

Who We Are

Our Community Food Store is a group of caring community members in the St. Catharines/ Niagara Region neighbourhood who are exploring the possibilities of opening a downtown food co-op in 2012. Addressing the pressing need for food security and community, we meet formally on a monthly basis to brainstorm, discuss and organize a possible solution: a food co-op.

Four Pillars

1. **Downtown:** Centralized location that is in walk-able distance for the Downtown/Queenston Street community
2. **Store Front:** Permanent location
3. **Food:** Affordable, local, and accessible
4. **Co-op:** Community supported and run

Time Line

2011	
February 9	• First conversation about meeting the food security issues within the Downtown/Queenston Street Community
February 17	• Started Blog to keep interested parties updated
Feb-May	• Small group meetings to discuss possibilities, opportunities, ideas
May 17	• First Marketing subcommittee meeting
May 18	• Became members of the Ontario Food Co-op Association
May 25	• Attended St. Catharines Enterprise Centre seminar: Evaluating Your Idea/Market Research Basics
May-Aug	• Recruiting possible partners • Informal market research • Conversations with other food co-ops, local businesses, community partners, CSA's, local farmers, food activists and sustainability activists
September	• Begin Feasibility Study and formal market research
2012	
	• Open Co-op

What We Need

- Active, working hands participants
- Market research study
- Feasibility study
- Business plan
- Financial plan

To Get Involved

- Join our mailing list: www.our-community-food-store.blogspot.com
- Attend monthly meetings. We usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Check the blog for exact date, place, and time.
- Volunteer your expertise, resources or time to help with the above needs