

SECTION 1 -INTRODUCTION

This Official Plan constitutes the Official Plan for the County of Perth. It has been adopted by Perth County Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, and as a specific response to the County of Perth being designated as a prescribed County by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing pursuant to the provisions of Section 17(13) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990.

This Official Plan represents the first County Official Plan document in Perth County. While Perth County has not had an upper tier Official Plan in the past, it has been very active in the planning area through its Planning and Development Office and the strong interaction between that Office and the local municipalities. Prior to the adoption of the County Plan, each of the fourteen local municipalities in the County had a local Official Plan document which was prepared by the local municipality with the assistance of the Planning Office. Throughout the rural parts of the County, the basic planning principles and land use policies remain consistent from one Township to the next. Within the urban areas, there is also a high degree of consistency in terms of basic principles and planning policies.

ADDED BY This Official Plan document as adopted by Perth County Council replaces *OPA NO. 47* the previous local Official Plan documents for the former eleven townships in the County. The County Official Plan will serve as both the upper tier and lower tier Plan for these areas. This Plan will not replace the local Official Plans for the serviced urban areas in the County (i.e. Listowel Ward in the Town of North Perth, Milverton Ward in the Township of Perth East, Mitchell Ward in the Municipality of West Perth) at the present time. The local Official Plans for the Listowel, Milverton, and Mitchell Wards will continue in effect and will be updated as necessary to conform to this County Plan. All amendments to a local Official Plan must conform to the County Official Plan. At a subsequent time, these local Plans may be incorporated into the County Plan such that the County Plan will serve as both the upper and lower tier Plan throughout the County.

This Official Plan does not apply to the City of Stratford or the separated Town of St. Marys. Policies for the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys are contained in their respective Official Plan documents.

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