

Local food banks in need of donations

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

The recession is taking its toll on local food banks.

Both Acton Food Share and Love In Christ food bank in Georgetown are in need of all kinds of food. Both banks have experienced a slow, steady increase of users since the recession began.

"Our supplies have been really down," said Joan Waldie, coordinator of Acton Food Share which serves Acton, Rockwood and surrounding communities.

Laura Ellison, coordinator of

Love In Christ food bank which is open Wednesdays said that last week the food bank, which opens at 10:30 a.m. had run out of food by noon.

In September the Acton food bank fed 197 people, in August 208 people used the bank, in July 284, in June 250, and in May 203.

Waldie says that while the number of people using the Acton food bank is down slightly from the summer, the numbers have increased dramatically since the bank opened two years ago.

Ellison reports a similar surge in the number of food bank users.



"Two years ago we had between 375 and 425 people using the food bank each month," said Ellison. "Now we average about 600 a month."

Both women say they are seeing more and more people using the banks who never would have needed

the service a year ago.

"When we first opened, the typical food bank user was a single parent. But that has changed. Now the typical person (user) has more than likely been employed until last year. Most of them have three teenage children, a mortgage and bills. Their UIC only covers their bills and there's not enough left for food," said Ellison.

Waldie says that many people who use the Acton food bank are in limbo, their unemployment insurance benefits have run out and their waiting for their first welfare cheque.

"It is very hard for these people. If they have kids it's hard for them to admit they don't have enough (money) to feed them. It is hard for people (who haven't been in the position) to understand just how desperate these people feel," said Waldie.

Ellison says she has noticed an increase in the number of students, many in their late 20s and 30s, using the food bank.

Neither food bank is launching a food drive for Thanksgiving, but both coordinators say donations usually increase at that time.

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HALTON HILLS
NOTICE

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News

Digest

Yes to Canada

The Halton-Peel office of the Yes to Canada Committee is officially open at 45 Guelph St., Georgetown. The office will be available for information and accept financial donations and volunteers to help make phone calls, stuff envelopes, work in the office and help take part in the "Canvass for Canada" to make people aware of the benefits of voting "yes" in the Constitutional referendum, October 26. In the Wednesday, Sept. 30 edition, the Independent/Free Press inadvertently printed the wrong telephone number. Those wishing to call the YES to Canada office should call 873-6888. The Independent/Free Press apologizes for any inconvenience called by the error.

Man pinned

Halton Hills Fire Department was called to an accident which occurred on Hwy 25, south of Speyside at 10:52 p.m. last Saturday. A spokesperson for the department says that firefighters had to use airbags to raise the truck up so the driver's hand could be released from under the steering wheel where it was pinned.

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Visit from Voyageurs

Students from Vanier Collegiate, Moose Jaw, toured local business Artcast Inc. on Armstrong Avenue, Georgetown as part of the Voyageur Tour program. A group of Halton Hills students were guests of Moose Jaw recently, and the local students returned the visit. Included in the group were, front, from left, Terri Andrews, Trish McGrath and Jenn Forness. Second row, Heather Malcolmson (of Georgetown) Jeremy Ross, Keri Johnson and Kim Peters. In back, Vicki McGrath (chaperone), Mike White, of Burlington and Luwann Shpaiule.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Water woes continue for Glen residents

By STUART JOHNSTON
Staff writer

Unless the province changes its mind and coughs up almost \$1 million, Glen Williams' residents will have to wait indefinitely before their homes can be hooked into municipal watermains.

For the past decade, residents in the Glen have complained of poor water quality, quantity and sewage problems, but it wasn't until a couple of years ago that Halton Region decided to extend Georgetown's water supply to the hamlet. Most of the Glen's homes are still serviced by private wells and septic systems.

Plans call for an extension of watermains along Confederation, Main and Prince Sts., right to the hamlet's borders. Each of the 175 homeowners in the area has the option of hooking into the pipe, at their own expense.

The \$1.6 million project is all but set to go, and has been for almost the past year now, but a lack of provincial money has ground everything to a complete halt.

Halton Region officials have been pressuring the ministry of environment (MOE) since early 1991 to commit to its 60 per cent share of the project, which sits just shy of \$1 million. Halton's share is 25 per cent, while the residents will pay 15 per cent of the costs.

Early last year, the MOE cut the region out of its local improvement program, saying the Glen's problems were not a high enough priority to qualify for a grant.

Halton chairman Pete Pomeroy will now be lobbying the MOE, the ministry of municipal affairs and the ministry of health for enough money so the project can get under way next year. If he is unsuccessful, chances are slim the Glen will be fed municipal water in the near future.

Halton's health department discovered several ago that 22 per cent of the Glen's water is "unsafe for consumption."

Problems in the past include wells drying up or becoming contaminated due to flooding in the area.

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