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To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Cc: [Wade Mills](#)
Subject: Shepherd's Cupboard council Presentation
Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 1:18:46 PM

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Good afternoon, Jennifer

I have watched the presentation that Ardith Dunlop made to council Monday night on behalf of the Shelburne Foodbank. I agree with the general consensus of council that the need for food banks is growing in Dufferin County and that county wide collaboration would serve the best interests of Dufferin County residents in need. We look forward to participating in further conversations to move in that direction.

I just wanted to clarify some points that Ardith provided to ensure council and the public have accurate information.

When the pandemic hit many agencies reached out to The Orangeville Food Bank including Ardith, to ask how we were going to handle the emergency. Based on the requests and with the support of Dufferin County Emergency Management we developed the Dufferin Food Share. We consulted with all the food providers within the county for several weeks to come up with a plan, a one stop shop, for those in need of food to help limit people's exposure to the virus. At no point did we ask for financial information from the partners. In fact, the opposite was true. We provided monthly information on Dufferin Food Share financials to participants. In the end we did need to know if the Shepherd's Cupboard was going to participate. However, it was after several meetings, phone calls and emails not with 24 hrs notice.

While our philosophy may differ from Shepherd's Cupboard, we only have 4 full time and one part time staff for a total of 5. We own one refrigerated van which we paid for through a Feed Ontario Grant and a sponsorship from Soncin Construction. It became clear that spending money on administration was absolutely necessary if we were to run a service that met the needs of the people. Volunteers are an amazing life force for so many organizations but as Ardith pointed out at the end of her presentation, a need for staff and a more formalized space is essential to sustaining the service.

Our partnership with the Shepherd's Cupboard is loose as was mentioned, although we do send them monthly food share offers, offer reduced cost purchasing on perishable and non-perishable items and answer any requests for information or policy documents they make.

We do collect statistics from the agencies that we share food resources with. The national stats that she quoted through out her presentation are based on the information that we provide to Feed Ontario which flows through to Food Banks Canada. We use these stats in an effort to a better build an understanding of the need for foodbanks across our county and to advocate for better solutions. We do not receive additional funding by reporting our numbers, or by including the numbers of the Dufferin Food Share Partners.

Her assertion that we are a licensed facility is not an accurate representation. We are a member of Feed Ontario and by association Food Banks Canada. Our membership in these organizations provides us with safe food handling guidelines, policy and insurance but also gives us access to large scale donations of perishable products. These services benefit the clients we support and the agencies we serve.

We accept all manner of produce donations with no restrictions. Eggs do need to be from a graded source as well meats. This helps us ensure food safety as many of those we serve are vulnerable to illness.

Dufferin County is known for its strong community partnerships which translates into a more accessible and effective service for the residents of the county. At the Orangeville Food Bank we strive to collaborate with all community partners because we know that together we are better. Thank you for the opportunity to provide some clarification. We are looking forward to collaborating with Shelburne Food Bank and Dufferin County on ways we can together serve

the residents of Dufferin County.

Heather Hayes She/Her
Executive Director

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I will not play at tug o' war. / I'd rather play at hug o' war, / Where everyone hugs instead of tugs. -Shel Silverstein

