



Township of Southgate
Conference, Workshop/Seminar & Training Policy #2
Council and Staff Education Evaluation Report
Council, Training, Seminars & Professional Development/Self Study

Participant's Name:	Deputy Mayor Barbara Dobreen
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Course/Workshop/Conference: Annual Politicians Meeting - 2024	Overall Evaluation: <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td>Excellent</td><td>Good</td><td>X</td><td>Average</td><td>Poor</td></tr></table>	Excellent	Good	X	Average	Poor
Excellent	Good	X	Average	Poor		
Association/Institution Provider: Bruce and Grey Federations of Agriculture	Name of Instructor: Speakers from organizations across Agri-Food Industry					

Dates Attended: (if online, indicate online)	Saturday, March 23, 2023 - 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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Purpose of Attending:
This annual workshop is an opportunity for all levels of government to collectively receive input from representatives of the Bruce and Grey Federations of Agriculture, AG commodities, planners and green energy speakers, so we may better understand the issues and opportunities in the AG sector. The presentations, videos and speaker notes are available upon request.

Please summarize the contents and the main points of the course: (Attach additional pages if necessary)
A great deal of information was packed into just 5 hours. I encourage readers to review the latest edition of the Real Dirt on Farming (copies available). There was much conversation about latest green energy and battery storage facility proposals as well as the loss of AG lands to development.

With over 750,000 Ontarians working in the agri-food industry, the AG industry is vast and contributes over \$47 billion annually to the Ontario GDP. A familiar message was heard about the continued labour shortage and the need for seasonal farm workers. Farmers continue to be good stewards of their land and invest significant financial and tech resources to reduce greenhouse gases while increasing production.

Will you use this information in your role? If yes, explain how:
With urban sprawl and the continued push for urban expansion, we need to understand that farm land can't easily be created. Being open to higher density and infill lots will be more important in addressing the need for more affordable and attainable housing options. As of Right housing (ARUs) could create issues of conflict with neighbours and most certainly water and waste water capacity, but could also serve to help sustain farmers as they age in place and allow young farmers to be involved.

Do you recommend that other Council Members/Staff attend this course? If so, who and why?:
Yes. Concern was raised that the agricultural voice is being lost at the municipal table. This annual workshop helps elected officials unfamiliar with the Agri-Food industry understand its contribution and consider the impacts of policy decisions that may come forward including minor variances, severances and urban expansion.

Should similar course material be presented in house? If yes, by whom?
The OFA and GCFA are always happy to share their expertise and perspective.

Signature: <i>Barbara Dobreen</i>	Date: 23-Mar-24
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