

NEWS FROM THE GLEANERS

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Dear supporters, friends, and community members,

We wanted to send you an update to let you know how the plans for a Gleaners project in Ontario are progressing.

Regarding our building site and construction, we are continuing to move forward as best we can during this winter weather. We have been making some progress. The building plans have been completed and we're looking forward to seeing them come to fruition. In addition, because the water table in the area is quite high, it will be necessary to raise the grade somewhat to install a septic bed. To facilitate this, the topsoil has been stripped from the site and fill is being trucked in over the course of the winter. Our concerns for the immediate future include the acceptance of our building plans by the local municipality. We ask you to pray that those who oversee our plans will understand the nature of our work, help us to create a safe working environment, and grant us the necessary building permits.

On the fundraising front, we estimate we will need to raise approximately \$350,000 to complete the building and make it ready for the drying and processing of excess produce. We are extremely grateful to our supporters that they have already, with little prompting on our part, contributed over 20% of the necessary funds. We hope that the people we meet at the Hamilton Soupfest on January 30th and at Mission Fest in Toronto on March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will also support us through their prayers and financial contributions.

On that note, please mark Saturday, April 28, on your calendars. It is on that evening that we are planning a fundraising dinner at Dundas Calvin Christian School in Dundas, Ontario. Please check our web site for more details. We may also contact you to ask you to consider hosting a table to introduce the work of the Gleaners to your friends and family.

We are also grateful for the support of the Mennonite Central Committee. They have offered to send our brochures to over 200 churches in Ontario. The support of the Mennonite community has been crucial to the ongoing work of the Gleaners in British Columbia. We are very appreciative that they are offering their help here in Ontario as well.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future. If you are unable to drop by our booths either at Soup Fest or Mission Fest, or are unable attend the fundraising dinner, then please contact us. We are willing to come by your church or Bible study to make a presentation about the work of the Gleaners.

On behalf of the Board,

Peter Scholtens and Hobbe Smit

