

Context

Kingston is at the east end of Lake Ontario, where the Lake flows into the St. Lawrence River, and at the confluence of the Little and Great Cataraqui Rivers. The location has a long and varied history of human habitation dating back 11,000 years. When Samuel de Champlain, the first European to travel here, came through in 1615, the region was controlled by the Iroquois. European settlement began with the French in 1673 when Louis de Baude, the Comte de Frontenac et de Palluau, governor-general of New France, established the first military post in what is now Ontario. In 1675, Louis XIV of France granted the surrounding lands to René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle. The area became important to the French for fur trading.

The region was briefly of strategic importance during the Seven Years' War, and was captured by the British forces in 1758. The American Revolution prompted the influx of United Empire Loyalists and the Mohawk. The first land purchase for the new community of Kingston, the Crawford purchase, was made from the Mississauga First Nations.



Schedule 1 – Regional Context

KINGSTON OFFICIAL PLAN

Kingston has a rich and diverse heritage as a military, trading, commercial, and penal centre. It is the home of Queen's University (1841) and the Royal Military College of Canada (1874). It also has the cathedrals of the Anglican Diocese of Ontario and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston. It was the first capital of the united Canadas and the political home of Sir John A. Macdonald, prime minister of the united Canadas, a father of confederation and the first prime minister of Canada. Its economy and development have been influenced by its proximity to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and the United States. Kingston now serves as the commercial and institutional focus for the wider region of eastern Ontario. Its significant cultural, scenic, historic and *recreational* assets attract tourists from around the world.

On January 1, 1998, the former City of Kingston amalgamated with the Township of Kingston and Pittsburgh Township to create a City having an area of 450 square kilometres and a 2006 population of approximately 117,000. The City includes urban and rural land, as well as substantial waterbodies.

The Official Plan is a key part of the planning policy structure that will guide land use decisions in the City. The aim of the Official Plan is to reflect the City's vision for the future based on the shared views of its citizens and the policy framework established by the Province. The City's goal of making itself the most sustainable municipality in Canada is reflected throughout the document. In addition, the Plan allows the City to evolve in a way that will contribute to the City's prosperity and provide a range of opportunities for housing, recreation, culture and employment.

The Official Plan recognizes the stewardship responsibilities that result from two UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) inscriptions. UNESCO inscribed the Rideau Canal and associated fortifications as a World Heritage Site in 2007 and the Frontenac Arch as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002, as shown on Schedule 1.

In preparing the new Official Plan for the amalgamated municipality, the Provincial Policy Statement and updates to the Planning Act are reflected along with the results of many individual background studies completed since amalgamation, including the following:

- Focus Kingston, 2000;
- Population and Growth Trends Model;
- Downtown Action Plan, 2003;
- Cycling and Pathways Study, 2003;
- Kingston Transportation Master Plan, 2004;
- City Owned Industrial Land Development Strategy, 2005;
- Natural Heritage Strategy, 2006;
- Regional Commercial Study Update, 2006;
- Waterfront Strategy (Background Report), 2006;
- Agricultural Study, 2007;
- Downtown and Harbour Architectural Guidelines Study, 2007;
- Kingston Model for Affordable Housing Development, 2004; and,
- Urban Growth Strategy.