

PETERBOROUGH

Social Planning Council



Special Points of Interest

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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.



The Role of the PETERBOROUGH SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL in the Community

Editorial

In last fall's newsletter I wrote a basic outline on what social planning is. Now I would like to share with you what we do and what our role is in society.

It would be easy to say that the PETERBOROUGH SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL (PSPC) is an organization doing Social Research or that it is working in partnership with the community to bring people together to identify issues and strategies, coordinate actions across agencies and advocate to all the levels of government on behalf of the community.

However such a description, though accurate, is none-the-less a limited vision of our work.

To offer you a more precise image we must give you a historical context of the Social Planning Council in Peterborough County and City.

First of all the PSPC is a **not for profit and non-governmental organization** (NGO) with charitable status under our own Registration Number. It was established in 1977 by a group of residents concerned about community well being.

You can read our mission statement and our vision on the left margin of this publication.

PSPC sets the parameters of its work from other more detailed plans dealing with social issues such as access, cultural diversity, community safety and social community needs.

Over the years the PSPC has proven to be a trusted social research organization. Our main publication, the Peterborough Profile, presents the community with a valuable tool on statistics and social trends.

The PSPC works with community groups and other civic movements to address critical social issues facing the city and county. In carrying out this function, staff and council members provide support, advice and information to a wide range of community organizations providing leadership and facilitation in bringing together key people around a specific problem or issue. Some of this work relates to a wide range of social areas of concern including homelessness, people with disabilities, child poverty, income security, youth, seniors, immigrant and aboriginal issues.

In short, our role in social planning helps to ensure that the community of Peterborough City and County remains a harmonious, safe and healthy place for all.

Your participation is crucial to have a broad and open representation in the voice of the community. To become a council member, please complete the application form on page 4 of this newsletter and submit it to our office.

By Enrique Robert,
Executive Director

Community Consultation with Persons with Disabilities

The Social Planning Council is in the midst of a multi-stage consultation with persons with disabilities and agencies that provide services for persons with disabilities in Peterborough City and County.

The Workforce Development Board and the Council for Persons with Disabilities initiated this study to find out what kinds of services persons with disabilities need, and what prevents them from participating more fully in the community. This information will be used to better meet needs and to improve access and opportunities for persons with disabilities in Peterborough City and County.



We are currently surveying local organizations that provide services for persons with disabilities to gather information on current capacity and future need. We will also create a handbook of services for persons with disabilities that will be available throughout the local area.

We received excellent feedback from the 53 people who attended the five focus groups held in the City and County in April. We were grateful to the participants for their candour, and were pleased that several people provided information that directly assisted others in the groups. The information gathered at the focus groups will be used to create the questionnaire for a broader consultation with persons with disabilities.

This survey will be available the week of May 23rd on the PSPC website, through the PSPC office, and at various locations including agencies serving people with disabilities, libraries, municipal offices, and ODS and Ontario Works offices. For more information or to get a copy of the survey, please contact PSPC at 743-5915 or visit the PSPC website at www.pspc.on.ca or e-mail research@pspc.on.ca.

Please pass on information about this project to anyone you know who is living with a disability.

By Margaret McCutcheon
Research & Policy Analyst



Social Networks and Support Systems: An Examination of Seniors in Havelock

Trent Applied Social Research Project



Once again PSPC has benefited from its connection with Prof. Alan Law's Applied Social Research course at Trent University. The purpose of the project was to explore the extent to which seniors use their social networks (family, friends and neighbours) to provide the care and assistance they need to stay in their own homes, and whether seniors were using these informal supports to make up for a lack of access to the formal service system.

Key findings from the literature review, focus group and interviews include:

People who have active social

relationships and family support are less likely to utilize the formal care system.

Family members are more likely to provide the instrumental (hands-on) support some seniors require to stay in their homes.

Changes in demographics including smaller families, children who live geographically further away from parents, and more women in the workforce, mean families may be less able to provide care to ageing parents.

These findings suggest that demands on the formal service system may increase over time, both for long-term residents whose families do not live locally, and for seniors moving to Peterborough who do not have the same social relationships or local family connections.

PSPC congratulates Crystal Warren, Shannon Bonnici, Maryhelen Smith and Dave Woodall for their first-rate work on the project. We would like to thank the members of our community advisory committee, Len Lifchus (United Way of Peterborough & District), Danielle Belair (Community Care Peterborough), Doreen Anderson Roy (VON), and Marshall Elliott (Peterborough Community Social Plan) for their time and input. We would also like to thank the community members who participated in the focus group in Havelock in January, and the sixteen seniors from Havelock-Belmont-Methuen who agreed to be interviewed for this project.

The final report is available on the PSPC website. (www.pspc.on.ca)

By Margaret McCutcheon
Research and Policy Analyst

Community Development Update

Since our last newsletter, activities in the community development area have concentrated on supporting the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and the Peterborough Affordable Housing Foundation (PAHF). Additionally we have been working on various methods for providing community development support in a more formal and sustained manner.

The CAB has successfully launched three projects that have been funded by the National Housing Initiative, through the Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (II). The first to receive funding was a community capacity building project led by Whitepath to help bring the Aboriginal community together in a more coherent way to focus on

homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. The second project involves the Youth Emergency Shelter (YES) and a plan to increase their capacity to provide transitional housing for youth who are homeless. Finally, the Peterborough Community Chaplaincy project New Beginnings House on Clonsilla has received funding approval and will be providing transitional housing for men returning to society from corrections.

In the near future, CAB will be calling for proposals to expend the remaining funds in projects to address the unmet needs of the Community Plan.

Our assistance to the PAHF continues as the foundation grows and expands its profile and impact on the community. We assisted in providing a workshop last fall to

local non-profits in preparing proposals for affordable housing projects and to set up office space in the Red Cross building at 565 Water Street. Recently, the foundation has been planning an awareness breakfast to introduce the foundation to local business and corporate interests as well as to provide an opportunity for invited speakers to address affordable housing issues and funding.

Over the past months it has been clear that there are ample activities and projects in need of community development support so we will continue to work on plans to provide such support to the community in a coherent and sustainable way.

By John Bennett,
Planning Assistant

Social Determinants of Health

PSPC was pleased to host Joanna Harris, a student from the Trent/Fleming B.Sc.N program, for a Community Health Nursing placement.

Joanna provided support to the Peterborough Coalition for Dental Health Care in organizing a public awareness campaign for Dental Health Month in April.

Joanna also did a remarkable job in creating a public education pamphlet that makes the links between child poverty and the social determinants of health in the Peterborough area. PSPC will be working on this pamphlet over the summer with sub-groups of the Health for Life Coalition – expect to see more this fall!



Peterborough Profile

Our main publication the **Peterborough Profile** is now available.

This year the publication has two formats; the traditional printed copy (\$30.00) and a new CD ROM at (\$20.00).

You can order by calling us at (705) 743-5915 or visiting our office.

It's Membership Renewal Time!



Annual Membership to PSPC is now the calendar year January to December

Renewal Reminder—If you haven't renewed your membership for 2005 please do so now. Just fill out the Membership form and mail or drop it off to our office location with your fee amount.

Your membership in the council is needed and appreciated. Help us to continue our work in and for the city and county of Peterborough —Become A Member (individual or organization). Tell your friends and associates about us and encourage them to join also. Remember, we are working with you, the members of this council, to improve your community because *Social Justice is in Everyone's Interest.*

PETERBOROUGH Social Planning Council

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 action, invitations to events related to social issues and an 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 _____

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Email _____

Method of Payment:

Cheque Cash
 Pre-authorized Cheques 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.

Annual General Meeting

Join us to celebrate
the 2004/2005 Annual General Meeting
of the PETERBOROUGH SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 22nd, 5-7 pm
Public Library Auditorium

This year's theme is: *Count Me In!*

The keynote speaker for the evening is **Michael Fay**, who after twenty years at Toronto Public Health with a focus on marginalized populations, is now the Coordinator of **Count Me In!**, a health and inclusion initiative of the Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse. Michael is also a writer and playwright. Michael is going to talk about the new health promotion strategy that highlights the relationship between inclusion and health: **Count Me In!**

What is an inclusive society?

A society where everyone belongs creates both the feeling and the reality of belonging and helps each of us reach our full potential.

*The **feeling** of belonging comes through caring, cooperation, and trust.*

*The **reality** of belonging comes through equity and fairness, social and economic justice, and cultural as well as spiritual respect.*