



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: ED2025-005
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025
Title: **Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020 to 2024 Report**
Description: A report to provide information on activities undertaken within the Action Plan
Author and Title: Kelly Maloney, Economic Development Officer - Agriculture

Recommendations:

That Report ED2025-005, **Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020 to 2024 Report**, be received; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of November 19, 2019 Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2019-640

Moved By Councillor Ashmore

Seconded By Councillor O'Reilly

That Report ED2019-019, **Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020-2024**, be received;

That the Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020-2024 be endorsed;

That in the first quarter of 2020 staff provide Council with an implementation plan detailing community partnership support and providing options for resourcing of identified municipal activities through future budgets; and

That the implementation plan identify the top 10 prioritized, actionable items.

Carried

The Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020-2024 is included as Appendix A for reference.

An updated Agriculture and Food Action Plan is part of the 2025 Operating Budget. This new Plan will replace the Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020 to 2024.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the outcomes of the Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020-2024.

Rationale:

The agriculture and food sector in the City of Kawartha Lakes is not only a significant economic driver, but it contributes to the overall quality of life in the region. The municipality contains over 300,000 acres of farmland. Beyond primary production, a variety of agriculture and agri-food related businesses call Kawartha Lakes home, causing the Lindsay area to be known as a centre of agri-business, abundant in agricultural support and service businesses. These include input suppliers, equipment dealers, feed mills, insurance, legal, food processors, manufacturers, distributors and many others.

In 2019, Council endorsed the Agriculture and Food Action Plan to address ongoing challenges and stimulate sector growth. Now, in 2025, as we prepare to undertake an updated Plan it is appropriate to review the many actions which have been implemented, as well as those which are ongoing, and others which have yet to be implemented but should be considered for inclusion in the new plan. The work within the Plan was developed at a time when it had regard for the predecessor corporate strategic plan to the current 2024 to 2027 Strategic Plan and the former Economic Development Strategy. Additionally, with the adoption of the new Economic Development Strategy 2025 to 2029, it is an appropriate time to provide this wrap-up report on the previous Action Plan so that a renewed Plan may be developed which will ensure that strategic efforts continue to reflect current strategic direction and goals as well as to adapt to the evolution of opportunities and challenges in the agriculture and food sector.

Objectives of the Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020-2024

1. Continue excellence in agriculture and food business development and support services
2. Enhance agriculture and food workforce development activities
3. Ensure that municipal planning, infrastructure, and regulations facilitate agricultural development
4. Continue to build the Kawartha Lakes brand by supporting agriculture and food
5. Ensure that agriculture and food businesses are equipped to adapt to a changing climate

Goals of the Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020-2024

1. Ensure Kawartha Lakes maintains a supportive business environment where agri-businesses can expand and thrive
2. Enhance opportunities in value-added agriculture
3. Support agriculture and food education for students within Kawartha Lakes
4. Fill the gaps between the agri-food labour force and employer needs in Kawartha Lakes
5. Update Official Plan policies, and develop comprehensive zoning by-laws and other municipal policies to support agricultural development
6. Improve local infrastructure
7. Enact tax policies that support agricultural development
8. Streamline planning and building application processes for agri-businesses in Kawartha Lakes

9. Empower the Kawartha Lakes business community to promote agriculture and food
10. Continue to develop a strong Kawartha Lakes agriculture and food brand.
11. Strengthen the ability for the agricultural sector in Kawartha Lakes to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate

Outcomes of the Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020-2024

A number of activities were undertaken between 2020 and 2024 to implement the Plan. Several of the actions have been completed while others remain ongoing as next steps to address continued need. Of particular note, is the work undertaken by Council's Agricultural Development Advisory Committee in hosting the annual VIP Agricultural Tour for Council and staff familiarization, provision of skills development training for agriculture workers, the advancement of the Kawartha Choice FarmFresh local food program, public agri-food education through the annual Kawartha Farmfest event, and support for the development, expansion and sustainability of local agriculture and food businesses. Highlights of the actions and activities undertaken during that time can be found in Appendix B to this report.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No alternatives were considered.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020 to 2024 advanced all four priorities in the 2024-2027 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan:

1. A Vibrant and Growing Economy
2. An Exceptional Quality of Life
3. Healthy Environment
4. Good Government

While advancing all four priorities, the focus of the Action Plan was A Vibrant and Growing Economy.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

This report has no financial impacts.

Consultations:

While many members of staff, other levels of government staff, agencies, agricultural organizations and businesses were involved in the implementation of the Plan, none were directly consulted in the writing of this report.

Attachments:

Appendix A – Kawartha Lakes Agriculture and Food Action Plan 2020 to 2024



ED2025-005
Appendix A

Appendix B – Kawartha Lakes Agricultural and Food Action Plan 2020 to 2024 Activities Update



ED2025-005
Appendix B

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Department Head: Leah Barrie, Director of Development Services