

Refugee settlement committee holds first meeting

By: Dawn Brown

St. Alban's Anglican Church's Refugee Settlement Committee met for this first time on Tuesday, January 5 to begin putting together a settlement plan—a list of resources that will aid the refugee family the church will be sponsoring. Once the settlement plan is complete, St. Alban's sponsorship application will be approved and the church could have family within 48 hours to four weeks. There are a number of families that the government has already processed in terms of security and health issues. The committee hopes to have their plan completed within three weeks.

"Every day that we spend on the plan, is an extra day a family spends in a refugee camp," said committee chair, Pam Sheldon.

Part of the role of this committee is to identify who the community is best equipped to support by identifying which resources the community

has to offer.

"There's literally millions of refugees right now, looking to escape from danger, from persecution," said Reverend Brian Galligan. "It may well be we are best equipped to support a Syrian refugee family. It might be we're best equipped to support somebody from Sudan, who's also living in a refugee camp."

The settlement plan covers the necessary elements needed to help the family's transition into the community and to start their new life, including everything from housing, to language, to banking, to household goods, to socializing and so much more. St. Alban's has already raised the necessary \$7000 for a settlement fund, which will cover the family's early needs. Through fundraising, The Anglican Diocese in Niagara as collected a significant pool to sponsor refugee families through an agreement with the Federal Government. For



every \$12,500 collected from donations, the government matches it with \$12,500, giving approximately \$25,000 to each family.

St. Albans is also working towards sponsoring a second family, and the Acton ministerial a possible third family. As well, St. Alban's

is collecting monetary donations to be added to the funds collected by The Anglican Diocese. To learn more, to become involved or to

make a donation, visit the committee's blog at stalbanrefugeefund.blogspot.ca or contact the church at 519-853-2711.

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LEGION NEWS

By: Sharon Graham P.R.O. ~ Branch 197



The zone crib tournament was hosted by Acton last Saturday. All went well and the winning team was from Acton. Congratulations to Carl Fisker, Ren Cunnard, Ray Gaudet and

Bren Irwin. Jim Lowrie's team also are to be congratulated as they qualified to go on to the next round. Thank you to Dave Allen, Sports Chair for organizing the event and Julie Carney who

aided him. Thank you also to our Ladies Auxiliary for providing lunch for the participants.

Winter horseshoes will be held on January 31. This is open to members only. The horseshoe players are accepting donations to for the Acton

Food Bank on the Saturday before and the Sunday of the game.

Family fun day is tentatively scheduled for February, we will let you know the date.

Check the boards behind the bar for upcoming events.

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McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School will be hosting **Kindergarten Registration**
 For parents of students who must be 4 years old by December 31, 2016
Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please bring the following original documents when registering:

- Proof of address (any two of the following current documents): lease or deed, car registration, property tax bill, utility bill, residential telephone bill, moving bill, health card, bank statement, credit card statement, correspondence with a government agency
- Proof of age: birth certificate, passport or baptismal/faith document for your child.
- Proof of citizenship: birth certificate or passport or Record of Landing (IMM 1000) or Permanent Resident card.
- Proof of immunization, or philosophical or religious exemption forms (completed medical authorization where necessary).

If you are not the child's parent, or if you have sole custody, please bring proof of custody (court order).

If your child is currently attending Junior Kindergarten, you do not need to register for Senior Kindergarten.