

FoodShare wants out of the business

The volunteers who run Acton's food bank would like to run themselves right out of business.

"That's the goal of every food bank, I would think," said Arlene Humphreys, chair of Acton FoodShare following its annual general meeting last Thursday.

"The overall number (of clients) is declining and that's really great - but unfortunately, the numbers are up for children and that's frightening," Humphreys said, adding most of the children are repeat family users of the food bank.

From May '99 to April this year there were 762 children who received food - some of them just once and some of them regularly, and 838 adults received food.

Last year, 24,719 pounds of food were donated to or purchased by FoodShare - 9,225 pounds of from the Scout food drive - and 21,074 pounds of food was distributed. Not included in that is 46 cases of frozen food donated by MacMillan's and frozen chicken from Maple Lodge Farms.

Currently the FoodShare shelves are well

stocked and there are 159 cases of food stored at the Scout House that was collected during the food drive. As well, Purity Life recently donated cases of shampoo and sunscreen.

Generous individuals, churches, service clubs and businesses donated \$7,224 to FoodShare, but the expenditures were \$9,435, most of it spent to purchase food, milk and baby formula.

Treasurer Eileen Dix said she really didn't have a concern over the shortfall because "Acton is wonderful - all we've got to do is


ask at a time that we need funds, and they will be there."

Each year R/M Construction donates \$2,000 and the Christian Reformed Church raised \$1,684 last year and other community groups and churches donated food and money.

"I'd like to offer a vote of thanks to the community, our volunteers and the Scouts, Guides and Cadets who do our food drive," Humphreys said after the meeting.

Acton FoodShare celebrates its 10th anniversary in December.

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What's Inside



Typhoon Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets held their annual inspection at Acton arena, Sunday. The cadets are also joining the BIA in a clean-up of the downtown. See Page 3.



Bob Landsborough was among the 35 people who showed up to clean-up debris on the banks and in the water of Fairy Lake, Saturday. See photo on Page 2.



First Cruise Night of the season was held in Rockwood Saturday night. See Page 11.



It's the season! See The New Tanner's barbecue and cook-out pages on 8 and 9.

Region assures residents

Walkerton tragedy can't happen here

Test wells Region urges rural people

Halton Region Health Department is encouraging all private well owners to sample and test their private well water systems to ensure their water supply is free of bacteria. The department recommends that private well owners routinely sample and test their own water supplies twice annually.

Specific water sample bottles, which are required for the testing, are available at the Region of Halton Administration Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Milton Town Hall, 43 Brown street, and the Health Department, Georgetown Office, 93 Main Street, Georgetown.

Water sample bottles can be returned to the locations listed above during regular office hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday to Thursday) or taken directly to the Ministry of Health, Public Health Laboratory at 250 Fennell Avenue West in Hamilton. There is no fee for the water sample test.

If any private well owner suspects that a well may be contaminated, or if water sample test results indicate a well water supply is unsafe please contact the health Department at (905) 825-6060, extension 7362. A Public Health Inspector can offer advice to private well owners on issues of disinfection and maintenance of wells and well water supplies.

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PENPALS: Joyce Milton of England and Edith Jennings of Acton have been corresponding for more than 50 years. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

BYMAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Edith Jennings of Mill Street is entertaining an overseas guest these days. Not that the visit is a first. Mrs. Jennings and her friend Joyce Milton have been corresponding and telephoning each other regularly for 53 years.

Mrs. Milton and her late husband, of Huntingdon, England, visited the Jennings family five times over the years and even attended family weddings and anniversary celebrations.

Their lengthy friendship began in the spring of 1947 when England was experiencing flooding and Acton Scout and Guide Mothers

Pen pals

decided to send over food and blankets to the victims.

Mrs. Jennings remembers the group gathering over 700 pounds of food. She put her name in one of the boxes and invited whoever found it to contact her.

Mrs. Milton was helping to distribute the food and took Mrs. Jennings up on her invitation but it was fall before the first letter arrived. They have been penpals ever since.

The Milton's lost their only child to Hodgkin's in

1965, just before her husband moved to Nova Scotia for a new job. Since their only grandchild was just four, he remained with his grandparents for four years while his father settled in Canada.

Mrs. Milton says the day they put Chris on a plane to fly off to his father, Edith Jennings and her husband Ed, arrived at the airport for their first visit.

"So Edith and Ed helped us through those first very rough days of separation from Chris," she recalls.

This time, Mrs. Milton was over for the christening of her first great grandson. Naturally she couldn't miss a visit with her friend Edith.

Distance has obviously never hampered these friends ability to keep in touch.

Water here constantly monitored

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Seven times last year water samples from Acton's three operating wells failed mandatory tests because they showed the presence of bacteria. In all incidents, adding chlorine to the water system, and in some instances flushing it, and subsequent testing detected no fecal coliform.

Halton's Medical Officer of Health and top Regional public works staff briefed Halton Council on the state of the Region's water system and its testing and reporting procedures at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday) and stressed that the water is safe.

In an interview on Tuesday, Halton's director of environmental services, Ric Robertshaw, said regional staff take over 4,500 water samples annually to ensure compliance with Ministry of Environment standards. He added the Region's drinking water is chlorinated to kill off bacteria like E. coli.

There are seven wells in Acton, but only three are in use, the others on standby. The wells in use - delivering on average 2,732 cubic metres of water a day, with the potential to supply up to 6,768 cubic metres per day - include one of two of the

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