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# Club provides food for thought



**Raimey Gallant**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

When the people who grow your food call you an eater instead of a buyer, deliver food directly to you and live in the same province, what's that called? The Harvest Moon Local Food Initiative calls it a food buying club, and partners with five of them throughout Winnipeg.

One of the largest so far is the South Osborne Food Buying Club. The demand was so high in the beginning, in fact, that organizers had trouble keeping pace, says Evan Bowness, president of the South Osborne Community Cooperative, which co-ordinates the South Osborne Food Buying Club.

So why would farmers refer to their customers as eaters instead of buyers? "The idea is to build relationships and not just sell food," says Bowness, also a University of Manitoba graduate student who studies social and ecological justice.

Twenty-five-year-old Bowness's drive is a result of his studies and one class in particular, which focused on moving from global to local production.

"The class was a wakeup call for me, because it's easy to not think about how unsustainable your lifestyle is until somebody gets you to sit down and think about it," he says.

Bowness says he had been toying with the idea of starting some form of a food co-operative last summer, when he heard that the Harvest Moon Society was trying to start a network of food buying clubs in the city. "So we joined forces," he says.

Here's how the food buying club works: the South Osborne Food Buying Club emails an order form to its membership monthly, and people can choose to purchase from a cluster of sustainable farmers in the vicinity of Clearwater, Man. The choices depend on what's in-season. Then one farmer picks up the orders from the rest of the farmers and delivers them to the Riverview Community Centre one Saturday each month.

The South Osborne Food Buying Club collected its first orders in September 2010 and now co-ordinates 15 to 30 orders per month and runs year long. "The farmers are really happy, and the eaters are really happy," Bowness says of the club's success.

South Osborne Food Buying Club members Leanne and Trevor Johnson were at the July 16 pickup at the Riverview Community Centre, making them three-time customers.

"We're here to support local farmers, to get great quality, great-tasting organic food at a fair price, and we think it's good for the environment," Leanne says.

*Raimey Gallant is a communications co-ordinator with the Community-Led Emissions Reduction program in Riverview and Lord Roberts.*

*Neighbourhood Forum is a readers' column. If you live in The Sou'wester area and would like to contribute to this column, contact [jim.timlick@canstarnews.com](mailto:jim.timlick@canstarnews.com).*



# Cancer fight volunteers making a big difference

## Readers' roundup

### To the editor:

The Canadian Cancer Society would like to thank the community of Winnipeg and all Manitobans for your help making our 2011 door-to-door campaign a success.

It is heartening to know that Manitobans remain dedicated to the fight against cancer. The money raised helps the society provide front line services and support to Manitobans on a cancer journey, empower change through education and awareness, and fund clinical trials and research into prevention, early screening and

new treatments.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers whose leadership and dedication knocking on doors throughout Daffodil Month generated \$650,000 for the fight against cancer. Volunteers who donate their time also help us keep administrative costs under 10% of our expenditures.

We commend the citizens of Winnipeg who continue to rally together and stand up against cancer. Together, we continue to make a difference.

**Mark McDonald,**  
executive director  
**Canadian Cancer Society,**  
Manitoba Division