

## HASTINGS HELPERS HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, December 07 Hastings Legion BR. 106

Meeting began at 7p.m. with a quick welcome from Tonya McColl and Kira Mees.

Kira attended the Community Care Open House held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, on behalf of the Hastings Helpers. She said that she answered many questions regarding the accessible pedestrian walkway and its location. She was able to bring a map of the location of the walkway, which will be installed on the east side of the bridge. It will be safe for the school children to cross to get to and from school each day. It will be maintained throughout the Winter. Parking on both sides of the bridge (located by the Marina on the South side, and behind Bridgewater Coffee Shop on the North side) will have lights and be patrolled at night. The signs announcing the bridge closure to traffic have been placed. There will be detour signs in place in the next couple of weeks. Kira said that her experience at the Open House was very successful and she was able to answer many questions from the public.

The Hastings Helpers questionnaires were all mailed out in early December and 7 have been returned requesting assistance with crossing the bridge to get to mail, grocery, appointments, and social activities. A matching system will be in place; volunteers matched with people needing assistance. Matching is thought to be the best way to address people that will need assistance with the people who require it. Kira and Tonya will be contacting volunteers shortly. Matching would mean that one volunteer has one person that they can focus on to assist if needed, and also, that one person needing assistance has only one person, therefore, one contact number that they need to reach in the event that they need to get across the bridge. Matching also makes it easier for someone to plan their trip according to their needs ie: one drive, once per week to pick up their groceries, mail, etc.

The grocery store will be delivering groceries across the bridge (to the South side). More information will be coming out shortly. Gail Hughes was able to announce that delivery will be made from Todd's Valu Mart for groceries that total over \$50.

Community Care will be providing more driving locally and are already working on their plans for the bridge closure. Any volunteers interested in driving for Community Care are asked to contact them directly, as they are always looking for more drivers in the Hastings area.

The Food Bank will utilize both sides of the bridge during the closure with St. George's Anglican Church being looked at as a possible pick up/drop off location. The Good Food Boxes, which are delivered every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month will have the assistance of a HASTINGS HELPERS volunteer!

Hastings Helpers volunteers also will be assisting students who will be traveling across the pedestrian walkway to get to and from school. The principal will be able to meet those students at the walkway and the HH volunteers will also be there to ensure students safety

while using the walkway. HH volunteers are able to be at the walkway with the students before and after school.

The Hastings Library is hoping to have a carrier system to ensure that books can be delivered and dropped off. They may be utilizing High School students who may need volunteer hours to assist them with this. Hastings Helpers are also able to help with book delivery and drop off.

The next meeting of the Hastings Helpers will be held at the Hastings Legion Br. 106 on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30p.m.