



Agriculture

Overview

Hastings County is home to a wonderful diversity of farmland, forest resources and abundant wildlife. The County has some of the best farmland in Eastern Ontario and has been identified as an area with significant biological capital and potential opportunities for renewable energy and sustainable living. With a diverse agricultural background that continues to flourish, Hastings County is the perfect place to buy or grow!



Growth Potential

- Hastings County Population (14 member municipalities): 38,960
- Population including separated cities of Belleville and Quinte West: 130,474
- In 2006, Hastings County reported over 121,886 acres of farmland in use on over 1100 farms throughout the County

Labour Force

- Hastings County's total labour force is 17,510 (65,990 including the separated cities of Belleville and Quinte West is)
- 3.9% of the labour force is employed in Agriculture and Other Resource-Based industries
- Hastings County workers are highly skilled and hardworking ready for year-round or seasonal work

Location

- Hastings County is located halfway between Toronto and Ottawa, served by Canada's largest toll-free Highway 401, Trans Canada Highway # 7, and Highways 62, 37, and 28, offering excellent road accessibility
- Freight and shipping companies provide local, national and international services
- Rail service is provided by Canadian National, Canadian Pacific Railway and Via Rail Canada
- Located halfway between Pearson International Airport in Toronto, and Ottawa International Airport, as well as having several registered aerodromes in and around the County, Hastings County offers numerous options for air transportation

Distances to Major Urban Areas

City	KMs/Miles	Drive Time
Toronto/GTA	165/103	1.75 hrs
Montreal	360/225	3 hrs
Windsor/Detroit	540/338	6 hrs
New York, NY	678/424	7 hrs
Fort Erie/Buffalo	336/210	3.75 hrs
Ottawa	168/105	2 hrs
Syracuse	264/165	2.5 hrs



Education

- The percentage of the population aged 15 years and over having completed an apprenticeship, trades certificate, diploma, college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma is higher in Hastings County than that in the rest of Ontario
- Hastings County has a higher percentage of people aged 15 years and over with a major in the fields of study of agriculture, natural resources and conservation than the provincial average



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Growth Concentrations

- Over half of Hastings County farms are in the livestock industries, with totals of over 39,000 cattle and calves, 6,600 pigs, and 4,500 sheep and lambs as reported in the 2006 census
- With over 300 beef cattle farms, it's no surprise that Hastings County is home to nearly 3% of all beef cows in the province of Ontario



Agriculture Support

- Hastings County has various initiatives and organizations to support farmers including numerous Farmer's Markets spread throughout the County, the Hastings Stewardship Council, the Hastings Federation of Agriculture and an OMAFRA regional economic

development team in Belleville and resource centre in nearby Brighton

- Harvest Hastings.ca is a new and exciting initiative to link local farmers with consumers. Local farmers can profile themselves and their produce, and allows people to explore the rich variety of local product

Cost Competitive

- Labour wages in the County are competitive, yet lower than the provincial average

Quality of Life

- Experience the Best of Both Worlds through small town charm and rural living that is so desirable while still being close to the big city life
- The upside of Hastings is easier access to outdoor activities, a less hectic lifestyle and a short commute to work whether along our scenic roads or over the Internet

The 14 Municipalities which make up Hastings County are:

- Town of Bancroft
- Carlow Mayo Township
- Centre Hastings
- Town of Deseronto
- Faraday Township
- Hastings Highlands
- Limerick Township
- Madoc Township
- Marmora & Lake Township
- Stirling-Rawdon Township
- Tudor & Cashel Township
- Municipality of Tweed
- Tyendinaga Township
- Wollaston Township

Sources:
Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Mapquest.com, 2006 Census of Agriculture and Policy and Programs Branch, OMAFRA

