



Fall 2008

NEWSLETTER

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.



We've Moved

York Region Food Network has relocated to 510 Penrose Street in Newmarket, along with the Inn from the Cold, the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness and the Newmarket Food Pantry. We are very excited to have the opportunity to share space with these other organizations. We look forward to developing more opportunities to work together to provide more effective services, and try some new programs. Join us on December 2nd to have a tour of the site and learn about everyone housed here. There is more detailed information about the Open House on the back page. Please drop by and say hello.

A Long Winter?

The general wisdom is that the current economic downturn, recession or repression (depending on what economic pundit you are listening to) will put a strain on organizations that serve vulnerable populations. Even before the situation went from bad to worse in September with the American Financial Institution collapses, food bank use was rising throughout the region with increased utilization of almost 10% in July and August over the same period last year.

The fall food drive typically exceeds the target volume but this year we collected just over 148,000 pounds of food – down over 17% from last year's level. While we can hope that the doom and gloom scenarios which are populating the news media will brighten in the near future, our challenge is to ensure that people have the nutritious food they need, while continuing to work on the systemic changes that will reduce the need long term.

As Christmas passes and the long winter settles in, we count on our generous York Region community members to help sustain those most in need. Thank you for your continuing support.

**York Region Food Network
has moved!**

510 Penrose St.
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Phone:
905-967-0428
or
1-866-454-9736



Editor: Kim Arseneault

...the voice of hunger in York Region

United Way Day of Caring

Thank you Southwire Canada and Allstate Canada!



The Southwire Canada Team's first day of painting YRFN's new offices.



Southwire Canada was gracious enough to send a team out for a second day of painting to complete the job!



The Allstate Canada Team help prepare the Newmarket Community Garden for its move to the Magna Centre in the spring of 2009.

Back-to-School Backpack Program is Growing

YRFN has wrapped up the fifth year of our very popular Back-to-School Backpack Program. A record number of 529 backpacks filled with school supplies were delivered to food banks across the region for distribution to families with school-aged children.

Preparing a child for their new school year can get pretty expensive. Children are expected to arrive to school the first day with their own backpacks, lunch bags and numerous supplies such as binders, paper, pens, pencils, calculators, math sets and the list goes on. For some families these added expenses can put a squeeze on an already tight budget. Families who visited their local food bank this past summer were able to receive backpacks and supplies to help reduce school costs.

YRFN applauds the support provided by corporations, community groups and local residents. Over the past five years their contributions have made a difference. In 2008 alone, 529 children felt that difference.



Backpacks ready for delivery to food banks

The Aurora Community Garden has staked claim to a new site for the 2009 growing season. We are now located on Town property just north of Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South.

York Region Food Network 6th Annual Charity Golf Classic

The York Region Food Network would like to thank all the golfers, sponsors, and volunteers for their generous support of the 6th Annual YRFN Charity Golf Classic at Silver Lakes Golf Club & Country Club. We had a spectacular day on the links hosted by our two Signature Sponsors, Dymin Steel Inc. and Everest Supply Inc.

This year a new "Cyder Cup" format was introduced with those representing "Team Rest of the World" dominating "Team Canada" to win the coveted trophy. For added excitement our celebrity auctioneers, Mayor David C. Barrow, Town of Richmond Hill, Mayor Rob Grossi, Town of Georgina, Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville raised an amazing \$1,800 in a matter of minutes!

With over 65 corporate sponsors, and support from all nine municipalities of York Region, the event raised a record-breaking profit of \$15,000, a 25% increase over last year.

According to Executive Director Joan Stonehocker, "Funds raised from this event will support a new initiative called *Nourishing Change*". There is a vulnerable gap for those making the transition to housing from homelessness, from shelters, and from abuse. Facing empty shelves is immediately prohibitive to a new start so YRFN is establishing a program that will fill the gap by filling the shelves with food and basic necessities. Funds also support existing local programs such as Back-to-School Supplies for children in need, Food Drives and Food Bank Support, Community Kitchens, Community Gardens and Gleaning, and Public Education."

In addition to the funds raised at the golf tournament, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen's Charity Golf Classic Committee contributed an additional \$5,000 towards the YRFN Back-to-School Backpack Program for children in need. Committee member David McLennan presented the cheque to the York Region Food Network in advance of the tournament.

Other attendees included John Taylor, Regional Councillor, Town of Newmarket; Tom Vegh, Councillor, Town of Newmarket, Cathy Morton, Councillor, Town of East Gwillimbury. Support in the form of prizes and hole sponsorships came from Linda D. Jackson, Mayor &

Members of Council, City of Vaughan; Mayor Frank Scarpitti & Members of Council, Town of Markham; Phyllis Morris, Mayor, Town of Aurora; Township of King; and Bill Fisch, Regional Chair, York Region.

Please mark next year's tournament, Wed. Aug. 26, 2009 on your calendars. We look forward to seeing you on the links!



Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Mayor David C. Barrow, Town of Richmond Hill, Mayor Rob Grossi, Town of Georgina, John Taylor, Regional Councillor, Town of Newmarket



Tom Vegh, Councillor, Town of Newmarket, Alex Vegh, Rae Bowie, Ian Bowie

Creating Partnerships: Common Roof brings services and supports for vulnerable individuals into a community hub.

Open House

Tuesday, December 2nd, 2008

4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

510 Penrose St., Newmarket

We invite you to visit a new hub of services for people who are experiencing financial hardship or a housing crisis.

The organizations working together include:

- INN From the Cold
- Newmarket Food Pantry
- York Region Alliance to End Homelessness
- York Region Food Network

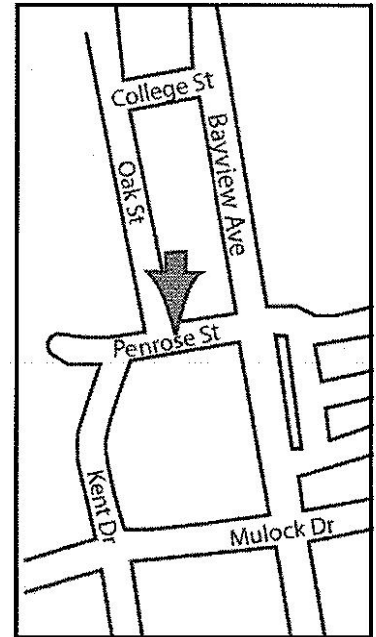
4:30 PM: Doors Open

5:30 PM: Official Ribbon Cutting and Welcome from member agencies

This event will include ***Hidden in Plain Sight: Living Homeless in York Region*** - a photographic project of the Krasman Centre and the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness, tours of the building and displays by member groups.

Light dinner and refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to Kim at kima@yrfn.ca or 905-967-0428 x201
by Wednesday, November 26, 2008



Join York Region Food Network's Fundraising Campaign

I support 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 _____

Please make cheques payable to York Region Food Network.

YRFN will issue a charitable tax receipt for all donations over \$20.

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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