

Request for Support for the McMaster Campus Farm Stand

Presented by Alex Bissley, Alice Bradbury, and Zsuzsi Fodor

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In January of 2009, Alex Bissley and Zsuzsi Fodor, coordinators of Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) McMaster working group PEAS (Promoting Eating Alternatively and Sustainably) partnered with Alice Bradbury, a McMaster University and Golden Horseshoe Biosciences Network (GHBN) retiree, to implement a farm stand on the McMaster University campus. The farm stand is part of our larger efforts to increase knowledge of, support for, and access to our local food community.

This project is one of many OPIRG PEAS has undertaken in the last year, all with the unifying intention of creating citywide relationships between parties addressing food issues. These included local food bus tours, a community kitchen, workshops and presentations for youth, a campus local food procurement focus group, and a community garden project with new immigrants.

Our vision for the farm stand is that it will be hosted in the centre of campus once a week and will feature fresh and sustainably produced food from local growers. OPIRG PEAS coordinators and volunteers will operate and manage the farm stand and have already secured personnel, vendors, supplies, promotional venues, and start-up grants. The farm stand holds the potential to simultaneously offer convenient access to healthy food on campus, support Hamilton's agricultural sector, represent a campus-community partnership, and be an opportunity for McMaster University to further its status as a sustainable campus.

We have made excellent progress on moving the farm stand forward but have encountered obstacles in receiving final university approval. As part of our ongoing communications with the implicated McMaster University departments, we are asking for support of the project from both the McMaster and Hamilton communities at large.

By signing this "Request for Support" I am indicating that I support the implementation of the McMaster Campus Farm Stand.

We gladly welcome and appreciate any additional written statements of support for the McMaster Campus Farm Stand you wish to submit to be included in our documentation to the university. These may be sent by e-mail to opirg.peas@gmail.com or by post to OPIRG McMaster, Attn: OPIRG PEAS, Unit 1013, c/o McMaster University Post Office, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton ON, L8S 1C0. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your questions and concerns. We are extremely happy to speak with you and appreciate your support.

Signature

Name

Organization/Professional Affiliation