

Town Hall and Councillors.

I am so disappointed in the total lack of leadership and understanding no one cares regard global warming. If there was any care there would not be so much approval of taking 1000 acres of farmland for housing. Build condos and Buildings 4-5-10 stories high so not as many roads drive ways roofs that are Black asphalt and shingles to radiant heat in our air.

Does no one ever thing if you take 200 acres to Build 900 houses not only are you not taking 1600 Ton of carbon out of the air (One acre corn takes 8 ton) (One large tree takes 1 ton. and look at how many of them are cut down for houses) when the subdivision is built look at lack of soil that will soak up Sun rays and water but Because of all Black asphalt of streets and drive ways and Black shingles on roofs that radiant sun rays of heat back up in to atmosphere. Build less houses more high rise condos. If people dont like it move on. Then Build another fire hall, sewage treatment plant full time fire Dept so tax will go way up. the argument need growth for tax Base never worked in past and will not work in future. The town has also taken Best crop farm land for Building. Land on second land and Cuddys best land around going to use land use hold over

clay ground. I am so disappointed there is no leadership that cares about our planet. Think of the future ones not the presents.

I am enclosing documents that support the science claim we need to look at the future. There is 175 acres every day taken for Buildings and roads. We must stop sooner than later to help next generation.

Thank you nothing will be done but I will have my thoughts and answers  
Build up not out

Thanks

Paul Langford

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Mike Orosz plows a field north of London. A new study by a Western University researcher says a drier atmosphere brought on by climate change could reduce crop yields. Danielle Way, an associate professor of biology, said climate change poses a particular risk to northern countries like Canada. **MIKE HENSEN**

# Add atmospheric drying - and lower crop yields - to climate change toll

**MAX MARTIN**

Drier air brought on by climate change could put a dent in crop yields, triggering smaller and slower-growing plants, a new study says.

"Globally, the atmosphere is drying as the climate warms up," said Danielle Way, an associate professor of biology at Western University. "That's been correlated with reduced crop yield."

Because air wants to hold as much water as possible, it starts to pull moisture from plants as it dries, with potentially devastating impacts on crops and vegetation.

Way, working with researchers at the University of Minnesota,

studied 50 years of data and 112 plant species, including wheat, corn and birch trees, to assess how they're affected by drier air.

The recently published findings show plants react to atmospheric drying — even if they don't lack water in the soil — by triggering a drought-like response, growing smaller, shorter and slower.

"Basically, they're trying to reduce how much leaf surface there is for the water to evaporate off of," Way said. "They're acting like they're drought-stressed."

It's that phenomenon that could result in hiked-up farming costs and decreased crop productivity, Way warns, with spinoff effects on

food costs and availability.

Green spaces and trees are also at risk of the phenomenon.

"This actually might be just as significant as having dry soil," Way said.

While the study noted impacts on crops from India to the mid-western United States, Way said Southwestern Ontario's farm belt would also be impacted by increased dry air.

"Northern countries like Canada are particularly at risk from climate change," she said, adding the country's temperature could rise six degrees Celsius in the next 80 years.

Atmospheric drying has been observed worldwide for the past 20 years and is expected to rise as global warming intensifies.

Although dry soil is still a challenge for farmers, Way said irrigation can address that issue. But there's no way to humidify the air, making atmospheric drying a big risk.

On the positive side, Way said her research could be used in the development of crops more resistant to atmospheric drying. Within the study, the team found some plants, including certain varieties of wheat, are less stressed by dry air than others.

"That variation is something we can use to breed more drought-tolerant crop species to minimize the effect" of atmospheric drying, she said.

But the long-term and essential solution is to combat climate change, Way said, adding her research highlights some of the less visible impacts of global warming.

"The way to tackle this is to tackle climate change at that large scale," she said.

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# Protecting agricultural land is key to future food production

Ontario cannot sustain the current loss of agricultural land while continuing to produce food, fibre, and fuel

**BY MARK REUSSER**  
OFA vice-president

Preserving agricultural land for the purpose of food production and processing is a key priority for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). That was the message that was conveyed in OFA's recent submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed amendments to Ontario's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe area.

As the population continues to increase across the province, Ontario consumers depend on a strong, reliable value chain to produce, process and distribute food products. Without access to arable land, we are jeopardizing the local agri-food system. Preserving and protecting agricultural land benefits all Ontarians.

Ontario cannot sustain the current loss of agricultural land while continuing to produce food, fibre and fuel with limited and declining resources. Based on the latest Census, agricultural land in the province has been lost at a rate of 63,940 acres per year.

The continued loss of agricultural land has the potential to threaten food production and processing in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area. Due to the significant amount of food processing facilities in the region, a steady decline of available land puts the long-term viability and security of these facilities at risk.

It also negatively impacts employment and the capacity to provide consumers with locally grown food, while also

mitigating the effects of a changing climate.

Ontario's agriculture and agri-food processing sectors are the leading economic engines for the province. In 2019, the agriculture and agri-food sector, from field to fork, contributed \$47.28 billion to Ontario's economy and supported 860,494 jobs.

Projecting population and employment growth is one of the many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed amendments to Ontario's Growth Plan include population and employment forecasts that fail to take into account how the provincial economy will rebound and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. OFA recommends these projections be recalculated to ensure they accurately reflect Ontario's post-pandemic economic recovery.

The submission also proposes postponing implementing the population projections for 18-24 months to allow for a better indication as to what post-COVID recovery might look like. There's no urgent need to make these proposed changes now.

The Greater Golden Horseshoe already faces rapid growth challenges, including sprawling growth, traffic gridlock, high housing costs and environmental degradation. Rather than focusing solely on the Greater Golden Horseshoe for growth and development, OFA recommends adopting a growth plan model that allows for distributed economic growth and development.

This approach would distribute the benefits of economic growth and development across all regions of the province.

The continuation of converting prime agricultural land for urban development will negatively impact our most valuable

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resources — soil and water.

This issue not only extends to the Greater Golden Horseshoe area but across the province as well. Less than five per cent of Ontario's land base can support agricultural production of any kind. In the Greater Golden Horseshoe, much of the agricultural land contains our most productive Class 1, 2 or 3 soils.

Land capable of supporting agricultural activity ensures a safe, sustainable supply of food, fuel and fibre for Ontario. Furthermore, the loss of these resources will greatly impact locally produced food and our food security.

OFA strongly believes that the intensification of residential development within the existing urban footprint, in the context of complete and liveable communities, along with the distribution of economic development province-wide, is the solution.

It will boost economic growth, create new jobs, provide new affordable housing options, ensure food security, and contribute to environmental stewardship. This is positive for rural communities and alleviates growth pressures on the Greater Golden Horseshoe. New investments in rural communities will grow existing businesses, attract new businesses, and boost regional economic development, including access to stable high-speed internet and natural gas.

The time is now to examine growth and development beyond the Greater Golden Horseshoe to benefit all Ontarians.

Ontario farmers are proud to cultivate some of the most fertile and productive soils in the world. OFA is working for Farms and Food Forever. When we lose agricultural land to urban sprawl, it is lost forever.

All Ontarians benefit from the economic and environmental benefits that productive land and water resources bring to our province.

## Tax bite is increasing

Despite touting tax cuts, Canada's politicians have actually increased the percentage they take from family incomes - more than 42 per cent last year compared with 33.5 per cent in 1961.

Taxes took more than the 36.2 per cent for housing, food and clothing costs combined-

said Jake Fuss, an economist with the Fraser Institute.

The total tax bill for Canadians includes visible and hidden taxes paid to the federal, provincial and local governments including income, payroll, sales, property, carbon, health, fuel and alcohol taxes.