



## The Ottawa River Institute

4084 Matawatchan Road RR 3 Griffith ON K0J 2R0 613-333-5534

*“Fostering sustainable communities and ecological integrity in the Ottawa River watershed”*

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

**August 23, 2008**

### **New Boost for the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative Thanks to \$89,700 OTF Grant**

**Pembroke, ON** – The Ottawa River Institute in collaboration with the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative celebrated today, thanks to a \$89,700 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, and OTF representative Diane McKinnon joined members of the collaborative as they prepared for a food delivery.

“I commend the Ottawa Valley Local Food Collaborative and Ottawa River Institute for their efforts in promoting local foods and products and for providing local consumers with access to locally grown and produced items,” said MPP John Yakabuski. “You just can’t beat the taste of fresh, valley grown produce.”

In March, OTF provided grant that will be used over two years to stimulate green economic growth in the agriculture and food sectors. The support will help the collaborative partners increase awareness by increasing the production, distribution, and consumption of local foods in Renfrew County and the Upper Ottawa Valley. “This grant will help us promote local food buying opportunities for consumers and increased sales opportunities for our local producers,” said the Ottawa River Institute’s Project Coordinator, Cheryl Keetch. “We are thankful for the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s commitment to local food self-reliance in our community.”

Established in 2001, the Ottawa River Institute fosters sustainable communities and ecological integrity in the Ottawa River watershed. The Institute has worked in collaboration with the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative since its inception in February of 2007. For more information, or to join the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative, please visit [www.ottawavalleyfood.org](http://www.ottawavalleyfood.org)

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. OTF continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org).

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Cheryl Keetch, Project Coordinator  
Ottawa River Institute  
[ckeetch@webhart.net](mailto:ckeetch@webhart.net)  
613-756-3884