



THE GATHERING PLACE
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a hot meal in a warm environment to those in need while building a healthier community.



VISION & VALUES

To provide excellent service in a compassionate, inclusive and safe environment while leading our community in food security initiatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR



As we sat down to gather the information we needed to write this message for the Annual Report, we realized that the Gathering Place is somewhat like an iceberg in that the top 10 percent is what can be seen above the surface; the line-ups of neighbours at our door, the volunteers coming and going, the donated and rescued food being delivered and processed and the thousands of meals that we serve each year. The remaining 90 percent is not so visible, and that is why we have chosen a graphic presentation of our year in review to help us visualize the invisible.

People understand that we provide meals for those in need. However most people don't understand how we make that happen and who our neighbours in need are. We call our clientele neighbours in need because that is who they are: individuals who are experiencing temporary hard times, hardworking people who cannot pay the rent and buy food, lonely seniors who struggle alone on fixed incomes, adults who live with mental health and addiction issues, a wide range of individuals who have chronic and serious health issues, and youth, often escaping from abusive homes.

As we move forward into an exciting new era for the Gathering Place and North Bay, we believe you will find the following information useful, informative and maybe even transformative.

While everything changes, everything remains the same, and our mission is, was and will always be
To provide a hot meal in a warm environment to those in need while building a healthier community.

Jill Clark & Jim Liddell

THE GATHERING PLACE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

YEAR IN REVIEW (JULY 2014 - JUNE 15)



Great growing season - over 600lbs of produce grown at the Gathering Place Garden



Became recognized as a Good Food Organization



In partnership with NBACGC - launched Grow a Row

Launched pilot Community Kitchen program in partnership with the Health Unit

Jul, 2014

Aug, 2014

Sept, 2014

Oct, 2014

Nov, 2014

Dec, 2014

Jan, 2015

Feb, 2015

Mar, 2015

Apr, 2015

May, 2015

Jun, 2015



Partnership with Farmer's Market vendors - over 2,000lbs of produce donated throughout summer season

Launched breakfast program Monday to Thursday



Another successful year for Coldest Night of the Year



Struck an Emergency Food Provider Coalition

DROP-IN MEALS

*Children = 0-15 y/o

*Youth = 16-25 y/o

Lunches Served

Children	718
Youth	2,199
Seniors	1,949
Adults	22,412
Total	27,168



Breakfasts Served

Children	127
Youth	430
Seniors	345
Adults	3,536
Total	4,438

LUNCH

The Gathering Place was founded in September 2003 to provide meals to those in need. Since then, The Gathering Place has served over 280,000 lunches. Five days a week, 52 weeks a year, hungry citizens of North Bay are served a warm, delicious and nutritious lunch prepared by our wonderful staff and volunteers.

Between July 2014 and June 2015, The Gathering Place served 27,168 lunches.



BREAKFAST



Our breakfast program was launched in October 2014 as a pilot with breakfast service just two days a week. Due to increased need, in November, The Gathering Place upgraded its breakfast service to 4 days a week and has served an average of 125 breakfasts per week since then.

Between October 2014 and June 2015, over 4,400 breakfasts were served to hungry drop-in participants.



THE GATHERING PLACE GARDEN



In 2011, The Gathering Place took a step towards becoming more sustainable. With the help of the City of North Bay and a Trillium grant, a previous quarter-acre brown-space in the City was transformed into a beautiful, food-producing garden. Over the past two years, our Garden Director, summer students, and numerous volunteers have worked tirelessly to increase its yield. The summer of 2014 saw over 630 lbs of produce harvested from the garden, almost double the harvest of 2013. Based on the number of plants planted this Spring, the 2015 harvest will surely be another record-breaking year!

Beyond food production, our garden also serves as an educational hot-spot. Numerous groups are hosted at the garden each summer to learn about a variety of topics including starting seeds, planting seedlings, caring for the plants, composting, harvesting, etc. This knowledge exchange is just one of the ways we are helping to build a more connected, food-secure community.

Pounds of Produce Grown	634.34
Number of Volunteers	58
Number of Volunteer Groups	7
Total Volunteer Hours	335.5





COMMUNITY KITCHENS



In collaboration with the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, the Gathering Place launched a Community Kitchen pilot project between November 2014 and January 2015. Five participants joined to learn how to make inexpensive, nutritious and delicious meals, all while improving their cooking skills.

Over the three 2-hour cooking classes, participants learned about food handling and storage, proper cooking techniques, substitutions in recipes, meal planning and budgeting. After the three sessions, all participants said they felt more comfortable preparing meals for their families. Many reported increased self-confidence in cooking skills, increased understanding of safe food handling and storage practice, and increased knowledge on how to integrate more fruits and vegetables into their meals.

"I didn't know how to cook much before coming here, and we used to eat a lot of premade or frozen meals from the store. Now I can cook a bunch of different healthy meals for my family from scratch. It makes me happy that we're eating better, plus it's cheaper!"

—PARTICIPANT



FOOD RESCUE

In October 2014, The Gathering Place's Food Rescue program was launched.

The Gathering Place contacted grocery retailers, producers, food distributors, restaurants, hotels, event planners and local businesses to discuss how we could prevent good food from going to waste. Many forward-thinking organizations made a commitment to donate their excess, fresh food to The Gathering Place instead of throwing it in the garbage.

The food we rescue and use in our drop-in meal programs is primarily perishable fruits and vegetables, meat, cheese, milk, and bread products. Everything we rescue is perfectly good food that has been donated because it is close to expiry and likely won't sell, overstock, mislabeled, discontinued, discounted or has damaged packaging.

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, over 4,000 lbs of good food was rescued.



VOLUNTEERS

"The staff and
volunteers are great,
they do a whole lot
more than feed people"

—PARTICIPANT



"The Gathering Place volunteers are the best in town!"

The Gathering Place has an active roster of about 220 volunteers that volunteer daily, weekly, monthly, or once a year. With approximately 10 volunteers working our breakfast and lunch drop-ins each day, our volunteers rack up a total of 11,388 hours each and every year! And that's just for our Drop-In Meal Program! Add in our newly launched Garden, Community Kitchens, and Food Rescue programs and we are sure to be over 15,000 volunteer hours next year.

Thank you to each and every one of our volunteers who opted to share their precious time with us, fighting to alleviate hunger in our community.



CANADORE COLLEGE REP 21 - AS YOU LIKE IT

Canadore College presented their Rep 21 offering for 2014 at the Capitol Centre.

Directed by Rod Carley, Shakespeare's "As You Like It" was presented "in the round", with the audience on stage with the actors.

Canadore College asked for donations for the Gathering Place in lieu of purchase of tickets. John Lechlitner of Cecil's Beer Society and Eatery also offered incentives to theatre goers before the show, donating the funds raised to the Gathering Place as well. The Gathering Place received \$2,100 from this initiative.



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR



On February 21st, 2015, hundreds of North Bay residents bundled up and raised over \$70,000 for the 2nd Annual Coldest Night of the Year event. With over 400 walkers and over 50 volunteers, it was a wonderful night filled with friendship, dancing, and warm hearts.

The Coldest Night of the Year event helps participants understand the experience of living below the poverty line during a cold Canadian winter. The funds raised aid the work of The Gathering Place in providing much-needed support to our neighbours in need. Coldest Night walks take place on the same night in 80 cities from coast to coast.

A big thank you to community sponsors including Rebuilt Resources, The Moose 106.3FM, Cecil's Eatery and Beer Society, The ATM Man, See More Graphics and Cogeco Business Solutions.



CARSTAR SOAPS IT UP



Once again, we were the local charity supported by the Carstar Soaps It Up fundraiser, hosted at Stockfish Carstar Collision Centre, on Friday, June 5, 2015.

An annual nationwide event hosted by Carstar franchises, Soaps It Up supports Cystic Fibrosis Canada and a local charity. This year it poured with rain for the first 4 hours of the event, reducing the number of funds raised in previous years.

However, staff and volunteers of Stockfish Carstar Collision Centre washed 175 cars, served over 300 hamburgers, 400 hot dogs, and had a great time in spite of the nasty weather.

The Gathering Place received \$2,307.96 as a result of their hard work.

CALLANDER BAY DENTAL

Callander Bay Dental followed up on their yearlong volunteer support at the Gathering Place by running their annual fundraiser, Smiles for Life, as a benefit for our programming that supports children.

Clients were offered customized teeth whitening kits for a donation of \$200.00. The kits and the services of the dental hygienists and clinic were donated, therefore the entire \$200 fee benefited the Gathering Place.

We are delighted to be the recipients of \$12,000!



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Gathering Place which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2015 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involved performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also included evaluation the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence that we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

BASIS FOR QUALIFIED OPINION

In common with many no-for-profit organizations, the organization derives revenue from donations and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to ensuring that the amounts recorded in the records of the organization were deposited to the bank and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, current assets and net assets.

QUALIFIED OPINION

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Gathering Place as at June 30, 2015, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Kendall, Sinclair, Cowper, Daigle
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30th, 2015

Assets	2015	2014
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 132,206	\$ 202,472
Term Deposits	47,086	46,250
Accounts Receivable	7,293	6,192
Prepaid Expenses	8,905	1,302
	195,490	256,216
Capital Assets	132,459	142,666
	327,949	398,882

Liabilities	2015	2014
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$ 3,600	\$ 7,400
Deferred Revenue	4,125	
	7,725	7,400
Deferred Capital Contributions	53,275	59,523
	61,000	66,923
Net Assets	266,949	331,959
	327,949	398,882

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

As of June 30th, 2015

Revenue	2015	2014
Donations – Regular Requests	\$ 232,777	\$ 236,311
		46,481
Trillium Grant		7,087
Wage Subsidies	4,093	4,315
Other	4,934	4,667
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	6,248	6,248
	248,052	305,109

Expenses	2015	2014
Wages and Benefits	\$ 184,682	\$ 150,458
Food and Supplies	26,572	22,760
Utilities, Equipment, and Maintenance	24,874	17,334
Office	23,958	20,543
Professional Fees ¹	31,180	17,355
Property Tax and Insurance	8,993	8,409
Amortization	12,803	12,024
	313,062	248,883
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	(65,010)	56,226

STAFF



Jill Clark

Michelle Langlois-Lebel

Candice Benson

Chaylene Grieve-Saunders

James Berti

Kerri Sawyer

Lydia Follis



Executive Director

Kitchen Manager

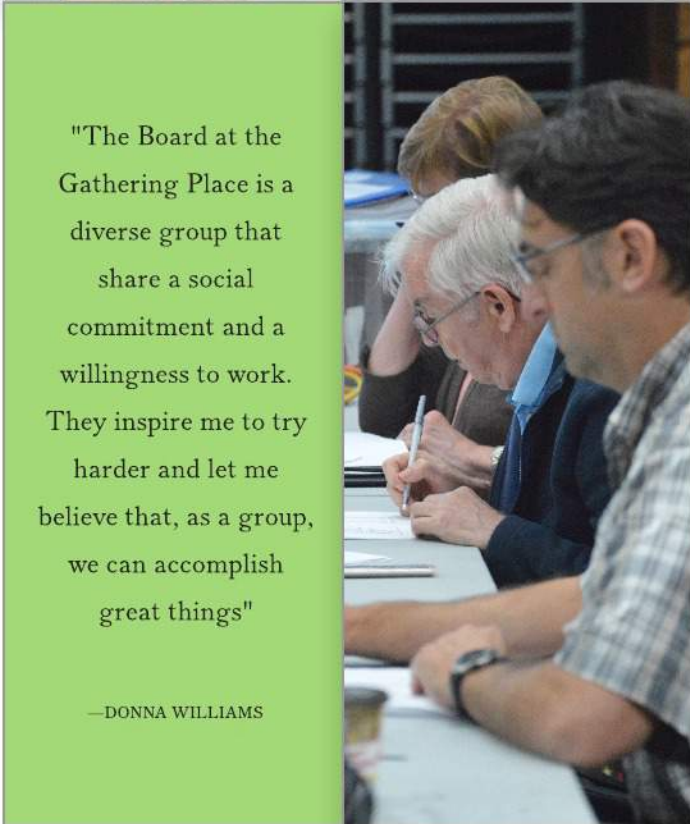
Community Programs Manager

Garden Director

Marketing Intern

Garden Activities Coordinator

Garden Activities Coordinator



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jim Liddell

Chair

Chuck Poltz

Vice-Chair & Treasurer

Judy Szumik

Secretary

Jim Klein

Past Chair

Brenda Aitchison

Member

Carol Bridges

Member

Sylvain Côté

Member

Jane Howe

Member

Daniel Johnson

Member

John Salovaara

Member

Ursula Stange

Member

Donna Williams

Member

"The Board at the Gathering Place is a diverse group that share a social commitment and a willingness to work. They inspire me to try harder and let me believe that, as a group, we can accomplish great things"

—DONNA WILLIAMS

HOW TO SUPPORT THE GATHERING PLACE

For donation options, please visit:



www.thegatheringplacenorthbay.ca/donations.htm



www.facebook.com/thegatheringplacenorthbay



www.twitter.com/TGPNorthBay

THANK YOU:

106.3 MooseFM	Clark Marketing Communications	Knight Piesold Consulting	North Bay Mat Rental	Royal LePage North Bay
AB&D Plumbing	Cogeco Business Solutions	Knights of Columbus Council 1007	North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority	Saint Joseph – Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School
Assante Wealth Management	Colvin & Colvin Professional Corporation	Knox Insurance Brokers Ltd.	North Bay Nipissing Rotary Club	Schlosser Farm
Bartlett's Towing Inc	East Side Mario's	KPMG	North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit	See More Graphics
Bavarian Meat Products	Ecole elementaire publique Heritage	Lambda Master Chapter	North Bay Real Estate Board	Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie
Bell Canada Foundation	Ecole Secondaire Catholique Algonquin	Leisure Farms	North Bay Regional Health Centre	SPI Health & Safety
Bishop Alexander Carter Foundation	Erb Transport Ltd.	Living Fit	North Facing Folk	SRP Building Products Inc.
Bluebird Acres	ERO-RTO District #44	Lucenti, Orlando & Ellies Professional Corporation	Northway Dry Cleaners	St. Brice's ACW
C.E. Computers	Ferris Lions Club	M&Ms Meat Shops	OneLife Wealth Management	St. Vincent de Paul
Caisse Populaire North Bay Ltee	Field Good Farms	Mitchell Architects Inc.	ONR	Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Callander Bay Dental Centre	First Baptist Church	Nipissing Area Council	OPSEU Local 608	Stenning & Associates Financial Services Inc.
Calvary Pentecostal Temple	Freshco	Nipissing Orthopaedic Laboratory Inc.	OPSEU Local 635	The ATM Man
Calvin Presbyterian Church	Gateway Home Hardware	Nipissing University Administration	Orchard's Fresh Food Market	The Studio North Bay
Canadian Diamond Drilling Association	Giant Tiger	Nipissing University Resident Council	PADDLE	Tiny Italy
Canadian Federation of University Women	Grant Thornton	Nipissing University Student Union	People for Equal Partnership in Mental Health	Trinity United Church
Canadian Legends Eatery	Hampton Inn by Hilton North Bay	No Frills Jeff & Tanis	Pinehill Restaurant	TVCogeco
Canadore College Culinary Arts Program	Holy Name of Jesus Church	No Frills Mike & Lori	Pro-Cathedral Catholic Women's League	United States Air Force
Canadore College Theatre Arts Program	IODE Dr. Herbert A. Bruce	North Bay Bridge Club	R.C. Services	Vaughan Paper Products
Casey's Grill Bar	J.S. Redpath Ltd.	North Bay Computer Services	Rapport Credit Union	VGL Group Ltd.
Cecil's Brewhouse & Kitchen	Kelsey's	North Bay Food Bank	RBC Foundation	W.J. Fricker Public School
Chez Jean-Marc	Kendall, Sinclair, Cowper & Daigle LLP	North Bay Golden Age Club	Rebuilt Resources Inc.	Wagg's Petroleum Equipment
Chippewa Secondary School	Kervin Associates Inc.	North Bay Ladies Granite Club	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Wallbridge & Wallbridge
Christ Church	Keystone Travel	North Bay Lions Club	Remax North Bay	West Ferris S.S. Academic
City of North Bay			Royal Canadian Legion Br. 599	Widdifield Secondary School
				X-Height Graphics



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