



BILL TREMBLAY / METROLAND

COLBORNE -- Jane and Richard Babcock entertain their guests at the Fun with Dick and Jane Drop-in/food bank, located at the VJB Memorial, in Colborne.

COMMUNITY

THE NEWS AUG 7/09

Everyone is a welcome guest at Colborne drop-in/food bank

'Dick and Jane' serve up free lunch every Wednesday

BY JEANNE BENETEAU
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COLBORNE -- The welcome mat is out for the entire community to share a home-cooked lunch and socialize with neighbours at Colborne's 'Fun with Dick and Jane Drop-in/Food Bank'.

Since the drop-in/food bank opened its doors at Colborne's VJB Memorial Centre, 14 Victoria Sq., in March, an average of 55 people each week have dropped in for a no-charge, homemade lunch every Wednesday afternoon, said Colborne resident Jane Babcock, 65, who runs the program along with her husband Richard Babcock, 72, and daughter, Cindy Newman.

Drop-in runs from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and lunch is on the table from 11:30 to 1. Lunch is free and open to everyone, not for just the people who need to access the food bank, said Ms. Babcock.

"We were approached by a friend of our daughter who asked us to consider opening up a food bank in the village," said Ms. Babcock. "We're retired, we're outgoing and like to be involved in the community."

When the couple approached Cramahe Township council to discuss using the former seniors' centre site for the food bank, Mayor Marc Coombs said, "Terrific, you got it, when can you start?" Ms. Babcock said.

"Call it divine guidance. God gave it to us. He put it in our lap."

Ms. Babcock runs logistics, shop-

ping for food and collecting donations while her daughter is the menu planner. The women share cooking duties. Mr. Babcock, who pitches in wherever needed, is the "social butterfly, the welcomer," Ms. Babcock explained.

"I have a lot of fun, I talk, I joke, I play with the kids," said Mr. Babcock. "My idea was to make (the drop-in/food bank) a community thing."

The menu on a recent Wednesday featured two varieties of macaroni and cheese, taco salad, chicken noodle soup, fresh fruit and ice cream for dessert, plus coffee, tea and other refreshments. Although there is no charge for lunch, seniors who used to attend the former seniors centre insisted on a donation tin, "or they wouldn't come in," said Ms. Babcock.

The food bank part of the program helps the needy in the village, a need that is great and growing every week, she said. Marilynne All-day, a community outreach worker with Northumberland County Community and Social Services, is also on-hand every week to provide information about services and subsidies available from a variety of community resources.

It's not just street people or down-and-outs who are having problems putting food on the table, said Ms. Babcock. On a recent Wednesday afternoon, 20 local needy families of varying situations and income levels took out groceries.

"We are seeing people from every walk of life - young people, working poor, people who recently lost their jobs, parents with young children and seniors," said Ms. Babcock. "We don't want to know their business. We have a grocery list

and pens and pencils and whoever wants food can circle the food they like from the list. That way, we target what they need and what they will eat. It saves wasting food that someone else will use."

The program gets many of its food staples from the Northumberland United Way Food 4 All Warehouse in addition to food donations from area businesses, she said. There's also a minister from Kingston who supplies the food bank with turkeys and hams.

Although residents and the business community generously support the food bank, extra food and cash donations are needed to fill in the gaps. There's always a need for fresh dairy products, eggs, produce and for items Ms. Babcock calls the 'wish list', which include peanut butter, jam, ketchup and mayonnaise. And if residents have extra garden-grown vegetables or fruits, the food bank will put them to good use, incorporating them into the weekly lunch menu or in the food baskets.

To help raise awareness about the drop-in/food bank, residents are invited to a jamboree called 'We'll Sing For Food', on Sunday, Aug. 9, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Colborne's Victoria Park Square. The afternoon features live entertainment with performers including Elly Kelly, the Sundance Band, Dave and Lenore Bongard, Jon Milford's Johnny Cash tribute, Steve Piticco and the Psycho Relics, just to name a few. Residents are encouraged to bring their lawnchairs along with a non-perishable food donation for an afternoon of music and fun.

For more information, contact Ms. Babcock at 905-355-5222 or 613-827-9222.

Announcements

Birthday greetings

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY
Pat Longhurst

With love from
Shirley, Paul, Michael, Tara and Bev

1187520

Deaths

HARDEN, Peter McKay - Peacefully at the Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg on Saturday, August 8th, 2009, Peter Harden at 59 years of age. Beloved husband of Nancy Harden (nee Bedard). Cherished father of Laura Forsyth (Fred), Michael McKay Harden (Kim), and Tyler Harden (Bailey). Dear grandfather of Emily, Abby, and Tristan. Dear brother of Lois (Bill), Donna (Larry), Joan (Cecil), Robert (Margo), Della (Dave), Jane (Terry), Jim (Judy), Lorna (Ross), and the late Charles (Marg). Brother-in-law of Susan (Ted), Lynn (Doug), Peter (Karen), the late Michael (Kathy), and the late John Jr. Bedard. Son of the late Bruce and Winnifred Harden. Son-in-law of John Sr. and Betty Bedard. Sadly missed by his numerous nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, and especially Aunt Ethel. Also missed by his numerous friends and by Rosie. At Peter's request there will be cremation with no visitation or services. Those wishing may make a memorial donation to the Canadian Diabetes Association. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com

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CONGRATULATIONS!
Erica Danielle Meekes

has received her Bachelor of Social Sciences, Joint Honours in Political Science and in Communications from the University of Ottawa. She is currently assuming the position of executive assistant for member of parliament Rick Norlock.

Well done Erica!
Love Mom & Dad

AUG 13/09

W.D. GARDNER

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