

# Our Thanks for your Support in the Port!



## First Annual Halloween Food Drive a Success...



*Carts ready to roll as the rain starts*



*Teams start out to collect!*



*Registration time, 75 volunteers!*

### Our Thanks to Everyone

The [Newcastle Halloween Food Drive](#) team from [Specialty Wealth & Financial](#) wanted to let you know how grateful we are to everyone who helped out in the last few months to bring in an absolutely overwhelming amount of food donations on October 31st, in the Port of Newcastle.

Despite Mother Nature's best efforts to soak us all, we had 75 volunteers out to the event in the Port of Newcastle, and countless others in the background to make it a success.

Working together, we were able to collect 150+ bags of food for the Clarington East Food Bank. Imagine what 20 overflowing grocery carts full would look like, and that is what the residents of the Port of Newcastle handed out to our student and adult volunteers.

We must thank our co-sponsor, Frank Palmieri of No Frills Newcastle, for donating the shopping carts and bags. This certainly made our task much easier on the long routes that volunteers took on.

Local High Schools, including Clarke, Bowmanville High, Clarington Central Secondary, and St. Stephen's got on board and recruited our student volunteers. Local community members, parents and friends came out to lead our teams and keep everyone safe. Newcastle Stars Hockey Association helped to recruit local hockey players from our Specialty Wealth team, and Tim Hortons donated the hot chocolate to warm everybody up. John Hoekstra quickly created signs for us, so local residents were aware of the event in advance.

[Clarington This Week](#) was able to spread the word by providing a front page article, preparing the residents ahead of time, so they were ready to donate when the volunteers got to the door. Peterborough's Magic 96.7 sent down their event cruiser to lift our spirits and keep everyone up and ready to roll.

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*Mario and Luigi help out!*



*Newcastle Stars Hockey helps out!*



*Filling shelves at the food bank*

[Clarington East Food Bank](#)'s Coordinator, Karen Briden, made sure we had all the information and volunteers needed, helping us plan well in advance. Our thanks to Karen and Elsa for coming out on Halloween night and opening up the food bank to receive the donations.

The Municipality of Clarington, Clarington Tourism, and the Clarington Board of Trade all helped to share the event online, and we were very pleased to have councillor Willie Woo come out and join us to collect donations as part of a team.

To the students who came out in the pouring rain, and gave up their Halloween to help others, great job! Positive attitudes and happy faces made the whole thing a pleasure to organize.

We have met some sincerely kind individuals while we put the Halloween Food Drive together. Over the past year, we have seen people share their time, and resources to make the event a success. We are already planning for next year, and how we could do a better job of helping the Clarington East Food Bank.

We will be looking for volunteers and leaders again for 2014, so if you would like to be added to the contact list, please [email the office](#). We hope your experience was as rewarding as ours was!



*From Little acorns, mighty oaks grow...*

*Victoria, Ron Joyce and Melissa  
Specialty Wealth & Financial*

