



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

December 2022

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray & Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Janet Rivers
Communications & Newsletter Editors: Mary Mussell & Lorna Kingston
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Quaker Ottawa Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Teresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all denominations through joint participation in social projects and prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
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Your Community Fridge and Pantry

By Susan Palmai

Food waste in Canada is an increasing problem. What is food waste? A piece of fruit that is damaged during transport, food items on a grocery store shelf that spoil before they can be sold, food dishes prepared in a commercial kitchen, never served and are instead discarded.

Most major cities have outdoor community fridges and pantries to provide an outlet for food donations from grocery stores, restaurants, coffee shops or any other business or organization willing to contribute. The Parkdale food centre opened an **outdoor** fridge in 2021 and was the only outdoor fridge in the city. Several United Churches in centretown decided that businesses in Ottawa could likely support more than one outdoor fridge and pushed ahead with plans for a second.

On October 6, 2022, Public Foods opened in centretown Ottawa at 415 MacLaren Street. This is a collaborative project among Glebe St. James United Church (GSJ), Ottawa Community Housing (OCH), Centretown Community Health Centre (CCHC), Carleton University Architecture Department and Arlington 5 Café with support from faith groups such as CCSAC.



We hope to compliment the work of Centretown Emergency Food Centre and other groups who work to tackle the enormous concern of food insecurity in downtown Ottawa. We are different from a Food Bank in that we are open 24 hrs/7 days per week. If a community member needs a can of beans, a litre of milk, ½ dozen eggs or an apple, they can drop by Public Foods to see if someone may have left a bag of apples, a granola bar, a package of pasta or something else that might help them get through the day.

So far we have been filling the fridge largely from financial donations received but we hope that eventually Ottawa Public Foods will become self-sustaining with food donations from Centretown residents and businesses. This will take time.

Old Ottawa East Community Garden

The Old Ottawa East Community Garden was established in 2007 on the grounds of Saint Paul University. It is a thriving garden of 55 plots with caring gardeners who tend to their flowers and vegetables during the spring, summer and fall months.

Harvested produce from four garden plots is delivered weekly to the Centretown Emergency Food Centre in addition to individual gardeners who donate extra produce. These faithful volunteers consider it their way of giving back to the community. The result is that visitors to the Food Centre can choose fresh local produce to take home. The Old Ottawa East Community Garden is generosity at its finest and truly a labour of love!



Walkathon 2022 – A Success

A net amount of \$33,400 was raised for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

Some of the Winning Photos from 2022 Walkathon



Spirit of the Walk



Loveliest scene from the Walkathon



Just so lovely!



Cutest photo of a pet taken at the Walkathon



Most artistic photo at the Walkathon



Best decorated poster