

# Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard

Volume 5

## October Newsletter

2008

### Dates

- **October 13, Thanksgiving, closed**
- **October 14—28, Drop Campaign, Direct Appeal. (Volunteers needed. Sign up has already started.)**

### Notices

- If anyone has recent photos from the Food Cupboard, please let Gwen know.
- Do you have ideas about how we can raise funds? Share them with us!
- We have found a driver to do the produce pick-up from Macartney's on Mondays and Fridays. Please welcome **Paul Brennan** as one of our volunteers.

There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

Edith Wharton

### Annual Volunteer Potluck Party

**When:** Saturday, October 4, 6:00 pm  
**Where:** At Marjorie's 1999 Hollybrook Cres.  
**BYOD** (Bring your own drinks)

*Significant others welcome!*

*Don't miss this evening!*

### Fill-A-Bus

We are holding a Fill-A-Bus event **Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm** jointly with Orleans-Cumberland Resource Centre at **Loblaws, Place d'Orleans.**

**We need your help to:**

- ◇ Hand out brochures
- ◇ Pack the bus
- ◇ Sort the food
- ◇ Unpack and put away the food at the Food Cupboard

If you have an hour to spare, sign up is on the bulletin board!



### Volunteers Needed

We are looking for people to get exercise and drop letters into mailboxes at the same time. Choose your route early to get the one you prefer.

### Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is coming. Do you need canned pumpkin or cranberries?  
**Exchange a can for a can.**

Take home a can of pumpkin or cranberries, from our shelves, and replace with a can of fruit, vegetables or meat.

### Farewell

We are saddened that one of our Friday volunteers Richard Casselman passed away on September 8, 2008. Richard had been a volunteer since October 2006. He will be missed!

### Thanks

Thanks to **Pierre Proulx** for doing the Macartney's pickup for 7 years. Your efforts on our behalf are greatly appreciated!

### New Grandchild

Lynda Bowes welcomes a new granddaughter and Bella, a new niece, Teagan, born in early August.

### Results

Thanks go to all who helped with the **Fill-A-Bus** at Convent Glen Leob, September 13. We brought in over 300 bags of food and \$290 in donations.

Congratulations to all who donated, participated or purchased items at the **Yard Sale** on September 20. We made \$863.38 from the sale of donated items.

Great job to all of our volunteers for a wonderful team effort!

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.  
~Elizabeth Andrew

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## GEFC History

**2009 will mark 20 years that the GEFC has been in existence. During the next few months this newsletter will chronicle our history.**

***If anyone has any ideas how we could mark our 20th anniversary let Gwen know.***

**We are going to catalogue all our pictures and show them at the AGM in April. If you have any other ideas please let us know!**

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

-William Arthur Ward

## Chapter 2

### The First Year - 1989

Our first day of operation was January 19, 1989 with Brenda Piprani as our Coordinator. Initially, we were open only on Thursdays from 10 am - 2 pm and again from 6 - 8 pm. The first week we served 10 people. The second week it was 20 and then back to 12 in the third week. When we suddenly had over 80 by March we didn't know what had hit us.

By February 22, we had an official letterhead and we held our official opening ceremonies on February 23. An interesting quote from the minutes of March 8 says - "The City of Gloucester seems to be paying the Hydro, but since we don't have the money, we won't ask about the bills." Those bills have never come!

Our major corporate sponsor, Telesat, first supported the GEFC with a food drive in March 1989 and has been one of our major sponsors ever since. We also had the first mention of our, sometimes, leaky roof in the same month.

By April, we had 40 active volunteers and a decision was made to change hours in June to Monday evening, Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning - hours that have changed only slightly since.

As of August 1989, a number of the original Board members had resigned and were replaced. There was talk of applying for a Regional grant in the Autumn of 1989, but it is clear, however, from later financial reports, that we did not receive one.

In September 1989, a fund-raising event was held at a local restaurant, and the blue fund-raising aprons that we still use today were purchased for that event. Also in September, Jeanne Martin resigned as Chair of the Board and Don Collar assumed the position which he still holds today. We are very fortunate to have someone of his experience and wisdom in that role. Brenda Piprani's title became Executive Director and she and Don prepared the first draft of the Constitution and By-laws.

In the closing months of 1989, we made the first draft of the yellow client file we still use today. It has had small changes along the way, but remains very similar. By the end of the year, we were helping over 300 clients each month and we estimate the total for the year at about 2700. We were still entirely operated by volunteers and had no direct government funding of any kind - just what we raised through fundraising events, private donations and food drives as well as support from the Ottawa Food Bank.