

Annual General Report

(for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2008)

Our vision is to ensure that all residents of York Region are food secure. Food security is the assurance that all people at all times are able to acquire nutritional food in a way that upholds basic human dignity.

Our mission is to increase access to affordable, nutritious food for York Region residents. York Region Food Network will:

- Raise awareness and promote food security issues and policy change in our communities.
- Support community-based food security programs and services.



Volunteer Mitchel at the sales table at 510 Penrose's Open House

Board of Directors & Staff 2008

Officers:

- Jacqui Locke, Chair
- Rosanne Rodgers, Secretary
- Hansel Cheung, Treasurer

Directors:

- Farheen Khan
- Lewis Nastasi
- Deepak Tuteja
- Graham Woodward
- Tracy Woloshyn, Advisory Member

Staff:

- Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director
- Kim Arseneault, Administrative Coord.
- Catherine Cook, Program Coordinator
- Terry O'Brien, Corporate Liaison

The Year in Review

The past fiscal year has been one of uncertainty and change. The financial challenges have affected all areas of York Region, from corporate and manufacturing sectors through the financial district down to individuals like you and I. We have seen a dramatic rise in food bank usage, as well as an increased demand for the community at large to rise up and meet this challenge.

The York Region Food Network (YRFN) was founded on the belief that anyone can make a difference and this ideal is as real today as ever. With the continued commitment from the Board, staff, community partnerships and the irreplaceable volunteer pool, I am certain that the York Region Food Network will succeed in overcoming this challenge and ensure that everyone in need has a meal on their table.

Graham Woodward was the Chair of YRFN for 2 years and has sat on the Board of Directors for the last 4 years. As this year comes to an end, so will his time with us. Graham has brought his passion, expertise and analytical sense to this organization and I feel most fortunate to have served my first year as Chair of the Board with Graham's conscientious and respected advisement.

The Board will also see Farheen's time with us come to an end. It has been a complete pleasure getting to know her throughout this year and we will all miss her.

I look forward to the challenges this year will bring and I know the rest of the Board members and I will work hard to ensure we meet the needs of the organization. We are and will continue to be the *Voice of Hunger in York Region*.

Jacqui Locke, Chair

...the voice of hunger in York Region

Food for Thought

2008 has been a year of opportunity, change and challenge which the Board and staff of York Region Food Network have embraced with boldness and enthusiasm. From receiving our donated van in the spring to moving to new premises in a multi-agency building in the fall, we have worked toward our vision of a York Region where no one goes hungry.

Our aim is to create a growing awareness and discussion of the issues that ultimately lead to poverty and hunger. We need to promote policies and strategies to address hunger and the impact it has on individuals and families. These include measures like ensuring adequate income levels to meet basic needs, addressing the lack of affordable housing, and creating a sustainable local food system.

We acknowledge the sustained dedication of volunteers at local food banks located throughout the Region who serve the immediate needs of families. There were 42,737 mouths fed through 8 municipalities in 2008 and while numbers were similar to those of 2007 early in the year, the effect of the economic downturn is reflected in a 16% increase in food bank access in the fourth quarter of 2008 over 2007... and the need continues to grow. Perhaps, this increasing vulnerability in our communities will provide the impetus required to make the policy changes that will reduce the reliance of so many on emergency food supplies.

As we look forward, we acknowledge that our work could not happen without the ongoing support of volunteers, community and corporate partners, and funders. We are gratified and inspired. Thank you.

Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director

Program Report

Community Garden Program

The Community Garden program grew by 4% this year to accommodate 194 families and service groups across the three garden locations in the towns of Aurora, Newmarket and Markham. Since 2004 garden participation has increased by 33%.

Consultation with the towns of Aurora, Newmarket, Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Georgina has resulted in various levels of municipal commitment to the community garden initiative to date. Both the Town of Aurora and Newmarket have partnered with YRFN to offer community gardening to local residents. The Town of Markham has funded a program to establish a community garden in each of its eight wards. The City of Vaughan is in the process of identifying land to establish a community garden and the Woodbridge Agricultural Fair Society will be initiating a community garden program on their fairground in 2009.

Presently the Town of Richmond Hill operates a community garden at the Phyllis Rawlinson Parkette. While having offered a portion of land at the Town Hall site for a community garden, the Township of Georgina has been encouraged to identify a community garden site in the more heavily populated town of Keswick.

Ethnic Diversity at the Gardens

Ethnic representation at the gardens has increased by 92% over the 4 year period between 2005 and 2008. In 2008, 76 diverse families participated at the community gardens.

Food Drive

The semi-annual food drive brought in a total of 214,335 pounds of food in 2008. The donations fell short of the food banks goal of 227,400 pounds of food. The donation shortfall in the fall was possibly in response to the financial uncertainty of the economy at that time.

Annual Food Bank Survey 2008

The total number of surveys collected was 164 in 2008. Survey collection exceeded expectations of 117 completed surveys by 40 %.

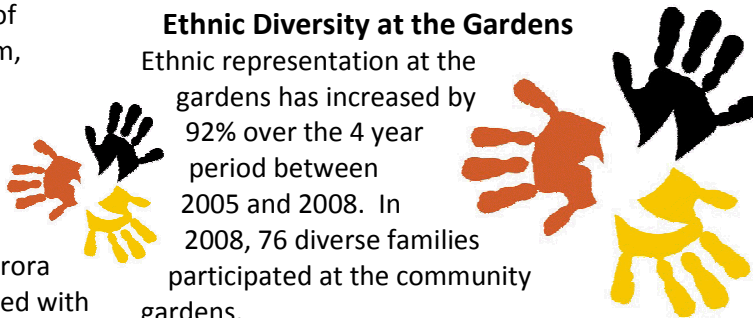
Volunteer Program

Eighty eight community volunteers completed a total of 1180.75 hours in 2008. A total of 970 hours was contributed by 150 community gardeners toward the community garden program. A grand total of 2,150 hours was contributed by YRFN volunteers. This is more than a 100% increase in volunteer hour commitment since 2004.

Back-to-School Backpack Program

Five hundred and twenty nine backpacks were distributed to six food banks and two social service agencies in 2008. Through increased donations YRFN was able to distribute 34% more backpacks to our clients than in the previous year.

*Catherine Cook
Program Coordinator*



Report on Revenues

I am happy to report to our donors, community and stakeholders that the York Region Food Network's finances are still in a stable position despite the severe economic downturn in 2008.

Our total Expenditures were \$209,073 in 2008, compared to \$206,689 in 2007. The two largest expenses were Wages and Benefits at \$100,380 and Program Expenses at \$56,179.

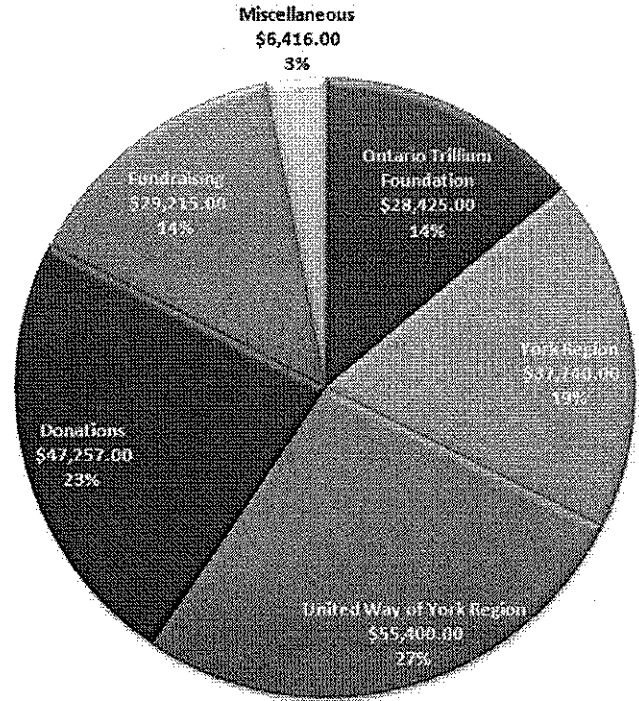
At a Glance

	2008	2007
Total Assets	\$133,343	\$139,042
Current Liabilities	\$11,858	\$12,973
Net Assets	\$121,485	\$126,069
Total Revenue	\$204,453	\$221,503
Total Expenditures	\$209,073	\$206,689
Excess (Deficiency)	\$(4584)	\$14817

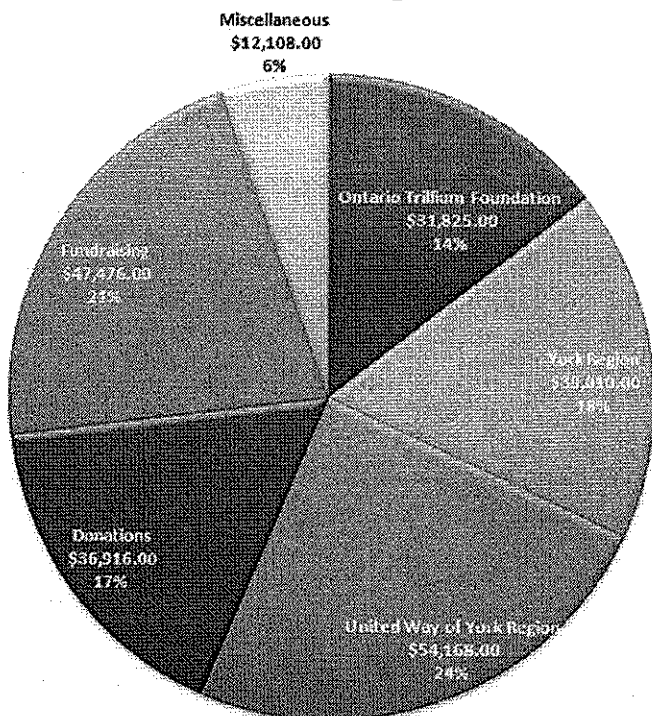
The Results Explained

Our total Revenue was \$204,453 in 2008, compared to \$221,503 in 2007, a decrease of \$17,050, or 1.08%. The majority of our funding was from the United Way of York Region (28%), the Regional Municipality of York (18%) and the Ontario Trillium Foundation (14%). Among these three sources, United Way funding remained unchanged, while the other two decreased slightly. The Trillium funding runs out in the spring of 2009. The remainder of the funding is from donations by corporations, donations by community members, fundraising events and other sources.

Sources of Funding in 2008



Sources of Funding in 2007



Looking Forward

In 2008, our application for funding from the Community Development Investment Fund (CDIF) was approved for 2009. Our application for renewed funding from the United Way of York Region was also successful.

Funding from these two sources, in addition to the continuous support from our corporate patrons and contributions from members of the community, will assure that York Region Food Network can continue to provide valuable services to residents and work towards a York Region where no one goes hungry.

Respectfully submitted,
Hansel Cheung
Treasurer

Thank You to the Food Network's 2008 Contributors

York Region Food Network would like to thank the more than 225 individual donors who supported our operations and administration. Without your support, day-to-day operations would be impossible.

We would also like to thank the following organizations for their financial and in-kind support:

605485 Ontario Limited
ACE Bakery Ltd.
Agent's Equity
All Saints Anglican Church
Art Source
Berton Seeds
Blair Technology Solutions Inc.
Blue Willow Garden & Landscape
Design Centre
Bootlegger
Canadian Children's Theatre Co.
City of Vaughan
Connect Five Ltd.
Cora's Breakfast & Lunch,
Newmarket
Creative Colours Fashions
Crosspoint Software
Cruise Holidays
Diageo
Dolce Publishing Inc.
Dominion Seed House
Dr. Raymond Wong Dental Clinic
Dr. Vicky Pringle - Veterinarian
Dymin Steel Inc.
Elizabeth Arden (Canada) Limited
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Restoration
Henry Equestrian Insurance
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I Love Rewards Inc.
IBM Employee's Charitable Fund
ICI Paints
Investors Group
Jim's Auto Repair
Lafarge North America Inc.
Little Caesars Pizza

M & Y Chiropractic
Magna International Inc.
Mark's Choice At Home Hardware
McKee's Carpet Zone, Newmarket
Newmarket Basketball Club, CA
Newmarket Mayor's Charity Golf
Classic
NHL Alumni
North York Farmers Inc.
Not Just Cards - Hallmark
Olivia Chocolates
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Paul Cappuccitti Mortgages,
Insurance & Annuities
Percel Inc.
Pilot Insurance Company
Pinnacle Roofing Consultants Inc.
Pottruff & Smith Insurance
Brokers Inc.
Project Dove
Regional Municipality of York
Sentinel Telecom
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
St. Louis Bar & Grill
Stokes Seeds Ltd.
The Aurora Bahai Community
The Crow's Nest
The Royal Wood Shop
Tim Hortons
Town of Aurora
Town of East Gwillimbury
Town of Georgina
Town of Markham
Town of Newmarket
Town of Richmond Hill
Town of Whichurch-Stouffville
Township of King
Traffic Services "The Traffic Ticket
Specialist"

Unionville High School
United Way of York Region
VandenBosche Jewelers
Villa Risi
Volunteer Canada
Wal-Mart Evergreen
Whitchurch Riding Academy
York Bassmasters
York Region District School Board
Staff Singers

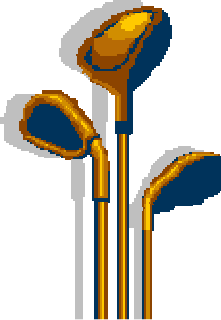
7th Annual Charity Golf Classic

The York Region Food Network would like to thank all the golfers, sponsors, and volunteers for their generous support of the 6th Annual YRFN Charity Golf Classic at Silver Lakes Golf Club & Country Club. It was a spectacular day on the links

hosted by our two Signature Sponsors, Dymin Steel Inc. and Everest Supply Inc.

With over 65 corporate sponsors, and support from all nine municipalities of York Region, the event raised a record-breaking profit of \$15,000, a 25% increase over 2007.

Please mark the 2009 tournament on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 in your calendars. We look forward to seeing you on the links!



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