

Message from the Symposium Chair - Wayne Caldwell

Healthy Communities and Planning for Food - A Harvest of Ideas

OPPI Symposium - October 28 & 29, 2010 - Guelph

By: [Wayne Caldwell](#)

While OPPI's Healthy Communities Sustainable Communities initiative and the corresponding Planning by Design Handbook has brought much focus to planning for healthy, walkable communities there is more to be done. Specifically, healthy communities require a healthy food system. Please join us at the OPPI symposium in Guelph on October 28 and 29, 2010 as we explore a host of issues connected to agriculture, food, healthy communities and the relationship to planning.

To peak your interest and to get you to mark this into your 2010 calendar let me offer 10 reasons why this will be of interest to you:

Urban Agriculture: Across the continent there is an explosion of activity connected to urban agriculture. In Cleveland for example, they are in the process of changing their zoning by-laws to accommodate urban farming. Learn from colleagues from across the province as they share their experience with this new-old land use.

Planning for Agriculture: Ontario's agricultural industry is the most productive in Canada. Learn about challenges and evolving approaches to planning for agriculture.

Keep up to Planning Students: Across the province students in planning schools are exploring the issue of planning for food. The planners of tomorrow are ready to step into a leadership role with this issue. Come and share your experiences and learn from them.

Evolving Agri-food issues: Learn about evolving agri-food issues such as farmers markets, food desserts and farmland preservation.

Provincial Legislation: The Greenbelt and Growth Plan impact agriculture and rural communities. The symposium will provide you with an opportunity to understand and discuss related issues.

Agriculture and Food as a Global issue: "Every year the Planet loses an area the size of Scotland to erosion and urban sprawl, while at the same time 70 million people are added to the planet's population."

The Role of Planners: The role of planners in planning for food has never been so prevalent. Come to the symposium to understand how Ontario planners are considering this issue relative to our colleagues in the United States.

Urban Design and Food Systems: Come to the symposium to learn about opportunities to integrate urban design and food production.

Some new experiences: Visit a farm and visit the hub for agriculture, food and rural research in Ontario.

See old friends and meet some new ones: The symposium promises to be popular with related disciplines in the health care and agricultural sector.

The 2010 OPPI Symposium will be held on October 28 and 29 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph. Further information, including a Preliminary Program will be available in the coming months.