



## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Agenda**

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

7:30 PM

Council Chambers  
Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters  
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

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Please note: In an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to generally comply with the directions from the Government of Ontario, it is requested in the strongest terms that Members participate in the meeting electronically. Regional Headquarters is closed to the public, all members of the public may [view the Committee meeting](#) via live streaming, instead of attending the meeting in person. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing [delegations@durham.ca](mailto:delegations@durham.ca) and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

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#### **1. Roll Call**

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

#### **3. Adoption of Minutes**

- A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on May 11, 2021 ([Attachment 1](#))

#### **4. Presentations**

- A) Laura Malyjasiak & Angela Porteous, Region of Durham Works Department - Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021 – 2040

#### **5. Discussion Items**

- A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – S. Jibb  
B) DAAC Farm Tour – Z. Cohoon  
C) DAAC Proposed Policy Directions Response – Z. Cohoon  
D) ROPA 2021-002 - Motion Clarification

**6. Information Items**

- A) #2021-EDT-4 - Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association 2021 Workplace and Ontario Local Food Week ([Attachment 2](#))

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

September 14, 2021

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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**May 11, 2021**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:36 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair, attended the meeting at 7:44 PM

T. Barrie, Clarington

N. Guthrie, Member at Large

G. Highet, Regional Councillor

B. Howsam, Member at Large

P. MacArthur, Oshawa

G. O'Connor, Member at Large, attended the meeting at 7:49 PM

F. Puterbough, Member at Large

D. Risebrough, Member at Large

H. Schillings, Whitby

B. Smith, Uxbridge

G. Taylor, Pickering, Vice-Chair

T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

B. Winter, Ajax

**\*members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: K. Kemp, Scugog

K. Kennedy, Member at Large

#### **Staff**

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development

A. Brown, Agriculture Economic Development Program Coordinator, Department of Planning and Economic Development

R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT

S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural, Department of Planning and Economic Development

M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

**\*all staff except R. Inacio participated electronically**

In the absence of the Committee Chair, G. Taylor, Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by B. Winter,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee  
meeting held on April 13, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Presentation**

A) Michael Peace, Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) Ports and Paul Hazzard, Sollio re: Agricultural Opportunities at Oshawa Port Update

Michael Peace, Business Analyst, HOPA Ports and Paul Hazzard, General Manager of the Ontario Grain Operations, Solio presented a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Update on Agricultural Opportunities at Oshawa Port.

Highlights of the presentation from M. Peace included:

- HOPA Ports
- Who We Are
  - Managing Working Waterfronts on the Canadian Great Lakes
- HOPA Ports Regional Economic Impact
- Integrated Port Network
  - A Sustainable Port of Oshawa
- Cargo Trends
  - Opportunities Growing in Agri-Food
- Subject/Category
  - \$3.5 Million Dredging Project – May 2021
  - Surfacing and road works

M. Peace stated that the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority is one of 17 port authorities in Canada and is the largest port on the Great Lakes system. He stated that the long-term goal of the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority is to become an integrated port network to potentially move marine cargo around southern Ontario via Lake Ontario. He advised that the Port Authority manages three properties in the following three communities: Hamilton; Oshawa and Niagara. He further advised that Oshawa had its busiest year in 2020 with over 600,000 tons of cargo that was imported and exported out of the Oshawa Port Authority.

M. Peace stated that they look at themselves as a gateway going across southwestern Ontario by supporting manufacturing, building and agriculture. He advised that they plan to spend between \$20 and \$30 million in Oshawa over the next 5 years in improvements. He also advised that they are seeing a trend in fertilizer being an import product and agricultural products being export products from the terminals in Hamilton and Oshawa and anticipate that it will double within the next 2 to 5 years.

Highlights of the presentation from P. Hazzard include:

- Solio Agriculture
- Our International Export Strategy
- Vertical-integration model for production
- A Solio Agriculture footprint all along the Saint Lawrence Seaway
- Harnessing grain production from Western Canada
- Reaping the benefits of grain production in Ontario
- Quebec: a hub for international exports
- Harnessing grain production from the Atlantic provinces
- Developing long-term business relationships with key users worldwide
- Major growth in our exports

P. Hazzard stated that Solio is a multi faceted company involved in crop inputs; grain elevator services; risk and price hedging mechanisms; transport to export points; operation of export terminals; sea freight operation; market development; certifications; and merchandising. He advised that Solio works with various export houses in Thunder Bay, Sarnia, Oshawa, Johnstown, Quebec City, and Halifax. He further advised that a driver for Solio is to benefit local farmers by improving profitability for growers. He stated that Solio's belief is to develop long term business relationships with key users worldwide. He advised that in 2020, Solio exported approximately 80,000 tons of grain from Oshawa and expect to transport 100,000 tons this year.

P. Hazzard and M. Peace responded to questions with regards to plans for further infrastructure in Oshawa; and, whether the dump pits will be fixed. They were also asked to provide an update on the joint application for the foreign trade zone point designation.

Discussion ensued with regards to the size of the ramps being too narrow, steep and hard to maneuver; the grading probe system needing to be fixed; and, the importance of listening to the farming community.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, attended the meeting at this time and assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

B) Margaret Walton, Planscape re: Agricultural System Mapping

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Margaret Walton, Planscape provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Envision Durham: Regional Agricultural System.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Envision Durham Regional Agricultural System
- Purpose
- Policy Framework in Ontario
- Greater Golden Horseshoe Agricultural System
- Provincial System – Land Based System
- Provincial Agri-Food Map
- Next Steps

M. Walton provided an overview of the policy framework in Ontario. She stated that the province introduced the concept of an agricultural system in 2014 and when the provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe was done, the province identified maps and established policies requiring that a system of agriculture across the Golden Horseshoe be implemented. She advised that the Greater Golden Horseshoe agricultural system was mapped and issued by the province in 2018 and has two primary components: an agricultural land base and an agri-food network. She further advised that Planscape has been retained to undertake the process of reviewing the agricultural system and will provide conclusions to staff to be included in the draft Regional Official Plan.

M. Walston provided an overview of how the land-based system is established through a LEAR (land evaluation area review) system. She stated that Planscape will take the current Durham rural system and the provincial mapping and will rationalize the two systems by removing, tweaking, and/or adding to prime agriculture areas in Durham. She advised that the submission deadline for comments on the proposed policy directions is June 30, 2021 and the provincial agricultural system report is expected to be ready in the fall of 2021.

Discussion ensued with regards to the need for planners to have a more realistic concept of what is in the land base; whether Planscape can go back to the province and have them change what they designate as Prime Agricultural land; and, the need to have policies in place in the southern municipalities to give farmers the right to farm.

M. Walton responded to questions regarding the LEAR process and whether there will be an opportunity for a local LEAR evaluation; whether aerial surveys will be used; and, where the provincial data comes from and its accuracy.

**5. Discussion Items**

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

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S. Jibb provided the following update:

- Staff is working on a Policy Paper that will focus on on-farm diversified uses;
- The Food Hub Project is advancing; staff is working with the Consultant and a Project Manager to keep things moving along; and
- Durham Farm Fresh will be doing their annual update to the Planning & Economic Development Committee on June 1, 2021.

A. Brown provided the following update:

- Local Food Week is the first week of June. Staff is working on promoting and sharing information;
- The Durham local food directory has been refreshed and a Farmers Market Calendar has been added;
- Staff is working on a stakeholder reach out plan for the Envision Durham Policy Review to provide information to the public; and
- Staff is working with the internal working group for the Agricultural System Mapping being done by Planscape.

B) DAAC Farm Tour

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D. Risebrough advised that the subcommittee met prior to the DAAC meeting. He advised that they have entered into a contract with Farm Boy Productions to do the videography and production aspects of the farm tour and there will be approximately four filming sessions on the farm that will cover all aspects of the growing of potatoes, from planting to harvesting to storage and to marketing. He also advised that the subcommittee is working on an interactive process to be included with the presentation of the video.

It was requested that the committee brainstorm for theme ideas for the farm tour.

C) DAAC Proposed Policy Directions Response

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Z. Cohoon advised that the subcommittee met on May 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed policy directions that was presented at the April 2021 meeting and asked M. Scott to provide an update.

M. Scott stated that he is working on compiling the subcommittee's comments. He advised that the subcommittee will meet again in two weeks to review the comments and the comments will be presented to the DAAC at the June meeting for discussion and endorsement in order to meet the June 30<sup>th</sup> commenting deadline.

D) OPA 2021-002 – Sunrise International Investments Inc.

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A copy of the Early Release Report #2021-P-\*\* from the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Public Meeting Report – Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Johnston Litavski Ltd. for Sunrise International Investments Inc. to permit the redevelopment of Bunker Hill Golf Course (formerly Kinsale Golf Course), in the City of Pickering, was provided as Attachment #2 to the April 13, 2021 Agenda.

It was requested that this item be brought back to this meeting with more information and further clarification of the proposed changes.

M. Scott advised that the property is currently on private servicing which has been enhanced to facilitate the expansion.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Winter,

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee does not support the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Johnston Litavski Ltd. for Sunrise International Investments Inc. to permit the redevelopment of Bunker Hill Golf Course (formerly Kinsale Golf Course), in the City of Pickering.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE  
FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

No

Tom Barrie  
Zac Cohoon  
Neil Guthrie  
Councillor Highet  
Brad Howsam  
Paul MacArthur  
Gerri-Lynn O'Connor  
Frazer Puterbough  
Dave Risebrough  
Hubert Schillings  
Bryan Smith  
Gord Taylor  
Tom Watpool  
Buck Winter



Members Absent: Kevin Kemp  
Keith Kennedy

Declarations of Interest: None

E) OPA 2021-004 – Grainboys Holding Inc.

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A copy of the Early Release Report #2021-P-\*\* from the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Public Meeting Report – Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Kyle Petrovich on behalf of Grainboys Holdings Inc. to permit the development of a dry grain processing facility in the Township of Uxbridge, was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Kyle Petrovich on behalf of Grainboys Holdings Inc. to permit the development of a dry grain processing facility in the Township of Uxbridge.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE  
FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
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Tom Barrie	
Zac Cohoon	
Neil Guthrie	
Councillor Highet	
Brad Howsam	
Paul MacArthur	
Gerri-Lynn O'Connor	
Frazer Puterbough	
Dave Risebrough	
Hubert Schillings	
Bryan Smith	
Gord Taylor	
Tom Watpool	
Buck Winter	

Members Absent: Kevin Kemp  
Keith Kennedy

Declarations of Interest: None

**6. Information Items**

- A) Letter from the Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program

A copy of the letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs dated April 14, 2021 with regards to the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

- B) Growing A More Resilient Food Supply Chain in Ontario, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

A copy of the Policy Brief from Ontario Chamber of Commerce with regards to Growing a More Resilient Food Supply Chain in Ontario was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda.

- C) Report #2021-P-08 – Region of Durham Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol Resolution

A copy of the letter from Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks with regards to the Region of Durham Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda.

Moved by G. O'Connor, Seconded by G. Taylor,  
That Information Items 6.A), 6.B) and 6.C) be received for  
information.

CARRIED

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business to be considered.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 starting at 7:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by T. Barrie,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

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Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham  
Agricultural Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Planning and Economic Development Committee  
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2021-EDT-4  
Date: June 1, 2021

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**Subject:**

Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association 2021  
Workplan and Ontario Local Food Week

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**Recommendation:**

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a. provide an update on the activities of the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association (DFFMA); provide their 2021 workplan to Committee and Council (Attachment #1), and notify Committee that a DFFMA representative will be appearing as a delegation before the Planning and Economic Development Committee at its meeting on June 1, 2021 to provide an annual update;
- b. provide an update on local food related economic development activities undertaken by the Economic Development and Tourism Division to support the growth of the agri-food sector; and
- c. Inform the Planning and Economic Development Committee that the first week of June each year is Ontario Local Food Week.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Agriculture and Rural Economic Development section of the Economic Development and Tourism Division works with several local agricultural organizations, including the DFFMA, to implement programming in support of the agricultural and rural economy in Durham Region.
- 2.2 The Region contributes \$10,000 annually to the DFFMA as core operational funding, through the Division's annual Business Plan and Budget.
- 2.3 The DFFMA is a largely volunteer-led and membership-based organization, with one part-time coordinator, that has been promoting the production and consumption of local food in Durham Region for over 25 years.
- 2.4 Established in 1991, the DFFMA has been a leader in the producer-led local food marketing movement in Ontario. Members of Regional Council, businesses, and residents will be familiar with the DFFMA branding; including: the annual 'Buy Fresh, Buy Local' map; directional road signs; and the [DFFMA website](#) promoting its members.
- 2.5 The association has 43 full members, 6 associate members and 7 supporting members. Together, the DFFMA members offer local fruit, vegetables, meat and value-added products directly to the consumer. DFFMA also plays an important role in educating the public about farming and local food sources.

## **3. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 3.1 The DFFMA is as a key partner in implementing the [Local Food Business Retention and Expansion \(BR&E\) Project Action Plan](#) and providing overall support for the agri-food sector. The Local Food BR&E Action Items were reprioritized in October 2020 due to evolving industry needs, and an implementation status update was delivered to Council ([#2020-EDT-8](#)).
- 3.2 The DFFMA 2020 Workplan was provided to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in June 2020 ([#2020-EDT-4](#)), and DFFMA representatives attended Committee as a delegation.

## **4. 2020 Review and 2021 Workplan Activities**

- 4.1 Throughout 2020, the DFFMA continued to support their members by providing resources and guidance to help them navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, including many of the workshops and resources available through

[www.investdurham.ca/covidresponse](http://www.investdurham.ca/covidresponse). Attachment #1 includes a review of 2020 activities and the DFFMA 2021 workplan.

- 4.2 Some of the key activities undertaken by DFFMA in 2020 include an update to membership categories, a marketing campaign with KX-96 radio to highlight members timed with seasonal products, and the addition of a COVID-19 response page to the DFFMA website.
- 4.3 Over the past year, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development section staff and the DFFMA have collaborated to complete several activities that support the agri-food sector which have mitigated impacts on the sector caused by the COVID-19 pandemic:
- a. All About Specialty Crops Workshop Series ([#2021-EDT-3](#)).
  - b. CANATRACE webinar with Ground Level Insights (March 18, 2021)
  - c. Mental Health Workshop with the Do More Agriculture Foundation (February 24, 2021)
  - d. Agriculture Succession Planning Workshop (December 17, 2020)
  - e. Presentation from 100km Foods at the DFFMA Annual General Meeting (November 17, 2020)
  - f. E-Commerce – Bringing Your Business Online Workshop (August 13, 2020)
  - g. Health and Safety for Farms During COVID-19 Webinar (June 25, 2020)
  - h. Information Session for Employers of Temporary Foreign Workers (October 15, 2020 and February 18, 2021).
  - i. Shop Local This Holiday Season video with Durham Tourism focused on agri-tourism businesses.
- 4.4 In early 2020, a local food directory was launched by the Economic Development and Tourism Division ([www.investdurham.ca/localfood](http://www.investdurham.ca/localfood)). The directory provides a listing of farms, local food businesses, craft beverage producers and farmers' markets across the Region. It includes a specific feature for the DFFMA and provides direct links to information about what's in season and the DFFMA interactive farm map. The directory is updated and maintained by Economic Development and Tourism staff.
- 4.5 Looking ahead in 2021, plans are underway to host Gates Open which is scheduled to take place in October. Strict measures will be taken to ensure compliance with all COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Economic Development and Tourism staff and the DFFMA will continue to coordinate to plan and deliver a safe Gates Open event that showcases Durham Region's wide array of local food assets and farms.

## **5. Ontario Local Food Week**

- 5.1 Every year, the first week of June marks Ontario Local Food Week. This is an opportunity to shop local and support the local agri-food economy.
- 5.2 Buying and supporting local food creates jobs and economic growth.
- 5.3 Here are some ways to Celebrate Ontario Local Food Week in Durham Region:
  - a. Purchase from DFFMA members; look for their recognizable road signs installed on Regional roads or visit [www.durhamfarmfresh.ca](http://www.durhamfarmfresh.ca) and use the interactive farm map to find members across the region;
  - b. Search for local farms across the region by visiting [www.investdurham.ca/localfood](http://www.investdurham.ca/localfood); and
  - c. Promote Ontario Local Food Week on social media, use the hashtag #LoveONTfood and tag Invest Durham and DFFMA.

## **6. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham region Strategic Plan:
  - a. Goal 3: Economic Prosperity
    - Item 3.5: Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 The DFFMA is a long-standing farm organization that continues to promote and enhance the agri-food sector in Durham Region.
- 7.2 Staff will continue to work closely with DFMA to assist in their sustainability plans and encouraging consumers to buy local, buy fresh.

## **8. Attachments**

Attachment #1: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association – 2021 Workplan

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer





**Durham Farm Fresh  
Marketing Association**  
*Buy Local! Buy Fresh!*

**Attachment #1**

**920 Scugog Line 12  
Uxbridge, ON  
L9P 1R3  
905-427-1512**

**[www.durhamfarmfresh.ca](http://www.durhamfarmfresh.ca)**

## **Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association 2021 Work plan**

### **History**

Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association (DFFMA) members consist of farmers, producers, and chefs who care deeply about locally produced food, and have consistently delivered high-quality, fresh produce to Durham Region and beyond since 1993. DFFMA is recognized as being the most coordinated, focused and proactive leader of Regional Farm Fresh Marketing Association pack within the GTA. DFFMA is also recognized as a vital partner and platform for generating rural economic and tourism development in the region by Durham Region and the local municipalities. With the support the Region, DFFMA will continue to celebrate the success of its members and nurture an enduring connection between producers and the community.

### **Overall Goals**

As per its mandate, DFFMA aims to improve the awareness and economics of agriculture in Durham Region by fostering more effective direct marketing via education of members, information gathering, and product promotion. DFFMA is continuously promoting Durham Region's products through educational presence at local food shows, festivals & fairs, consistent media coverage, and key partnerships in the public and private sectors.

### **A Review of 2020**

To say the least, 2020 was an interesting year for Durham Farm Fresh. Rumbblings of an impending global health crisis began just as many of our farm members were ordering seeds, planning their crops and reopening their operations for the spring. Not long after, widespread shutdowns forced the closure of businesses, caused significant travel delays for migrant workers, and induced panic, stress and financial hardship across our sector. In the months hence, the impacts of the global Covid-19 pandemic have now been felt by everyone in Durham Region in some way. Despite all of this uncertainty, farmers forged ahead. Some growers reached out to hire locally to assist with labour shortages. Many farm businesses established or improved their online presence to connect with customers and deliver essential goods. They offered curbside pick-up, home delivery, personal shoppers and more. Others modified their pick-your-own or agritourism experiences to facilitate public health measures and keep their staff and customers safe. Watching all of this unfold proved just how resourceful, resilient and nimble our industry can be, even when faced with a health crisis that has crushed other global companies and industries.

Like our members, Durham Farm Fresh as an association had to reinvent how we operate. In lieu of in-person workshops and networking events, we instead held virtual webinars in partnership with Durham Region Economic Development aimed at helping our members to evolve their businesses as



# Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association

*Buy Local! Buy Fresh!*

920 Scugog Line 12  
Uxbridge, ON  
L9P 1R3  
905-427-1512  
[www.durhamfarmfresh.ca](http://www.durhamfarmfresh.ca)

regulations changed and changed again. With public safety top of mind, we made the difficult, but necessary decision to cancel the always popular Gates Open. We chose instead to focus on a strong on-air presence on KX96, proudly showcasing our members and their products, and reminding consumers that DFF members were still open and had nearly everything they needed. With the closure of many of our brochure distribution locations such as libraries and other gathering places, we chose to increase the number mailed directly to individual homes. During the holiday season we partnered with Durham Tourism to create videos encouraging people to Shop In Durham.

As an association we adapted to meet our members needs and better serve our community. As we move through 2021, we are still figuring this out as we go, but together as an association we can do great things!

## 2021 Work Plan

DFFMA has developed the 2021 Work Plan based on the following:

1. Actions identified in the Region of Durham Agricultural Strategy in which DFFMA is listed as a potential partner;
2. Actions identified in the Region of Durham Local Food Business Retention & Expansion Project;
3. DFFMA existing and new marketing projects and partnerships

We will continue to promote our members' farm products, entertainment and education opportunities through our brochure, website, and social media. We are proud to award our very first DFF marketing awards, recognizing the achievements of our members.

A restructuring of our membership categories has allowed us to broaden our membership and welcome new members for which previously, there was not a clear fit. We look forward to growing our membership and working with those who are passionate about local food.

After a year hiatus, we are excited to again host our annual Gates Open event in October. At this point in time we are uncertain as to what format it will be, we are open to a range of options from virtual farm tours to an in-person event if it is safe to do so.

Creation of virtual workshops, webinars and educational opportunities for members to help them develop the necessary skills to improve their business continues to be a focus.

Despite the current challenges, we are excited for all that 2021 will bring to our association.

We thank you for your time today.