

Inn of the Good Shepherd  
 115 John St.  
 Sarnia, ON N7T 2Z1  
 (519) 344-1746  
[www.theinn.sarnia.net](http://www.theinn.sarnia.net)

## What's New – April 2009

### Our Mission ...

To provide service with dignity to those  
 in need of food & shelter.

### **32% increase in Food Bank usage!**

This March, over 2,200 people were served at the Food Bank compared to just over 1,700 last March. That's an increase of 32%!

- 40%, or 900 of those were children
- 25%, of those served have used the food bank for less than a year
- over 42,000 lbs of food are now needed each month
- volunteers are now restocking the shelves twice a day just to meet the need

This **unprecedented** need is directly related to the deteriorating economy.

We are seeing many first time users coming to the food bank.

We are seeing people who have had their hours reduced, or were laid off and have now used up their savings.

*They have nowhere else to turn but the food bank.*

- People, who only a few weeks ago were employed
- People, who only a few months ago were giving to the food bank
- People, who never imagined they would ever use a food bank

The Inn's current food stocks will not last until summer. Please remember those of our community in need. Each time you are out grocery shopping, drop a few items at the collection barrel at your grocery store.

***Every little bit really does make a difference!***

### **PLANT-A-ROW • GROW-A-ROW**

As part of your garden this year, plant and grow an extra row of your favourite veggies and donate the harvest to The Inn.

***Join the 'growing' movement!***



***Help us help all those in need.***

Visit [www.growarow.org](http://www.growarow.org) for gardening tips and ideas to involve the whole family!

### **Would you like to know more about The Inn?**

To arrange for a speaker or a group tour of The Inn, contact Myles Vanni, Executive Director at 519-344-1746 or [myles@theinn.sarnia.net](mailto:myles@theinn.sarnia.net)

### **Our Programs ...**

Food Bank  
 Soup Kitchen  
 Emergency Shelter  
 The Haven Youth  
 Shelter  
 Genesis (free clothing)  
 Rent/Utility Bank

### **Help Wanted!**

If you've got a bit of time and would like to help, consider this opportunity:

#### **Food Bank Guides**

Guides work one morning a week from 9:15 – 11:45, assisting clients in food choices and 'recording' points spent.

### **Help fill the shelves**

Currently, the food bank is in need of:

- canned pasta
- kraft dinner
- hygiene items
- juice boxes
- school lunch items
- baby food
- peanut butter
- coffee/tea
- powdered/canned milk
- sugar
- cereal
- canned vegetables
- dry pasta
- pasta sauce

### **Last month we ...**

- served 2747 meals
- provided food for 2274 people (897 children) in 1017 households
- sheltered 14 youth at The Haven
- provided shelter for 21 people for using motels
- helped 47 households retain their housing and avoid becoming homeless
- helped 15 families find permanent housing
- provided clothing and household items to over 240 people

## Strong Foundations Campaign Update . . .

The Good Shepherd's Lodge will provide both short and long term solutions to Sarnia's growing homelessness problem. In the last year alone, The Inn provided temporary shelter to almost 300 people for almost 3,900 nights. The housing portion of the The Lodge will teach the life skills needed to enable people to maintain their housing and avoid becoming homeless, thereby ending the cycle of homelessness for many.

Many thanks to these major contributors since our last newsletter: The IODE – Sarnia Chapter, IODE – County Chapter, Tuesday Women's Curling League, Living Hope Christian Reformed Church

The Good Shepherd's Lodge is estimated to cost \$2 million to construct, furnish and initiate programs. Fundraising, donations and grants have already reached \$1.2 million!

Building designs are well underway and we hope to go to tender in May to break ground in June. Our commitment is to use local contractors and trades people. Enough funds have been raised to build Phase I – the shelter area and one housing unit. It is our hope to raise the remaining funds to complete Phase II – the remaining housing units, at the same time. If we have to build The Lodge in 2 separate phases, it will add \$200,000 to the construction costs and amount needed to be raised!

### The Good Shepherd's Lodge



Architectural design of the Good Shepherd's Lodge as viewed from Confederation St.

To view complete floor plans visit our website at [www.theinn.sarnia.net](http://www.theinn.sarnia.net)

### The Inn of the Good Shepherd serves . . .

The working poor, the unemployed and the homeless. Thousands come to us each year for a helping hand.



It is only through the generosity of the community that we are able to give that helping hand!

*Help us help those in need!*

Donations can be made in person, by phone, or by mail at 115 John St, Sarnia, ON, N7T 2Z1 or 519-344-1746.

To donate online, visit our website at [www.theinn.sarnia.net](http://www.theinn.sarnia.net) and click on Canadahelps.org under the Donating tab.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### A Night at the Theatre!

BDO & The Lambton Law Association  
Present . . .



April 28 to May 2  
7:30pm nightly @  
The Imperial Theatre

Proceeds to benefit four local charities including The Inn.

Tickets available at the Imperial Box office (519) 344-7469 or on-line at [www.imperialtheatre.net](http://www.imperialtheatre.net)

### Pampered Chefs Delight!

Join us  
Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
at The Inn of the Good Shepherd  
for a Pampered Chef's Party.

View a variety of kitchen products  
and sample what they can do!

Melody Gibson (542-7788) will be  
our consultant

All proceeds to co-hosts:  
The Inn of the Good Shepherd &  
The Canadian Cancer Society



*Charitable Giving*

### Trivia Night

**Think you know  
trivia? Show us  
what you've got.**

Thursday May 28 at The Dante Club. Sponsored by the Certified General Accountants Association, this night will have lots of trivia, fun, prizes and an auction. \$25 entry fee per person. Teams of 6 – put together your own team or we can put you into one! Proceeds will go towards the Good Shepherd's Lodge. Mark the night in your calendar – more details to come!