

Program Highlights

Food for Health

Community Kitchens: Have pots and pans, will travel! Community Kitchens are a great tool to bring communities together, address isolation and of course, teach food literacy. York Region Food Network creates the kitchen based on the need and location. The formats and options are as diverse as our food systems themselves. Education, community and fun are the only constants. Our mobile community kitchen program went to housing co-ops such as Ramer's Wood, Charles Darrow and Tony Wong Place to deliver accessible cooking programming.

Gleaning: York Region Food Network partners with York Region Health Services to plan and facilitate gleaning trips to gather vegetables and fruits from the farmers' fields at the end of the season. Meeting the farmers and sharing recipes were highlights of the 9 trips in 2012.

upStream: is a unique social enterprise that promotes alternatives for food growing in York Region. Aquaponics is an ancient method of growing food that has had a recent resurgence. By combining the best principles of hydroponics and aquaculture, people can grow their own vegetables and protein in their own backyard. By engaging the community in a variety of ways, upStream demonstrates these food security measures and excites people about the possibilities of food production. Produce is just the beginning!

Community Gardens: Our garden program expanded, with 22 new plots added to the Newmarket Community Garden. We now have a total of 231 at our three gardens in Markham, Aurora and Newmarket.

Food for All

Good Food Box: We distributed 504 boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables through the Good Food Box program in 2012. Through a partnership with a local farmer, we are able to deliver quality food at good value. These boxes enable everyone to eat healthy food more affordably.

York Region Food Charter: Following a Visioning Day in March 2012, and community consultations with over 400 residents, a draft York Region Food Charter was launched in September 2012. In partnership with community agencies, municipalities and public health, the York Region Food Charter is a vision for what an effective local food system looks like. York Region Food Network and its partners are seeking endorsement for the Food Charter from the 9 municipalities and the Region, and have started to take steps such as research and projects to translate the Food Charter into action.

Breakfast: We were excited to start the Tuesday morning breakfast drop-in after our new commercial kitchen was built. The drop-in is a social place where people of all ages can relax, chat with friends, eat a good meal and try new foods.

Seedy Saturday: YRFN partnered with Healthy Festivals to bring the second annual York Region Seedy Saturday to Aurora. The Aurora Cultural Centre buzzed with activity on April 21, as community residents exchanged seeds and bought supplies for the gardening season.

Freedom 90: Freedom 90 is Ontario's new union of food bank and emergency meal program volunteers. Freedom 90 Union members want urgent action by the Government of Ontario to end poverty and make food banks and emergency meal programs unnecessary.

Treasurer's Report

2012 was a strong year for York Region Food Network, as we moved further towards our vision of *Food for Health – Food for All*. Year over year, we saw a significant increase in funding, which was mainly driven by York Region and United Way of York Region.

We also partnered with LifeCorps to help them with their mission of alleviating hunger in York Region. As a result, the funding and expenditures dedicated to LifeCorps has been reflected in our financial statements for 2012.

Our move to the new location in Aurora provided us with the opportunity to make renovations, in order to house a full commercial kitchen. We are thrilled as this new facility allows us to provide a community breakfast program, and we look forward to its continued use for new programs. The expenditures for the kitchen renovations are reflected in the capital assets and under professional services in the Profit & Loss statement.

Our Good Food Box program also continues to thrive, and for the upcoming year, we look forward to launching our Aquaponics project.

We are immensely grateful to all of our supporters and donors as we embark on 2013!

At a Glance

	2012	2011
Total Assets	265,846	192,624
Current Liabilities	73,698	30,718
Net Assets	192,148	161,906
Total Revenue	483,565	230,799
Total Expenditures	453,323	228,609
Excess (Deficiency)	30,242	2,190
<i>Complete Audited Financial Statements are available upon request</i>		



350 Industrial Parkway S.
Aurora, ON L4G 3V7
Phone: 905-841-3101
Toll-free: 1-866-454-YRFN (9736)
Fax: 905-841-3789
Email 4moreinfo@yrfn.ca
Website: www.yrfn.ca

The year in review

It was an exciting year at YRFN with new initiatives and programs. Our move from Newmarket to Aurora dominated much of 2012 as we planned and executed the construction of our new commercial kitchen and settled in with new organizations.

The development of the York Region Food Charter continued throughout the year. It is a guiding document for the development of food related policies and programs in York Region. Initiatives that germinated from this process included community kitchen outreach, support for Seeds for Change in their community challenge to start 2,015 new food growing spaces by 2015, and launching our journey into aquaponics with our social enterprise project, upStream. We believe that promoting a healthy food system and encouraging cooperation and integration will translate into thriving, healthy communities.

The Food Charter also provides the language for addressing food insecurity. It focuses on dignified access to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate food as a basic right. We continue to promote programs and policies to tackle these complex issues.

Our strong staff team was bolstered with the addition of Kate Greavette as Food Charter Coordinator and Tricia Richens as Coordinator for our Fresh! Project. Over the summer we had two students; Kate Vinokurov supported gleaning and YRFN Community Gardens and Kari Dengerink worked with community garden programs in Thornhill.

Endless thanks go to the enthusiastic volunteers that help our programs run smoothly. Our Katimavik volunteers, Elizabeth Clarke and Jolene Gabronski provided full time support for the first half of the year, and Steven Looi has been a vital part of getting the aquaponics project started.

The Board of Directors has implemented a new fundraising initiative, WinterFresh, and continues to support and guide the organization as we foster collaborative and integrated approaches to create a healthy food system in York Region.

*Rebecca Kopel, Chair
Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director*

Thank You

York Region Food Network would like to thank the more than 175 individual donors who supported our operations and administration. Without your support, day-to-day operations would be impossible.

We would also like to thank the following for their financial and in-kind support:

605485 Ontario Limited
Acushnet
Astellas USA Foundation
Beeton Truck & Auto Wreckers Ltd.
CN
Deutsche Bank AG
Dillon consulting
Infomaxium
Investors Group
John Howard Society
Nature's Rainbow
Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation
Pine Tree Potters' Guild – Empty Bowls Event
Saputo Dairy Products Canada G.P.
Southlake Regional Health Centre



United Way
York Region
Member Agency



Charitable Registration B/N 87044 7315

York Region
**Food
Network**
Food for health ... Food for all

Annual General Report 2012

*For fiscal period ending
December 31, 2012*

York Region Food Network offers programs, raises awareness and promotes policy changes for increased access to affordable and nutritious food produced within a sustainable food system.