



THE TOWN OF GEORGINA  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
COMBINED MEETING AGENDA



November 09, 2017  
7:00 PM  
Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS
5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA
7. PRESENTATIONS
8. COMMUNICATIONS
  - Pages 1 - 4
    - (1) Minutes from 2016 joint meeting, to be received.
  - Pages 5 - 7
    - (2) Ontario Continuing Fight Against Invasive Species
  - Page 8
    - (3) Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor visits Georgina
  - Page 9
    - (4) Crown Bees ([www.CrownBees.com](http://www.CrownBees.com))
  - Pages 10 - 11
    - (5) Annual Update on Invasive Species - Purple Loosestrife
  - Pages 12 - 13
    - (6) Drinking water of 24 York Region schools fails lead level safety test
  - Pages 14 - 16
    - (7) How 'Bout Them Ontario Apples
9. OTHER BUSINESS
  - (1) GEAC year in review and plans for 2018

(2) GAgAC year in review and plans for 2018

8. 2018 MEETING

(1) November 22, 2017 (tentative - pending election year schedule and 2018-2022 Term of Council)

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN



**THE TOWN OF GEORGINA**  
**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**JOINT MEETING REPORT**

November 24, 2016  
7:00 PM  
Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

The following Environmental Advisory Committee members were in attendance:

Katie Davis, Chair (departed at 9:00 PM)  
Amanda Bacci, Vice Chair (departed at 9:18 PM)  
Mary Mallany  
Hailey Punt (departed at 9:26 PM)  
Debbie Molnar

The following Agricultural Advisory Committee members were in attendance:

Brad Smockum, Chair  
Brenda Rae  
James (Jim) Lockie  
Councillor Dave Harding  
Glenda Hamilton

The following Committee members was absent with regrets:

Councillor Dave Neeson – GEAC  
Tricia Richens - GEAC  
Bart Johnson, Vice Chair - GAgAC  
Linda Harrison - GAgAC

The following staff members were in attendance:

Sarah Brislin, Committee Services Coordinator  
Mike Baskerville, Manager, Development Engineering

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Glenda Hamilton, Seconded by Amanda Bacci

**GEACGAgAC - 2016-0001**

That the November 24, 2016 agenda for the annual joint Georgina Agricultural Advisory and Environmental Advisory Committees meeting be approved as presented.

**Carried**

4. MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members introduced themselves.

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - *None*

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA - *None*

7. PRESENTATIONS

(1) Mike Baskerville, Manager, Development Engineering, on top soil and fill

Mike Baskerville discussed the development process related to top soil and fill and advised the new Fill By-law would be going to Council early January/February.

Moved by Councillor Dave Harding, Seconded by Katie Davis

**GEACGAgAC - 2016-0002**

That the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee receive the presentation on Top Soil and fill given by Mike Baskerville Manager, Development Engineering.

**Carried.**

(2) Impact of Emerald Ash Borers – presentation by Linda Harrison

Councillor Dave Harding provided group information due to absence of member Linda Harrison.

Moved by Glenda Hamilton, Seconded by Hailey Punt,

**GEACGAgAC - 2016-0003**

That the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee receive the presentation on the Impact of Emerald Ash Borers

**Carried.**

(3) Invasive species updates – presentation Mary Mallany

Mary Mallany updated the group in regards to the GEAC plans for an invasive species campaign. GAgAC was invited to work jointly with GEAC on the campaign in the New Year. Mary informed the group of other GEAC initiatives including Communications earth month campaign which they assisted with, hosting the speaker from the Ontario Invasive Plant Council and the Blue Dot Initiative.

Moved by Hailey Punt, Seconded by Amanda Bacci

**GEACGAgAC - 2016-0004**

That the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee receive the presentation on Invasive species given by Committee member Mary Mallany.

**Carried.**

8. COMMUNICATIONS

(1) Minutes from 2015 joint meeting, to be received.

Moved by Mary Mallany, Seconded by Brenda Rae

**GEACGAgAC - 2016-0005**

That the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee receive the Minutes of the Joint 2015 meeting.

**Carried.**

(2) Hunting the hunters

(3) Wolf Control measures are working

Moved by Councillor Dave Harding, Seconded by Jim Lockie

**GEACGAgAC - 2016-0006**

That the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee receive the following Communications items:

1. Hunting the hunters
2. Wolf Control measures are working

**Carried.**

(4) Black bear sightings on the rise in the GTA

The GAgAC advised they were considering recommending Council lobby for a bear hunting season in Georgina as a result of increasing Bear activity.

Moved by Debbie Molnar, Seconded by Glenda Hamilton

**GEACGAgAC - 2016-0007**

That the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee receive the article, *Black bear sightings on the rise in the GTA*.

**Carried.**

7. OTHER BUSINESS

(1) GEAC year in review

The year in review was covered by Mary Mallany in her presentation about the invasive species campaign.

(2) GAgAC year in review

Committee members of GAgAC shared their accomplishments from the year, including:

The share the road signs initiative and road safety presentation.  
The Live stock roll over training recommendation to Council.  
Assisting with the Building permit fee revisions for agricultural structures.  
Having a Bee keeper present  
Continuing to work with staff in relation to the Dog Strangling Vine.

(3) GAgAC and GEAC Combined Annual Report to Council.

8. 2017MEETING

(1) November 9, 2017

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Meeting adjourned, due to loss of Quorum at 9:26 PM.**

## Sarah Brislin

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**From:** Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>  
**Sent:** August-16-17 2:27 PM  
**To:** Sarah Brislin  
**Subject:** Ontario Continuing Fight Against Invasive Species



*News Release*

### **Ontario Continuing Fight Against Invasive Species**

August 16, 2017

#### **Province Working With Partners to Create Awareness of Invasive Species and Protect the Environment**

Ontario continues to combat invasive plants and animals in order to protect the environment and allow people across the province to continue to enjoy rivers, lakes, parks and other green spaces.

Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and Jeff Leal, MPP for Peterborough, were in Peterborough today to announce a number of new investments in programs to combat invasive species.

New investments this year include:

- Support for the Invasive Species Centre's work to further research into new biological control agents for phragmites and dog-strangling vine
- Additional support for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) [Invading Species Awareness Program](#) - which is marking its 25th anniversary - to strengthen the reporting invading species hotline, [online tracking system](#) and mobile application, management and eradication of water soldier in the Trent-Severn Waterway as well as public outreach initiatives
- New funding for the Ontario Invasive Plant Council so they can engage municipalities in the development of municipal invasive plant management strategies
- Support for the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations and their work with lake front property owners to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, including [A Shoreline Owner's Guide to Invasive Species](#)

Ontario will continue to support the successful implementation of the [Invasive Species Act](#) and [regulation](#) through public education and working with neighbouring jurisdictions.

Creating awareness of invasive species and protecting our environment is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

## QUICK FACTS

- For 2016-17, Ontario is investing \$1.6 million in invasive species partnerships.
- Ontario provides annual support to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to deliver the Invading Species Awareness Program to track invasive species sightings and provide public education and outreach.
- Invasive species often out-compete native species for food and take over their habitats, threatening both the environment and economy.
- In 2016, Ontario [prohibited and restricted 19 invasive species](#) to prevent their arrival, control their spread in the province and protect the environment.
- Sightings of invasive species can be reported using the interactive application at [EDDMaps.org/Ontario](http://EDDMaps.org/Ontario) or by calling the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ontario.ca/invasionON](http://Ontario.ca/invasionON)

### QUOTES

"Over the past 25 years Ontario has had many successful initiatives that have helped to contain and prevent the spread of invasive species in our province, including Zebra Busters and Operation Bait Bucket. Through working with our partners, our government is asking people across Ontario to continue to help us protect our ecosystem by keeping your garden free from invasive plants, using only local wood for your campfire and remembering to clean, drain and dry your boat when moving it between waterbodies."

— *Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry*

"The OFAH is proud to be celebrating 25 years of partnership delivering the Invading Species Awareness Program with Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. For the past 25 years, we have strived to keep the topic of invasive species relevant in order to engage Ontarians in prevention efforts and stop the spread of invasive species. We look forward to continuing to work with Ontario and all other partners to collectively combat invasive species and maintain the diversity of our natural resources."

— *Angelo Lombardo, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters*



"The Invasive Species Centre is proud to celebrate with our partners, 25 years of fighting invasive species in Ontario, and to work together with the provincial government, and many other important organizations, to combat invasive species in this province. Through our partnerships, we provide research on evidence-based prevention, detection and response activities and make our efforts to fight invasive species even more effective."

— Tracey Cooke, Executive Director, Invasive Species Centre

"Since its inception in 2007, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council is proud to have worked closely with Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and many other partners, including the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Invading Species Awareness Program and the Invasive Species Centre, to empower Ontarians to take action against the spread of invasive plants. We will continue to collaborate with new and existing partners to promote a coordinated response to this serious threat to our ecosystems and economy."

— Iola Price, President, Ontario Invasive Plant Council

"The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) encourages every cottager to have an [action plan](#) to prevent the spread of invasive species to our precious lakes and rivers. FOCA and our members have been longstanding participants in invasive species monitoring, prevention and awareness, in partnership with MNRF and OFAH."

— Terry Rees, Executive Director, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

"Our government is proud to be supporting the efforts of organizations like the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to combat invasive species in our province. By working together, we are helping protect the ecological integrity of our natural heritage so that it can be enjoyed by Ontarians both now and in the future."

— Jeff Leal, MPP Peterborough

## CONTACTS

Media Calls Only: Emily Kirk  
Minister's Office  
416-314-2206

Media Calls Only: Media Desk  
Communications Services Branch  
416-314-2106



## COUNCIL CONNECTION: All invited to attend Remembrance parades, ceremonies

Opinion Oct 31, 2017 by Margaret Quirk Georgina Advocate

Last week we welcomed Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, to Georgina and we were honoured to participate in a roundtable discussion with her.

We invited a cross-section of residents from education, agriculture, business, First Nations and police plus members of our local council and town and regional government staff.

Our discussion focused on Sustainability for Communities and what that means here in Georgina.

The lieutenant-governor thanked us for the informative discussion and left with many stories of Georgina.

Story continues below▼

All are welcome to attend two Remembrance parades being held Sunday, Nov. 5.

In Keswick, the parade will leave from Keswick Public School at 10:30 a.m. with the service at 11:00 a.m. at the Keswick Cenotaph.

In Sutton, the parade will march off at 1:30 p.m. from Dalton Road and High Street, with the service at 2:00 p.m. at the Sutton Cenotaph. Services will also be held in Pefferlaw at the Lions Hall starting at 3:30 pm.

On Remembrance Day on Saturday, Nov. 11, services will be held at both the Keswick and Sutton cenotaphs at 11:00 a.m. Please take time to honour those who have dedicated their lives to serve our nation.

Watch for the Veteran Banners that will be going up this week. This program will grow and continue over the coming years so if you know of a local veteran who should be honoured contact the Sutton Legion for a future banner.

In council news, our Ward Boundary Review decision was not appealed and will be used for the 2018 election with the boundaries officially in place after the election. For more details on how the boundaries of Wards 1, 2 and 3 were adjusted (Wards 4 & 5 remain the same) refer to our [website \(http://www.georgina.ca/2016-electoral-ward-boundary-review\)](http://www.georgina.ca/2016-electoral-ward-boundary-review).

Story continues below▼

Public input for the 2018 budget will be gathered through a variety of ways, including an online survey and public input open houses. The 2018 draft budget will be presented to council on Dec. 13.

## Sarah Brislin

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**From:** Margaret Quirk  
**Sent:** August-04-17 10:45 AM  
**To:** \*Mayor & Council  
**Cc:** Sarah Brislin; John Espinosa  
**Subject:** FW: Bees

Hi everyone, I was given this information from a resident/business owner and I wanted to share it with you. I wondered if perhaps this could be a topic on either (or both) the agenda for the Environmental Advisory and Agricultural Advisory Committees. I have included Sarah and John for them to pass this along to those committees and perhaps a council agenda as well.



### Margaret Quirk

Mayor | Town of Georgina  
26557 Civic Centre Road, Keswick, ON | L4P 3G1  
905-476-4301 Ext. 2215 | [georgina.ca](http://georgina.ca)  
Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)  
Like us on [Facebook](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** Margaret Quirk <[mquirk@georgina.ca](mailto:mquirk@georgina.ca)>  
**Subject:** Bees

Sorry to be(e) so long getting this info to you Margaret!  
The website is [www.CrownBees.com](http://www.CrownBees.com).  
Interesting concept if you think it might work in this community.

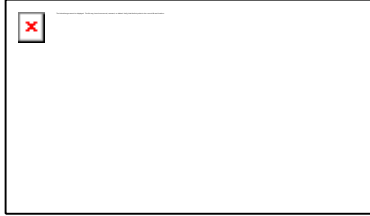
[REDACTED]

## Sarah Brislin

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**From:** Charlene Biggerstaff  
**Sent:** October-06-17 1:26 PM  
**To:** Sarah Brislin  
**Subject:** Fwd: Annual Update on Invasive Species - Purple Loosestrife  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

FYI for the Environmental committee



**Charlene Biggerstaff**  
Ward 1 Councillor | Town of Georgina  
[26557 Civic Centre Road, Keswick, ON | L4P 3G1](https://www.georgina.ca/26557-Civic-Centre-Road-Keswick-ON-L4P-3G1)  
[905-476-4301](tel:905-476-4301) Cell 289-716-9439 | [georgina.ca](http://georgina.ca)  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Margaret Quirk <[mquirk@georgina.ca](mailto:mquirk@georgina.ca)>  
**Date:** October 4, 2017 at 4:57:07 PM EDT  
**To:** \*Mayor & Council <[council@georgina.ca](mailto:council@georgina.ca)>  
**Cc:** Dan Pisani <[dpisani@georgina.ca](mailto:dpisani@georgina.ca)>, "Tanya A. Thompson" <[tathompson@georgina.ca](mailto:tathompson@georgina.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Annual Update on Invasive Species - Purple Loosestrife

Hi, During a conference call earlier this week regarding the Regional agenda and the report on invasive species I had asked about the increased amount of purple loosestrife that I was seeing around our community and in other areas. Below is the response from Regional staff. I have included staff on this to see if we want to report outbreaks of purple loosestrife on our roads allowances and for the public to be aware to report as well.

Margaret

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**From:** Hodgins, David [<mailto:David.Hodgins@york.ca>] **On Behalf Of** Mahoney, Erin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 04, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** Margaret Quirk <[mquirk@georgina.ca](mailto:mquirk@georgina.ca)>; Regional Councillor Mario Ferri Vaughan <[Mario.ferri@vaughan.ca](mailto:Mario.ferri@vaughan.ca)>  
**Cc:** Kurtes, Robyn <[Robyn.Kurtes@york.ca](mailto:Robyn.Kurtes@york.ca)>; DeMarco, Lina <[Lina.DeMarco@york.ca](mailto:Lina.DeMarco@york.ca)>; McDowell, Laura <[Laura.McDowell@york.ca](mailto:Laura.McDowell@york.ca)>; Buchanan, Ian <[Ian.Buchanan@york.ca](mailto:Ian.Buchanan@york.ca)>  
**Subject:** Annual Update on Invasive Species - Purple Loosestrife

Good morning Mayor Quirk and Councillor Ferri,

In follow up to our call earlier this week, below is some additional information on Purple Loosestrife to accompany our discussion on the Annual Update on Invasive Species report.

Purple Loosestrife is a long-established invasive plant to Ontario with a history dating back to the 1980's. In 1992, the Canadian government approved the release of two species of European leaf-eating beetles that feed primarily on the plant. Since their release, the beetles have become established in Ontario and in some locations have reduced Purple Loosestrife populations by up to 90 per cent.

Due to the wet weather, 2017 was a very strong growing season for many species of plants and an increase in purple loosestrife was observed across many parts of southern Ontario. Populations of the European leaf-eating beetles will take some time to respond to the increase in Purple Loosestrife, so we may not see a reduction in the plant populations until next summer and beyond. This is a cyclical pattern that is typically observed with biological control measures. The beetles are still present in wetlands across Ontario however some groups in Ontario have recently released more beetles to target specific areas (e.g. Credit Valley Conservation in 2016).

Across York Region, Purple Loosestrife is not actively managed however, some removal of the plant may be required for sight-line issues or if it impairs drainage in ditches or culverts, and conservation groups may undertake control projects on specific sites. It is a wetland species and is also found in wet areas such as ditches and riparian areas across the Region. The biological control of this species is still considered successful.

Regional staff will participate in an upcoming information session this winter, coordinated by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, to discuss Purple Loosestrife and the status of the biological control beetle. Staff can provide any additional context in next year’s Annual Update on Invasive Species if required.

If there are any particular Purple Loosestrife problem areas you have noticed, Regional staff would be pleased to report them. Alternatively, populations of Purple Loosestrife can be reported by the public [online](#) directly to the Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Erin

/dh

**Erin Mahoney** | Commissioner, Environmental Services

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75125 | [erin.mahoney@york.ca](mailto:erin.mahoney@york.ca) | [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

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## Drinking water of 24 York Region schools fails lead level safety test: MOE

News Oct 17, 2017 by [Teresa Latchford \(/yorkregion-author/teresa-latchford/3e99115e-f586-4199-850a-d94e29641289/\)](/yorkregion-author/teresa-latchford/3e99115e-f586-4199-850a-d94e29641289/) [✉ \(mailto:tlatchford@yrmg.com\)](mailto:tlatchford@yrmg.com) Aurora Banner

High lead levels were found in the drinking water of 24 York Region schools in 2016.

A list released by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change shows the drinking water of more than 640 schools and daycares across the province, including 24 from York Region, tested above what Ontario deems safe lead levels of 10 parts per billion last year. The York Catholic District School Board's St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Richmond Hill tested 12 times above mandated levels.

While Sutton District High School didn't test as high as the Richmond Hill school, it failed 17 of its 20 tests with results ranging from 46 PPB to 10 PPB from July to September in 2016.

"We take action to remediate the problem immediately when exceedances occur," YRDSB environmental safety officer Kori Zsigmond said. "The first step we take is to cut off all access to the water source until it is resolved."

Story continues below▼

Children are safe drinking the water at YRDSB schools, Zsigmond added. If there is any question about water quality, the taps are bagged and sealed to prevent use, bottled water is provided and parents will be notified.

According to Health Canada, the toxicity of lead has been extensively documented in humans, based on blood lead levels. The strongest effect of exposure documented is in children and reductions in intelligence quotient (IQ) scores.

Studies have also linked lead exposure to reduced cognition, increased blood pressure, renal dysfunction in adults and adverse neurodevelopmental and behavioural effects in children.

While 10 PPB or under is considered acceptable lead levels in drinking water across the province, organizations like the World Health Organization warns that any lead exposure is too much. It also points out that children under six years absorb more lead if exposed and any loss of intelligence is irreversible since the human brain is incapable of repairing itself.

Story continues below▼

Health Canada requires schools and daycares test drinking water fountains or cold water taps where water is used for drinking or food preparation at least once per year. Standing and flushed water are tested.

The York Region District School Board has an independent vendor responsible for testing the water at all schools annually. If a school's water exceeds the allowed 10 PPB, it is reported to York Region Public Health, according to Zsigmond.

Story continues below▼

The school board takes direction from public health and increases flushing, replaces pipes, valves or fixtures or whatever else is found to be the source of the increased lead levels.

"I wish there was a defined pattern in what causes lead in the water," Zsigmond said. "It can be any of number of causes so each incident is investigated on a case-by-case basis."

If there is a concern, a letter is sent home to parents with information regarding the situation, water alternatives that will be available to students and contact information should they have any questions. Additional water testing is conducted until lead levels are deemed acceptable and access to the water is reinstated.

York Region schools that failed the lead level test include:

- St. Joseph CES, Richmond Hill, 121 PPB
- Fairwood PS, Keswick, 49 PPB
- St. Catherine of Siena CES, Vaughan, 46 PPB
- Sutton District HS, Sutton, 46 PPB
- Our Lady of Fatima CES, Woodbridge, 43 PPB
- Father John Kelly CES, Maple, 39 PPB
- Stuart Scotts PS, Newmarket, 35 PPB
- RL Graham PS, Keswick, 28 PPB
- St. Joseph CES, Aurora, 21 PPB
- St. Catherine of Siena CES, Vaughan, 19 PPB
- Crosby Heights PS, Richmond Hill, 16.3 PPB
- St. Elizabeth Seton CES, Newmarket, 16 PPB
- Bayview SS, Richmond Hill, 15.8 PPB
- Queensville PS, Queensville, 14 PPB
- St. Edward CES, Markham, 13.4 PPB
- Eva L. Kennis Building, King, 13.3 PPB
- Keswick PS, Keswick, 12 PPB
- Notre Dame CES, Newmarket, 12 PPB
- Church Street Montessori, Aurora, 11.8 PPB
- St. John Bosco CES, Vaughan, 11 PPB
- St. Anne CES, Richmond Hill, 10.8 PPB
- St. Francis Xavier CES, Markham, 10.7 PPB
- Dr. G.W. Williams SS, Aurora, 10.2 PPB
- Aurora Heights PS, Aurora, 10.1 PPB

by [Teresa Latchford](/yorkregion-author/Teresa-Latchford/3e99115e-f586-4199-850a-d94e29641289/) (</yorkregion-author/Teresa-Latchford/3e99115e-f586-4199-850a-d94e29641289/>)

Teresa Latchford is a reporter for the Aurora Banner, Newmarket Era, Richmond Hill Liberal, YorkRegion.com and their sister papers. She can be reached at [tlatchford@yrmg.com](mailto:tlatchford@yrmg.com) (<mailto:tlatchford@yrmg.com>). Follow her on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TeresaLatchford) (<https://twitter.com/TeresaLatchford>) and YorkRegion.com on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/YRMGNews) (<https://www.facebook.com/YRMGNews>).

Email: [tlatchford@yrmg.com](mailto:tlatchford@yrmg.com) (<mailto:tlatchford@yrmg.com>) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/YRMGNews) (<https://www.facebook.com/YRMGNews>) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TeresaLatchford) (<https://twitter.com/TeresaLatchford>)

## Sarah Brislin

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**From:** Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>  
**Sent:** October-20-17 8:07 AM  
**To:** Sarah Brislin  
**Subject:** How 'Bout Them Ontario Apples?



*News Release*

### How 'Bout Them Ontario Apples?

October 20, 2017

#### **There are Many Farms Across Ontario Open for Apple Picking**

With fresh, crisp apples ready to be picked at many farms across the province, it's a great time to get out with family and friends and support your local farmers.

Celebrate this tasty fall harvest by:

- **Visiting your local apple orchard:** Visit one of the many [apple farms across the province](#). Apple harvest starts in August and ends in November.
- **Buying local:** Purchase Ontario grown and harvested apples at your local grocery store, farmers' market or directly from a producer. Look for the [Foodland Ontario](#) logo.
- **Making something delicious:** Apples are a healthy snack that can be enjoyed fresh, cooked, or frozen and are at the core of many [tasty and healthy dishes](#).
- **Exploring different varieties:** There are many apple [varieties](#) that are best suited for different purposes such as eating fresh, cooking, baking and storing, just to name a few.

Supporting Ontario's farm and food sector is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow the economy and help people in their everyday lives.

#### **QUICK FACTS**

- Apples have existed as a wild fruit since prehistoric times and have been cultivated for more than 3,000 years.
- There are 15 different main varieties of apples grown on nearly 16,000 acres in Ontario. The province's major apple-producing areas are along the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.



- The top seven varieties in Ontario are McIntosh, Gala, Empire, Red Delicious, Northern Spy, Honeycrisp and Ambrosia.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ontario's Apple Growers](#)
- [ontario.ca/agriculture-news](http://ontario.ca/agriculture-news)

### QUOTES

"Apples are more than just a nutritious and tasty snack - they're yet another delicious example of the good things that grow in Ontario. This season, I encourage people to support their local farmers by visiting one of the many orchards across the province to pick their own apples. When you buy local, you are helping support Ontario farmers and creating good jobs across the province."

— *Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs*

"Apple producers are passionate about growing and harvesting the best quality apples in Ontario. This fall, visit an apple farmer near you to pick your own apples and to meet the people who grow the tasty apples you and your family love to eat."

— *Charles R. Stevens, Chair of the Ontario Apple Growers*

## CONTACTS

Nicole McInerney  
Minister's Office  
416-326-3072

Kristy Denette  
Communications Branch  
519-826-3145

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

<http://www.ontario.ca/omafra>

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