

Delivered by Wendee Cameron, President of the Manna Food Bank at the Manna AGM on December 10, 2012 at Gagnon's Your Independent Grocer in Bracebridge.

As most of you know, this was my first year as President of Manna Food Bank and although I had served as Treasurer for many years, each position has its own characteristics and challenges.....so it has been a year of learning.

I am very grateful for those who serve on the executive and make it the strong organization that it is. In no particular order, I would like to thank .....

Tamsen, who has been instrumental in establishing our website/maintaining the website while attempting to educate those of us not yet so technically accomplished in the world of social media. Her journalistic expertise is very much appreciated and she is always agreeable to “dash” off an article to the local newspapers.

Karen, the Coin Box princess. In 2007 our coin box revenue was \$284, this year we topped \$1380 thanks to Karen’s diligence. Karen is always eager to attend workshops on Manna’s behalf and let’s not forget her ability to “slip into the President’s role” in my absence.

Jim B, my “go-to man.” Jim has spent countless hours revising our by-laws, detailing job descriptions and creating a much-needed recruitment policy. He picks up various tasks when others are on vacation while at the same time fulfilling his role as secretary and stocker of shelves. This is Jim’s last meeting and he will be greatly missed.

George joined the board last November and assumed the role as Treasurer. In his business-like fashion he changed some of our investments to our advantage and has competently kept us on track. He brings a common sense approach to the table.

Sheila, who has decided to move on as well. She has proven to be a very competent, thorough and well organized Volunteer Co-ordinator. Whatever decision or direction has been decided at a board meeting, you can be sure that afternoon or that evening an email will be sent to those involved. Efficiency is her middle name!

The good news is that Martha has agreed to replace Sheila as Volunteer co-ordinator. Martha’s insightful opinion is always valued at our executive meetings and she willingly tackles new projects that come our way.

Jim Hartill.....his job description defies logic! Who knows what he does....but he does it all when it relates to food inventory, ordering, picking up, stocking

shelves or following up with our Lions Club contact. I am pleased to say that Jim has agreed to become the Food Co-ordinator for this year as we transition into divided roles.

Jan, who competently organizes the annual envelope project that realized \$9,900 this year. She also was our solo "sub picker-upper" until that came to an end. However, she has transferred her transportation abilities to YIGs and Metro etc.

Garry is our PROMPT representative and the organizer/liaison with the Muskoka Oldtimers for our annual Food Drive. He has a to-do list and he does it!

Mike, who is ever-agreeable to take on those presentation events or opportunities. As he is heavily involved in the local Probus club, he has resigned from the executive but will continue on his regular volunteer team.

It truly is a "working" Board and it works because everyone pitches in and I thank you all for that!

Of course, we are only a small part of the organization.....we could not provide the service that we do without the commitment of our Tuesday/Friday teams, the weekly stockers and the large number of volunteers that show up on our Food Drive night. Our clients benefit from the overwhelming generosity of your community at large.

The food bank started as a result of numerous requests to our Bracebridge community clergy for "just a few groceries" when it opened its doors in October 1989.....we now service over 600 families per year. It is only with the community's generous donations of money and food and our 80-plus volunteers that we are able to provide for those experiencing economic hardships.

This coming year will have some challenges.....we have seen a 25% increase in food costs, our client numbers have increased and we read about the significant Muskoka increase in Ontario Works numbers. Not only is our mandate to relieve the hunger of low income people in our area but to inform the public about hunger in our community and the ways in which hunger can be alleviated and eradicated in the long term.

I look forward to working with the upcoming executive to meet those challenges with enthusiasm and commitment. We can make a difference!

~Wendee Cameron, President of the Manna Food Bank