

LangleyAdvance

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online

International relief

## Groups aiding earthquake victims

Langley people are working to send help to earthquake-stricken Haiti residents.

by Heather Colpitts

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A peanut butter food supplement created right here in Langley is being shipped to Haiti to feed starving children, part of local earthquake disaster relief efforts.

Cibo, the high calorie food that includes extra nutrients and minerals, is the new humanitarian product created through the non-profit Food for Famine organization.

The group is accepting donations to help cover the cost of production. The goal is to ship about 1,200 pails. An eight-kilogram pail will feed 30 children (1,000 calories).

Food for Famine linked up with Kings Kids in Chilliwack which is sending Esther King over with relief supplies.

"She is taking Cibo with her to Haiti this week," explained Maria Martini, the Langley businesswoman who spearheaded Cibo.

More about Food for Famine is at [www.foodforfamine.org](http://www.foodforfamine.org). Donations are processed through Global Aid Network, which also helps with the transport and distribution of Cibo because it has established humanitarian aid infrastructure in various impoverished nations, including in Haiti.

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Tuesday. By Thursday, Power to Change, through its Global Aid Network (GAIN), had eight shipping containers, packed with food, medical supplies, water purifying tablets, and other



Ernie Charlton and Maria Martini, with Food for Famine, showed the peanut butter therapy food Cibo. Buckets of it are being sent to help the relief effort in the wake of Haiti's devastating earthquake.

Langley Advance files

emergency response provisions, ready to send, and six more planned.

Power to Change, based in Willoughby, was able to contact its national director for Haiti who, despite not knowing whether his family survived, was working to get resources distributed.

Esperandieu Pierre later learned his wife and children survived and when talking to Langley head office, expressed his gratitude to Canada for sending help.

"You let me know that we are not alone in this situation. It is a big spiritual boost and encouragement," he said.

Various businesses have fundraising initiatives. All Canada Safeway stores, including the three in Langley/Aldergrove, are accepting donations. The Canada Safeway Foundation will make a contribution of

\$100,000 to the Canadian Red Cross. People can make contributions at Safeway customer service counters.

The federal government is offering help for people who want to contribute, so they make informed decisions.

"Canadians have opened their hearts and their wallets in the wake of the terrible tragedy in Haiti," said Canada's Revenue Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn. "When Canadians decide to donate, they do so with the best of intentions. Sadly, there are some who would exploit the generosity of Canadians."

Canadians who plan to donate can go to the Canada Revenue Agency website to check for registered charities ([www.cra.gc.ca/donors](http://www.cra.gc.ca/donors)) or call 1-800-267-2384 for tips on how to be an informed donor.

News

### Bin there

Langley City residents can upgrade to larger recycling containers. The City is making 100 litre blue boxes available to single-family residences. The boxes are almost double the size of the current 55 litre bins.

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Volunteers wrapped, and raised money.

Life

### Let's wrap

Who knew that paying someone else to wrap all those Christmas presents this year could not only saved shoppers time, but could raise significant coin for local children.

Willowbrook Shopping Centre's annual charity gift wrap program netted more than \$12,400 for the Child Development Foundation of B.C.

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News

### Acclamation

The Langley NDP nominated their candidate for the next federal election on Sunday, filling the final slot for a major party candidate.

Piotr Majkowski was acclaimed candidate

just before the party local's AGM in the Murrayville Library.

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Piotr Majkowski

Langley Township

## Councillors toiling away on 2010 budget

Councillors didn't get to the nitty gritty of tax rates at their first budget discussion.

by Matthew Claxton

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Langley Township councillors took their first look Thursday at the revenues and costs they'll need to juggle to create the 2010 municipal budget.

Finance director Hilary Tsikayi outlined some of the challenges the Township is facing as the recession slowly recedes.

The local unemployment rate is standing at 7.6 per cent, but

is expected to decline this year and next.

The construction price index is still increasing strongly, meaning projects such as roads, bridges, or new buildings will cost more.

Langley's neighbours are considering tax increases of between 3.95 per cent and 5.08 per cent, similar to the Township staff suggestion of 4.95 per cent.

However, Tsikayi noted a few bright spots. Bids for Township construction will be more competitive, thanks to the increasing number of contractors interested. In recent years, only three or four firms have bid on many Township jobs.

"One of the last ones we did, we had 22 bids," Tsikayi reported.

Police, firefighting, transportation and parks are expected to consume the majority of the Township budget. One new RCMP officer is scheduled to be hired in the fall of the year.

Staff also presented a short list of possible cuts, most in tens of thousands of dollars. Suggestions range from reducing the amount spent on advertising in local newspapers to ending the appreciation dinner for the Township's on-call firefighters.

The possibilities were just some suggestions from the staff, said Township administrator

Mark Bakken.

Councillor Charlie Fox suggested the idea of moving the community garden to the arbor-etum, and possibly developing its current site through the property endowment fund, to raise some money.

"I think we could look at this very seriously," Fox said.

Coun. Mel Kositsky suggested future pre-budget meetings should be made official council meetings. That will allow the councillors to pass motions and make their deliberations official.

The next township budget priorities meeting is scheduled for Jan. 28 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in council chambers.

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