

# CLOVERDALE Reporter

December 24, 2020

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Christmas Quiz  
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## Merry Christmas!

A man crosses 176th Street in downtown Cloverdale Dec. 21 amidst the first snowfall of the season. Merry Christmas from all of us at the Cloverdale Reporter and best wishes for the holiday season. (Photo: Malin Jordan)

## Ninth annual cat food drive supports Surrey Food Bank

Malin Jordan  
Cloverdale Reporter



James Thompson

Cats At Home Feline Hospital just finished up their ninth annual cat food drive, but this year's drive was nothing like the previous eight.

"Restrictions based on COVID-19 issues forced us to change our strategy," said owner James Thompson.

"This year we asked our clients to choose from a list of foods and gifts we sell rather than having them drop off their purchases."

Thompson said his team mailed out their annual Christmas cards this year and inserted a list that noted donation options for their cat food drive.

"Our clients were very generous again giving over 100 pounds of food for kitties," said Thompson.

"We have always

been well received by the food bank staff as there is a never ending need for cat food," Thompson told the *Cloverdale Reporter* last year. "This is a great opportunity for those people in need to be able to provide a gift to their family members during this Christmas time of giving."

Thompson started the annual cat food drive in 2012 to support the Surrey Food Bank.

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## Christmas outreach at Com. Kitchen

Malin Jordan  
Cloverdale Reporter

Sometimes the smallest things can make a difference in someone's life: a card, a gift, a meal, a telephone call.

That's the insight Courtney van den Boogaard gained when the Cloverdale Community Kitchen

(CCK) launched its outreach to seniors program earlier in December.

"We adopted two low-income seniors' buildings in Cloverdale," said van den Boogaard, director of communications for the CCK.

She said they decided to start an adopt-a-senior Christmas hamper program, in conjunction with the store "The Heart", for the occupants of the

two buildings. The idea being each senior would receive a hamper full of non-perishable food and a personalized gift.

Annie Christiaens, owner of The Heart, made little tags with the seniors' first names and the specific gift each senior wanted and hung the

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# Pandemic forces Community Kitchen to call an audible on annual Christmas dinner

Continued from A1

tags on a Christmas tree in her store. "Customers would choose a tag, then buy and wrap a gift for that senior."

They then brought the gifts back to the The Heart and volunteers from the Kitchen will deliver them with the seniors' Christmas hampers.

## DELIVERY

In the course of her calls to the seniors—to touch base about delivering the hampers and to inquire about what type of gift each senior wanted for Christmas—van den Boogaard found out many relied on the Kitchen's Christmas dinner for not only their only holiday meal, but also their only holiday fellowship.

"A lot of the seniors have been isolated and they haven't had any other contact with people."

That when she had a eureka moment. If the seniors were going to be missing out on Christmas dinner, why not deliver the dinner to them?

The CCK has already decided to convert their sit-down Christmas dinner into a take-out dinner, so it wasn't that much of a stretch for van den Boogaard to add some take-out meals to the delivery items for seniors.

"They were excited just to be able



Volunteers pack Christmas food hampers for needy families and seniors Dec. 14 in the Alice McKay Building. (Photo: Malin Jordan)

to connect on the phone," she said. "And they're very excited that they're going to have dinner delivered to them."

A lot of heartwarming stories arose from the conversations van den Boogaard had with the seniors.

"We were calling to see what they would like for Christmas," she explained. "A lot of the seniors would say, 'Dear, I just want everyone to be happy.' Or they'd say, 'I miss hugs.' That's all they would say they want-

ed for Christmas. So the calls were really emotional."

Other requests were small: a frying pan, socks, some guitar strings.

"Many of the requests touched our hearts. I am really glad we adopted those buildings and that we were able to do the adopt-a-senior program," noted van den Boogaard. "They're really happy they're going to get a Christmas dinner brought to their door. Many don't have the means to make it themselves, or to

cook for one, so this dinner will make a big difference."

## TAKE OUT

Despite COVID-19, the Cloverdale Community Kitchen will again serve their big Christmas dinner to needy families.

"We always do a big, sit-down Christmas dinner here. We serve about 300 people," said Matthew Campbell, director for the Kitchen. "But this year we can't do that, so we're going to package it all and hand it out."

Campbell and crew will host their take-out dinner at the Community Kitchen on Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. (After our press time.)

"Everyone has to pre-register and then they'll be able to pick up a full-on turkey Christmas dinner in take-out containers for their family," said Campbell. "All of our hamper recipients will get that. Our food bank recipients will be able to sign up for that. And we'll be delivering meals directly to the seniors in our outreach program."

Campbell said they'll serve about 500 Christmas dinners this year. That will include drive-thru take-out, in-person take-out for those without vehicles, and the meals for seniors.



Donated cat food is seen at Cats At Home Feli Hospital in Cloverdale. (Photo: Submitted)

# Cat food drive

Continued from A1

"Our inspiration came from our staff meetings where we wanted to expand our contribution to the community," he said. "We (knew) that food banks help families who have cats to enjoy the spirit of Christmas by providing them with food for their kitties." Regarding his re-

vamped 2020 drive, Th wrote on his catsathome.c behalf of the Cats at Home Surrey Food want to than your generous in maintaini nation prog helping thos look after th family mer Christmas."

## PLEASE HELP FARMERS IN INDIA

### TAKING DONATIONS NOW

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Update on farmer protests in India  
In September India passed 3 farm bills which served to deregulate the agricultural sector. These bills which were passed without consulting any farmer organizations are explained below.  
First bill: Eliminates all government subsidies for farmers and the Minimum Support Price (MSP). MSP was guaranteed by the government for a few crops such as grain (rice, wheat, corn etc.). This law will also eventually eliminate the farmers ability to sell their crop to the government at the guaranteed MSP. The removal of the MSP allows large and private corporations to contract with farmers directly. Essentially, this will lead to farmers having to grow and sell crops according to these private corporations. This leaves low income and small farmers vulnerable to extreme exploitation.  
Second bill: If a farmer gets into a dispute with a corporation or private company, they cannot go to the courts. This means 50%-60% of India's entire population will have no legal recourse if a big corporation exploits them. As a citizen of India, you wouldn't be able to go to your own courts. Instead, a government official will act as an arbitrator.  
Third bill: Any person or entity can hoard or store an unlimited quantity of any essential commodity or food product. 90%-95% of farmers no means to build their own storage, but large corporations are open to talks, but the farmer want all three bills repealed they'll even consider talks. Despite India being the world's largest democracy, the Prime Minister has been dictatorial in passing these bills without consultation with key industry stakeholders.  
Farmers have been camping on roads miles on end, on ramps in Delhi, for weeks now. They brought enough food with them to last months and continue to keep protests peaceful. The government has been dictatorial in the hardships they face travelling to Delhi, including brutality. Many of the farmers these protests are of the elderly population who are fighting to keep a sustainable living for their families. Despite being the biggest strike/protest it has made headlines. Let's please stand with our farmers and help raise awareness.

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