in June 2002 and Minister Coburn's stakeholder meetings with municipal and rural organization leaders in July 2002.

The province continues to develop policies and programs relating to rural Ontario in areas such as investing strategically in rural infrastructure, improving access to information and services, growing innovative sectoral and regional economies, building community capacity, and sustaining the rural countryside.

Smart Growth is Ontario's vision for promoting and managing growth in ways that create strong economies, build strong communities and promote a healthy environment. Five Smart Growth Panels (central, northwest, northeast, west and east) are currently looking at opportunities and challenges in their regions and will be providing advice and recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

4.3 Emerging Issues

The process for identifying, researching and prioritizing emerging rural issues is outlined in more detail in Section 5.3. The results of this process are outlined below. Results are ranked according to importance and urgency to address.

Labour Force Development:

The need to address projected shortages in the quantity and quality of the rural labour force by understanding: factors affecting workers' decisions to locate; the relationship between demographic shifts and labour-force development needs; predictive models of future labour structures; and, the factors which attract industry investment and how these factors affect community development.

Environmental Sustainability:

The need to understand environmental impacts of rural economic development by: analyzing the extent of integration of environmental concerns in local municipal policy; determining the degree of environmental sensitivity in community development; and examining models of development where environmental concerns are part of the equation.

Services:

The need to understand, through regional research collaboration, existing delivery models for social, recreation, health/wellness, municipal and business services in rural communities by comparing and assessing according to the following indicators: rural specificity, sustainability, accessibility, and extended support.

Immigration/Migration:

The need to identify, understand and apply appropriate models of successful rural immigration with particular emphasis on marketing rural communities to attract immigrants.

Community Capacity:

The need to understand models or approaches directed toward engaging citizens in community building through: assessing leadership skills development resources; examining organizational capacity; exploring urban-rural linkages; and understanding the impact of volunteer and youth development programs.

Rural Innovation:

The need to identify barriers and enhancements of innovation through understanding: social and cultural attitudes; the affect of economic clustering; locational factors; and institutional and community context in rural places.

Table 1. Summary of Issues Identification, ORRSC Visioning 2002.

ISSUE AREA	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	RESEARCH NEEDS	QUESTIONS
Labour Force Development	Inadequate labour force for industries, in quantity and in appropriate skills and limited access to training, retraining and skills development, literacy programs.	There will be opportunities for: 1. Health-care employment because of the emphasis on senior's wellness. 2. Decentralized education at all levels because of increasing sophistication of Internet and Communications Technology (ICT).	What are the best practices of keeping youth in rural and supporting their return after post secondary education? What are the factors affecting workers decisions to locate?	What characterizes the emerging skills gap? What are the best practices for attracting skilled labourers to rural? Can incubators be used for entrepreneurship development? What is the potential success for e-training as an alternative delivery model? What makes immigrants choose, and stay, in rural? What are the best practices of keeping youth in rural and supporting their return after post secondary education? What are the factors affecting workers decisions to locate? What is the cost of compliance with the new regulations?
Environmental Sustainability	Increased negative impact on environment by increased energy consumptive lifestyle choices and demand for services.	There will be a greater emphasis on environmental protection. The resource-based economy will expand through: value adding in rural/linking production to processing, development of renewable/alternate energy sources, creation of local ownership/ collectives, and producers becoming more cost-efficient.	What are the economic, social and political impacts of environmental change?	What are the workable models of stewardship? What are the effects of climate change policy? What are the economic, social and political impacts of environmental change? What are the neo-cost benefits of rural transportation systems? What is the impact of large-scale farming on local waste management systems? What are effective regional, waste management strategies? What is the economic impact of dollars spent by business or government on positive environmental intervention? What would the environmental impact be of increased public transportation and decreased personal transportation?
Migration/ Immigration	Continued out-migration of young people, continued urban expansion and land-use conflicts and difficulty in attracting and retaining immigrants to rural	Advances in technology will: attract younger people/professionals and immigrants to rural through the possibilities of telecommuting, build markets, aggregate demands for goods, and make recruitment easier.	What are the rural attitudes toward immigrants?	What are those things that attract and keep people in rural areas? What are the impacts of migration on a community? What are the rural attitudes toward immigrants? What are effective settlement models? What are the impacts of cultural tolerance programs? Does marketing a community as a destination for immigrants achieve results?

Table 1. Summary of Issues Identification, ORRSC Visioning 2002.

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ISSUE AREA	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	RESEARCH NEEDS	QUESTIONS
Rural Innovation	Lack of documentation and evaluation of strategic alliances and "new models" / best practice and weak culture of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.	More tourism possibilities will develop in rural areas because of the attraction of obtaining agricultural products directly, a desire for non-rural to have a rural "experience", and the willingness of travelers to stay closer to home.	What are the future value-added opportunities?	What are the future value-added opportunities? What are creative health service delivery models? What are rural-positive strategies for change? What is innovation for balanced development? Does agri-tourism contribute to the rural economy in a significant way? What are the models of marketing/best practices? What is the demand for rural products by market segments? What is the feasibility of local initiatives in alternative energy production? What would make more effective co-ops? What are the models of community ownership? How can public involvement/apathy be countered?
Services	Insufficient services in health and education and loss of community infrastructure such as schools and hospitals	What sustainable models of primary health care services would provide positive intervention in rural communities?		How does living in rural affect women's health? How does the availability of child care affect women's health? What sustainable models of primary health care services would provide positive intervention in rural communities?
Community Capacity	Conflict between maintaining the idea of "ruralness" and the potential of "community breakdown" as a result of development and change, shortage of volunteers and small pool of leadership.	Quality of life issues will increase in importance and there will be an increased emphasis on the rural-urban interface making it necessary for the rural voice to be stronger through farmers and community groups, and in the growing strength of community organizations.	What are effective regional approaches to economic development? What are the positive rural-urban linkages and interdependencies?	What are the best practices for volunteer development? What are the comparisons in approaches to partnerships and organizational change? How can community strategic planning be evaluated for effectiveness? What is the relationship between the changing number of volunteers and the support given to leadership? What are effective regional approaches to economic development? What are the positive rural-urban linkages and interdependencies?
Telecommunications and Physical Infrastructure	ICT infrastructure support underdeveloped.	There will be greater connectivity and access to information (especially research results) through the internet.	Is telework a viable lifestyle for rural communities? What are the barriers to rural connectivity?	Is there a loss of traditional business to e-business? What is the real impact of Not having broadband access? What are the conditions for private investment in IT? Is telework a viable lifestyle for rural communities? What are the barriers to rural connectivity? What skills shortages in IT need to be met? What are the tele learning opportunities industry will invest in? What are viable models of sustainable transportation systems? What are the upgrade/replacement needs, by region?

Appendix A. Sustainable Rural Communities Research (1999-2003), OMAF/University of Guelph Agreement.

Economic Development Projects

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
23120	Harry Cummings	Assessing Community Economic Impact of Agricultural Exports	Examine the forward and backward linkages that are associated with small and medium enterprises in Huron County. The research will also work to determine the specific and general problems that inhibit the ability of these enterprises to develop and expand.	'99/'00 completed
23440	Don Reid	Rural Tourism: Best Practices to Maximize Economic and Social Benefits	To develop a framework for sustainable rural tourism based upon development needs, best practices while recognizing social, environmental and economic impacts. The framework will be designed to be used by rural municipalities in establishing and maintaining a local sustainable tourism destination.	'99/'02 completed
23460	Robert Brown	Effects of Land Use Policy on Economic Potential of Rural Tourism in Southern Ontario	To identify desirable characteristics of rural landscapes among five stakeholder groups; develop best practice guidelines	'99/'02 terminated in 2000
23510	David Douglas	Toward More Effective Rural Economic Development in Ontario: An Integrated Analysis of Changing Municipal and Community Roles and Practices	This is an integrated applied research project designed to address fundamental problems and opportunities in the rapidly changing economy in rural Ontario.	'99/'02
25090	Ken Nentwig	Socio-economic Capacity for Horticultural Civic Beautification: A Model for Small Ontario Communities	Methods for, and parameters of, increasing the capacity of rural communities in their development processes and leadership capabilities are not entirely understood. This research will give insight into the workings of one particular project that is engaged in organizing community effort to enhance the quality of life through civic beautification. The efforts of this project - in Ridgetown, Ontario - have already been expanded from a pilot effort last year, and are being examined by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as a model for other similar localities.	'00/'03
25220	Ken Nentwig	Horticultural Industry Value-Added Business Statistics for Ontario.	Farm-gate values for nursery, sod and greenhouse production are well documented through Statistics Canada and OMAF. These values do not, however, reflect the overall size and impact of the entire horticulture industry sectors in Ontario. Previous research (Project 21650) has determined a number of different manners of quantifying the value-added aspects beyond farm-gate (or wholesale) value, and a system for the collection and reporting of these statistics is in place. Carrying the system forward and implementing the survey format and reporting is proposed in this project.	'00/'04

Appendix A. Sustainable Rural Communities Research (1999-2003), OMAF/University of Guelph Agreement.

Economic Development Projects Con't

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
25715	Donald Reid	The Investigation of Cooperation and Integration of Community Tourism in Amalgamated Municipalities.	The project seeks to identify the barriers and constraints to cooperation and integration of rural community tourism products at the amalgamated municipal level and to create an index which amalgamated municipalities can use to determine their position with regard to the integration of tourism development.	'02/'03
25725	John FitzGibbon	Assessment of the Linkage between Client Provider Relationships in Direct and E-Business in Rural and Agri-food Enterprise Success.	E-Business offers rural and remote areas advantages in providing access to markets and also a means of dealing with the disadvantage of the remoteness of the consumer. The project's goals are to identify successful e-businesses and social development networks in rural areas and assess the nature of the critical factors in the functioning of these successful networks.	'02/'03
25760	F. Harry Cummings	The Economic Impact Of Agriculture in Ontario, 1998-2001: Lessons Learned and Future Research Directions.	Previous work suggests that backward and forward linkages associated with agriculture have significant implications for their respective regional economies. This project will provide a comprehensive review of the agricultural impact studies in Ontario and will assess the benefits that rural economies derive from undertaking agricultural projects. The project will also attempt to prioritize economic development opportunities.	'02/'03
25777	Rakhal Sarkar	Genetically Modified Crops and Nutraceuticals: Are They Building Blocks or Stumbling Blocks for Rural Communities in Ontario.	This project will examine the various issues related to the nature and extent of biotechnology adoption by different farms in Ontario. It will also identify potential benefits of emerging life science economy for Ontario and evaluate alternative ways to retain larger shares of those benefits in rural Ontario.	'02/'03
25812	Stew Hilts	Preliminary Investigation of Non-Farm Land Ownership and Land Stewardship in Rural Ontario.	This project will develop a descriptive profile of rural, non-farm population as landowners in Southern Ontario. The land stewardship interests of these landowners will be assessed, as well as the potential linkages of those interests to the agricultural community. The project will also develop an investigative framework for long term research on the relationship of farm and non-farm populations in Southern Ontario.	'02/'03

Appendix A. Sustainable Rural Communities Research (1999-2003), OMAF/University of Guelph Agreement.

Response to Change and Restructuring Projects

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
23450	Mark Waldron	Big School, Small School: A socio-economic decision making model concerning the future of rural schools in Ontario.	This study will explore the background of the issue, collect socio-economic data in six rural communities, explore the issue with representations of each and in each of the selected communities and then develop a decision-making process that could be used by local communities with respect to rural school closures.	'99/'00 completed
23520	John Fitzgibbon	Managing Rural Communities in the New Millennium.	This study will inventory and evaluate the progress that is being made by municipalities in dealing with the complex problems of restructuring of local government, its mandate and financial basis of operation. It will identify the contextual constraints and opportunities that limit and support the initiative taken by municipalities and develop tactics that can be adapted to the context of the local municipality.	'00/'03
23540	John Smithers	Sustainable Rural Systems in Ontario: (Re) Linking Agriculture and Community in an Era of Change.	This research is concerned with the evolving dynamics of farm and rural community interaction and with the potential for strategic rural development to promote mutual sustainability. Theoretical work will be used to gain an understanding of the general relationship between the key forces, processes and outcomes of change in agriculture and communities. Empirical work will be used to flesh-out theoretical insights and to ground them in local circumstances and prospects for sustainability.	'99/'03
24400	Anthony Fuller, Ellen Wall	Social Capital in Rural Ontario: Opportunities and Impacts Related to Municipal Restructuring and Changes in Service Delivery.	In collaboration with a national project investigating social cohesion in rural Canada, this research will focus on how recent jurisdictional amalgamations and withdrawal of provincial rural extension services are affecting the quality and quantity of social capital in specific rural Ontario communities	'00/'01 completed
24440	Al Lauzon	Negotiating Rural Futures: A Study of the Relationship between Rural Communities and Boards of Education During Periods of School Consolida.	a) to study the relationship between Boards of Education and rural community groups during a period of school consolidation; b) to develop a model and a set of best practices for forming relationships between Boards of Education and rural communities and c) based on last year's study findings, and the findings of this study, produce a video and study guide that could be used by rural communities and Boards of Education to form partnerships to best serve the interests and needs of all stakeholders	'00/'02 completed

Appendix A. Sustainable Rural Communities Research (1999-2003), OMAF/University of Guelph Agreement.

Capacity Building Projects

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
23420	Al Lauzon	Developing a Conceptual Framework and Methodology for Studying Rural Communities as Learning Systems	The purpose of this proposal is to develop a conceptual framework/model of rural communities as learning systems. If successful interventions are to be made to assist rural communities in meeting the challenges of economic globalization, then we need to understand rural communities as learning systems.	'99/'00 completed
23500	Anthony Fuller	Community Based Responses to Rural Transportation Issues in Ontario.	The project will analyze the experiences of selected rural communities in Ontario to determine the efficiencies and effectiveness of community-based transportation planning, stimulated by the Community Transportation Action Program (CTAP) of the provincial government.	'99/'02 completed
23530	Barry Smit	Managing Change and Uncertainty in Farming and Rural Communities.	This project focuses on changes associated with government support programs for farming, and their implications for agriculture-related rural communities.	'99/'03 terminated in 2000
23540	John Smithers	Sustainable Rural Systems in Ontario: (Re) Linking Agriculture and Community in an Era of Change.	This research is concerned with the evolving dynamics of farm and rural community interaction and with the potential for strategic rural development to promote mutual sustainability. Theoretical work will be used to gain an understanding of the general relationship between the key forces, processes and outcomes of change in agriculture and communities. Empirical work will be used to flesh-out theoretical insights.	'99/'03
25390	Dean Donaldson	Rural Restructuring's Impact on the Agricultural Communities Voice in Local Governance in Renfrew County.	This project studies Renfrew County, with the objective of developing a report which would outline findings and proposed recommendations relative to insuring that the farm community maintains a voice in local governance consistent with the level of economic importance of the agricultural industry.	'00/'01 completed
24400	Anthony Fuller and Ellen Wall	Social Capital in Rural Ontario: Opportunities and Impacts Related to Municipal Restructuring and Changes in Service Delivery.	In collaboration with a national project investigating social cohesion in rural Canada, this research will focus on how recent jurisdictional amalgamations and withdrawal of provincial rural extension services are affecting the quality and quantity of social capital in specific rural Ontario communities.	'00/'01 completed

Appendix A. Sustainable Rural Communities Research (1999-2003), OMAF/University of Guelph Agreement.

Capacity Building Projects Con't

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
24440	Al Lauzon	Negotiating Rural Futures: A Study of the Relationship between Rural Communities and Boards of Education During Periods of School Consolida.	a) to study the relationship between Boards of Education and rural community groups during a period of school consolidation; b) to develop a model and a set of best practices for forming relationships between Boards of Education and rural communities and c) produce a video and study guide for rural communities and Boards of Education to form partnerships to best serve the interests of all concerned.	'00/'02 completed
25677	John FitzGibbon	Social Capital in Rural Ontario: Part Two.	This project is a continuation of project #24400 (Anthony Fuller and Ellen Wall). It will gather data about assets, services and capacities in Carden, Tweed and Usborne Township. Results will be compared among these three sites, other rural Canadian sites in the National study and with the data collected in Part One of the study. The project will try to explain the significant differences in the sites and make recommendations.	'01/'02
25763	Harald Bauder	Community Impacts of Foreign Farm Workers in Ontario Communities: A Comparative Analysis.	Thousands of foreign workers come to Ontario each year for temporary employment in the horticultural industry. The project's objectives are: To inform decision makers about the social and economical impacts of foreign farm labour and potential policy options; to expand existing knowledge of foreign farm labour; to work closely with NGO's and community organizations and to train two graduate students.	'02/'03

Information Technology Project

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
23480	Al Lauzon	PACTS for Rural Ontario: Partnerships, Accessibility and Connectivity Transformation Strategies for Rural Ontario.	To develop innovative framework to assess the impact of telecommunication in rural Ont; to implement action research in association with rural communities, the private sector, public organizations and rural businesses	'99/'03

Appendix B. Rural Projects Funded Through OMAF's Special Research and New Directions in Agri-food and Rural Research Programs

Rural Infrastructure and Economic Development Projects

PROJECT #	LEAD	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
SR9002	Anna Crolla, Alfred College	Treatment of Municipal Wastewater in Rural Areas: The Alfred Pilot System.	To monitor and evaluate the performance of a constructed wetland system for treating municipal wastewater; to test slag as a medium to remove excess phosphorus; to provide guidelines for the construction of wastewater treatment constructed wetlands for Ontario.	'99/'00 completed
SR9021	Chris Kinsley, Alfred College	Phosphorus Removal From Septic Wastewater.	To develop and on-site treatment system to remove phosphorus from septic wastewater.	'99/'01 completed
SR9052	Todd Gordon, Gordon Consulting	Maintaining Rural Road Infrastructure: Where are We Now, Where Do We Want to Go from Here?	Maintenance of rural roads is being influenced by several factors. Many roads carry a great volume of agricultural, commercial and recreational traffic. This project's main purpose is to review and update changes affecting rural roads in Ontario and identify/consult with rural road stakeholders regarding rural road issues.	'00/'01 completed

Agricultural - Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability Projects

PROJECT #	LEAD	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
SR9018	Wayne Caldwell, Guelph University	Planning for the Future Development of the Niagara "On Farm " Wine Industry.	To understand the dynamics of the "on-farm" wine industry and to evaluate the appropriateness of related provincial, regional and local planning policy.	'99/'00 completed
SR9024	Mark Waldron, Guelph University	Activating the Rural Canada Bibliography Project.	To establish the Rural Canada Bibliography Project as a useful research tool; to collect and preserve bibliographic information related to rural Ont/Canada; promote rural Ont/Canada through web site; provide inventories of past and on-going research. See http://www.uoguelph.ca/~rcb/	'99/'00 completed with active web site
SR9046	Clarence Swanton, Ellen Wall, Guelph University	Sustainability in the Ontario Processed Vegetable Industry.	The vegetable processing industry impacts on many Southwestern rural communities. The project will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the vegetable processing industry's sustainability for the future, identify problem areas and opportunities for growth and recommend actions for the long term health of the industry.	'00/'01 Completed

Appendix B. Rural Projects Funded Through OMAF's Special Research and New Directions in Agri-food and Rural Research Programs

Agricultural - Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability Projects (cont'd)

PROJECT #	LEAD	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
SR9053	Dr. Wayne Caldwell, Guelph University	Rural Non-Farm Development : Its Impact on the Viability and Sustainability of Agricultural and Rural Communities.	Agriculture has intensified while the number of rural non-farm lots has increased. The project will: create a database of the number of rural, non-farm lots created in rural Ontario during the 1990's; determine the relationship between current provincial policy & creation of rural; identify the impact these lots are having on the agriculture industry and review the impact on the viability and sustainability of agriculture in rural communities.	'00/'02 completed
SR9054	Ellen Wall and David Connell Guelph University	Economic Development and Social Capital: Linkages, Opportunities and Impacts for Rural Ontario Communities.	This project will build on the New Rural Economy project on Social Cohesion. The main goal is to examine the linkages between social capital and economic development so that both can be enhanced in rural Ontario communities as they undergo various forms of restructuring.	'00/'02 completed
SR9066	Mark Waldron, Guelph University	Rural Community Research Inventory.	The web site is research tool which will enhance the efficiency of ongoing and future research for rural Ontario. It will produce an inventory database which will be merged with the Rural Canada Bibliography Association web site in Sept 2000. See http://www.uoguelph.ca/~rcb/	'00/'01 completed

Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts Projects

PROJECT #	LEAD	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
SR9082	Wayne Caldwell, Guelph University	Livestock and Agricultural Intensification: Community Perceptions of Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts as an Impediment to Agricultural Production.	The main objective of this project is to develop information and identify approaches that will be of critical importance to farmers, community members and local politicians as they establish policy and make decisions that will determine the future of livestock production in Ontario.	'01/'03
SR9086	John FitzGibbon, Guelph University	Analytic Profiles of the Livestock Industry in Ontario.	To utilize existing data bases on agricultural enterprises to (a) form analytical profiles of the livestock industry and (b) to assess the impacts of environmental legislation, policy and regulation on livestock farming in Ontario.	'01/'03
SR9120	Wayne Caldwell, Guelph University	Conflict Resolution in Rural Ontario: Strategies for Responding to the Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts of Agriculture.	To identify "best practices" for local conflict resolution by documenting and analyzing the success of current initiatives, including the experience of the farm community with the Ontario Municipal Board and the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board. The project will also develop manuals and materials to assist property owners with conflict resolution.	'02/'04

Appendix C. A Partial Listing of Relevant and Recent (1998-present) Research Related to the Issue Areas

An issue is defined as a problem or opportunity that has the potential to affect an industry or sector. It requires some sort of action to take advantage of the opportunity or to solve the problem in order to move the industry or sector forward.

Subsequent to the stakeholder visioning session held in June 2002, the following issue categories were further developed and research questions were identified. A partial listing of some relevant and recent research already finished or in process from 1998 to the present was created. This is not an exhaustive list, but an indication of what issues have been picked up by researchers and what information is already available.

A. Immigration/Immigration

1. Statistics Canada, Business and Labour Market Analysis, Sept. 1998, "Foreign-Born vs Native-Born Canadians: A Comparison of Their Interprovincial Labour Mobility" by Zhegxi Lin
2. Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Research Unit, May 2001, "Towards a more balanced geographic Distribution of Immigrants"
3. IFAU –Office of Labour Market Policy Evaluation, Working Paper 2001:11 "Now and forever? Initial and subsequent location choices of immigrants" by Oloif Aslund
4. The Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) Discussion Paper No. 449 March 2002, "Do Enclaves Matter in Immigrant Adjustment?" by B.R.Chiswick and P.W.Miller
5. The Institute for the Study of Labour Discussion Paper No. 187, August 2000, "Immigration Policy, Assimilation of Immigrants and Natives' Sentiments towards Immigrants: Evidence from 12 OECD-Countries" by Bauer, Lofstrom and Zimmermann
6. University of Guelph, Geography Department, SSHRC Research Grant "Cultural Context and Labour Market Segmentation Among Immigrants and Foreign Workers in Germany" by H. Bauder

B. Environmental Sustainability

1. University of Guelph, SSHRC Research Grant, "Measuring the Effects of Economic Growth on Environmental Quality" 2002-2003 by R. McKittrick
2. University of Guelph, Department of Agricultural Economics, Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, "Environmental and Other Factors Influencing Livestock Operations Location Decisions", 2001-2002 A. Weersink
3. University of Guelph, Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, 2002 "Caring for your Land: A Stewardship Handbook for Niagara Escarpment Landowners" Preparation of a conservation planning handbook for rural non-farm landowners , by S. Hilts and P. Mitchell
4. University of Guelph, Lands Resource Science, 2000 "Evaluation of Environmental Sources of Income for Farmers" S. Hilts and P. Mitchell.
5. University of Guelph, department of Geography, "Adaptation to climate change in the context of sustainable development and equity" by B. Smit and O. Pilifosova. 2001. In J.J. McCarthy, O.F. Canzianni, N.A. Leary, D.J. Dokken and K.S. White (eds) Climate Change

Appendix C. A Partial Listing of Relevant and Recent (1998-present) Research Related to the Issue Areas

2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability - Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

C. Rural Innovation

1. University of Guelph, College Faculty of Environmental Design and Rural Development, 2001, "Planning for Growth? Re-thinking the Rural Tourism Opportunity" Mair, Reid, George and Taylor
2. University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning, 2000, "Rural Tourism: Best Practices to Maximize Economic and Social Benefits" by D. Reid
3. Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development, (CARD) "Economic Potential of Biomass-Based Fuels for Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation", 2001 by Uwe A. Schneider and Bruce A. McCarl
4. Caledon Institute of Social Policy and CEDTAP, "Community Economic Development and the Innovation Challenge: A Preliminary Review of the Literature" 2002, by E. Leviten-Reid

D. Community Capacity

1. University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning and Development, "Economic Development and Social Capital: Linkages, Opportunities and Impacts for Rural Ontario Communities" 2001, by Dr. Ellen Wall and David Connell
2. University of Guelph School of Rural Planning & Development, "Toward More Effective Rural Economic Development in Ontario: an Integrated Analysis of Changing Municipal and Community Roles and Practices" 2001, by David Douglas
3. University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning and Development, "Social Capital in Rural Ontario: Opportunities and Impacts Related to Municipal Restructuring and Changes in Service Delivery" 2001, by Dr. Tony Fuller and Dr. Ellen Wall
4. Arkleton Centre for Rural Development, Scotland, "Exclusive Countryside? Social Inclusion and regeneration in Great Britain" 2000
5. University of Quebec at Rimouski, "Social Capital in Rural Communities: The Intangible Factor in Local Development" 2001, by B. Jean
6. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), Working Paper #1 Stimulating Rural Economy for the 2000s "New Rural Functions and Rural/Urban Relationships", 2002, by Christine Kovacsazy,
7. CRRF, Working Paper #4: The Structure, Theory and Practice of Partnerships in Rural Development, (R.C. Rounds, ed.)
David Freshwater, Lynn Thurston and Phil Ehrensaft, "Characteristics of Successful Community Development Partnership Strategies"
David Freshwater, Lynn Thurston and Phil Ehrensaft, "Negotiating Partnerships for Community Development"
Harold R. Baker, "Building Multi-community Rural Development Partnerships"
L. Peter Apedaile, "Enhancing Results from Participatory Rural Development"
8. CRRF Working Paper #5: Development Strategies for Rural Canada: Evaluating Partnerships, Jobs and Communities, (Bill Reimer and Grace Young, ed.)
Philip Ehrensaft, "Partnerships as Double-edged Swords"

Appendix C. A Partial Listing of Relevant and Recent (1998-present) Research Related to the Issue Areas

Harold Baker, "What Have We Learned About Rural Development"
Teresa MacNeil, "Building Multi-community Rural Development Partnerships"
Lawrence F. Felt and Peter R. Sinclair, "Is Locally Controlled Development Possible? The Experience of the Great Northern Peninsula Corporation"
Barrie MacGregor, "What Have We Learned about Job Creation Strategies in Rural Areas?"
Bob Allen, "New Roles for Co-operatives in Rural Development"
Maxine Connell, "Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships for Rural Development"
Tim O'Neill, "Factors Enhancing Joint Ventures in Rural Revitalization"
John Bryden, "Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships"
Fraser Hunter, "Partnerships for Job Creation"
Lavern Sorgaard, "Partnerships in Public Institutions"
Robert Greenwood, "Building Trust in Community Development: Municipal-Rural Development Association Co-operation in Newfoundland and Labrador"
Floyd Dykeman, "Policy for the Future"
Richard C. Rounds, "Policy Directions for Future Rural Development"

E. Physical Infrastructure

1. University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning, "Community Based Responses to Rural Transportation Issues in Ontario", 2002 by Dr. Tony Fuller
2. University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning, "Maintaining Rural Road Infrastructure: Where are We Now, Where Do We Want to Go from Here?" 2000 by Todd Gordon
3. The Arkelton Centre for Rural Development Research, Scotland "Environmental Transport Policies and Rural Development", 2001

F. Services

1. Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research, Laurentian University, "Rural and Remote Women's Health in Canada: Identifying Strengths and Gaps in Research and Policy" 2001, by P. Wakewich and B. Parker

G. Labour Force Development

1. University of Guelph, Rural Sociology, "Bringing Globalization Down to Earth: Restructuring and Labour in Rural Communities", by A. Winson and B. Leach
2. Economic Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture, "Displaced Workers: Differences in Nonmetro and Metro Experience in the Mid 1990's" 2001, K. Hamrick
3. "Skills Training and Manufacturing Innovations are Key to Raising Rural Workers' Wages", 2000, by Olmstead and Cook in Rural Conditions and Trends, Volume 11, Number 2, Dec. 2000
4. Canadian Federation of Independent Business (With Statistics Canada) "Help Wanted: Results of CFIB Surveys on the Shortage of Qualified Labour", 2001, by D. Bruce and A. Dulipovici
5. The Canadian Employment Research Forum (CERF), "What Does Social Cohesion Contribute to the Rural Economy? A Tale of Four Countries" 2000, by J. Dayton-Johnson

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6. University of Guelph, Rural Sociology, “Contingent Work, Disrupted Lives: Labour and Community in the New Rural Economy”, 2002, University of Toronto Press

H. Telecommunications Infrastructure

1. University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning “PACTS for Rural Ontario: Partnerships, Accessibility and Connectivity Transformation Strategies for Rural Ontario”, 2001, by Dr. Doug Pletsch,
2. University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning and Development, “An assessment of the linkage between direct and virtual interaction between client and service provided in Rural and Remote E-business”, 2002, by J. Fitzgibbon

Appendix D. ORRSC Membership (2002)

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Appendix D. ORRSC Membership (2002)

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Appendix E. Rural Research and Services Priorities from 1998-2002

- A. **Economic Development:** The need to strengthen economic growth, entrepreneurship and business efficiency in rural Ontario to allow rural residents to remain in their communities while achieving an improved standard of living.
- B. **Response to Change and Restructuring:** The need to understand, facilitate and assist rural communities as they plan for and act in response to change and restructuring.
- C. **Capacity Building:** The need to better understand and promote community capacity building to enhance rural leadership, organizations and community management.
- D. **Information Technology:** The need to better understand and promote the availability and use of existing and developing information technology infrastructure in rural Ontario.

Each year, the ORRSC reviewed these priority areas and adjusted them based on changing priorities in the rural sector. For example, the priorities from 2001-2002 were:

- A. **Economic Development:** The need to strengthen economic growth and entrepreneurship in rural Ontario with a focus on regional development rather than business development; environmental and social concerns should be integrated with economic development – not segregated; encourage an “asset view” of rural, as an expanded view of economic development;
- B. **Response to Change and Restructuring:** With the need to understand, facilitate and assist rural communities as they plan for and act in response to change and restructuring, we need to address “innovation” which is a driver and essence of change.
- C. **Capacity Building:** The need to understand community capacity building and enhance rural leadership, organization and community management, measuring the progress in rural with respect to benchmarking could be incorporated into future priorities, and include social cohesion which is part of capacity building.
- D. **Information Technology:** The need to understand the roles of and promote the availability and use of information technology in rural Ontario, and an understanding of the implications of rural getting 'on board' or not.