



Annual General Report

(for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2007)

The Year in Review

This past year was one of change for the York Region Food Network. We welcomed in many new faces and were sad to see others leave. The Board are pleased that Ms. Joan Stonehocker joined us as our new Executive Director. Joan brings considerable financial training and experience to the job and, within a few months of joining us, secured use of a new van through an arrangement with Media on the Streets. Welcome Joan!

During the year, the board developed and passed a new policy to encourage the recruitment and development of board members. As a result, I wish to welcome Mr. Deepak Tuteja from Richmond Hill, and Ms. Farheen Khan. Both bring with them considerable business and fund raising experience. We look forward to their insights and perspective and continue to look for additional board members.

Unfortunately, a number of members also have chosen to leave the board. The Board's longest term member, Cathie Cappuccitti, has decided that this year will be her last with the Board. I will miss Cathie's passion for our mission and the breadth of experience she brought to the table.

Marie Jennerich has moved out of the region and we wish her all the best in her new home. Marie's energy, positive attitude and human resources experience was invaluable during this past year and I cannot thank her enough for all of her support.

Linda Alderson also has chosen to step down from the board after 4 years of service, many as Treasurer. Her commitment, perspective, accounting skills and leadership were a great asset to YRFN and she will be missed.

Rick Albert, Board Treasurer this past year, has chosen to step down as well. I will miss Rick's ability to continually challenge the board to ensure that our decisions align with the YRFN's vision and capacity. Both he and Linda have left a solid financial foundation.

This past year also saw the departure of Elizabeth Brims. During Elizabeth's term, YRFN funding grew almost 10 fold, as did in-kind contributions. These successes were, no doubt, due to the strong relationships Elizabeth developed with many of our stakeholders and the press. Thank you very much Elizabeth for all your efforts.

Throughout this year of change, the YRFN staff, Kim, Catherine and Terry, served YRFN well. I would like to thank Terry in particular for the invaluable service he provided as Interim Executive Director during our search for a new ED. Change can be very stressful for staff but ours has responded strongly. Change can also be positive for an organization overall. The commitment and actions of staff and the Board during the past year suggest this to be true for YRFN and I look forward to the coming year.

Graham Woodward, Chair

Our vision is to ensure that all residents of York Region are food secure. Food security is the assurance that all people at all times are able to acquire nutritional food in a way that upholds basic human dignity.

Our mission is to increase access to affordable, nutritious food for York Region residents. York Region Food Network will:

- Raise awareness and promote food security issues and policy change in our communities.
- Support community-based food security programs and services.

Board of Directors & Staff 2007

Officers:

Graham Woodward, Chair
Rosanne Rodgers, Secretary
Rick Albert, Treasurer

Directors:

Cathie Cappuccitti
Lewis Nastasi
Marie Jennerich
Linda Alderson
Jacqui Locke
Deepak Tuteja
Tracy Woloshyn, Advisory Member

Staff:

Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director
Kim Arseneault, Administrative Coord.
Catherine Cook, Program Coordinator
Terry O'Brien, Corporate Liaison
Elizabeth Brims, Former Executive Director

...the voice of hunger in York Region

Food for Thought

York Region Food Network (YRFN) is blessed with a strong and active Board, a dedicated staff team, many active volunteers, and strong community and corporate partners. We are well poised to continue to work toward our vision to create a York Region where no one goes hungry.

We continue to support the dedicated work of the Region's Food Banks by promoting the Spring and Fall food drives and are looking to strengthen our partnerships in the coming year. Our community garden and gleaning programs bring fresh, nutritious food to resident's tables, and we work with community partners to support nutrition programs in our schools. At the same time, we work with other community, corporate and government partners to develop new strategies to enhance prosperity in our society. We recognize that adequate, nutritious, appropriate food produced in an environmentally sustainable manner is fundamental to ongoing health and wellbeing.

As we look forward in 2008, we plan to maintain our financial viability and ensure the effective governance of YRFN to allow us to be an effective partner and advocate for social justice and food security. Graham Woodward has provided strong leadership as chair of the Board and we look forward to his continued support and expertise in producing the York Region Hunger Report. We thank all of our supporters and partners as we carry on with this important work.

Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director

York Region Alliance to End Homelessness Moves to a New Home

Since July 2005 the York Region Food Network has provided office space and administrative support to the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness. It has been a warm and supportive relationship that has been greatly appreciated as the Alliance has worked to increase awareness of homelessness and the risk of homelessness in York Region.

In the fall of 2007, the Alliance received 2 year funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and is about to embark on a number of collaborative projects funded through the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Initiative that will be instrumental in improving access of homeless individuals to transportation supports and health care in York Region. This funding will involve hiring additional staff and we have found it necessary to seek new office space. As of June 1st 2008, the Alliance office relocated to 510 Penrose St. in Newmarket and are now co-located with the Inn From the Cold emergency winter shelter program.

My very sincere thanks go to Joan, Kim, Catherine, Terry and the YRFN Board of Directors for their support over the past 3 years.

Jane Wedlock, Coordinator

Program Report

Over the past year, more than 300 volunteers contributed in excess of 1,930 hours in support of York Region Food Network (YRFN) programs. With the help of their generous commitment, YRFN was able to enhance program delivery across the region.

At the beginning of the year, YRFN partnered with Daily Bread Food Bank to conduct the Hunger Count Survey. Thirty-five YRFN volunteers conducted surveys in six of the Region's food banks and the Women's Centre of York Region. A total of 150 York Region based surveys were completed. Data from

the surveys was used in compiling the influential 2007 Hunger Report. Both the Spring and Fall food drives exceeded goals in 2007, with a total of 268,429 pounds of food collected. The Fall Food Drive was exceptionally successful, as all the food banks reported that their shelves were full.

With the onset of the gardening season, YRFN re-opened the three community gardens located in Aurora, Newmarket and Markham. 184 families and organizations participated in 2007. Gardeners contributed in excess of 1,000 volunteer hours in support of the gardens. They further contributed

approximately 3,500 pounds of produce to their local food banks and favourite service groups. Community support by way of donations and volunteer time contributed to the success of the backpack program. 397 students in York Region were outfitted with backpacks at the beginning of the 2007/2008 school year.

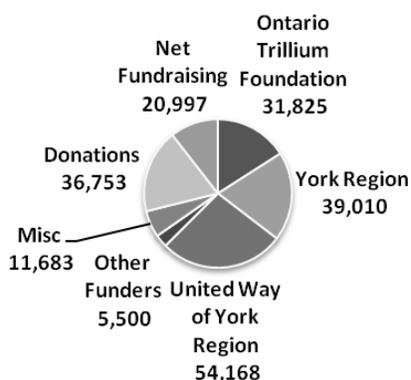
YRFN counts on community support to make our programs successful. Through the efforts of our volunteers in 2007, YRFN has been able to provide valuable services to the residents of York Region.

*Catherine Cook
Program Coordinator*

Report on Revenues

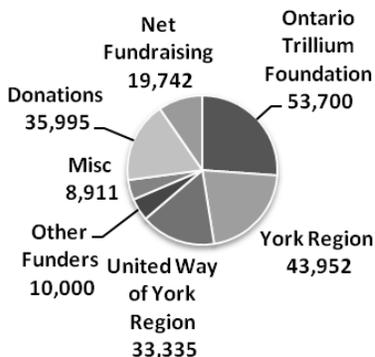
Over the past five years YRFN has grown from a small, grassroots volunteer group to a prominent and influential charitable organization in the region. Initially, income for this quick growth came from the Trillium Foundation and CDIF for the purpose of capacity building - creating an office with staff and developing a strategy that would secure long-term sustainability for our programs. As part of our agreements with these agencies, efforts have been made to avoid long-term dependency by developing private and corporate donations, building fundraising events, and accessing private foundations.

YRFN Revenues 2007



Growth of the YRFN has ensured that the future of existing programs such as Community Gardens, Back-to-School Backpack Program, Food Bank and Food Drive assistance, Farm Gleaning, and Public Education is guaranteed. For the first time in the twenty year history of the YRFN, the future existence and sustainability of the organization is not in doubt.

YRFN Revenues 2006



Over the past year, advice from our newly formed Corporate Advisory Council has assisted YRFN in the development of a strategic business plan, an organizational review, and a marketing and communications assessment. Now with a sustainable

budget, a strong administration, and a clear vision and mission, YRFN can confidently move forward tackling new challenges, expanding programs, and developing new initiatives that fight hunger and poverty in York Region.

During the last few years, public and corporate awareness and interest in the goals of YRFN has grown. Through our efforts, Little Caesar's Pizza started a program to donate 1,000 pizzas annually to the Boys and Girls Club of York Region Youth Program in Richmond Hill. The Newmarket Mayor's Charity Golf Committee contributed \$5,000 towards essential Back-to-School supplies distributed through the Newmarket Food Party. The IBM Employee's Charity Fund contributed \$7,200 to our Community Gardens. Our own YRFN Charity Golf Classic had ninety registered golfers raising \$12,000 for our programs.

After a dramatic doubling of donations and fundraising from 2005 to 2006, revenues have remained steady through 2007. During the same period, the public profile of the YRFN has risen significantly. With financial support becoming stable from a wide variety of individuals, corporations, government, and foundations, there is an opportunity to expand partnerships and existing programs, create new initiatives, and communicate more effectively for those in need in York region.

Terry O'Brien, Corporate Liaison



In Memory of Mary Queen

As Director and driving force behind of one of the first and largest food banks in York Region, it is safe to say Mary Queen of the Georgina Food Pantry helped thousands of families. Her energy, passion and unbridled commitment to helping those most vulnerable in our local community will be sorely missed.

Thank You to the Food Network's 2007 Contributors

York Region Food Network would like to thank the more than 200 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 organizations for their financial and in-kind support:

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Art Source	Fraktals - One Chocolate Corporation	Rabeanco
ASM Fashions	Golden Touch	Raine Davis - Freelance Artist
Aurora Shopping Centre Merchant's Association	Heidi's Helping Hands	Regional Municipality of York
Aurora United Church Women	Henry Equestrian Insurance Brokers Ltd.	Rogers Cable Communications Inc.
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Estuary - Surfacing the Ways of Women	NYC	West Photo Inc.
Eugenia	Olivia Chocolates	Whitchurch Riding Academy
Everest Supply Inc.	Ontario Snowmobiler and ATV World Magazines	Willow Springs Winery
	Paul Cappuccitti Mortgages, Insurance & Annuities	



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