



*You are cordially invited to be the guest of*

## The Rotary Club of Georgetown

*at their*

**61st Annual Norm Bigg Senior Citizens' Dinner**

**THURSDAY November 12th, 2015 at 6:30 pm**

**GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**290 Main Street South, Georgetown ON L7G 4T1**

AGE LIMIT: 70 YEARS AND OLDER

DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, ONLY THE FIRST 275 SENIORS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED

**YOU MUST CONTACT Kay Bigg**

**\*\*to confirm your registration\*\***

**PLEASE CALL 905-702-0013**

This Rotary-sponsored event is held annually to celebrate and show our community's appreciation for the seniors in our town. This is the 59th year that the Seniors' dinner has been held, and as a service club, provides one of the highlights of our year of community activities. As usual, we will be taking orders for Brandt Christmas hams at the dinner - the proceeds of which support our Rotary club's international service projects.

## COMMENT

# Open your eyes— and hearts— to those who need food banks

**By Melanie Hennessey**

[mel\\_hennessey@hotmail.com](mailto:mel_hennessey@hotmail.com)



### The View From Here

You have \$20 left to your name until pay day. Do you want to buy diapers for your baby or put food on the table?

I'm sure many of you reading this can't even fathom having to make such a decision, but for a growing minority in Halton Hills, it's a common struggle.

During the recent Hunger Awareness Week we learned that Food for Life— an organization that distributes fresh food to those in need— has over 8,000 client visits per month and rising in the local community, with 10 more families needing assistance compared to this time last year.

While I've written plenty of times about the struggles faced by low-income or homeless individuals, I have to admit this number even surprised me a bit.

Hunger is hidden in Halton Hills. And here's why. These people aren't living on the streets or begging for money on the corner. They're people living in homes or apartments who've fallen on hard times. Maybe they recently lost their job and have to choose between paying their rent or buying food. Maybe they're working two jobs at minimum wage and it still just isn't enough to get by in today's expensive world. Perhaps they're struggling with an invisible illness, like depression.

These people are our neighbours, colleagues and friends. But they're not go-

ing to tell you that they're hungry and struggling because of the stigma associated with such a confession. Instead, they'll quietly go about their lives trying to appear like everything is fine. Meanwhile, they haven't eaten in three days.

Whatever their story may be, I think it's crucial that we put ourselves in their shoes for a minute. Forget all of negative connotations that go along with poverty and hunger and remember that we could be one job loss, one illness, one hard time away from facing the same situation.

We are so lucky to have food banks and organizations like Food for Life available here in Halton Hills. There's also the recently-formed Halton Hills Food Network, which is striving to create equitable access to food with dignity for local residents.

Some of us dig into our pantries or wallets to help further the work of these causes. But there's one additional thing we can all do to help, and it doesn't cost a thing. Let's erase the pity and judgement often associated with accessing food assistance and replace them with empathy and understanding.

Perhaps then we will be on our way to ending both hunger and shame.

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### Advertorial

We do not work for any political party. We do believe we need a change in Ottawa. The following is info we have collected, and wish to share with Wellington Halton voters.

Norway (15th in oil) negotiated with oil companies and put a \$trillion\$ in the bank to give Norwegians free health care and university. Mr. Harper (Canada 5th in oil) got us nothing. We still have debt. He can't negotiate with oil companies because oil companies own his hide.

TPP trade agreement will be thin edge of dairy and poultry quotas ending and 20,000 auto jobs given away for no good reason. We can't compete now with offshore beef here in Canada so trucking ours 2000 miles only makes us less competitive.

Clean GreenNH3 fuel would save us half and help pollution and extreme weather (floods) yet can't get a reply to many registered mail sent to Mr. Harper. The consultants say Harper can't reply because he is too connected to oil companies. Any caring gov't would have had this fuel in place for voters years ago.

Harper gov't spends \$150 million of taxpayer money on Conservative party "vanity TV ads" yet says it is not their job to fund hospitals and have no budget for such? Did they pay Gretsky his \$600K attendance fee with taxpayer money? We don't like taxpayer money being used for Conservative ads.

Mr. Chong tries to distance himself from Mr. Harper. Some other Tory MPs are admitting their voice can't be heard as long as Harper is PM. Why would I vote for someone who can't speak out for me?

When asked by registered mail if he attends Bilderberg, Mr. Harper will not reply. There are photos of Mr. Harper attending Bilderberg meetings. Scary stuff.

I trusted Dr. Trant to be my doctor and know his voice will be heard. We will be voting for Mr. Trant.

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