

Dec recap

The weather played a big role in the sales for December. When it got cold sales slumped. When it snowed sales slumped. The 2 days after Christmas brought in \$2400.00 in sales even with the 50% off so we had a true success.

The roof is leaking in some new spots now and we have to be planning ahead for this. (fundraising , applying for grants should be high on the priority list for 2018)

We had an incidence of a few bed bugs which prompted me to destroy all existing mattresses and box springs . I have purchased mattress bags from Uline which will add \$10.00 to the price of every mattress. The plan is to no longer accept off the street mattresses unless absolutely clean and in new condition and that any mattress picked up will be bagged and tagged before loading going forward.

The mattresses will bring in an increased value if clean and in bags. We have a dumpster coming for the back lane for us to put all metal in including stoves –no electronics or fridges. There is no charge and when full Dutchaks will pick up and give us an amount for the scrap. It took 2 days for us to clean up the last bit with 2 volunteers . There are other jobs to do and even if we didn't get anything just having the convenience of a dumpster for the metal , it frees up volunteer hours.and will keep the back lane fairly clean. Fortunately Jackie's husband works for Dutchacks so we have a bit of pull. I am in the process of applying for an electronics dump bin as well so we can benefit from electronics waste as well.

The lockers are now installed in the sorting area no we have to make sure that there is a clear path to them at all times and locks still have to be purchased or located. I have emailed Peter Himanen again to see if we can get some help with the webpage from the students but still no reply.

The first week of January was awesome –we had a number of volunteers come in and we completed a number of jobs on the bucket list. The store is taking on a new look with the floors being waxed slat wall installed and a lot of clothing sorted out. Jenny treated the gang to soup, chili and buns on a couple of occasions which was welcomed by all.

We are still struggling with help at the tills and is putting a strain on Jenny Jackie and myself as we are frequently having to leave the till unattended to help customers when we are short of volunteers . I discourage this but there are times when this has to be done. Customer service has to be # 1 priority to continue building the business and without help the sales will go flat on us.

We will require a team to unhook wiring on the display units at Sears (when we get the call) and to carefully transport them back to the store John Kloosterhuis has volunteered already so we do require an electrician to unhook power to the cabinets. We have to lift onto dollies and roll thru the store to a Sears entrance (not a mall entrance) I would like to time this so we can put in place at the store as we move them and then I can wire the computers up—I will see if I can move the security system-if not I will have Baylock move the system to a better area.

I have been told that my surgery will happen this month at some point. A number of cancer cases has moved me back. Thanks to all who are helping me to cope with this and keep the store running.