



Barrhaven Food Cupboard Newsletter #2020/01

2020-03-20

Hello fellow BFC members. Thought that it would be appropriate for the first newsletter of the year to let everyone know what is happening with everything that is going on. Who would have thought as we rang in a new year on January 1st that we would be facing a global pandemic. Let's get to what's happening with the BFC.

COVID-19

We started off the year with our normal routine with our clients attending the BFC and selecting items from our shelves. This process drastically changed this week when the global pandemic hit home. With obvious concerns about social contact/distancing, we made the decision to go back to our old way of doing things which will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. Our clients will continue to book appointments to receive their items however, rather than having them individually select the items, we will have their orders ready for pick up, thereby minimizing contact between our volunteers and the clients. We have also rescheduled the operational side of things to minimize the number of volunteers who will be operating out of the BFC in order to prevent the possible transmission of the virus. Our Director of Volunteers has completed a schedule and we will monitor the progress and make changes as required. You may have seen our recent social media poster for general information but if you haven't, I've included it in this newsletter. While we would always like to use our many volunteers, we also don't want to risk their health. This crisis will eventually come to an end, hopefully sooner rather than later, and we'll go back to normal operations.

<p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Barrhaven Food Cupboard</p> 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Barrhaven Food Cupboard</h2>
<p>We are STILL OPEN to help and serve our community members. If you wish to use our facility to help you through these difficult times, please call us at 613-825-4505 (and leave a message)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are STILL OPEN to help our neighbours in need, please reach out for emergency help with food and other essentials. - We have switched to pre-packed hampers only as a social distancing measure. Selection shopping is suspended until further notice. - If you display any symptoms of COVID-19 or are self-isolating, please call us at 613-825-4505 (and leave a message) for alternative arrangements. PLEASE DON'T VISIT US. - Please follow Ottawa Public Health Directions and Guidelines. - Please call emergency 9-1-1 if your symptoms are severe.
<p>Drop off your non-perishable items at any of the boxes located in Barrhaven grocery stores: LOBLAWS, INDEPENDENT, SOBEYS, METRO, FRESHCO, FOOD BASICS</p>	<p>Drop off your non-perishable items at any of the boxes located in Barrhaven grocery stores: LOBLAWS, INDEPENDENT, SOBEYS, METRO, FRESHCO, FOOD BASICS</p>

Operations

At our recent monthly Board of Directors' meeting, Peter reported that we had received 326 client requests up to the end of February, as compared 295 requests to the same period last year.

As mentioned in the last newsletter of 2019, we would be ending the use of our storage facility at PRIMO, and that has taken place. Our food supply seems to be steady at the moment with no major shortcomings other than toiletries, and especially toilet paper which really isn't a surprise, taking into account all the panic buying that we've recently seen.

With the change in processing and our ability to issue perishable items, we are eliminating the use of grocery store gift cards for our clients. While we currently give out fresh produce, eggs, yoghurt and butter, we'll also start purchasing milk in April. We'll be buying more bulk items that we can split into smaller packages for distribution and our shopping volunteers will be taking advantage of unadvertised "manager specials" as well as weekly specials that are advertised in the local flyers.

As many of you may know, we currently have 7 garden plots at the West Barrhaven Community Garden located on the grounds of the Barrhaven United Church. We are always looking for help in cultivating and maintaining these plots so that we can have local fresh produce for our clients, thereby saving money that can be used for other needed purchases.

With schools closed because of the virus, we have lost those school food drives that are such an important source of donations. We appreciate all of those who are helping to ease the shortage by

donating food items at the local grocery stores. Nevertheless, we anticipate having to dip into our cash reserves to make up for the loss.

PAST EVENTS

Feb. 29th – Loblaws Christmas BFC Collection

A presentation took place at Loblaws Barrhaven where they presented us a cheque in the amount of \$29,169.92. A big thank you to the Loblaws Barrhaven and especially the community of Barrhaven and their tremendous support. This will go a long way in allowing us to keep up with our operational commitment. We presented Loblaws Barrhaven Manager Manuel Smiley with a framed photograph and letter of appreciation for their support. Manny said that he'll be hanging it in the staff room.



Community Support

Here is a prime example how the community steps up to support the BFC. Two students at Berrigan Elementary, Jacob and Neo, completed a school project where they had to do something in the community. They went around their neighbourhood shoveling driveways and made a total of \$57, which they donated to the BFC.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 3RD, 2020 @ 7 PM

The AGM will be taking place at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 641 Barrhaven, on Wednesday, June 3rd, commencing at 7 PM. We encourage all members and volunteers to attend. The great benefit of being a member of the BFC is that you can have a say in the future of the BFC through your vote at the AGM. Hope to see you there.

Board of Directors – Vacancies

As noted in previous newsletters, we have identified numerous vacancies and are now happy to report that all vacancies have been filled with elections coming up at the next AGM. We would like to welcome the following individuals:

Michel Morris – Director of Volunteers

Shannon Van Luven - Secretary

Aaron Lemieux – Director at Large

Alain Lutula – Director at Large

David Humphries – Advisor

Harpreet Singh, who was a Director at Large, has taken over the position as Director of Communications as noted in our previous newsletter.

All new individuals appointed to the Board and/or positions as per the Constitution to fill vacancies prior to an AGM, are required to submit their names and officially run for the positions at the upcoming AGM. In addition to the above noted positions, this AGM will also see myself completing the term as President and Peter Oegema completing his term as Director of Operations, thereby creating two further openings. Our current Vice President (VP), George MacDonald has expressed an interest in putting his name for the President's position. If he is successful in securing the position either through voting or acclamation, that will create an opening in the position of VP.

I would encourage anyone who would like to run for any of the Board of Director positions, please contact us at info@barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca. I must say that it has been a very rewarding opportunity for myself and look forward to continuing with the Board for the next two years in the Past President position.

SOCIAL MEDIA

At the bottom of each newsletter, I always put our contact names for the BFC that we use on our social media sites. If you have not followed us on social media through those sites, I encourage you to do so in order that our messages can be shared throughout the community. One of the major complaints we've received in the past is that people in the community were not aware of the existence of the BFC. Through social media, we can get our message out there on past and future events, times when we may be facing a shortage of certain items as well as great community news stories showing how our neighbours are helping neighbours.

Website: www.barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca

Facebook: @barrhavenfoodcupboard

Twitter: @barrhavenfood

Instagram: Barrhaven_food_cupboard

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS!

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President

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