




June 2004

The Conservation of Rural Character in Community Design Final Statement

In fall 2002, OPPI commissioned a study of the conservation of rural character from Planscape and Senes Consulting. *Key Learnings: A Primer for Discussion on The Conservation of Rural Character in Community Design* contains a summary of the background information prepared by the consultants, as well as areas for discussion by OPPI members.

At the 2003 conference and in an additional teleconference, OPPI sought additional input from members who have experience in the areas of rural development, heritage conservation, environmental planning, and agriculture to determine what the Institute should do to continue to address this topic. *Options for Further Research on the Preservation of Rural Character and Recommended Action for OPPI* documents possible roles for OPPI in the ongoing process of understanding and promoting the conservation of rural character.

Click on the links below to download *Key Learnings* and *Options* papers,

 [Key Learnings](#) (high speed access)

 [Key Learnings](#) (dial-up access)

 [Options for Further Research](#)

What we have learned so far is that the topic is extremely complex, so complex that OPPI's limited budget for policy development can not do justice to the issue at this time. Also, thinking and practice in this area is not fully developed, and it is too early to prepare any kind of definitive treatment. Ontario jurisdictions are still struggling to define rural character and to develop ways to preserve what is valued in rural areas.

OPPI's formal involvement in the process of defining and promoting rural character is complete. The information presented in the two papers produced as part of the OPPI Innovative Policy Paper program will encourage planners and members of the public to explore this challenging topic and to draw attention to local successes in conserving rural character.