



Happy New Year

It is hard to believe that we have already seen the first decade in the 21st century end. Though we cannot see into the future there are some things of which we are certain:

1. There will be people who will need food.
2. We have many faithful volunteers. You do make a difference.
3. Many of our volunteers are gone to warmer climates during these winter months, but they will come back!
4. The number of people that we are serving on a monthly basis is increasing. We provided food for 1849 people in December with 45.3% of them 18 years and under. **That is 353 more people than in December of 2008.** With the uncertain economic times we have seen an increase of 13% since June of last year, in people coming for food.
5. The GEFC is a place where people care!

Bits and Bites

New Granchild

Tracy Martineau

Ideas for the Newsletter

Do you have something that you would like to see in our newsletter? Is there any other information about the Food Cupboard you would like to know about? Let Gwen know.

Generous donors and schools

We are so fortunate to have donors, schools, businesses and churches who have so generously done food drives and made donations so that our coffers are full. There is not room in this small newsletter to list all of those who have had a part in giving. Thank you for be-

ing our ambassadors in the community.

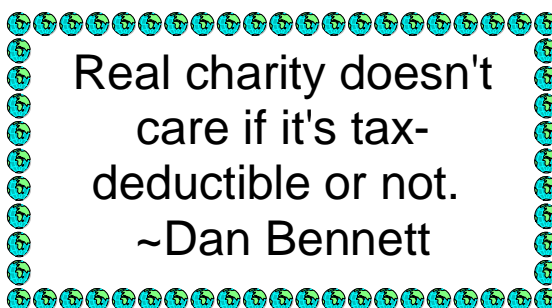
If you haven't already done so, just walk around the building and see all of the corners that are bursting with boxes of food.

New computers, etc.

We now have 2 new computers in the office, replacing donated computers that were more than 6 years old. We will also soon have a new data base which will change the way that we track our statistics.

Thank You to ...

1. Nerds on Site—Tony Mili for spending hours setting up our new computers and hooking up the network
2. Tippett Richardson for generously donating their time, drivers and a truck to do the Christmas School Food Drive pick up.



Real charity doesn't care if it's tax-deductible or not.
~Dan Bennett



GLOUCESTER EMERGENCY FOOD
CUPBOARD CENTRE DE SECOURS
ALIMENTAIRE DE GLOUCESTER

www.gefc.ca

Phone / téléphone: 613-749-4728

Fax / telec.: 613-749-5532

E-mail / courriel: gefc@gefc.ca

Bridging the Hunger Gap

Dates to Remember

Feb. 15 - Closed for Family Day

Apr. 2 - Closed for Good Friday

Every action in our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.

~Edwin Hubbel Chapin

Jardins Arrowsmith Thyme-less Gardens



Our very own Ruth Torok has been working tirelessly to make these community gardens become a reality. Below is a description, in Ruth's words of how they came to be:

If I were to thank all those who helped make the gardens happen, the list would be never ending. **Sheila & Rob Danforth**, as well as **Jeanne Chagnon**, (all board members), were the catalysts for this new community garden project. Sheila & Rob because of their established commitment to GEFC through gardening projects over the past 4 years, and their management and organizational skills in this new phase; Jeanne for her equally strong support of GEFC, generosity & schmoozing talents (acquiring free seeds) on behalf of other gardens, and her interest in this new development.

The process from idea to inception, has been taking shape over about five years, but the serious work began with the submission to Ottawa City Council re: budget cutbacks in 2008-2009. **Sue Bramley** who is the customers relations person from the Community Funding Unit from the city, was the pivotal liaison between us (JAT Gardens) & the City of Ottawa in setting up the 5-year-lease agreement & conditions for use of the property at 2040 Arrowsmith, as well as resolution of numerous other issues around the site conversion. I appeared at a City Council meeting at City Hall in late Fall 2008.

The gardens were set up so clients and those in similar circumstances would be able to plant their own gardens, be more self-sufficient, as well as have a project they could take personal satisfaction and pride in.

Other people who were an integral part of the whole process were:

- * **Terri O'Neill** at the Community Garden Network who approved our funding through an established criteria and submissions process. She then coached Sheila, Rob and I on setting up community gardens.
- * All those involved in the physical labour of stripping sod, building sod walls, levelling original and new garden top soil on Nov 30th; who showed up in spite of the weather and stayed despite aches & pains: all deserve a medal! Their names again are: **Jan Boon, Roger Chagnon (Jeanne's husband), Rob & Sheila Danforth, Serge Duguay, Ev & John Ross & Paul Villeneuve.**

