Sustainable food systems in a Healthy Communities Lens

Part 2 in the Sustainable Food Systems series

February 27, 2014 • 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Jeff Kohl
Consultant
Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (OHCC)

Janice Dunbar
Community developer
Huron County Health Unit

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Sustainable Food Systems in a Healthy Communities Lens

Janice Dunbar, Community Developer, Huron County Health Unit
Huron County

- Population 60,000
- Largest centre 8,000
- Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Education Levels
- Income Levels
- Transportation
- Gross Farm Receipts
- 9 lower-tier municipalities
- 10 food banks
Timeline in Huron County

1990’s
- Take Heart Huron
- Huron Food Security Working Group
- Nutritious Food Basket

Public Health led
- Health – individual and community
- Food Access

2000-2005
- Huron Perth Farm to Table
- Good Food Box, Buy Local! Buy Fresh!
- Community Matters

F2T formed, strong and continuing partnership with the Huron Business Development Corporation
- Added third focus - Viable Farm Incomes
- Community Matters led by United Way and the County of Huron
- Broader Community Perspective – transportation, economy, employment, training, housing,

2005-2014
- Huron Food Banks Group
- Sustainable Huron
- Farm to Table Opportunities Project
- Taste of Huron
- Healthy Communities Partnership
- Huron Against Poverty Group
- The Real Cost of Eating Well
- Healthy Rural Lens project
- Huron Food Action Network

Economic development, Public Health, Tourism, Social Service agencies, Agriculture Sector, Consumers, People with Lived Experience, Municipal representation
- All initiatives linked to Sustainable Huron
- Consider all stages of food system
Take Action for a Sustainable Huron

Natural Environment
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Conservation

Downtowns

Agriculture and Food

Economy

Transportation

Healthy Active Communities

Liveable Communities

Population

Community Needs

Community Health and Social Well-Being

Environmental Integrity

Economic Security

http://www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron/
Projects and Initiatives in the Huron Food System

Production
- Buy Local
  - Buy Fresh map
- Community Gardens
- Seed Library
- Farmer Training

Processing
- Food Processing Toolkit
- Community Kitchens
- Artisanal cheese

Distribution
- Bruce Huron Produce Auction
- Local Food Distribution/Hub
- Farmers’ Markets
- Good Food Box

Access
- Food Banks
- Community Gardens
- Seed Library
- The Real Cost of Eating Well
- Huron Living Wage

Consumption
- Taste of Huron
- Community Kitchens
- Food Education
- Community Food Advisors
Objectives of the Huron Food Action Network

- Improve the policy context to enable and empower decision-making for a healthy local food system
- Encourage sustainable production of local food, serving as good stewards of land and water
- Expand existing and develop new distribution channels and opportunities for improved accessibility
- Improve local food processing and employment capacity of Huron County
- Improve local food skills and education
What have we learned in Huron?

- Importance of Community Champions
- It must be Community Driven
- Funding
- It takes Time
- It is Messy
- There are Multiple Paths
- Municipal Support is Important
- Collaboration is Key

[Diagram of interrelated themes: Environmental Integrity, Economic Security, Community Health and Social Well-Being]