



MAP 6





6.0 FINDINGS SUMMARY

In summary, the agricultural data examined as part of this study indicate that:

- Grimsby's fruit and vegetable production area has diminished from the census years 1971 to 2011;
- fruit and vegetable production area for Grimsby as a proportion of the fruit and vegetable production in Niagara Region has decreased from 1971 to 2011;
- the diversity of fruit and vegetable production within Grimsby and Niagara Region has been diminishing with more production area used for grape production (1971 - 2011);
- the areas proposed to be removed from the *specialty crop area* designation have a relatively small amount of fruit and vegetable production;
- the north section of lands proposed to be removed from the *specialty crop area* designation has 70% of the area not mapped for soils (in 1989 the land use was non-agricultural and therefore not mapped) or developed for non-agricultural uses;
- the south section of lands proposed to be removed from the *specialty crop area* designation has 37% of the area not mapped for soils (in 1989 the land use was non-agricultural and therefore not mapped) or developed for non-agricultural uses;
- in aggregate, the lands proposed to be removed from the *specialty crop area* designation have 51% of the area not mapped for soils (in 1989 the land use was non-agricultural and therefore not mapped) or developed for non-agricultural uses;
- the approximately 31 ha of land left in the north segment of the *specialty crop area* located below the Escarpment has an average soil capability between classes 2 and 3, but, if the lands developed for non-agricultural uses are given the appropriate soil capability class of seven, the average soil capability of the north segment is class 6;
- the approximately 103 ha of land left in the south segment of the *specialty crop area* located below the Escarpment has an average soil capability between classes 2 and 3, but, if the lands developed for non-agricultural uses are given the appropriate soil capability class of seven, the average soil capability of the south segment is class 4;
- the approximately 31 ha of land left in the north segment of the *specialty crop area* located below the Escarpment has an average soil potential for fruits and vegetables between rating 3 and 4, but, if the lands developed for non-agricultural uses are given the appropriate soil capability class of seven, the average soil potential for fruits and vegetables of the north segment is class 6;
- the approximately 103 ha of land left in the south segment of the *specialty crop area* located below the Escarpment has an average soil potential for fruit and vegetables between rating 3 and 4, but, if the lands developed for non-agricultural uses are given the appropriate soil capability class of 7, the average soil capability of the south segment is 5;
- the lands proposed to be removed from the *specialty crop area* designation are near urban development thereby increasing the probability of complaint related to factors such as noise (e.g. bird bangers, wind turbines) and pesticide spray drift.



7.0 CONCLUSIONS/OPINIONS

The findings of this study demonstrate that the lands proposed to be removed from the *specialty crop area* in Grimsby are relatively poor for the production of specialty crops. Several of the tests for the designation of a *specialty crop area* are not met:

- specialty crop production is not predominant,
- soil capability and soil potential in Grimsby is not the best found in Niagara and in some areas is diminished due to non-agricultural development,
- fewer farms and farmers are producing fruits and vegetables within Grimsby and, as a result, there is diminishing infrastructure as well as fewer farmers skilled in the production of fruits and vegetables.

Given the characteristics of the lands in Grimsby proposed to be removed from the *specialty crop area* (areas identified within this report as one and two and located north of the Niagara Escarpment), I am of the opinion that the lands can reasonably be removed from that *specialty crop area* designation.

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