

ROGER WESSON CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Started as a private initiative by Roger Weseen in the late 90's, a group of Monday morning winter golfers that included many Club members would put a box in the pro-shop and collect food. They would have a Christmas lunch and each donate money. The food and gifts purchased with the money would be distributed to one or two under privileged families at Christmas.

Roger passed away in 2005 and it was taken over by Graham Boyle and Dick Baker for a few years. When Graham took it over we started the annual breakfast with about 50 attending. We got four family referrals from the Salvation Army and interviewed them to find out their needs. Each also received a pre-cooked Christmas dinner for eight that included a turkey.

More and more members began to attend the breakfast and we then got 5 additional family referrals from the Salvation Army and they also receive a Christmas dinner. A team of about 12 make all the deliveries the Saturday before Christmas. Santa Clause and his wife, Ken and Sheila Brown are in attendance for the children.

In 2011 the Christmas charity was taken over by Lorne Carney. The Club members now raise about 1500 pounds of food and \$2800.00 for gifts and household items for the families. There are usually about 80 members who attend and about 90 who contribute.



2013 Christmas breakfast: A very good year in support of 9 deserving families given to us by the Richmond Salvation Army. At the breakfast we collected over 1500 lbs of food and over \$3,100.00 which was used to buy gifts and household items. Again we had 4 families who after being interviewed received the food, a precooked Christmas turkey dinner and the gifts. In addition we had five additional families who just received the dinner.

The members should be congratulated for their attendance of 67 since it was a rain and ice day. As well the tunnel was blocked with an accident. One member spent two hours coming from South Surrey. Many others just had to turn around and go home.

2014 Christmas breakfast. As in past years we took 9 families from the Richmond Salvation Army's "Adopt a family at Christmas". Four received the food, a precooked Christmas dinner and purchased gifts and household items. Five more received a dinner
A record 74 members attended donating over 1200 lbs. of food and over \$3,050 dollars. It is estimated over these 11 years over 12,000 lbs {6 tons} of food and \$25,000 have been raised in support of the Christmas families

Of all the years we have been doing this, all of the members who were in the delivery crew agreed these were the most deserving families we have ever had.



2015 Christmas breakfast.

78 people attended the breakfast plus a surprise appearance by Mr. & Mrs. Clause--Mr. and Mrs. Ken Brown all dressed up. We raised, under new chairman Jim Goodison, over \$3,000 and 1400lbs of food. Four families shared the food and gifts for their house with special attention

to gifts for the children, All the families supplied to us by the Richmond Salvation Army were found to be very deserving of the Club's help.

To be involved with this gratifying experience call Lorne Carney at 604-271-5565

2016 CHRISTMAS CHARITY BREAKFAST

Gentlemen,

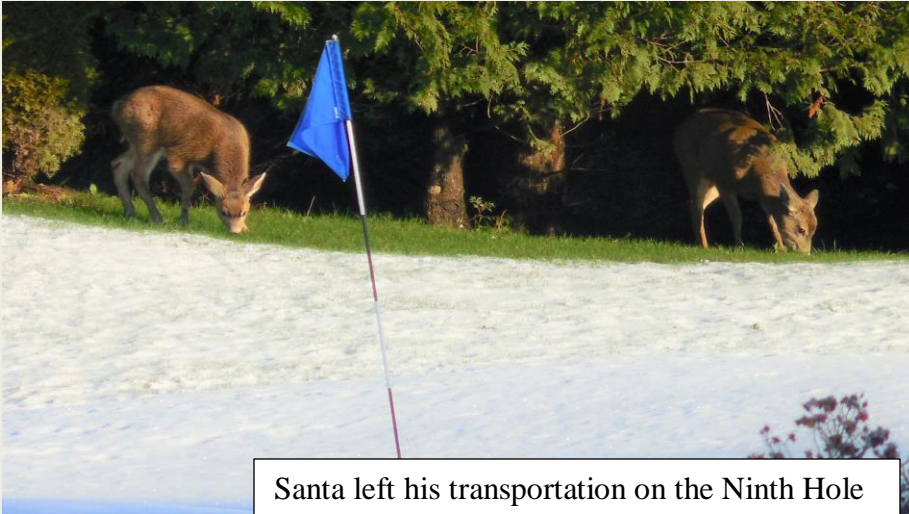
Once again, I would like to thank you for somehow making it into the Roger Wesson's Christmas breakfast. We collected 1100lbs of food stuff and after everything was paid for, including the Christmas dinners for each of the nine families, we still came up with \$400 to spend on gifts for the families. Although that is less than last year, it shows the unquestionable generosity of the members of the Country Meadows Senior Men's Golf Club. For the members that could not make it, I am with you.

To be honest, if I lived outside Richmond, I am not sure I would have even tried to come in. However, if you still wish to contribute to the fund you could phone me at 604-271-9081, e-mail jgoodison@shaw.ca or drop your contribution off at the pro shop addressed to me, or use the old fashion way snail mail to J Goodison, 3255 Georgia St. Richmond, BC. V6Y2R4. If you are giving a cheque, you will need to make it out to me and not the club.

Again, I would like to thank you all for your help. If I do not see you again before the holidays, Jean and I would like to wish you and your families Season's Greetings and all the best for the New Year.

Jim Goodison, Christmas Breakfast Chairman





Santa left his transportation on the Ninth Hole

RICHMOND NEWS REPORT

Members of Country Meadows Senior Men’s Golf Club will once again deliver some Christmas cheer to several Richmond families this year.

A tradition started by one of its members in 1999, the Roger Weseen Christmas Hamper Drive began humbly by bringing a turkey and some canned food to a family in need.

Now, the members raise about \$3,000 annually and collect close to 2,000 pounds of non-perishable food for upwards of 15 families in Richmond.



“Each and every year for the last 17 years we have done this, and our membership will tell you that giving back to our community and making Christmas a little brighter for some is a wonderful gift we give ourselves. It is this spirit of Christmas that makes our Christmas merrier,” said Jim Goodison, chair of the hamper drive.

First, they personally interview each family to see what their household needs are and what children’s gifts are asked for. They then shop for each family and personally deliver it to the families.

The golfers work with the Salvation Army to qualify each family. Member Graham Boyle said it is important to get to know each family before they commit to them.

This Saturday, they will visit each home with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and deliver food and gifts that will last long into the New Year, said Boyle.

© 2016 Richmond News - See more at: <http://www.richmond-news.com/community/golfers-spread-some-christmas-cheer-across-richmond-1.5315511#sthash.gO3nUXHy.dpuf>

2017 Christmas Breakfast.

Gentlemen,

Thank you once again for your tremendous response to the Christmas Breakfast. 75 members attended, and we collected \$4325. After the breakfast and Christmas dinners for the families were paid for we had \$2200 left to buy gifts for the 4 families who between them have 17 children aged from 16 years to 4 months old.

I know from calling them and telling them our members will be assisting them over the holiday period that they were extremely grateful as I am sure the members that interview them will confirm.

A big thank you goes to Debbie and her staff for a great meal and friendly service and also to the Harry Hogler and family for the bottle of wine given to each member in attendance. It was greatly appreciated.

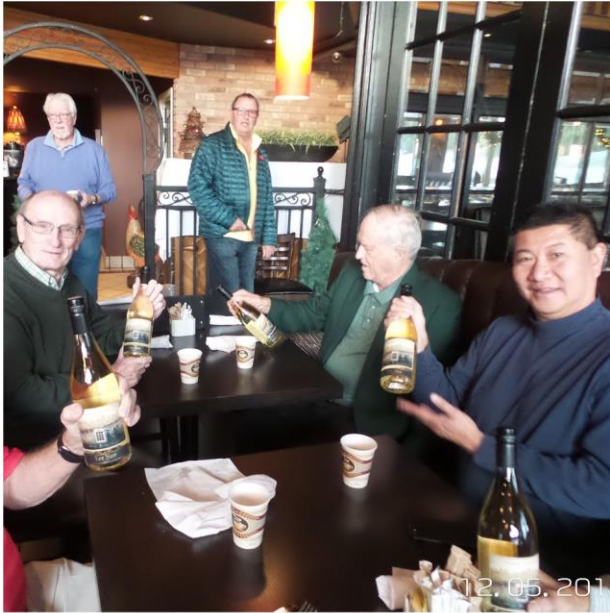
If some of you that were coming but couldn't make it and would still like to contribute you can contact me by e-mail jgoodison@shaw.ca, call 604-271-9081 or by mail to 3255 Georgia Street. Richmond BC. V7E 2R4.

If I don't see you before next season have a Happy Christmas and a great golfing New Year.

Regards
Jim Goodison.







Christmas Charity Breakfast at Country Meadows Golf Club December 5, 2017

The 2018 Christmas Charity Breakfast

Chairman's Report.

Gentlemen.

On behalf of Country Meadows Roger Weseens annual Christmas breakfast, I would like to thank you guys for your generous donations to the charity breakfast. We raised over \$5510 from 82 members including some snowbirds. After we paid for the breakfast (\$1295.68) and Christmas dinners (\$739.20), we were able to provide Christmas dinners for ten families this year. We had \$3475.12 left to spend on six of the families. We supplied them with household goods, clothes, gifts and toys for the children. We also had approx. 900 lbs. of non-perishable food stuff to give to these six families. The names of all the families we help are provided to us by the Salvation Army. This year we were up on cash donations but down on non-perishable food stuff.

Among the people we helped were an emigrant family from Peru, a Syrian refugee family, a single mum with two kids and grandparents from Asia, a family with 3 young kids whose husband is receiving treatment at VGH for leukemia and a single First Nations mum with three kids as well as a number of other families headed by single mothers.

Here are the details of the total number of families and kids:

21 kids ages from 1 month to 15 years
4 full families i.e. mother & father
1 single mum with kids & grandparents
1 single mum with 3 kids
4 single mums, each with one kid

I would also like to thank a few people who went above and beyond helping me out.

First, the people who do the interviewing and buy the gifts and toys and have done so for a number of years. You may notice I've put the wife's name first and that's because the club and I don't get a chance to thank them for it.

Paulette & John O'Connell, Jane & Dennis Campbell their family members who have done a fantastic job for a number of years and I'm hoping I can rely on them again next year.

This year one of the emigrant families was from Peru and although their English was better than my Spanish (not much better) when I spoke to him on the phone it was hard for both of us to understand one another. So, when I asked at the breakfast if anyone could speak the language, up stands a guy who spends his winters in Mexico where he has become proficient in Spanish, Bob Brown, who then stepped up and helped us out with translation. Thanks to Bob for also distributing raffle tickets and collecting cash for the club's Prostrate cancer charity.

Janet Cowley. Janet is a member of the women's golf club at Country Meadows and is the wife of Tony Cowley of this club, Tony and Janet agreed to do the interview and buy gifts for the family but needed someone to show them the ropes. Enter Terry Greenslade; then unfortunately Tony had to drop out so Janet and Bonnie, Terry's wife, carried on and did a dam good job. By the way Tony did help with the delivery, he will do anything to get his picture in the paper.

We must not forget the old farts who turn up every year to do the delivery: Lorne Carney, Roy Lawson, Herb Jagger and Roy McKelvie who deliver all the Christmas meals to the single families.

Thank you to all who helped, even if I have not mentioned you by name, I want you to know how much we value your help in getting this project successfully completed each year.

Unfortunately, some members tell me that they may not be able to make it this Christmas so we will still need new volunteers.

And last, but not least, a special story.

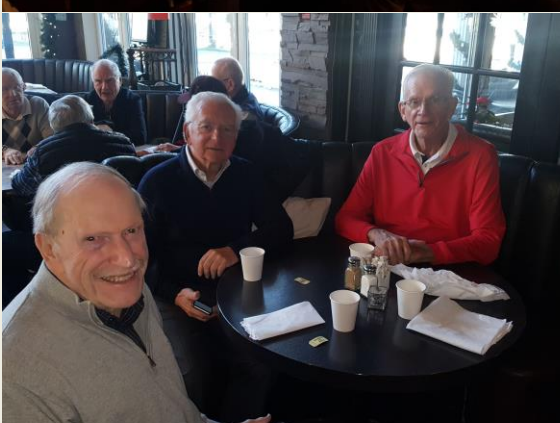
At the beginning of last year Fraser Howitt told me he had an old bike he would like to give to the Christmas charity. I thought its probably going to need some work done to it. Anyway, he bought the bike to ride around Richmond dikes, then he sold his house and moved to some god forsaken place called Surrey where they have hills and that just about did him in. Believe it or not, Fraser took the bike in to a shop, had them service it, tires / brakes / gears and even replaced the seat. By the time they had finished with it, it looked brand new.

That bike went to the single mum with the 15year old boy. The guys doing the delivery tell me the mother became very emotional when they gave it to her.

I can assure you that the families we help over the holiday period are most appreciative of your help, especially the children.

Gentlemen once again on behalf of the families, thank you for your generous support.

Jim Goodison.





03/19

2019 Roger Weseen's Annual Christmas Breakfast

Gentlemen,

On behalf of the families we help out over the holiday period, I would like to thank you for your generous donations to the Christmas breakfast. We raised over \$5807 from 82 members attending the breakfast and some snowbirds who also donated. After we paid for the breakfast \$1471 and \$800 for ten Christmas dinners for families, we allocated

\$3071 to spend on the five main families consisting of 10 adults and 15 children aged from 1 to 13, supplying them with household goods, clothes, gifts and toys for the children. We had \$465 left which we spent on the five remaining families; nine adults, five children aged 1 to 4 and 2 – 3-month-old babies. We bought toys / clothes / baby clothes / diapers; each child received a minimum of two gifts. There was also a cat who only received one gift.

We also had approx. 400lbs. of non-perishable food stuff which I decided to share between all ten families.

This year we were down on members attending the breakfast as well as the donations of non-perishable food stuff, but **significantly up on cash donations. The people in this club never cease to amaze me with their generosity in support of this charity.**

We had a route laid out so all the children received presents from Santa himself, aka Gerry Galasso. Gerry thank you; you and your elves did a fantastic job, especially with the young autistic girl. I didn't hear how you did with the cat though.

As you know, the names of the families we help are provided to us by the Salvation Army and this year they asked me if we could help some immigrant / refugee families as they had so many on their roster, some of whom had not yet received their papers and were therefore not able to receive too much in the way of aid.

Here are the details of the total number of families and kids:

9 families with 23 kids, aged from 3 months to 13 years. These families were refugees/immigrants from Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Syria, Peru, Mexico and Iraq.

1 single mum who suffers with epilepsy and has a 4-year-old autistic daughter and the cat.

I can assure you that the families we help over the holiday period are most appreciative of your help, especially the children who this year got their gifts directly from Santa.

Gentlemen, once again on behalf of the families, thank you for your generous support.

Thank you to all who helped. I want you to know how much I value your help in getting this project successfully completed each year. I have spoken to the Executive Committee, informing them that I will not be available to organise the 2020 Christmas charity drive. I hope some one will step up and carry on this tradition. If anyone is interested at the moment, please contact the Executive Committee or myself.

Jim Goodison.





20/02