



Burlington Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
Agenda

Date: January 28, 2026
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers and Room 247, 2nd Floor, City Hall

Pages

1. Land Acknowledgement

Burlington as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinaabeg to the Haudenosaunee and the Métis – our lands spanning from Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment are steeped in Indigenous history.

The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway, and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

2. Declarations of Interest:

3. Approval of Minutes:

3.1 Approve minutes from meeting held November 19, 2025

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4. Delegation(s):

5. Regular Items:

5.1 Planner update

- a. Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference
- b. Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance update
- c. 2026 Farmland Forum - Ontario Farmland Trust, March 19th in Elora

[Link to more information](#)

d. Approved Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document

- [Link to document](#)
- Supporting information: Halton Area Planning Partnership [2018 ERO submission](#) (see Item 5 under Planning and Public Works) and Halton Region [AIA Guidelines](#)

5.2 2025 Annual Report

5.3 2026 Workplan and Budget

5.4 Burlington Hydro issues in the rural area

5.5 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

6. Other Business:

7. Adjournment:



Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: November 19, 2025
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Room 247, City Hall, second floor

1. Members Present:

Vincent Sowa (Chair), Maura Romanelli, Erin Fleming, Wilma Jacobs, Larry Campbell, Michiel Barnard and Mariam Abu-El-Magd

2. Regrets:

Councillor Kelvin Galbaith, Peter Starcevic and Norm Richardson

3. Others Present:

Kelly Cook (Planner) and Jo-Anne Rudy (Clerk)

4. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement.

5. Declarations of Interest:

None

6. Approval of Minutes:

6.1 Approve minutes from meeting held October 15, 2025

On motion, the minutes from the meeting held October 15, 2025 were approved as presented.

7. Presentation:

7.1 Rural Halton: A Closer Look at the People, Places, and Changing Landscape

- Rishia Burke, Executive Director of Community Development Halton, provided a presentation on Rural Halton: A Closer Look at

the People, Places and Changing Landscape. She also provided the following links for members information:

[Full Community Data Watch on Rural Halton, Nov 2025](#)

[Life Beyond the City Limits: Understanding Rural Halton's Changing Landscape](#)

[Video presentation of the CDW paper on Rural Halton](#)

[Opportunity to share your story about Rural Halton](#)

- Maura noted that the aging infrastructure of Burlington Hydro and the resulting issues/impacts on rural and agricultural businesses was not discussed.
- Wilma asked if the data could be separated out to show rural Burlington on its own. Rishia responded that she can do this and will send to members as well as the three rural councillors.

8. Delegation(s):

- 8.1 Richard Lesueur spoke to Item 5.1 - Dumping/Anti-littering in the rural area and provided a brief history of the dumping issues in Ward 6 and shared a dumping audit that he completed on Oct. 25, 2025.

9. Regular Items:

9.1 Dumping/Anti-littering in the rural area

- Dumping/littering in the rural area continues to be an issue and members stated the challenges and difficulty in reporting to the City and noted that there needs to be a proper process in place. Vincent noted that Councillor Galbraith was launching a communication campaign but hasn't heard an update recently. **Action:** Chair to reach out to the councillor for an update.

9.2 2026 Workplan Discussion

- Committee reviewed the draft actions identified at last month's meeting to aid in the initial implementation of the Agricultural Action Plan, and discussed how this fits into the committee's 2026 workplan. Further discussion will take place at the January meeting.
- Members expressed concern regarding the slow progress on rural issues and noted frustration with the committee's perceived lack of effectiveness in achieving positive change for the rural area.

9.3 Advisory Committee Recruitment update

- Jo-Anne advised that the advisory committee recruitment has been paused until next year following the municipal election. This will allow new committee terms to begin in January 2027, aligned with the incoming Council. Members whose terms were set to expire in December 2025 were asked if they would consider extending their term for one additional year to ensure continuity during this transition period. **Action** - Jo-Anne will follow up with these members.

10. Other Business:

- Jo-Anne stated that she will reach out to members to seek interest for a Christmas get together in December.

11. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.