

Stories provided by the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association

December 2010
This season ... think local

We are coming up to the most important time of the year for your friends and neighbours. Besides holidays and important religious events, such as Christmas or Hanukkah, this season is important to retailers. In these challenging economic times, this shopping season may be a make-or-break time for local shops and restaurants.

And this is why it is very encouraging to see that, In spite of the recent downturn, there are entrepreneurs and national companies choosing to open a business in our community.

As a growing and diverse community, Surrey will continue to welcome more businesses - whether it is a specialty gift store, an ethnic restaurant or services that meet the needs of other businesses. The more successful businesses we have in Surrey, the stronger our economic and tax base will be.

And who do those new businesses hire? Your family, friends and neighbours.

Having jobs close to home is one key to Surrey's Sustainability Charter. Life in the 21st century can be stressful. So, would you want to spend your time stuck in grid-lock or send more of you valuable time with family and friends, or pursuing things of interest to you? Most people prefer to work close to home. And most people acknowledge that reducing the miles we drive to work is better for the environment.

But businesses can only survive if they are supported by the community. So, when you are shopping for gifts, think about shopping close to home. Support our local economy.

At this time of year, also consider supporting the community organizations that provide needed services in our city. No one likes to think of families going to bed hungry, or children waking up on Christmas morning without a gift to open.

When the economy is poor, the need for services increases. At the same time, long-time donors often find that they are not able to support charitable organizations at the same level as previous years.

Your support for the Surrey Food Bank and the Surrey Christmas Bureau, be it large, medium or modest, is even more important this year and will be very much appreciated. For information on how to donate to the Surrey Food Bank, visit their website at www.surreyfoodbank.org or call 604.581.5443 . To Adopt-A-Family this Christmas, or to donate to the Surrey Christmas Bureau www.christmasbureau.com or call 604.581.9623.

Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association
 604.580.2321 www.downtownsurreybia.com

NIGHTSHIFT CARE BUS: TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS

Written by Sylvia Taylor

After a year of double-time preparation and incredible community generosity, Nightshift Street Ministries is ready to make its dream of mobile counseling outreach a reality. They will celebrate seven years of bringing support and insight to North Surrey residents who are homeless with the launch of their Care Bus.

Nightshift's Care Project already offers in-house counseling and referral services at their Care Centre, located on King George Boulevard at 106th Avenue. Now they can add outreach support through their fully retrofitted RV bus.

"We knew we had to do more than serve soup and hand out personal care kits," says MaryAnne

Connor, Founder/President of Nightshift Street Ministries, "We needed to help people realize some of the deep-rooted reasons they were on the street. The plan from our beginning was to offer some kind of counseling. The best way to do it was to take the counseling to the streets since many people were



uncomfortable about going into a building."

The Care Centre and Care Bus offer the services of trained licensed counselors and laypeople. Both facilities have a library and resource/referral area. Seating for twenty in the mobile unit allows for group counseling and twelve-step programs as part of the Stage I launch. Stage II includes plans for basic medical and dental care in the next year in cooperation with appropriate licensing authorities and healthcare professionals. Stage III envisions a spectrum of legal services.

The RV was donated by corporate sponsor, Novapak, and completely retrofitted with full wrap signage through the support of Diamond Delivery trucking.

"For us to step into the dream we've held in our hearts since day one is a little overwhelming and the excitement in the office is over the top" says Connor. "It's a gift not only to Nightshift and our vision, but to those who need and deserve counseling."

Happy Holidays

Wishing you and your family peace and joy this holiday season. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

DONA CADMAN, M.P.
SURREY NORTH

307-9808 King George Blvd.
 Surrey, BC V3T 2V6

Tel: 604-586-2441
 Email: Cadmad1A@parl.gc.ca
www.donacadman.ca

Santa's Hours
 Christmas Wishes & Memories to Treasure

Nov 28 – Dec 16
 Monday – Saturday Noon – 2 pm & 3 – 6 pm
 Sunday 11 am – 1 pm & 2 – 5 pm

Dec 17 – Dec 23
 Monday – Saturday Noon – 2 pm, 3 – 5 pm & 6 – 8 pm
 Sunday 11 am – 1 pm & 2 – 5 pm

Dec 24 11 am – 1 pm & 2 – 4 pm

Extended Shopping Hours start November 29, 2010
 Monday – Saturday 10 am – 9 pm, Sundays 10 am – 6 pm, Dec. 24th 10 am – 5 pm,
 Boxing Day 8 am – 5 pm, Dec. 31st 10 am – 5 pm. Closed Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st.

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