

Edmonton Food Council Members 2013



Kirsta Franke, Janelle Herbert, Megan Woodman, Mary Bailey, former Mayor Stephen Mandel, Marjorie Bencz, Jennifer Fisk, Meghan Dear, Mack Male, Christopher Sikora, former member Stuart Cullum, Kevin Kossowan, City of Edmonton Branch Manager Peter Ohm, Brent Swallow, Mark LaRue, Dustin Bajer, Hilton Dinner

Mary Bailey – Co-Chair



Mary Bailey is the co-author of Alberta food, *The Food Lover's Trail Guide to Alberta*, Volumes I & II. She publishes the bi-monthly magazine *The Tomato* food & drink (thetomato.ca), is the food and wine correspondent for CBC Radio One's Alberta at Noon and appears monthly on Global Edmonton Morning News. She is a senior judge for the national Gold Medal Plates/Canadian Culinary Championships and instructor for the Art Institute of Vancouver teaching Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) courses in Edmonton.

Mary founded Edmonton's Slow Food convivia in 2002, and was honoured with the GALA (Growing Alberta Leadership Award) for community spirit in 2007.

Jennifer Fisk – Co-Chair



Jennifer, who grew up in a farm family, founded Freestone Communications, a public relations and communications firm that serves a variety of industries and organizations including many clients in the food and agriculture industry. She was the Executive Director for Growing Alberta and she has worked for the University of Alberta and the Canadian Bankers Association. Throughout her career, Jennifer has served on many local Boards including Northlands, the Edmonton Downtown Farmers' Market Association, Live Local and the 4-H Foundation of Alberta. For her professional and community efforts, Jennifer was recognized as one of *Avenue Magazine* Edmonton's Top 40 under 40 in Edmonton in 2011.

Brent Swallow



Brent Swallow is Professor and Chair of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta. He grew up on a Saskatchewan farm and earned bachelor and masters degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He lived and worked in Kenya and continues to be actively involved with research on food security in Asia and Africa. He is concerned with the phenomena of 'food deserts' in Edmonton and farmland conversion and fragmentation in Alberta's Capital Region. Dr. Swallow teaches a class on agri-food systems in which students learn about food and agricultural issues in the Edmonton area through volunteer work with local organizations.

Christopher Sikora



Dr. Christopher Sikora is a specialist in Public Health & Preventive Medicine, and a Medical Officer of Health in Alberta Health Services, Edmonton Zone. He completed his specialist training at the University of Alberta in 2009, after having completed a Doctor of Medicine, an MSc in Vaccine development, a Masters in Public Health and certification in Family Medicine. Following his residency, he was appointed as the Medical Officer of Health for the Fort McMurray area, and then returned to Edmonton in 2011. Since 2012 he has been the Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health for Alberta Health Services — Edmonton Zone, leading public health programs and policy within Edmonton and area.

Dr. Sikora has become an expert on infection prevention and control and is an active participation with the City of Edmonton Poverty Elimination Committee, along with other health-related City of Edmonton initiatives.

Dustin Bajer



Dustin Bajer is a teacher, master gardener, and permaculture designer living and working in Edmonton. Since spring 2010, Dustin has been the driving force behind the permaculture program at Jasper Place High School. In this time, he has helped students work with ecological patterns and principles to establish multiple food producing forest gardens and Canada's first school aquaponics system. Passionate about education, ecology, and design, Dustin believes that a vibrant local food culture could not only build and nourish our communities but increase biodiversity,

capture carbon and water, and provide important project-based, hands-on learning opportunities.

Hilton Dinner



Hilton Dinner has over two decades of experience in the food industry in Edmonton. The owner of the highly respected Bon Ton Bakery, he is a proud and active member of the small business community and a firm believer in the power of food to shape health and culture in positive ways.

He has supported organizations like Terra: Centre for parenting teens, the Hope Mission and Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts.

Hilton's passion for supporting and developing local food resources has led to meaningful partnerships and developments in the bakery. His emphasis on incorporating new research on health and wellness has also pushed and shaped the direction of the Bon Ton Bakery.

Janelle Herbert



Janelle Herbert is a wife, mother of three, and owner and operator of Riverbend Gardens, a fourth generation vegetable farm in Edmonton's North East.. Janelle is passionate about continuing local sustainable agriculture so that her children and grandchildren can follow in her footsteps. Janelle and her husband have introduced many initiatives to lead Riverbend Gardens into the future. She is a natural-born tweeter (@RiverbendGarden) and connects with the community on Riverbend Gardens' Facebook page.

Kevin Kossowan



Kevin owns a video production company called Story Chaser Productions that focuses on telling stories about agriculture, hunting, fishing, and people. Kevin is part owner of Shovel & Fork, which teaches foraging, butchery, urban agriculture, game cookery, food preservation, and many other food-skills for the at-home cook. He is part owner of Lactuca Urban Farm, an urban agriculture market gardening business that supplies local restaurants and farmers' markets with sustainably farmed vegetables. He writes about wild food for the Alberta Conservation Association's *Conservation Magazine* and *Discover Guide*.

Kevin is currently on the boards of Slow Food Edmonton and Operation Fruit Rescue Edmonton. He has lent a hand to NAIT's culinary program, by getting students out foraging and connecting them to local farms.

Kirsta Franke



A born and raised Edmontonian, Kirsta Franke has a decade of experience in the food and restaurant industry. Her work for the 124 Street Business Association as Communications Director has allowed Kirsta to bridge a gap between producers, local businesses and citizens. In 2012, Kirsta spearheaded and founded the 124 Grand Market, an evening farmers' market located in the heart of 124 Street. The 124 Grand Market has met resounding success. Kirsta has become an important voice within Edmonton's developing food scene. She hopes to bring a

youthful, informed and creative perspective to the Edmonton Food Council and is keen to serve the interests of all Edmontonians, especially when it concerns what they have on their dinner tables.

Mack Male



Mack Male is a passionate Edmontonian and self-described geek. In 2009 Mack was named one of Edmonton's Top 40 Under 40 by *Avenue Edmonton*, and in 2010 he was named one of Alberta's Next 10 Most Influential People by *Alberta Venture*. His blog was named "Best Local Blog" in *Vue Weekly's* 2012 Best of Edmonton, and he was also named "Best Local Twitter". In 2013, Mack's blog was named "Best in Edmonton" at the first annual Edmonton New Media Awards.

Mack is co-founder of What the Truck?!, Edmonton's food truck extravaganza; Eat Alberta, a hands-on food skills conference; and Blink, a series of pop-up restaurants and events.

Marjorie Bencz



Marjorie began with Edmonton's Food Bank in 1987 and became Executive Director in 1989. She serves on the Boards of Directors for the Alberta Food Bank Network Association and the national body, Food Banks Canada (formerly the Canadian Association of Food Banks).

Marjorie's work and dedication to vulnerable Edmontonians has been recognized with a number of community awards such as an honorary diploma in *Health and Community Studies* from *Grant MacEwan Community College* and being named *Global TV's Woman of Vision*. In May, 2012 she was honored with a *YWCA Woman of Distinction Award*. Also in 2012, she received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and was invested into the Order of Canada in the category of *Social Science*.

Marjorie and her husband have three grown daughters and four grandchildren.

Mark LaRue



Mark is a professional landscape architect with more than 29 years experience. As a Principal in the Stantec Urban Development group in Edmonton, Mark's most significant projects include administering the design and construction of large-scale public infrastructure improvements and private developments. Mark is a LEED accredited professional and is passionate about seeking opportunities to apply sustainable design principles appropriate for each of his projects.

Mark attended The Ohio State University and graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture. He began his professional practice in San Diego, California where he and his wife Cindy lived for 27 years while raising their three children. Mark and Cindy relocated to Edmonton in 2011.

Megan Woodman



As a Senior Project Manager with the Agriculture and Food Council of Alberta, Megan Woodman brings a unique and balanced insight between our provincial and national agri-food industry. As a sustainable breakthrough organization that connects and serves the agriculture and food sector, Megan represents unbiased and neutral perspective of Alberta's agriculture sector. She has direct experience in agriculture, project management, marketing, and recruitment. She brings a wealth of knowledge regarding innovative food and agricultural projects.

Meghan Dear



Meghan Dear is the founder of Localize, an Edmonton-based start-up that is testing ways to strengthen the relationship that consumers have with food producers through an innovative approach to grocery shelf and product labelling for local food. She has a degree in Biology and Agriculture, and is an accredited Professional Biologist. Meghan has worked in a variety of agriculture sectors, including working on her family farm of Strawberry Creek Gardens, working for the Alberta Research Council in Crop Science research, and working overseas to delivering food security programs and to develop better agriculture marketing solutions in the developing world.