



Mooo-ving forward at the Riverdale Farm

As many of you have heard, there has been a lot of concern about the Riverdale Farm closing due to the current budget talks. We hope that, by now, you have also heard that the Farm will be staying open: the 2012 budget for the Farm is secure.

In September, City Council endorsed a proposal submitted by a coalition of community groups: The Riverdale Farm Advisory Council, Friends of Riverdale Farm, Riverdale Park West Stewardship Team, Cabbagetown Preservation Association, Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents' Association, and Cabbagetown Art & Crafts. The Coalition challenged the City to work with it and explore a new partnership model that addresses the ongoing operations and future financial security of the Farm.

Between now and the Spring of 2012 this Farm Coalition will be actively engaged with the Farm community and the City's senior staff to define this new model and establish a solid foundation for the Farm to move toward sustainability. We are excited and encouraged that the City is open to exploring options of not only keeping the Farm open and accessible to all, but helping to move the Farm forward while providing world class opportunities and services to the community, near and far. Coalition members are also pleased that many individuals and organizations have voluntarily come forward to offer their help in this process.

In the coming months please watch for regular updates from your community groups. We plan to actively solicit your thoughts regarding the Farm. This activity will engage the community through online surveys, community meetings, community working groups, and hopefully many impromptu street corner discussions. You can also follow us at www.riverdalefarm.ca which will soon have a special section covering this process.

During the coming months, our goal is to secure the Farm as a cherished location for the generations who have grown to love it and for the generations who are following in their footsteps. Please feel free to contact any of the organizations listed below to ask questions, offer your support and provide any constructive suggestions.

Contacts:

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