



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 16, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	BOH13001(c) - Food Strategy Update (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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Council Direction:

At its August 14, 2014 meeting, the Board of Health endorsed, in principle, the direction for the Interdepartmental Food Strategy Steering Team to engage with community stakeholders to validate the proposed Food Strategy vision, principles, and goals.

Information:

In August 2014, a Board of Health (BOH) Recommendation Report (BOH13001(a)) received approval for completing a community engagement (CE) process to inform the development of the Food Strategy. In June 2015, an Information Report was presented to BOH (BOH13001(b)) summarizing the progress of the CE process of the Food Strategy. This report will provide further updates since the June 2015 report.

Progress To Date

As of October 30, 2015, the total work completed regarding CE in 2015 includes:

On-line Communication and Consultation:

- Developed and launched the Food Strategy webpage: www.hamilton.ca/foodstrategy
- Created a Food Strategy e-mail address for correspondence: foodstrategy@hamilton.ca.
- Developed, pilot-tested, revised and conducted an online survey, resulting in over 1500 responses.
- Developed and published an animated video.

Face-to-Face Communication and Consultation:

- Hosted the Hamilton Food Summit (November 4, 2014) with over 100 participants across multiple food sectors.
- Held one-to-one meetings with 14 City Councillors, as well as the Mayor, to discuss the Food Strategy.
- Attended the Hamilton Food Forum (January 29, 2015) to gain feedback on the proposed Food Strategy goals.
- Attended the Durand Town Hall (March 9, 2015) to promote the Food Strategy.
- Met with the Hamilton Wentworth Federation of Agriculture (March 11, 2015) to gain input into the Food Strategy.
- Facilitated two consultation workshops at the Environmental Summit (April 22, 2015) to gain input into the Food Strategy.
- Attended the 20,000 Homes Campaign community debrief meeting (April 30, 2015) to promote the Food Strategy.
- Attended the 100In1 Day Evergreen event to promote the Food Strategy (June 6, 2015).
- Held two community workshops (June 25, 2015, and July 9, 2015) to gain input and feedback into the proposed goals and identify potential actions to meet those goals.
- Held a workshop with CityHousing tenants to gain input and feedback about Hamilton's food strengths, weaknesses, and potential actions to meet the food strategy's proposed goals (July 8, 2015).
- Held a Culture & Food Stories activity at SuperCrawl in September 2015.
- Consulted with the following Food Related Committees:
 - Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee (June 3, 2015)
 - Food and Shelter Committee (June 17, 2015)

- Emergency Food Providers Strategic Planning Committee (June 24, 2015)
- Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee (September 29, 2015)

Other Notable Updates

A number of key food related policies and initiatives have emerged over the past year that support and align with the Food Strategy. They address the various components of the Food Strategy Framework.

Food Production:

- In September 2014, City Council passed the Urban Hamilton Official Plan Amendment (OPA)(PED14161) and amendments to the seven zoning by-laws to permit urban agriculture (urban farms and community gardens) in certain geographic areas within the City. The OPA was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, however, this appeal was denied. The OPA is now in effect.
- At the July 7, 2015 Planning Committee meeting (PED13167(c)), the Rural Zoning OPA and By-law was passed. The OPA and by-law have been appealed.
- The Public Works Department helped with the creation of three new community gardens by supporting the leasing process of the space and offering free compost and wood chip deliveries. The three new community gardens are: Ron Miller (Ward 11; collaboration between Kiwanis Club and Hamilton Sustainable Victory Gardens), Rosedale (Ward 5) and, Riverdale Salad Bowl (Ward 5).
- PHS provided funding for Neighbour 2 Neighbour to continue the Community Garden Network which provides start up support, resources and connects gardens to each other.

Food Processing and Distribution; Food Waste:

- A recommendation report regarding the City Enrichment Fund, including the Agriculture and Environment streams was presented to General Issues Committee in July 2015 (FCS12024(c)). Council approved the guidelines and applications to the new Agriculture Program of the city Enrichment Fund. Applications for 2016 funding through the Operating Grants stream are being accepted until November 2, 2015 for non-profit agriculture organizations.

Food Buying and Selling:

- In April, City Council passed Urban Hamilton OPA and amendments to the seven zoning by-laws to permit urban farmers markets in certain areas within the City (PED14084(a)). An urban farmers market would be permitted subject to certain

regulations, in conjunction with institutional and recreational facilities, as well as commercial areas. The OPA and by-laws are now in effect.

- The Farm Map was launched in May 2015, including an online version.
- The Hamilton Farmer's Market has received proposals for the Market Kitchen. The new Board of Directors have been selected and had its inaugural meeting in June 2015. The McQuesten Urban Farm is currently under development, with the goal of commencing operation in spring 2016. The farm will run as a social enterprise with the goals of making fresh food available for McQuesten and other nearby neighbourhoods, as well as providing food education and job skills training to residents.
- To date, 18 caterers have worked with the City to deliver catering menu options for City meetings and events that comply with the Corporate Healthy Food and Beverage Policy.

Food Consumption:

- Since 2007, Council has allocated up to \$350,000 in one-time funding from the City of Hamilton Reserves to off-set costs for food and staff shortages at the City's food banks and for the Christmas Hamper Program administered by Hamilton Food Share and its member agencies. In April 2015, Council approved a \$350K allocation of existing Provincial homelessness funding to be used as a more sustainable funding source to alleviate the pressures that have consistently been experienced by Hamilton's Emergency Food System (Report CES15006).
- PHS is working with the Recreation Division Program Development Team to design and deliver a one day training program for food programming teachers/staff and consultants teaching healthy eating programming to ensure consistent healthy eating messaging, appropriate acquisition of food skills, and food safety.
- PHS staff in co-operation and consultation with Ward 5 Councillor Collins, the East End Food Bank Committee, St. Matthew's House Hamilton, and members of Ward 5 Community Hubs ensured that a commercial kitchen and food skills teaching space was included in the plan for a Food Bank in the East Hamilton area.
- PHS supported the Community Food Centres Canada application by Neighbour 2 Neighbour to develop a Community Food Centre on the Mountain.

Planned Next Steps

Food Strategy Report Development and Presentation:

- A community food assessment is being developed and expected to be completed by the end of November 2015. The community food assessment will provide an examination of Hamilton's current food-related assets, opportunities, and gaps in order to inform decisions and recommendations for the forthcoming food strategy. In

addition, this baseline information will allow for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of food strategy actions once implemented.

- A check-in with the community will be performed in November 2015. Open Houses will be held on November 23rd and November 25th to present a summary of the consultation process and the major themes that we heard. The open houses will provide the opportunity for citizens to confirm the consultation findings, provide further input, and engage stakeholders that may not have been involved to date.
- A Food Strategy recommendation report incorporating final input will be presented to BOH in early 2016.