

York Region

**Food
Network**



SPRING 2008

NEWSLETTER

Does York Region need a Food Charter?

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.

A Food Charter is a vision for a food system which benefits the community and the environment. Food Charters help link food policy decision-making with community action. Many communities across Canada are using the development of a Food Charter to inform policies regarding food security, and to develop a systems approach to planning which reflects environmental, food production/distribution and social justice issues.

Ideally, the process of creating a food charter will engage a broad cross section of participants including government, food producers, environmentalists, the education community, social agencies and citizens. As an example, The Vancouver Food Charter passed in January 2007 contained five guiding principles:

Community Economic Development – looking at local food systems, employment creation and increased food security.

Ecological Health – protecting natural resources, reducing and redirecting food waste, and contributing to local and global environmental health.

Social Justice – Food as a basic human right needs to be accessible, affordable, nutritionally adequate, and culturally appropriate.

Collaboration and Participation – encourage civic engagement, promote responsibility and strengthen communities to develop sustainable food systems.

Celebration – Food brings people together in celebrations of community and diversity.

**Thursday, June 5, 2008
is National Hunger
Awareness Day
in Canada**

Supported by:



Editor: Kim Arseneault



The strength of a food charter comes not only from the community engagement process of its development but also, the resulting community commitment to the principles articulated. Is York Region ready for an initiative of this sort? Certainly, local food movements, environmental concerns, rising food and fuel costs, and health issues are becoming increasingly prevalent. Food is a basic human need and a thoughtful approach to the food system can have a positive effect on everyone's lives. Let's start the conversation.

We're sharing space with a Killdeer family in the Aurora Community Garden. Killdeer are members of the Plover family and are known for using a broken wing display to distract predators away from nests or chicks.

...the voice of hunger in York Region

Thank You



York Region Food Network would like to thank Motorola Ltd. (above) for their participation in the United Way York Region's Day of Caring on May 15th, 2008 at the Markham Community Garden. We'd also like to thank St. Joseph's Communications Volunteer Team for their support at the Garden on May 13th.



York Region Food Network would like to thank Investors Group for their generous donation. Above is Mike and Darren from Investors Group, Terry and Joan from YRFN, and Mary from Investors Group

New Food Pantry in Vaughan

An emergency food pantry, partnered with the Vaughan Food Bank, will be opening in June to serve families in Maple. Temporarily located at New Hope United Church (near the Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre) the pantry will be open on Saturday mornings and provide emergency relief for families identified by local schools as being in urgent and immediate need. If appropriate, the pantry volunteers will provide these families with information and assistance in connecting with the Vaughan Food Bank which is open Thursdays and Fridays. For more information, call New Hope at 905-738-6446.



Community Gardens – A Growing Issue

The headlines on the newscasts alert us of the continued increases that we are facing when buying food. Every time we drive down the street the price of fuel seems to have gone up again. For many people there is little they can do to combat cost increases in these two items that we all seem to rely on. But there are certainly signs that some people are turning their attention towards community gardening as a partial solution to the increasing costs of food and fuel.

Currently York Region Food Network operates three community gardens (Newmarket, Aurora and Markham) that service 180 families. While other community gardens do exist throughout the region, there are clearly not enough community gardens to meet the needs of all interested residents.

The good news is that the municipalities are responding to the wishes of the community. In Richmond Hill, the Town is investing more money into the community garden which it currently operates at the Phyllis Rawlinson Parkette.

The Town of Newmarket has committed to supporting a community garden more than twice the size of our current community garden in Newmarket.

The Town of Markham has had discussions about establishing community gardens in each of its wards, while the City of Vaughan has set the wheels in motion for their own community garden to be up and running by the spring of 2009.

For those of you who have already enjoyed the benefits of community gardening, here's wishing you another successful season. If you have never tried community gardening, maybe this is the year for you, before everyone jumps on the bandwagon, or before it costs too much money to fill up the bandwagon.

Have a great gardening season.

Catherine Cook, Program Coordinator

YRFN Events

We would like to welcome Chris Baylis to our organization. Chris is attending Georgian College, studying Fundraising and Resource Development, and has decided to volunteer at YRFN in order to compliment his studies with on-site experience. In addition to assisting with our two major fundraising events, he will lead the development of a YRFN "Volunteer Management Resource Manual" and "Annual Giving Plan".

Also in the works is a YRFN Christmas Concert, a new event rapidly taking shape under the artistic direction of Tamara Williamson, an internationally accomplished singer/songwriter who has made York Region her home. The variety show will feature songs, stories, and celebration with some of the region's finest musicians, comedians, and story tellers.

Taking place Sunday, December 21, 2008 at the magical Madsen's Greenhouse in Newmarket, the event promises to be a show that is truly heartfelt, beautiful, and celebrates the culture and storytelling of the Christmas season, with a fun and relaxed evening had by all.

We are looking for a unique name for this event so please forward any suggestions!

Summer Food Bank Donations

In the past few months, food prices have increased at an alarming rate. Those living below the federal poverty level are no longer the only ones feeling the pinch at the check-out line as prices for milk, eggs, bread, and produce continue to increase. In addition to this, gas prices are setting national records.

This will be a difficult summer for those living below or near the poverty line. Rising gas and food prices, in addition to children not having access to school breakfast and lunch programs, will put additional pressure on already tight budgets. Summer time can cause strain because children spend more time at home and may require increased daycare expenditures.

Although food banks receive a lot of attention during the winter months, summer is traditionally a time of year when food banks see a drop in donations because people aren't holding food drives and thinking about feeding hungry people. Not only are people giving less, because they have to strive to pay for their own food - but, more people are turning to food banks than ever before - because of the food prices. Additionally, tighter disposable income for many impacts the number of financial donations received by York Region food banks.

If you have the ability to assist us in serving the community, we need your help now more than ever.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

FORE!!!

York Region Food Network 6th Annual Charity Golf Classic Wednesday, August 27, 2008 Silver Lakes Golf & Country Club

We are inviting local golfers and businesses to participate in our **6th Annual YRFN Charity Golf Classic**.

There are a number of different ways you can participate.

Play! Enjoy a fabulous day on the links! (\$185/golfer)
Sponsor a hole! We provide a prominent sign. (\$200/sign)
Donate items to our prize table or auction.
Sponsor one of our unique competitions during the day.

**The day includes:*

BBQ lunch * Arrival Gift Bag * Warm up on the Aqua Driving Range
Shot Gun Start * 18 holes of golf * Power cart * Raffle
Longest Drive Competition * Beat the Pro Closest to the Hole
Hole-in-one for a 2008 Golf Holiday * Putting Competition
Full course dinner at Silver Lakes Clubhouse * Prizes for everyone!

We appreciate your support and hope to see you on the links!

YRFN On The Move!



With the help of a donated van, York Region Food Network (YRFN) can now cover the entire region with its programs and services. Provided by Media on the Streets, a GTA based marketing firm, spectacular ads cover the van from head to toe providing exposure for local businesses and providing essential support for this local based charity. A wonderful example of the community recognizing and supporting the fight against hunger in York Region.

With food banks and emergency food programs now operating in every one of the nine municipalities of York Region, and serving over

5,000 residents a month, there is growing recognition that local progressive solutions must be sought.

Our vision is a York Region where no one goes hungry.

Trevor Mellet, owner of Media on the Streets, and 25 sponsors, presented the van to YRFN Executive Director Joan Stonehocker and Program Co-ordinator Catherine Cook in front of Dave & Busters's in Vaughan. "I come from a disadvantaged background myself and we give so that others have better opportunities." Special thanks to Ralph Matera, Seven View Chrysler, who sourced the van. And thanks to all the advertisers who made our van possible.

Advantage Athletes Training Centre	First Choice Personnel
Advantage Fitness Sales Inc.	Golden Flame Restaurant
All Star Wings & Ribs	Herbal Magic Weight Loss &
Aquakids Swim School	Nutritional Centre, Maple
Arrowhead Camp	Herbal Magic Weight Loss &
Blair Insurance Brokers Ltd.	Nutritional Centre, Woodbridge
Canada's Best Karate	Les Odes Leasing
Cora's Breakfast & Lunch,	Markville Carpet
Dufferin & Steeles	Ripple Paintball/Area 51 Paintball
Cora's Breakfast & Lunch,	Seven View Chrysler
Woodbridge	Seven View Cycle
Dave & Buster's	Suntouch Tanning Spa
Delta Bingo, Toronto	Thornhill Dental Clinic
Dynamite Party & Novelty Supplies	Throwing a Fit Pottery Studio
Fame International Day Spa &	Vinsanto Ristorante
Hair Salon	

The Board of Directors of **York Region Food Network** invites our supporters, community partners, and funders to attend the

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 12th, 2008

7:00 – 9:00

Refreshments available at 6:45

Guest Speaker:

Michelle Noble, Madman Communications
Building the Network

Join us at the

Magna Room

Aurora Public Library

15145 Yonge Street @ Church St, Aurora, Ontario

RSVP by Friday, June 6th, 2008 to Kim Arseneault at
905-967-0428 ext. 201 or kima@yrfn.ca

Join the YRFN's Fundraising Campaign

I support the YRFN's work to improve access to affordable, nutritious food for all people of York Region.

I have enclosed my donation of _____\$20_____ \$50_____ \$100 _____other.

Cheques should be made payable to York Region Food Network

YRFN will issue a charitable tax receipt for all donations over \$20.

Name: _____

Address: _____

To donate by credit card, visit our website at www.yrfn.ca, and click on the link to CanadaHelps.org; a secure website where you can make a tax deductible credit card donation to YRFN.

Your privacy is important to us, and we are committed to protecting and safeguarding your personal information. We do not rent, sell or trademark our mailing list, but rather use it to keep you informed of York Region Food Network's activities, services, and programs. Please contact our office to update your information or to be removed from the mailing list.



194 Eagle Street, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 1J6
Phone: 905-967-0428 Toll Free: 1-866-454-YRFN (9736) Fax: 905-967-0097
Email: 4moreinfo@yrfn.ca • www.yrfn.ca
Registered Charity # 87044 7315 RR0001