

2003

# Tweed Food Bank

## co-ordinator; Joy Tufts retires

by Brian Dunning

**Tweed** – After six years of service Joy Tufts has retired as volunteer co-ordinator at the Tweed and Area Food Bank. Ms. Tufts, who has served in various volunteer positions in the community, handed over the reins co-ordinator of the Food Bank to Joyce McAllister last month. On Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> Food Bank volunteers gathered at the Gateway Community Health Centre to bid goodbye to Ms. Tufts and welcome Ms. McAllister. On that occasion Joy was presented with parting gifts by the volunteers to show their appreciation for all the hard work she has done to ensure needy families don't go hungry.

Ms. McAllister and her husband Lawrence moved to Tweed three and a half years ago with their two children. Ms. McAllister said she decided to offer to volunteer as she considers the Food Bank "to be a very worthy cause." She knows of what she speaks. She told the volunteers, "I've been on the other side of the table," explaining there was a time in her life that she and her family had to turn to a food bank to make ends meet.

"I feel for the people who come to us. I know how difficult it must be for some," she said. This is her way of paying back the help she received. "I'm glad to help," she said noting she still is learning and is open to suggestions.

Ms. McAllister is also a leader with the Tweed Scout

Group. She is a chef by trade working in a retirement home in Kingston so she brings strong organizational skills to the position of co-ordinator. Her husband Lawrence is the editor of the Madoc Review and Stirling News-Argus.

She told the volunteers she knew she was following in the footsteps of a hard-working volunteer in Joy Tufts indicating she was happy to take over the position and give something back to the community.

After the Sun published an article in October noting the Food Bank was looking for a new co-ordinator Ms.

McAllister approached Joy expressing interest. At that time Joy told the Sun, "I really hope she takes the job. She's perfect for it."

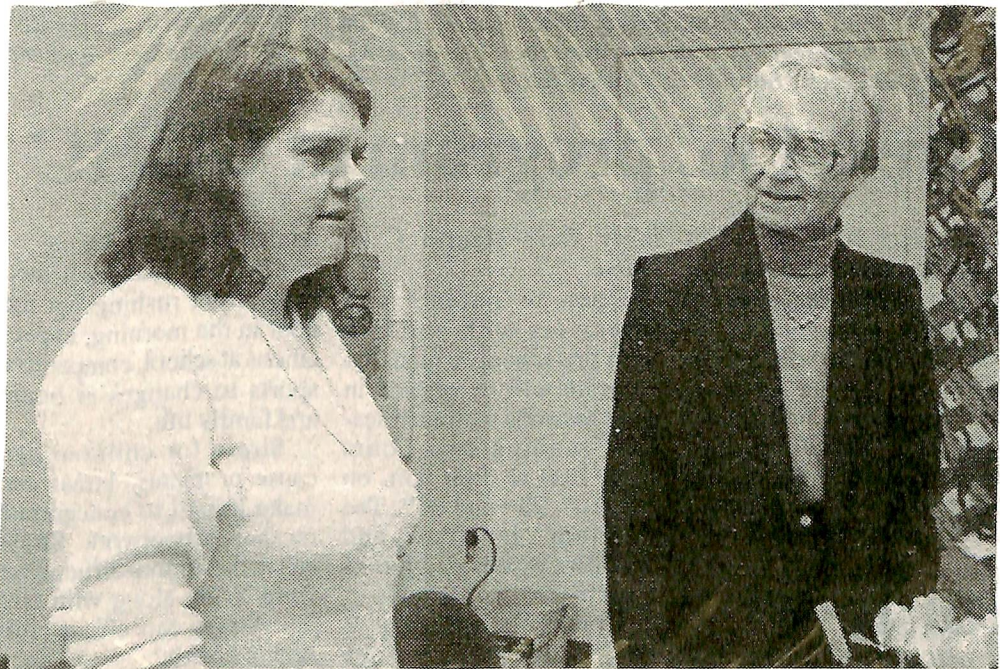
Joy has been with the Food Bank since it began in 1996. At that time Gleaners Food Bank in Belleville asked the Tweed Ministerial Association to start a food bank in Tweed. Gleaners provided the initial help to start the food bank and continue to support it.

Over the years Joy and her volunteers have helped hundreds of families. They provide a service they would just as soon not have to but as long as there is a need

they will be there to help.

Joy told the volunteers that thanks to the generosity of area residents, the churches of the Ministerial collected a lot of food over Christmas and now our storeroom is full. One church, she said, collected mittens, which are being given to children of their clients.

Volunteers on hand to welcome Ms. McAllister and say goodbye to Joy included Sandi Marrow, Florence Hunt, Ann Wagner, Anita Osborne, Anne and Robert McPhail, Arthur and Kathleen Went, Virginia Perry and Kathy Chalk.



*Tweed - Joy Tufts, (right), has retired as volunteer co-ordinator at the Tweed Food Bank. That position is now being filled by Joyce McAllister, (left).*