

Milestones in the Development of the GTA Agricultural Action Committee

June 2001

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Federations of Agriculture approach the GTA Regional Chairs about the long-term sustainability of agriculture in the GTA. GTA Agricultural Working Group established by the Regional Planning Commissioners to work with the GTA Federations of Agriculture, the federal Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture food and Rural Affairs and the City of Toronto on agricultural industry priorities.

March 2003

One-day workshop in Richmond Hill discusses the actions necessary to sustain agriculture in the GTA. Agricultural leaders, planners and economic development professionals confirm that despite the loss of agricultural land to urbanization, agriculture remains a significant economic activity and way of life in the GTA and agree to develop an agricultural action plan.

September and October 2003

Multi-stakeholder focus teams identify actions to be included in an action plan.

November 7, 2003

GTA Agricultural Profile Update describes the state of agriculture in the GTA with a statistical overview of farm characteristics and financial indicators.

November 22, 2003

Public GTA Agricultural Symposium held to confirm the proposed actions.

2004

The four GTA regional councils of Durham, Halton, Peel and York endorse the GTA Agricultural Action Plan. The GTA Federations of Agriculture, the Ontario ministries of Agriculture and Food and Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the federal Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada all indicate their support for the plan.

June 2005

The Ontario government announces funding of \$800,000 jointly to the municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel and York to support the implementation of the action plan.

September 6, 2005

The partners formally launch the GTA Agricultural Action Committee as recommended by Action # 7 of the GTA Agricultural Action Plan: *“Create a GTA Agricultural Action Committee (GTA AAC), comprised of dynamic champions, to provide a coordinating function for agriculture in the GTA, share information, raise awareness of issues, act as liaison with all levels of government, and encourage innovation and diversification within the industry.”*

May 1, 2006

Elbert van Donkersgoed appointed Executive Director to lead the delivery of the GTA Agricultural Action Plan and to help achieve a viable and sustainable GTA agricultural industry for generations to come.

March 28, 2008

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The TRCA is providing office space and staff support for the Action Committee at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Downsview, a central location for the Greater Toronto Area.