

WAS FOOD INSECURITY AVOIDABLE IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY?

IN 2006, FORMER PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY (PEC) COUNCILOR, RON EVERALL, IDENTIFIED IMMINENT FOOD INSECURITY ISSUES IN ONTARIO. IN RESPONSE, RON PETITIONED COUNCIL ON APRIL 10, 2006 WITH A COORDINATED RESPONSE. THE PEC COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED RON'S INITIATIVE.

ON APRIL 10, 2006 A SPECIAL MEETING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 25, 2005 WHEREBY COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE COULD FURTHER COORDINATE A LOCAL LEVEL RESPONSE. AS PART OF RON'S INITIATIVE, THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES, THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO AND THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PETITIONED

RON PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY AND SHOCKINGLY ON MAY 20, 2006. THE SPECIAL MEETING ON MAY 25TH TOOK PLACE AS PLANNED.

AT THE SPECIAL MEETING, PEC COUNCIL RECEIVED DEPOSITIONS FROM SEVERAL LOCAL FARMERS. JACQUI BURLEY AND STEVEN EVERALL, TWO OF THREE OF RON EVERALL'S ADULT CHILDREN, WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THEREAFTER, THE INITIATIVE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ALTOGETHER ABANDONED. THE PEC COUNCIL APPEARS TO HAVE SHIFTED AWAY FROM SUPPORTING TRADITIONAL FARMING PRACTICES TO THAT, RATHER, OF AG-TECHNOLOGY.

FOR WHATEVER REASON(S), PEC COUNCIL DEVIATED FROM AN ESTABLISHED PLAN TO THWART FOOD INSECURITY, WHILE, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY, QUIETLY ALIGNED. OR SO IT WOULD SEEM, WITH THE AGRI-BUSINESS.

ALL OF WHICH, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, BEGS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. DID NEGLIGENCE PLAY A ROLE IN THE CURRENT FOOD INSECURITY CRISIS?
 - IF YES, WAS HARM CAUSED AS A RESULT OF NEGLIGENCE?
 - IF YES, WAS THE NEGLIGENCE INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL?
2. HAS THE PEC COUNCIL DEMONSTRATED GOOD FAITH AT ALL TIMES IN THE EXECUTION OF DUTY?
3. DID NEPOTISM PLAY A ROLE IN THE CURRENT FOOD INSECURITY CRISIS?
4. DID CRONYISM PLAY A ROLE IN THE CURRENT FOOD INSECURITY CRISIS?
5. DID ANY FORM OF UNLAWFUL COLONIALISM, SUCH AS INTERNAL COLONIALISM OR NEO-COLONIALISM, PLAY A ROLE IN THE CURRENT FOOD INSECURITY CRISIS?
6. IS THE PEC COUNCIL TRANSPARENT?
7. IS THE PEC COUNCIL ACCOUNTABLE?
8. DOES THE PEC COUNCIL RETAIN PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE?
 - IF NO, DOES THE PEC COUNCIL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO GOVERN?

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT MALA FIDES CAUSING HARM IS ACTIONABLE UNDER THE LAW.

BELOW THE READER WILL FIND INFORMATION TO PONDER IN RELATION TO FOOD SECURITY IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.

PEC COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 10, 2006 - FOOD SECURITY PETITION

Motion 2006-201

Moved by Councillor Marisett

Seconded by Councillor Burris

WHEREAS primary agriculture is an essential integral component of Canadian rural economies in particular and of Canadian urban economies in general;

AND WHEREAS Canadian primary agricultural producers are the foundation for sustainable communities across Canada;

AND WHEREAS Canada, which was once considered 'the breadbasket of the world', is now in actual risk of losing our safe domestic food supply and becoming dependent upon imported food;

AND WHEREAS Canadian farmers are currently experiencing an unprecedented financial crisis which jeopardizes the future of family farms and the greater related agricultural industry throughout the country;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT The Council of the County of Prince Edward requests the Provincial and Federal governments to take immediate action to address the current, unprecedented farm income crisis;

THAT they provide immediate and sufficient financial support to ensure the planting of this year's crops and a fair return from this year's farm commodities;

THAT all levels of government across Canada meet with farm organizations to develop long term strategies to resolve farm issues, including but not necessarily limited to: supply management support, income stabilization and orderly marketing;

THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to:

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada,
The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food and

Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; and the agriculture critics of all parties at the Federal and Ontario provincial levels of government;

THAT the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario be also provided with a copy of this resolution with a request that these organizations take appropriate action in support of this initiative; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in the Province of Ontario with a request for support.

Councillor Burris requested a Recorded Vote on Motion 2006-201

Name	In Favour	Opposed
BURRIS, Peggy	X	
CAMPBELL, Bev	X	
DRAKE, Wayne	X	
DUNLOP, Jim	X	
EVERALL, Ron (absent)		
FOX, Gordon	X	
GALE, Kevin	X	
MACDONALD, Keith	X	
MARISETT, Brian	X	
MORRIS, Paul	X	
SHORTT, Terry	X	
SLIK, Lori	X	
TURPIN, Barry	X	
ALYEA, Monica	X	
BELL, Robert	X	
FINNEGAN, Mayor Leo P.	X	

CARRIED

9.2 Recommendation of Councillor Everall and Councillor Marisett regarding local support and understanding of issues facing the agricultural community

Motion 2006-202

Moved by Councillor Marisett

Seconded by Councillor MacDonald

WHEREAS our local family farms are an essential and integral component of our local economy, community and culture;

AND WHEREAS our local primary producers and related businesses are negatively

impacted by the unprecedented economic crisis facing our family farms;

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to support the local agricultural community and better understand its multiplicity of obstacles and issues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward hold a special meeting of Council within the next sixty days for the purpose of hearing depositions from farm organizations, the farm community, affected businesses and the general public on agricultural issues.

CARRIED

<https://princeedwardcounty.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/?preview=1549>

SPECIAL MEETING - MAY 25, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Councillor Marisett paid tribute to the late Ron Everall, Councillor for North Marysburgh Ward 8, who was a strong advocate for the agricultural community and instrumental in organizing this meeting. Council observed one minute of silence in memory of Mr. Everall who passed away on May 20, 2006.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

The purpose of the special meeting is to show support for our local agricultural community and to help members of Council better understand the impact of the economic crisis in agriculture on our local primary producers, family farms and related businesses.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Prior to commencing depositions the Mayor introduced Jacqui Burley, daughter of the late Ron Everall, who addressed Council, accompanied by her brother Steven Everall.

4. DEPUTATIONS

The following depositions appeared before Council:

4.1 Achim Mohseen-Beyk, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Central Region

4.2 John Thompson, Prince Edward County Federation of Agriculture

4.3 Ken Marisett

4.4 Wayne Gyde

4.5 Lloyd Crowe

4.6 Andy Margetson, President of the Prince Edward Cattlemen's Association

4.7 Sandra Latchford

4.8 Robert Williams

4.9 Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Leona Dombrowski

- 4.10 Dean Foster
- 4.11 Keith Taylor, Quinte Conservation Authority
- 4.12 John Anderson
- 4.13 M.P.P. Ernie Parsons
- 4.14 Rob Pearsall on behalf of M.P. Daryl Kramp

Written submissions were received from the following:

- 4.15 Michael McMahon
- 4.16 Wilma Courneyea on behalf of the County Farm Centre and Beatty Seeds
- 4.17 Blane Way on behalf of Ken Leveck

5. RESOLUTION

Motion 2006-265

Moved by Councillor Marisett

Seconded by Councillor Burris

THAT the deputations, written submissions and information presented be received with thanks.

CARRIED

6. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Motion 2006-266

Moved by Councillor Burris

Seconded by Councillor Drake

THAT the following By-law be read a first, second and third time and finally passed:

A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward at the meeting held on May 25, 2006. (signed as By-law No. 1736-2006)

CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 2006-267

Moved by Councillor Campbell

Seconded by Councillor Morris

THAT this meeting now adjourn at 10:20 p.m. to meet again on Monday, May 29, 2006.

CARRIED

<https://princeedwardcounty.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/?preview=1571>

COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 29, 2006

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Committee Room.

Motion 2006-265

Moved by Councillor Turpin
Seconded by Councillor Morris

THAT Committee now move into closed session for the purpose of discussing the security of the property of the municipality or local board, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.

CARRIED

Council reconvened at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with all members present excepting Councillor Bell. Motion 2006-266 and Motion 2006-267 were dealt with in closed session. Mayor Finnegan paid tribute to the late Ron Everall, Councillor for North Marysburgh Ward 8 who passed away on May 20, 2006. Council observed one minute of silence in memory of Mr. Everall.

Motion 2006-268
Moved by Councillor Morris
Seconded by Councillor Slik

THAT the following reports be added to the agenda;
A report of the Clerk regarding a Vacancy on Council be added to the agenda as item 9.4

CARRIED with a
2/3 majority

9.4 A report from the Clerk regarding the Vacancy on Council

Motion 2006-277
Moved by Councillor Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Morris

THAT the office of Councillor for Ward 8, North Marysburgh, be declared vacant.

CARRIED

Motion 2006-278
Moved by Councillor Fox
Seconded by Councillor Burris

THAT Robert Quaiff, being the candidate from North Marysburgh who came second at the polls in the 2003 municipal election, be appointed to fill the vacant position of

Councillor, Ward 8 North Marysburgh, for the remainder of this term, subject to him completing the Consent of Candidate form.

CARRIED

<https://princeedwardcounty.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/?preview=1552>

LEO FINNEGAN - MAYOR - 2003-2010

Prince Edward County Mayor Leo Finnegan's name won't be on the ballot when voters go to the polls in next year's municipal election.

Finnegan, who was first elected in 2003, says he isn't interested in a third term as the top municipal politician.

He says he will have enjoyed his seven years as mayor, calling it a privilege and a wonderful learning experience.

Finnegan, who turns 76 this December, says there are still some things he wants to accomplish while he has good health.

<https://www.quintenews.com/2009/09/28/prince-edward-county-mayor-leo-finnegan-wont-see-re-election-next-year/>

PETER MERTENS - MAYOR - 2010-2014

Peter Mertens will be Prince Edward County's new mayor come December. He is shown Monday night at the community centre with supporters and his wife Kathleen. They came to Prince Edward County in 2005 and the following year, Mertens was elected to represent Wellington Ward. Tonight's final mayor numbers are: Peter Mertens 3489, Sandy Latchford 2327, Monica Alyea 1828; Lori Slik 1203; Gord Fox 1073 and Paul Boyd 593. Of the 21,351 eligible voters, 10,598 cast a ballot for a 49.63 per cent turnout for the county – much improved over the 39.4 per cent in the 2006 election.

<https://www.countylive.ca/peter-mertens-will-be-pecs-new-mayor/>

Mayor Peter Mertens announced today he will not seek re-election this fall.

“It is with mixed feelings that I have made the decision not to seek re-election in the 2014 municipal election,” he said in a letter to County residents. “It has been an honour to serve as Councillor and Mayor over the past eight years and I am truly grateful for having had the opportunity to work on behalf of such a unique community.”

Mertens said he is proud of the accomplishments achieved.

“With the municipality headed in a direction of long-term, financial sustainability and with a commitment to customer service, it is time for someone with new ideas to lead the County over the next four years,” he said.

“The County is a wonderful place to live, work and play and I encourage anyone with an interest in municipal politics to get get involved. I thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to continue working on behalf of residents as I carry out the remainder of my term.

<https://www.countylive.ca/mayor-will-not-seek-re-election/>

ROBERT QUAIFF - MAYOR - 2014-2018

Robert Quaiff will lead Prince Edward County council as mayor, with nine new members at Shire Hall. Voter turnout was 43.79 per cent with 9,637 ballots cast out of 22,006 registered voters.

Quaiff defeated newcomer Jeff Goddard and Paul Boyd to replace the retiring Peter Mertens as mayor. Quaiff earned 4,837 votes (51.10 per cent) while Goddard had 2,817 votes (29.76 per cent) and Boyd was third with 1,811 (19.13 per cent).

Quaiff will welcomes nine new faces and incumbents when the 15-member council takes office Dec. 1 but council size will be among the first issues the new group will discuss.

<https://www.countylive.ca/mayor-elect-robert-quaiff-and-nine-new-faces-for-countys-new-council/>

Mayor Robert Quaiff confirmed this week he will indeed be running as the Liberal candidate to represent the Bay of Quinte riding in the upcoming provincial election.

Rumours circulated this spring that Quaiff would seek the Liberal nomination. While he downplayed them at that time, Quaiff’s announcement Monday afternoon confirms he’ll seek a provincial seat next June.

Quaiff said in his announcement he’s honoured to be nominated as the Bay of Quinte Ontario Liberal candidate for the June 2018 election. Through his positions as mayor of Prince Edward County, chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus and as a member of the board of directors for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, he said he has worked closely with provincial officials and has come to respect the Liberals’ plans.

Quaiff said he’s worked with Liberal representatives like Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi, agriculture minister Jeff Leal, health minister Dr. Eric Hoskins, and transportation minister Steven Del Duca. He’s also had opportunities to spend time with Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Yasir Naqvi and Minister of Government and Consumer Services Marie-France Lalonde. In that time he said he’s had positive experiences.

“Through all of that there were a lot of good things and a lot of good conversations took place,” said Quaiff. “It showed to me they have a lot of principles along the same lines that I do.”

Plans to increase minimum wage to \$15, the Ontario Basic Income Pilot, and free tuition for postsecondary students have all contributed to Quaiff’s respect for the party, he said. He indicated rent control measures, plans to fight climate change, and improvements to the health sector have been important as well.

“Their commitment really to roads, bridges, transit, schools, hospitals — all of that — is making a lot more sense than sitting back and not having a plan to go forward with anything,” he said.

Quaiff will be running against the riding’s current MPP, Todd Smith. Smith unseated Liberal rival and veteran MPP Leona Dombrowsky in the race to represent Prince Edward-Hastings back in 2011. Asked whether he’ll be able to do the same to Smith, Quaiff said time will tell.

“I’ve really sat down and talked thoroughly with my family and others weighing my odds of success and I believe that the Bay of Quinte region will have a good quality of candidate to make a selection from,” he said.

During his term as the councillor representing North Marysburgh from 2010 to 2014, Quaiff was a frequent critic of the provincial Liberals. During one discussion regarding the province’s handling of green energy projects in 2013, Quaiff said he’d lost trust in the Liberal government and accused Premier Kathleen Wynne of lying to the Wainfleet working group that had been advocating for municipal rights within the Green Energy Act.

Quaiff acknowledged his past actions may draw criticism now that he’s decided to join the party. He said he’s discussed his positions with the Liberals, in particular his opposition to the Green Energy Act and industrial wind turbines.

“I know from my experiences that a lot of people that are opposed to industrial wind turbines are not necessarily opposed to the Green Energy Act and some components, and it’s more targeted toward industrial wind turbines,” Quaiff said. “The Liberals know my position on that, they know I’ve produced a lot of evidence and documentation, but they’ve also said I’ve done it in a professional and respectful manner.”

He said the provincial government suspended its Large Renewable Procurement (LRP II) program last year. He said he believes positive changes to the process are on the way.

“I believe there will be changes made, significant changes to the Green Energy Act before LRP III starts up and I hope to be a part of that,” he said.

He also acknowledged that he briefly served on the local Progressive Conservative riding association. Quaiff said his political leanings have changed since that time. As councillor and as mayor, he said he’s had opportunities to speak with representatives from all three major parties.

“One thing I’ve discovered is one party had policies and had answers and other parties sit back and do nothing but criticize and produce no evidence of having a plan or a policy,” he said. “That’s why it was easy for me to be able to make the decision to join up with a party that actually works on behalf of the people to find a result.”

In the meantime, Quaiff will continue in his role as mayor of Prince Edward County. He said when the election is called he’ll take a leave of absence from the position. Council will designate

an acting mayor in the interim. If he's ultimately successful, Quaiff said he will resign as mayor. If not, he'll complete the term.

<https://pictongazette.ca/post/quaiff-announces-plan-to-run-for-provincial-liberals>

An emotional Robert Quaiff held a press conference this past Monday morning to announce that he will not be seeking re-election in the upcoming run for mayor. Quaiff will however return to the mayor's chair and complete his term after his third place finish in the Provincial election held last week. PC candidate Todd Smith won the election with 48 per cent of the vote, followed by Joanne Belanger of the NDP party with 31.8 per cent and Quaiff pulling in only 14.8 per cent of the popular vote. Quaiff's performance was no doubt hampered by his leader Kathleen Wynne's decision to throw in the towel and admit defeat mere days before the election took place. It's a move that people are still scratching their heads about, and one that most definitely sealed the fate of Quaiff and many other Liberal candidates around the province. The Liberal party, as it stands after this election, do not even have enough seats to keep their official party status. It is a stunning defeat, and one that forces the Liberals back to the drawing boards in Ontario.

In the press conference, Quaiff stated that he and his team had worked incredibly hard over the past couple of months and that he was exhausted. He took the weekend to reflect on everything that he had done, and all that he accomplished, and decided that it was in his best interest to step back and let those interested individuals come forward and put their names through. Quaiff had to take moment and collect himself emotionally before he spoke of his reasons for not continuing on.

"I think it's time I enjoyed my seven grandbabies and my wife. She's the one that stood by me through this whole thing. She's the one that gave me encouragement and was always by my side. I love Prince Edward County. That's the bottom line. I only want what's best for the County and I think right now with the wave of blue that came across this province last week, I certainly want to see a new mayor come in and build a relationship with the PC party," says Quaiff.

Quaiff mentioned that he spoke to Todd Smith and congratulated him on his victory. He also complimented Smith, saying that he will represent this municipality to the best of his abilities, and that he hopes Smith will end up with a cabinet position. But he also stated that he thought a new mayor could make a better relationship with Smith at this time and get what's best for Prince Edward County. When asked about his best moments as mayor, Quaiff brought up the reconstruction of Picton Main Street, County Road 3, the development of the framework committee and the County Road 49 engineering study, which is now waiting for funding. Quaiff also spoke of the 1,800 new builds during his tenure, and the hope that the County will still get its hospital.

Quaiff has had public service career spanning two decades. He started on County council in 2000 and served until 2003. He came back for another council seat in 2007, ran again in 2010 as councillor and then ran to become mayor.

Last year, Quaiff was voted by his peers to become Chair of the Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus and was also co-chair of the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council.

Robert and his wife, Susan, have been married for 41 years, and although he will fulfill all duties and obligations as mayor for the remainder of his term, Susan is looking forward to having him home and said this with a smile to end the press conference.

“I feel great about his decision and I think it’s time he took a little rest. I have aging parents that live in the community as well, and I still work full time. So, he’s got lots to do. I hope the new government will continue to be positive and look at care because I really felt like the Liberal platform was looking at care for people on the ground, which is important to us, so I wish them all the luck.”

<https://wellingtontimes.ca/calling-it-quits/>

STEVE FERGUSON - MAYOR - 2018-2026

Change has come to Prince Edward County council as nine new faces have assumed positions around the Shire Hall horseshoe.

So it stands to reason that this incoming group of councillors and new Mayor Steve Ferguson would shake things up right away when it came the the inaugural meeting Tuesday night.

Setting past practice aside, the comfy confines of Shire Hall were discarded for one night and a grander stage at the Regent Theatre was chosen as the backdrop for all the ceremonial proceedings and legal oaths of office.

Upwards of 300 people attended and such a capacity would have been impossible for the tiny gallery at the County seat to host everyone that wanted to take part in such a special milestone.

The typical pomp and circumstance with the added spectacle of hosting this term’s inaugural meeting at the Regent coupled with an inspiring address from Mayor Ferguson certainly has the earmarks that this newly invoked form of county government will be different then previous editions.

Whether different equals better one can only suppose at this stage of the term.

But it’s a new day dawning at Shire Hall and, in his inaugural remarks inaugural remarks, Mayor Ferguson called for a galvanization of Prince Edward County and a spirit of collaboration and advocacy that would serve as his personal mantra over the next four years.

“During my campaign, based on the optimism for the future and the ideas I heard from people in every corner of the county, I pledged to do three things – to galvanize participation by the many talented people in this community to help address our challenges; to be a collaborative and action oriented leader; and to be a strong advocate for our municipality with our neighbours, the

province and the federal government. Galvanize, collaborate and advocate. This will be my personal mantra going forward.”

In 1905, Ferguson's great grandfather Mr. W. J. Ferguson, was elected mayor of the city of Stratford, Ont. and Prince Edward County's mayor drew from words of the past to relate his feelings on being installed to the head of local government.

“The occupancy of this chair, which has come to me through the good will of the electors, I accept with due appreciation and sensibility of its importance and responsibility,” Ferguson said.

The ratepayers of Prince Edward County also expressed confidence in electing its members of council and to the acclaimed, re-elected or newly elected members of council – Couns. Kate MacNaughton, Phil St. Jean, Brad Nieman, Phil Prinzen, Mike Harper, Andreas Bolik, Janice Maynard, Bill McMahon, Jamie Forrester, Bill Roberts, Ernie Margetson, Stewart Bailey and John Hirsch – Ferguson repeated what his great-grandfather said to his City of Stratford council members so long ago with a little license for words,

“I have, indeed, great pleasure in officially welcoming you, ladies and gentlemen to a seat at the council horseshoe of our municipality. It is an ideal condition of municipal politics when the council is a unit on the purpose to advance the (County's) interests. I very much look forward to working with all of you in our stewardship of the fiscal, economic and social interests of Prince Edward County,” Ferguson said.

The mayor pointed out that the world was on the cusp of a new decade and the children that started elementary school in September will graduate from PECE in 2030. Those years will go by quickly and Ferguson asked himself what can council do together for that graduating class of 2030?

“What problems will we have addressed and put behind us by then? What opportunities will be there for them in our community?” he wondered. “It's not that we don't have ideas about how to meet our challenges of affordable housing, transportation, education or making sure everyone has enough to eat. It's that often the process hinders debate, resolution and implementation.”

Ferguson pointed to the County Community Foundation who has developed into a collaborative partner with dozens of engaged groups and individuals to look at Prince Edward County's specific concerns and is dedicated to find ways to work together to address those issues and measure progress.

It's a model Ferguson wants to emulate to build on.

Addressing food security, transportation, lifelong learning and other concerns in collaborative ways.

“Council will use that model to create ‘task teams’ and to strengthen advisory committees to address the important issues of our shoreline, water, infrastructure, heritage, and the environment among others,” the mayor said. “All of us are most appreciative of the activities of our social service agencies and service clubs that help those in need. “

A councillor serving South Marysburgh in the preceding term, Ferguson acknowledged council can get overwhelmed with noise and said the group was pledging to do a better job of communicating the facts, the challenges, the issues, so that debates are informed and that municipal government could keep members of the community engaged in the discussion in order to focus on the issues that matter the most.

Ferguson spoke to a more recent effort to revitalize the Millennium Trail.

After it appeared revitalization of the trail would be a non-starter due to sky-high tenders, council agreed to let the trail committee institute and over see the project and early returns indicate the move was a wise one.

“Solutions don’t have to be complex, sometimes we just have to get on with things. Most of you will be familiar with the Millennium Trail – and you may have seen pictures of Barry Davidson and a gang of volunteers working to rebuild part of it, all armed with clippers, rakes, shovels or whatever else they had in their garden shed. They just got on with it and I think they are an inspiring example. We can get things done a little faster,” Ferguson said.

A new day with a new direction in terms of municipal-public engagement seems to be in the offing as the mayor said council and staff must serve as enablers and called for the council and staff to build a reputation as a place where you can get things done quickly and well and thereby contribute to our wonderful community.

“Our council and staff are going to be directed to find more revenue from sources beyond the tax base of our full time and seasonal residents. Whether from other levels of government, our hundreds of thousands of visitors, from investors or generous individuals, we are going to get creative in our advocacy and requests,” Ferguson added.

As for a municipal ‘to do’ list, Ferguson pointed to a major hospital building project that should be finished when those FirstGraders are moving into Grade 6 or 7 and an an urgent need to build more houses or apartments that their parents can afford to rent or buy.

“ I’d like to see real progress on that front by the time those kids are in Grade 3 or 4. We have businesses that are short of workers and we have people who need more employment. Together, with the creative talent in this community – indeed, in this room — we can work to resolve both of those issues and will do so on a collaborative basis,” said Ferguson.

In terms of unifying the county, Ferguson called for an end to those ward lines that seemed to dictate the conversation in the early post-amalgamation days and crop up from time to time at both horseshoe and in the coffee shops and other social hang outs and gatherings.

“You voted for change as a county. In my meetings with the individual councillors after the election, we all agreed that the days of ward versus ward, the north versus the south – those days...and those nouns, must be put behind us. We will be focused as a council on the county from coast-to-coast-to-coast-to-coast, as a whole, attending to the needs of our northern, southern, eastern and western residents,” the mayor stated. “The County is more than a brand. We have been entrusted with a remarkable legacy, and a responsibility to make sure that the next decade, the twenties, is a time of building on that legacy, ensuring that for that PEI graduating class, Prince Edward County will be the envy of all the other municipalities in the province.”

Ferguson also committed to being visible and available whether at Shire Hall or throughout the towns, villages and hamlets of the County or the numerous events that take place every weekend.

“It is only by doing so, by listening to people, that one can gauge the measure of one’s success. Although the days of a quick trip to the grocery store are behind me, and (past mayor Robert Quaiff) will understand, chance encounters with residents and business owners are as meaningful to me as I hope they are to those who strike up a conversation in the produce department,” he said.

In his final remarks, Ferguson admitted to being “from away” and settling in Prince Edward county just 30 years ago.

“There are many “from away” who have been attracted to the county and it is my hope that more will come, bringing with them their ability to make some form of contribution. All are welcome. But to all I say this, please be respectful of the people, attractions and special attributes of The County, and of our historical and agricultural heritage that attracted you to it in the first place,” Ferguson said. “We have an extraordinary municipality, unlike any other, and I am excited, motivated, proud and honoured to be your mayor.”

A number of visiting dignitaries blessed, officiated and gave remarks before and after Ferguson’s address. In offering a blessing from the neighbouring Bay of Quinte Mohawks at Tyendinaga, elder David Jock referenced the duty for all humans to live together in a balance of harmony with each other and all living things great and small and asked for a great thanksgiving to the creator of all things great and small.

Transferring between english and traditional Iroquoian Mohawk, Jock asked the audience to remember the preciousness of the gifts that have been given.

“Let us give thanks for something precious — our next breath- and our next clench of the waters so our thirst is met and let us remember these gifts that are very priceless to all, especially the unborn generations,” Jock said. “Remember the sacredness of the waters that we are entrusted with that care and we have the duty for all creation to keep our waters safe and clean for all of life to take.

Justice Ernie Parsons, a former MPP, administered the declaration of office for the councillors and Ferguson and stated that Canadians were blessed to be able to participate freely in municipal governments.

“We are in special place in the world where anyone can believe they have something to contribute to a community and get involved in it. It’s a rare privilege we have in the country,” Parsons said.

In a moment of levity, Parsons added that he was especially happy to receive a call from U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller who told the Justice he had found no evidence of Russian collusion in the 2018 municipal election.

Calling it the easiest meeting of the term, Parsons said they wouldn’t all be like this but at some point, there will be a session where the group will make a positive change for local residents.

“There will be evenings where you will leave the council chamber and on the drive home, you will say to yourself that We did something tonight that will make the County a better place to live, to work, to farm, to business,” Parsons said. “You will get a satisfaction out of that will last the rest of your life.”

<https://pictongazette.ca/post/incoming-mayor-pledges-to-galvanize-collaborate-and-advocate>

Prince Edward County Council held its ceremonial inaugural meeting for the 2022-2026 term at the Regent Theatre in Picton on Monday.

Amongst the council-elect where many visiting dignitaries from all levels of government, neighboring municipalities and Canadian Forces Base Trenton, including Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell, At the ceremony, Dowdeswell opened the evening with words of wisdom regarding the importance of municipal government.

Once council was sworn-in, Mayor Steve Ferguson took to addressing municipal priorities for the next four-year term.

<https://canada-info.ca/en/pec-council-begins-its-2022-2026-term-as-ontarios-lieutenant-governor-presides/>

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY - PROCLAMATION

October 17, 2023

WHEREAS, the United Nation's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is

observed on October 17th throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Poverty is considered a violation of human rights; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have the primary goal to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere" by 2030; and

WHEREAS, 13.5 percent of Prince Edward County residents are living in poverty;
And

WHEREAS, Prince Edward County has the second highest rate of food insecurity in Ontario; and

WHEREAS, 50.8 percent of households in Prince Edward County earn less than the average provincial cost of living; and

WHEREAS, 48.6% of renters in Prince Edward County spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, which is the national affordability threshold; and

WHEREAS, Poverty projections suggest that the social and economic impacts of the current health crisis will be significant and will exacerbate these figures;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, I, Steve Ferguson, Mayor of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward, do hereby proclaim October 17, 2023 as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Mayor Steve Ferguson

DATED at Picton this 10th day of October, 2023

<https://www.thecounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/International-Day-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty.pdf>
<https://www.kouga.gov.za/article/canadian-delegation-in-kouga-for-led-partnership>

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The mandate of Agricultural Advisory Committee is to fulfill its advisory role by providing advice on agricultural matters, protecting rural and agricultural lands, and enhancing the viability of agriculture in Prince Edward County.

The Committee will provide information and recommendations to Council regarding agricultural matter relating to the administration of Part IV and Part V of the Nutrient Management Act, 2002. S. O. 2002, Chapter 4, within the County.

The Committee will advocate for all local agricultural businesses, tourism, and initiatives, and report opportunities. The Committee will serve as a forum for public discussion to examine matters of interest or impact to the rural community, and act as a liaison between the agriculture community and Council.

The goals and purpose of the Agriculture Advisory Committee are to:

Identify and implement community outreach activities in co-operation with other organizations and levels of government where appropriate. This may include recommending and assisting with educational workshops regarding relevant planning policies or regulations such as the provincial Minimum Distance Formula (MDS) and the Nutrient Management Act.

To provide input regarding agricultural planning policies and/or mapping pursued by the County through official plan amendments or an Official Plan review process.

To assist the municipality in mediating any objection to the Nutrient Management Act referred to it by the Ministry of Environment with the affected farmer/operator.

Review and recommend appropriate means and methods of communication, including information sessions, and or public meetings to the rural community and promote two-way communication between rural residents and Council, including, but not limited to food, tourism, and economic development.

Formulate and recommend a Committee work plan for Council's consideration.

MEMBERS:

Ward 2 Bloomfield/Hallowell Councillor Phil Prinzen

Ward 5 Athol Councillor Sam Branderhorst

Robert Rogers

Dee Hazell

Jacqui Burley

John Thompson

AG-TECH

Agricultural technology or agrotechnology (abbreviated agtech, agritech, AgriTech, or agrotech) is the use of technology in agriculture, horticulture, and aquaculture with the aim of improving yield, efficiency, and profitability. Agricultural technology can be products, services or applications derived from agriculture that improve various input/output processes.

Advances in agricultural science, agronomy, and agricultural engineering have led to applied developments in agricultural technology.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agricultural_technology

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_engineering

AGRI-BUSINESS

Until the last 100 years, agriculture was labor-intensive. Farming was a common occupation and millions of people were involved in food production. Farmers, largely trained from generation to generation, carried on the family business. That situation has changed dramatically today. In

America in 1870, 70–80% of the US population was employed in agriculture. As of 2021, less than 2% of the population is directly employed in agriculture, and about 83% of the population lives in cities.

The Bretton Woods Institutions - The World Bank and International Monetary Fund - play a large role in how the food industry functions today. These global funds were born after World War II, to help rebuild Europe and prevent another Great Depression. Overall, their main purpose was to stabilize economies. The IMF provided short term loans while the World Bank was focused on larger projects that would bring electricity back to cities, roads, and other "essential" needs. The World Bank's mission and purpose, however, transformed as its President Robert McNamara issued a system of loans known as Structural Adjustment. In accepting loans from the World Bank, countries - especially the Global South - became economically, politically, and socially tied to the West. Many countries struggled to pay back their loans, beginning the process of global debt, privatization, and the downfall of local economies. As a result of Western intervention, many small scale farmers have been displaced, as US corporations have bought out land in other countries and continued to monopolize on food. Today, several multinational corporations have pushed agricultural technologies on developing countries including improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides, crop production.

Modern food production is defined by sophisticated technologies. These include many areas. Agricultural machinery, originally led by the tractor, has practically eliminated human labor in many areas of production. Biotechnology is driving much change, in areas as diverse as agrochemicals, plant breeding and food processing. Many other types of technology are also involved, to the point where it is hard to find an area that does not have a direct impact on the food industry. As in other fields, computer technology is also a central force. Other than that, there are few more modern technologies that can help to improve the industry as well which are, robotics and automation, blockchain, nanotech, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, smart farming and others. These new technologies can improve the industry in the following ways:

Robotics and automation: Robotics and automation are being used to automate processes such as packaging, sorting, and quality control, which reduces labor costs and increases efficiency. These technologies also reduce the likelihood of contamination by reducing human contact with food.

Blockchain: Blockchain technology is being used to improve food safety by providing transparency in the supply chain. This technology allows for real-time tracking of food products, from farm to table, which helps to identify any potential safety hazards and enables quick response to any issues.

Nanotechnology: Nanotechnology is being used to develop new packaging materials that can extend the shelf life of food and reduce food waste. These materials can also be designed to be biodegradable, reducing the environmental impact of packaging.

3D printing: 3D printing is being used to create custom food products and to make food production more efficient. With 3D printing, it is possible to create complex shapes and designs that would be difficult to achieve with traditional manufacturing techniques.

Artificial intelligence: (AI) is being used to analyze large amounts of data in the food industry, which can help to identify trends and patterns. This technology can be used to optimize processes and to improve the quality and safety of food products.

Smart farming: Smart farming involves the use of sensors and data analytics to optimize crop yields and reduce waste. This technology can help farmers to make more informed decisions about when to plant, water, and harvest crops, which can improve the efficiency and sustainability of agriculture.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_industry

AGRI-CORP

AgriCorp was created as a provincial crown corporation in 1997 under the authority of the AgriCorp Act, 1996 (S.O. 1996, CHAPTER 17, Schedule A) with the object of administering crop insurance under the Crop Insurance Act (Ontario), 1996. Specifically, AgriCorp was given the capacity and powers to establish and collect fees and service charges related to the exercise of its powers or the carrying out of its duties; establish and collect penalties for the late payment of the fees and service charges; and lend money between funds.

AgriCorp currently delivers three core programs, AgriStability, Production Insurance (PI) and the suite of risk management programs (RMPs), as well as several other smaller programs (e.g., Farm Business Registration). AgriCorp is governed by a board of directors appointed by the Lieutenant governor in Council.

In June 2002, the government of Canada and the government of Ontario agreed on the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) to focus agriculture and Agrifood movement into the 21st century. This agreement solidified the commitment of these governments to work together on developing and adjusting programs, services, and tools to help producers succeed today and tomorrow. It also identified the common goals they will pursue over the next five years.

Under the APF, effective from April 2003 to March 2008, the new Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program was launched. CAIS combined the stabilization assistance of the Net Income Stabilization Accounts (NISA) program and the disaster assistance provided under the Ontario Farm Income Disaster Program (OFIDP) into one program. In December 2004, delivery of the CAIS program was transferred from OMAF to AgriCorp.

At their annual meeting in Quebec City in July 2008, federal, provincial and territorial ministers announced the completion of the Growing Forward framework, which replaced the (APF).

Under Growing Forward, the CAIS program was replaced by two new programs: AgriStability, delivered by AgriCorp in Ontario, and AgriInvest, delivered by Agriculture and Agri-Food

Canada. In 2013, Growing Forward was replaced by a new five-year agreement, Growing Forward 2, in effect until 2018

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario_Agricorp

AGRICORP RELATIONSHIP WITH OMAFRA

A Memorandum of Understanding clarifies expectations and reporting requirements for these three categories: financial, staffing and administration. It also defines the relationship between OMAFRA and Agricorp, including the roles and responsibilities of the minister, the deputy minister, the Chair of the board, the board of directors and the chief executive officer.

<https://www.agricorp.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/Agricorp-AnnualReport-2011-en.pdf>

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - AGRICORP - OMAFRA

.Establishing and applying a financial management framework for the Agency in accordance with applicable Minister of Finance/Treasury Board controllership directives, policies and guidelines.

<https://www.agricorp.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/Agricorp-OMAFRA-MOU-en.pdf>

FOOD SECURITY - COLLABORATIVE IMPACT - PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

The Food Collective, comprised of 25 local organizations, continues to work toward the vision that ...

“every person in PEC has the means to consistently access and consume nutritious, affordable food.”

Food Collective projects and research are focused on transitioning from a charity to an empowerment model. This includes advocating for system and policy changes that address the root causes of food insecurity.

Evolution of the Food Collective Activities

Food Security was prioritized - 2013-2015

The 2013 Vital Signs Advisory Committee prioritized three issue areas from the report: Food Security, Learning and Transportation. Working groups were formed to define priorities and projects in these three areas.

Community Gardens pilot - 2015

The Vital Signs Food Security working group partnered with Hastings-Prince Edward Public Health (HPEPH) to initiate a community garden project in Prince Edward County (Picton's Delhi Park).

The pilot project works with established programs that have been successful in making fresh local food more accessible to all in the community such as Fresh for All, Food to Share and Food Not Bombs.

First phase of a long-term Food Security Collective Impact project - 2017-2018

Food Systems and Community Leadership - Funding from Community Foundations of Canada and Loblaw's Companies Limited augmented a Stage One Collective Impact grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and funds from a private local donor to carry out the first phase of long-term Food Security Collective Impact project.

Food Security Theory of Change was developed - 2018

Vision: every person in PEC has the means to consistently access and consume nutritious, affordable food.

The Food Collective was formed - 2019

The Food Collective was formed to collaborate around the strategies in the Theory of Change.

Rural Ontario funded project - 2019

Focused on:

Building community awareness and engagement

Developing skills and knowledge

Improving access

Initiation of the PEC Fresh Market pilot - 2020

Procurement and distribution of fresh, affordable food linked to local suppliers

<https://www.facebook.com/pecfresh/>

Establishment of the temporary Food Depot during COVID-19 - 2020-2021

The Food Collective opened The County Food Depot as a short-term project to ride alongside the Food Banks during Covid-19. The supplementary, 'no cost' food program supplied 2,930 food hampers from April 17, 2020 and through June 25, 2021. Food Depot volunteers donated almost 3,000 hours over a 63 week period.

Research Project: Food Security in PEC - 2021

The three-month project supported the Food Collective's annual plan and aimed to: increase food collective member engagement, increase best practice knowledge in engaging food insecure residents in food programming and income support programs, and begin long-term planning for food programs.

Theory of Change

A significant outcome of the initial phase in 2018 was articulation of a Food Security Theory of Change.

Vision: every person in PEC has the means to consistently access and consume nutritious, affordable food

4 Key Strategies:

Working together (planning, communicating, acquiring & sharing resources, engaging diverse stakeholders)

Shifting attitudes & behaviours (increasing public awareness & engagement, developing food skills & knowledge, 'normalizing'/integrating food into other activities, supporting self-advocacy)

Transforming the local food system (promoting local food, leveraging public assets, more accessible, affordable transportation options)

Political & financial support (educating policymakers, financial support, better jobs & fair wages, affordable living)

[Theory of Change report](#)

Research/Reports

2018 Food Security Theory of Change

[2019 Report: Using Information to Mobilize a Community: Food Security in Prince Edward County](#)

[2019 Food & Food Insecurity PEC Survey. The Food Collective](#)

[2021 Food Collective Research Audit](#)

[2021 Food Priority Survey of PEC residents who identify as sometimes being short on food](#)

[2021 The County Food Collective Plan](#)

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

SDG 2.1. End hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

<https://vitalsigns.thecountyfoundation.ca/food-security-collaborative-impact/>

COUNTY FOOD COLLECTIVE

Prince Edward County is a community in transition. Long a seasonal destination, its wider "discovery" in recent years has highlighted socioeconomic disparities. Increased tourism has created opportunities for economic development; however, most of the jobs are seasonal. Even before the current real estate boom, median housing prices had nearly doubled over ten years (2008-2018), putting home ownership out of reach for many. Meanwhile, demand for short-term accommodations has dramatically reduced the availability of long-term rentals to nearly zero. Hand in hand with a crisis in affordable housing is a growing problem of food insecurity. Despite a rich agricultural base and historic ties to food production, PEC is home to many residents who do not consistently access enough healthy food to meet their needs.

The County Food Collective is a group of food programs working to address the challenges of food insecurity in PEC. An additional focus is how to increase access to food programs by people who are food insecure, but not using these resources.

<https://vitalsigns.thecountyfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/Food-Collective-Plan.pdf>

MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL GRANT - THE COUNTY FOUNDATION

Purpose of the Agricultural Grant Program: to provide a community support to the agricultural sector through some small grants that allow agricultural entities to overcome obstacles that

otherwise make continuation of farming operations unnecessarily difficult. Council approved this grant process on the recommendation of The PEC Agricultural Advisory Group.

Who is eligible:

Prince Edward County-based farms who have a Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) and a financial need based on:

- Unexpected expense/Unexpected drop in revenue
- Project to positively impact climate change
- Labour shortage
- Investment in succession planning

Who is not eligible:

- Non-PEC owned agricultural entities;
- People without a Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) and have not uploaded an Exemption Letter

Form to apply for Exemption Letter is available on **Agricorp's** website.

TCF reserves the right to increase the size of the various grants and/or consider an application under another stream based on the demand at time of application closure.

<https://www.agricorp.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/Agricorp-OMAFRA-MOU-en.pdf>

OFA - AGRICORP - ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Cathy Lennon is the General Manager of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario's largest general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family business members across the province.

An early career position with the Agricultural Adaptation Council ignited her passion for working for and with farmers. Over the last two decades, she has held senior positions with Ontario Sheep Farmers, Agricorp, Farm Credit Canada, and Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers before joining the OFA in 2019.

In addition to serving on the Ontario Chamber of Commerce board of directors, she is treasurer of the Poultry Industry Council, Community Director on 4H Ontario, and Chair of the Curriculum Advisory Committee for the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program.

Lennon is a graduate of Fanshawe College, the University of Waterloo, and the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program.

<https://occ.ca/team/cathy-lennon/>

ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We are at a pivotal moment in the history of the chamber of commerce movement. Today's chamber member doesn't have the same needs as those of 20 years ago. The pace of change,

fueled by technology and new ways of doing business, means that the OCC and our Chamber Network must adapt in order to deliver optimum value to our members.

For more than a century, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) has served as the non-partisan, voice of business in the province. Together with 135 member chambers of commerce and boards of trade, we stand up for our 60,000 members and advocate for evidence based public policies that contribute to a competitive economy and increased prosperity for our communities.

The term “business” itself has evolved, reflecting a diverse ecosystem that includes post-secondary institutions and other not-for-profit groups that each play an important role in contributing to Ontario’s competitiveness.

Without question, being the “voice of business” is important – but it is only the beginning of our value proposition as chambers. There is much more that we must do to unlock the full potential of the 21st century chamber movement in Ontario. Businesses need a partner that is always in their corner. A partner that helps them navigate through daily challenges and connects them to new business opportunities.

<https://occ.ca/wp-content/uploads/OCC-Strategic-Plan-2020-2025.pdf>

ANGEL INVESTORS - NACO

About Angel Capital:

Angel investors are individuals or funds that put their capital at risk in the early-stage ecosystem. This includes, but is not limited to, individual Limited Partners (LPs) that invest passively or semi-actively in funds, venture funds or family offices that invest in pre-seed and seed stage companies, and individuals that invest directly into early-stage companies on their own or with the support of an angel group.

Angel-backed companies that went on to achieve successful outcomes include Slack and Thinkific in BC; Verafin in Newfoundland and Labrador; WealthSimple and ApplyBoard in Ontario; Paper in Quebec; SkipTheDishes in Saskatchewan; and Jobber and Neo Financial in Alberta. Angel investment fuels the pipeline of companies that grow to raise venture capital and scale into the global success stories of the future.

About National Angel Capital Organization (NACO):

NACO members have invested \$1.54 billion into more than 2,400 Canadian companies. Incorporated in 2002, NACO is Canada’s professional association for angel investors and the national umbrella for over 100 organizations including angel groups, venture funds, incubators and accelerators. Learn more at www.nacocanada.com.

<https://nacocanada.com/2023-report-backgrounder>

NACO - BUILDING A DOMESTIC SUPPLY CHAIN OF CAPITAL FOR ALL ENTREPRENEURS IN ALL COMMUNITIES

- Recommendation 1: That the government implement co-investment or “matching

- funds” to leverage angel investment and increase support to entrepreneurs
- Recommendation 2: That the government implement a national equity tax incentive as a risk-correction mechanism to mobilize community-based capital for entrepreneurs at scale.
 - Recommendation 3: That the government increase support of the not-for-profit angel group network to allow all entrepreneurs, in all regions, from all backgrounds, access to capital, mentorship, and resources to scale-up their companies.

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/FINA/Brief/BR10974791/br-external/NationalAngelCapitalOrganization-10289724-e.pdf>

BLOOM LOCAL FOOD FUND

STAGE

We focus on the investment stages where we can bring massive impact with our expertise, particularly Seed to Series A.

AREAS

We specialize in food system investments that have impact ingrained in their business models, including ag-tech, food production / processing, and infrastructure enablers such as physical infrastructure, energy production and storage.

LOCATION

We are headquartered in Prince Edward County, Canada and prioritize investments in local companies in Southeastern Ontario and projects positively impacting the region.

We created the Bloom Local Food Fund to tackle the gaps in the Ontario food ecosystem. The need for investment is great, and the opportunity in Southeastern Ontario is even greater. The Bloom Fund aims to redirect capital to support local sustainable long-term development, while understanding the balance between returns and impact.

<https://bloomlocalfoodfund.svx.ca/our-challenge/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/bloom-local-food-fund/posts/?feedView=all>

PEC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - COMMUNITY PARTNERS

PEC Community Partners Inc, a group of community builders including Tercot Communities, DECO Communities, PEC Placemaking and Rockport group purchased the former WWII airbase in Picton in December of 2021. The people behind Base31 chose this land to not only create a “Destination” for our community but to tell the history of the airbase. They strive to keep the core values of Prince Edward County alive and create a welcoming and inclusive place for PEC.

CEO Tim Jones and the team at Base31 recognize that Prince Edward County is full of many different talents and believe they should be used together to create something special. Their goal is to create a “destination” for the Prince Edward County community to come together and create this solely through collaboration. They have partnered with the department of Illumination, Arts Council, History Lives Here and County Museums to help tell the story. They

also strive to help with tourism, explore transit solutions and work on creating affordable housing.

Base31's main goal is to keep the well being of PEC in mind. They have come up with many ways to do their business locally by sourcing products, hiring the PEC community and creating affordable housing solutions. Base31 and PEC Community Partners Inc. have stayed true to their promise of giving back to the community and have made several donations and sponsorships to businesses such as Melt Studio & Gallery, The Regent Theatre and PEC Chamber of Commerce.

BASE 31 - COLLABORATIONS AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

The Base31 revitalization strategy is deeply rooted in partnerships and collaborations and the belief that the most interesting and authentic places are built with members of the community. In keeping with that approach, members of the Base31 team began reaching out to individuals, organizations and businesses to explore how we might work together to build value for each other and the community.

Through a series of walking tours and meetings, 100+ community leaders from the arts, heritage, business, community development, sustainability and naturalist communities were engaged between January and April 2022. The response from PEC community members was terrific and Base31 announced the formation of 31 collaborations and community investments in a Co-Creation Kick-Off event in May 2022.

COLLABORATIONS

Collaborations involve Base31 working with others on projects, programs, and initiatives for positive community impact both on and off the site. The following list announced in May 2022 is just the beginning of a growing number of collaborators involved with Base31.

Prince Edward County
All Welcome Here
Architectural Conservancy Ontario Prince Edward County
History Lives Here
PEC Arts Council
Festival Players
Department of Illumination
PEC Community Craft Beer Festival
Ford Cassella Productions
Big Lake Arts Festival
Jacqui Burley
Rainbow Charity Network
Driftwood Theatre Company
National Airforce Museum of Canada
Sparkbox Studio
Beerlicious Inc.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Community investments are donations and sponsorships made by Base31 to support the work of others involved in awesome community building initiatives. The following list of organizations have received donations and sponsorships from Base31.

The Regent Theatre

Picton BIA

PEC Chamber of Commerce

Picton Library Expansion

The County Food Hub

The ROC

County FM

County of Prince Edward Public Library and Archives

Art in the County

Melt Studio & Gallery

Maison Depoivre

<https://base31.ca/about-us/#!/collab>

BASE 31 - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - 'BRIMMING WITH OPPORTUNITY'

Base31, a historically relevant site located in Picton, Prince Edward County, is being reimagined. We are working with the community to envision the future of this 750-acre site as a dynamic collection of neighbourhoods with a mix of uses: retail, restaurants, places to work and create, parks, trails, and recreation areas, a full complement of community amenities, and a range of housing to suit many needs.

This will be a place steeped in history, alive with energy and infused with nature. It's where its history, the arts and all things culinary will be celebrated, where new housing will help families flourish, and where employment and business opportunities will bring prosperity. Together, we will create a County-made community brimming with opportunity: to live, to learn, to play, and to thrive.

<https://ideas.base31.ca/>

ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS AND MEDICINES A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY?

AGROBACTERIUM: A POTENT HUMAN PATHOGEN

"Agrobacterium is a plant pathogen, which is able to produce several kinds of diseases in various plant species such as crown gall disease and hairy root disease. The crown gall disease and hairy root diseases develop when a segment of the bacterial DNA is transferred into the plant cell and subsequently becomes integrated into the plant genome. Historically, this transfer has taken place only in plants. There is an assumption that Agrobacterium, a commonly used gene transfer vector for plants, cannot infect animal cells; however, this has been proved wrong and certain kinds of human diseases have been identified. Increasing evidence indicates that, under laboratory conditions, Agrobacterium is able to transfer its DNA into numerous and diverse non plant eukaryotic species, such as fungi and yeast, as well as human cultured cells.

Agro-bacterium is responsible for opportunistic infections in humans with weakened immune systems. It is also found to be responsible for producing poisonous hydrogen sulfide(H₂S) gas, sepsis, monoarticular arthritis, bacteraemia, cancer, Morgellons disease and so on, in humans.”
https://www.holisticusinternational.ca/files/ugd/f57efd_c83e883148b94ddd9eb08cffe076942a.pdf

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

The arrival of the Loyalists after the Revolutionary War led to the division of Canada into the provinces of Upper Canada (what is now southern Ontario) and Lower Canada (today's southern Quebec). They arrived and were largely settled in groups by ethnicity and religion. Many soldiers settled with others of the regiments they had served with. The settlers came from every social class and all thirteen colonies, unlike the depiction of them in the Sandham painting which suggests the arrivals were well-dressed upper-class immigrants.

Loyalists soon petitioned the government to be allowed to use the British legal system, which they were accustomed to in the American colonies, rather than the French system. Great Britain had maintained the French legal system and allowed freedom of religion after taking over the former French colony with the defeat of France in the Seven Years' War. With the creation of Upper and Lower Canada, most Loyalists in the west could live under British laws and institutions. The predominantly ethnic French population of Lower Canada, who were still French-speaking, could maintain their familiar French civil law and Catholic religion.

Realizing the importance of some type of recognition, on 9 November 1789, Lord Dorchester, the governor of Quebec and Governor General of British North America, declared "that it was his Wish to put the mark of Honour upon the Families who had adhered to the Unity of the Empire". As a result of Dorchester's statement, the printed militia rolls carried the notation:

Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children and their Descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals, affixed to their names: UE or U.E. Alluding to their great principle The Unity of the Empire.

Because most of the nations of the Iroquois had allied with the British, which had ceded their lands to the United States, thousands of Iroquois and other pro-British Native Americans were expelled from New York and other states. They were also resettled in Canada. Many of the Iroquois, led by Joseph Brant Thayendenegea, settled at Six Nations of the Grand River, the largest First Nations reserve in Canada. A smaller group of Iroquois led by Captain John Deserontyon Odeserundiye, settled on the shores of the Bay of Quinte in modern-day southeastern Ontario.

The government settled some 3,500 Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but they faced discrimination and the same inadequate support that all Loyalists experienced delays in making land grants, but mostly the willingness of the blacks to under-cut their fellow Loyalists and hire themselves out to the few available jobs at a lower wage aggravated racist tensions in Shelburne. Mobs of white Loyalists attacked Black Loyalists in the Shelburne Riots

in July 1784, Canada's first so-called "race" riot. The government was slow to survey the land of Black Loyalists (which meant they could not settle); it was also discriminatory in granting them smaller, poorer, and more remote lands than those of white settlers; not counting those Loyalists who were resettled in what would become Upper Canada, in general, or around the Bay of Quinte, in specific. This increased their difficulties in becoming established. The majority of Black Loyalists in Canada were refugees from the American South; they suffered from this discrimination and the harsh winters.

The Family Compact exerted influence over the government through the Executive Council and Legislative Council, the advisers to the Lieutenant Governor, leaving the popularly elected Legislative Assembly with little real power. As became clear with Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head, the influence of the Family Compact could be quite limited as well. Members ensured their conservative friends held the important administrative and judicial positions in the colony through political patronage.

Membership

The centre of the compact was York (later renamed Toronto), the capital. Its most important member was Bishop John Strachan; many of the other members were his former students, or people who were related to him. The most prominent of Strachan's pupils was Sir John Beverley Robinson who was from 1829 the Chief Justice of Upper Canada for 34 years. The rest of the members were mostly descendants of United Empire Loyalists or recent upper-class British settlers such as the Boulton family, builders of the Grange.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_Compact

LOWER CANADA TORIES - CHATEAU CLIQUE

The Château Clique, or Clique du Château, was a group of wealthy families in Lower Canada in the early 19th century. They were the Lower Canada equivalent of the Family Compact in Upper Canada.

Like the Family Compact, the Château Clique gained most of its influence after the War of 1812. Most of its families were British merchants, but some were French Canadian seigneurs who felt that their own interests were best served by an affiliation with this group. Some of the most prominent members were brewer John Molson and James McGill, the founder of McGill University. Generally, they wanted the French Canadian majority of Lower Canada to assimilate to English culture. That included the abolition of the seigneurial system, replacing French civil law with English common law, and replacing the established Roman Catholic Church with the Anglican Church. Their efforts led to the Act of Union (1840), which ultimately failed in its attempt to assimilate all French Canadians but succeeded in preventing their political and economic interests from prevailing over those of Britain. The Château Clique also had control over the Crown lands and the clergy reserves but much less than the Family Compact because of the already-existing seigneurial system.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Canada_Tories

NEPOTISM

Nepotism is the act of granting an advantage, privilege, or position to relatives or friends in an occupation or field. These fields may include but are not limited to: business, politics, academia, entertainment, sports, religion, and health care.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepotism>

CRONYISM

Cronyism is a specific form of in-group favoritism, the spoils system practice of partiality in awarding jobs and other advantages to friends or trusted colleagues, especially in politics and between politicians and supportive organizations. For example, cronyism occurs when appointing "cronies" to positions of authority regardless of their qualifications. This is in contrast to a meritocracy, in which appointments are made based on merit. Politically, "cronyism" is derogatorily used to imply buying and selling favors, such as votes in legislative bodies, as doing favors to organizations, or giving desirable ambassadorships to exotic places.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cronyism>

CABAL

A cabal is a group of people who are united in some close design, usually to promote their private views or interests in an ideology, a state, or another community, often by intrigue and usually without the knowledge of those who are outside their group. The use of this term usually carries negative connotations of political purpose, conspiracy and secrecy. It can also refer to a secret plot or a clique, or it may be used as a verb (to form a cabal or secretly conspire).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabal>

NEOCOLONIALISM

Neocolonialism is the continuation or reimposition of imperialist rule by a state (usually, a former colonial power) over another nominally independent state (usually, a former colony). This is the continuation of colonial representations and realities which remain after formal colonisation has come to an end. Neocolonialism is the control of less-developed countries by developed countries through indirect means. The term neocolonialism was first used after World War II to refer to the continuing dependence of former colonies on foreign countries, but its meaning soon broadened to apply, more generally, to places where the power of developed countries was used to produce a colonial-like exploitation. Neocolonialism takes the form of economic imperialism, globalization, cultural imperialism and conditional aid to influence or control a developing country instead of the previous colonial methods of direct military control or indirect political control (hegemony).

Neocolonialism differs from standard globalisation and development aid in that it typically results in a relationship of dependence, subservience, or financial obligation towards the neocolonialist nation. This may result in an undue degree of political control or spiraling debt obligations, functionally imitating the relationship of traditional colonialism. Neocolonialism frequently affects all levels of society, creating neo-colonial systems that disadvantage local communities, such as neo-colonial science.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neocolonialism>

DECOLONIZATION

The United Nations (UN) states that the fundamental right to self-determination is the core requirement for decolonization, and that this right can be exercised with or without political independence. A UN General Assembly Resolution in 1960 characterised colonial foreign rule as a violation of human rights. In states that have won independence, Indigenous people living under settler colonialism continue to make demands for decolonization and self-determination. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decolonization>

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<https://princeedwardcounty.civicweb.net/FileStorage/C1196CBF8191447AB805ED52E8685DC2-PEC%20Towards%20a%2010%20Year%20Community%20Plan%20Report.pdf>
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<https://decisions.scc-csc.ca/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/19036/index.do>
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_faith
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/w/wanton-disregard.asp>
<https://www.gluckstein.com/publication/the-emergence-of-bad-faith-litigation-in-canada>

CLOSING STATEMENT

I'M DESPERATELY SEEKING SOLIDARITY AND PROTECTION FROM THE WIDER COMMUNITY AT THIS TIME. I'VE ENDURED AN INTENSE SMEAR AND COMMUNITY ALIENATION CAMPAIGN FOR TWO DECADES NOW. THE EFFECTS OF EVIDENCED OPPRESSION ARE TAKING A DEVASTATING TOLL ON ME IN MANY WAYS AND I COULD REALLY USE SOME CAMARADERIE FROM COMPASSIONATE SOULS IN THE QUINTE AREA.

https://www.holisticusinternational.ca/files/ugd/1c170a_2e0ec13b75174ea59961e9a333f29e32.pdf
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FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN STOPPING CHILD TRAFFICKING IN CANADA, I DARE SAY THAT IT'S TIME TO CLOSELY INSPECT THE FOR-PROFIT CHILD PROTECTION INDUSTRY. I'VE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO EXPOSE THIS NETWORK FOR WHAT IT TRULY IS - A CRIMINAL RACKET THAT USES CHILDREN AS A COMMODITY - FOR YEARS NOW BUT THE QANON MOVEMENT AND OTHER DETRACTORS HAVE AIDED TO DISTRACT PEOPLE FROM THAT UNDENIABLE FACT.

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/wAQqPAmtDv9s/>

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/1pIE7qYnQAZz/>

BECAUSE I'VE ENDURED SO MUCH UNACCOUNTABLE OPPRESSION IN MY LIFE, A FEW YEARS AGO I BEGAN TO RESEARCH THE NATURE OF THE CROWN AND HOW THE GOVERNMENT IN CANADA ACTUALLY OPERATES. WHAT I FOUND WAS FAIRLY SHOCKING AND FAR TOO DETAILED TO GET INTO FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT. IT'S IMPORTANT STUFF, HOWEVER, AND I ENCOURAGE THE READER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INTERNATIONALLY OUTLAWED NEOCOLONIALISM AND THE ACTUAL NATURE, FUNCTION AND EVOLUTION OF THE RESPECTIVE ENTITIES KNOWN AS THE CROWN, KING, COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS, AND EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

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THE TYRANNY IN CANADA WILL NOT GO AWAY UNTIL THE PEOPLE OF CANADA MAKE IT GO AWAY. WAR, ANOTHER SO-CALLED PANDEMIC OR SOME OTHER SOCIAL DISASTER COULD LEAD TO MORE OPPRESSION FOR EVERYONE HERE IN CANADA AT ANY POINT. IT'S CRITICAL, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, FOR US ALL TO PUT OUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND TO WORK TOGETHER TO BRING HONEST, TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE BACK TO EVERY MUNICIPALITY IN CANADA BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE TO DO SO.

IF WE WON'T LIBERATE OURSELVES NO ONE ELSE WILL. IT'S GETTING LATE, FOLKS!

THANK YOU FOR READING.

BRENDA EVERALL

brendaeverall@gmail.com

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO

APRIL 11, 2024