

Community Focus Bulletin:

Creating Community Conversations



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

No. 2 – 2021

Our Planning Philosophy:

The Seventh Generation Principle takes its name from the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee, the founding document of the Iroquois Confederacy, the oldest living participatory democracy on Earth. It is based on an ancient Iroquois philosophy that:

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”

Building a resilient local food system

Over the past year a variety of tools have been developed and expanded by the Future of Food & Farming Working Group (Peterborough) to help people look for food products produced on local farms!

The public is asked to contribute to a survey on the importance of a local food system and the use of these tools. Please take 3 minutes to complete the survey here:

<https://s.surveypal.com/i8kRnyERT>

Did you know that you can...

- visit Peterborough Farm Fresh at peterboroughfarmfresh.ca and scroll through a growing list of local farms or use the search function to find exactly what is available in our community?
- follow @localfoodptbo on Facebook, Instagram or twitter for news flashes from farms, restaurants and stores that carry locally---grown foods?
- for a wide range of information about food in our community, visit the Local Food Peterborough website www.localfoodptbo.ca, read our Local Food Charter, find out about growing your own food, what's in season, starting a farm, finding emergency food, and much more?
- watch [more than 20 videos](#) including the new From Farm to You short films on beef and dairy in our community?

Why buy local?

Environmental benefits: Purchasing more local food provides environmental benefits:

- It preserves farmland
- It reduces food miles
- It promotes accountability (when food is raised and grown locally, the consumer better understands how and where their food is being produced. This awareness encourages local farmers to use sustainable agriculture practices)

Economic benefits: Buying locally grown food can help support your local economy in the following ways:

- It keeps money in your community
- local farmers keep more profit
- It Creates Jobs
- It builds other local businesses: (Local food producers can supply their meat and produce to other local businesses, such as restaurants, schools and hospitals and they purchase inputs from local suppliers)
- It keeps taxes down: (Local farm operations can typically contribute more to the economy in tax revenue than they will ever use in services. Most local farm businesses aren't dependent on social services like schools and emergency services.)

Social benefits: There are also important social and community benefits of supporting your local food producers:

- It supports local families: (Farming is often a family-run business. For many families, farming is more than a business — it's a way of life that they are trying to preserve for future generations. By purchasing locally grown food, you can help your local food producers carry on their family traditions and support family development.)
- It brings the community together: (Local farmers often develop a close network between themselves, as well as among their local buyers. As a consumer, you can purchase directly from the farmer through farmers' markets or directly on the farm.)
- It empowers the consumer: (Consumers are growing increasingly concerned with where and how their food is being produced. They now have the choice to purchase food locally and learn more about food production directly from the farmers themselves — it's a great learning experience for children who can develop their knowledge about food systems and agriculture.)
- It builds resilience in the supply of food, reducing dependence on imports

Resources and local research that supported the need to develop our local food promotion tools:

Background research conducted by the Future of Food and Farming Working Group and partners:

- [The Future of Peterborough Food & Farming: A Call for Reflection & Discussion](#) (prepared by The Peterborough Social Planning Council in partnership with Farms at Work October, 2011)
- [Proceedings from “The Future of Food & Farming Summit” October 11, 2012](#) (prepared by Farms at Work & Peterborough Social Planning Council, 2012)
- [A follow up to: The Future of Peterborough Food & Farming: A Call for Reflection & Discussion](#) (prepared by The Peterborough Social Planning Council in partnership with Farms at Work March, 2012)

Proceedings of Subsequent Food and Farm Summits

- [Proceedings from the fourth “The Future of Food & Farming Summit” March 19, 2018](#)
- [Proceedings from the third “Future of Food & Farming Summit” March 24, 2015](#) (prepared by: Sustainable Peterborough’s Future of Food & Farming Working Group and presented to Sustainable Peterborough in July, 2015)
- [Proceedings from the second “Future of Food & Farming Summit” March 20, 2013](#) (prepared by Farms at Work and Peterborough Social Planning Council, 2013)

Research Reports Prepared by Working Group Task Forces

- [Farmland, Farmers and Food Production in Peterborough County Version 3.0, May 2017](#)
- [Cultivating a Fertile Environment for Urban Agriculture in the Greater Peterborough Area, 2017](#)
- [Peterborough in context: Phase One – Documenting How Local Activities Align With the AMO Best Practices in Local Food Guide for Municipalities](#) (prepared by Farms at Work & Peterborough Social Planning Council for the Future of Food & Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough, July 2014)

Research Prepared by Working Group Members

- [Farm Stewardship in Peterborough County – December 2019](#)
- [Egg Grading for the Community: A Feasibility Study](#) (Farms at Work, 2017)
- [Peterborough Food Charter](#) (Peterborough Public Health: 2017)
- [Find Local Food – Restaurant Survey](#) (Farms at Work: May 2015)
- [Regional Local Food Production Survey Summary](#) (Farms at Work: April 2015)
- [25% Local Food Shift Peterborough](#) (Transition Town Peterborough: July 2014)

- [The Role of Grocery Stores in Supporting Buying Local 2013/14](#) (Transition Town, Farms at Work and Peterborough Social Planning Council supported by the Trent Centre for Community Based Education: 2014)
- [CSA Economic Research Report](#) (Fleming College / Transition Town Peterborough, prepared by Michelle Boyer, Rajinder Kaur, Daman Mehta and Michael Scanlon: April 2014)
- [Results of the PSPC Local Food and Farming Survey](#) (prepared by Brett Throop for the Peterborough Social Planning Council: March 2013)
- [Synopsis Report: Results of the PSPC Local Food & Farming Survey](#) (Peterborough Social Planning Council: March 2013)
- [Community Garden Policy](#) (City of Peterborough: 2010)
- [Agricultural Economic Impact & Development Study](#) (City of Kawartha Lakes, Kawartha Lakes Community Futures Development Corporation, Peterborough Community Futures Development Corporation, Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture, Victoria / Haliburton Federation of Agriculture, Peterborough Economic Development, Workforce Development Board, Industry Canada, Planscape: September 2006)

Community Focus Bulletins Related to Food (samples)

- [Community Focus Bulletin, March 2018](#) ('Planning Locally for the Future of Food & Farming', prepared by Merriam & Associates)
- [Community Focus Bulletin, June 2017](#) ('A Call to Action: Food to be viewed as more important' prepared by Merriam & Associates)
- <https://sustainablepeterborough.ca/>
- <https://foodsecurecanada.org/resources-news/news-media/buying-local-food-products>
- <https://www.ecowatch.com/10-reasons-why-you-should-eat-local-1882029859.html>
- <https://www.ontario.ca/foodland/page/why-buy-local>
- <https://arrowquip.com/blog/animal-science/top-benefits-buying-locally-grown-food>

For more information on our local food promotion tools contact:

localfoodptbo@gmail.com

For more information about our Community Focus Bulletins or to view past editions go to

<http://www.merriam-associates.com/contact-us>

Or email Dawn Berry Merriam at dawnbm@merriam-associates.com

or John Merriam at john@merriam-associates.com

or call 705-743-8050.

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