



# Regional Review

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT

## Durham Region hosts annual farm tour in the City of Oshawa



This year, the DAAC Tour highlighted five farms in the City of Oshawa. Each location provided an enthusiastic first-hand look at their farm.

The Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) hosted its sixth annual Durham Regional Farm Tour, Deep Roots (featuring the City of Oshawa) on Sept. 16. The tour highlighted five farms, including

White Feather Farms, Linton Farms, Loa-De-Mede Farms Ltd., Mountjoy Farms and Thornlea Stables Ltd.

"The DAAC tour showcases the importance of the region's agricultural industry and highlights the

diversity of the sector," stated Ivan DeJong, Chair of DAAC. "This initiative is specifically aimed to inform a variety of political, government and educational leaders, and to promote Durham's agricultural sector, in an

effort to consider future growth from an agricultural perspective."

Representatives from all levels of government, the educational sector and public agencies participated in this year's tour, which provided attendees with an opportunity to meet and hear from agricultural leaders, ask questions, and learn first-hand about issues and trends affecting Durham's vital agricultural industry. Approximately 110 individuals took part in the event.

The 2007 tour showcased the Township of Brock. In the past, tours were hosted in the Municipality of Clarington, townships of Scugog and Uxbridge, and the towns of Whitby and Ajax.

DAAC is a group of volunteers who provide advice to the Regional Planning Committee, and staff, on agricultural and related rural issues affecting Durham Region.

Durham Region has a total of 1,686 farms with an area of 132,212 hectares (approximately 327,000 acres). As one of the largest sectors in the region, agriculture has a major economic impact on the regional economy, with commodities generating about \$240 million in gross farms receipts (source: 2006 Census of Canada).

## Improving environmental and financial performance: Durham Manufacturers Sustainability Program

In today's marketplace, sustainability and reducing the environmental footprint can positively impact a businesses' bottom line. Opportunities are abounding for manufacturers to achieve success on both of these fronts.

With a strong base in key sectors, such as tech-based manufacturing and energy, Durham Region is an attractive place for many commercial and industrial businesses. Durham has effectively positioned itself as an economic-industrial hotbed in southern Ontario, earning its reputation as an "emerging power." As a leader in manufacturing and energy, the region is moving forward with initiatives to identify opportunities for pollution prevention, waste reduction and process optimization.

To assist Durham manufacturers in improving their environmental and financial performance, Durham Region's Economic Development and Tourism Department has partnered with the Ontario Centre for Environ-

mental Technology Advancement (OCETA) and Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) to launch the Durham Manufacturers Sustainability Program (DMSP). The program promotes and encourages sustainable behaviour among businesses and provides small- to medium-sized (SME) manufacturers in Durham Region with technical and financial assistance to reduce their environmental impact.

Manufacturers in Durham Region with fewer than 500 employees at the facility level may be eligible for a 50 per cent cost-share subsidy on a multimedia pollution prevention assessment.

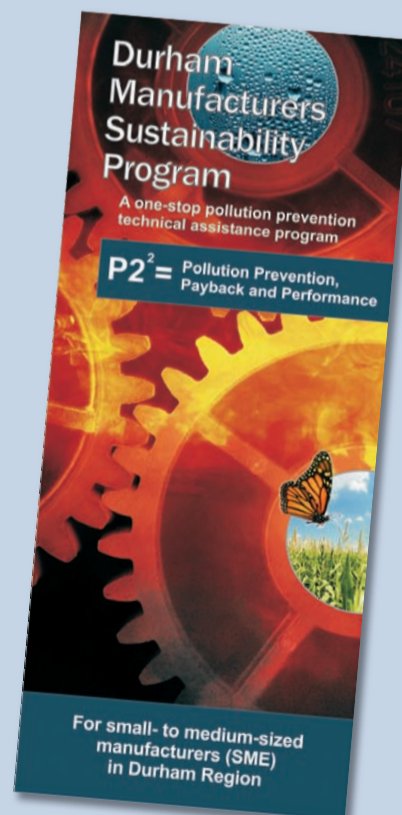
OCETA utilizes a formidable roster of pollution prevention experts with experience spanning an array of industry sectors and can match a facility with a best-fit consultant. This consultant will identify opportunities for pollution prevention, waste reduction and process optimization specific to a facility, and provide the company

with high-, medium-, and low-cost options to realize these opportunities. The result is improved environmental performance, reduced regulatory exposure, and money saved.

Since 2000, 57 manufacturers participating in the GTA-wide Toronto Region Sustainability Program have shown substantial improvement in environmental performance. Collectively, they have saved \$4.8 million annually, with an average return on investment of less than one year. The same opportunity for tangible improvement is now here for Durham manufacturers.

For more information on OCETA and the Durham Manufacturers Sustainability Program, please visit [www.oceta.on.ca/TORSUS/dmsp.htm](http://www.oceta.on.ca/TORSUS/dmsp.htm) or contact Fred Granek, Vice President, Sustainability, OCETA, at [fgranek@oceta.on.ca](mailto:fgranek@oceta.on.ca).

Durham Region's Economic Development and Tourism Department can be reached at 1-800-706-9857 or visit [www.durhambusiness.ca](http://www.durhambusiness.ca).



## MAKING BUSINESS HAPPEN

### Funding innovation the key to long-term success

The new frontier of manufacturing lies in the hands of the next generation of innovators. Success is ultimately found when the right project is leveraged with the right partners and industry support.

Organizations such as the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. and ACCELERATE Ontario could be the "right partners" in the development of innovative leaders for the future.

### Ontario Centres of Excellence

Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) drives the commercialization of cutting-edge research across key market sectors to secure Ontario's global competitiveness. The organization fosters the training and development of the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders, and is a key partner with Ontario's industry, universities, colleges, research hospitals, investors and governments.

For more information, visit [www.oce-ontario.org](http://www.oce-ontario.org).

### ACCELERATE Ontario

ACCELERATE Ontario is run by MITACS Inc., a national research network. The program allows graduate interns to spend approximately 50 per cent of their time, over a four month-period, at a company, undertaking research on a problem jointly identified by the business, intern and a supervising professor. The balance of the student's time is spent at the university, developing new tools, technologies or methods to address the company's challenge. The cost of an internship is shared by a partner company and MITACS, through the support of the Ontario Government.

To find out more about ACCELERATE Ontario, visit [www.acceleratecanada.ca](http://www.acceleratecanada.ca) or contact Namrata Barai at [nbarai@mitacs.ca](mailto:nbarai@mitacs.ca).