

WE CONTINUE TO BE OPEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PHARMACY HOURS

MON-FRIDAY: 9-6 SATURDAYS: 9-3 SUNDAYS: CLOSED

We are temporarily reducing our opening hours during the pandemic to reduce the strain on our staff & so we can continue to provide an essential service in helping you stay healthy.



Download the eCare@Pharmasave App Available on the App Store or Google Play, download our convenient App and get started right away.
• Refill a prescription
• Order a new prescription
Available at most Pharmasave locations.



PHARMASAVE

GREEN STREET PHARMASAVE

FALLOWFIELD PHARMASAVE

WHERE THE OWNERS ARE YOUR PHARMACISTS

COMPOUNDING PHARMACY & HOME HEALTH CARE CENTRE

16 GREEN STREET
(613) 825-7700

3500 Fallowfield Road
(613) 823-3500

BARRHAVEN Independent

YEAR 31 • ISSUE 5

FREE

@BarrhavenIndy

FRIDAY • MARCH 5 • 2021



Your community voice for more than 30 years

Barrhaven residents protesting in support of farmers in India



Members of the local Indian community were protesting at Greenbank and Strandherd last weekend to show support for India's farmers. JEFF MORRIS PHOTO

BY JEFF MORRIS

They stand at the corner of Greenbank and Strandherd every Saturday and Sunday afternoon. They wave at the Barrhaven motorists passing by, waving their signs.

The protests are part of a global movement – one of the largest the world has ever seen. It directly affects the families of many of the people demonstrating.

Yet very few, if any, of the Barrhaven people passing by know what the support is for.

Three different laws enacted in September by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government have sparked the demonstrations. The laws would change the landscape of the farming industry in India, allowing farmers to negotiate their own prices as they sell their crops to private businesses and corporations. Previously,

they sold their crops directly to the Indian government at guaranteed minimum prices.

While the government is arguing that the changes will give India's farmers more freedom, the farmers say the new laws will threaten their livelihoods and drive their prices lower. They also say the laws will make them vulnerable to corporate takeovers and exploitation.

Each weekend, members of the local Indian community are protesting in Barrhaven. Weekend protests are also being held in Kanata. There are daily protests in front of the Indian Embassy.

Kenwar Hazrah of Barrhaven, one of the protest organizers, said that the protests are held in Barrhaven and Kanata because of the large Indian communities within those suburbs.

INDIA continues on page 3

OWNED & OPERATED BY
MCDONOUGH'S
YOUR NEIGHBOURS

independent
YOUR INDEPENDENT GROCER

Open Sunday-Saturday 7am-9pm

3777 Strandherd Dr. Nepean 613-843-9413

SAVE TIME. SHOP ONLINE.

www.yourindependentgrocer.ca



INDIA continues from page 2

“What’s going on in India is unfair and unjust,” Hazrah said. “We are protesting to show our support for the farmers in India. The government is giving away public riches to private interests.”

More than 50 per cent of India’s workers work in the agriculture sector. Most are small farmers, sharecroppers or labourers. Most farms in India are small, with less than a hectare of land. According to the National Institute for Transforming India, the average family income of a farming household in 2017 was the equivalent of \$642 CDN per year. Many farmers live hand-to-mouth, with nothing left over to sell.

While the protests began in the state of Punjab, they spread to other Indian states. Hazrah, a double-MBA from Queen’s and Cornell who is a policy expert with the Canadian government, comes from a farming family in India. He said the protests in India have been growing steadily, receiving support from labor unions, transporter unions, bar councils and farmers from other Indian states.

The Punjab farmers used the momentum to take their protest to the capital city of New Delhi. As hundreds of thousands of farmers and their supporters prepared to march toward India’s capital, the government responded with tactics such as digging up the highways and setting up illegal barb wires with blades along

the route. Farmers that got past this were greeted with a baton charge, water cannons, and tear gas.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Conservative Party Leader Erin O’Toole, and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh have had a unified voice supporting the democratic rights of the farmers in India. Last month, Trudeau spoke out in support of the protestors, which drew criticism in India. Canada’s high commissioner was summoned, and Trudeau’s comments were referred to as unacceptable interference and “ill-informed,” and a threat to the bilateral ties between Canada and India. The Indian Foreign Ministry issued a statement that said “issues relating to Indian farmers constitute an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs.”

Trudeau defended his comments, saying that Canada will always defend the right of peaceful protest around the world.

Hazrah said that in the local community, support for repealing the laws is not unanimous.

“You can never have 100 per cent support for any issue,” he said. “There are a number of people in Barrhaven who are strong supporters of Prime Minister Modi and will support him no matter what. The majority of Indians in Canada are supporting the farmers. And the people who are not supporting the farmers are not opposing them.”

He added that while only a small percentage of Indo-Canadians are farmers, the issue hits home for almost everyone.

“Many of us come from farm families,” he said. “Even families that have been here for generations still have families back home. Maybe this issue doesn’t directly affect us in our lives here in Canada, but it has a huge impact on our families in India.”

Hazrah said the protests will continue in India and around the world until the laws are repealed.

“There is no middle ground,” he said. “These bills are biased toward the corporations. I have gone through the bills thoroughly, line by line, and to amend them would take years, not months. These bills with any kind of amendments will not be digestible for the farmers in India. The bills are so flawed that it would be much faster and easier to repeal them and draft new bills.

“It’s in the best interest of the Indian population for the bills to be repealed.”

One of the most frustrating things for Hazrah and the other people protesting is the lack of media coverage both locally and nationally.

“It is quite frustrating,” Hazrah said. “We make up only a small percentage of the population in Canada. The sad story here is that the media only covers things that matter to the majority.”

The weekend protests in Barrhaven are expected to continue into the spring.



Barrhaven’s Indian community has been protesting new laws in India which they say will devastate farmers in that country. Many members of Barrhaven’s Indian community come from farming families.

JEFF MORRIS PHOTO

HARDER continues from page 2

Help During Self Isolation

Do you need help during self-isolation? Call 2-1-1 for information on resources from the Community and Social Services Line.

Do you need a space to self-isolate safely?

The Voluntary Isolation Centre (VIC) is for people who do not have access to an

adequate shelter or cannot self-isolate safely in their own homes. To find out more or to apply please call 613-580-2424 ext. 25890 or email OPHisolationcentre@ottawa.ca.

Here are some resources that might help:

Access to food: goodfood-ottawa.ca

Access to mental wellness support: counsellingconnect.org

Supports for seniors & adults with a disability: communitysupport.covidresponse.ca

Delivery of food & supplies - Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre: 613-591-3686

CRB- Canada Recovery Benefits information & support - Service in English & Arabic: Email hanadi.alashi@ocsc.org or fidaa.osman@ocsc.org

Save up to 40%*

by combining your home and auto insurance.

Call, Click or Come in for a quote today.



Bill McDonald

Financial Advisor

The Co-operators

5560 Manotick Main St | Manotick

613-692-5070

www.cooperators.ca/William-McDonald

the co-operators®
A Better Place For You®

Home Auto Life Investments Group Business Farm Travel