

# SUMMARY OF THE TOWNSHIP'S AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

- The Purpose of the Township's Official Plan states: *"In part the Official Plan serves to **protect and enhance the Township's agricultural resources** which are important to the Township's economic base"*.
- As well, *"the Township strives to **maintain the rural agricultural character and quality of life**"*.
- The Concept of the Official Plan states that: *"This plan has been developed on the principal that Agriculture will continue to be an important segment of the economy of the Township, and a dominant factor of the rural landscape. As it is most important that farming should prosper, **other land uses shall be compatible with the fullest agricultural use of the fertile lands**. Non-agricultural activities which may restrict the full utilization of farm land **for food production shall not be permitted in areas where existing or potential farming operations or farm related Commercial or Industrial uses would be restricted**"*.
- As well, the Concept of the Township's Official Plan states: *"It is the intention of this Plan to **preserve all fertile lands for their maximum development in agricultural uses**"*.
- The Township sets out a Goal and Objective for Agriculture. The Goal being to protect and preserve good agricultural land and the Objective stating to establish land use patterns and policy which will protect Class 1, 2 and 3 soils to **minimize land use and compatibility conflicts** and to direct non-agricultural uses to settlement areas.
- Under Section 6 of the Township's Official Plan which is dedicated solely to Agriculture, it is stated:

***"The basic objective of areas designated Agriculture is for the promotion and protection of the agricultural resource base of the Township"***
- The Agricultural designation coincides with those lands which are Classes 1, 2, 3 and sometimes 4, established by the Canada Land Inventory Soil Capability for Agriculture. The intent of the Official Plan is to preserve the agricultural community and exclude non-agricultural or incompatible uses from the areas designated Agriculture.

- Permitted uses include: agricultural uses and those uses related to or compatible with agriculture which serve the agricultural farm community and **need to be located in near proximity to the farm operations.**
- On checking with the Ministry of Agriculture, just recently, they wish that the Township stresses, related uses permitted are those which need to be located near to the farm operation. The Provincial Policy statement of 2005 states that:

*“Agricultural related uses must be related to the farm and must be small in scale and directly related to the farm operation and required to be located in close proximity to the farm operation”.*