TOWN OF CARLTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

What is a Compreneshive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is a long-range policy document designed to guide the future physical, economic, and social development of Carlton. Serving as the Village's blueprint for the next 20 to 30 years, it establishes a shared community vision and identifies the goals, strategies, and actions needed to achieve the vision. Developed through a collaborative planning process with input from residents, businesses, stakeholders, and local leaders, the Plan reflects the community's priorities and aspirations. The Plan will integrate housing, economic development, transportation, community facilities, natural and cultural resources, parks and recreation, and implementation into a unified strategy that guides future investments, policies, and partnerships.

Comprehensive Plan Process

Launch

- Coordinating with other project partners
- Review past plans, projects, & data.

January- March 2026

Listening

- Engagement Plan
- Community Survey

March-May 2026

Visioning

- Community Workshop
- Goal & theme identification

May-September 2026

Action

- Develop strategies & actions
- Implementation Plan

September-November 2026

Adoption

- Public Hearing
- Environmental Review
- Planning Board

November- December 2026

Vision for the Future

"The Town of Carlton is a rural community on the shores of Lake Ontario, shaped by its natural beauty, agricultural landscape, small-town character, and fishing traditions. As Carlton looks to the future, the Town is committed to preserving the qualities residents value most while guiding growth through thoughtful planning and smart investment. By protecting Carlton's rural identity, natural resources, and waterfront heritage, Carlton will continue to be a welcoming and resilient community for generations to come. "

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What We've Heard So Far

The community survey revealed strong appreciation for the qualities that make Carlton unique, including its rural character, waterfront access, open space, and close-knit community. Residents value the town's quiet and peaceful setting and the connections they have to family, friends, and the community.

The survey also identified gaps in everyday amenities, including limited places to eat and shop, local services, community events, and activities, as well as concerns about roads and infrastructure.

Looking to the future, residents generally support growth and new opportunities, but want development to be gradual, manageable, and consistent with Carlton's existing character. These priorities suggest that the Comprehensive Plan should focus on maintaining the qualities that make Carlton unique while supporting local businesses, improving services and infrastructure, protecting natural and agricultural resources, and guiding future growth in a thoughtful way.

Scan the QR code to learn more!
Or visit
https://plancarlton.org

Compreneshive Plan Myths

Myth: *A Comprehensive Plan will raise taxes or require costly new projects, or expensive changes.*
Fact: A Comprehensive Plan will help the Town plan for ahead by identifying priorities and strategies to avoid costly reactive decisions later and are prepared to pursue funding opportunities as they arise.

Myth: *The Comprehensive Plan changes current property rights or automatically alters local zoning laws.*
Fact: *The comprehensive plan is a policy framework, while a zoning ordinance is the legally binding law. The plan recommends how land should be used in the future, but distinct legislative action (rezoning) is required to legally enforce those changes.*

Myth: *Once adopted, it never changes.*
Fact: It's a living document that is updated as community needs and goals evolve.

TOWN OF CARLTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2,800
Total Population

1,115
Total Households

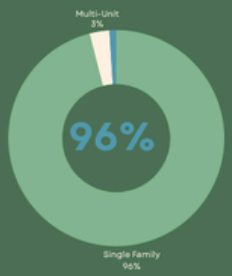
$81,678
Median Household Income

Housing

1,748
Total Number of Housing Units

64% of all units are occupied

92% of all units are owner- occupied



96% of all hsouing units are single-family

Age

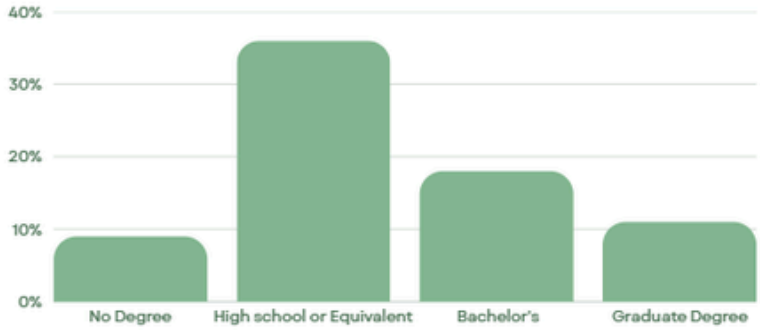
Median Age: 51.1

36% of the population is 50-69 years old

14% of the population is under 18

Educational Attainment

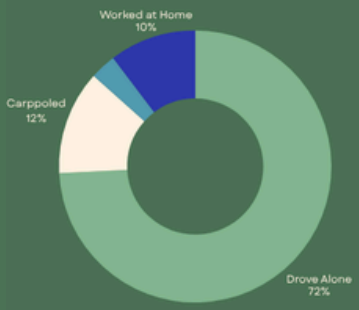
Population by Highest Level of Education
Population 25 and Older



91% of the population has a High school degree or higher

29% of the population has a Bachelor's degree or higher

Transportation

29.5
Minutes Average Travel Time to Work

Means of Transportation to Work