



OMAF/MRA and Libraries: *Opportunities to Partner in Economic Development*

Ontario Library Association Super Conference
Provincial Inter-ministerial Public Library Discussion Forum

Presented By:

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Celebrating 125 Years of Collaboration

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs



- Working with farmers, food processors and rural communities since 1888



• 1880s – 1960s

- Concerns about expanding agriculture for a growing nation.
- Stakeholder focus – primary producers.
- Foundational marketing legislation in 1940 – 60 era



• 1970s – 1990s

- Trade becomes important.
- Funding programs for enhancing productivity
- Stakeholder focus – Primary producers, Food Processing and Rural



• 2000s

- Social concerns increase (food safety)
- First FPT Agricultural Policy Framework)
- Stakeholder focus – primary producers, food processing, bioeconomy, rural, consumers

Consumer Demands

Local Food Act, 2013



Where Are We Going?



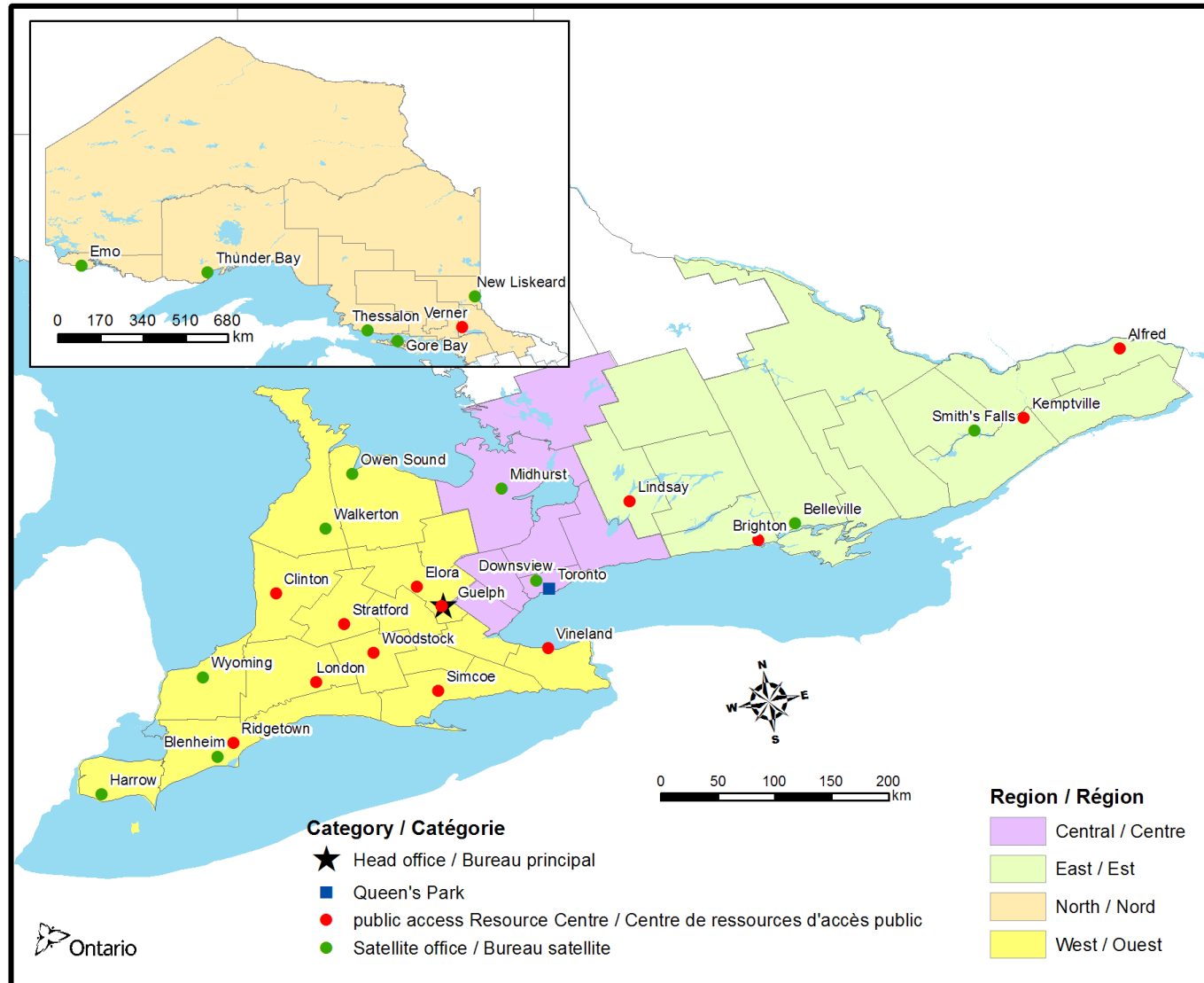
Opportunities for Collaboration

Libraries are important community hubs, particularly in rural areas, with potential to support ministry goals for economic development and job growth by:

- Providing information and/or orientation about programs and resources to the community;
- Offering facilities for seminars, training and community strategic planning exercises; and
- Building awareness and mobilizing community engagement in local community economic development.



Regional Economic Development Staff Supports – OMAF and MRA



Economic Programs and Resources

Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E)

First Impressions Community Exchange

Downtown Revitalization (DR)

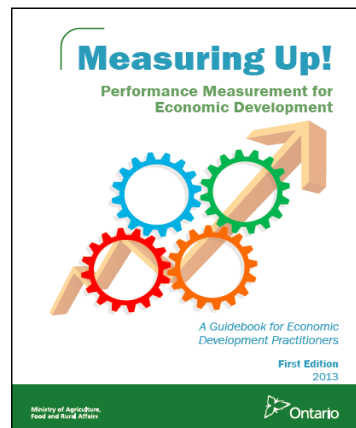
Rural Economic Development (RED) Program



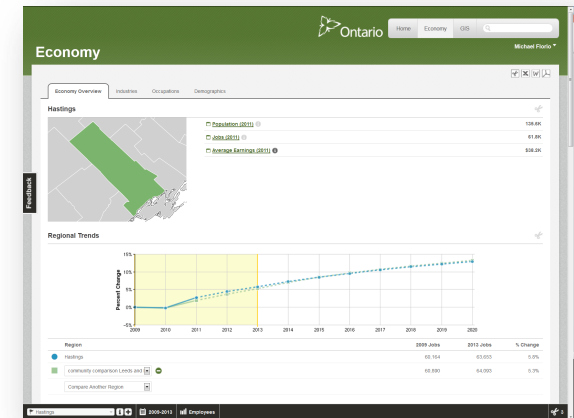
Economic Programs and Resources (cont'd)

Examples of OMAF and MRA resources and programs:

Performance Measurement for Economic Development



Economic Analysis Tools



Community Immigration Retention in Rural Ontario (CIRRO)



<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/about/about.html>
<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/rural/about/about.html>

For More Information

- For more information on presentation: ***“OMAF/MRA and Libraries: Opportunities to Partner in Economic Development”***, please contact:

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- OMAF/MRA offer a wide variety of publications on **Ontario agriculture**, including factsheets, books, cds, epub's and maps. These resources can be found at:

<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html>

- OMAF/MRA also offer a number of resources on **effective organizations**. These can be found at:

<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/rural/facts/factshts.htm>

Discussion

