

OS annual meeting postponed due to virus

WOODSTOCK – Operation Sharing's board of directors unanimously decided to postpone the organization's annual meeting due to concerns surrounding the corona virus.

"It was a no-brainer," said Marilyn Schmiedl, board president. The annual meeting had been scheduled for March 19 and will now be held at a future time yet to be announced.

"We're following the general guidelines surrounding the virus," Schmiedl said, noting that public gatherings are being curtailed around the world to help prevent the spread of the virus. Even casual contact is said to open the door for its spread.

The board, in particular, had concerns about spreading the virus to elderly family members with respiratory problems.

There are mass shutdowns of businesses, churches and other organizations throughout the world as the battle against the virus continues.



Marilyn Schmiedl

The meeting postponement comes on the heels of what is being described as a challenging 2019 for Operation Sharing.

Stephen Giuliano, the organization's chaplain/executive director, said in his 2019 annual report that Operation Sharing's homeless shelter was the target of "unfounded" accusations and this situation has been addressed. Then, the Bullwinkle's Eatery/Hospitality Training Centre relocated from the Moose Family Centre to Indwell's Harvey Woods Lofts and "things are going great!"

The Ingersoll Food for Friends site also had to relocate due to St. James Anglican Church being sold in the spring. The program now runs out of Trinity United Church.

Finally, "our financial situation looks much 'greyer' than it previously looked in recent past years. This is due to both an increase needed for programs, and a decrease in community donations

Continued on page 2



Helping out pets

George Johnstone of Agribrands Purina Canada Inc. stands by a donation of dog and cat food the Woodstock plant recently made to Operation Sharing. The charitable organization, in turn, gives out the food to pet owners of modest means to aid them in caring for their pets. The plant periodically makes such donations to Operation Sharing.

Challenging year for organization

Continued from page 1

in supporting our overall operating budget.

“Having said all that, it’s been a great year of teamwork and mutual support by everyone within our organization,” Giuliano said.

In her president’s report for 2019, Schmiedl also described the year as a challenging time for Operation Sharing.

“This year, I would like to offer my thanks to our

staff, volunteers, board members and all the countless other people involved in the organization for helping weather the storm and dealing with the hurdles the organization faced.

“A special thanks to the churches, businesses, organizations and individuals who continue to support Operation Sharing. The people of Oxford County have been a great support to the organization,” Schmiedl said.

Call 519-539-3361 for information about any of our programs.

Christmas toys

The Woodstock Curling Club held a Christmas drive to collect toys and games for Operation Sharing's 2019 Christmas Day event. Pictured here are Irene Patience (left), drive volunteer, and Marilyn Schmiedl, event coordinator.



Bullwinkle's

WOODSTOCK – Running out of Indwell's Harvey Woods Lofts, takeout lunches are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays (from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) at the Bullwinkle's Eatery and Hospitality Training Centre. People are asked to

donate on a sliding scale, from \$2 (as of March 31) to \$7.

Food for Friends

OXFORD COUNTY - Please remember to continue to generously give your 25 cents each time you shop at supporting grocery stores in Woodstock and Ingersoll year round.

The Inn

OXFORD COUNTY – The Inn homeless shelter, which serves all of Oxford County, is at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church in Woodstock.

It's free of charge for those 16 and up. It operates nightly from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.

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By Ian
Robinson
of the
Writers'
Café



How many words, three letters or more, can you make?



CACOETHES – (16th century) an irresistible urge to do something inadvisable.

Ian's A.P.S.A.L.M.



How many
Disney films
can you name?



NUMBER OF SECONDS
IN AN HOUR
DIVIDED BY
THE NUMBER OF
DEGREES IN A CIRCLE



Samaritan

The community and siblings had chastised the councilman over his lack of philanthropy. They said, beware when dealing with him on business matters and the buying of the house from him. He did not appear this way to me. A handshake gave me first refusal with no inkling of mistrust or doubt.

I had not enough funds to secure the full mortgage, so he did loan me the difference for six months. This I mentioned with applause to my doubting siblings; I speak of him always with affection and kindness from my heart. They were humbled, and I, Reg Graves, thank you, Mr Anthony.

Poem to my Samaritan

*You must not be quick to judge
Do not listen to others grudge*

*You find him as you find him
Nor be swayed by others' view
Or thoughts on their lesion stew
You find him as you find him
Bad chants and voices of dissent
Impeded their own benevolence
You find him as you find him
Honest, forthright and pure
His philanthropic nature, sure.
You find him as you find him
Insights turn, becoming bright now
Doubt quashed and humbled now.
I found him as I found him.*

- Poem by Reginald E. Graves, participant in
the Writers' Café

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