

CLOVERDALE Reporter

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Q&A With Surrey Cloverdale MLA Mike Starchuk >Pages 8, 10, 11

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Food bank continues to grow

People in need receive food from the Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank in Cloverdale. The food bank initially went from zero registered families to 300 in a few months, but director Matthew Campbell said that number has now risen to 400 and is still climbing. Because of the demand, Campbell said the FVRFB is increasing the number of days it is open from two days per week to three. (Photo: Malin Jordan)

Malin Jordan
Cloverdale Reporter

The Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank continues to expand.

“Due to demand, we’re now adding a third day of service,” said Matthew Campbell, director for the food bank and the Cloverdale Community Kitchen.

The Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank (FVRFB) initially went from zero registered families to 300 in a few months. Campbell noted that number is now at 400 and climbing.

“The need continues to rise, so now we’ll be open on Tuesdays.”

Campbell said they’ll start their new schedule beginning Feb. 16. With the additional day, the food bank will then be open mornings

(Thursdays from 10 - 11:30 a.m.), afternoons (Tuesdays from 1 - 3 p.m.), and evenings (Mondays from 5 - 7 p.m.).

“The lineups were getting too long on Monday and Thursday,” explained Campbell. “The demand for food was getting so great, that we thought, ‘Why don’t we spread the crowd out a bit?’ So we’re trying to offer everyone a few

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Surrey had 31% of B.C.’s COVID cases in 2020

Lauren Collins
Black Press Media

Surrey had at least 31 per cent of B.C.’s total 51,300 COVID-19 cases in 2020.

Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, there were 16,109 confirmed cases in Surrey, based on the latest data released by the BC Centre for Disease Control on Thursday (Jan. 7).

In December, there were 5,630 new cases, which was a slight decrease from the 6,486 cases in November.

Through to the end of November, there were 10,479 cases reported in Surrey.

As for rate of COVID-19 cases, Surrey is seeing 1,200-plus cases per 100,000 people.

The BCCDC data separates South Sur-

rey/White Rock from the rest of Surrey. By Dec. 31, there were 1,131 cases in that region.

However, that latest data doesn’t include the number of new cases in Surrey since the start of the new year. B.C.-wide, there have been at least 5,500 cases since Jan. 1, 2021.

Meantime, following the first week back at school from the winter break, there were COVID-19 exposure notices sent out to 25 schools by Tuesday, Jan. 12. Twenty-four of those are in the Surrey school district, with one independent school.

Then last week, provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and

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Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank will be open three days a week beginning Feb. 16

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options.” Part of those options include expanding their operating time on Mondays. The FVRFB is currently only open until 6:30 p.m. that day, but Campbell said when they expand to Tuesdays in mid-February, they’ll also begin to stay open on Mondays until 7 p.m.

“We’re finding that we’re supporting a lot of the working poor; those who have jobs, but still can’t make ends meet. Not many food banks are open in the evenings and many of the working poor can’t get here during the day time,” Campbell explained.

He said representatives from other food banks have told him that by adding more days and expanding service times Campbell will see an increase in the number of people using the food bank.

“We’re going to have to source more food,” noted-



The Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank recently added a massive tented area stretched up and between two shipping canisters in order to continue to serve people outside during the winter. The need for the food bank continues to increase, says director Matthew Campbell. (Photo: Malin Jordan)

Campbell. “We’ll have to keep an eye on what happens. We’ve been doing pretty well at sourcing food—and the community

has been such a great support, we can’t thank them enough—but we’re going to have to keep looking for more donations.”

Campbell said they are starting to get more and more calls from companies with fresh food to share. And though he’s confi-

dent the trend will continue, he knows they’ll need to reach out for donations even more.

Campbell added with the increase in days and hours also comes an increase in the need for helpers to fill those days and hours.

“We are looking for more volunteers. We need volunteers for Tuesday mornings to help sort food and we need volunteers for Tuesday afternoons to help give out food.”

Campbell said if anyone wants to volunteer with the FVRFB, they can call 778-617-3000, or email info@mycck.ca.

If anyone is in need of the food bank’s services, Campbell said people can sign up at the food bank during opening hours. “Please bring photo ID, proof of address, and proof of income, if you wish to register.”

The Fraser Valley Regional Food Bank is located at 5337 180 Street.

25 Surrey school send exposures notices out 1st w

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Health Minister Adrian Dix announced the BCCDC would begin releasing weekly updates on COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care, assisted living and independent living facilities.

Dix said the weekly reports will detail each of the current outbreaks in care homes every Thursday, including the number of infected staff and residents, as well as deaths per care facility.

By Jan. 12, there were active COVID-19 outbreaks at 16 facilities in Surrey, White Rock and Delta.

Since Saturday, Fraser Health has announced outbreaks at two long-term care facilities in Surrey, Suncrest Village and Guildford Seniors Vil-



Dr. Bonnie

lage, and one Kin Village.

At Suncrest one resident staff member tested positive for COVID-19. Members at C Seniors Villa contracted the virus.

At Kin Village staff member tested positive for health authority. It is not confirmed the outbreak started Jan. 3 at the living facility.

— With file photo by Tom Fletcher

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