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# Food co-operative in planning stages at York for Sept.

By MAXINE KOPEL

A non-profit York food cooperative is in the planning stages and could be in operation by Sep-

tember. Osgoode student and organizer Doug Holland has not approached the administration with his plans and says he won't "until lots of people are interested.

by myself," he said. "If I go with a list of 80 to 100 people, then they can see we're serious.'

A meeting for those interested will be held Monday, March 21, at 7:30 in S105 Ross.

"As soon as I get 30 people, I can get food right away. Until we get a room at York, we could get a room in a church basement or something," maintains Holland. "The type of coop depends of the people who want to join. I have some ideas of what would be easiest. But it depends on the members."

Holland applied to Young Canada Works programs for \$7500 to hire four people for 14 weeks, over the summer. However, he will not know if the grant is approved until May. The bulk of the money will come from the co-op's members, who will either pay an initial membership fee

or contribute a loan.

Excluding a trial run, the co-op will be closed to non-members to prevent a financial loss, according to Holland. "Members will have to meet certain requirements. If there are enough people, we could have a paid staff. But that increases the overhead costs." Work will be done on a volunteer basis, allowing a 'I can't to to the administration bigger price saving for the co-op's shoppers.

He predicts the items at the co-op will be 30-40 per cent cheaper than their counterparts in commercial shopping centres.

Holland doesn't think the co-op would be a serious competitor for the other campus food outlets. "There would be no more competition than with Dominion or Loblaws. They're dealing with people who want prepared meals. We're not."

Holland told Excalibur the co-op, open to all members of the York community, would carry whole foods, including grains, fresh vegetables and fruits, dried fruits and nuts. Whole foods consist of those products that have not been highly processed, overpackaged, or contain unnecessary aditives, according to Holland.

Holland has been actively working with food co-ops in the past. He belonged to the Kitchner food coop in 1974, is a member of the Karma co-op located at 344 Dupont Street, and the co-ordinator of the Toronto Federation of food co-ops, from July to December, which was set up under the Local Initiative Programme, a federal job creation

programme.

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