



MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT THE MINISTRY](#) | [NEWSROOM](#) | [JOB OPPORTUNITIES](#)

You are here > [Home](#) > [Your Ministry](#) > [Land Use Planning](#) > [Greenbelt Protection](#) > [Greenbelt Council](#) > [Greenbelt Council Progress Reports](#) > Greenbelt Council's Progress Report - Highlights 2005 - 2006

Your Ministry

Local Government

Land Use Planning

Citizens' Guides to Land-use Planning

Related Legislation

Provincial Policy Statement

Ontario Municipal Board

Ontario Municipal Board / Planning Reform

Greenbelt Protection

Brownfields Ontario

The Oak Ridges Moraine

Parkway Belt West Plan

Municipal Planning & Development Tools

Planning Act Approval Authority in Ontario

Housing

Building Regulation

OnRAMP

The Learning Centre

Explore Government

Contacts

ServiceOntario Centres

Have a question, comment or feedback?

Telephone Directory

Contact the Minister

MPPs

Ministry Regional Offices

Virtual Reading Room

Features



Ministry E-Newsletter



Greenbelt Council's Progress Report - Highlights 2005 - 2006

[Email this page](#)

November 30, 2006

From:

Office of the Chair, 777 Bay Street, 16th Floor, Toronto ON M5G 2E5, Telephone: (416) 585-6828, Fax: (416) 585-6467

To:

Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 777 Bay Street, 17th Floor, Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Subject: Greenbelt Council's Progress Report – Highlights 2005 and 2006

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to provide you with a progress report on the work of the Greenbelt Council in response to your letter of November 25, 2005 which set the priorities for our work over this past year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to highlight our activities, beginning with our appointment in June 2005 including our work since our terms of reference were finalized in November 2005. The attachment to this letter provides more details.

As Chair, I feel fortunate to work with this dedicated group of individuals who share a common commitment to the long term protection of the Greenbelt. Council members bring a variety of perspectives and expertise to our discussions and I am pleased to report that we have developed excellent working relationships. I made it my priority to meet with each Council member at their home or office to introduce myself, and to discuss their individual perspectives and expectations for the Greenbelt Council shortly after our appointments were announced.

Once our formal meeting schedule began, we met almost monthly as we felt we needed to enhance our collective knowledge of the Greenbelt. We gradually developed a better understanding of matters that impact on the Greenbelt such as the Greenbelt Act and Plan, the agri-food industry and other related provincial initiatives such as the Growth Plan and Natural Spaces program through presentations by your Ministry's staff as well as those from MNR, OMAFRA and PIR.

Council members also attended a number of conferences, seminars and workshops with Greenbelt related topics. We liaised with various organizations with Greenbelt interests such as the Niagara Escarpment Commission, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation to hear their perspectives on the Greenbelt.

In December 2005, Council held its own visioning session to set its objectives and priorities for 2006/07. We set our work plan based on the results of this visioning, our terms of reference, as well as your direction.

As you know, we elected Howie Herrema as our Vice-Chair this past February to provide some support for myself as Chair. We were sad to see the departure of Linda Pim as a member of the Greenbelt



Affordable Housing Program
Video



Subscribe to RSS Feeds

Share this Page



Other Resources



Council in July. Her contribution will be missed. We are pleased that you have appointed Debbe Crandall to Council. We welcome her appointment and look forward to working with her.

To date we have provided you with advice on the potential Greenbelt harmonization regulation and membership of the Agricultural and Niagara committees. Council also worked closely with Ministry staff to provide input on the development of a performance measurement framework for the Greenbelt Plan.

Council felt it needed to issue a statement of policy to further clarify our role in response to several site-specific requests that were being directed to us from the public and stakeholders for changes to the Greenbelt Plan.

Once the Agricultural and Niagara Committees were set up we met with invited stakeholders this past September to hear their ideas for the future of the Greenbelt.

I am also pleased to report that the Greenbelt Council web pages were set up earlier this year as part of the Ministry's website. We believe it is important that Council conduct itself in an open and transparent manner and that we duly communicate our work with the public and others. The web pages include our terms of reference, Council's advice to the Minister, minutes from Council meetings and our Statement of Policy.

We will soon be developing our priorities for our 2007/08 term and look forward to working with you and Ministry staff as we implement our objectives for the coming year. In the immediate future, we will be considering what we heard from stakeholders at the Agriculture and Niagara committee meetings. We intend to continue providing input on the Greenbelt performance measurement project as it unfolds.

Finally, I would also like to give a word of thanks for the ongoing support we have had from Ministry staff and our Executive Co-ordinator Bill Winegard. I believe that what we have achieved is largely thanks to their hard work and dedication. We look forward to their continued enthusiasm over this next year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Elgie
Chair

Attachment

- [ATTACHMENT - Progress Report Details \(November 30, 2006\)](#)
- [Minister's response to the 2005 and 2006 Greenbelt Council Progress Report](#)



MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT THE MINISTRY](#) | [NEWSROOM](#) | [JOB OPPORTUNITIES](#)

You are here > [Home](#) > [Your Ministry](#) > [Land Use Planning](#) > [Greenbelt Protection](#) > [Greenbelt Council](#) > [Greenbelt Council Progress Reports](#) > [Greenbelt Council's Progress Report - Highlights 2005 - 2006](#) > ATTACHMENT - Progress Report Details (November 30, 2006)

Your Ministry ▾

▶ Local Government

▼ Land Use Planning

▶ Citizens' Guides to Land-use Planning

▶ Related Legislation

▶ Provincial Policy Statement

▶ Ontario Municipal Board

▶ Ontario Municipal Board / Planning Reform

▶ Greenbelt Protection

▶ Brownfields Ontario

▶ The Oak Ridges Moraine

▶ Parkway Belt West Plan

▶ Municipal Planning & Development Tools

▶ Planning Act Approval Authority in Ontario

▶ Housing

▶ Building Regulation

▶ OnRAMP

▶ The Learning Centre

[Explore Government](#) >

Contacts ▾

▶ ServiceOntario Centres

▶ Have a question, comment or feedback?

▶ Telephone Directory

▶ Contact the Minister

▶ MPPs

▶ Ministry Regional Offices

▶ Virtual Reading Room

Features ▾

UPDATE

Ministry E-Newsletter

Affordable Housing Program Video



ATTACHMENT - Progress Report Details (November 30, 2006) [Email this page](#)

Greenbelt Council Advice

Advice on potential Greenbelt harmonization regulations:

- In response to the Minister's request for Council to provide advice with respect to a potential regulation under the Greenbelt Act, 2005 to harmonize selected policies of the Niagara Escarpment Plan and/or the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan with the Protected Countryside policies of the Greenbelt Plan, Council provided advice to the Minister on May 31, 2006 in the form of criteria.
- The Council understands the criteria are being used by Ministry staff along with staff from other Ministries to assess, select and make recommendations on possible items to be included in a potential harmonization regulation with respect to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan for the government's consideration.
- It is also understood that Ministry staff are working with staff from the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources and are using the criteria to assess, select and make recommendation of possible items to be included in a potential harmonization regulation with respect to the Niagara Escarpment Plan for the government's consideration.

Advice and Establishment of Niagara and Agricultural Committees:

- On March 6, 2006, Council provided advice to the Minister on the creation of the Niagara and Agricultural Committees, including the appointment of specific Council members and to refine the purpose of the committees.
- Council has used these Committees to consult with invited stakeholders and discuss topics within their purview.
- In September 2006, the Niagara and Agricultural Committees held meetings in Milton and Niagara with the Niagara Development Council, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Niagara Escarpment Commission, Ontario Farmland Trust, Grape Growers Council of Ontario and the GTA Agricultural Action Committee to hear their ideas specific to the Greenbelt which could support Niagara Region/Hamilton, and/or agriculture in the Greenbelt. The Chair and some members of Council also met earlier this year with representatives from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to hear their views with respect to the Greenbelt and the agricultural sector.
- Council will be considering the input received by the Council and its Committees.

Performance Measurement Framework:

- Council has been actively considering the work being done by Ministry staff on a performance measurement framework to monitor the effectiveness of the Greenbelt Plan.
- Virginia Maclaren's contribution to this project has been invaluable given her expertise with



Subscribe to RSS Feeds

Share this Page



Other Resources



performance indicators. She has met with Ministry staff on numerous occasions and provided valuable guidance and strategic direction. She will continue to work with Ministry staff on this project.

Implementation of Greenbelt Act and Plan:

- Council has been kept informed of municipal implementation of the Greenbelt through updates and presentations provided by staff from both the policy and implementation sections of the Ministry. This has included regular updates on the progress of the municipality's official plan conformity exercise.
- Council members also keep apprised of ongoing issues related to the Greenbelt by reviewing the daily media clippings provided to Council members by the Ministry's Communications Branch.

Council's Statement of Policy:

- In response to several requests received by Council from landowners and some municipalities to make changes to the Greenbelt Plan policies, mapping and boundaries, Council issued a Statement of Policy dated June 1, 2006.
- The Statement of Policy clarifies that it is not the role of Council to investigate and make recommendations on site-specific issues.
- Council's terms of reference do not envision that Council will act in any way as an appeal body or hearing panel with respect to the Greenbelt Plan and/or its policies, the application of the Plan and/or its policies or the delineation of the Greenbelt.

Greenbelt Council Web Pages:

- In early 2006, the Greenbelt Council's web pages were set up as part of the Ministry's website. Council believes it is important to conduct itself in an open and transparent manner and that its work is duly communicated with the public and others.
- The web pages contain: Terms of Reference; Council's Advice to the Minister; Minutes from Council meetings; Statement of Policy; Questions and Answers; Biographies of Council members; Contact Information.

Greenbelt Council Liaison:

- Over this past year, the Chair and members of Council met with the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and their staff.
- Council believes it is important to liaise with these groups to understand their respective mandates and to look for opportunities to co-ordinate activities related to the Greenbelt.

Promotion and Outreach:

- The Chair and Council members have been active in representing the Greenbelt Council and promoting the Greenbelt through attending several conferences and events.
- Council also takes these opportunities to enhance their knowledge of initiatives or issues that may affect the Greenbelt.
- For example, the Chair attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Conference in August 2005, and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Conference in September 2005. In November 2005 several members attended a Canadian Urban Institute session on "Development vs. Food Production" and the Durham-York Rural Urban Summit, where Howie Herrema spoke as a panel member.
- The Chair also represented Council at the Premier's Agri-Food Summit in February 2006. Some members also attended the Natural City Conference held in June 2006. More recently, several members attended the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Leading Edge Conference in October 2006 where John Middleton was a key conference speaker.

You are here > [Home](#) > [Your Ministry](#) > [Land Use Planning](#) > [Greenbelt Protection](#) > [Greenbelt Council](#) > [Greenbelt Council Progress Reports](#) > [Greenbelt Council's Progress Report - Highlights 2005 - 2006](#) > Minister's response to the 2005 and 2006 Greenbelt Council Progress Report

Your Ministry

Local Government

Land Use Planning

Citizens' Guides to Land-use Planning

Related Legislation

Provincial Policy Statement

Ontario Municipal Board

Ontario Municipal Board / Planning Reform

Greenbelt Protection

Brownfields Ontario

The Oak Ridges Moraine

Parkway Belt West Plan

Municipal Planning & Development Tools

Planning Act Approval Authority in Ontario

Housing

Building Regulation

OnRAMP

The Learning Centre

Explore Government

Contacts

ServiceOntario Centres

Have a question, comment or feedback?

Telephone Directory

Contact the Minister

MPPs

Ministry Regional Offices

Virtual Reading Room

Features

UPDATE

Ministry E-Newsletter

Affordable Housing Program Video



Minister's response to the 2005 and 2006 Greenbelt Council Progress Report

[Email this page](#)

March 30, 2007

Dr. Robert Elgie, Chair
Greenbelt Council
777 Bay Street, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

Dear Dr. Elgie:

Thank you for your letter of November 30, 2006 in which you provide me with the Greenbelt council's progress report on their activities over the last year and a half.

I appreciated meeting with you and council members at your December 6 meeting. It was a good opportunity for me to connect with the whole council and welcome your newest member, Debbe Crandall. Again, I would like to thank the council for all their hard work and dedication, and to acknowledge that this has been a productive year for them.

I look forward to hearing from council on Greenbelt-related agricultural and Niagara matters that you care to raise as a result of the input received from your Agricultural and Niagara Committees. This information will be critical as we continue to implement the Greenbelt Plan. The council's insight will also help inform the government and raise awareness of these important matters.

Thank you for the advice the council provided for considering potential harmonization regulations to the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*. The council's work helped contribute to the development of a fair and consistent approach for considering potential items for harmonization. Ministry staff have found the criteria council provided to be useful as they work with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Niagara Escarpment Commission and other ministries to assess, select and develop recommendations on possible regulations for the government's consideration.

I encourage council to continue to work with ministry staff on a performance measurement framework to monitor the effectiveness of the Greenbelt Plan. The council's strategic direction and input into the development of this framework is very important. This will help shape the foundation for monitoring the Greenbelt Plan and ultimately, the 10-year review of the Greenbelt Plan.

I also encourage you to continue to foster your working relationships with the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, and their staff, to keep apprised of your respective activities. It is with these relationships and partnerships that we will ensure the success of the Greenbelt.

I would like to thank council again for their continued commitment to Greenbelt protection, and look forward to working with you and council members in carrying out your activities for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,



Subscribe to RSS Feeds

John Gerretsen
Minister

Share this Page

    

Other Resources



[CONTACT US](#) | [ACCESSIBILITY](#) | [PRIVACY](#) | [SITE MAP](#)

COPYRIGHT © QUEEN'S PRINTER FOR ONTARIO, 2008 | [IMPORTANT NOTICE](#)
- LAST MODIFIED:TUESDAY, AUGUST 07, 2007