



Backgrounder

Random Act of Kindness in Cambridge and North Dumfries

Cambridge, Ontario. November 05, 2010...The Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Foundation, along with community partners, moments ago kicked off the local campaign for Random Act of Kindness (RAK) at Cambridge City Hall. New this year is the role of official RAK Ambassador which was awarded to 4-year-old Aleisha Hunter who recently volunteered to support the breast cancer walk. Known to be Canada's youngest breast cancer survivor, Aleisha with the support of her mother Melanie Hunter, continues to do random acts of kindness in the community which are symbolic of the special day slated for Friday, November 12th.



The Cambridge Fire Department was on hand to share some acts of kindness with Aleisha. Members of the Firefighters' Benevolent Committee and Crews from Station 5 showed up to surprise the new Ambassador with a fire truck ride complete with the appropriate gear - a Junior Fire Chief outfit. (Captain Rick Hembly - left, and Firefighter Bill Savory. Below - members of the team including the Station 5 crew.)



More information on Random Act of Kinds may be found at:

<http://cambridgefoundation.org/>



(Mayor Doug Craig is seen here with Gayle O'Brien from DAVE FM.)

2010 Sponsors: Graham Mathew, The City of Cambridge and The Cambridge Times.

Partners: YMCA, Lutherwood, Fiddlesticks Community Centre, City of Cambridge, Township of North Dumfries, Waterloo Region District School Board, Chamber of Commerce, Cambridge Times, and the Cambridge & North

Dumfries Community Foundation; and Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation.

Members of the organizing committee: Sue Peterson, Debra Brown, Linda Fegan, Kim Fowler, Chris Sellers and Jane Neath.

Cards and Posters: distributed this year: 40,000

What's Your Story?: Members of the community are encouraged to share their experiences this year by emailing: Jane Neath at foundation@in.on.ca.

Examples of random acts captured from the inaugural year - 2009 - include:

- Students from Lincoln Avenue School raked leaves for neighbours living close to the school
- Pat Singleton, Executive Director, Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank noted, "I am thrilled to share that we have been the recipient of two Random Acts of Kindness. First, we received four absolutely beautiful paintings from Jill Summerhayes. Secondly, we visited Dimplex this morning to see if they would have a fireplace we could buy/borrow for our float in the Santa Claus Parade on Saturday night. When Paula and Rick told us how much they wanted for the fireplace, we were astounded, as it was incredibly affordable.
- Laura and Maggie wrote in to say, "I am thrilled that my daughter, Maggie, came home from Senior Kindergarten and said she pulled everyone in the wagon outside (instead of taking her usual turn) and then she "wowed" me even more when she said she is going to make "kindness day" every day!
- Adriana said "I mentioned to a co-worker that a mother at a drop in program needed snowsuits for her triplets. The next thing I know, my co-worker had gone out and purchased three new snowsuits so that the triplets would not be cold!
- "We heard that the humane society was in dire need of kitten food, so we purchased four bags and dropped them off," noted Judy.
- A City staffer recognized the concern her co-worker had for her dog that was recently hit by a car but on the mend. On Random Act of Kindness

Day, she brought in a marrow bone to treat the family pet noting that “it would take his mind of the injuries so he could be on the mend faster”. Other special deeds at City Hall included buying coffee for a stranger, helping with litter clean ups and even having cookies delivered to staffers.

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The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada’s Technology Triangle. In 2010, the population reached over 130,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca
The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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