

PETERBOROUGH

Social Planning Council

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Mission Statement

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

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 understanding that social justice is in everyone's interest.



Member Agency

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



A message from the President

A Year of Learning What the PSPC Can Do!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been a pleasure being Chair of the Board of Directors over this past year. We have had a very busy, challenging and rewarding year. We focused our efforts in enhancing the public awareness for the agency as it was identified that there was a need for the community to understand what our agency was about.

In addition we completed our new Peterborough Profile which has been seen as ground breaking and a model which other communities are emulating. The newly developed Info Notes were developed by staff to inform agencies and individuals about various issues affecting the lives of those who live in our community. The Quality of Life reports have been prepared by PSPC staff as part of a city/county initiative to identify the needs of its citizenry. The agency continues to offer its research capacity to develop a clear picture of community needs and evaluation of programs and research.

I would like to thank all of the board members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to PSPC. I would also like to applaud the very fine, thorough and professional work of the staff. Of special note is the exceptional job of the Executive Director, Brenda Dales who has worked with vision, skill and commitment to ensuring that both the Peterborough Social Planning Council and Our Space functioned well. I have appreciated working as chair to support all these fine efforts.

Julie Dotsch
Chair

Activities/Services for 2008-2009

PCVS Fostering Interest in Community Research

The PSPC worked with Peterborough Collegiate Vocational School (PCVS) to instill interest in social research for the students of the "Challenge and Change in Society" course. Research Associate Robin Steed helped with the development and presentation of the course. The students developed research skills as well as critical thinking and an understanding of social policy applications. Research from the students assisted in the analysis of the Peterborough Profile.

YWCA

In 2007, the YWCA applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for funding. The purpose of the OTF grant was to explore whether the YWCA is still meeting the needs of the community and the needs of women and children experiencing violence and abuse in their lives. The intent was to conduct research that would enable the YWCA to design programming for a new shelter, which will ensure that its shelter and counseling programs truly are turning points for women, and meet the needs of current clients. The PSPC was commissioned to undertake this research and develop strategic recommendations.



Executive Director's Report

We had another busy year and exciting year at the Peterborough Social Planning Council. Our involvement with our Poverty Reduction work, Our Space Community Centre, Food Action Network, and Community Social Plan has been rewarding.

We were very pleased with the work we completed on our Peterborough Profile as we were able to expand the document to include specific information for each township as well as the City of Peterborough. Our aim was to provide a document that keeps the community up to date on trends and issues affecting citizens and can be used as a planning tool by citizens, municipal government, community based organizations and businesses alike.

One of our greatest accomplishments this year was working with community citizens to move Our Space Community Centre from a dream to a reality. Our Space opened its doors in December.

Our work convening groups, addressing social issues, providing research and policy analysis as well as identifying, reporting and monitoring community trends is done in order to assist our community, to plan a Peterborough County and City that meets the needs of the people who work, live and play here.

It continues to be a pleasure and privilege to work as part of a team with staff, board members, agency volunteers and the community groups. I would like to thank everyone for their support, knowledge, time and commitment to social justice and poverty reduction and community planning for Peterborough County and City.

I look forward to the year ahead in continuing with our work to provide relevant and useful social research, as well as continuing 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*".

Brenda Dales, Executive Director

WORKING WITH THE UNITED WAY OF PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT

Providing support to the United Way as it undertook a review of its funding priorities:

The United Way of Peterborough & District conducted community consultations in both the County and the City of Peterborough. The board of the United Way strove to ensure that their funding priorities clearly match the identified community needs throughout the County and City. It was deemed important to talk to the residents of each township, as well as the city, to ensure that the 228 programs and services currently funded by United Way are still needed, as well as identifying new initiatives for funding consideration.

The objectives of the consultation were:

- To consult with each township, the city and community partners
- To provide a venue for local citizens to provide input into the appropriateness of the existing funding priorities
- To assess the currency of the 13 sectors of the community social plan

The Peterborough Social Planning Council attended the sessions and prepared the final report that will be reviewed by the board of the United Way of Peterborough & District.

Third Year of Working with the United Way of Peterborough & District to Monitor the Community's Agenda:

Through community consultation with the United Way agencies, the PSPC was able to monitor the changing trends and stresses documented in service delivery for the third year.

Continuing this community capacity building exercise, the PSPC surveyed the United Way Agencies. The goals of this year's survey are:

- To build a database that describes trends in service delivery.
- To collect success stories and testimonials that will assist the United Way and the community market the work of our agencies.



Community Development & Partnerships



The Health for Life Coalition

The PSPC continues to partner with the Health for Life Coalition to promote the concept of the healthy community. The goals are to promote:

- Increased access to Food
- Increased access to transportation
- Improved Neighbourhoods
- Increased adult literacy

Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration

The PSPC is one of the founding members of the Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration. The intent of the Partnership Council is to develop a comprehensive immigration integration strategy to achieve the following :

- Improve access to and coordination of immigrant integration services
- Improve labour market outcomes for immigrants
- Strengthen local awareness and capacity to successfully integrate and retain immigrants

Partnering With the Workforce Development Board

The PSPC is a partner in assessing the issues of the aging labour force. Specifically the research is addressing:

- Which industries/occupations in the WDB region will be experiencing labour shortages due to retirements of baby boomers?
- How will this change over time due to demographics and the trend of de-industrialization?
- What strategies would assist with maintaining older worker contributions to the labour force throughout the WDB Region?

Social Research

We undertook independent research on social trends, needs and issues relevant to a variety of constituencies in their communities.

Peterborough Profile Released

This 7th edition was released in February, 2009. Compiled from such reliable sources as Statistics Canada, Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation, Canada Revenue Agency and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. **The Peterborough Profile 2009** offers comparative and detailed local information on community change, housing, families, income, employment, education, population and diversity trends. The profile provides a dynamic tool for local governments, businesses and voluntary agencies to assist them to identify and address local social and economic issues; it poses a number of questions that community planners should be considering as we prepare for the future.

InfoNotes – Informing the Community

In keeping with our belief that to have a truly healthy community we must remove the barriers to full inclusion and involvement in our society, the PSPC is preparing monthly InfoNotes. The intent is to circulate information on new initiatives, trends and policies/reports of which the broader community should be made aware. To date 18 InfoNotes have been broadcast. A number of community agencies and organizations have requested that an InfoNote be developed on an issue of importance to the community.

Review of Network of Coalitions

Fleming student Emma Lander completed her placement and documented the network of coalitions existing in the community, as comprehensively as was possible given the varying information available.

Roots of Poverty Report

In support of the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty Reduction the PSPC worked with a local committee to document trends and issues related to income and economic standing in the Peterborough community. The Roots of Poverty Report is 144 pages in length and provides the basis for planning activities and social analysis on the issues of poverty. It is available for download on our website: www.pspc.on.ca.

*The Peterborough Social Planning Council acknowledges
the
generous support of*

United Way of Peterborough & District

City of Peterborough

County of Peterborough

Numerous Businesses and Community Members who contributed to making our International Feast and Soupfest huge successes!

**Special thanks to the many contributors
who anonymously and faithfully support our work
both financially and as volunteers**



Current Community Work



Social Impact Study on 407

The PSPC is developing a Social Impact Study on the 407 to create discussions with Peterborough residents and Peterborough business leaders to look at the positive and negative aspects of this development. Research began in the Spring of 2009 and will be completed in the Fall.

Tackling the Issue of Opioids

In April, 2009, the PSPC partnered with a network of community agencies to host a meeting on the issue of opioid drug use in Peterborough. The purpose of this meeting was to be a catalyst for community change. Proceedings from the session documented the messages from 13 presenters. A community process is now underway to develop strategies to address the recommendations from the community.

Working with the Trent Centre for Community Based Education:

We continue to support the work of the Trent Centre for Community Based Education by participating on the advisory committee. The PSPC hosted a project with nursing students of the Trent/Fleming nursing program.

The goals were

- To create a student placement to raise awareness about the education needs of staff in retirement homes to support seniors aging in place.
- To perform a needs assessment to understand what gaps exist in Retirement Homes surrounding healthy aging and dementia.
- To spread awareness in the community that memory loss and dementia behaviour is NOT a normal part of the aging process

Supporting the Senior’s Summit

The City of Peterborough co-hosted with the PSPC the community’s first Seniors Summit on June 18, 2009. The intent of the summit was to:

- Provide an information fair for seniors and caregivers,
- Present key trends in the aging of our community
- Gain insight into what we must do as a community meet the needs of the growing number seniors living in our area.



OUR SPACE Community Drop In Centre

The City of Peterborough Social Services Division has opened a community ‘drop in centre’ in partnership with Peterborough Social Planning Council. The PSPC has been the lead sponsor organization to provide the service component at the drop-in centre working with “Our Space”. This is a grassroots volunteer organization that is committed to the development and delivery of a drop-in program that supports the needs of low-income and marginalized individuals in our community. A number of other community social service and health organizations assist in the design and delivery of the services at the centre. Light snacks are provided and access to information and community resources have been incorporated into the program plan. The drop in centre is currently located in the lower level of Brock Mission at 217 Murray Street and operates seven days a week.

*Board of Directors
2008/2009*

- Julie Dotsch , Chair
- Christine Diaz , Secretary
- Peter Moore, Treasurer
- Linda Slavin, Past Chair
- Sharon Courts
- Meredith Soper
- Peter Hewett
- Roy Brady
- Dorothy Boddy
- Marisa Conlin
- Maureen McGarity
- Linda Conway

*Volunteers and
Students
2008—2009*

- Barrie Cope
- Barry Boyce
- Neil Hill
- Travis Kendall
- Holly Kristensen
- Jason Markwick
- Debjani Mitra
- Lori Sainte
- Cara Walsh
- Frances Wilbur
- Dave Woodall
- Carol Winter
- Margaret Wright
- Dr. James Struthers
- Christine Quinn

Staff

- Brenda Dales**
Executive Director
- Dawn Berry Merriam**
Research & Policy Analyst
- Robin Steed**
Research Associate
- Yvonne Burton**
Administration & Communication
Coordinator *

*staff who left during year