

TRANSITION TOWN

Orillia as a Transition Town was the topic for the May gathering of Wisdom Circle at St. Paul's. After nine months gathering to explore a variety of topics of the "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" symposium – which has the goal to create a human presence on earth that is ecologically sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just – people, including our local politicians, were invited to gather to explore bringing the Transition Town movement to Orillia.

Over 50 people showed up for what became a very animated and enthusiastic conversation. Some in the group had begun to feel that there was little hope of making changes toward becoming a community that is less dependent on the use of peak oil – which is the goal of a Transition Town. The vitality in the group re-energized them with a dose of hope.

After brainstorming ideas that included topics such as community gardens, bicycle lanes, supporting local agriculture, the need to pass on skills such as sewing and canning, a steering committee of eleven people was formed. They met immediately to begin plans for the next community gathering that will be on Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30 pm at St. Paul's (NE corner of Coldwater and Peter Streets – entrance off Peter St. closest to parking lot). Everyone is welcome.

Submitted by Karen Hilfman Millson, Minister of St. Paul's United Church