

CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES OFFICIAL PLAN

PART A - CONCEPTUAL PLAN FRAMEWORK

1. OVERVIEW

1.1. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

1.1.1. The City of Kawartha Lakes was created on January 1, 2001 by an amalgamation of municipalities formerly within Victoria County. Except for two amalgamations the year before the City of Kawartha Lakes was created, the County of Victoria was composed of the Town of Lindsay, the villages of Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Omemee, Sturgeon Point and Woodville and the Townships of Bexley, Carden, Dalton, Eldon, Emily, Fenelon, Manvers, Mariposa, Ops, Somerville and Verulam and the United Townships of Laxton, Digby and Longford.

1.1.2. The settlement of the area commenced when the government of Upper Canada first offered land for sale in 1821. The County of Victoria was created as a municipality in 1863. Lindsay had been incorporated as a town just prior to this in 1857. The County remained geographically the same until 1974 when the Regional Municipality of Durham was created and Manvers Township was added to the County of Victoria.

1.2. GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

1.2.1. The City is composed of some significant physiographic areas. The southern portion of Manvers Township contains part of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The central portion of the City, primarily in the Townships of Mariposa, Ops, Emily, Manvers, Eldon, Fenelon and Verulam is predominantly agricultural land on a till plain. Throughout this area are found esker and kame deposits that are being mined for aggregates or have aggregate potential. There are also organic deposits such as peat.

1.2.2. A lake system known as the Trent- Severn Waterway traverses the City. The system extends from the Bay of Quinte to Lake Simcoe. It was begun in 1833 with a lock constructed in Bobcaygeon and was completed in 1920 through to Georgian Bay. It is a major recreational waterway in Ontario and the City benefits from its presence.

1.2.3. The Townships north of the Trent Canal lake system generally have shallow soils over bedrock and are primarily used for ranching or forestry. A significant limestone feature known as the Carden Plain is centred on Carden Township and has significant aggregate potential, as well as exhibiting alvar habitat. The Precambrian shield covers the northern part of the city in Dalton, Digby and Longford Townships.

1.3. POPULATION

- 1.3.1.** The Census population of the City of Kawartha Lakes in 2001 was 69, 179 and as per census 2006, it was 74,561. Growth over the past 30 years has resulted in the population doubling. The period from the 1996 to 2001 Census was the slowest growth rate experienced over the past three decades. Residential construction and occupancy rates during this period are not consistent with this trend. The population growth between 2001 and 2006 was 7.8% while Ontario was at 6.6% growth as a province. The City must plan on the basis of the Provincial Growth Plan projections which currently target 100,000 residents by 2031.

About 65% of the residents live in rural areas, with 35% living in the urban area. There are a significant number of seasonal residents in the City within the waterfront areas and recreational trailer parks.

1.4. ORGANIZATION OF THE OFFICIAL PLAN

The Official Plan consists of six parts as follows:

Part A: Conceptual Plan Framework

The Conceptual framework provides the historical and geographical perspective and the basis for its policies.

Part B: Strategic Directions

Strategic Directions that provide direction and policies regardless of land use designation, unless otherwise indicated.

Part C: Land Use Policies

The goals, objectives and policies for designated land use areas are included in this Section.

Part D: Infrastructure and Services Policies

This section establishes policy for the physical *infrastructure* and human services which support land use activities including parks, schools, community facilities, institutions, transportation, stormwater management, utilities and *community improvement* policies.

Part E: Interpretation and Definitions

Definitions of specific words or phrases are provided for ease of interpretation.

Part F: Subordinate Plans and Special Policy Areas

These policies deal with existing and future secondary plans, special policy areas and development plan areas.

PART G: Implementation

These policies outline procedural and implementation requirements for the use and *development* of lands and the means to interpret the policies and maps contained in this Plan.

Official Plan Maps

A Land Use

B Natural Heritage Features

C Wellhead Protection Zones

D Waste Management Facilities

E Development Plans

F Special Policy Lake Plan Area – SP – 1

G Amendment 104 (Oak Ridges Moraine Amendment) – under separate cover

2. BASIS

2.1. ENVIRONMENT

- 2.1.1.** The City is blessed with a number of natural features that are considered irreplaceable assets. These include the lakes and rivers, the Trent-Severn Waterway, the Oak Ridges Moraine and many natural features. These features should be protected and enhanced with strong policies to ensure the ongoing quality of life and economic prosperity.
- 2.1.2.** The Community Vision process from 2002 determined that an Environment First Principle, which recognizes that the environment is the base upon which all planning activities take place and that it must be considered in all planning decisions. Also avoiding *development* and land use patterns, which may cause adverse environmental or public health & safety effects.
- 2.1.3.** The surface and groundwater within the City is an important resource. Measures will be taken to protect the water quality and quantity of the surface and groundwater resource.

2.2. ECONOMY

- 2.2.1.** The City of Kawartha Lakes supports a diverse economic base. Generally, manufacturing and agriculture comprise two of the largest sectors in the local economy by gross sales. Tourism, retail and commercial uses continue as steady and healthy contributors to the economy. The City must plan on the basis of the Provincial Growth Plan projections which currently target 27,000 new jobs by 2031.

- 2.2.2.** The City recognizes the importance of farming activities within the City and will continue to support and protect the continuation and growth of the agricultural industry. One way of doing this will be to prohibit the creation of new vacant residential lots in *prime agricultural areas*.
- 2.2.3.** Famous for its natural beauty, cultural features, and location on the Trent-Severn Waterway, the City of Kawartha Lakes is naturally one of the most popular cottage and tourist destinations in Ontario. The Trent-Severn Waterway consists of a 386-kilometre system of rivers, lakes and canals with six locks located in the City.
- 2.2.4.** The tourism industry represents a significant component of the City's economy. In Kawartha Lakes, there is potential for increased growth in this sector, particularly in the following areas: eco-nature tourism, education and learning vacations, sustainable *development*, resource conservation and healthy lifestyle activities. Increasing the number of recreational opportunities should also be explored as a method of increasing tourism.
- 2.2.5.** The industrial base of the City is diverse and includes a growing number of niche market manufacturers.
- 2.2.6.** Access to serviced industrial lands is available throughout the City. The Lindsay Industrial Park offers serviced industrial lots ranging from 0.4ha to 402.43ha. In addition to municipally owned industrial land, many private and publicly owned industrial building sites exist, including an industrial subdivision in Pontypool located within minutes of Highways 115 and 35.
- 2.3. HOUSING**
- 2.3.1.** The predominant form of housing within the City is single detached dwellings. Within the urban centres, multiple residential *developments* in the form of apartments and townhouses are available. There is a need for additional housing for lower income families, seniors and those with special needs. Housing will be encouraged in existing *settlement areas*. However, care needs to be given with respect to location, density, servicing and impact on surrounding land uses.
- 2.3.2.** The City will encourage the provision of a broad mix and range of housing to meet the needs of present and future households in the area. The City also encourages the provision of housing types, densities and tenures that are affordable to moderate and lower income households. The City encourages residential intensification in the built up area and establishing cost effective development standards for new residential development and redevelopment.
- 2.4. STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE (COMMUNITY VISION)**
- 2.4.1.** As a result of extensive public consultation, a Community Profile was completed which provided, a summary of Community Values, and a list of key initiatives, that ultimately formed the basis for the Community Vision 2002-2012.

2.5. COMMUNITY VISION 2002-2012 SUMMARY

2.5.1. The Vision for the City of Kawartha Lakes recognizes the City as a community of vibrant communities. The Vision emphasizes the City's dedication to good government, responsible planning and growth management. Attention will be given to special population groups, including seniors, youth and persons with special needs. As a green community, value will be placed on conservation of the area's natural environment. Economic prosperity will be realized, with well-established sectors such as tourism and agriculture growing further as important contributors to the local economy.

2.5.2. The City will provide leadership, support and coordination for implementation of the Community Vision over the life of the Vision to 2012.

2.6. HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

2.6.1. The City of Kawartha Lakes is attractive to many, with its natural beauty, rich heritage and natural resources. The Official Plan manages lands and resources and directs future growth to ensure that community needs and desires are met for today and into the future.

2.6.2. The City of Kawartha Lakes will strive to balance the community's economic, environmental and social objectives through, among other things, policies and directions in the Official Plan that encourage sustainable community development and active and healthy living for residents, businesses and visitors to enjoy.

2.6.3. The City of Kawartha Lakes is committed to the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) that establishes the broad sustainability framework and community vision for the City beyond 2012

2.6.4. The Official Plan reflects a determination by City Council to establish a safe, healthy and active community while achieving a high quality of life for citizens of all ages. The City is committed to partnering and collaborating with community and government stakeholders to achieve this goal

2.6.5. The Official Plan contains policies to encourage and promote active transportation and connectivity for pedestrians and all modes of transportation.