

Another successful food drive held in downtown



Jacqueline Raver (far left) and Julie Ferguson, both from EMC, drop off food items donated by staff for the drive. Sadie Al from Sleepers Bed Gallery, Jackson Peters, Maddie Peters, mom Donna Hastings and Emma Peters accept the donations. (Tammy Schneider photo)

By Tammy Schneider

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For 11 years, Sleepers Bed Gallery has been hosting a food drive to help fill the shelves of the Kincardine Food Bank. And for the last six of those years, the store has reached out

to the community and local businesses to help ‘stuff the Sleepers truck’ by donating non-perishable food items.

Sleepers co-owner Sadie Al said this year the response has been “overwhelming” with businesses, schools and residents all participating. KTTPS, for example, collected 400 boxes

of cereal for the drive. People are acknowledging that many families are having a difficult time making ends meet during the pandemic and want to help.

Al said people were stopping in with cash donations as well, and she estimates that more than \$1,000 has been donated.

Small businesses to receive second support grant

By Tammy Schneider

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Small businesses who were recipients of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant should keep an eye on their bank accounts, as a second payment, equal to the amount of their first payment, will soon be on the way.

The province announced on Mar. 25 that confirmed, eligible recipients of the grant will automatically receive the additional grant, for a minimum total support of \$20,000, up to a maximum of \$40,000. The financial support is being provided to help small business owners keep the doors open and workers employed as part of the 2021 budget, Ontario’s Action Plan: Protecting People’s Health and Our Economy.

Businesses can use the support in whatever way makes the most sense for them, including paying staff wages and maintaining their inventory.

The original grant was launched in January 2021, and was designed to provide direct financial support to eligible small businesses that were required to close or significantly restrict services under the province-wide shut down that came into effect in December 26, 2020. Small businesses who have been determined as eligible recipients of the grant will automatically be entitled to a second payment in an amount equal to the first payment they receive. They will not need to apply again to receive this additional funding.

“Our government recognizes the significant challenges and impacts that COVID-19

has had on the hospitality and tourism industries,” said Huron Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson. “That is why included in the 2021 Provincial Budget, our government has launched the Ontario Hospitality and Tourism Small Business Support Grant, providing eligible hospitality and tourism businesses a one time payment between \$10,000 and \$20,000. By working together we will ensure that Huron - Bruce remains a great place to live, work and enjoy everything this region has to offer.”

Businesses had until Mar. 31 to apply for the grant. A detailed list of criteria businesses must meet in order to be eligible can be found on the application page, <https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/msrf/#/>.

Provincial budget provides for additional funding for seniors homes

Huron Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson announced on Mar. 25 that the province has made money available for additional beds in Huron and Bruce County.

In long term care, MPP Thompson announced the creation 27 new spaces and 69 spaces at Braemar Centre in Wingham. Maitland Manor in Goderich is being allocated 69 new spaces and 91 upgraded spaces.

The announcements were part of Ontario’s \$933 million investment in similar projects province wide, on top of the \$1.75 billion already earmarked for the delivery of 30,000 new spaces over 10 years.

“I have been advocating for additional spaces in the riding for a long time,” said Thompson. “I am proud to make today’s announcement, which truly is an historic one. The number of people in Huron-Bruce who will need long-term care is expected to rise over the next decade and today’s announcement will help ensure we have safe, modern

spaces ready for them.”

The actual funding to each home will be known when the homes are completed. Ontario will be using this additional \$933 million to provide 80 homes, including those in Huron-Bruce, with a construction funding subsidy, operational funding and specialized funding over the life of the home. The Ministry of Long-Term Care will monitor and work closely with the homes receiving allocations to ensure that costs are managed effectively, and Ontario’s investments deliver on the needs of Huron-Bruce.

Thompson also announced that the provincial government is investing more than \$530,000 locally to help the retirement home sector cover COVID-19 related costs such as hiring, training and testing additional staff, and sanitizing residences and purchasing supplies to prevent and contain the spread of infection.

This funding is part of a \$30 million province-wide announce-

ment and is in addition to the \$30.9 million that the province provided retirement homes earlier in the pandemic.

Retirement homes in the immediate area which will receive additional funds include Rosewood RVilla-Senior Living in Ripley (\$29,599), Sepoy Manor in Lucknow (\$21,735), Tiverton Park Manor in Tiverton (\$28,786), Trilium Court in Kincardine (\$31,497), Malcolm Place Retirement Residence in Kincardine (\$26,616) and Nine Mile Villa Inc. in Lucknow (\$20,379).

Ontario has more than 770 licensed retirement homes and many are run by small operators who urgently need the government’s support to deal with rising costs related to fighting COVID-19. Ontario’s retirement homes have been working cooperatively with public health officials across the province to ensure best practices are being followed to prevent and control COVID-19 and to help get residents and staff vaccinated.

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