

Appendix 4. Identified resilience threats and associated interview quotes

Urbanization and population growth

- MS 2 “The white belt [areas subject to new development] that has been established by the provincial government will certainly be bringing a lot more industrial development through the southern, through at least the community. So that its’ a threat because I think that will certainly change a big chunk of the town, and bring with it huge transportation system along with that.”
- MS 3 “The Greenfield density target is kind of, the problem with it is top-down planning, and it’s planning with numbers... the Province’s requirement that it’s a combined target between residential and employment. It can force the residential density way, way up to 60,70 or even 100 persons per hectare, just to compensate for some of the employment land.”
- PL4 “We continue to urbanize all the good agricultural land, we continue to green up the non-agricultural land as a compensator for urbanization, but we don’t do anything about agriculture. We continue, as society, to rely on more marginal lands’ ability to produce more food. And in doing that, we are relying on more and more fertilizers, fairly dangerous methodology.”
- MS 1 “But probably the threats are more to what we may call heritage vistas. That’s what I think with development, right? You go to some places and you can see for miles, and it’s beautiful, right? You change that into a couple square mile of housing. It doesn’t look as interesting anymore.”
- PL 5 ”And the sadness I think that I see is generations will suffer from is the amount of, of urban pressure that you have that takes away those family lifestyles. To urban growth and growth of the country.”
- IN 1 “I do not believe it’s appropriate for developers to take us on the OMB, the Ontario Municipal Board, or Councillors to undermine something [Caledon’s Official Plan] which the rest of Council has made a decision on...You know my tax money, my time, my effort went to, hundreds of people like me, went towards creating a good Official Plan and area plans.”

Disconnect between provincial conservation legislation and local people’s livelihoods and stewardship

- PL2 “And they [bureaucrats] keep bringing down regulations after regulations after regulations about environmental ones as well as others on what you can do and what you can’t do. And it appears to me to be a group of bureaucrats sitting down at Queen’s Park who have never been out in the countryside in their lives. And they don’t really know what’s going on. And therefore, they are making it much more difficult for these people [farmers] to make a living. They are selling. They are selling [the farmland].”
- PL3 “And they come up with regulations. The big thing is that they think because they are looking at textbook, they can think better. Why don’t they ask people for their input?”
- MS 3 “Their lack of flexibility in the Oak Ridges Moraine Act prevented it [heritage conservation], and within two years, the barn had burned down, and they had knocked down the farmhouse.”
- EG2 “I mean so much of the Moraine in Caledon is in the natural linkage. Really, you can’t do anything there. There’s no institutional use... I have always wanted to convert our family farm into a centre for learning. But in order to run that through, a charitable organization and formalize it, one would need to have it zoned institutional.”

Decline in agriculture

- IN 1 “In Caledon, we have the top-grade farmland, but we have the only farmland left. It is getting huge development pressure from the east and from the south.”
- PL 2 “Agriculture is suffering, it used to be our main industry in Caledon. With provincial policies and planning regulations like Places to Grow, the Oak Ridges Moraine Act and the Greenbelt Act, it makes it very difficult for farmers to expand their operations or adapt to changing markets.”

- PL4 “So it’s not only agriculture getting threatened, it’s all the support industries, employment towards agriculture get equally threatened. So the impact on our economy is much, much larger than it seems simply because a farmer is not farming.”
- PL5 “And that agriculture is probably one that suffers most and lost from all of the industries that we have.”

Aggregate extractions

- EG 5 “And of course they are a threat to our water supply. And all the other things that came with that, the dust, many issues.”
- PL4 “So the urbanization demands of Ontario makes the aggregates very attractive. So the laws of Ontario favour the gravel companies. The municipalities and the people who live within the area, and their municipal governments are always pitted against the gravel”
- IN3 “Obviously, the gravel industry is definitely a threat. You think you are living on a quiet country road, and you may end up having a large volume of gravel trucks goes by. There could be noise, dust.”
- IN6 “I can show you gravel pits down there that has trees, big, growing in the middle of them. How long did a tree grow that big? People don’t understand that very question. Why didn’t they rehabilitate?”

Fiscal challenges

- PL2 “So when you get a developer who said I want to go right now, I am putting another 27,000 people in. Oh no, you are not. Because the 60,000 people over the next 10 years cannot afford to pay 86 million.”
- PL5 “And then the next thing is to find the water, to find the water and the sewage capacity to serve that new growth. And build that infrastructure and the money to do that, and keep taxes at a reasonable rate.”
- MS3 “One thing that is an issue is that the Town’s assessment base is very heavily residential as opposed to partial industrial. And people think that it’s fiscally beneficial to have a better balance between residential and industrial, and not residential assessment. Our Fiscal Impacts Study communicated that it’s not necessarily that simple because there’s some industrial uses, low industrial uses, that don’t pay for themselves.”

Note: Identity codes of interviewees

EG=Environmental Groups' Leaders; LPD=Local Property Developer; MS= Municipal Staff; PL=Politicians; IN=Individuals; SS=Social Services