

# Christmas Community Dinner a success



*"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."*

- MOTHER TERESA

The Community Christmas Dinner held December 25th, 2009 at Beth-El CRC was a success. Unfortunately, there was way too much good food and we had to send people home with leftovers. Fortunately, nobody minded. Thanks to all who cooked turkeys or donated dishes of coleslaw, potatoes, vegetables and many kinds of desserts. It was a feast!

Kevin Hazzard and his son Jake looked after the music, bringing in their own equipment and setting up an impromptu choir. What can I say? They sang from their hearts. It was almost, pretty near perfect.

Thanks to Real Tetreault for his annual donation of apples and oranges.

Many other people assisted in a variety of ways from set up to serving to clean up. I can't list all of their names for fear of forgetting someone but their help was invaluable. I sure hope Gwen O'Regan and her sister Marlene come back next year.

Thanks also to Mark, Maria and Byron. You shouldn't have but we are grateful for your support.

I am thankful to my church family at Beth-El CRC for having allowed us to use their facility each of the last seven years, free of charge, for the dinner.

I wish to thank Marci, Tammy and Barry, Kevin, Lucy, Gwen, Jack and Joyce for their ongoing support each year. They give me the nudg-

es (shoves) I need to get moving on the planning of the dinner. We missed Pauline, Pat and Paulette this year but I suspect they'll be back next Christmas.

A few more thanks... to the Acton Ministerial Association for the way they work together for the good of the town of Acton and for their "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign; to Ted Tyler, publisher of The New Tanner, for allowing Christianity to be part of his newspaper. I'm thankful for the Christmas hamper program which also gives community members an opportunity to share in giving to those with less. I'm amazed at the fundraising efforts to fight cancer and how Acton responds.

I, together with all of the others that assist with the dinner in any way, feel

privileged to serve in the Acton community. Thank you, guests, for allowing us to do that.

Personally I think many of us are rich in ways that some others are not, in our town, in our country, in the world. I believe that God calls us to share what we have and to serve others. It gives us a purpose for living. He calls us to "love our neighbour." All of us can in our own way, with our own gifts and talents, support and care for those who suffer whether it happens nearby or far away, in large ways or small.

It's already happening here in Acton and we are so blessed to be part of a community that cares!

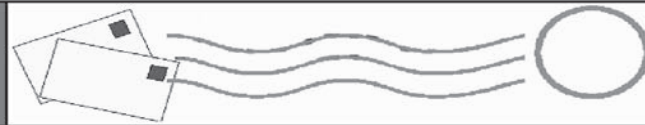
*Heartfelt thanks,*

*Ann Adema.*

P.S. Walter, thanks for your help too.

**CHRISTMAS FEAST:** No one went hungry or ate alone on Christmas Day, thanks to the seventh annual community Christmas dinner, run by volunteers, at Bethel Christian Reformed Church. Along with great food, there was entertainment and gifts for the appreciative crowd. - Submitted photo

## Letters



# Happy Ending for lost dog

This Christmas morning started out very wonderful as most any other Christmas morning does. My husband, son and I arose and opened our gifts from Santa. We got ready for my sister and her family to come over and exchange gifts just like they do every year and have breakfast together afterwards. All was wonderful. They left our house and we started doing preparations for our turkey dinner for

that evening for them and some friends. Time was limited that day so we went to visit another family to exchange gifts with their twin girls, Lily and Abby. While visiting them around 12:30 p.m. our dog, Ozzy, was put in the backyard for a few minutes. Unknowing that the night before the gate had blown open, Ozzy ran out. The neighbour knocked on the door and told us Ozzy was going down the street. My son,

Avery, and I ran down and up streets trying to get him back, but he took off. He was in a neighbourhood that he didn't know on Hurst Street.

The search started, I called more friends and family and we all patrolled Acton endlessly trying to find him. Ozzy was gone. We drove around for hours and hours. It rained all day and all night so not a lot of people were out walking that day. We decided

we needed to make flyers to put up and talked to anyone that would listen to us. Business owners let us put up our flyer in their windows. Thank you to every business owner especially to Tim Horton's and McDonald's. So many people saw our flyer in their windows and the word got out quickly all over Acton.

I am writing this letter to say "Thank you to the people of Acton." Everyone was very help-

ful, each offering to keep a lookout for Ozzy. Some sightings were called in to us but when we got to that area of Acton, he wasn't there. Two men, strangers, one searched the woods with his tracking dog, another man on a quad. It is amazing to us how many people cared, were concerned and wanted to help us. Friends, family, neighbours and strangers gave their time for which my family is extremely grateful and we just want to

give a big "Thank You."

Our Ozzy was found after 33 hours of non-stop searching. We were not giving up 'til our family member came home. He was very hungry and scared, but he is home. He had an ear infection and sore paws, but he has been given lots of love and is getting back to himself now. We will now be able to have our turkey dinner and a joyous Christmas! Thanks again to everyone.

*The George's*

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### Parents of Grade 8 Students are invited to attend a Parent Information Evening

Parents of students who are planning to attend Acton or Georgetown District High School in September 2010 are welcome to come and hear more about the Grade 9 program, services for students, and diploma requirements. Parents should attend the Parents' Information Night at their home school (the school designated for their community). For more information, please contact the school office.

#### Acton High School

Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>  
Large group presentation: 7 p.m.  
Small group questions and answers sessions: 7:45 p.m.  
Tours: 8:30 p.m.  
(519) 853-2920  
<http://act.hdsb.ca>

#### Georgetown District High School

Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>  
Large Group Assembly: 6:30 p.m.  
Guided Tours: 7:00 p.m.  
Special Programs: 7:00 (see below)  
[French Immersion; Special Education; Gifted; ISP/IB]  
(905) 877-6966  
<http://georgetowndistricthighschool.com>



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