
EMPLOYMENT LAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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This is exactly **why we need the Greenbelt** – to protect us from urban settlement boundary expansions.

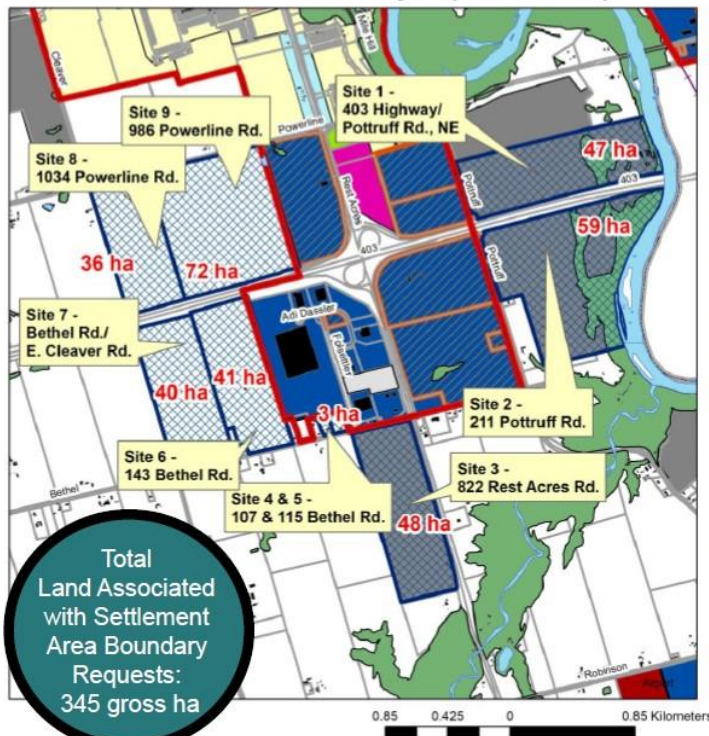
We are losing farmers, farms, and farmland – we are losing rural community.

Over the past 25 years, Ontario has lost farmland at an alarming rate. To put the problem into perspective, according to OMAFRA's data collected from the 2016 Census of Agriculture, from 1996-2016, Ontario lost 1.5 million acres of farmland to development, at a daily rate loss of **175 acres per day** — roughly the size of 135 football fields. That works out to be an average of **five farms per week** lost to development in an effort to keep pace with Ontario's growing population.

The rate at which our province is losing agricultural land is **not sustainable**. Especially given the fact that less than 5% of Ontario's land base can support agricultural production of any kind. With the demand to increase the production of food, fibre and fuel for an ever-growing population, farmers struggle as our finite resources continue to diminish (Peggy Brekveld, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Apr. 19/21)

Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Requests

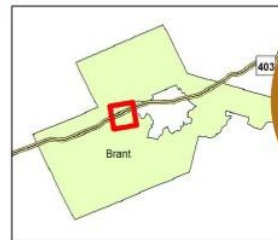
Paris - Settlement Boundary Expansion Requests



Quick Summary of Urban Land Needs:

Urban Employment Land Needs:
Shortfall: 103 ha

Urban Community Area (Residential) Land Needs:
Surplus +395 ha



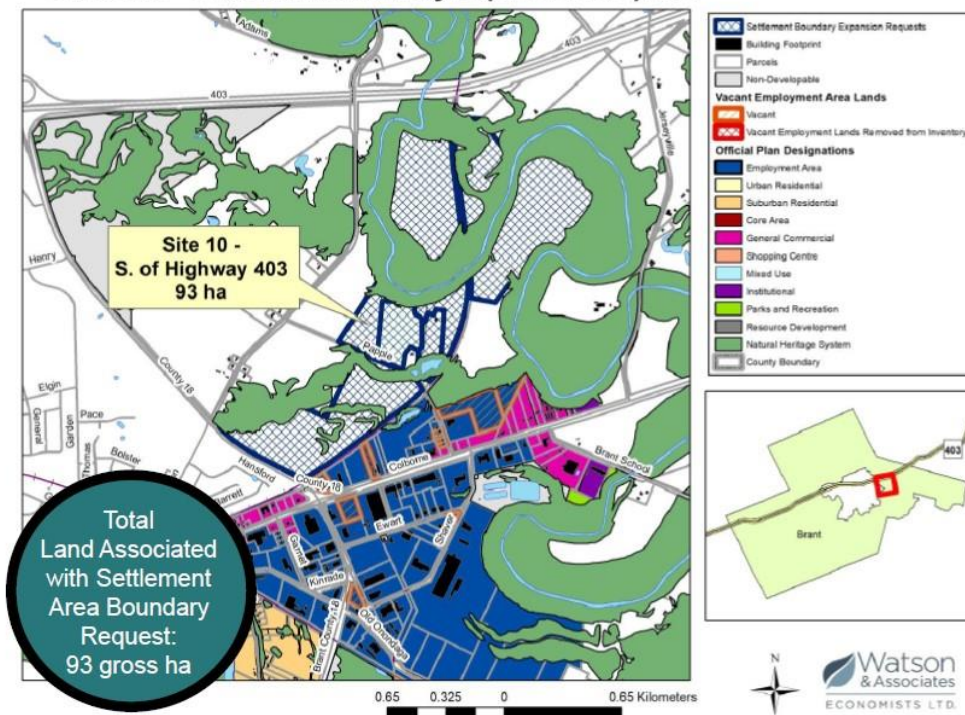
Watson & Associates
ECONOMISTS LTD.

Areas identified – received requests for settlement area boundary expansion for Employment Area lands. Land area figures exclude Natural Heritage Systems.

Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Requests



Cainsville - Settlement Boundary Expansion Request



Areas identified – received request for settlement area boundary expansion for Employment Area lands.
Land area figures exclude Natural Heritage Systems.

We need to question

- The practice of requesting boundary settlements for employment land, and then with the subsequent OP, requesting a conversion from employment land to residential,
- the growth forecasts and how they actually measure up,
- the housing mix that current and future residents will prefer and how this will affect the housing market,
- the low density and intensification targets for our area that encourage sprawl.

We need to factor in

- the impact of COVID19,
- the potential of a future recession given the closing of businesses due to COVID19, and the national and provincial debt, and personal debt due to COVID19

We need to plan to address

- how we apply our municipal commitment to address climate change to the OP planning process, and
- local food sovereignty and food security.

We need to include The Grand River Watershed, including Brant County in the Greenbelt

- to protect its agricultural system, its natural heritage system and our water sources.