

PETERBOROUGH

Social Planning Council

News

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Watch for details of our upcoming
30th Anniversary Celebration
March 2008,
to recognize our 30 years of
service and support
to the Peterborough
City and County!

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.

30 Years 1977-2007

www.pspc.on.ca



Executive Director's Comments

We have had an exciting and busy year at the Peterborough Social Planning Council with the completion of six research projects including the Quality of Life Report and United Way Community Profile. We continue to provide public education related to poverty and social issues affecting citizens and support community development initiatives focusing on income security, food security, child care, affordable housing, and health issues. Our work as a partner in the creation of a Native Friendship Centre and Aboriginal Strategy Circle of the Kawartha's continues and that these additional services will be available to citizens living in the City and County of Peterborough. We are pleased to be a partner with the City and County in moving the Community Social Plan forward particularly in Havelock, Belmont, Methuen and Harvey, Cavendish, Buckhorn.

I look forward to the year ahead in continuing with our work to provide relevant and useful social research, and create a database of information that includes updated statistics of the City and County of Peterborough. As well, we will continue to provide information and a facilitative role in supporting coalitions and community groups and act as a catalyst for social change by promoting that "**Social Justice is in everyone's interest**".

by Brenda Dales, Executive Director

Mayor's Action Committee on Poverty Reduction

The PSPC has been involved as a partner and facilitator of the community public consultations on poverty that were held in May and June of this year to discover first hand, what the citizens felt were the needs of the people living in poverty and the working poor as well as recommend some short and long term possible actions to reduce poverty.

Our task since then has been to compile the data, produce a report and summary from those meetings. This information is now available from the City in the form of the "Mayor's Task Force on Poverty Reduction" report and the "Mayor's Task Force on Poverty Reduction Executive Summary" report.

Currently we are a member of the Short Term Services Working Group, which is facilitating and working with the City and Social Service departments to inform the Mayor and Councillors about some of the recommendations arising from the report that can be put into action as quickly as possible.

This is an ongoing effort by the community politicians, staff, agencies and numerous volunteers who want to effect positive change in the lives of people who are themselves working to improve their situations.

PSPC Participating in the Community



Partnerships, Working Groups and Committees:

- **Aboriginal Strategy Circle of the Kawarthas (ASCK):** PSPC is a resource and member, working together to identify the service needs of Aboriginal People living in the Peterborough area.
- **Community Initiative project:** Facilitate the community meetings in partnership with the city, a number of coalitions and citizens to develop a model of outreach and support for citizens that don't have access or are not aware of services, information, and resources.
- **Community Food Action Group:** Facilitate the monthly community meetings to discuss how the community can continue to provide meals, and shelter for people living in poverty. Working with faith groups to develop mechanisms to offer meal programs in neighbourhoods throughout Peterborough. Member of Poverty Trust Fund group and Community Centre initiative. Started to develop an inventory of Emergency Funding available in the community.
- **Committee Member:** Food for Kids and Health for Life - Health Unit; LHIN Community Partners Network, Affordable Housing Review Committee, Abuse Prevention of Older Adults Network, Peaceful Communities Group (Chair), Community Social Plan Steering Committee
- **Community Social Data Consortium:** enables the Social Planning Council and partners, including the City and County, to access, cost-effectively, data from the Statistics Canada and other departments.
- **Peterborough Oral Health Coalition:** Active members, created a \$10,000.00 Dental Health fund for citizens who do not have access to dental care plans. Community focal point for mobilizing those groups most affected by issues into working and problem solving partnerships information networks and action coalitions.
- **Healthy Aging Committee:** working with a community partnership lead by St. Joseph's Care Foundation to plan a week of events supporting healthy aging (June 2008)
- **Healthy Communities:** committed to working in partnership with agencies like the PCCHU to promote the development of healthy communities.
- **World Planning Initiative:** work with the Ontario Provincial Planners Institute to celebrate World Planning Day on November 8, 2007.

Community Benefits

- leadership in addressing social issues and poverty affecting citizens
- research and policy analysis work for the City and County of Peterborough, particularly on services that have been downloaded skills to identify, report on and monitor social issues and trends, a voice for social policy and for people who are vulnerable and marginalized
- expertise in bringing people together to address issues
- professional, non-partisan research on social issues
- facilitate and support opportunities for socio-economic development



Assisting the United Way

In 2006, the Peterborough Social Planning Council (PSPC) was asked to lead a community process that will assist the United Way of Peterborough & District to develop:

- A communication plan for the 2006 campaign and further,
- A long-range strategy to address the urgent and the emergent social issues of this community.

Through community consultation with the United Way agencies, the PSPC was able to monitor the changing trends and stresses documented in service delivery. This information was then used by the United Way to build its' 2006 campaign.

In 2007, the PSPC built on the work completed the previous year and surveyed the United Way agencies again to see if the issues identified in 2006 were still current and/or if there were changes in the community that must be documented.

The United Way of Peterborough and Area utilizes the findings in their ongoing community planning.



Quality of Life Report for the City and County of Peterborough

The intent of this report is to build on the work of the Community Social Plan, provide a snapshot of how things have changed in the 13 sectors, build a database, and more...

Some of the Key Findings:

Access to arts, culture, heritage and recreation: The number of users of programs offered through the City of Peterborough's Recreation Division has increased from 24,140 in 2000 to 27,890 in 2005.

Access to Health: The number of long-term care beds has increased from 912 in 2000 to 1,082 in 2006

Accessibility: The number of handi-vans has increased

Child care and child development: The city of Peterborough Social Services reports that the childcare programs service approximately 3,000 children each year.

Community Involvement: In 2002, 2,402 people requested criminal clearance checks for volunteering. This had increased to 3,203 in 2005.

Economic/Income Security: Between 1971 and 2001 the number of acres classified as farmland declined by 61,179 acres in Peterborough County.

Environment: 48% of residential waste has been diverted from landfill through recycling and composting programs.

Food Security: Food bank usage has increased by over 34% in the Greater Peterborough Area.

Housing: In 2000 the average price of a single family residence was \$132,052. In 2005, this had increased to \$205,349.

Human Rights: The number of new clients served by the New Canadians' Centre has increased from 130 in 2002 to 206 in 2006.

Safe Communities: In 2005, the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service seized a total value of street drugs worth \$17,623,335

Seniors/Aging: In 2005/06 Community Care Peterborough delivered 30,600 meal units (frozen and meals-on-wheels)

Transportation: The City of Peterborough transit system underwent significant improvements as of the fall of 2006 which introduced Sunday service, new routes and extended evening service.

Copies of the full report are available for \$10 print or download the summary from our website Publications.

PSPC Participating in the Community

What we have accomplished

Research Reports

- Quality of Life Report, City and County of Peterborough, January 2007
- Prince of Wales Study — To create an integrated service system model that to maximize capacity for at risk students to be successful at school, January 2007
- Don't Tell Me Ask Me — A Participatory Research Project Aboriginal Needs Assessment Report, June 2006
- Consultation Report on Persons with Disabilities research and Community Resource Guide for the Council for Persons With Disabilities and the Workforce Development Board, April 2006
- United Way Member Agency Community Profile , August 2006
- Best Start Child Care Needs Assessment, December 2007
- Completing Information and Data registry for Children Services tables in the four counties for the Ministry of Community and Social Services Request to complete a Poverty Cost Study for the City and County of Peterborough.
- Child Care Service Plan 2007

PSPC Participating in the Community

Social Research

Undertake independent research on social trends needs and issues relevant to a variety of constituencies in their communities

Community Development

Facilitate and support positive change in partnership with community groups and individuals.

Systems Planning

Coordination and evaluation of program and service delivery to the definition of service needs

Community Partnerships & Collaboration

Providing a community focal point for mobilizing those groups most affected by issues into working and problem solving partnerships, information networks and action coalitions.

Policy Analysis & Development

Providing access to both professional and voluntary expertise on a wide range of social, economic and cultural issues enables us to provide sophisticated policy analysis and research-based proposals to public policy-makers at the local, provincial and federal levels.

Convening & Facilitating

Provide a non-threatening "meeting place" for discussion and resolution of difficult community issues. Facilitate the building of community consensus on issues and/or shared actions.

Community Awareness & Education

Promote broader and deeper community understanding on social development issues, which affect certain groups or the general quality of community life.

Ongoing & Upcoming Fundraisers



Garden Cards at a 20% Discount

The Garden Card costs \$20.00 and you receive a 20% discount on gardening materials at participating Garden Centres and Greenhouses from January to December 31st 2008. Each Centre has their own list of what qualifies for the 20% discount at their establishments and there's always plenty of variety.

The participants for 2008 are:

Blossom Hill Services, Burley's Gardening Pick Me Ups, Gardens Plus, Griffin's Greenhouses, Johnston's Greenhouse & Garden Centre, Peterboro Landscape Supply and Rural Routes at the Peterborough Co-op.

Buy your card at The Avant-Garden Shop, Burley's Gardening Pick Me Ups, Gardens Plus, Happenstance Books & Yarns in Lakefield, Peterboro Landscape Supply, Titles Bookstore and of course, our office.

Think of that gardener in your life (friend, mom, dad, grandparents, boss, teacher) and surprise them with a year of garden supply shopping, for everything from spring bulbs to Christmas poinsettias!



Another gift idea for you...

T-Shirts

The PSPC has launched a new item for fund and friend raising. We want you to look great while you support us throughout the community!

We have quality T-Shirts available with our tag line of

"social justice is in everyone's interest"

They are for sale at a cost of \$15.00 (no tax) in sizes Small/Medium/Large/XL.

The colour is Yellow Haze and is equally appealing to men and women.

The T's are available at our office at 187 Simcoe Street (across from the Bus Terminal).

We often have them featured in our Community Window. Come by and check them out in person.

