

# Events and Progress Report:

## The Future of Food & Farming Working Group

### November, 2013

- Future of Food & Farming Summit held in October, 2012. The goal of the session was to increase awareness of the links between food, health, community economic development, food security and farming within the context of planning for the future of Peterborough County. Twenty-seven community leaders attended, from non-profit and government interests, to farmers and others throughout the value chain of local food system. The results of this summit included documentation of local issues facing the future of food & farming. Full Proceedings available.
- Working Group on Food & Farming established from participants of that 2012 summit. Members include: Linda Slavin (Sustainable Peterborough), Dr. Rosana Pellizzari (Peterborough County City Health Unit and chair of the Community Food Network), Brad Appleby (City of Peterborough), Bryan Weir (County of Peterborough), Jamey Coughlin (Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation), Bill Astell (producer), Judy Coward (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), Pat Learmonth (Farms at Work, co-chair), Dawn Berry Merriam (Peterborough Social Planning Council, co-chair)

Sustainable Peterborough adopted the Future of Food & Farming Working Group to support its pillar on food and agriculture. The Future of Food & Farming Working Group has been focussing on the strategies in the Sustainable Peterborough Plan document, namely:

- Maintain adequate farmland availability to support our sustainable agricultural needs.
- Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food.
- Encourage farmers to practice good environmental stewardship.

In December, 2012, the Peterborough Social Planning Council (PSPC) designed and circulated a survey on attitudes towards buying local food. The main goal was to gauge the public's purchasing habits and attitudes toward local foods in order to advance policy development efforts in this area. We asked people to respond to questions about:

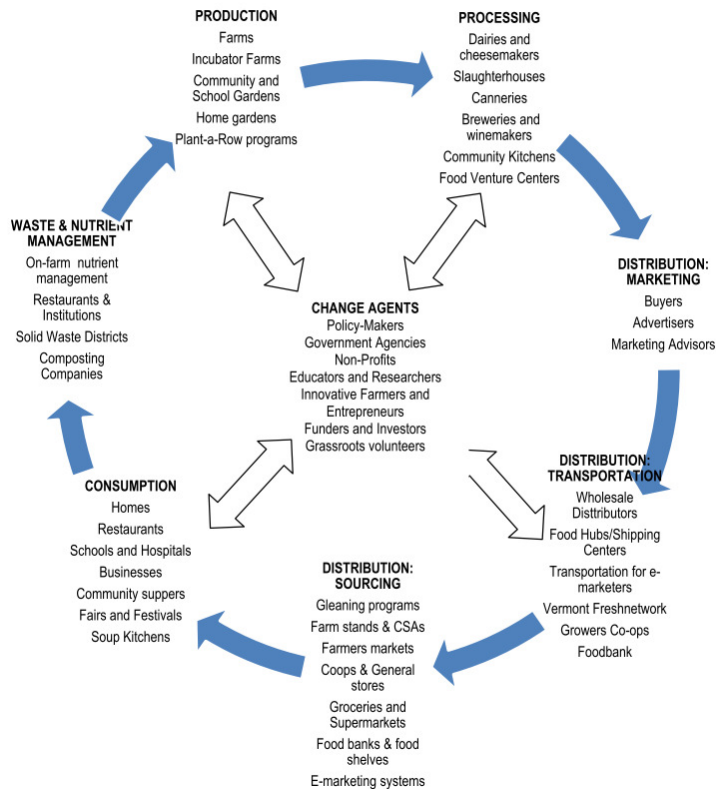
- their purchasing habits, perceptions and attitudes towards local foods;
- how they define local foods (in terms of distance travelled and region of production);
- how they see their role in the local food economy (consumer, producer, distributor, etc.);
- their access to and the availability of local foods from different food retailers.

The results of the PSPC “**Local Food & What We Think About Buying Local: the Future of Food & Farming**” were released at the follow up summit on the **Future of Food & Farming: Next Steps**. (for the complete report go to our website at [www.pspc.on.ca](http://www.pspc.on.ca))

In March, 2013, the follow up summit **Future of Food & Farming: Next Steps** was held. The goal of the session was to move the discussion on food and farming to the next level of community dialogue. Presentations were made on the following community initiatives that are underway and that support the dialogue of local food access, production and education:

- Nourish Peterborough
- Official Plan Summary: Plan It
- Identification of how much land we will need to achieve the stated goal of feeding ourselves today? In 2036?
- The Percentage of farmed land in the county protected as Prime Agriculture

The Future of Food & Farming Working Group is committed to working with the broad continuum of individuals and organizations that see food and farming as imperative to the future of our community. The following diagram, presented at the October summit, illustrates the many sectors that must be involved in a successful food production and delivery system:



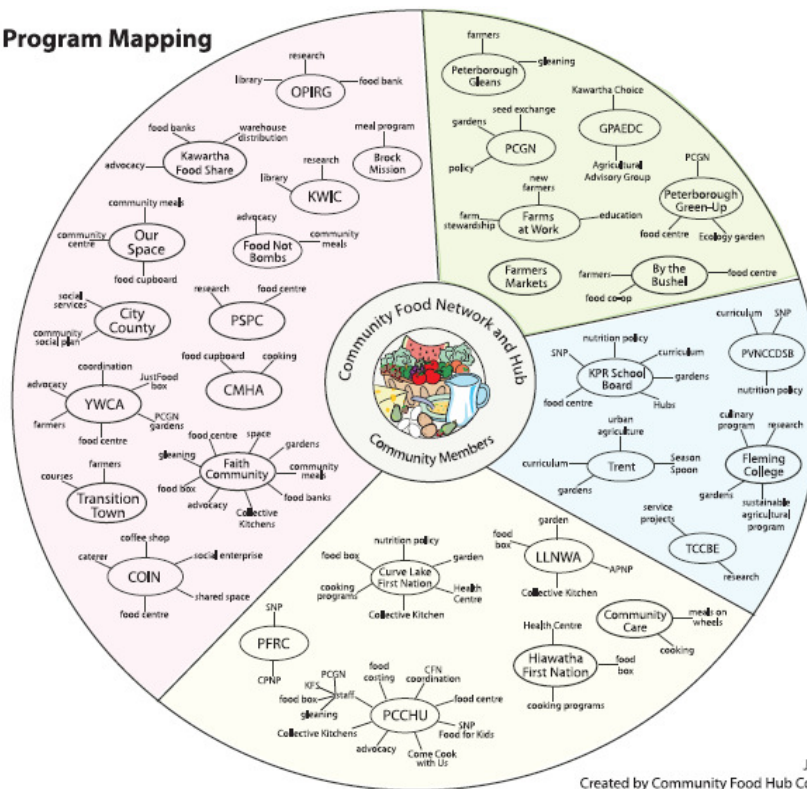
The following map prepared by the Community Food Network, illustrates some of the activities in our community that have an interest in food:

### Peterborough Community Food Program Mapping

#### COMMUNITY MAPPING LEGEND

APCP – Aboriginal Prenatal Nutrition Program  
 CMHA – Canadian Mental Health Assn.  
 COIN – Community Opportunity and Innovation Network  
 CPNP – Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program  
 GPAEDC – Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation  
 KPRDSB – Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board  
 KWIC – Kawartha World Issues Centre  
 LLNWA – Lovesick Lake Native Womens Assn.  
 OPIRG – Ontario Public Interest Research Group  
 PCGN – Peterborough Community Garden Network  
 PCCHU – Peterborough County City Health Unit  
 PFRCC – Peterborough Family Resource Centre  
 PSPC – Peterborough Social Planning Council  
 PVNCCDSB – Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington District School Board  
 SNP – Student Nutrition Program  
 TCCBE – Trent Centre for Community Based Education

Agriculture/Growing Food  
 Education  
 Health  
 Community Organizations



June 2011  
Created by Community Food Hub Committee

### Products delivered by/with the Future of Food & Farming Working Group:

- Survey of local attitudes towards buying local food
- Calculation of land required for our community to feed itself, now and in the future
- Documentation of amount of land designated as prime agriculture
- Discussions underway to broker relationships between farms and schools
- Proposal developed re local survey of grocery stores and their policies/abilities to buy and sell local products (to be done in partnership with Transition Town Peterborough) through Trent Centre for Community Based Education

### Upcoming workplan:

1. Input to the County Official Plan Review process
2. Input on the Local Food Act as it impacts the local food system in Peterborough
3. Continuing work on Sustainable Peterborough community priorities