

Silver lining found in closure

Army & Navy gifts truckloads of food to community kitchen

Malin Jordan
Black Press Media

In one of their final acts, Army & Navy in Langley was still giving back to the community.

The local location of the iconic franchise closed for the pandemic, and the owners announced in May that the 101-year-old business would not reopen again.

Consequently, Army & Navy donated a plethora of goods to the Cloverdale Community Kitchen (CCK) at the end of June.

“(Army & Navy) got in touch with me and said, ‘Come down to the store and grab whatever you want,’” said Matthew Campbell, director for the CCK.

So Campbell took his own army over to the department store.

“We brought about 30 people with us and we loaded up tonnes of food and household items.”

Army & Navy also donated a lot of shelving. The Langley location had



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Matthew Campbell, director of the Cloverdale Community Kitchen, stood amongst a large amount of non-perishable food and household items donated in part from the former Langley Army & Navy.

already shipped most of its higher value items – such as clothes and sporting, camping, and fishing supplies – to the New Westminster store, Campbell said. But, he and crew were still left with a lot of stuff to choose from.

Campbell said the items will help out the community kitchen and the Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank – a relatively new food bank run by the CCK.

The food bank has only

officially been open since March 1, but has been operating since December and serves people in Surrey, White Rock, Delta, as well as Langley.

“This food will help feed low-income families, the elderly, people who’ve lost jobs recently, and (people at) recovery homes.”

The Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank also supports about 100-150 people through partnerships with

recovery houses also in Surrey, White Rock, Delta, and Langley.

Campbell said the gift from Army & Navy couldn’t have come at a better time. “The human need is so great right now. We just can’t keep up.”

“We are trying to find more food and feed more people and help out as much as we can,” he explained. “But I wish the need wasn’t there.”

VITAL

SENIOR AND STUDENT