

Summer 2017



Newsletter

“Working together to build a stronger,
kinder and more just community”

400 ATTEND SUMMER SIZZLER '17



Close to 400 local residents came along to enjoy the free hotdogs, potato salad, ice cream cones and soft drinks served by our Stonegate Ministry volunteers.

More activities were added this year, with a street theatre group, 'Drime', doing pantomime of biblical parables and a small petting zoo to fascinate the children. As well, there were the usual bouncy castle, face painting, games of chance and skill, and 5 popular mystery draws with valuable prizes to be

won.
(continued on page



IN THIS ISSUE:

Summer Sizzler	page 1
Great Finds –nominated Gems of Etobicoke	page 2
Another “Great Find” Yarn	page 2
Financial Summary	page 3
Canadian Heart & Soul	page 4

Our Director of Ministry Programs, Emily Slotegraaf, is on leave for the summer. Her regular column will resume in the Fall issue.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Stonegate Ministry is an alliance of local Christian churches working in partnership with the community through shared resources, offering programs and opportunities to build healthy relationships, strong families, a sense of belonging and a deeper relationship with God. We endeavour to address the needs of the whole person and families to bridge toward a better life and to be a faithful voice to ensure everyone in the community is treated with justice and Christian compassion.

(continued from page 1)

Our Great Finds store booth enjoyed a very busy time with sales of jewellery, shoes, clothing and accessories.

Bruce Smith and the Christ Church St. James band accompanied by a guitar, clarinet, keyboard & drums strummed great sing-along praise songs. Our welcoming volunteers were community liaison persons, handing out coupons and brochures to every visitor and acting as go-to persons to answer questions, helping those with disabilities and giving helpful directions.

Our Stonegate Ministry prayer team members were on hand on the more private mezzanine patio at the 'Chat and Pray' booth where people could sit comfortably and share confidentially any concerns they may have had. The day was celebrated with lots of fun, food and perfect weather once again! We look forward to seeing you there next year!



GREAT FINDS IS NOMINATED AGAIN FOR GEMS OF ETOBICOKE!

2017 marked the third year that Great Finds was nominated for MPP Peter Milczyn's Gems of Etobicoke. This award recognizes and appreciates outstanding small businesses and service organizations that are unique to South Etobicoke and that make the Community a more vibrant place to live, work and play.



Great Finds opened its doors on December 1st, 2014 and what an honour it was to be nominated three years in a row for Best Community Service. Though Great Finds did not win in its category this year, it was wonderful to be nominated for three years in a row.

Congratulations to all the Staff, Volunteers and Board Members who dedicate their time and efforts to help our Community.

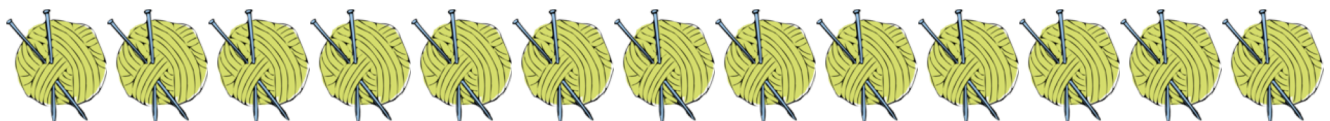
ANOTHER GREAT FINDS "YARN"

In the Spring edition we began a column about our customers' "great finds" at our Great Finds store. Here is a bit of a yarn along the same idea.

A customer came in one day saying it had been recommended that she take up knitting and did we have any wool for sale. Normally we don't have any yarn for sale because one of the volunteers, 94-year old Winn, knits up the wool that we receive into clothes for babies and children. These articles are then available for purchase in the store.

Our would-be knitter looked disappointed when the volunteer at the cash told her that there was no wool for sale, but after a moment, she added "on second thought, I remember seeing a ball of multi-colored wool" and off she went to fetch it.

Our prospective knitter left the store beaming - with her 'great find' and anticipating her new found knitting hobby.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2016 confirmed the growing popularity and need for a source of excellent quality clothing and small housewares in the Lake Shore Mimico area. Sales have increased significantly since we first opened on December 1, 2014, as word spread about the new store that offered great finds and always a warm and welcoming volunteer staff. Jeannie Martinez, our Great Finds Manager, has worked closely with our approximately thirty dedicated volunteers to establish an attractive and friendly place to visit. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of customers and in the frequency of their visits, resulting in sales increases in the range of 30% year over year.

Great Finds is our most visible ministry, serving many families who struggle to make ends meet and to provide for their families. Not as visible are the many relationships and opportunities for our volunteers and staff to offer their assistance or maybe just to demonstrate a genuine concern, a listening ear or an offer to remember them in prayer. We also provide necessities at no cost to those who cannot afford even the minimal prices through our benevolent program.

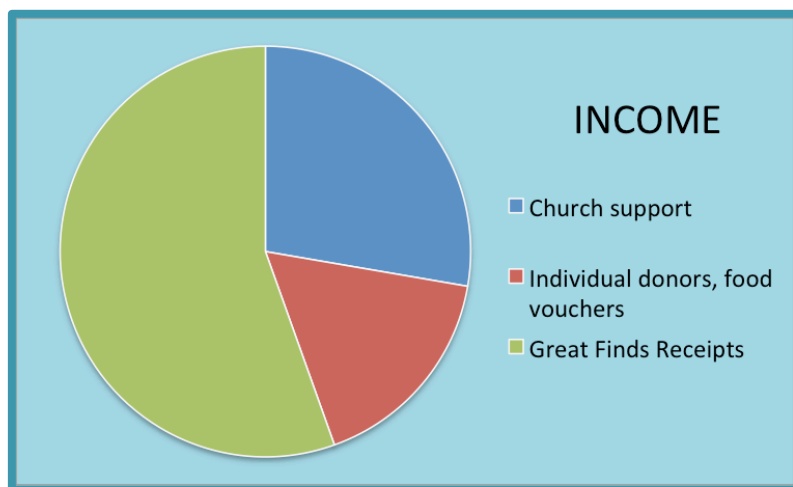
INCOME

Church Support	41,366
Individual donors, food vouchers	25,122
Great Finds Receipts	<u>82,782</u>
TOTAL INCOME	149,270

EXPENSES

Administration	19,732
Great Finds	37,594
Ministry Staff	88,434
Other Outreach	<u>10,658</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	156,419

EXCESS/ (SHORTFALL) (7149)

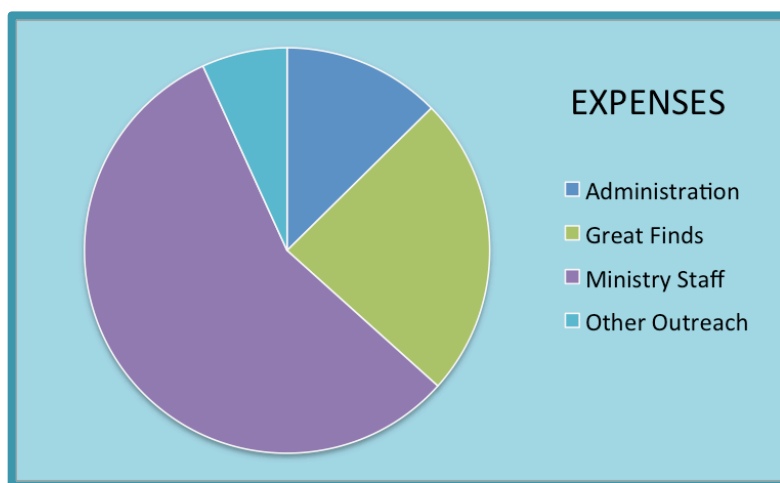


While providing the very necessary practical assistance is the primary thrust of the store, it also provides the major portion of the necessary funding for our dedicated staff and the less visible outreach programs that are run year round by our Ministry Program Director, Emily Slotegraaf.

We also are blessed and so grateful to have very strong and faithful support from our supporting churches and their national or regional offices and a growing number of individuals who have chosen to give

financially. Without this generous support, Stonegate Ministry would be unable to continue.

The summarized financial statement shows the 2016 income and expenses with a small shortfall at yearend of \$7,149. The two pie charts indicate the major categories of our 2016 Income and Expenses.





"CANADIAN HEART AND SOUL" BENEFIT CONCERT

On Sunday, April 9 at Kingsway Lambton United Church, we hosted the "Canadian Heart and Soul" benefit concert featuring four-time Juno Award winner Billy Newton-Davis and the choirs and orchestras of the Kingsway Conservatory of Music.

Almost 300 enjoyed a lively and



fun selection of instrumental and choral numbers highlighted by Billy Newton Davis, and a rousing finale with all orchestras, choirs and Billy. We are grateful to the Kingsway Conservatory of Music for their tremendous assistance in the planning and promotion of the concert and the participation of their choirs and orchestras. We are also very appreciative of Billy's generosity in giving his time and talents in aid of the ministry. Many fans of the Nylons were especially grateful to have the opportunity to hear and see him perform and get the chance to meet him at the reception afterwards.



Many thanks to all who attended, volunteered, and supported us financially. Your interest and support are critical in allowing the Ministry to continue our work in the Stonegate and Lake Shore Mimico communities.



You can find Great Finds & our office at 2358 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Etobicoke, M8V 1C3

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