

## **Public Input from Blue Ribbon Panel Property Rights (BRPPR) Open House in Milton on April 12, 2017.**

Peter Lambrick from Halton-Peel Federations of Agriculture hosted the meeting.

### **Input from the audience covered the following topics:**

There are fewer rural residents than urban, which translates into fewer votes at election time.

- Explain to urban dwellers that we (farmers) are passionate about land, especially since some farms have been in families for generations
- Continual education of urban (and others) to get support (votes)

### **GREENBELT**

PC polls show that 98% of the population supports Greenbelts.

- Greenbelt designation is not based on math and science. Now they are based on emotional, political and big business considerations.
- Expropriation by designation. Landowners should be paid for land fairly.
- Need strong case to get urban on side
- Annoying e-mails inviting people to come and “enjoy private landowners farms” from Greenbelt “propaganda”
- Implied consent is bad. Need to get at the table sooner to give effective input. Registered letters should be sent to engage all land owners early in the process
- Government documents should be written so that the “common man can understand them.

### **HOUSING LAND ISSUES**

- Dialogue missing during “Greenbelt” designation. The real issue is urban sprawl--the government should be working on solving that issue.
- The price of houses in Toronto has gone up by 35% in the last year
- There are cases of land deemed for subdivisions in the 1970’s that still do not have houses on them
- Municipal governments won’t let development happen, or are very slow at granting permits
- There was approximately 1% of the number of single family homes built in Toronto last year compared to 20 years ago

The onus is on landowners to say why they should not be designated Heritage properties, for example.

- The onus should be on NGO, GO agencies making designations of all kinds to explain why a property should be designated.

Less Government intrusion

More Government transparency

Need integrity in the system

- People need to believe that Government is there to support them
- Currently Government causes aggravation, costs too much money, and consumes time
- Can not replace health or time when having a dispute with the Government

All tree bylaws written by Municipalities should be struck down

- Unreasonable regulations on private property

Partner rural and urban residents

Promote farm values with respect to food, economy, and environment campaigns.

Farmers are STEWARDS of land.

- Include social media—Facebook and Twitter in outreach
- Young people are interested in integrity, and are looking for an outlet for their concerns. They are the “ME to WE” generation