

The Arts Music Store Presents:
"A Yuletide Celebration"

with

Dulcimerhead and Friends

December 15, 2007 7:00pm @ The Old Town Hall
 46 Botsford Street, Newmarket

Tickets \$15.00 at door, or at Everything Chocolate, 222 Main Street South

For details, please call (705)435-9695 or visit www.myspace.com/dulcimerhead1

Great music, fine art and craft show, refreshments and fun!

We are hosting a silent auction of a David Rankine painting in support of York Region Food Network

Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected for the Newmarket Food Pantry

Thank you, hope to see you there!

Golf Sponsors - 2007

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 Whitchurch Riding Academy
 Willow Springs Winery

Join the YRFN's Fundraising Campaign

I support the YRFN's work to improve access to affordable, nutritious food for all people of York Region.

I have enclosed my donation of _____\$20_____ \$50_____ \$100_____ other.

Cheques should be made payable to York Region Food Network

YRFN will issue a charitable tax receipt for all donations over \$10.

Name: _____

Address: _____

To donate by credit card, visit our website at www.yrfn.ca, and click on the link to CanadaHelps.org; a secure website where you can make a tax deductible credit card donation to YRFN.

Your privacy is important to us, and we are committed to protecting and safeguarding your personal information. We do not rent, sell or trademark our mailing list, but rather use it to keep you informed of York Region Food Network's activities, services, and programs. Please contact our office to update your information or to be removed from the mailing list.



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FALL 2007

NEWSLETTER

Local Farmers Give Generously



Another season has finished for our gleaning program. The gleaning program helps provide community members living on a limited income access to fresh vegetables and fruit in the summer and fall seasons. Fresh Food Partners is connected with local farmers who generously donate their fields at the end of their harvest season. Our gleaning program allows the community members to glean (pick) the produce that is remaining in the field. The vegetables and fruit are in excellent condition and would normally be left in the field to rot or be ploughed under at the end of the season.

In the 2007 gleaning season, we had a total of eight trips to the farms. The farmers involved this year are Reesor Farms in Markham, Brooks Farm in Mount Albert, Strawberry Creek in Newmarket, Pine Farms Orchard in King City and Round the Bend Farm in Kettleby. The produce gleaned included strawberries, peas, corn, tomatoes,

apples, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale, beet, carrots and potatoes. 275 participants gleaned over \$8000 (retail value) worth of produce. Also, Sue and Brian Fedema from Round the Bend Farm generously donated 42 turkeys, 6- 50lb bags of onions, and bushels and bushels of squash to our participants.

Our participants, who ranged from young single parents to seniors, benefited from the program. They were extremely grateful to be receiving free produce that they would otherwise not be able to afford. The produce gleaned is shared among family, friends, neighbors, or community agencies. Many preserve the produce to use over winter months. Stories and recipes are constantly being shared among the participants.

It brings me great joy to be able to organize such a program. I am touched by the generosity of our farmers who have been supporting our program since the year 2000. Without their continuous support, our program simply would not exist. The kindness of our farmers is truly felt and appreciated by all.

For more information on the gleaning program, please contact Fae Chen at 905-895-4512 or email at fae.chen@yrfn.ca.

Fae Chen
 Nutrition Educator
 York Region Community and Health Services Department

Our vision is to ensure that all residents of York Region are food secure. Food security is the assurance that all people at all times are able to acquire nutritional food in a way that upholds basic human dignity.

Our mission is to increase access to affordable, nutritious food for York Region residents. York Region Food Network will:

- Raise awareness and promote food security issues and policy change in our communities.
- Support community-based food security programs and services.

BETTER LIVING BANQUET

On Sunday April 20th, the Newmarket Seventh-day Adventist Church's gourmet Better Living Banquet will be held at 5:30pm at the Roman Palace located at 1096 Ringwell Drive in Newmarket. Tickets are \$45.00 each and proceeds from ticket sales will be shared with York Region Food Network. For tickets please call 905-967-0428.

Supported by:



Editor: Kim Arseneault

...the voice of hunger in York Region

Executive Director's Message

As the holiday season approaches, I am always amazed at how suddenly the world seems to get hectic – and, at the generous spirit that also flourishes. As the new Executive Director of York Region Food Network, I've had the opportunity to speak to many people who are using their initiative to conduct food drives in their workplaces, through sports, faith and community groups, and with friends and family. The Thanksgiving Food Drive surpassed our goal with 174,000 pounds of food collected across the Region and the giving attitude is carrying right on. We really do live in a caring and compassionate community.

This heartening news is mitigated by the continued need for food banks in the region, the increasing wage gap, the number of families living in poverty, and the lack of affordable housing. In my new role, I hope to be able to play an instrumental part in influencing change in our community as we work toward food security for everyone.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year,
Joan Stonehocker
Executive Director



Meghan Tant, Beth MacDonald, and Jenna Kuzniar assist Executive Director Joan Stonehocker at the Buttonville United Way Open House.

YRFN Corporate Advisory Council

The YRFN Corporate Advisory Council is completing its inaugural year, and what a year it has been! Facilitating a new strategic plan, reviewing long term sustainability, and assisting in the development of communications and public awareness, the council has been an immense help in providing input on YRFN financial and business strategies.

Made up of individuals with active and ongoing experience in the corporate community, the advisory council meets three times a year. If you are interested in joining, please contact Terry O'Brien, Corporate Relations. Direct line: (905) 252-5729.



Richmond Hill Community Food Bank Goes Green!

The Richmond Hill Community Food Bank is walking the environmental talk by distributing food in sturdy, reusable grocery bags and eliminating plastic. And, they are shopping locally by sourcing the bags from a Richmond Hill company: www.livingthegreenlife.ca.

Celebrity Chef Dinner

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 28, 2008 when York Region's finest chefs will prepare a celebration of their signature dishes for you. This fun-filled evening of entertainment, wine tasting, and culinary delights will take place at Madsens Greenhouse Banquet Hall in Newmarket.



Allysa and Michaela Point celebrate their 10th birthday by encouraging friends to support the Aurora Food Pantry instead of birthday gifts.



*Happy Holidays from the Board
and Staff of York Region Food
Network*



Closing the Garden – A Twist on the Annual Ritual

Each October community gardeners gather at the Markham, Aurora and Newmarket community gardens to officially bring a close to another gardening season. While frost typically makes its appearance the end of September, this year's unusually long growing season found many of us rather begrudgingly uprooting our fruits and vegetables in mid-October, while some plants were still growing strong.



Picture from left to right: Mingcong Jin, Helen Chen, Regional Councillor John Taylor, Catherine Cook, Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Yuanguo Chen at the Newmarket Community Garden.

The October 13th closing day at the Markham Community Garden brought out many gardeners who worked hard at closing the garden and wrapped up the day with a celebration of the season with a cornucopia of home-made foods.

Meanwhile at Aurora, the end of the season left everyone with a sense of uncertainty. Over the winter months the Town of Aurora will be deciding whether the garden will be able to return to its present location or will need to relocate in 2008. When the Aurora Community Garden is on the Town agenda, gardeners will be contacted and strongly encouraged to attend the Council meeting to show their support of the Aurora Community Garden. We are hopeful that the Town of Aurora will support the garden at its present location for years to come.

But it was at the Newmarket Community Garden where the closing truly took on a different meaning. After 9 years at the current Eldred King Parkette site, the Newmarket Community Garden was closed for good. It was hard to say goodbye to the garden, as over the years the community gardeners not only produced successful harvests, but they also cultivated friendships and a strong support system. While most of the gardeners will be moving to our new location at the Magna Community Centre in the spring of 2008, we will be saying goodbye to some gardeners who will not be able to join us.



And so many of us will have to be content over the next few months with vegetables we've frozen, or pickled or preserved, uncertain at this time as to where and when the gardens will open in the spring. One thing we know for sure is that when the gardens do reopen, there will be lots of catching up, lots of laughter and lots to do. See you in the spring.

Catherine Cook

5th Annual Charity Golf Classic

York Region Food Network would like to thank all golfers, sponsors, and volunteers for their generous support of the 5th Annual YRFN Charity Golf Classic at Silver Lakes.

The event was a great success, raising a record-breaking \$11,000 from 82 golfers and 70 sponsors from every corner of York Region, and beyond. It was wonderful to see support from the Region and the municipalities. Golfers included Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Town of Newmarket; Mayor Rob Grossi, Town of Georgina; Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville; John Taylor, Regional Councillor, Town of Newmarket.

Other important support in the form of prizes and hole sponsorships came from Linda D. Jackson, Mayor, City of Vaughan; Mayor and Members of Council, Town of Markham; the Town of Markham; Phyllis Morris, Mayor, Town of Aurora; the Town of Aurora; Mayor and Members of Council, Town of Richmond Hill; Bill Fisch, Regional Chair, York Region.

Please mark next year's tournament, Wednesday, August 27, 2008, on your calendars. We look forward to seeing you again next year!



Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Georgina Mayor Robert Grossi and Newmarket Regional Councillor John Taylor

"Sweet Treat" Christmas Fundraiser

Look for us at the Upper Canada Mall this December! Volunteers will be selling "Sweet Treat" gifts for \$10 and \$20 for our annual Christmas Fundraiser. An ideal Christmas present for friend, teacher, co-worker, just about anyone!