

Thanksgiving Edition NEWSLETTER



**THE
FoodBank**
OF WATERLOO REGION
Sharing with my community.
Every day.

Let Us Be Thankful

This Thanksgiving, we should pause to reflect about those - individuals and families - that came to Waterloo Region before us. Consider the Mennonites from Pennsylvania, who in the 1830's purchased what is now regarded as the Regional Municipality of Waterloo from the Iroquois.

Think of the Mennonite culture and tradition and how "service" to those in need remains an important aspect of the Church. Remember their rich farming background and the importance of food in their day-to-day lives.

One hundred years ago, most Mennonite Church services were held in German with some in English. Today, Mennonite communities are as diverse as the colours of the rainbow. Congregations regularly worship in Laotian, Chinese – Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, Spanish, French, Hindi and Japanese, among other languages. This no doubt is the result of another strong Mennonite commitment to refugees and immigrants.

It is clear that Mennonites indeed set the table for the multicultural diversity we now enjoy in our community.

This Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for the strong, vibrant and diverse community in which we live, work and play. But let us not forget the thousands of individuals and families who struggle to make ends meet – unable to share in our prosperity.

The Mennonites taught us to help those in trouble. It's a lesson well served.

DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

- ✓ *A total of 92,775 immigrants currently live in Waterloo Region, making it the fifth largest per capita immigrant population in all urban areas in Canada¹*
- ✓ *Waterloo Region also has a higher proportion of refugees than the Canadian average (18.3% compared to 11%)²*
- ✓ *The House of Friendship (a Food Bank member agency) reports approximately 17% of food hamper recipients follow religious or cultural customs as well as dietary or health requirements*
- ✓ *Since 1980, the earnings of new immigrants to Canada have deteriorated due to several factors including the value of foreign job experience and language abilities³*

1. Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census

2. Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2003). *Facts and Figures 2002*. Ottawa: Minister of Public Works & Government Services Canada

3. Source: Statistics Canada, *Explaining the Deteriorating Entry Earnings of Canada's Immigrant Cohorts: 1966 to 2000*

THE CHALLENGE...

Jorge and Yolanda Mendoza want to live the Canadian dream. One month ago, the couple from Columbia came to Kitchener after being refused refugee status in Miami. Yolanda is a secretary and Jorge is news broadcaster. With the help of a social worker, the couple – with two children - is seeking employment in Waterloo Region. However, a limited knowledge of the English language is dimming their prospects for immediate employment. In the interim, the couple is focusing on learning the English language and volunteering at the Food Bank at Country Hills Missionary Church (a Food Bank of Waterloo Region member agency) where they've accessed food services. They say it's their way of "paying back" a community that has welcomed them with open arms.

WHERE YOU CAN HELP

🕒 September Portraits in the Park

Make a food or cash donation when you purchase a Portrait in the Park Package from Forde Studio and receive a free gift. Call 745-8637 for more info and dates.

🕒 September 28-October 13 Thanksgiving Food Drive

This is the biggest and most important food drive of the year. Our goal this year is 353,000 lbs. of food. With our inventory low and shelves empty, food and cash donations are urgently needed.

You can make food donations at your local grocery store or nearest firehall. Also check with your place of business, your place of worship or your child's school.

You can make a financial donation at www.thefoodbank.ca or by calling The Food Bank of Waterloo Region at 519-743-5576.

🕒 October 1, 2, 3 K-W Fall Home Show

Show visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable donation to the K-W Fall Home Show. In return, you will receive free admission to the Show.

🕒 October 8 Grillfest

Help kick-off Oktoberfest at Kitchener City Hall with a sausage and drink courtesy of M & M Meat Shops. All proceeds will go to help The Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

🕒 October 9 CHYM FM/570 News Oktoberfest Pancake Breakfast

At Waterloo Town Square, radio station staff will serve up pancake breakfast free of charge. CHYM FM and 570 News asks you to bring a food or cash donation for the Food Bank.

🕒 October 11 Thanksgiving Day Parade

Please bring your non-perishable food (or cash) donation to the Parade. It begins at 8:45 am. at King and Bridgeport in Waterloo and ends at King and Cedar in Kitchener.

TO CONTACT US:

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Thanksgiving Food Drive

September 28 – October 13, 2004



Valu-mart staff and customers in Kitchener and Waterloo helped raise a total of \$7,720 in late June during the inaugural \$CAN to Feed Families. Customers were encouraged to ask cashiers to scan a \$2 or \$5 donation coupon as part of their grocery bill.

FOOD BANK CELEBRATES COMMUNITY

Donors (*see below*) and volunteers alike were recognized and presented with awards for their long-standing service and contribution to the organization at The Food Bank of Waterloo Region's Annual General Meeting held September 16th. For the first time, the meeting was a breakfast affair. Also, the meeting featured a guest speaker. Deb Schlichter, Executive Director of the House of Friendship spoke to approximately 100 invited guests about the importance of working together to meet the challenges of hungry individuals and families. The Food Bank also presented the prestigious Nelson Jarvis Award to the Distinguished Volunteer(s) of the year – Shirley and Wilmer Minke pictured (*below with Food Bank Board of Directors President Tim Jackson, middle*).

IN MEMORIAM

Donations to The Food Bank of Waterloo Region have been made in memory of:

Verna Bast
 William Timmis
 Alan Peterson
 Ernie Cubitt
 Grant Kechnie
 Ann Doucette
 Reverend A.L. Conrad
 Gretrude Lautensenlager
 Ernest Reeve

2003/2004 ANNUAL AWARDS

Manulife Financial
 The PEER Group Inc.
 Family Vacation Centers
 Bluevale Collegiate Institute
 Waterloo Pentecostal Assembly
 Bridgeport Lions Club
 LCL – Maple Grove
 Don's Produce
 Zehrs Markets
 New Dawn School Alternative Program

2003/2004 MILESTONE AWARDS

Manulife Financial
 Northern Digital Inc.
 Campbell Company of Canada
 Dairy Farmers of Waterloo Region
 Canadian Tire & Canadian Tire Foundation for Families
 McIntyre Group Office Services



LEADERSHIP



GARY H. ATTACK
 Financial Planning Inc.

PARTNERSHIP



MEDIA SPONSORS:

The Record ♦ Waterloo Chronicle ♦ Cambridge Times
 New Hamburg Independent ♦ Elmira Independent ♦ Woolwich Observer

DONOR INFORMATION (simply clip and mail)

Mr. Name: _____
 Mrs. Address: _____
 Miss City: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Ms Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

I would like to donate:

\$250.00 \$100.00 \$70.00 \$35.00 Other \$ _____

I would prefer my contribution to be used for:

- food purchases
- where it is needed most

PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

Cheque Mastercard VISA American Express
 Card #: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____/____
 Signature: _____

Please Make Cheque Payable to: **THE FOOD BANK OF WATERLOO REGION**

PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATION (PRAD) ENROLLMENT FORM

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ _____

- I have enclosed a "VOID" Cheque
- Please debit my credit card
- Mastercard VISA American Express

Card #: _____
 Expiry Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Phone: (____) _____

Tax receipt for PRAD contributions will be issued at the end of the year.
 Charitable Registration #: 11923 3310 RR0001

PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST I WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

