



## **Barrhaven Food Cupboard Newsletter #2020/02**

**2020-05-24**

Hello fellow BFC members. It has been two months since the last newsletter so it's time to bring you up to date on what's been happening.

### **COVID-19**

Well, COVID-19 has become a routine part of our day where social distancing is the norm along with people wearing masks when out and about. At the BFC, we have instituted a policy where all our volunteers working at the BFC are required to wear a mask and gloves as well as keeping social distancing in mind. In addition, we have also temporarily suspended food donations at the local grocery stores. I placed signs on all the bins advising of the temporary suspension. Regular weekly pickup of the items has also been suspended however we will be keeping an eye out when we are personally shopping there in the event the public continues to leave food and toiletry donations.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was originally scheduled to take place at the Barrhaven Legion Branch 641 on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> however due to COVID-19, this has been delayed. Under our Constitution we are mandated to hold an AGM no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of every year so with the pandemic taking place, this was going to be impossible. However, under the Government of Ontario Emergency Order, not-for-profit corporations incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act are given the ability to hold virtual meetings and extends the timeframe for AGMs to be held. Under this Act, our new deadline to hold the AGM will be up to 90 days after the state of emergency has been ended by the Ontario Government. Our tentative plans are to hold the AGM no later than Wednesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, whether it be in person or perhaps virtual, depending on the direction of the Government at that time.

### **New Board Member**

With the delay in the AGM, this would also delay the replacement of some of the vacancies that will be occurring on the BFC Board of Directors, namely my position as well as the Director of Operations' position, which was held by Peter Oegema. Many of you who know Peter are aware of what his commitment has been over the years. With Peter's term coming to an end, he'll be stepping back from some of the duties so he can spend more time on those that he can truly enjoy on a beautiful summer's day, that being looking after the community garden. He will also continue as dispatcher for the time

being. I behalf of the Board of Directors I just want to shout out a big **THANK YOU** to Peter for his commitment, leadership and friendship.

So, who have we replaced him with? Well, the gentleman's name David Swol. David is retired from the Federal Government after holding several senior positions. I first met David while he was helping pack groceries at Ross' Independent back in December of 2018. He wanted to get involved with the community and saw at the time that we were looking for volunteers for this event and he put his name in. I approached him several months later to see if he wanted a bigger role within the BFC and he gladly volunteered to assist with operations in any way possible. He has worked with Peter learning the ropes. With Peter's vacancy approaching, and with Dave knowing how operations work, I again approached him to see if he would be interested in putting his name forward for consideration at the next AGM for the position of Director of Operations and said yes. Now that the AGM is delayed and knowing Peter wanted to spend more time focusing on the community garden, the Board made a decision to ask if David would be interesting in assuming the position sooner rather than later, that way Peter could focus on the garden. David accepted the offer and under the authority of our Constitution, Peter stepped down and we appointed David as the new Director of Operations. He will remain in that position until the AGM at which time he would put his name forward in the election.

Welcome David to the Board and we are looking forward to working with you.

The other position that I mentioned that would be vacated at the next AGM is mine however I have agreed to stay on in the President's position until then.

### **New Policy – Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities**

Under Sec. 12 of the Constitution, the Board has the authority to create new policies without having a vote at the AGM however the membership has to be advised no less than two weeks before the AGM and the membership has to be advised of the policy.

As a Board, we felt that it was imperative that all volunteers follow set guidelines rather than informally volunteering their time to the BFC and the BFC is commitment to creating an orientation package for all new volunteers. This will inform the volunteers what to expect when volunteering with the BFC as far as their commitment/expectations are as well as what the BFC responsibilities are towards the volunteers. The Board also felt that any of our volunteers who encounter our clients will also be required to have a Vulnerable Sector Check – Level 3 completed, and this has been included in the new policy. The Vulnerable Sector Check will also be required of all Board members.

### **Operations**

At our recent monthly Board of Directors' meeting, David reported that we had received 629 client requests up to the end of April, as compared 557 requests to the same period last year, which is an increase of 12.3%. It is important to note that for the month of April alone, we had 134 requests as compared to 113 requests for April of last year, which is a 19% increase. We were expecting an increase with so many people out of work due to the virus -- we just were not sure how much.

Mentioned earlier in this newsletter that we have temporarily suspended the collection of food in our bins at the grocery stores. With so much unknown about the virus, we wanted to minimize the risk to our volunteers because all the items in the bins would have to be sanitized when we received them. Monetary donations have been exceptionally strong which has allowed us to bulk order our items for distributions.

We have been assisting in the distribution of food in response to a request from the Ottawa Network for Education's (ONFE) School Breakfast Program . School Meal Replacement Kits are delivered to our facility to augment the food already distributed to our clients.

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **OutGROW OutPLAY Donation**

OutGROW OutPLAY <https://outgrowoutplay.com/> is a children's consignment business mainly dealing in clothes, toys and books. They usually hold an annual event at the EY Centre where they also collect food for local food cupboards, and we have been fortunate enough to be one of the organizations that has benefited from their donations in the past. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 outbreak, this year's event has been cancelled however they wanted to continue supporting the BFC by donating \$1000 to the BFC for personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoos and soap. The good news does not end there. The day that we picked up the order from Loblaws, Loblaws manager, Manuel Smiley, said that they would donate the personal care items rather than OutGROW OutPLAY having to pay for the items. Not to be outdone, Cas and Richard from OutGROW OutPLAY then decided to spend the \$1000 in the purchase of grocery store gift cards from Loblaws. A big thank you to OutGROW OutPLAY and Loblaws. This is just one of many stories of how the community is coming out to support our neighbours.



### **Half Moon Bay Public School Donation**

This was an initiative of the Half Moon Bay Public School council lunch committee. Parents paid for weekly pizza lunches for their kids back in February. With that no longer happening, parents were given the option to receive a refund or donate the money to the BFC. A survey was sent to all parents, and about half opted to donate the money.

On Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, members of the Board of Directors had a video conference over ZOOM where there was a virtual cheque presentation with several teachers, lunch committee members and students. They were keeping it a secret as to how much they were donating, and we wouldn't know until the presentation. All I can say is that it is a good thing I was sitting down because it was a shock, to say the least. One of the students gave an actual drum roll which they showed the cheque and the amount.....**\$13,829.00.....WOW!!!** It left me speechless, which is not easy to do!!! We want to say a huge thank you to Principal Aisling O'Donnell and her staff, especially Shannon and Janna helping to organize and arrange this event, as well as students and parents who made this such an overwhelming success. A true example of "Neighbours Helping Neighbours".

### **Legere Family Food Collection/Donation**

While it's always nice to receive the large donations as highlighted in my first two stories, there's stories like this one that help to contribute to the success of the BFC in meeting the needs of our clients. The Legere family of the Davidson Heights area of Barrhaven decided to hold a local food collection for the BFC. This family delivers the local weekly advertisement papers in their area and decided to put a little note in the papers one week that they would be collecting food during the upcoming weekend where the people could just leave the non-perishables and toiletries by their front door and the Legere's would go around and collect the items. The event went ahead and was a great success. A big thank you to the Legere family.



### **Dairy Farmers of Ontario**

A big shoutout to the Dairy Farmers of Ontario for their generous donation of 100 cartons of milk. This is the second donation from this great organization who donated money, cheese and yogurt in the past. Here in this photo of Rosemary and Peter Ruiter dropping off their latest contribution.



These four stories are just an example of the fantastic generosity of the Barrhaven community. There are so many more that I could go on and on about as they all equally deserve recognition and we appreciate every donation. If you join our social media family, you'll be kept informed of all the great community support that we receive.

### **Community Garden**

I am not sure if you were aware of it but we have a community garden located on the property of the Barrhaven United Church. For you gardeners out there, you can appreciate how much work goes into getting the garden up and running and then maintaining throughout the growing season. We are looking for volunteers to help with the garden in order that we can give fresh produce to our clients, so if you have an interest in helping out, you can contact us as [info@barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca](mailto:info@barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca).

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

This next paragraph is word for word from what I put in our last newsletter as I think that it is a very important tool that we can use to get our message out in the community and to say thank you for the community support. I encourage you to join our social media family so we can keep you up-to-date on what is happening with the BFC.

“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](http://www.barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca)

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NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS!

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