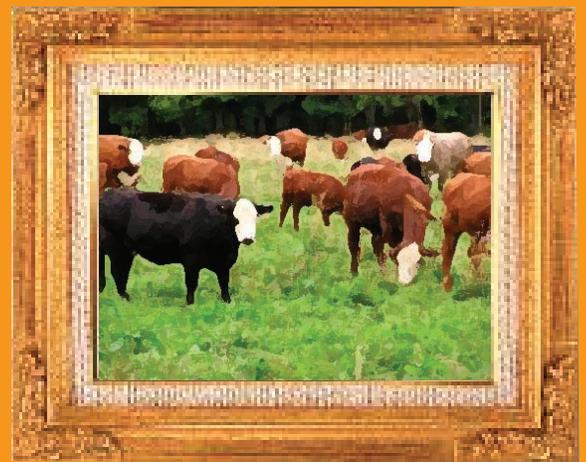


~ Haliburton County ~

LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT



~August 2011~

HALIBURTON COUNTY LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

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Executive Summary

A Food System is a process that aims to create a more direct link between the producers (farmers) of food and the consumers of the food. This system consists of several components, including production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste disposal.

The Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition is currently a not-for-profit organization operated primarily by volunteers. The objective of the coalition is to develop, encourage and enhance the production and purchase of local foods within the region.

With a permanent population of approximately 16,500 and a seasonal population exceeding 45,000, Haliburton County's food requirements vary throughout the year. Only small portions of the county's food requirements are supplied from within the county.

Initial documentation of the philosophy and plans for the Local Food Coalition is presented. Internet presence is already established using "Haliburton Fresh" as brand and the contact directory has started adding names.

Many local food organizations in other regions are already underway to encourage the production and consumption of local foods to all residents.

A detailed overview of regional status is presented, outlining the progress of, and barriers to, producers and suppliers of local food initiatives. In general, the terrain and weather create barriers for many types of agriculture; as a result, the development of food production in the region has been limited.

The Conclusions and Recommendations section of this report recognizes that coordinated and substantial effort is required to move the region towards a sustainable local food system; that much positive effort is already underway within the region; and that every step towards sustainability helps progress.

Existing producers/farmers need the support of the consumers, private business owners, municipalities, advocacy groups, etc., to work together to overcome these challenges and provide unified solutions. This will demonstrate that although Haliburton County has very few farmers, it has a good structure in place that can help to support existing and new farmers.

There is a need to raise awareness in the community as a whole about the challenges farmers face with growing and selling goods. There could be an awareness raising or educational booth at the farmers' market. This booth would be a great way to get petitions signed or to seek and hear consumers' views.

There needs to be a grassroots committee to raise the awareness of the importance of local production. There is a great need for a variety of capacity building projects to link consumers to local producers.

Overview

The objective of this report is to provide an outline of the status, plans and opportunities for the restructuring of the Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition. Producers and consumers will benefit from the expansion of the membership to include many diverse groups and individuals interested in, and involved with, various aspects of local food.

Why Should Local Food Be Supported?

A local food supply helps secure the health and welfare of our community. Local support for food production and distribution strengthens democracy, and gives citizens a more direct stake in a healthy future. Support of local food production and distribution improves:

- **Health:** With greater local support, we are able to build food systems that improve community health. We can select foods and ingredients based on the qualities of flavour, freshness, and nourishment instead of factors favouring short-term shareholder profits.
- **Food Security:** When communities manage their food systems, they are better able to create a healthy, affordable, and stable food supply. In this way, the needs of marginalized segments of the community are met. Conversely, large food manufacturers and retailers inadvertently, yet systemically, compromise community food security. For example, they encourage: (a) global-scale food distribution systems that are subject to disruption; (b) large-scale, chemical-intensive, monoculture production; and (c) store closures in low-income communities where profits are not as high.
- **Local Economies:** Local food makes it easier to create an economic environment that fosters locally owned and operated food and agricultural businesses. This keeps more money recycling in the local economy. When stores source food and other products locally, even more money is returned to the local community.
- **Environment:** Food that is locally produced and sold, typically comes from small and mid-scale, sustainable farms. Creating stronger ties between communities and their local food systems fosters a connection to the land and thus better protects nature. One of the greatest benefits is a significant reduction in long-distance transport, which is a leading consumer of fossil fuels and therefore a contributor to climate change.
- **Community Cohesion and Civic Engagement:** Local food systems build community and develop regional identity and character. They provide more meaningful livelihoods for food and agriculture workers, encourage community interaction, and build respectful relationships.
-

Source: <http://environmentalcommons.org/LocalFood/Shaping-Our-Food-Systems.html>

42% of Canadians regularly purchase locally grown food (Ipsos Reid, 2006)

Geographic Region

The Haliburton Highlands (Haliburton County) is an area at the north end of Southern Ontario, just south of Algonquin Park. It is located about 225 km (135 miles) northeast of Toronto and 372 km (231 miles) west of Ottawa. The region covers 4,025 square kilometres and consists of four municipalities (Algonquin Highlands, Highlands East, Minden Hills and Dysart et al.).



Map courtesy of www.haliburtoncounty.ca

Demographics

According to the 2006 census (the most recent official figures), the population of this region was 16,526. Growth since then is estimated at between 2 to 5%. The area is a common tourist destination and therefore enjoys a seasonal population increase to approximately 45,000, primarily from summer cottagers and winter snowmobilers. Over 97% of this population is English speaking and 86% are age 15 years and older. The labour force consists of about 53% of residents, employment is seasonal and unemployment rates tend to be high. According to a Service Canada overview of the Muskoka-Kawarthas Economic Region, which includes the census division of the Kawartha Lakes, and the County of Haliburton, the unemployment rate increased from 8.7% in May 2010 to 9.3% in May 2011. However, according to Statistics Canada, the unemployment rate in Kawartha Lakes reached 15.1% in March 2011.

Agricultural Heritage of Haliburton

The agricultural history of Haliburton County developed via two methods. Firstly, as the early loggers followed the pine forests along the waterways, they often stayed and built homesteads. Secondly, planned migration was sponsored by the Canadian Land and Immigration Company, which purchased the nine townships of Dysart et al and Longford from the crown for the purpose of reselling the land to European immigrants. Part of the original company demonstration farm, located on Lots 6, 7 and 8, Concession 4, in Dysart et al., is still in active agricultural use.

This region, while initially fertile, without replenishment of organic matter, quickly mineralized and lost its productivity. The forest cover often hid the shallow depth of soil that would not sustain crops through dry cycles. There were pockets that were very productive, but many of them have now been supplanted by residential and commercial building.

When the railroad arrived in the 1870s, it was planned as a means to transport the produce of the community out to market. In reality, it was used by many families as the means for a second migration away from the shallow soils of this county to more favourable farming areas in Canada.

The farms and families that remained then developed a symbiotic relationship with the forest industry. The farmers grew the crops and food through the summer months to feed the forest workers and their livestock through the winter timber harvest. Many farmers and their horses also sought part time employment with the logging operations.

As Ontario prospered, the 1920s saw the growth of a new summer resort/lodge industry. Visitors were brought in by rail and were fed with local food from the adjacent farms.

Since the 1920s, society in general, and agriculture in particular, has seen massive changes in technology and production methods. There was also a movement away from local food production to food sourced from distant locations. In spite of this trend, a number of Haliburton County families have continued to produce their own food. Various generations have, at times, gone to commercial-scale operations. The proximity to the urban areas of Ontario and the relatively inexpensive land of this county, have resulted in the influx of more recent migrations in the 1970s and 1990s away from the urban and suburban areas to this county. These newcomers now complement those who trace their roots back several generations.

Local Food Coalitions

The term Local Food Coalition can be defined as groups of organizations, from the voluntary, statutory and private sectors working together towards a common goal, which generally revolves around the creation of a local, sustainable, food system. Local Food Coalitions exist, or are in development, in many regions throughout the world.

Various coalitions have formed with an understanding that open, ongoing communication and working in partnership are essential in order to make progress. As a result, coalitions often contain an eclectic mix - from local authorities to market stall holders, from farmers to schools, from allotment associations to private landlords.

There are, however, some themes common to many Local Food Coalitions, including:

1. Engaging local people to take action and become involved
2. Promoting the benefits of local food growing
3. Campaigning for more land to be made available for cultivation
4. Networking with like-minded groups to increase skills and opportunities and to encourage good practice
5. Removing obstacles to local action by working with statutory bodies and the private sector

Target Audiences

Consumers: Educate and encourage consumers to purchase and consume local food, and also to grow/produce/preserve some of their own food.

Restaurants/Retailers: Encourage local businesses involved in food preparation and/or sales, to use and/or sell local food.

Producers: Assist local food suppliers in the production/marketing/distribution of local food.

Organizations/Companies: Increase and help with organizational assistance. Identify and reduce barriers to the production/marketing/distribution of local food.

Organizational Philosophy

Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition

The Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition is a working group formed to develop, encourage and enhance the production and purchase of local foods within the region. As such, it embraces the values outlined below.

Mission Statement

The Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition will facilitate, through partnerships, the cultivation of a healthy local food system for the community. The coalition is a not-for-profit organization which allocates revenue produced through partnership activities, towards the support of the organization.

Vision

Through our partnerships with food producers, retailers, restaurants, farmers' markets, schools, local food programs, distributors and consumers we aim to:

- identify and promote local food
- encourage the production of more locally grown food
- improve consumer awareness and access to local food
- provide support to food producers, markets, schools and community businesses
- engage the community in local food systems and issues
- improve the health our of community
- strengthen the local economy
- assist with a distribution system for selling locally produced food
- preserve our environment

Values

- Respect
- Empowerment
- Mobilization
- Consensus
- Inclusiveness
- Honesty
- Positive Perspective
- Accountability
- Impartiality

Goals

- to ensure effective management of the resources (time, people, money and information)
- to support educational opportunities that increase consumers' awareness and knowledge of growing, harvesting, preparing and storing local foods
- to operate a website and database which lists Farmers' Markets, Food Producers, Restaurants and Retailers, and Groups and Associations related to local food production
- to enhance the website to provide access to relevant information on topics such as agriculture and food production, food preparation, resources, and training opportunities for farmers and consumers

Participants

The Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition will aim to have partnerships with the following sectors:

- Haliburton Farmers' Association
- Haliburton Highlands Farmers' Markets
- Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC)
- Environment Haliburton
- Businesses
- Food Net (Food Security or Food Bank)
- Interested Community Individuals
- Media
- Restaurants / Chefs / Food Services
- Health Unit
- Stewardship Council
- Municipalities
- Local CSA's
- The Sustainability Workshops Committee
- Garlic Growers Association
- Meat Co-op
- Haliburton in Transition
- Maple Syrup Producers
- Grain CSA
- etc.

The Infrastructure Project Committee

The Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition hosted a Community Forum on September 21, 2010 to promote and educate the public on the local food movement in Haliburton County. The following day a workshop was held at which the participants were asked to set priorities for our community. The top two priorities were to assess the infrastructure of the county in regards to the production and sale of local food and the other was to offer sustainability workshops on various aspects of growing local food. As a result of the first priority, the Local Food Infrastructure ad hoc committee was developed. The goal of the committee was to develop this report. The information in this report was gathered from talking to farmers, councillors and community members and from using the results of local food surveys conducted in prior years. In addition, the Project Committee used U-Links research and the Internet. Our expected outcomes are noted below.

With the report completed, our goal is to present our findings to the community through a public forum. Radio interviews and newspaper articles will also help to publicize our findings. Local producer groups, service clubs and municipal and county councils will be approached as partners to help further the cause of local food security. In addition, U-Links might become involved with further research as needed.

Via a variety of research vehicles, the committee researched the following critical components that would require consideration in regards to a Local Food Policy:

- 1) Land
- 2) Producers – primary, secondary, home-based
- 3) Suppliers
- 4) Retail – restaurants, community centres, schools, organizations
- 5) Municipal Policies

Expected Outcomes:

- Identify the gaps regarding business opportunities
- Increase awareness about the idea of food security and resilience within the community
- Identify municipal policy strengths and impediments

Haliburton Fresh

Haliburton Fresh is a website that serves as a guide to local food production and sales in the Haliburton Highlands. It is a great tool for connecting farmers and consumers and it promotes local food events. It has been in existence for three years and each year the number of visits has been steadily increasing. The first year there were 500 hits and in 2010 this increased to 2000 hits. This past year, 77% of the hits were from new visitors. Each visit views an average of 3.35 pages. In the spring of 2011 there were four more listings added. Haliburton Fresh is at the top of the Google search.

The Haliburton Fresh website is located at www.haliburtonfresh.com which provides a directory/database for various entities, including:

- Local Food Producers
- Farmers' Markets
- Groups and Associations
- Retailers and Restaurants

Representatives of local groups can become members of the site for free and can register with the directory for free marketing. There is also a section on the website about the Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition.

Opportunities exist for the expansion of the branding of the 'Haliburton Fresh' logo and concept, increasing members in each directory, and expanding information and education on the website.

Possible Outcomes

The Haliburton Fresh website has the potential to expand and be a key tool for the promotion of local foods and a venue to attract new farmers. It has the potential to connect producers with bulk consumers such as camps, restaurants, etc. Producers could have a more detailed profile and essentially create a free homepage. The website could contain educational information to encourage and assist individual growers.

Limitations

Funds are needed to market the Haliburton Fresh website to both consumers and producers and to expand the information on the website.

Regional Status

Agricultural Land

The land in Haliburton County is not ideal for broad acre commodity agriculture. There are several limiting factors and older agricultural land that was once in production has long since been left out of production. The municipalities had no quantitative information on land type and so our efforts to discover what land was suitable for agriculture led us to Leora Berman from The Land Between who completed a soil study survey for the county. Brief summaries of the methods employed for the study are provided below. The Committee will be working with Leora in an effort to review all of her findings and provide them in a quantitative format at a later date.

Soil Mapping

Leora Berman from The Land Between, (<http://www.thelandbetween.ca/default.asp>) has done extensive research and is willing to do presentations and to become a partner to this Committee.

The Land Between is both a region and a non-profit entity. The region displays unique ecological, social, cultural and economic characteristics. The non-profit entity has a mandate to preserve and enhance these features through communications, coordination, and strategic projects. It is well known that the region relies heavily on eco-based tourism and resource use. Farming has always been difficult and minimal due to the physiography and climate. With climate change, locally grown food and agricultural capacity are becoming more important. Previous to this project, no soils data existed to support a viability assessment or project based action in support of agriculture in Haliburton County and for most of this region.

The Land Between, working in partnership with Farms at Work (who specialize in agricultural research, capacity and outreach) and with Sir Sandford Fleming College Geomatics, assessed and prioritized potential arable lands in the county by using ARIP reports (Aggregate Resource Inventory Papers); the only course aggregated data available. Surficial deposits of over one metre in depth, and which consisted of less than 35% clays, silts, and till or gravel were flagged as being potentially arable. These soils are erodible and likely may be farmed. No indication of organic components or deposits was available beyond wetland mapping from MNR LIO data sets. Therefore we included wetland overlays in our mapping to understand the proximity to, and so likelihood of, organic soil components in the mapping as well. Furthermore, in order to assess the viability or feasibility of farming these areas, crown vs. public lands; cover (forested vs. open); and proximity to water were used as measures of feasibility. Areas that were public, open, and near water were therefore highlighted or ranked as having greater potential.

Now that the potential arable lands have been mapped, projects led by Farms at Work or other local groups, may begin the wise use of these agricultural lands with the goal of

ensuring a sustainable approach. Concerted dialoguing with municipal partners may help to further protect these lands.

From The Report (4.2) Findings / Summary

Within Haliburton County eight soil suitability classes were delineated. All soils in these classes are composed of less than 35% gravel. These soil suitability areas compose a total area of 155 square kilometres (km²). Soil suitability class number one holds the most suitable soils for agricultural purposes. The criteria for soil class 1 was the base for creating the remaining seven suitability classes.

For example, the most suitable soils in Haliburton County would be located outside of the wooded areas and within 1000m of roads; however soils that are located inside these wooded areas were included but held a lower suitability rating. Taking these factors into consideration can enhance future planning for land use and especially for agricultural purposes. Soil suitability is therefore divided according to distance to roads, location inside or outside of wooded areas, and soil thickness.

Soil suitability areas ordered by decreasing area are shown below.

Soil Suitability Class #3:
Total Area = 69.6 km²

Soil Suitability Class #1:
Total Area = 59.2 km²

Soil Suitability Class #4:
Total Area = 11.8 km²

Soil Suitability Class #7:
Total Area = 6.0 km²

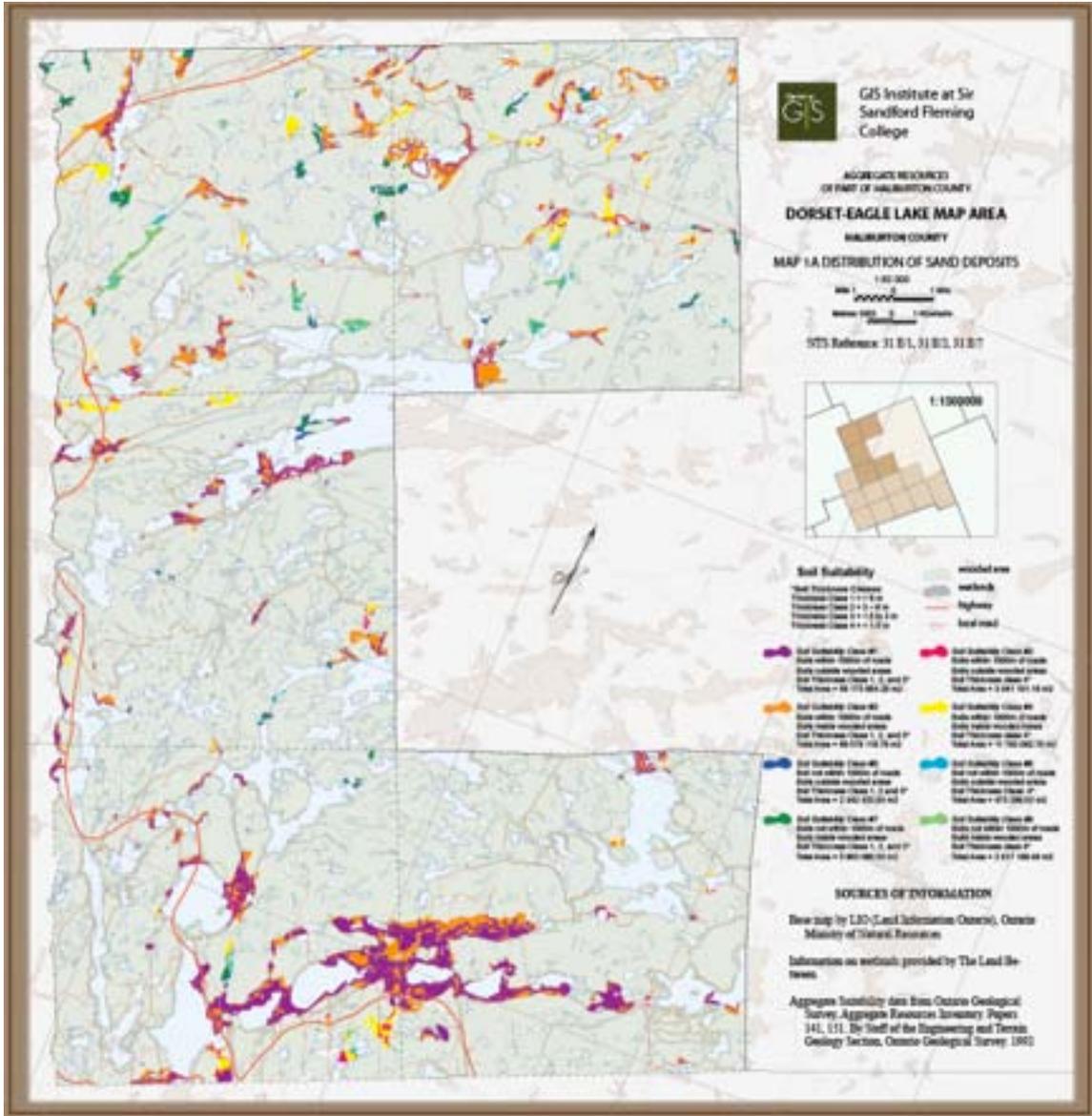
Soil Suitability Class #2:
Total Area = 3.0 km²

Soil Suitability Class #8:
Total Area = 2.8 km²

Soil Suitability Class #5:
Total Area = 2.3 km²

Soil Suitability Class #6:
Total Area = 0.5 km²

Locations of these soil suitability classes can be seen on the following map.



Land Policy

The County of Haliburton Strategic Plan is comprised of a series of recommendations covering economic, social, environmental and infrastructure issues.

The County of Haliburton Official Plan, per 1.3 Land Use Objectives, advises that it promotes sustainable development that achieves efficient land use patterns, supports economic growth, and enables healthy, liveable and safe communities. Official Plans at the County and Municipal levels guide community values, directions and policies. Detailed implementation, especially regulatory, is carried out through bylaws, zoning and actions at the municipal level.

Algonquin Highlands, Highlands East and Minden Hills all recognize agricultural land use as traditional in their communities, and support preservation of existing uses, including the encouragement of new agricultural operations. Dysart advises that farming is permitted throughout the rural area of the municipality, but identifies recreational and resource industries as principal rural land uses.

Product Sale / Zoning

All four townships or municipalities support the sale of local agricultural products by allowing farmers to sell their produce on their properties at the farm gate. Larger retail facilities, such as farmers' markets, can operate in any general commercial or highway commercial zone. Farmers are currently exempt from the Transient Trader's Licence fee applicable to farmers' markets or roadside stands.

Issues and Recommended Action

The importance of availability of local food sources is not reflected in Strategic Planning at either the County or Township levels.

Support for local agriculture and the availability of local agricultural products must be included with official plan updates. It is recommended that this support for local agriculture be included with the presentations and plan amendments supporting healthy communities.

Official Plan updates must continue to support the need to protect and preserve current agricultural land areas, and must also recognize the very limited availability of suitable agricultural land in the county. This is critical to safeguard the county's access to fresh local produce, and again, could be presented in conjunction with the concept of promoting and maintaining healthy communities.

The county and townships, through economic development, need to support the construction of a co-operative or shared facility for small local farmers and growers. This could include a site that supports not only a permanent farmers' market, but also could

include facilities for food processing and storage, the distribution of supplies and products bought as a group, and for goods that may be packaged for shared shipment.

This facility needs to be located along a main corridor so it is not affected by seasonal load restrictions (Hwy 35 or a similar route) to enable public exposure and large transport access.

Few farms in Haliburton County are large enough to enable survival without a secondary source of income. Zoning must recognize the need for farmers to supplement their income with businesses.

Local Food Infrastructure Research

U-Links Student Research Paper Review:

The Existence and Importance of Sustainable Food Systems in Haliburton County

Janice Barry: 2000

In 2000 very few people in Haliburton County were aware of local growers/farmers. *“Despite the public perception that Haliburton is completely devoid of agriculture, local food production does exist in the County... out of all the counties in Central Ontario, Haliburton has the least amount of agricultural land. In total, there are only 87 farms in the county. Of these 87 farms, a quarter of them are between 10 – 69 acres and only just over half of them report gross incomes over \$2,499. In addition, the majority of the farms are involved in livestock production, as in many cases the land can only be used as pasture. These realities are a result the undeniable fact that land is simply not well suited for agriculture, as less than 19% of the land is classed as 1, 2, or 3 soil.”*

In this report the author indicates that the only organic produce being sold in the county in 2000 was at a local health food store and ironically enough this organic produce was purchased from the Toronto Food Terminal and grown in California. The local food movement in Haliburton County has come a long way in the past ten years.

There is discussion in this paper about the higher cost of organic food and how consumers want produce to look picture perfect. This comment identifies the need to educate consumers that food might come with blemishes or be irregular in shape and still be totally acceptable to eat.

“Waverley Brook Farm CSA gives hope to Haliburton’s already marginalized agricultural sector, as it represents what can happen when producers and consumers come together to work towards a common goal --- environmental, social and economic sustainability. Community shared agriculture also embodies the holistic principles that are the very foundation of bioregional thought as it maintains the health of the producer, the consumer and perhaps what is most important, the land”.

In this report there is talk about establishing a Haliburton Village Farmers' Market – in 2002 there was a Farm Market established in Minden as the council in Dysart was not supportive of the idea. Over time this market outgrew the Village Green and moved to McMahon's Feed Store. Many of the vendors were from Kinmount and they in turn re-established themselves in Kinmount and continue, to date, to operate a successful Saturday market. Getting a farmers' market into the village of Haliburton only happened once -- in the summer of 2009. The location was the parking lot of Roberts Marina on Hwy 21. Establishing a space for a Haliburton Village Farmers' Market has had many obstacles. In 2010 the market moved to Carnarvon on the corner of Hwy 35 and Hwy 118. Angela McGreevy, the manager of the Haliburton County Farmers' Market, knows the challenges of dealing with Dysart et al. to get approved space to operate the market in the village of Haliburton.

Sustainable Ecological Alternatives for Living (SEAL) is a community-based initiative that started in 1998 through the work of Karen Levesque and a few other dedicated individuals. *“ For as Karen will tell you, with enough sun and soil development, anything will grow in Haliburton. In fact, with the exception of apricots and a few nut trees, she has had success with virtually everything that she has ever tried to grow in the county, although she is quick to admit that you have to do your research and find varieties that will be able to withstand the stresses that are posed by the Haliburton environment. Therefore, the creation of a sustainable food system in Haliburton County is not an impossibility, but rather it requires the hard work and creativity of all parties involved including the growers, consumers, and public educators.”*

The author ends the report with conclusions and suggestions for future research. After a year's worth of work, it is difficult to make any concrete conclusions about her research, however she does provide the following:

- Haliburton is an incredibly diverse community and there is a wide variety of people who are actively involved in, and passionate about, agricultural sustainability.
- Further research is needed into the feasibility of a farmers' market.
- SEAL deserves some future research, as its members possess an incredible amount of information. Working with SEAL could also lead into the documentation of the accomplishments of Haliburton County's many home gardeners, as most SEAL members have at least an interest in gardening.

Production

The committee's efforts to determine benefits and gaps in local food production were considerably obstructed due to the hesitancy of existing producers to speak openly. Restrictive regulations and negative policies have discouraged those active in agriculture from speaking freely with the public. They do not want to draw attention to themselves.

Producers' Surveys

In October 2008, Andrea Coysh, President of the Haliburton County Farmers' Association, collected the following information and then shared it at a local food forum. Andrea conducted over 44 surveys, some informally with members of the association.

Andrea's Executive Summary

"The main point that came through is that most of the county's farming community is either retired or hobby. Very few (three or four) are actively interested in increasing production. From this I would say that it is important to get more people, especially younger ones, interested in being producers. Many of the current members' families are no longer in farming.

No active marketing is done, that is to say there is no advertising except for CSA's, maple syrup producers and some value added producers. Most sales are conducted by gate sales, freezer orders and these are mostly drawn from an existing customer base. The next type of advertising would be word of mouth, for example, "Joe told me I could get beef from you." Beyond this the local farming community does not step outside of this comfort zone. If they do, it is because they are 'transplants' to this area and are more comfortable and familiar with other forms of advertising.

The main producers I had contact with dealt with beef, lamb, poultry and/or eggs. Some included vegetables as more of a sideline for personal or family use because they always have done so and they did not sell outside this group. Barter was in common usage.

The large animal producers often sent their animals to auction as they were cow/calf producers. The calves went on to be finished and processed elsewhere. Freezer orders were dealt with by sending them to the abattoir.

For the vegetable producers, root crops were a favourite because of their ability to store well over the winter; potatoes, turnip, carrots, various squash and beets mostly. Peas, beans, and tomatoes came in as the next most popular group, along with garlic. Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and peppers were also mentioned.

The next group of members would fall under the category of providing a service, with riding stables being the largest in this area."

Since the completion of this survey, in the summer of 2008, there has been considerable growth in the local food movement. The Haliburton County Farmers' Market, the Highland Meat Co-op, the Haliburton Fresh Website, the Haliburton County Garlic Growers Association, the Local Food Sustainability Workshops and some new CSA's have blossomed. Local food production is beginning to expand with newfound hope and energy and the public is beginning to show greater interest in sustainable food sources.

Producers

The Farmers' Association has 75 to 100 members but there are very few producers with commercial-scale operations.

While there are many small producers in our county, this report may not have captured all of them. There could be a call to action to encourage all producers to list themselves on the Haliburton Fresh Website or to encourage them to contact the Local Food Coalition so that a more inclusive list of producers can be established.

According to The Farmers' Association, livestock producers only make money if they sell at either the Woodville or the Cookstown Auctions. Selling directly to the public can be very problematic.

The Meat Co-op has only four members (Brian Barlow, Casey Cox, Andrea Coysh and Godfrey Tyler) and it is "on its knees". Consumers can call the Co-op if they wish to place a meat order. The Co-op consists of local livestock farmers, selling freezer orders of free range, organically fed beef, lamb or pork. Call 705-286-0177.

There is a vibrant group of garlic producers in Haliburton County. The garlic is primarily sold via the annual Garlic Festival held locally. In addition, most garlic growers have personal customers.

In 2006, Sheila and Charlie Robb began hosting garlic workshops with personal and financial assistance from the Haliburton County Farmers' Association. Inspired by the Robb's example, six or seven local growers convened informally in May 2008. Recognizing that the time was ripe to promote garlic locally, the group decided to host a Garlic Fest that same summer. The effort involved in organizing and promoting that event led to the formation of the Haliburton County Garlic Growers' Association (HCGGA), an unincorporated, non-profit entity.

They hosted the first Garlic Fest on August 23, 2008, on the property adjacent to Carnarvon Bowl at the intersection of Highways 35 and 118. Approximately 12 vendors and exhibitors participated and workshop demonstrations were held throughout the day. The event was well advertised, and according to the local media about 500 people attended.

This premiere Garlic Fest was successful beyond all expectations. The exhibitors clearly enjoyed themselves while realizing a fair return. There was a strong impression that the visitors and customers were similarly pleased. Thus encouraged, the Garlic Growers' Association secured a generous grant from the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), which enabled them to host an even more ambitious event at the same location the following year.

The industry is designed to support commodity-scale agriculture, and there are built-in, systemic barriers of entry for small producers.

CSA - Community Supported Agriculture in Haliburton County

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a business model born out of the biodynamic models of healing the land. It is an opportunity for consumers to receive the bounty of the growing season along with sharing the risks with farmers. By paying in advance, members can share in the planning for crops by making their wishes known and the farmer can plan better for membership needs with a fair price that can economically sustain a farm.

This movement originated in Germany in the early 1930s and has developed all over the world, bringing sustainable, healthy, local food to various communities. Membership size can range from five to 1,800 families. This type of food box program can host a wide variety of food items. Vegetables, fruits and herbs are the basic fare but other items such as grains, baked goods, meats, eggs, and dairy products may round out the food box. The variety of products is dependent upon the community's needs and the farmer's ability to provide for those needs.

Haliburton was introduced to the CSA concept at a community gathering of 30 people in April 1994. The group invited Jean Schlicklin, a CSA biodynamic practitioner from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to come to speak to them about the possibility of a CSA being established in Haliburton County.

The Community Shared Agriculture program at Waverley Brook Farm started in the spring of 1994. Group participants weeded and tended a strawberry crop, which unfortunately froze after a month of work. In 1995, the first CSA members received their food boxes and were able to reap the benefits of their own and the Tylers' labours. Godfrey and Jean Tyler have continued to have a successful CSA program, while supporting local food production. Four other CSA's have developed recently in Haliburton also. Three are food box CSA's like the Tylers' and one is a grain CSA. New farming ideas and community support for food production are developing all the time. Another fledgling idea is a co-operative meat marketing group organized by farmers.

The CSA business model is a direct way for consumers to participate in life on the land, as concerted environmental action becomes part of the sustainable local food movement.

Production Quotas

Quota systems are applied by marketing boards to manage the supply of certain items such as eggs, milk and broiler chickens. Quota is usually bought by one farmer from another and provides a license to produce a certain number of birds. Current 2011 prices for quota are: Egg layer - \$240 per bird; Broiler chicken - \$100 per bird; Turkey - \$8.50 per pound.

Quota can best be described as a licence granted by Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) that allows the person to whom the licence is registered to produce and market chicken in Ontario. Chicken Farmers of Ontario does not buy, sell or issue any new quotas. It only grants licences to recognize ownership transfers once transactions have occurred between buyers and sellers.

In 2009, Ontario had 41.1% of the federal egg quota allocation in Canada. There were 1,015 registered egg farms in Canada, generating \$588.6 million in total farm cash receipts. The average Canadian flock size was 19,287 hens, but Canadian egg farms can range from a few hundred to more than 400,000 hens. The average laying hen produces about 300 eggs per year (25 dozen).

CFO's regulations require that all chicken be produced and marketed in Ontario on a quota basis. However, the production of chicken on a person's own farm for consumption by that person's family is exempted. This is usually referred to as the "home consumption" exemption.

There are exceptions to quota rules for the small farmer. Flocks of 300 broiler chickens, 99 egg laying hens and 50 turkeys are allowed without requiring quota licencing.

Production quotas are a significant barrier to production. As an example, no farmer in the county has a broiler chicken or a laying hen quota because it is considered to be far too expensive.

Waverley Brook Farm

Waverley Brook Farm, owned and operated by Jean and Godfrey Tyler, is located about 5 kilometres southwest of the town of Haliburton. They provide an excellent business model for community shared organic farming. Their website is www.waverleybrookfarm.com

Using their concept of Community Shared Agriculture, farmers grow a wide variety of crops for a predetermined group of consumers. These consumers become shareholders by making a pre-season payment to the farm; shareholders are also required to do ten hours of work at the farm or may pay \$10 per each of the ten hours to have someone else do the work. For their investment, shareholders receive weekly food boxes of mixed produce for 16 to 18 weeks throughout the growing season. There are also programs available for weekend cottagers.

In addition to their crops (which may include such items as strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb, garlic, herbs, sunflowers, corn, pumpkin, squash, etc.) the farm also participates in 'four-season farming' that includes the raising of animals (cattle, sheep, chickens), sustainable logging for firewood and the production of maple syrup.

Waverley Brook Farm is a member of WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms), which provides daily or weekly participatory education about organic farming. WWOOF links volunteers with organic farmers to share more sustainable ways of living. They also provide internship opportunities, allowing volunteers to participate on the farm for an entire season, which is an excellent way for new farmers to learn about organic farming.

Haliburton Fish Hatchery

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) operates a community fish hatchery near the village of Haliburton, which is dedicated to stocking local lakes with Pickerel/Walleye, Rainbow Trout and other local or rare strains of lake trout such as the Haliburton Gold.

The HHOA's Haliburton Fish Hatchery is a not-for-profit, organization that relies heavily on 40 volunteers to collect wild eggs, hatch and raise the fish for 18 months and then stock the lakes. In the last 10 years, the HHOA hatchery has stocked approximately 450,000 fish in almost 100 local lakes.

Haliburton is known as cottage country, and the economy of this region relies almost entirely on nature-based tourism and recreation. Fishing is part of what draws tourists to Haliburton. Because the HHOA is a non-profit organization and the hatchery is a non-commercial operation, operational costs to date have been realized through the financial commitment of the HHOA and through the support of community, corporate and government sponsors.

Producer Limitations

The Producers' Report Chart was developed from the opinions of a prominent local farmer and further substantiated by several other producers.

With the information collected from the producers interview the Infrastructure Committee set out to catalogue producers' limitations in regards to the following categories: Environment, Transportation, Suppliers, Processing, Regulation, and Municipal Support. The aforementioned limitations were cross-referenced to the local production of Vegetables, Livestock, Maple Syrup, Local Sales, New Farmers and Attracting Young Farmers.

The findings follow:

Producers' Report Table

	Vegetable Production	Livestock Production	Maple Syrup	Local Sales	New Farmers	Attracting Young Farmers
Environment						
Transportation						
Suppliers						
Processing						
Regulation						
Municipal Support						

	Negative relationship Many limiting factors
	Somewhat negative Room for improvement
	Somewhat positive Hopeful
	Positive relationship Many supportive factors

The Environment

Produce - limitations include climate, short growing season, size of production field or available spaces, terrain, slope, depth of soil, predation

Livestock - predators, expense of electric fencing, expense to minimize predators

Maple Syrup - limited by availability of healthy maple trees and the operator's decision to tap or not to tap.

Local Sales - good opportunities exist due to the county being a cottage destination now rather than just a tourist destination as before

New Farmers - very challenging, because most farming information refers to broad acre, class 1 soils (only 0.02% of the county has class 1 soil); capitalizing returns on land is problematic; farming requires time and presence; it is a very lengthy process

Attracting Young Farmers - not enough farms or good farmland to generate interest or variety. Most farmers today need another source of income to sustain the cost of living.

Operations

Produce, etc. - all operations are affected by the environment, transportation, etc.

Transportation

Produce, etc. - the vast majority of food dollars spent in the community are exported out of community unless people buy from CSA's, farm gates or farmers' markets; to get produce into the grocery stores (franchises), one has to ship goods to a warehouse outside of the community first and then they come back to the local store; the geographic location of the county affects transportation in and out.

Suppliers

Produce - seed suppliers are always limited to certain seed companies outside of Haliburton County.

Livestock - local producers are not large enough and therefore cannot compete with the larger farms; transportation costs are always a factor

Maple Syrup - there is one small dealer in the county with limited supplies; usually producers must to go out of town (Sundridge, Barrie, Peterborough)

Local Sales - related to volume dilemma and transportation dilemma

Processing

Produce, etc. - processing is controlled by regulations

Regulations

Produce - most produce needs processing and grading to meet regulatory requirements; growers must constantly be aware of Ontario's Nutrient Management Act in relation to the fertilizing of all crops

Livestock - intensive regulation; far more difficult than produce, e.g. animal tagging, abattoirs, quotas, nutrient management, etc.

Maple Syrup - fewer regulations, but still regulated

Local Sales - farm gate sales and/or farmers' markets are subject to various government regulations

New Farmers - high capital costs and low returns limit numbers

Attracting Young Farmers - there is a limited number of farmers to model the lifestyle; society often disparages agriculture as a profession

Municipal Support

Produce, etc. - minimal encouragement is given; not acknowledged as an important commodity or resource as compared to tourism, education, the arts, etc.

Retail Component

An interview with Mark Roberts, produce manager at Todd's Independent, in the village of Haliburton, produced the following comments:

"I do try to buy locally, however, the number one issue is supply and demand. Many of the local producers can't supply enough food to keep up with our demand.

The second major issue is that the producers have to meet government standards, and if their food is packaged, it must have proper government labelling that shows contents and ingredients."

Mark said he must be able to see a list of spray materials used, including quantities and dates for safety regulations and the produce has to be at an acceptable price point.

"I was approached by a grower who had mushrooms for sale, but his wholesale price was 10 times the amount I'd normally pay, so it just wasn't realistic."

Mark added that he does have a Haliburton County supplier for maple syrup whose product meets the appropriate regulations and a strawberry supplier in Buckhorn whose price point is comparable to what he would normally pay.

"I do have free range to buy local food if and when I can, but the supply and demand issues and the lack of compliance with government regulations are major obstacles. The food must be safe because we can't be making people sick."

Mark added that he has only been approached by individual growers in the past and has never been approached by a group of growers – such as the Garlic Growers. If those obstacles could be worked out, Mark said he would be very happy to be able to support local food production.

Producer Limitation Summary

The opinions expressed below are those of one local farmer, gathered during an interview and discussed with a broader group of farmers for clarity and confirmation.

The environment has a great effect on production and thus on operations. There are many limitations in Haliburton County regarding both produce and livestock production such as unpredictable climate, a short growing season, limited arable lands, harsh terrain, slope, shallow soils, pH of soil, predation, and predation management. All of these things contribute to making conventional farming very difficult.

Although there is actually a substantial amount of arable land, agriculture is no longer the main use of this land. In fact, much good farmland is zoned for construction of subdivisions and condos, etc.

We do, however, live in prime maple syrup country. The growth of operations is based simply on the operator's choice to grow as a wholesaler or keep the business as a hobby. The environment does not pose any limitations on this choice.

Due to our landscape and environment, Haliburton is not only a tourist destination but also a cottage destination and is becoming a retirement community, thereby boosting the sales of local food. Opportunities and demand for local food is growing. The environment here does make it difficult for new farmers to start-up as the challenges do not disappear even though the demand is on the rise. This also affects the youth of the county and their attitude toward farming. Since there are very few farms, farmers, and youth interested in farming, programs are limited in number, lacking in variety, and staid and uninspiring. This could be changed with a new awareness of the importance of growing local food for the county.

Transportation affects Haliburton County's local agriculture to a great extent. This factor is very much tied in with the situation of the county within the province. This situation severely limits easy access to suppliers and processing establishments. 90% of food dollars spent in this community are exported out. This shows our reliance on transportation to import our food. Food dollars that remain within the local economy are through CSA's, farmers' markets, and farm gate sales. If we were to introduce local produce into the supermarkets here, it would first have to be wholesaled to a warehouse in Toronto. Transportation costs then would outweigh profit margins. People often complain that food prices in Haliburton County are high. One key reason is because of transportation costs. Some say we are at the end of the line for this region because of the limited number of roads coming in and out, plus the blockage to the north by Algonquin Park.

Suppliers are scarce within the county so producers need to travel to obtain seeds, soil, feed, bedding, supplements, and even maple syrup supplies. Deliveries are expensive as well but needed as local suppliers are not large enough to grant lower prices. The cost of delivery or travel to get most supplies is still actually cheaper than buying locally. This is

a huge dilemma because it limits the economic growth of local suppliers of agricultural goods. Once this is recognized, perhaps a pooling or co-op system can be implemented to cut down on travel and delivery costs and emissions as people become more serious about farming, producing, and supporting local food.

The more new farmers, the better, but they need to be educated as to all of these limitations and they should also be encouraged to work together to overcome these hurdles.

Processing and regulations are tied in together. Regulations are becoming onerous, almost pushing the small farmer out of business and greatly discouraging new farmers. Due to lack of awareness and education regarding these various regulations, local consumers become confused as to why they can't purchase certain simple items in a store or even at a farmers' market as is the case with eggs and meat.

Meat processing and distribution involve the harshest regulations due to possible dangerous pathogens. Even though it has been proven that on site butchering is actually safer since pathogens have the time to run their cycle before more meat is processed, the authorities favour large abattoirs that are constantly running. Produce requires intensive nutrient management, soil testing, fertilizer runoff management and much more. Even more onerous is organic certification and, more recently, non-GMO certification. With maple syrup there are fewer regulations but in order to expand, one has to upgrade to expensive labelling requirements and tedious batch testing. Once again, aggressive regulations and tiresome processing methods discourage the rise of new farmers and youth in farming, and limit local food sales to mainly farm gate sales, farmers' markets, and CSA's.

Municipal support is lacking greatly in this area. There is minimal encouragement or incentive to produce local food, nor is there support or acknowledgement of the significance of local production and sales for our community. Agriculture in this county is not viewed as an important commodity or resource especially when compared to tourism, the arts, or construction.

These facts present a very good case for beginning an awareness and education program about the importance of local food production in Haliburton County. Our municipal representatives, other political drivers, business owners, influential clubs and organizations and community development stakeholders should be the first to be educated in these concepts.

So our county is unique, as it always was when farmers first sustained themselves and the community 100 years ago. We do have many limitations in the form of the environment, transportation, processing, over regulation, and lack of municipal support, but it would seem that an education and awareness campaign could, at the very least, fill in some of these gaps and stimulate the producers and the consumers to try to find better solutions. This is a problem that is only going to escalate and become more pronounced as prices increase. By facing the challenges head-on now it will make life much easier in the long term.

Food Safety: Benefits and Limitations

Excerpts from the article: “Benefits and Costs of Food Safety Regulation”

By Professor J. Antle, Montana State University

- The benefits of food safety regulation are reductions in risks of morbidity and mortality associated with consuming foods that could be contaminated with microbial pathogens and other hazards.
- There is sizeable literature on measuring the value of food safety, including studies of the cost of illness and death, and survey and experimental methods for measurement of willingness to pay.
- The costs of food safety regulation include the industry’s cost of compliance, borne by both industry and the consumers of their products, as well as administrative costs borne by taxpayers and the deadweight loss associated with taxation.
- The goal of statutory food safety regulation is to mandate that firms produce higher quality, i.e., safer products for consumers. The key reason why it is difficult to design regulations to do this, and why it is difficult to measure the benefits and costs of these regulations, is that food safety itself is difficult to measure.

Extensive information is available from the following sites:

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

This site outlines Ontario’s food regulations for the production, labelling and selling of food. Regulations for each product are very detailed for purposes of grading, etc.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/index.html>

Sustain Ontario

Sustain Ontario is a province-wide, cross-sectoral alliance that promotes healthy food and farming. Sustain Ontario takes a collaborative approach to research, policy development and action by addressing the intersecting issues related to healthy food and local sustainable agriculture. Sustain Ontario is working towards a food system that is healthy, ecological, equitable and financially viable.

<http://sustainontario.com>

Ontario Food Acts

The Food Safety and Quality Act - 2001

enabling legislation that enhances the provincial government's capacity to maintain high standards of food safety, protect consumer health and increase the marketability of Ontario food products.

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_01f20_e.htm

New Regulation 119/11-Produce, Honey and Maple Products under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001

On July 1, 2011, Ontario introduced a new regulation which applies to fresh fruit and vegetables, honey and maple products. It also includes sprouts, fresh culinary herbs, in-shell nuts and peanuts and edible fungi.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2011/19hrt11a5.htm>

Official Law - e-Laws

Provides access to official copies of Ontario's statutes and regulations. An official copy of a statute or regulation is an accurate statement of the law unless otherwise proved

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900378_e.htm

Farming and Food Production Protection Act

There are two main themes in the FFPPA.

1. Farmers are protected from nuisance complaints made by neighbours, provided they are following normal farm practices.
2. No municipal by-law applies to restrict a normal farm practice carried on as part of an agricultural operation.

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_98f01_e.htm

Farm Products Marketing Act

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90f09_e.htm

Milk Act

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90m12_e.htm

Supplies

Haliburton is a very large county with an area of approximately 4025 square kilometres. There are very few retail stores to support the needs of farmers and growers in the county. Consumers often must travel great distances to purchase goods. The following list of stores represents the best sources of goods for farmers and growers.

Most of the stores in Haliburton County are unspecialized outlets with a limited selection of goods. The vast majority of them are in either Minden or Haliburton, the two largest villages. A few specialized stores carry goods that are often quite expensive making it necessary for customers to leave the county to purchase items.

Businesses

FEED STORES

Great Haliburton Feed Company
McMahon Feeds N Needs

GARDEN STORES

Carey's Garden Centre
Country Rose Florists
Minden Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Market
Pine Reflections

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Agnew's General Store
Eagle Lake Market
Hall's Lake Market
Irondale Country Variety
2 SEARS Catalogue Stores
2 Stedman's V&S Stores

OTHER

Haliburton Hydroseeding
Horseshoeing & Trims
Paulmac's Pet Food
Phoenix Irrigation Sprinklers

HARDWARE & BUILDING

Carnarvon Building Supplies
Dorset Building Centre
Emmerson Lumber
Haliburton Home Hardware
Haliburton Lumber Enterprises
Minden Home Hardware
2 Schwandt Timber Mart Stores

RENTAL OUTLETS

Bud's Rent-All

CRS Contractors Rental Supply

Emmerson Rental

Minden Hills Rental

Retail, Hospitality, Food Programs and Consumers

In 2009, the Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition hired Marci Mandel to research and compile the Haliburton Food Business Questionnaire.

Seven institutions were interviewed: 4 camps, 1 school, and 2 health services.

Twelve hospitality businesses were interviewed: 7 restaurants, and 5 resorts and inns.

Two food programs were interviewed: SIRCH and The Good Food Box Program.

Eight food outlets were interviewed: all retail.

Marci's Executive Summary

“Most businesses surveyed supported the idea of buying locally, yet only one had attended a farmers’ market. With summer being their busiest season, time wasn’t available to drive or even phone around to find out what was on hand. Shopping on a Saturday was totally out of the question.

The larger facilities, such as camps and resorts, said reliable quantity, quality, and delivery were key issues. As well, they couldn’t take chances on unknown handling procedures. Certification was required at all levels.

The smaller businesses had more flexibility but no more time. They often shopped online. A few had established relationships with local producers but in limited ways. Mostly they weren’t aware what was out there.

In conclusion, if businesses were guaranteed good quality and quantity, at competitive prices, and the process was quick and easy, they would be supportive of local food producers.”

Local Retail - Retail with Potential for Local Food

Agnew's General Store	2284 Loop Rd., Wilberforce	705 448-2211
The Art Hive	10239 Hwy. 118, West Guilford	705 754-0021
Dollo's Foodland	Hwy. 35, Minden	705 286-1121
Eagle Lake Country Market	2622 Eagle Lake Rd., Eagle Lake	705 754-2538
Easton's Valu-Mart	12646 Hwy. 35, Minden	705 286-6032
Haliburton Foodland	188 Highland St., Haliburton	705 457-2242
Harvest Bulk and Health Foods	30 York St., Haliburton	705 455-9889
Highland Meats	10124 County Rd. 503, Gooderham	705 447-0129
Linkert Country Bakery	2804 Hwy. 648, Wilberforce	705 448-2455
Marty's	13523 Hwy. 118, Haliburton	705 457-3216
Minden Fruit & Vegetable Market	Bobcageon Rd., Minden	705 286-3441
Moon Shadows Estate Winery	12953 Hwy. 118, Haliburton	705 455-9999
Norm's Smokehouse	3055 Gelert Rd., Minden	705 286-1862
The Raw Natural Path	1649 County Rd. 507, Buckhorn	705 657-9919
Robinson's General Store	1061 Main St., Dorset	705 766-2415
Todds' Independent	5121 County Rd. 21, Haliburton	705 455-9775
West Guilford Shopping Centre	1033 Kennisis Lake Rd., West Guilford	705 754-2162
Wilberforce IGA	2763 Essonville Line, Wilberforce	705 448-2811
Wintergreen Maple Products	3325 Gelert Rd., Minden	705 286-3202

Restaurants, Cafes, B&B's and Inns

Akane Log Home B&B	1044 Wampum Rd., Haliburton	705 457-4833
Aniz	172 Highland St., Haliburton	705 455-9800
Bonnie View Inn	2713 Kashagawigamog Lk. Rd., Haliburton	705 457-2350
The Cookhouse Restaurant	4291 Kennisis Lake Rd., Kennisis Lake	705 754-1729
The Corner Cafe	1008 St. Andrews Crt., West Guilford	705 754-9141
Domain of Killien	1282 Carroll Rd., Haliburton	705 457-1100
The Dominion Hotel	113 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden	705 286-6954
The Fiery Grill Restaurant	1089 Main St., Dorset	705 766-2344

The Fire House Resort	18860 Hwy. 35, Carnarvon	705 489-4608
Glen Haven B&B	1048 Elk Dr., Eagle Lake	705 754-3881
Gravity Coffee House	2 Newcastle St., Minden	705 286-4804
Grill on the Gull	115 Main St., Minden	705 286-3886
Haliburton Family Restaurant	Maple St., Haliburton	705 457-2440
Halimar Resort	2797 Kashagawigamog Lk. Rd., Haliburton	705 457-1300
Harmony Farm	3290 Hwy. 121, Kinmount	705 488-3300
Heather Lodge	14483 Hwy. 35, Carnarvon	705 489-3257
Heritage House Cafe	35 Pine St., Haliburton	705 457-2522
Kosy Korner Restaurant	166 Highland St., Haliburton	705 457-2810
Lakeview Motel	4951 County Rd. 21, Haliburton	705 457-1027
Mill Pond Restaurant	Hwy. 35, Carnarvon	705 489-3353
Noble Motel and Restaurant	Hwy. 35, Norland	705 454-8298
Northwood Inn	13588 Hwy. 118, Haliburton	705 457-1710
Oakview Lodge and Marina	2029 Little Hawk Lake Rd., Carnarvon	705 489-2463
Ogopogo Resort	Hwy. 35 Minden,	705 286-5141
Ox Narrows Resort	Hwy. 35, Kushog Lake, Carnarvon	705 489-4608
The Pepper Mill	Hwy. 35, Carnarvon	705 489-1939
Pinestone Resort / Heatherwood	4252 County Rd. 21, Haliburton	705 457-1800
Red Umbrella Inn	1075 Red Umbrella Rd., Minden	705 489-2462
Rhubarb	1127 Sir Sam's Rd., Eagle Lake	705 754-9800
The Rockcliffe Tavern	98 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden	705 286-1460
Russell Red Guest House	1883 Wigamog Rd., Haliburton	705 455-9674
Sandy Lane Resort	17592 Hwy. 35, Halls Lake	705 489-2020
Sir Sam's Inn	1491 Sir Sam's Rd., Eagle Lake	705 754-2188
South Algonquin Cookhouse	3907 Loop Rd., Harcourt	705 448-2322
Summerkiss Restaurant	Hwy. 35, Moore Falls	705 454-8000
That Place in Carnarvon	9201 Hwy. 118, Carnarvon	705 489-4554
Village Chalet Family Restaurant	105 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden	705 286-2121
Wigamog Inn / The Wild Moose	1701 Wigamog Rd., Haliburton	705 457-4800
Wild Orchid Thai Cuisine	Main St., Minden	705 286-1532
Win Yeung Chinese Restaurant	37 Maple Ave., Haliburton	705 457-9649

Food Programs

Food for All

Poverty is an ongoing issue in Haliburton County and as a result, accessing healthy food is a great challenge for many local families. In 2006, 7% of the population, and 26% of children living in Haliburton County, were living below the “low income cut off” (LICO) rate established for this region. In 2010, 5% of the households in Haliburton County needed to use a food bank and according to the food bank managers, those numbers continue to increase.

Each year the health unit does a Nutritious Food Basket Costing which indicates that families earning minimum wage, those with only seasonal jobs, or those on social assistance, do not have enough money to cover costs of living, particularly for healthy food and adequate housing.

There are many food programs in place to assist families in need but many are band-aid solutions, such as food banks. Haliburton County has four food banks: the 4C’s in Haliburton, the Minden Food Bank, Wilberforce Outreach and the Cardiff Community Food Bank. But organizations need to think beyond the charity model and assist families with programs that are universal with no stigma attached and offer healthy food choices, such as the Good Food Box Program, Community Gardens and School Nutrition Programs. These programs have the potential to strengthen the local food system.

What Can We Do?

The only way to ensure that all residents of our county have access to healthy food is to improve policies for social programs and working opportunities, to encourage better community planning and local food growing systems and to protect the environment especially in regards to enabling greater use of lands for growing and agriculture. Achieving this can be coordinated through developing a comprehensive Local Food System Strategy.

Haliburton County Food Net

The Haliburton County Food Net believes that all residents of Haliburton County should be able to access food in a way that upholds basic human dignity and that the food should be safe, nutritionally sound, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate.

Everyone has the right to be well nourished and have access to healthy food to promote and maintain good health. A sustainable food system that maximizes self-reliance and social justice is necessary to reach this goal.

In summary, Food Net works together as a not for profit community partnership to help move toward local food security.

The Haliburton County Food Net includes representation from:

- Point In Time Children Centre for Children, Youth and Parents,
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit,
- Food For Kids - Haliburton County's Student Nutrition Program
- Minden Food Bank,
- Cardiff Community Food Bank,
- Wilberforce Word of Life Food Bank
- Haliburton 4C's Food Bank & Lily Ann
- Ontario Early Years Centre
- SIRCH
- Community Care Haliburton County
- Sir Sandford Fleming College
- John Howard Society
- Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team
- Social Services Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton

Together our objectives are:

- to be a community-based networking committee, working towards community food security for the County of Haliburton
- to support each member's food programs by sharing resources, success stories and assisting with challenges
- to adhere to practices of food safety and healthy eating guidelines
- to build personal skills, strengthen community development and create supportive environments related to healthy food
- to advocate for public policies that promote food security
- to raise the awareness of poverty and the social determinants of health in our community.

Any approach, to truly address food insecurity, will need to consider the 'big picture' and how to benefit the whole community. Capacity building is most effective when a well-planned, long-term approach is taken. These strategies are most effective when the people in the community are included and involved in identifying solutions.

Consumers

Food Survey

In the summer of 2008, the newly formed Haliburton Local Food Coalition, a branch of Environment Haliburton, conducted a survey as a part of a community research project. The purpose of this research was to provide local food producers and farmers with helpful information about the needs of their community. The results of “The Fresh Food Consumer Survey for Families and Individuals” indicated that 95% of the respondents were permanent residents of the county and 99% of them purchased fresh fruits and vegetables on a weekly basis. The main source of fresh produce was grocery stores (97%); the second was farmers’ markets (41%), closely followed by roadside stands (39%) and home gardens (37%). Some respondents (19%) indicated that they used other sources such as specialty food, big box or market garden stores with a few also mentioning CSA’s (Community Supported Agriculture programs). Only 10% used farm gate sales for their purchases. The majority (86%) of people surveyed were aware that there were local food producers and farmers in Haliburton County.

When asked what they would buy locally, if available, respondents indicated great interest in the following: Berries (90%), Vegetables (89%), Root Vegetables (89%), Orchard Fruits (88%), Salad and Other Greens (86%), Eggs (83%), Poultry (79%) and Maple Syrup (76%). Less interest was shown in Beef (64%), Dairy (56%), Pork (54%) and Lamb (33%).

The most important factor (97%) that these consumers considered when buying food was freshness and/or in season purchasing. Secondary considerations were the cost (75%) and the availability of locally grown produce (73%). Convenience (65%) and pesticide / herbicide free foods (62%) were of average interest. The need for foods to be certified organic was low on the list at 28%. There is obviously very good interest in purchasing locally grown food products. With better communication between the producers and consumers, Haliburton County could see a resurgence of greater availability of locally grown foods, creating a win-win scenario.

Note: *The following survey was done in the summer of 2008.*

There were exactly 100 surveys completed.

The numbers to the left give the results in percent.

The Fresh Food Consumer Survey for Families and Individuals

Do you live in Haliburton County?

- 95 Permanently
- 4 Summer
- 1 Just Visiting

Do you buy fresh fruit and vegetables on a weekly basis?

- 99 Yes
- 1 No

Where do you get fresh fruit and vegetables? Check all that apply.

- 97 Grocery Stores
- 41 Farmers' Markets
- 39 Roadside Stands
- 37 Home Garden
- 19 Other
- 10 Farm Gate

Are you aware that there are local food producers and farmers in Haliburton County?

- 86 Yes
- 14 No

What items would you buy locally if available?

- 90 Berries
- 89 Vegetables
- 89 Root Vegetables
- 88 Orchard Fruits
- 86 Salad and Other Greens
- 83 Eggs
- 79 Poultry
- 76 Maple Syrup
- 64 Beef
- 56 Dairy
- 54 Pork
- 33 Lamb

What factors are important to you when buying food?

- 97 Freshness / In Season
- 75 Cost
- 73 Locally Grown
- 65 Convenience
- 62 Pesticide / Herbicide Free
- 28 Certified Organic

Community Gardens

Community gardens are parcels of land divided into small plots for local residents to grow their own flowers, fruit and vegetables. Gardeners often share a common space, fertilizers, tools, a tool shed, and sometimes even the cost of buying plants.

Presently there are five community gardens in Haliburton County. These gardens are located in Haliburton Village, at the Minden Museum, at the Stanhope Museum, in Highland Grove and in Dorset. Each community garden operates differently to meet the needs of its community and the participants.

Barriers

Some of the barriers that have been identified with actively engaging people in community gardens are lack of transportation to and from the site, an aging population that may be unable to do the work required or manage the uneven ground around the gardens, and some difficulty in engaging the high-risk families that could benefit the most from this program.

Haliburton County Master Gardener Association

Internet site for gardening advice in Haliburton County: haliburtonmastergardener.ca

Home or Individual Gardens

Home gardens are good for the environment, save money on grocery bills and provide families with the opportunity to have fresh food. Fresh picked food has the highest nutritional benefit and promotes a healthier and shorter food chain. There is no way of knowing how many households in the county have their own gardens. One way to increase the number of private, family gardens is to provide, “How to ...” tutorials on basic topics. Workshops on gardening tips, season extension techniques and canning and preserving have proven to be a great way to attract new gardeners.

‘Learn to Grow’ Pilot Project

A “Learn to Grow” pilot project ran for eight weeks throughout the summer of 2011, at the Haliburton Community Garden, located behind the Haliburton Hospital site. There were eight people from Haliburton and Minden participating in the project. Some people in Minden chose to not participate because of the distance and cost of fuel, but said that they would be interested in a similar program for next year if it was situated in, (or at least closer to), Minden. This program was in response to local poverty and from an informal inquiry, most participants were at a low income level.

Laura Redman led this pilot project and she hopes to develop an organization around the community gardens that will ask the townships to set aside necessary land for community garden projects, allow for the application to and receipt of grants to expand the

community gardens, allow for needed accessibility at the gardens and incorporate local growing projects into each community in Haliburton County. Laura is also interested in exploring the aspects of horticultural therapy within the future of the community gardens to serve marginalized populations. The project can be reached at: growingchangehaliburton@gmail.com

Agricultural Fairs within Haliburton County

Wilberforce Agriculture Fair was established in 1984 and is held on the weekend following the Civic Holiday. Approximately 1000 people attend over the two days.

Wilberforce Agricultural Society
P.O. Box 312 Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
info@WilberforceFair.com
705 448-2683

Haliburton County Fair was established in 1864 and is held at the Minden Fairgrounds the third weekend of August.

Minden Agricultural Society
PO Box 978, 2048 Fleming Road
Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0
705 286-1936 x 400
info@haliburtoncountyfair.ca

Kinmount Fair was established in 1870 and is held during the Labour Day Weekend. Approximately 20,000 people attend each year.

Note: *This fair is located in the City of Kawartha Lakes.*
705 488-2871
info@kinmountfair.net

Opportunities

Agricultural Fairs attract great numbers of people. Area residents, seasonal cottagers and tourists new to the county visit these fairs. They provide a great venue to promote local agriculture.

Sustainability

What is the objective of developing a 'sustainable region'? Currently, the majority of food consumed in Haliburton County is imported from elsewhere. Any large farming operation in the region must first ship their produce to Toronto for grading before it can return to local supermarkets.

The food produced by local farmers is only a small portion of the nutritional requirements of the population. In order to become completely self-sustained there would need to be substantial development of large farms and vast implementation of small hobby farms. Of course this development would also increase population as labour force and investors increased.

Currently, the biggest crop in Haliburton County is hay. There are only four hectares dedicated to fruit farming and only 36 hectares to vegetable farming. According to the 2006 census, there were about 1300 livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep) and just over 500 chickens. There were no turkeys being raised in Haliburton County in 2006 .

Local food sustainability in Haliburton County would require aggressive and substantial growth in food production capacity. Since certain foods are more easily grown in the region, the diet of the local population would also shift to foods that are easily produced locally. For example, people would eat apples rather than oranges and potatoes rather than rice.

By matching local farming capabilities to the nutritional requirements for the region, targets can be set that could provide a balanced diet for the population. While independent sustainability may be a long way off, any step that increases the production of local food is favourable. Through the identification of nutritional gaps, potential solutions can be revealed.

Sustainable Egg Production

There are many obvious gaps and possible solutions for sustainable food in Haliburton County, each may require a unique approach. Here is a sample solution for fulfilling the egg requirements for the region:

According to the 2006 statistics the average Canadian consumes 12.3 dozen eggs per year. There are no large egg production facilities in the county. High fees for a quota licence are a barrier to entry. There is, however, an exemption in quota rules that allows up to 99 egg laying hens without a licence.

One laying hen produces approximately 25 dozen eggs per year, therefore one hen fulfills the needs of two people. Haliburton County's population is 16,500. Seasonal cottagers and visitors increase this number to approximately 45,000. Setting target egg production for the annual average consumption of 30,000 people requires 15,000 hens.

If hobby farmers began raising egg-laying chickens, small facilities with approximately 75 hens would be manageable and not require an egg quota; 200 of these facilities would fulfill the egg requirements of Haliburton County; this concept could also provide a profitable small business opportunity for many residents.

To facilitate growth, the interested partners could apply to HCDC for funds to develop a business plan. The Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition could develop a business plan and turnkey operation to assist people to get into the egg business. The establishment of a local egg grading station would be of great advantage and the development of a local distribution system would enhance the viability of the project.

There are many other consumption requirements to address, for example, the average Canadian eats about five kilograms of citrus fruit annually. What could be grown in Haliburton County to fulfil these nutritional needs? Conversely, what can be grown easily in the region that adds to the fulfilment of regional nutrition requirements?

In order to increase sustainability, it is necessary to attract people into the region who plan on establishing food production capabilities. Analysis would reveal opportunities, while supportive marketing and financing would encourage people to begin production.

Sustainable Potato Production

Excerpts from <http://www.truenorthseed.com/industry/index.html>

In 2004, Canada was the 12th largest potato producer in the world with production of 5.2 million metric tonnes (MT). Understandably, the potato is the most important vegetable crop in Canada, accounting for 37% of all vegetable farm cash receipts.

Production was concentrated in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Alberta and New Brunswick. The western region represented 42% of the Canadian production, the Atlantic region, 40% and the central region, 18%.

In 2004, Canadian growers planted 175,500 hectares of potatoes and harvested 98% of the planted area or 171,800 hectares. The 2001 Census of Agriculture reported 3,887 potato farms in Canada, and an average farm size of approximately 44 hectares. (Note: a farm of 44 hectares covers less than ½ square kilometre.)

According to the 2006 census, only one hectare of land in Haliburton County was dedicated to potato farming.

The average Canadian consumes 45 kilograms of potatoes each year. To support a population of 30,000 would require 1,350,000 kilograms of potatoes or 1350 metric tonnes.

With a yield of 30.47 metric tonnes (MT) per hectare (ha), Canada set a new record yield in 2004. However, these yields occurred in optimal conditions; for calculation purposes we will assume a yield of 25 MT/ha. To produce enough potatoes to feed 30,000 people would require the dedication of 54 hectares of land that is just over ½ square kilometre.

There are likely barriers to overcome to grow potatoes successfully in the region; for example, the growing season is only four months long. However, the same plot of land could be utilized for early crops such as asparagus, lettuce or garlic to increase profits for the farmer. For long term sustainable production it would seem wise to plan for several smaller potato farms rather than one large one. Though profits might be higher for the larger operation, the region would benefit more from diversity.

The next logical steps would be to research the requirements of potato farming and to match these requirements with available land within Haliburton County. Through focused effort a potato industry could be developed in the region.

Seasonal Availability

The seasonal availability chart below lists the primary crops and animal farming suitable for the region, along with the anticipated growing seasons.

HALIBURTON LOCAL FRESH FOOD									
Seasonal Availability									
Produce	Main Season			Extended Season					
	May	June	July	August	September	October			
Apples									
Asparagus									
Beans									
Beets									
Blueberries									
Broccoli									
Brussels Sprouts									
Cabbage									
Carrots									
Cauliflower									
Celery									
Corn									
Cucumber									
Currants									
Eggplant									
Fresh Greens									
Garlic									
Garlic Scapes									
Kale									
Kohlrabi									
Lettuce									
Muskmelon									
Onions									
Parsnips									
Peas									
Peppers									
Plums									
Potatoes									
Pumpkins									
Radish									
Raspberries									
Rhubarb									
Rutabaga									
Spinach									
Squash									
Strawberries									
Tomatoes									
Turnip									
Zucchini									
Arugula, Chives, Hyssop, Lavender, Lovage, Mint, Oregano, Sage				June through September					
Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Fennel, Nasturtium, Pansy, Parsley				Mid-July through September					
Storage	Many vegetables store extremely well in ideal conditions allowing them to remain fresh and full of nutrients well outside of the harvest season, including								
	Cabbage	Carrots	Garlic	Herbs (Dried)	Onions	Potatoes	Rutabaga	Turnip	
Year Round	Beef	Dairy	Grain	Herbs	Pork	Specialty Meat			
	Beverages	Eggs	Honey	Lamb	Poultry	Venison			
	Cider	Fish	Home Baking	Maple Syrup	Preserves				

Conclusions and Recommendations:

There is a demand for local food in Haliburton County. Farming is not an easy business but with public support and encouragement, we can increase the number of farmers and local growers producing and selling their food products.

This report was thoroughly researched and has, in a definitive and quantitative manner, come to the following conclusions:

1. There is a need for greater recognition at municipal government levels to ensure local food becomes a priority in terms of future policy development and land use. Using other areas as templates, we can work to develop and complete a local food charter to raise awareness of the benefits of local food production and distribution.
2. There is a need to develop an organized method to: promote local farming; provide incentives to new farmers; develop a local food production strategy; and continue to brand and promote local food producers.
3. Because of the limited arable land in Haliburton County, there is a need to ensure land use policies and protections are in place. A formal means of protecting these lands needs to be discussed and brought forward.
4. There is a need to share information and education with other regions that have already successfully implemented a Local Food Policy in order to incorporate that experience and knowledge into a Haliburton County Local Food Policy. (Savour Muskoka and Kawartha Fresh are possible examples to follow.)
5. There is a need to develop a supportive supply and distribution infrastructure for producers in Haliburton County.
6. There is a need to coordinate and support the distribution of local food within and outside of Haliburton County, possibly using the model of the meat co-operative as an example to inform and educate existing farmers about the benefits sharing resources.

The above is not a comprehensive list of findings. It highlights however, the most obvious outcomes of the Infrastructure Committee's work.

Additional Recommendations

From this report there are three key elements to consider:

1. The development of an organization to ensure continued growth and goal-oriented effort (organize to succeed)
2. The enhancement of food production experiences for existing and entering farmers (make it easier for them now)
3. The identification of long-term, self-sustainable objectives and continued progress towards that ideal (steer towards balanced nutritional supply within the county)

Future Goals

➤ **Establish a Food Charter and Capture a Vision Statement**

The short-term and long-term objectives of the local food coalition should be discussed and documented.

➤ **Investigate Successful Crops**

Crops such as garlic and kale have seen profitable establishment; investigate and develop business cases; identify potential successful farming operations.

➤ **Utilize 'Haliburton Fresh' for Branding**

Begin the branding of 'Haliburton Fresh' as the logo and signage for farmers' gate sales. If farmers follow basic guidelines for providing healthy food, they can display the signage. Customer trust and the likelihood of stopping at the gate could be increased through a marketing campaign.

➤ **Develop a Long-Term, Self-Sustainable Food Plan**

Using national averages, estimate the consumption requirements for the population to be self-sustainable. For example, how many chickens, eggs, corn, vegetables, etc. are required to sustain the population?

Identify Food Production Opportunities that are suitable for the climate and environment:

- Poultry (chickens, ducks, turkeys)
- Eggs (chicken, duck)
- Honey
- Mushrooms
- Potatoes
- Other Vegetables

Identify areas of greatest opportunity and encourage both small and large farm operations. Develop plans to simplify entry into the market. Assist retirees in forming small hobby farms.

Committees

To focus efforts, a variety of committees could be formed, each with specific targets. Though the initial descriptions of tasks for each committee are general, details will form as each group progresses.

New Farmer Committee

- Investigate methods of supporting new farmers
- Establish a farming advisory board to help new farmers get started
- Investigate methods of attracting new farmers
- Develop business cases for small farming opportunities
- Investigate methods for increasing the farming labour supply

Government Relations Committee

- Initiate municipal, provincial and federal government interest in local food systems
- Investigate government incentives for increasing food production
- Investigate and reduce barriers to the growth of small farming operations

Distribution Committee

- Investigate and implement methods of food distribution within the county
- Investigate requirements for improving the farming supply chain.

Sustainable Committee

- Analyze requirements for a balanced nutritional diet to be supplied from within the county
- Identify gaps and opportunities
- Identify initial targets for the growth of a sustainable food industry

Haliburton Fresh Committee

- Develop a marketing plan for the Haliburton Fresh branding
- Determine qualifications for farms to display the Haliburton Fresh signage
- Plan and sell signage for farmers' gate sales
- Update the website to emphasize the Haliburton Fresh initiatives

Appendices

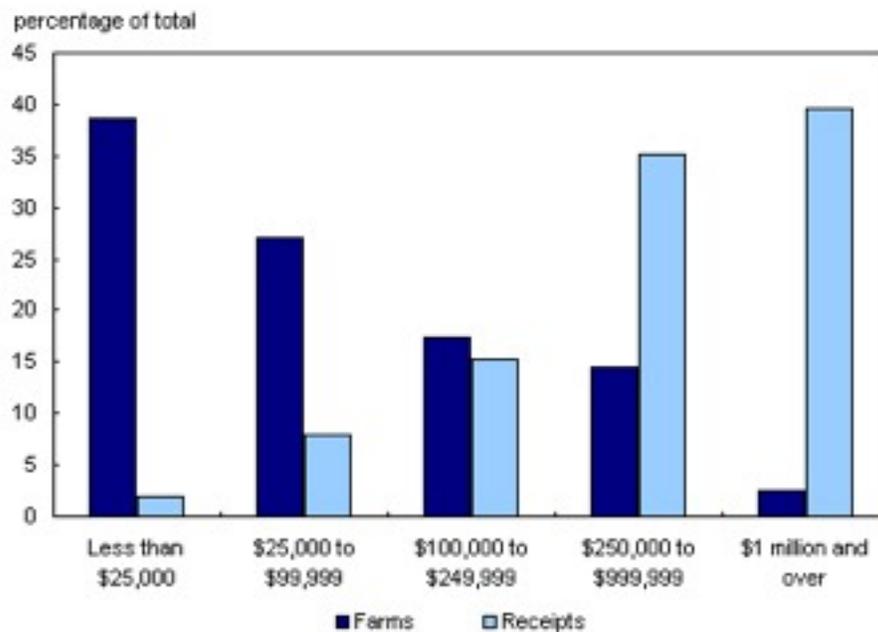
'Haliburton County at a Glance' from central_ontario.pdf

Note: According to the 2006 census, the population of Ontario was 12,160,282. Haliburton County's population of 16,526 represents 0.14% of Ontario's total.

For comparison, Haliburton County reported 84 farms while Ontario had 57,211. Haliburton represented 0.15%, an almost identical percentage to the population ratio but the size of the farms is not accounted for here.

It is very interesting to note that 56 of the 84 farms reported an income of less than \$10,000, so even though the county appears to be at par with the province over all, the income generated is likely far below par. While future plans may encourage development of some larger farms, the stability and growth of the small farming industry in Haliburton County is critical to sustainability.

Proportion of farms and gross farm receipts by receipts class, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture

Committee Participant Bios

The volunteers who worked towards the successful completion of this report are:

Brian Nash

Brian believes strongly in "Sustainable Self-Reliant Living". He believes that by providing the tools for individuals and the communities in which they live, we can better understand and implement preparedness and thoughtful living. Brian feels that in doing so we can create an elevated quality of life that provides peace, comfort, savings and improved health through sustainable resource living. Brian also believes that self-reliant living can shelter our communities from the consequences of economic downturns, energy shortages, escalating food and energy prices, and even job losses.

Professional Affiliations:

President Elect of the Rotary Club of Haliburton
20-Year Member of Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses
Member of Canadian Industry Solar Association
Member of Canadian Wind Energy Association
Past Director of the Sign Association of Canada
Past Director of the Exhibit and Display Association of Canada

Brian is dedicated to good process and process implementation. He has a proven background in diverse and complex project management.

Kaarina Blackie

Kaarina is a retired teacher who moved to Haliburton County in 2009. She took part in a community forum that was hosted by Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition and helped to form both the Infrastructure Project and the Sustainability Workshops Committees in September of 2010. She is now on the newly formed Steering Committee of Haliburton in Transition. Kaarina believes strongly in grassroots movements that support sustainable living and local economic and ecological resilience.

Lisa Marchant

Lisa grew up in Haliburton and then pursued her education in English Literature and Anthropology at Trent University as well as Environmental Studies at York University. She also has a Montessori Teacher Diploma.

Lisa has worked with many non-profit organizations such as Earthroots, Youth Challenge International, and OPIRG, usually contributing by writing articles, researching, and working on newsletters. In general, everything she does is with the health of our planet in mind and she has molded her life around sustainable practices.

She has recently returned to Haliburton where she is involved with the local food movement. Lisa is interested in promoting greater self-reliance, easier access to 'real' food, and the preservation of our biodiversity. She strongly believes that the world can change when communities become sustainable and people move from quantity to quality.

Larry Clarke

Larry is a Councillor for the Township of Minden Hills, and a Director with the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. His background is in business and project management in support of operations and organizational change for government, legal and financial services companies.

Over the past six years, Larry has worked with companies in Haliburton and Simcoe Counties to improve management of expenses, service delivery and business planning. He is currently active in developing and promoting a strong business environment for Haliburton County, and believes that local agriculture is critical to a healthy community and a sustainable economy.

Rosie Kadwell

Rosie Kadwell is a Public Health Dietitian with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. Her main role is to facilitate the establishment of policies and environmental support to promote healthy eating for the prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc. and to ensure food security through advocacy at the community level. Rosie accomplishes this goal through her dedication to educating others, by developing partnerships and because of her positive attitude towards change.

Over the years, Rosie has had the privilege of working with many grassroots groups such as the Good Food Box, Student Nutrition Program, Food Net, Community Gardens, Health for Life, High School Eat Smart, the Minden Food Bank Board and Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition. Her outstanding work and passion towards improving the nutritional health in her community, was recognized in 2009 when she received both the Enviro-Hero Health and Guardian Angel awards. Rosie is passionate about food and loves to experiment by trying new recipes using local food and by sharing her creations.

Godfrey Tyler

Godfrey Tyler is the fourth generation owner of Waverley Brook Farm of Dysart Township, which in March 2012 will have been in his family for a century. He is a graduate of Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology. Godfrey has worked in Saskatchewan and Australia in agriculture. Over the years he has been active in many of the agricultural organizations of Haliburton County, serving at times as a representative from our community at the provincial level.

With his wife, Jean, and their children, Godfrey has been operating their four-season farm using biodynamic concepts for 17 years. This mixed farm produces maple syrup, wood from their sustainable forest, livestock of lamb and beef, as well as produce via a CSA Box Program. Interns and international travellers are welcome to visit Waverley Brook Farm to learn about community-based agriculture.

~ Haliburton County ~



LOCAL FOOD
INFRASTRUCTURE
REPORT