



**Proceedings from the Municipal All-Candidates Meeting
Peterborough county and city**



October 16, 2014

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Executive Summary

An all-candidates meeting was held on October 16, 2014 at the Evinrude Centre.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To provide an opportunity for members of the public to discuss a variety of social issues with City and County candidates for Mayor, Councillor’s and School Board Trustees.
- To capture key ideas, issues and recommendations from the round-table discussions and share them with the general public following the meeting.

The following recommendations were developed during that evening’s discussions:

Sector	Recommendations to the Municipality:
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire more inspectors and simplify complaint process re. enforcement of housing standards • (require that) all candidates/councillors read the 10 Year Housing and Homeless Plan • Make housing for low income people a priority-put other big issues on the back burner • Provide incentives for home owners who wish to offer low rents to "working poor" • (provide) incentives for repurposing/rehabilitating older houses • Consider the County as more of a partner- (eg) accessing lower cost land • Provide tax breaks for private landlords to improve housing • Address arrears by increasing funding for the Housing Stability Fund • Study the value of rent controls
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize local food production through various mechanisms both in the city and in the county and offer that food at subsidized rates so that people living on low income can access it. Local food is too expensive for people living in poverty. • Establish an Advisory Committee on Food Security to put food on the municipal agenda and make recommendations to municipalities on various food related themes. This could lead, for instance to the creation of a Food Charter in each municipality. • (Educate) kids and youth about food and nutrition, particularly within the school system. Weave that education into the school curriculum. • Promote broader participation within community gardens. • Emphasize the importance of supporting healthy food, from arenas to schools • Increase support (i.e. land) for Community Gardens • (Encourage) municipalities to have a role to plan for provincial and federal support and strategies so everyone can afford healthy, nutritious food. • Invest in affordable, safe housing is critical. More affordable housing and rent subsidies are needed. • (recognize that) investment today in prevention rather than later downstream is critical.

Sector	Recommendations to the Municipality:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (understand that) stable funding for programs such as the Nourish Project are is important so that supports are available. • Support local farmers markets. • (increase) procurement of local food in contracts i.e. hospital, schools. A percentage of local food (ie 10%) could be included that needs to be sourced locally. • (encourage that) nutritious food needs to be available at municipally run facilities. Healthy options must be priced equally. This could be included in contracts.
<p>Healthy communities: physical and mental health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay committed to emergency housing benefits • Address problems with transportation to children’s activities, for example buses running free at peak times for children and seniors as they are already on the road anyhow and are not full – municipality to subsidize • (keep) Schools open up from 6:30pm-8:30pm on weeknights for youth activities (HUBS) • (Candidates and community members at table) support the idea for a Mental Health Planning Table • Address “Necessary Benefits” as opposed to “Discretionary Benefits” • (develop) an inventory of recreational opportunities for children and youth that includes what is subsidized and what is not. (This should be included in the already existing recreation guide, on the City website, and on the Health Unit website.) • (develop) more supportive housing in Peterborough as well as affordable housing • Address the lack of crisis support workers in Peterborough • (improve) outdoor spaces • (increase) winter opportunities • (increase) community awareness of mental health issues • Consider city having ability to shift funding for individuals to address priorities • (encourage) collective outputs • (increase) partnerships between public and private • (encourage) innovative approaches to issues not just seeking additional government funding • Create a mental health planning table that will start collaborating and integrating (services) to move forward on decreasing stigma and redirecting recovery; include police, health and social service providers, health unit, media, service users, older adults, youth and families • Influence planning that will enhance cohesive, walkable neighbourhoods with small schools, green spaces and services at the hub • Enhance walkable links/bike paths between neighbourhoods
<p>Social Assistance, Housing and Discretionary Benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse living wage philosophy • Bring in jobs that pay living wage • Provide tax incentives for jobs that provide living wage • Implement the 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan • Use some of the upload savings to increase discretionary benefits

Sector	Recommendations to the Municipality:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable more dense development • Housing stability focus: investment in the community (results in) cost savings to the system • Keep urging the province to complete its housing responsibility • (develop) zoning assistance by encouraging developers to provide some affordable units (like Vancouver has done) • (provide) relief for heat/hydro as part of arrears • (host) summit of all stakeholders to create a public fund • Enhance mixed income housing • Increase supply to avoid price spirals • Get transfer payments increased • (re-introduce) rent controls in municipality if possible • Listen to and locate real housing complaints • (develop) safe secondary suites • Volunteer to help to improve housing supply • (address) unfair water costs • (take) rent payments directly from OW/ODSP for people needing that (support) • Add social housing from existing spots, in partnership with the province • Bolster property standards enforcement (staff) • Use health unit as a resource and enforcement
Employment Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop affordable day care • continue the work on the Diversity Portfolio to expand and attract culturally/ socially/ economically diverse businesses in the downtown core • work with underemployed and underutilized groups to expand employment opportunities i.e. part time workers (25% of workers are part time) and older adults • provide a range of supports including financial to help establish new small business/entrepreneur opportunities • work with businesses, Trent and Fleming to help develop/train the skilled workforce that we need • strengthen existing businesses with ideas such as Peterborough Content and redirecting a percentage of Economic Development budget to help existing businesses grow • make Peterborough the number 1 destination spot for employment development • establish an multifaceted Employment/Jobs Task force • redevelop manufacturing making use of local opportunities • develop knowledge economy- Arts and Culture, Aboriginal, Scientific research opportunities • develop green industry • support Entrepreneurs - Youth Economic Summit

Sector	Recommendations to the Municipality:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attract business and support existing businesses • (develop) apprenticeship programmes • Tap into government subsidies • Remove parking metres downtown to attract people to the downtown • Promote good things about what is happening in the downtown • Make labour force data available – plan beyond 5 years • Do not train people for jobs that will not be available • Create a youth networking system that is youth driven (and builds on) the Peterborough Youth Council; make it a movement rather than a council. • attract business and support existing businesses • (develop) apprenticeship programmes • Tap into government subsidies • Remove parking metres downtown to attract people to the downtown • Promote good things about what is happening in the downtown • Make labour force data available – plan beyond 5 years • Do not train people for jobs that will not be available • Create a youth networking system that is youth driven (and builds on) the Peterborough Youth Council; make it a movement rather than a council. • (provide) fair compensation to businesses for expanding their business (physical space) • (support) a living wage • (develop) social assistance subsidy to (help people) keep housing • (provide) rent supplements for people who cannot afford rent • Consider what type of jobs we want to attract and make sure people ;have skills to obtain these jobs • (develop/enhance) infrastructure to support getting/maintaining employment (i.e. transportation, supporting people with disabilities) • (conduct) the cost benefit analysis of investing in economic development • (encourage) tourists to spend money (in our community) • (develop) activities/entertainment to attract/retain youth • (develop) inter-municipal co-operation to support (economic development)
Age Friendly Community: Senior's Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve sidewalk maintenance and increase snow clearing; clean the sidewalks so there is less clutter for the sight-impaired and frail seniors • (specifically) Improve sidewalks in the downtown • Increase radius of the curbs, especially in downtown for better traffic flow • Improve lighting • Increase walking trails • (provide) more benches • (increase) recreational activities • (document) how much of the city's budget is allocated to seniors • Develop more creative solutions to housing • Encourage smaller neighbourhood approach (to planning our community) • (develop) an office for seniors in city hall • (encourage) collaboration between public and private sector services

Sector	Recommendations to the Municipality:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (redesign the system as) people are falling between the cracks
Safe & Inclusive Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop volunteer programme to assist police services with petty crimes and provide ‘eyes on the street’ • Set the tone for compassion and inclusiveness in Peterborough • Improve partnerships with the province • Fund more celebrations of different cultures • Commit funding for the New Canadian Centre • Support champions who make a difference • Review budgets to ensure (we build) an inclusive and safe community
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain sidewalks and clear them in winter • (Encourage) council members to set example and ride the bus, walk or ride bike to work • Implement the recommendations of recent transportation plans • Develop a new culture on council and do not run the city as a business • Ensure that (council understands that) transit is an essential service • (evaluate) the grid system vs hub system • Clear snow from bus stops • Work with the county (to develop a transportation system) • Act on studies • Develop a thorough review of integrating city and county systems • Increase frequency of buses • (ensure) that buses are accessible for all • (increase) the number of bus shelters • (improve) efficiency of transit system • (encourage(every councillor to spend 2 weeks exclusively using the public bus system • Capitalize on economic benefits of cycling tourism • (develop) a better strategy for roadway and sidewalk retrofits • (explore) how to move people round Peterborough more efficiently • (develop) a different system of transit so that all buses do not come back to the terminal • Revamp the handivan system completely

Proceedings from Municipal All-Candidates Meeting October 16, 2014

Background:

An all-candidates meeting was held on October 16, 2014 at the Evinrude Centre.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To provide an opportunity for members of the public to discuss a variety of social issues with City and County candidates for Mayor, Councillor's and School Board Trustees.
- To capture key ideas, issues and recommendations from the round-table discussions and share them with the general public following the meeting.

Event Sponsors:

- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- United Way,
- Peterborough County City Health Unit
- Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network
- Peterborough Community Legal Centre,
- Peterborough Council on Aging
- Peterborough YWCA
- Affordable Housing Action Committee
- Workers Action Centre
- Citizen Advocates

Approach:

A series of background papers were developed on the following themes:

- Housing security
- Social assistance: housing and discretionary benefits
- Employment development
- Food security
- Public transportation
- Age-friendly communities
- Safe and inclusive communities
- Healthy communities, physical and mental health

Housing

Housing is the largest household expenditure. Housing is an important determinant of health. No one should have to choose between eating and paying the rent.

Housing also impacts on the ability of individuals to engage within the community. Low-income households with high housing costs will be unable to afford recreation and other activities that foster a child's development. Low-income families live where they can afford to live, not necessarily where they would choose to live. This has an effect on all aspects of their lives including educational outcomes for children, and social, cultural and economic involvement.

Research has clearly demonstrated the stabilizing effect of safe and affordable housing. It is not surprising that this effect diminishes as housing costs relative to income increase.

While housing can be described in terms of market rents, resale average prices, new construction starts, housing age or new house prices, one of the best ways to describe housing is in terms of the economic demand, or burden, placed upon households in order to afford their housing. 'Housing burden' can be defined by the percentage of income required for a household to meet its housing needs. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, no more than 30% of a household's combined gross income should be expended in order for the housing to be considered "affordable". While 48.1% of renter households in the Peterborough CMA are considered to be in 'core housing need' (i.e. spending in excess of 30% of household income on shelter costs), 17.8% of owner households are in core housing need.

Housing burden in Peterborough is relatively high. This is because while average market rents in Peterborough do not appear to be excessive when compared to other Ontario municipalities of similar size, Peterborough *incomes are lower* making the shelter-to-income ratio (or housing burden) higher. Peterborough's median income from all sources, its median employment income, and its median household income are all lower than other Ontario communities of similar size and characteristics. More than 29,000 people have annual incomes below \$15,000. The median tenant household income in Peterborough is \$32,000.

Average Private Market Rents & Required Minimum Income in Peterborough

	Rent	Hourly Wage	Annual
Bachelor	\$622	\$12.76	\$24,880
1 bedroom	\$778	\$15.96	\$31,120
2 bedroom	\$915	\$18.77	\$36,600
3 bedroom	\$1,085	\$22.26	\$43,400

Source: Affordable Housing Action Committee, National Housing Survey, Peterborough CMA, 2011, Statistics Canada

More than 50% of Peterborough's renter households cannot afford the median rental shelter cost of \$850 per month. Approximately 60% of renter households cannot afford the average market rent of a two bedroom apartment at \$915 per month.

The high housing burden in Peterborough is reflected in the increasing number of tenants facing eviction for arrears of rent. See Housing and Discretionary Benefits Backgrounder for more information. This is a local problem that should not be ignored by municipal government.

Rent controls in the province have been weakened since the early 1990's. For example, a landlord is allowed to increase rents by any amount on vacant units. Rental units created since 1991 are not subject to rent controls either when they are occupied or vacant. As a result, rents in Peterborough have increased at a rate that exceeds increases to income supports such as Ontario Works, ODSP, Old Age Security and CPP. Furthermore, this means that rent supplements alone, without rent controls, will not solve the housing burden problem.

Social Housing and Emergency Shelter Facts:

- In Peterborough there are close to 1,900 social housing units. Many of these are rent-geared-to-income units. But there are close to 1,500 names on the waiting list for social housing. It is unlikely that this wait list reflects the true need in the community. Many families refuse to add their names to the list when they are told about the multi-year wait times for their name get to the top of the list.
- Three emergency shelters in Peterborough provided 20,790 bed days in 2013.
- The average number of individuals sheltered each night was 57. This is an increase from 47 in 2011 and does not include those individuals who, for various reasons, are unable to stay in a shelter and who remain on the street.
- The total cost of providing emergency shelter to homeless individuals and families in 2013 was \$1.2 million, of which the municipality contributed \$190,500

Housing Questions:

1. What should the municipality do to make housing more affordable for low and middle income households?
2. What actions can the municipality take to reduce the number of evictions due to arrears of rent?
3. Should the municipality purchase existing structures and repurpose these for rent-geared-to-income housing?
4. Should the municipality advocate with the province to reinstate rent controls?

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: John Martyn

Theme: Housing

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Need for reinforcement of housing standards
- Housing is a priority for low income people
- Much private rental housing is shoddy
- Rents are too high for most renters
- Absentee landlords
- Inadequate housing development appropriate for population
- Mixed opinions on rent controls from 2 people who understood the issue

Recommendations to the Municipality:

- Hire more inspectors and simplify complaint process re. enforcement of housing standards
- (require that) all candidates/councillors read the 10 Year Housing and Homeless Plan
- Make housing for low income people a priority-put other big issues on the back burner
- Provide incentives for home owners who wish to offer low rents to "working poor"
- (provide) incentives for repurposing/rehabilitating older houses

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: John Martyn

Theme: Housing

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Relationship between high rents and cost of transportation
- Student housing: rents; poor condition; absentee landlords; getting maintenance
- Role of the private sector as a player in rental housing
- Lack of options and flexibility in rental housing
- Tenant and landlord rights
- Lack of education in how to maintain housing (lifestyle issue)

Recommendations to the Municipality:

- Consider the County as more of a partner- (eg) accessing lower cost land
- Provide tax breaks for private landlords to improve housing
- Address arrears by increasing funding for the Housing Stability Fund
- Study the value of rent controls

Comments

Educating the community about rental housing is really needed. Participants knew that rental housing is a serious issue but, in general, were unable to offer specific suggestions. The 2 County candidates were much

better informed than the city candidates. Three students in Round 2 talked passionately about the poor condition of rental housing and how absentee private landlords rip off students. The backgrounders were well received but it was hard to keep focus on the questions because they required more understanding and I didn't want to use up the time explaining. One person spoke about the challenges of paying high municipal taxes faced by a private homeowner trying to offer a lower rent to working people. Folks were certainly engaged!!

Food Security

The Peterborough Community Food Network has the following vision of Food Security for Peterborough City and County:

A community enjoys food security when:

- all people, at all times, have physical & economic access to nutritious, safe, personally and culturally appropriate foods,
- food is produced in ways that are environmentally sound, socially just, and promote community self-reliance,
- food is provided in a manner that promotes human dignity.

There is significant concern in Peterborough that many people in our community are not food secure. Community members living in poverty experience a range of food insecurity from *food insecure*, defined as worrying about running out of food, to *severe food insecurity* defined as children not eating for a whole day. In Peterborough, 11.5 % of households are food insecure with 5.0% categorized as severe. Households with children have a higher food insecurity rate than households without children. This data was not collected from First Nations or homeless people, so we can conclude that many more community members are affected.

The Nutritious Food Basket survey conducted annually in Peterborough includes a review of a variety of incomes and basic expenses for families and individuals living in Peterborough. The 2013 survey found that people living on a median income would have to spend 12% of their monthly income to afford a Nutritious Food Basket. However, a single parent with two children, receiving Ontario Works would have to spend 32% of her income to afford the Nutritious Food Basket, or over twice that of their middle class counterpart.

People living on low incomes find that after paying for rent and utility, there is not enough money to buy nourishing food. No matter how much people try to juggle, it is impossible to make ends meet, so people have to buy less and poor quality food. For example, a single person living on Ontario Works would find themselves spending \$214 more than they have if they purchased nourishing food (-\$231 per month). The reality is that they must pay rent and go without adequate food.

Adults and children of all ages in food-insecure households consume less fruit, vegetables, and milk products when compared with those in food-secure households. Food-insecure individuals' dietary patterns are dictated by income, with social assistance recipients particularly vulnerable.

To address this desperate issue, some people turn to food banks. In Peterborough, monthly food bank use has consistently increased since 2000. There were 7724 visits to Peterborough City and County food banks in March 2013. Although the number of people using food banks has decreased since 2012, it is still 20% higher than it was in 2008. Forty per cent of local food bank users are youth and children under the age of 18. Despite perceptions about food bank users, locally 10.6% of people accessing local food banks had job income and 5.3% were homeowners. (http://www.pspc.on.ca/pdf/Infonote_food_bank_report_released.pdf).

In summary, insufficient income is the cause of household food-insecurity. Until income issues are addressed, people will continue to suffer the consequences of having to go without food. It is critical to support advocacy efforts at the municipal, provincial, federal level for improved social assistance and minimum wage rates, increased employment opportunities and access to affordable housing. To immediately address this issue local food action programs need to improve access to nourishing foods with an emphasis on vegetables, fruit, whole

grains, milk and milk alternatives and lower sodium choices.

Food Security Questions:

1. What could be done at the municipal level to help people living in poverty access nourishing food in Peterborough City and County?
2. Peterborough is the heart of a rich agricultural area, yet we import the majority of our food. What types of new opportunities could your municipality develop for local farmers and food producers?
3. Local municipalities in Ontario are starting to increase the availability of nutritious foods sold or made available at municipally run arenas, libraries and community centres. How can our municipalities support healthy food choices in their facilities? Should contracts with food vendors that supply cafeteria snack bars and vending machines in municipally run facilities be required to include nutritious food choices as part of the contracts?

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Joëlle Favreau

Theme: Food Security

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Establish a mobile system in the county to provide access to healthy affordable food.
- Increase local food production through the creation of municipal incentives.
- Ensure that all schools have access to gardens where kids have a chance to learn about food and food production. Find ways to make education about food jazzy.
- Create coop style system to help farmers get access to more equipment and labour in an affordable manner.
- Build a mentorship program for farmers, pairing up seasoned farmers with new ones.
- Create a bulk selling structure for farmers to enable them to sell more systematically to local restaurants.

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Incentivize local food production through various mechanisms both in the city and in the county and offer that food at subsidized rates so that people living on low income can access it. Local food is too expensive for people living in poverty.
2. Establish an Advisory Committee on Food Security to put food on the municipal agenda and make recommendations to municipalities on various food related themes. This could lead, for instance to the creation of a Food Charter in each municipality.

3. (Educate) kids and youth about food and nutrition, particularly within the school system. Weave that education into the school curriculum.
4. Promote broader participation within community gardens.
5. Emphasize the importance of supporting healthy food everywhere, from arenas to schools.

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Carolyn Doris **Theme:** Food Security

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- People cannot afford to purchase food in our community. This is a serious issue and we need to shift to thinking of food as a right and not a commodity.
- Partnerships are key in addressing food security. Examples of positive models in Peterborough include Kawartha Food Share and the Nourish project that support those living in poverty
- Community Gardens are positive way to impact food access.
- Approximately 8000 access food banks and Kawartha Food Share distributes \$10 million worth of food annually.
- Safe, affordable housing is critical in our community. People should not have to choose between paying rent or buying food.
- Cooking programs (ie for children in schools) and financial management is needed.
- Programs that bring people who are isolated are important. Socialization is important.
- Support for local farmers is important. It was noted that larger grocery stores are buying in large quantities that local farmers can't meet contract demands.
- Farmers Markets are important as a way for people to have access to the people who produce local food.

Recommendations to Municipality:

- Increase support (i.e. land) for Community Gardens
1. (Encourage) municipalities to have a role to plan for provincial and federal support and strategies so everyone can afford healthy, nutritious food.
 2. Invest in affordable, safe housing is critical. More affordable housing and rent subsidies are needed.
 3. (recognize that) investment today in prevention rather than later downstream is critical.

4. (understand that) stable funding for programs such as the Nourish Project are is important so that supports are available.
5. Support local farmers markets.
6. (increase) procurement of local food in contracts i.e. hospital, schools. A percentage of local food (ie 10%) could be included that needs to be sourced locally.
7. (encourage that) nutritious food needs to be available at municipally run facilities. Healthy options must be priced equally. This could be included in contracts.
- 8.

Other Comment: More time for discussion would have been helpful. One person commented that receiving backgrounders in advance would have been appreciated.

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Carolyn Doris **Theme:** Food Security

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Food banks are not easy to access and many are not wheelchair accessible.
- Fresh food that is reclaimed from grocery stores and donated to food banks is good in that it offers marginally fresh food to food bank users but quality can be poor (i.e. cases of moldy tomatoes).
- People deserve quality food.
- We should not accept poverty. Municipalities do have a role to play in this.
- There is a relationship between poverty and adult literacy. Supports are necessary for addressing literacy. Cooking programs can support literacy.
- WE have great farmers markets but cost of food at them are too high for people living on social assistance (OW, ODSP). Healthy food is expensive.
- Schools have breakfast programs that all students can access. It is likely that free lunch programs are now needed in many schools. School boards have been supporting breakfast programs for close to 28 years.
- School gardens are great for students to learn firsthand on how to grow food.
- Bringing back home economics programs in schools is important.
- Healthy food should be available in municipally run facilities and schools. Before high school cafeteria services were put into large, board-wide contracts there was good, healthy food available.

- Vending machines shouldn't be in schools. Kids have enough access to sugary foods. Energy drinks are a concern.

Recommendations to Municipality:

1. Municipality must address poverty locally. Focus could include economic development, advocacy for increase rates for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program, increasing minimum wage, support for retraining and skill development, interest free loans, tax waivers.
2. More land could be made available for community gardens and urban agriculture
3. New subdivisions should be required to include community garden spaces.
4. Social Services could support people with better understanding of how to cook healthy, using less packaged foods.
5. People need to be able to see healthy foods. Healthy choices should be available in public facilities.
6. Bottled water availability should be looked at. Market Hall has banned bottle water and this could be seen as a model. Drinking fountains are needed.

Healthy Communities: Physical and Mental Health

The Role of Local Government in Health:

Local governments play a unique role in shaping the conditions where people live, learn, work and play, which in turn have a significant impact on their health. Municipalities routinely make decisions and allocate resources for roads, sidewalks, land use, public gathering places, housing, public transit, parks, recreation, cultural events and social services. These decisions and policies all contribute profoundly to the health and well-being of citizens.

Current Issues in Peterborough:

- **Chronic disease is pervasive.** Cardiovascular diseases, cancers and diseases of the respiratory system are the leading causes of illness and death in Peterborough.
 - **Low income residents are more vulnerable to health challenges than others.** Low income urban and rural populations have fewer options to maintain and improve their health. Low income individuals in Peterborough experience poorer health in terms of higher life stress, and higher rates of asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
 - **Physical activity is linked to better health outcomes.** Currently in Peterborough, over 40% of residents report being inactive during their leisure time. This means that thousands of Peterborough residents are not getting the range of important health benefits that physical activity can provide. Policies and programs designed to increase opportunities for physical activity and recreation are proven to lead to better mental health, reduced risk of numerous chronic diseases and reduced rates of crime and school dropout.
 - **Vulnerable children are missing out on recreational and social activities.** In 2013, the Recreational and Social Activities Subsidy for children on social assistance was reduced by 50%, to \$100 per child per year. The current amount is insufficient to cover registration in the local Soccer League, a week of day camp at the Wellness Centre, or even Scouts and Brownies. Participation in recreation programs provides critical social opportunities that assist with the normal growth and development of children and youth.
 - **Oral/dental health is a challenge for many.** One third of local residents do not have dental insurance. This increases to over 50% for people over 65 years of age and to almost 60% for low income people. Cost is the most common reason for not visiting the dentist in the last 3 years.
 - **Needs for Dentures are going unmet.** Dentures help people with speech, nutrition, employment and social interactions. In 2014, funding for dentures through social assistance was reduced by two-thirds, and was used up after only two months. By April, 57 clients had been denied help as a result.
- 1) **Mental health issues are a growing concern in our community.** In 2013, there were over 3,000 Emergency Department (ED) visits at PRHC related to mental health disorders and this number has been on the rise since 2009. In fact, over the past decade the average number of ED visits related to mental health disorders is equal to the number of ED visits related to diseases of the circulatory system (ie. heart attacks and strokes). Statistics demonstrate that one in five people in Canada experience a mental health problem or illness every year, with a cost to the economy of well over \$50 billion. Based on Peterborough's current population, this translates to roughly 27,000 local residents who will suffer

some sort of mental illness every year. It has been proposed that a local Mental Health Planning Table be formed with broad community representation to address issues related to prevention, promotion, and reducing the stigma associated with mental health challenges.

Healthy Communities: Physical and Mental Health Questions:

1. How should municipalities ensure that every Peterborough City and County resident has access to recreational opportunities they can afford?
2. How can municipalities ensure Peterborough City and County residents get the support they need for their dental health, including the provision of dentures?
3. How could municipalities support more coordinated planning around mental health in our communities? If a Mental Health Planning Table is created, what should its priorities be (ie. School programs, community campaigns, recommendations on supportive housing etc...)? How could municipalities work to reduce stigma associated with mental health issues?

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Claire Hanlon

Theme: Healthy Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Need for more affordable and appropriate housing in order to raise a healthy community
- In 2008, Peterborough had the highest level of insecure housing in ...the province? And we can't have health without secure, affordable, and appropriate housing
- Need a National Housing Strategy
- Lack of Rent-Geared-To-Income housing is a big problem – the current waiting list is close to 10 years – need more supplements
- Community Dental Health Centre is a major positive attribute to Peterborough
- Lack of access to recreation for children (ie cost for extra-curricular activities) and related problems with access to transportation to recreation activity – Children who miss out on such activities not only miss the physical activity and enjoyment, but they miss out on an opportunity to build skills on social competence
- Strain on mental health supports in Peterborough – lack of supportive housing for individuals with mental illness

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Municipality needs to stay committed to emergency housing benefits

2. Municipality needs to address problems with transportation to children's activities, for example buses running free at peak times for children and seniors as they are already on the road anyhow and are not full – municipality to subsidize
3. Schools open up from 6:30pm-8:30pm on weeknights for youth activities (HUBS)
4. Candidates and community members at table support the idea for a Mental Health Planning Table

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Claire Hanlon

Theme: Healthy Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Lack of access to recreation for children – needs to be available to all families not just those who can afford it
- Lack of funds for oral health needs
- Need to increase access to dental health
- preventative practice in particular (maintaining dental health)
- major need for funds into seniors oral health care
- Lack of mental health supports (access to treatment, access to supportive housing, lack of crisis workers)

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Municipality need to address “Necessary Benefits” as opposed to “Discretionary Benefits”
2. We need an inventory of recreational opportunities for children and youth that includes what is subsidized and what is not. This should be included in the already existing recreation guide, on the City website, and on the Health Unit website
3. There needs to be more supportive housing in Peterborough as well as affordable housing
4. Need to address the lack of crisis support workers in Peterborough
5. Candidates and community members at table support the idea for a Mental Health Planning Table

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Cathy Berges

Theme: Healthy Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Extend supports to the working poor
- Look at alternatives to paid human resources
- Leadership programmes for students to support recreation activities
- Make recreation spaces more accessible and safe for communities; good example of partnerships at Stewart Street park
- Examine feasibility of Community Health Centre for Peterborough
- Would address broad needs i.e. dental health, mental health
- Create network and system of dentists offering pro bono care
- Look at programme at Trent “Active Minds” as way to decrease stigma of mental health
- Include Tre and Fleming at any mental health planning table

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. (encourage) collective outputs
2. (increase) partnerships between public and private
3. (encourage) innovative approaches to issues not just seeking additional government funding

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Cathy Berges

Theme: Healthy Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Consider pay by the session vs for the full season re recreational opportunities
- Partners with YMCA and school board to use facilities
- Enhance equipment exchange/donation programmes
- PCCHU restore school dental education programmes
- Investigate recycling of dentures
- Dentist community (should) co-ordinate pro bono offerings and offer annual sponsorship of dental programme with a tax receipt
- Mental health – early intervention i.e. elementary school (should) use local expertise to increase training for school staff

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. (improve) outdoor spaces
2. (increase) winter opportunities
3. (increase) community awareness of mental health issues
4. Consider city having ability to shift funding for individuals to address priorities

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Ann MacLeod

Theme: Healthy Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- (increase) walkable trails, bike lanes
- Need increased communication between sports groups

- Safe play spaces in green areas (needed)
- Local neighbourhood support for recreation
- (increase) school yard use, before and after hours
- Reduce the restrictions on regulating play
- Lack of affordability of organized sports

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. (develop) more connecting green spaces through sidewalks and bike trails
2. (increase) support from volunteers to enhance recreation, mentoring and decreased isolation
3. (increase) accessible, affordable and unstructured recreation opportunities
4. (stress) the importance of promoting mental health by getting people out into the community and have the municipality (support this direction)

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Ann MacLeod

Theme: Healthy Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Walkable neighbourhoods
- Influence planners to have hubs in neighbourhoods to increase cohesiveness, walkable access to services, green spaces
- Increase small neighbourhood schools with useable green space and (ability) to walk to school
- Mental health services
- (components of a healthy community includes) police, young families, older families, youth mental health professionals, supportive housing, media, health unit, farm communities, Municipal staff, council

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Create a mental health planning table that will start collaborating and integrating (services) to move forward on decreasing stigma and redirecting recovery; include police, health and social service providers, health unit, media, service users, older adults, youth and families
2. Influence planning that will enhance cohesive, walkable neighbourhoods with small schools, green spaces and services at the hub
3. Enhance walkable links/bike paths between neighbourhoods

Social Assistance, Housing and Discretionary Benefits

In Ontario, Social Assistance is delivered through two separate programs, Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). In Peterborough City and County the caseload for OW was 3,645, and for ODSP were 4,600 in March, 2014. In recent years, the percentage of residents who rely on social assistance in Peterborough has been higher than the provincial average. The income provided varies depending on a recipient's family type and their actual shelter costs, but the current rates make it very hard for people to meet even their basic needs of food, shelter, and other necessities. For example, a single adult receives a maximum amount of only \$656 per month through Ontario Works, or \$1,098 through ODSP. There is no room in the household budget for other necessary expenses like transportation, baby supplies, or children's recreation, and certainly none for unexpected expenses due to housing or health crises. To help meet these needs, the municipality administers two additional funds, the **Housing Stability Fund**, and the **Discretionary Benefit Fund**.

Who Pays for Social Assistance? Upload of costs to the Province between 2010 and 2018

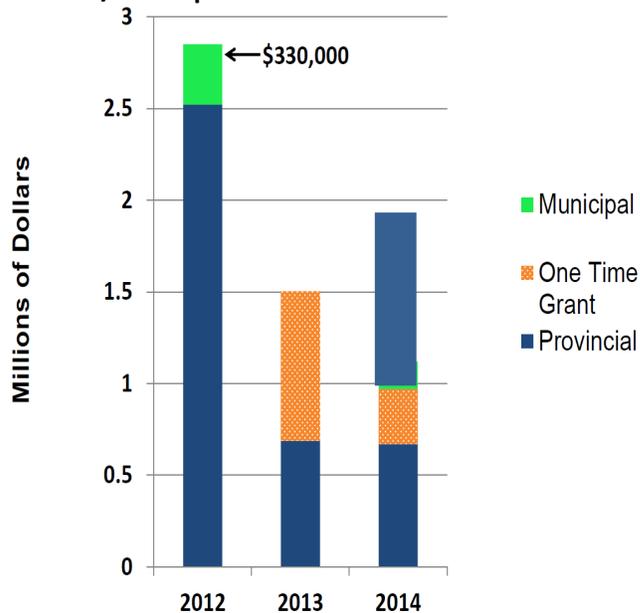
The Municipality and the Province share social assistance caseload costs, with the Province paying the lion's share. However, since 2010 the Province has been assuming an ever *increasing* share of caseload costs. This is called the "upload". The Province is scheduled to upload all the costs from the Municipality by 2018. What are the impacts of the upload on the Municipality? The upload saved the Municipality \$1 million in 2010 and this increased to \$8.8 million in 2013. By 2018 the upload will save the Municipality almost \$13 million *per year*. Peterborough has not specifically tracked its allocation and expenditure of the upload savings.

Reduced Funding to the Housing Stability Fund

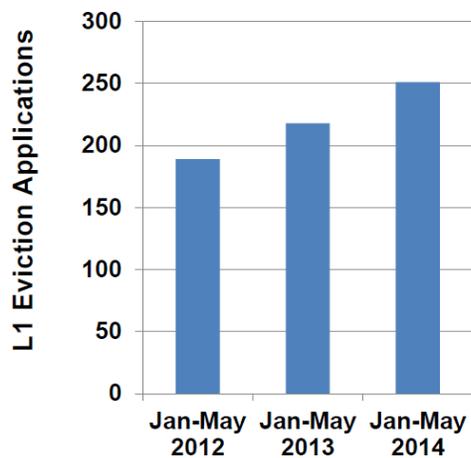
Housing stability assistance is short term financial assistance used to help people remain in or obtain adequate housing. It covers expenses such as rent or mortgage arrears, last month rent deposits, utilities arrears, heating fuel, moving or storage costs, or essential furniture and appliances. Prior to 2013, this assistance was provided through the mandated "Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit" (CSUMB) and other smaller funds. In 2013, CSUMB was eliminated, and replaced with the much reduced "Housing Stability Fund". The graph below shows the extent that funding for housing stability funds has been cut since 2012, despite a one-time provincial grant in 2013, interim contributions of municipal funding from Social Services Reserves, and a recent increase in provincial funding. The total amount currently allocated for the HSF in 2014 is approximately \$1.8 million, or 1 million dollars less than the \$2.8 million allocated in 2012. The municipality has eliminated its contribution to the fund.

Low income individuals and families in our community have been hit hard by these reductions. The Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network (PPRN) has tracked this impact and found that there is a direct correlation between reduced funding for housing benefits and increased numbers of people reporting increased hunger, debt, family breakdown, eviction, and living in unsafe living conditions. Agencies are reporting increased incidence of shelter and food bank use, and an alarming increase in the stress experienced by their clients. The second graph, below, shows the increase in L1 Eviction Applications at the Landlord and Tenant Board for rental arrears, over the same months from 2012 – 2014.

CSUMB/HSF Expenditures 2012 to 2014



L1 Eviction Applications on Peterborough Landlord Tenant Board Hearing Docket



3. Provincial Funding of Discretionary Benefits Cut and Capped in 2012

Discretionary Benefits (DB) are needed for critical items and services for individuals and families who rely on social assistance. In Peterborough, DB funds have been used for necessary items such as the bus pass subsidy, basic dental services and dentures, vision care, children’s recreation, baby supplies, and funerals. Since 2012, funding of Discretionary Benefits has gone from \$24 per case to \$15 per case. In response, the Municipality has eliminated some items and services completely and set annual budget limits on others. These cuts have hurt low income members of our community. For example, funding for dentures has been reduced from \$280,000 per year to \$60,000. Funding for 2014 for this item was used up by February, 2014. Children’s recreational and social subsidies have also been cut in half, to \$100 per year, with devastating health and social consequences for our most vulnerable children.

Social Assistance, Housing and Discretionary Benefits Questions:

1. Should the Municipality make funding for the Housing Stability Fund and Discretionary Benefits to previous 2011/2012 levels a priority in the 2015 budget? Why?
2. Should the Municipality allocate a percentage of the upload savings to be reinvested in Discretionary Benefits and the Housing Stability Fund? If so, what percentage?
3. If necessary, should the Municipality increase property taxes in order to pay for increases to the Housing Stability Fund and Discretionary Benefits? Why?

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Katherine Blackwood

Theme: Social Assistance, Housing & Discretionary Benefits

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Navigating the maze of funding programmes
- Discretionary benefits is still short
- Rents are so high compared to rest of the province

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Use some of the upload savings to increase discretionary benefits
2. Enable more dense development

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Katherine Blackwood

Theme: Social Assistance, Housing & Discretionary Benefits

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Communication, education regarding what is available i.e. poppy fund, veteran’s affairs funding
- Living wage model
- Social workers need sensitivity training re cultural (differences), mental health

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Housing stability focus: investment in the community (results in) cost savings to the system
2. Endorse living wage philosophy
3. Bring in jobs that pay living wage
4. Provide tax incentives for jobs that provide living wage
5. Implement the 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Roy Brady

Theme: Social Assistance, Housing &
Discretionary Benefits

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- More awareness of Peterborough’s low income population
- (better understanding) that evictions have social and economic costs beyond the unpaid rent
- Private investment rather than city subsidies
- Avoid ghetto housing
- Rent controls restrict lower income building
- Market prices shut out lower income people

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Keep urging the province to complete its housing responsibility
2. (Develop) zoning assistance by encouraging developers to provide some affordable units (like Vancouver has done)
3. (provide) relief for heat/hydro as part of arrears
4. (host) summit of all stakeholders to create a public fund
5. Enhance mixed income housing
6. Increase supply to avoid price spirals

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Roy Brady

Theme: Social Assistance, Housing &
Discretionary Benefits

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Affordable housing rarely exists
- Rent control

- Not enough safe housing (in) legal units
- Competition for proper housing
- Safe secondary suites
- Dignity vs. control of provider
- Protecting landlord and tenant rights

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Get transfer payments increased
2. (re-introduce) rent controls in municipality if possible
3. Listen to and locate real housing complaints
4. (develop) safe secondary suites
5. Volunteer to help to improve housing supply
6. (address) unfair water costs
7. (take) rent payments directly from OW/ODSP for people needing that (support)
8. Add social housing from existing spots, in partnership with the province
9. Bolster property standards enforcement (staff)
10. Use health unit as a resource and enforcement

Employment Development

Did you know?

Proportion of the labour force working part time in 2010.

- Greater Peterborough 25%
- Barrie 20.9%
- Guelph 20.7%
- Oshawa 19.5%

3.2% of total workers were involuntary part-time workers in 2013.

Source: AHAC, Housing is Fundamental 2014, custom calculation using data from the 2011 National Household Survey.

Peterborough has been hard hit by a drop in manufacturing and a shift towards service sector and precarious employment. Although, some communities have recovered from the 2007/2008 recession, Peterborough continues to have a growing unemployment rate up to 9% in 2013 from 8.5% in 2012. These rates are higher than both the provincial and national unemployment rate.

For much of the first half of 2013, the Peterborough Census Metropolitan Area recorded the highest unemployment rates of all Canadian Cities with a population of 100,000 or more. From January to July the average unemployment rate in Peterborough was 10.7% hitting a high of 11.9% in May. The youth unemployment rate was averaging over 31% in the same time period.

In addition to the high unemployment rate, Peterborough's low participation and employment rate at 58.3% and 53.1% respectively indicate that there is an untapped labour force available to be engaged if jobs are available. New job growth has been disproportionately part-time and temporary, similar to national trends. The posted unemployment rates do not take into consideration the problem of underemployment, not counting people who have given up looking for work or, those who are employed part-time (not by choice) and wanting full-time jobs.

Living Wage

In 2013, Peterborough Social Planning Council prepared a report entitled "Calculating a Living Wage for Peterborough".

The living wage is defined as the minimum hourly wage necessary for each of two workers in a family of four to meet basic needs and to participate in the civic/social life of their community. This means that this 'reference family', with both persons working full time, all year, with no additional income, should be able to afford a specified quality or quantity of housing, food, utilities, transport, health care, and recreation.

For a family/household of four with two wage earners employed full-time at 37.5 hours weekly and two dependents, the living wage is \$16.47 for each wage earner.

Beyond the weak local employment market, Ontario Works clients are also impacted by declining employment insurance coverage. Even as the unemployment rate increases, the percentage of unemployed receiving employment insurance has declined, as illustrated in the following chart.

Ontario Works Employment Outcomes

While the local labour market struggled in 2013, there was a 7% decline in the number of Ontario Works clients finding employment, and an increase in the length of time to find employment.

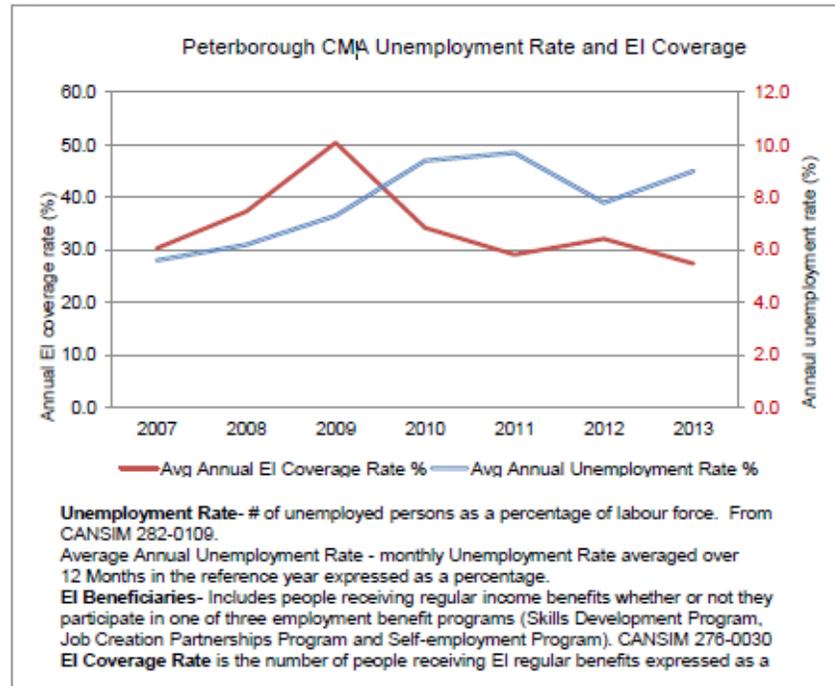
By the last quarter of 2013 was taking an average of 15.78 months for clients to find employment.

The length of time to employment for Ontario Works clients is reflective of the general trend to longer term unemployment in the community.

The weak employment market and trend towards increasing length of time to employment has been influenced by the larger labour market trends. OW employment programming can help to mitigate the

negative impact on Ontario Works clients but these labour market trends must be taken into consideration when setting the 2014 baselines and targets.

Source: City of Peterborough, Social Services: People Serving People, 2013-2014 Service Plan



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Employment Questions:

1. How can the municipality lead the way in increasing permanent full time living wage jobs in Peterborough city and area?
2. What actions can the municipality take to retain our youth as we continue to strive for more employment opportunities.

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Joanne Bazak-Brokking

Theme: Employment Development

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- we need **affordable day care** – difficult / impossible for parents, especially single parent earners to work minimum wage jobs without affordable day care even when working 2 jobs – no time for family!
- continue to develop a **Diversity Portfolio** (Dean Pappas) for downtown – use expertise of owners of New Canadian Businesses to help expand diverse businesses in downtown– Why are you doing business here? How can we help you expand? How can we attract more diversity from GTA? How can we develop social, economic and cultural diversity? Ensure people see Peterborough as an attractive destination spot
- agencies/ not for profit have moved to **part time, contract work without benefits** - hurting the workforce – are there other solutions?
- need a strategy for **training local skilled workers that meets local needs** – i.e. businesses continue to have difficulty finding the skilled local employees – need to work with Fleming and Trent to provide education and training programs according to real employment needs
- **Entrepreneurs** lead future economic development – need to create the right environment and have resources to support growth
- there is a serious shortage of **job opportunities for older adults** who have retrained e.g. social work- need a plan for their underutilized wealth of expertise
- hire own people first - improve employment with a **“Peterborough Content”** (Alan Wilson) clause in city contracts
- spend 80% of our Economic Development \$ to **help existing employers/businesses grow**
- develop **arts and cultural centre in downtown core**

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. develop affordable day care
2. continue the work on the Diversity Portfolio to expand and attract culturally/ socially/ economically diverse businesses in the downtown core

3. work with underemployed and underutilized groups to expand employment opportunities i.e. part time workers (25% of workers are part time) and older adults
4. provide a range of supports including financial to help establish new small business/entrepreneur opportunities
5. work with businesses, Trent and Fleming to help develop/train the skilled workforce that we need
6. strengthen existing businesses with ideas such as Peterborough Content and redirecting a percentage of Economic Development budget to help existing businesses grow

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Joanne Bazak-Brokking

Theme: Employment Development

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- without jobs, Peterborough is in peril
- need to establish a comprehensive **Jobs Task Force to make Peterborough the #1 destination spot** (Keith Riel) ; include MP, MPP, Council members GPEDB, DBA, Chamber, profit and not for profit sectors, etc.
- should follow the example of Vaughan and be aggressive in actively pursue potential employers and - make it attractive to come to Peterborough
- need forward thinking and create an environment for building new businesses and **actively recruit i.e. - participate in trade missions** i.e. China; partner with Trent and SSFC (Stephen Wright)
- young people are saddled without jobs with 2/3 leaving even though they want to stay
- **redevelop manufacturing jobs and industrial base** - make use service land to make it attractive to come to Peterborough
- kind of manufacturing we need– smaller manufacturing
- **Green manufacturing** i.e. battery production for electric cars
- provide a competitive corporate tax rate – cautionary note given by one participant; gave example of Kendal(?)getting tax breaks then leaving after five years
- need to realise potential of **Knowledge Economy** – i.e. Aboriginal Studies, not for profit sector, social/cultural
- Trent Grads not interested in manufacturing jobs
- low wage/min wage jobs also leave students with high debt
- key element for youth opportunities – **Youth Economic forum**
- **Scientific research** – build on existing opportunities at Trent/Fleming i.e. sustainable development, DNA cluster, renewable energy
- **Green Industry** – links with Trent/Fleming
- Entrepreneur s –small business key to future

Recommendations to the Municipality:

- make Peterborough the number 1 destination spot for employment development

As noted:

1. establish an multifaceted Employment/Jobs Task force
2. redevelop manufacturing making use of local opportunities
3. develop knowledge economy- Arts and Culture, Aboriginal, Scientific research opportunities

4. develop green industry
5. support Entrepreneurs - Youth Economic Summit

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Monique Beneteau

Theme: Employment Development

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- be open to more big box stores and reduce barriers to businesses coming in
- planning department has to work faster and fairer
- tax rates for businesses (must be) attractive to them
- tap into job subsidy programmes
- attract business owners and support through economic development
- illuminate red tape
- support existing businesses (small and medium) and reinvest in the community
- students are suffering (due to) no summer jobs
- lack of jobs (in general)
- nothing to keep youth in the community (employment, social and cultural opportunities)
- concern about youth out-migration

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. attract business and support existing businesses
2. (develop) apprenticeship programmes
3. Tap into government subsidies
4. Remove parking metres downtown to attract people to the downtown
5. Promote good things about what is happening in the downtown
6. Make labour force data available – plan beyond 5 years
7. Do not train people for jobs that will not be available
8. Create a youth networking system that is youth driven (and builds on) the Peterborough Youth Council; make it a movement rather than a council.

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Monique Beneteau

Theme: Employment Development

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Make community attractive for new businesses and for existing businesses to expand
- Working poor do not get benefits that those on assistance do
- Need to work with businesses in moving towards a living wage
- People want to get back to work but they are not getting the support (to do so)
- People on ODSP (get penalized) if they earn too much (resulting in there being) a disincentive to work
- Women earn less than men
- (there is no) ability to earn a living and have fun
- Need private sector to create employment opportunities; it is not government's job to create jobs
- Need to develop environment that attracts people to our area that will lead to more businesses and jobs
- Invest in human resources

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. (provide) fair compensation to businesses for expanding their business (physical space)
2. (support) a living wage
3. (develop) social assistance subsidy to (help people) keep housing
4. (provide) rent supplements for people who cannot afford rent
5. Consider what type of jobs we want to attract and make sure people ;have skills to obtain these jobs
6. (develop/enhance) infrastructure to support getting/maintaining employment (i.e. transportation, supporting people with disabilities)
7. (conduct) the cost benefit analysis of investing in economic development
8. (encourage) tourists to spend money (in our community)
9. (develop) activities/entertainment to attract/retain youth
10. (develop) inter-municipal co-operation to support (economic development)

Age Friendly Community: Senior's Issues

The facts: The region of Peterborough has the highest proportion of population over the age of 65 years in Canada. Census data from 2012 shows that there are 27,050 people over the age of 65 years living in the City and County of Peterborough. This group makes up 20% of the total population of the area. This compares to a national average of 13%. 58% of these individuals live in the city and 42% live in the county.

Census data for 2012 indicates that 48% of the region's population is age 50+. It is projected that by 2031 that 31% of the population of Peterborough City/County will be over the age of 65 years.

In the period from 2006 to 2011 the demographic group that experienced the greatest percentage growth was the group aged 85+.

Action to date: The Seniors Planning table was informally created in 2009 to plan and deliver "Senior Summits" in 2009 and 2011. A survey conducted at the 2011 Summit indicated the need for a forum for cross sector planning and discussion to create opportunities for integration and capacity building within services that support older adults and their families.

In 2012 formal terms of reference were created for the group. The group's mission is "To position ourselves as a planning group that is able to influence local and regional decisions regarding the issues facing older adults and our aging communities." The name of the group was changed to the Peterborough Council on Aging (PCOA). The City and County have taken a lead role with the PCOA by providing staff support as well as sponsoring major events related to Seniors Month every year.

Most recently, the City of Peterborough and the Municipality of Trent Lakes were awarded a 3 year Trillium Foundation Grant. The grant is to develop an Age-Friendly Peterborough Plan for the City and County. The Plan will be a comprehensive 3-year strategy that identifies the issues, needs, priorities and service gaps of older adults. The Plan will outline actions to address these issues and gaps with the overarching objective to develop, promote and support active and healthy aging in the Peterborough area.

The Plan will follow the framework developed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The responsibility and oversight of the completed Plan will reside with the Peterborough Council on Aging.

In 2011 Peterborough Social Planning Council undertook a survey "Global Age Friendly Cities: How does Peterborough Compare" using the WHO topic areas for evaluating Age Friendliness. There were 400 respondents. Here are the highlights:

- **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings:** 81% indicated concern for pedestrian safety in the city.
75% indicated need for improved lighting in outdoor public spaces
- **Transportation:** 56% felt that public transportation was not reliable and frequent. (especially night, weekend & holiday service)
- **Housing:** 75% felt that there was not sufficient and affordable housing support for frail or disabled citizens. 65% felt there was not sufficient affordable home maintenance and support services.
66% were concerned that Peterborough needs more support for seniors to find good home modification options/services.

FACT: March 2013 waitlist for Supportive Housing was 263.

- **Social Participation:** 60% expressed concern that there is not enough outreach to people at risk of social isolation.
- **Civic Participation and Employment:** 61% identified the need for training in post-retirement options for older adults.

85% of respondents expressed concern that older people are not consulted about how they can be better served.

- **Communication and Information:** 80% did not feel that services and products took into consideration the needs of the older population.
- **Community and Health Services:** 75% felt that local and regional health and social services are not conveniently located and accessible by transport.

50+% expressed concern that economic barriers impede access to health and community support services.

FACT: - Canada Mortgage and Housing states “The driver for seniors to move into seniors housing is a lack of resources or capacity to maintain their private residence rather than isolation or loneliness.”

- As of August 2014 there were 2137 names on waiting lists for placement in Long Term Care facilities. NOTE: An individual may have their name on up to 5 lists

- As of 2010 there were 2782 individuals identified with a diagnosis of Dementia. This number is projected to increase to 3515 by 2020 and 6364 by 2036. That is an overall increase of 3582 individuals or 128.8%. (PCCC Mental Health Services, Kingston)

Age Friendly Community: Senior’s Issues Questions:

1. How can the municipality ensure that older adults are included in decision making related to their needs and issues?
2. What specific steps can the municipality take to make the community more age friendly?

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Ted Ridout

Theme: Age Friendly Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Appoint a city councillor to head an advisory committee especially for seniors and provide appropriate resources to that councillor (to be effective)

Recommendations to the Municipality:

- Improve sidewalk maintenance and increase snow clearing; clean the sidewalks so there is less clutter for the sight-impaired and frail seniors
- Increase radius of the curbs, especially in downtown for better traffic flow
- Improve lighting
- Increase walking trails
- (provide) more benches
- (increase) recreational activities
- (document) how much of the city's budget is allocated to seniors

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Ted Ridout

Theme: Age Friendly Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Municipal government needs to partner with provincial and federal governments to increase funding for seniors
- Various budgets that provide subsidies for seniors should be aggregated under one umbrella once they have a voice

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Nurture senior communities beyond seniors residences to (create) a vibrant community

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Barb Rimmer

Theme: Age Friendly Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Seniors not mentioned in (municipal) campaign
- Transportation is limited – must call a week in advance
- Public seating areas limited in the downtown
- Seniors need more information re where they can access services and what services are available
- Closing long-term care beds at Peterborough Regional Health Centre

- Limited affordable accommodation
- Seniors need more support services to maintain their homes and ability to live at home
- Sandwich generation feeling the pressure of caregiving
- Loss of home-mail delivery

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Develop more creative solutions to housing
2. Encourage smaller neighbourhood approach (to planning our community)

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Barb Rimmer

Theme: Age Friendly Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Plan our communities for all ages
- Technology constantly changing will mean that seniors will require training for updating their skills
- Transportation is limited
- Need for streamlining (process to obtain services) as Community Care Access Centres are not working

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. (develop) an office for seniors in city hall
2. (encourage) collaboration between public and private sector services
3. (redesign the system as) people are falling between the cracks
4. Improve sidewalks in the downtown

Safe & Inclusive Communities:

Do you feel that your community is safe and inclusive? What does it take to grow a safe and inclusive community? While the number of crimes committed or solved is important, and our own personal sense of security matters, these issues are only the tip of the iceberg.

A safe and inclusive community boasts a diversity of people and has developed engaging processes to plan for safety and inclusion, measure success, and address issues that arise. It is one where residents, organizations, businesses and the public sector come together to promote the safety, inclusion and well-being of all.

Safe & Inclusive Communities generally have:

1. **Leadership** – a commitment from leaders in the community to focus on issues of safety and inclusion for all residents, with the shared vision of attracting and retaining employers and skilled workers and developing a strong quality of life for all.
2. **Priority Setting and Programs** – programs are developed and implemented based on priorities. Example: Analysis of complaints and police calls can result on focussed community policing or community education strategies.
3. **Sustainability** – funding and support are available for initiatives which grow safety and inclusion.
4. **Community Engagement** – a comprehensive and thoughtful plan is in place to make sure that all voices are heard, particularly voices from residents who tend to be vulnerable. Example: community policing engagement with the LGBT community and homeless residents; neighbourhood safety audits.

[Definition adapted from the Peterborough Social Planning Council *Quality of Life Report 2012*.]

Food for Thought

Crime:

- In 2010 Peterborough had the fourth highest ranking for hate crimes in the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA). This surpassed London, Barrie and Toronto. For the safety of the community, Peterborough must find innovative ways to deal with hate crime. Is the high reporting due to positive measures already taken to build trust?
- Drinking is often a factor associated with increased injury rates and crimes. Adult drinkers in Peterborough engage in heavy drinking at rates 9.1% higher than the provincial average (males 11.4% higher; females 7.5% higher (Canadian Community Health Survey 2007/2008).
- The violent crime severity index prepared by Statistics Canada shows that most communities are experiencing a downward trend, yet here in Peterborough we have been experiencing an upward trend. This can be partially attributed to influences from the GTA and the impact of our local drug culture. In 2013, 63% of our robberies were drug motivated.
- We experienced an 11.1% increase in violent crime in 2013 (This includes homicides and attempts, all types of assaults, robberies, forcible confinement and firearms and weapons offences)

- Social service organizations can attest that domestic violence and sexual assault continue to be under-reported crimes and are most likely to involve perpetrators known to the victim.

Accessibility:

- There are approximately 12,400 people living with at least one disability in the City of Peterborough, which is 16% of Peterborough’s population.
- Community Living Peterborough (CLP) has stated that perception has been the most consistent issue faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities trying to lead inclusive lives within Peterborough’s community. A 2008 “Community Knowledge Survey” showed that there was an overall misconception about how people with intellectual disabilities functioned on a daily basis.
- According to the Peterborough County-City Health Unit Health Profile of October 2011, the percentage of people in Peterborough who find their participation and activity is sometimes or often limited is 29.3%.

Immigration

- Research shows that by 2025 immigration will fuel 100% of population growth and right now it fuels 100% of labour force growth.
- The majority of immigrants living in Peterborough were aged 25 to 44 years (38.7%) at the time of immigration.
- The percentage of local people with a sense of community belonging is 69.1%
- According to the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participate (2004 stats Canada) 46.4% of our community volunteered.

Safe & Inclusive Communities Questions:

1. What do you think would help our communities be safer and more inclusive to all?
2. What role can the municipality play to ensure that our communities warmly welcome immigrants?
3. Accessibility is a critical issue for our region. How can the municipality enhance accessibility in our communities so that everyone can fully participate in the benefits of our communities?

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Lisa McConkey

Theme: Safe & Inclusive Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Safety ambassadors in Kingston make a difference
- Make people aware of the homelessness and educate the public about what makes someone homeless i.e. addictions, mental health
- Wrap-around inclusiveness is needed i.e. methadone clinic near employment centre that offers counselling, housing
- (consult) at the grassroots level to see what will work for change

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Develop volunteer programme to assist police services with petty crimes and provide 'eyes on the street'
2. Set the tone for compassion and inclusiveness in Peterborough
3. Improve partnerships with the province
4. Fund more celebrations of different cultures
5. Commit funding for the New Canadian Centre

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Lisa McConkey

Theme: Safe & Inclusive Communities

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Need to get handle on drug issues and develop better understanding of the issues of drug abuse
- How do we get all generations talking and working towards an inclusive community?
- Poverty
- How do we get the older generations more aware of (drug and poverty) issues
- vandalism

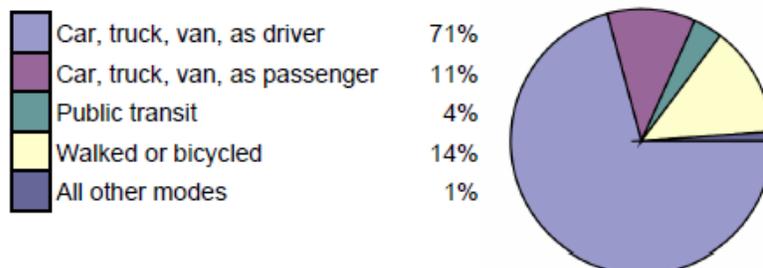
Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Support champions who make a difference
2. Review budgets to ensure (we build) an inclusive and safe community

Transportation

How we get around in Peterborough

Mode of transportation to work



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

CLI Community Profile generated May 28, 2009

Some indication of how we get around in Peterborough

Mode of Transportation to Work Peterborough, City 2006			
Total Employed Labour Force 15 Years and Over with a Usual Place of Work or No Fixed Workplace Address	33, 140	16, 635	16, 510
Car, truck, van, as driver	23, 455	11, 950	11, 505
Car, truck, van, as passenger	3, 605	1, 705	1, 900
Public transit	1, 180	460	715
Walked or bicycled	4, 520	2, 375	2, 145
All other modes	375	135	240

This data is available through Statistics Canada's Community Profiles accessible as of Feb 2, 2010

Use of Active Transportation

The Peterborough Social Planning Council released their report "**Planning for Great Streets: A report on how the City of Peterborough can transform its street network into cherished public space**" (2010).

The report acknowledged that our community already has a lot of great street potential:

- We're small: Peterborough is only 14 km by 9 km wide –we can easily leave our cars at home more often.
- We have 38 km of multipurpose trails that are expanding every year
- We have a large public transit system that is constantly making improvements and whose ridership is growing
- We have one of the highest walking and cycling rates in Ontario
- We have a vibrant downtown with heavy foot traffic
- We have an ambitious and innovative plan to fill the gaps in our sidewalk system

Why changing transportation systems are becoming more important to communities

What is Active Transportation? Active transportation is defined as “non-motorized travel, including walking, cycling, rollerblading and movements with mobility devices,” according to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation’s Transit Supportive Guidelines (2012). The provincial active transportation network is shaped by many elements. These include sidewalks, on-road bicycle lanes and routes, off-road trails, multi-use pathways, bike parking, effective signage, transit equipped to support cycling and pedestrian crossings, as well as human-scaled and pedestrian oriented development patterns.

Finally, the City and County through the Council on Aging will be exploring how to make this a more age-friendly community. According to the World Health Organization, increasing the ability for people to move about the community is a major determinant of success.

- Better design for active modes, such as walking and cycling, can greatly increase safety for all modes; increasing the proportion of trips made by walking and cycling can also independently lower collision and injury rates (the 'safety in numbers' effect).

Facts from the “2014 Peterborough City and County Active Transportation and Health Report” published by the Peterborough County City Health Unit

Public transit connects people and places. Transit provides independence for our seniors, disabled and youth. It enables those with lower incomes to access increased opportunities and a better quality of life.

Public transit is an inexpensive, safe, efficient and important method for moving citizens. In Peterborough, public transit systems are available for both local and intercity travel.

Travel behaviour is also strongly linked to income. Persons who earn less than the city-wide median income - which is \$29,980 in 2006 dollars - are two times more likely to bike, three times more likely to walk, and ten times more likely to ride transit to work than persons earning more than the median.

There is insufficient data available to assess relationships between income and travel behaviour in the County. However, a review of income data reveals that over 50% of the County’s population earns less than \$30,000 each year.

According to the Canadian Automobile Association, the cost of owning and operating a vehicle is approximately \$10,452 per year. Knowing this cost provides insight into the number of County residents who may not have the financial resources to own and operate a vehicle. In rural and semi-rural settings, where there is typically limited or no transit service available and minimal infrastructure that supports active transportation. County residents without access to a vehicle are at a disadvantage relative to their City counterparts who can access employment and services using alternative modes of transportation. Because of this, transportation equity in the County is strongly linked to income.

In the City of Peterborough, 28% of all trips made are less than 2 kilometers while 73% of all trips made are within 5 kilometers. In the County, 15% of trips are within 2 kilometers and 32% of trips are within 5 kilometers. However, the percentage of residents already using active transportation for trips less than 2 or 5 kilometers is highly influenced by where they live.

Persons residing in and around the downtown are the most likely to be using active modes of transportation for short trips, while persons in the south-east and north-east of the City are the most likely to drive for trips within a suitable walking or cycling distance.

Did You Know

Child Pass	\$40.00
Students(to grade 12)	\$55.00
Adults	\$60.00
Senior(65+)	\$40.00

the Cost of Monthly Bus Passes?**Cost of Subsidies Transit Passes for Adults in 2013**

OW & ODSP users Total	Revenue Received	Rider Portion	Municipal Subsidy
12,038	\$722,280	\$361,140	\$361,140

30 day pass is \$60.00

Rider subsidy contribution in 2013- \$30.00

Rider subsidy contribution in 2014- \$26.00

Transportation Questions:

1. What kinds of strategies can the municipality put in place to make public transportation more accessible and affordable?
2. What should the municipality do to create more alternative active transportation options (e.g. walking, cycling, and transit)?
3. How will you develop Peterborough into a more pedestrian friendly community?

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Laura Kerezteor

Theme: Transportation

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Buses: subsidies, direct route options, facilitate partnerships with businesses e.g. Shoppers Drug mart could do a pick up like casinos
- Community Care has busses
- Remove stigma from using bus
- Design walkable communities and complete streets concept
- Increase the usage of bikes and walking

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Maintain sidewalks and clear them in winter

2. (Encourage) council members to set example and ride the bus, walk or ride bike to work
3. Implement the recommendations of recent transportation plans
4. Develop a new culture on council and do not run the city as a business
5. Ensure that (council understands that) transit is an essential service

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Laura Kerezteor

Theme: Transportation

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- (we are moving towards) an active transportation culture and moving away from the car centrism
- People want a ‘complete-streets’ approach
- Intra-county travel needs to be planned – potential to use small and frequent busses i.e. Peterborough to Port Hope
- Issues of in-city transportation: accessibility of bus stops, grid system rather than a hub system, smaller more frequent busses
- Gas tax
- We have paid for studies now we need action

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. (evaluate) the grid system vs hub system
2. Clear snow from bus stops
3. Work with the county (to develop a transportation system)
4. Act on studies
5. Develop a thorough review of integrating city and county systems

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 1

Name of Facilitator: Janet Dawson

Theme: Transportation

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Urban sprawl will make it difficult to make transportation affordable and accessible
- Need a public transit service between townships and city
- Care mobile programme not sufficient
- Need to move transit to circle routes
- Have seen decrease in transit ridership – why?
- Trying to develop a rider pass with Fleming, similar to that of Trent’s
- Need to make neighbourhoods/community more pedestrian friendly

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Develop circle transit system rather than what we have right now
2. Increase number of disabled parking spaces in city
3. (Explore) having free transit ridership for volunteers who are coming to work with the homeless

4. Develop a rural system of transit

Discussion Summary Sheet – Round 2

Name of Facilitator: Janet Dawson

Theme: Transportation

Key Issues and Ideas Discussed:

- Need improved information on how existing transit system works
- When you have a transit system that is inefficient people will/cannot use it
- Need to enhance existing infrastructure to support more active transportation
- Sidewalks are in poor condition and need of repair
- Must minimize the number of people driving cars
- Handivan system is not working and is not accessible

Recommendations to the Municipality:

1. Increase frequency of buses
2. (ensure) that buses are accessible for all
3. (increase) the number of bus shelters
4. (improve) efficiency of transit system
5. (encourage) every councillor to spend 2 weeks exclusively using the public bus system
6. Capitalize on economic benefits of cycling tourism
7. (develop) a better strategy for roadway and sidewalk retrofits
8. (explore) how to move people round Peterborough more efficiently
9. (develop) a different system of transit so that all buses do not come back to the terminal
10. Revamp the handivan system completely