

EDEN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

NEWSLETTER

February 1 2008

Welcome to the new name and logo for your Food Bank



A new year is well upon us and it is common at this time of year to see papers full of articles on “the year in review” . I would like to do the same for Eden Community Food Bank , and what an exciting year it has been.

2007 began with Donna Behmer assuming the role of Manager of the food bank. Shortly afterwards Maria Glidden was hired as Operations Supervisor. We also had a change in name to include the word ‘community’ in our title to reflect the role of Eden in our community. As well we got a new logo to reflect our new image .

In February we had our second annual Souper Bowl Sunday and it was a great success, drawing support from many area churches.

May saw us hold a wonderful volunteer recognition evening that recognized the many, many hours of hard work donated by our volunteers. A new plaque recognizing them will be appearing this month on the wall of the food bank.

June was a busy month and was kicked off by our second annual Hunger awareness day. This event was a breakfast session and saw almost one hundred people attending. Our “wall of hunger” was unveiled , featuring plates with personal messages from many of our clients- a moving tribute.

The summer saw us “going green” both with the introduction of our new reusable bag policy as well as the cornucopia of fresh produce that we were able to provide thanks to two local farmers markets. It was indeed fortuitous that we were able to purchase a large commercial fridge with a donation from the Karen Shank Foundation to store this bounty. We also introduced our birthday bag program and ran a BBQ and fun day for our client families as well as the local community.

The fall saw a couple of highly successful fundraisers that set new records. The Kraft Hunger Challenge and our Toonie Tuesday programs were both bigger and better than ever. Thanks to events such as this we were able to remain financially viable and initiate new programs for our clients.

In late November we ran our first ever Dickens reading and it was marvelous. See more about this inside the newsletter.

December, of course, was an extremely busy month. We had over twenty five food drives and staff and volunteers helped to sort and store a record 17,583 kilos of food. As well Eden Church gave out 219 Christmas baskets, our clients being the main recipients of these .

Looking back, it was an amazing year in many ways. I cannot say enough about the efforts of our many volunteers who worked so hard to make it all happen. Whether it was getting donations, picking up food, participating in food drives, serving clients etc, they made it happen . Without them it simply would not happen and my hat is off to all of them. Let’s help to make 2008 even better as we move ahead in many new initiatives this year.

Here we Grow Again!

As in previous issues, we want to let you see how our Food Bank is increasingly needed in this community. Over the last four months, the numbers have fluctuated more than normal, but this might reflect changes in seasonal needs.

People served	Aug '07	Sept '07	Oct '07	Nov '07	Dec '07
Adults	406	366	387	479	789
Children	311	274	343	384	602
Babies	19	27	28	35	53
Total people	736	667	730	898	1444
Families	239	203	217	272	443
New Fam's	19	13	15	30	15

However, despite slight drops in the numbers of people serviced in September and October, our need bounced right back to hit a new record high in the month of December.

If this kind of growth continues, it will make it increasingly important that our fund-raising and food drives efforts are redoubled to keep us ahead of the game.

It also continues to put extra strains on our physical resources, especially in terms of space.

Tooney Tuesday

From somewhat humble beginnings, our "Tooney Tuesday" programme has, as quoted by Topsy in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' (Harriet Beecher Stowe), simply "growed and growed".

November 20th, 2007 marked our 3rd annual Tooney Tuesday event in the schools, but our efforts at re-kindling interest in this venture started much earlier than that.

By September, our fundraising committee had already sent out e-mails to all the schools in the area, telling them about the event, and meetings had been held with various school trustees to gain their support.

The schools all pitched in with amazing enthusiasm, and we ended up with the best Tooney Tuesday event ever. However, we are not going to allow ourselves to become complacent, since

we will be pushing even harder next year! Just watch us!

We had 30 schools participate from the Peel Board and the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board.

While all the schools did their best, and their efforts are truly appreciated, two schools deserve a special mention. In their first-ever Tooney Tuesday, Vista Heights Public School raised over \$1,200.00 for the ECFB. St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School held a civics day, and the student council conducted various fundraising events, all of which benefited Eden Community Food Bank. For all their efforts, they were able to present us with a cheque in the amount of \$5,000.00.

We offer our congratulations to all the schools who participated, and hope you will join in again next year. Between you all, you managed to raise a record amount of \$19,252.08 this year. Thank you all for your efforts.

These funds will go a long way towards our "Fresh Food" programme, which ensures that every family receives fresh produce and fresh fruit all winter long.

We want to thank you, your staff, parent councils, student councils, parents and students, and all those who participated in any way to make this Tooney Tuesday such a success. Together, we truly are making a difference in our neighbourhood. Eden Community Food Bank is definitely a COMMUNITY food bank, and we are solely supported by community events such as this.

Our next Tooney Tuesday is on November 18, 2008, so please take the time now to mark this important date in your calendar. Start planning now on the events you might want to hold next year, and set yourselves a goal to beat this year's total. Thank you very much.

Time for a smile?

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

A lot of money is tainted — it taint yours, and it taint mine!

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris must be in Seine!

A Christmas Carol

"A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas", to give it its proper title (see back page for a colour copy of the frontispiece of the first edition), is a novella by Charles Dickens, (left), first published in December 1843.



The story was an instant success, selling over 6,000 copies in the first week. The tale has become one of the most popular and enduring Christmas stories of all time.

I am sure that everyone knows the storyline of this Victorian morality tale, so there is no need to delve into that here. However, it is not generally recognized that, in keeping with the musical analogy of the title, Dickens divided his literary work into five "staves", rather than chapters.

Dickens himself, gave the first public reading of this work on December 27 1852, to the Industrial and Literary Institute in Birmingham Town Hall in England. This was so successful, it was often repeated, and Dickens edited the piece down and adapted it for a listening, rather than a reading, audience.

This year, Eden Community Food Bank wanted to try something "new" - at least, new to Mississauga - and so with the help of some dedicated volunteers, CBC Radio, guest speakers from the Community, and some talented choirs and musicians, we presented a dramatic reading of the Dickens classic.

This fundraiser was a 'first' for the Meadowvale area, and the co-chair of the "Dickens Committee" for ECFB was Maria Glidden, who sent me this report:

"Everyone who took time out from their busy weekend, and even those who missed the Grey Cup, to attend this presentation, had a thoroughly enjoyable, relaxing and entertaining evening. Sometimes, they were even part of the entertainment, as when David Ambrose led the audience in a very animated rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

"To have this story told by seven different readers, each using his or her own special interpretation, was very moving indeed. From the "Bah, humbug" of Maurice Elliot, to Sharon Caddy's Tiny Tim, each reader, Mary Ito, Evelyn McLachlan,

Paul Eck, Michelle Muir and Jim Grieve deserved the enthusiastic applause they received.

"Surely though, the evening wouldn't have been complete without the music. We were transported into the spirit of Dickens and Christmas by the sound of the chamber Choir of the Mississauga Festival Choir, delighted by the incredible voices of the Thomas Street Middle School Chamber Choir, and last—but not least—we were amazed by the angelic sound of the harp played by a young yet very talented, Brianne Westland.

"As the co-chair of this magical evening, I would like to thank everyone who participated in, helped organize, or simply attended this event. Your support for this fundraiser brought an estimated \$4720 to your Food Bank. We couldn't have done it without you.

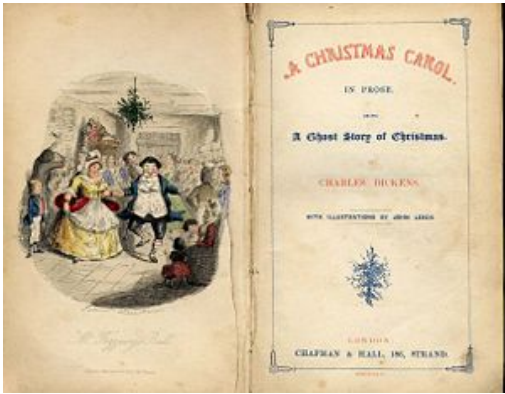
Maria Glidden.

Miscellaneous information

There is so much more we could tell you about, but space is running out! We have reserved the back page of this issue largely for photographs, since they are much better when printed in colour, yet colour printing cost more, so we limit colour to the front and back pages.

- The Kraft Hunger Challenge raised over \$10,000 this year.
- Several employees from General Electric volunteered to help out, and (for example) 14 employees came on December 19, and 6 more came in on December 20, to help us.
- We have been doing Food Bank tours with groups such as schools, girl guides, scouts, pathfinders, etc.
- We have begun the fresh produce programme, and Maria goes shopping weekly to ensure every family can have one green veggie, carrots, potatoes, and a fruit such as bananas, apples and oranges.
- Our Christmas food drives brought us 10,539kg food in just 3 days. Thanks for the sorting help from GE, Gonzaga High School and Our Lady of Carmel.
- We also had record cash donations, from Companies such as from Maple Reinders, Mattel and Fusepoint. Our thanks to these, and all other donors.

Now turn the page to see the pictures.....



Some of the pictures from the December Food Drive, the Dickens presentation and the Christmas hamper effort

From the top left, we have the frontispiece from the first edition of Dickens' work, dated 1843; our poster for the Dickens concert; proof that not everyone gets to work indoors (someone has

to bring the donations in); St. Aloysius Gonzaga sent 6 students and 2 teachers to help out with one of our many food sorting opportunities on December 6 for their 24 hours of Hope project; St Joan of Arc presented Donna Behmer with a nice cheque; the Church was full of Christmas hampers being assembled; Coffee break in the wrapping area (well deserved); Donna invoking more help from on high!; Mary Ito waits her turn to read; the choir from Thomas Street School; and finally, Jim Grieve, Director of Education for the Peel Board, makes his point at the Dickens evening.

Final thoughts for now...

Well, it seems like I have run out of space, but there is plenty of information we could still add.

Tony Hill asked me to point out that although we do not have his column this issue, his last contribution was adapted from the website www.mealtime.org of the Canned Food Alliance.

Once again, no room for a recipe of the month. Sorry.

With the amount of work being done at, by and for the Eden Community Food Bank, perhaps we should consider increasing it to 6 (or even 8) pages. Finding stuff to put in is not the problem—it is just that more pages equates to more expense, and we try to keep our money for the provision of food and services. If you or your Company, would like to consider sponsoring this newsletter, please contact Bill Bates or Michael Burgoyne. See our website for contact information.

My personal thanks to all our contributors, including those whose words did not make it into this issue.

And remember, a boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat!!!!

- So, here's to the next time!

Note: The opinions expressed here are those of the various contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Eden Community Food Bank