

# Social Planning Council

# News

## Special Points of Interest

- ✍ PSPC Board Member Scholfield Award Winner
- ✍ Persons with Disabilities Project Update
- ✍ Community Development Walk Wheel & Ride for Dignity
- ✍ Don't Tell Me What I Need, Ask Me!
- ✍ 15 Key Partnership Principles
- ✍ Membership / Donation Form
- ✍ Soupfest for United Way
- ✍ Garden Card 2006

## Our Mission

Through Research, community development, and public education, the Peterborough Social Planning Council works to build a strong community.

## Our Vision

The vision of the PSPC is to be an organization that facilitates active, broad based citizen participation in shaping healthy communities in Peterborough City and County; acts as a catalyst for positive, sustainable social change; and promotes the understanding that social justice is in everyone's interest.



## PSPC Board Member, Sharon Courts

### Winner of the Scholfield Award of Community Distinction

for her dedication to helping those less privileged in Peterborough.

Sharon joined our Board of Directors this year and we are very proud to announce her achievement to everyone.

Sharon is pictured here receiving the award at the United Way of Peterborough and District Campaign Kick-off Breakfast on Tuesday, September 13, 2005.

Congratulations Sharon!



Dawn Straka United Way/Sharon Courts PSPC

## Persons with Disabilities Project Update

Lack of accessible, affordable transportation. Limited financial resources. Physical and architectural barriers. Difficulties in accessing information. Getting trained and obtaining employment. Public misconceptions and negative attitudes. These are some of the issues emerging from the Consultation with Persons with Disabilities study now nearing completion. The combined results from agency surveys, focus groups and over 300 questionnaires completed by persons with disabilities from Peterborough City and County are now being analyzed and will be available to the community later this fall. Also being developed is a set of recommendations and implementation plan aimed at better meeting the needs of persons with disabilities living within our community.

With the conclusion of this project, I am taking on the full-time position of Research & Policy Analyst. This comes after spending five years with PSPC as one of its Planning & Research Associates. In this new role, I am looking forward to broadening my involvement in the local community, as well as furthering PSPC's work in the areas of social research, policy analysis and community development.

By Leni Rautiainen

Research & Policy Analyst



## Community Development

### Walk Wheel & Ride for Dignity

The Peterborough Social Planning Council played a role in the successful Walk Wheel Ride for Dignity (WWRD) demonstration at Queen's Park on September 29<sup>th</sup>. PSPC provides community development, and part of that service is providing guidance and some resources to local organizations in their pursuit of social justice issues.

Our support to WWRD started with attendance at meetings to plan the event, web space for an email address and a location for pick up and drop off of registration forms for WWRD. As the organization gained its feet, and support for the demonstration spread to other communities, PSPC involvement decreased, but we were always there to provide a needed hand.

The morning of the demonstration provided a test for participants. High winds, rain and thunder were evident; however, that did not stop the Raging Grannies from serenading the four busloads of involved and concerned citizens from riding to Toronto. The departure was covered well by CHEX News, and the Peterborough Examiner reported from Queen's Park.

After a stop in Whitby, the Peterborough contingent arrived at Queen's Park to a sunny and windy morning. They joined demonstrators from Ottawa, Sarnia, London and Toronto for a peaceful, yet forceful demonstration of the need to improve the assistance to people with needs.

I spoke with a young security officer who said that he welcomed these

demonstrations, which occur about once a week. He saw the need for people to be able to express themselves in front of the public legislature, and he regretted that so few politicians and no mainstream media were present. Everyone was pleased to see Jeff Leal on the bus from Peterborough and his address to the crowd. Jeff promised to take the issues expressed to the minister.

The WWRD demonstration illustrates well how the PSPC can facilitate giving needy citizens a voice for social justice. Let's hope that in the future we will have the personnel, funds and resources to continue this important work.

By John Bennett, Planning Assistant



### Don't Tell Me What I Need, Ask Me!

#### PSPC Launches Aboriginal Participatory Research Project

In cooperation with the Urban Aboriginal Strategy Circle (UASC), the Peterborough Social Planning Council (PSPC) has initiated a Participatory Research Project to identify the social service needs of Aboriginal people in Peterborough and surrounding area. The Project is funded by a grant received by the Greater Peterborough Community Futures Development Corporation, Local Initiatives Program.

The UASC was initiated by Whitepath Consulting in March of this year in response to the homeless Aboriginal situation in Peterborough. Presently there are no services for homeless Aboriginal men or women in the city. The purpose of the UASC was to help build the capacity of area Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal social service agencies to better respond to the needs of Aboriginal people as well as to strengthen the voice of Aboriginal people living in Peterborough and area.

Paul Bourgeois, an Ojibwe-Anishinabe from Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Sarnia) was hired to coordinate the Project. As a researcher, Paul recently directed three research projects for Aboriginal agencies in Peterborough and Toronto. Paul has also done extensive work in the development of Aboriginal culture and tradition in the Peterborough area as a cultural advisor, traditional teacher, and lecturer in academic institutions and community organizations. As the Coordinator of the Project, Paul will design and organize the research, coordinate focus groups and will present the results in a report at a community meeting. An important aspect of the Project will be the mapping of community assets to help guide the future efforts of organizational and economic development.

In a recent study prepared for Nijkiwendidaa Anishnaabe-Kwewag Services Circle, Paul found that there are 6,315 Aboriginal people living in the city of Peterborough. However, at present, there are eight Aboriginal specific organizations, three of which are educational programs. This is a huge discrepancy between the Aboriginal population and the available services for them. Aboriginal people have been an invisible community in Peterborough. This Research Project is a step toward creating a healthy community that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can share equally and respectfully. Miigwetch (thank you)

by Paul Bourgeois, Project Coordinator

# 15 Key Partnership Principles

**Effective Partnerships Need A Facilitator** – an “Honest Broker”, who is acceptable to all and serving all, and who has the role of bringing the Partnership to life and keeping it going. He/She is a servant and needs training and nurture.

**Effective Partnerships Need A Purpose** – Successful Partnerships develop in order to accomplish a specific vision or task. Partnership for partnership’s sake spells failure. Therefore the focus needs to be on *what* (the objectives) rather than on *how* (the structure). The Function should always come before the Form. Consensus is usually better than Constitution!

**Effective Partnerships recognize that the Exploration and Formation Stages take Time** – These stages are a process and not an event. If you call the Formation Meeting too early, it can be fatal. It is necessary to establish real, personal trust in the exploration phase, and this is best done privately in one-to-one meetings

**Effective Partnerships Start by Identifying Needs, not Writing a Statement of Purpose** – Start by identifying needs, the priorities, the barriers to breakthrough, the resources which are available or needed, and from these distill out realistic priorities for action.

**Effective Partnerships have clear, well-defined Objectives and Goals** – In the early stages of the Partnership, these will need to be limited and achievable, however, they must be significant enough to provide motivation for the group and its individual members. As the partnership experiences success, the objectives and goals which are set should become more significant and challenging.

**Effective Partnerships are made up of partner operations with clear identities and vision** – It is important for the individual partner agencies to be clear

about their Purpose and to have their own clear Mission Statements, otherwise they will have difficulty seeing where they contribute to the overall picture or benefit from the joint effort.

**Effective Partnerships recognize that they have at least Four Constituencies, whose needs must be acknowledged:**

The Target People Group

Leaders & Staff of the Partner Agencies

Supporters of the Partner Agencies

The Partnership Itself

There are more players around the table than we often acknowledge. We dare not forget them and their needs; if we do - the partnership will fail.

**Effective Partnerships have an 'Advocate' for Partnership inside every Partner Agency** – This

“advocate” or “champion” for partnership is a person who sees how their individual operation can benefit from practical cooperation and who will 'sell' the vision to their colleagues in their operation. Without such a person, the commitment of the agency to the Partnership is likely to be half hearted at best.

**Effective Partnerships are even More Challenging to Maintain than to Start**

– It takes long-term commitment and considerable effort to ensure an Partnership continues to be effective. A Partnership needs constant nurturing to keep the Vision alive, the Focus clear, the Communications open and the Outcomes fulfilling.

**Effective Partnerships focus on what they have in common rather than on what makes them different** – It is important for Partnerships to focus on what the agencies have in common: things like vision, values and operation objectives. However, it is also

important to acknowledge- even to celebrate - the differences in the partner agencies histories, vision, resources and services.

**Effective Partnerships maintain a high level of Participation and Ownership by the Partners** – It is critical that facilitators pay attention to the widest possible participation in planning and in the process of meetings; this increases the likely ownership and commitment of the Partners to the common vision.

**Effective Partnerships keep focused on their Ultimate Goals and Vision** – It is often easy to focus on the "means" rather than the "end". It is important to ensure the Partnership keeps focused on the long-term view and does not get distracted by day-to-day operational demands.

**Effective Partnerships are built on trust, openness and mutual concern** – There must be transparent relationships between the partner agencies, and developing such relationships where there is openness, trust and mutual concern, takes time and intentional effort. Partnerships are more than coordination, planning, strategy and tactics.

**Effective Partnerships do not come Free of Charge** – Just participating in the planning and coordinating of the Partnership costs time and money. Deeper commitment involves an even greater investment. However, the return on these "Investments" should more than offset the contributions made.

**Effective Partnerships expect Problems and Plan Ahead** – A process must be built into the Partnership for dealing with changes, exceptions, disappointments, unfulfilled commitments and even for the unexpected!

By Nico Mulder  
Board Member



## Membership/Donation

### Show your support of the PSPC by:

Becoming a Member: **Membership Fee**

Individual Member:  \$10.00 waged

\$ 2.00 unwaged

Organization Member:  \$25.00 to \$50.00

Membership and/or donation entitles you to receive newsletters on social issues and community activities, invitations to events related to social issues and opportunity to vote at the PSPC annual meeting (members only).

Making an **additional Donation** of:

Up to \$35.00 (Friend)

\$36.00—\$99.00 (Contributor)

\$100.00—\$249.00 (Supporter)

\$250.00—\$500.00 (Community Builder)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

Cheque  Cash  Visa

Visa Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Visa Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

D/M/Y

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!** Receipts will be issued for all **Donations** of \$10 or more.

Charitable Registration Number 11909 2047 RR0001

*Please detach and mail membership/donation or drop it off at the PSPC office location.*

## SOUPFEST 2005

### 9th Annual Soupfest for the

### United Way of Peterborough & District

Where: Lion's Centre—347 Burnham Street (East City)

When: Thursday, **OCTOBER 27th**, 2005

from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Tickets: **\$7.00 each**

Tickets are available at the

Peterborough Social Planning Council (PSPC)

187 Simcoe Street (NEW address)

743-5915 & at the Lion's Centre door

*Great Soups/Buns/Breads/Desserts  
contributed by community restaurants/  
businesses and volunteer donors!*

**Sponsored by:** Peterborough Social Planning Council (PSPC)

Community Opportunity & Innovation Network (COIN)

Trent Centre for Community-Based Education (TCCBE)

Peterborough Family Resource Centre (PFRC)



### Garden Cards for Christmas!

We will have our annual fundraiser—GARDEN CARDS—available in time for Christmas.

Surprise the gardener in your family with a \$20.00 Garden Card which entitles them to a 20% discount at a variety of greenhouses and garden centres in the area for all of 2006!

The cards will be available at our new office location at 187 Simcoe Street (across from the bus terminal) in December, just in time for that Christmas stocking.

Thank you from the PSPC staff to the YWCA. They have made a donation-in-kind to the Social Planning Council that we are very grateful to accept. Lynn Zimmer and her YWCA agency have been made permanent members of PSPC as our way of saying thanks!

by Yvonne Burton, Administration & Communication Coordinator