

Lions kick into high gear for holiday crunch



This month, Aurora High School students Fiona, Daniela, and Katie coordinated with the Lions Club an end-of-semester barbeque for their school. It featured the debut of the Lions' new mobile kitchen, which will take pride of place in a pancake cookout at Sheppard's Bush in 2015. Auroran photo by David Falconer

By Brock Weir

For a service club which celebrated its 70th anniversary in Aurora this fall, Aurora's Lions Club shows no signs of slowing down.

As Christmas rapidly approaches, the Lions are now entering their busiest time of year, working in conjunction with the Salvation Army collecting food, clothes, toys, and other items to help make the season merry for many local families in need.

'We are still collecting food, we are still collecting gifts, but monetary donations are the easiest thing because then we can decide what we need and put it forward,' says Lion Jim Bondy.

Last year, the Lions Christmas Drive assisted 204 families in Aurora alone, but they estimate the number will close in around 220 in 2014.

'For years, the Aurora Lions had their own program where we supplied the food, the gifts, the gift cards all ourselves,' he says.

'Now we only have about 18 members and probably half of them aren't around at Christmas, as they go south. We realised we couldn't do this whole thing alone, so that is why we partnered with the Salvation Army to get this done. Aurora is quite an affluent society, but once you get underneath that, there are a lot of people who really need help.'

One group that especially needs your help, are teens who often get the short end of the stick as far as donations are concerned. While there are rarely any shortages of gifts for kids under the age of 10, the big question remains each year: what do you give a teenager?

'We have been buying movie passes, and that goes over well,' says Mr. Bondy.

For more information on how you can contribute to the Lions Campaign, call the club at 905-727-6079.