· EDITORIAL · Summer an important time to give back

The phrase "hunger doesn't take a vacation" sums it up best.

While the school year is over, and children are enjoying summer vacation at home, or at camp, the reality is there are likely many families struggling with food insecurity. The school breakfast and nutrition programs are no longer an option for parents, and an alarming number of children across the region face the reality of not having a stable source of nutrition during the summer months.

While many communities are always quick to step up to the challenge at peak times, like Christmas or other holidays, sometimes food banks can be forgotten during the summer. Most people are enjoying summer vacation and food donations may not be on top of their minds.

Yet, the summer months are a critical time for food banks, who have trouble keeping up with the demand when they need it most. Food Banks Canada says close to 1 million Canadians are in need of food bank supports during the summer months

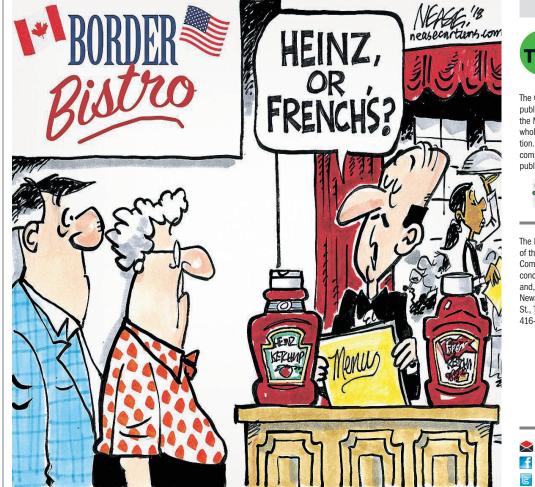
That's why Food Banks Canada launched its annual Every Plate Full campaign, highlighting that while the holidays are the traditional season of giving, food banks also need support in the summer, when food insecurity doesn't take a summer break. This year, the Every Plate Full campaign launched a summer hunger challenge to invite Canadians to get involved and raise enough funds to provide the 26 million meals that are needed this summer.

Food insecurity aside, summer can take a toll on families. Aside from the additional meals, there are other added expenses like child care, summer camps, not to mention any additional increases to utilities or expenses at home.

Giving back can happen in different ways. It begins with helping keep the shelves at local food banks stocked with the items they need. Many of the mostneeded items are simple basics we would take for granted: Canned fruit, vegetables, pasta and soup, fruit juice, cold and hot cereal, granola bars, personal hygiene items, and more.

For those who can contribute financially, any monetary donations can also go a long way to helping. A cash donation not only allows the food bank to focus on purchasing any priority needs, but the agencies can often stretch the dollars even further.

It's not about what you give, it's about how you make a difference. Even a little means a lot to the friends and neighbours in our community who need some support.



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just not worth preserving and The McGibbon is one of these.

Area businesses and citizens don't need to have it sitting around for more years while further studies happen on what should be done with it.

Meanwhile, the Town needs to review how it deals with all so-called historic properties.

Another head shaker is how Habitat for Humanity got into a plan to restore the derelict Station Hotel that now sits boarded up at the junction of Queen Street and King Street.

The town spends too much time and effort in designating ordinary residences as historic.

What is particularly disturbing, however, is the way Halton Hills and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) have seemingly washed their hands of doing anything to preserve the 13 acre Barber Paper Mill property beside the Credit River at River Drive and Maple Ave.

The 1854 mill was the $first\,industrial\,application$ of hydroelectric power in Ontario and for years has been listed by the National Trust as one of the top ten endangered historic sites in Canada.

It is designated historic under the Ontario Heritage Act and a ramshackle provincial information

ABOUT US



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sign stands beside a broken fence on River Road.

Essentially the property has been left to rot and while the owners, Everlast Group Ltd., spent more than \$1 million several years ago on cleanup and restoration the company has been unable to negotiate a site plan agreement for future use with the CVCA and the Town of Halton Hills, even though Ottawa offered a substantial grant toward preservation.

Currently, the site continues to be an unsightly mess, is a safety hazard and even basic maintenance isn't done. Yet, this is the most important heritage building in Halton Hills about which nobody seems to care! Shame, Shame, Shame!

Brian Dexter, Georgetown

CONTACT US

Letters to the editor

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'Historic' McGibbon

Re: McGibbon condo

It was obviously a big

stalled as investors evalu-

mistake to plan some pres-

ervation of the McGibbon

Hotel as part of a big condo

project in Georgetown's

ket conditions make it no

longer financially viable.

ning under the founda-

McGibbon Hotel has been

a negative influence on the

downtown and is current-

ished forthwith! Some

"historic" buildings are

It needs to be demol-

ly a boarded-up eyesore.

tions is also a problem. For over $3\overline{0}$ years The

It seems changed mar-

A stream of water run-

Hotel needs to be

demolished

ate feasibility

old downtown.



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