

# Christmas Hampers - Acton pitches in

By: Les Schmidt

Volunteers with the Acton Christmas Hamper Committee were at first stunned then nearly in a panic when they realized donations were incredibly low this year. After the initial food collection and sorting, it appeared that they were down to less than one quarter of last year's totals. With over 100 hampers to fill, and only enough food to fill about 20 to 25 of them, some volunteers wrote substantial cheques immediately, others turned to social media to get the word out that they needed help.

Committee member, Nancy Wilkes, is credited with getting things started with a post on Facebook and Acton responded. Sobey's and Giant Tiger, who make annual donations, both made significant increases to their contributions for this year. Shortly after the Facebook post, the owner of X-Mark Fitness walked into St. Joseph's Church with several just purchased bags of groceries, and made a donation. Dozens of others



2015 - Hamper packing day with tables full of food.



2016 - The initial hamper packing day saw only one quarter of the required food available.

made donations of groceries, while others made financial contributions via electronic transfer, including one from Newfoundland. By the time it was time to deliver the Hampers on Saturday morning, all of the Hampers had been filled and all of the volunteers on the Committee shared a huge sigh of relief.

The Acton Christmas

Hamper Committee is a joint effort between: The Acton Rotary Club, The Salvation Army, The Acton Knights of Columbus # 8050, and the St. Vincent Charities. Each year the committee raises funds, collects and sorts food, and then packs and delivers Christmas food hampers to about 100 families in Acton, and the immediate area.

# LETTERS



## Generous support helps feed families

To the Editor;

The Acton Christmas Hamper Committee (made up of the four member groups) sends sincere and heartfelt thanks to the individuals and groups in Acton and surrounding area for your support of this year's Christmas Hamper Program. After an extremely disappointing start on Thursday (December 15) when the food donations were drastically down from previous years, one of our volunteers sent out a Facebook post describing this unprecedented situation. Many in our community responded with donations of food and money and helped us to have another successful hamper program. We even had money donated from Newfoundland. This was from someone with a family connection to Acton. We extend a big thank you to Giant Tiger and Sobey's for coming to

the aid of the families who receive our hampers.

We appreciate the non-perishable food donated by three of our local schools (Brookville, Limehouse and St. Joseph). Your generosity helped us to provide food hampers for 99 families, including 112 children. Christmas was much happier for these people because of your kindness.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who gave their time to collect and sort the donated food on Thursday and Friday morning, pack the hampers on Friday afternoon and distribute them on Saturday. We appreciate the help of our group of faithful volunteers. The spirit of caring and sharing is indeed alive and well here in our town.

Thanks again; we wish you God's blessings now and in 2017.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sanford

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from  
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*On behalf of the entire Decker Team, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our friends, neighbours, relatives and especially our valued customers a safe and Merry Christmas. Derek, Lana and the Decker Team*

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**  
**Dr. Jones Chan & Staff**