



NEWS RELEASE

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Launches On-Farm Diversified Uses Review

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2026

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is pleased to announce the launch of its On-Farm Diversified Uses Review; a project focused on supporting the long-term success and sustainability of agriculture within the community.

"Agriculture is at the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake's history, economy, and rural character," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. "This review is an important opportunity to work alongside our agricultural community to ensure our policies support innovation and economic resilience while preserving the farmland and agricultural heritage that make Niagara-on-the-Lake unique."

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Niagara-on-the-Lake's identity, economy, and tourism sector. On-farm diversified uses and agritourism can provide farmers with opportunities to diversify their operations, strengthen farm viability, and create new experiences that connect residents and visitors with local agriculture.

As these activities continue to evolve, the Town is reviewing its policies related to on-farm diversified uses and agritourism. The review aims to ensure municipal policies remain clear, current, and responsive to the needs of the agricultural community, while continuing to protect agricultural lands for future generations.

The Town has retained WSP Canada Inc. to lead the review. The project will explore how Town policies can:

- Support the needs and long-term success of the agricultural community;
- Provide opportunities for appropriate on-farm diversified uses and agritourism activities;
- Support local economic development and tourism;
- Establish clear and consistent policies for farm operators, residents, and the Town;
- Promote compatibility between agriculture, tourism, and neighbouring land uses; and
- Protect agricultural lands and Niagara-on-the-Lake's unique agricultural character.



Through this review, the Town is taking a proactive approach to exploring new opportunities for the agricultural sector while reinforcing the principle that agriculture remains the primary use of agricultural lands.

The project will include a review of existing Town policies, consideration of approaches used by other municipalities, and engagement with local farmers, agricultural businesses, stakeholders, and the broader community. The findings will help identify potential policy options and recommendations for Council's consideration.

"This review will help the Town better understand the opportunities and challenges facing today's agricultural sector and ensure our policies remain effective for years to come," said CAO Nick Ruller. "By taking a thoughtful and collaborative approach, we can support agricultural innovation, provide greater clarity for landowners and operators, and reinforce agriculture as the primary use of our agricultural lands."

It is important to note that this review is exploratory only and will not result in immediate changes to Town policies. Any recommended policy amendments will be subject to a separate approval process, including public consultation and consideration by Council, before any changes could take effect.

Get Involved

Community input is an important part of the On-Farm Diversified Uses Review. Residents, farmers, agricultural businesses, stakeholders, and interested community members are encouraged to learn more about the project and participate in upcoming engagement opportunities.

Project information, engagement opportunities, and updates are available through the Town's project webpage:

[On-Farm Diversified Uses Review Project Page](#)

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