

“A Phoenix Rises”

“Taking care of
people's
food
needs”



SACO FOOD PANTRY, INC.

Its Life & Times

Part 2

Dear reader,

I had previously said that I hoped some one would continue to record the life of the pantry. With some time available, seeing it unfold before my eyes and

knowing by waiting some portions may be forgotten I again put pen to paper, as it were, to preserve the pantries memories and in a small way have the Phoenix rise again. To all, for your continued support over the years, the protection of your wings and the shoulders on which the pantry stands, I thank you and wish you and yours happiness and peace.

Sincerely, Bob Nichols

Foreword

In the first journal you were able to follow the progress of the pantry from its humble beginnings, through the sometimes turbulent years the pantry faced helping people in need and at the same time grow and expand its cause and mission. From this point you will be able to read my thoughts on some of the many stories I stumbled across at various times over the last ten years since the pantry was destroyed on August 31st 2000.

The stories were written by local reporters on the Portland Press Herald, Courier, Journal Tribune, as well as some Boston papers. Because of their reporting skills, the pantry, at the time they were printed and read, benefited from them. They, collectively, breathed new meaning into the journal's title "A Phoenix Raises" and for that we thank them. Now please join me as I introduce you to new friends and supporters we met along the way, as well as revisiting some old friends.

Chapter 1 A Newspaper Helps

In December 2003 Ted Cohen, then a staff writer for the Portland Press Herald, reported that the pantry once more had to move on from a store front in Hannaford's plaza on Main Street in Saco. The article explained that we were being evicted. In reality we were told by Hannaford that this time was coming well in advance of our actual closing. We thanked them for all they did for the pantry by letting us occupy a store for twenty two months while they re-shaped the entire complex around us.

Because of Ted's article, we received donations from people moved by what was happening with overwhelming support. This helped us as we moved into a newly found location on Ocean Park Road. It was also reported in late December 2004, that we had started negotiations to purchase the site

we began to call home. To all of the fore mentioned we again say thank you for your generosity and expertise in getting our story out to our supportive public.

Chapter 2 A Reporters Long Reach

Time passed and as it passed the support of the pantry grew as well. The thank you letters written and submitted for publication were graciously given space in the local papers. Though some would look on it as not being a donation, we the recipients' of what the publication of those letters produced, are forever grateful. In July 2009, both the pantry and York County Food Rescue, a supplier of food to the pantry were both feeling the brunt of a down turn in donations during the economic hard times. It was at that point on July 30, 2009 that Gillian Gram, a staff reporter with the Courier, did a story under the heading, "Coping with empty shelves". Speaking from the pantry's point of view the article was a God send. Right after it was published the pantry started to see donations.

To give you an example of the story's impact consider the following; The folks at a camp ground located nearby collected and donated, as best I can recall, somewhere between 500 and 1000 pounds of non-perishable food. A monetary donation received was handed to me personally by a gentleman here on a working vacation. He told me he was here helping his offspring move from the Navy base in Brunswick as it was in the process of closing and reading the article in the paper so moved him that he had to do something to help. He normally hangs his hat in Washington Square West in New York City. Oh' the power of the printed word.

Later that summer after seeing various advertisements for the Legacy Theater Company's summer shows, in Garland Auditorium at TA, I knew there was one show I didn't want to miss. I had to see everybody's favorite kid and find out how an adult could go back in time and live a second childhood. It was worth every minute spent sitting in the audience in joyous laughter as the various actors and actresses brought Charlie Brown, all his friends and Snoopy to life. Not stopping at just entertaining the audience, the acting troupe also did a food drive in conjunction with those attending the four plays. They raised over a pre-designated ton of food for those in need. Our thanks to the entire Peanut Gang "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown".

Chapter 3 Saying Goodbye to a Friend

The following newspaper article was in part taken directly from the paper discovered in a roundabout fashion. While looking for an item in what I think the newspaper people call the morgue, I came across this article and briefly mentioned it as a footnote in the original journal. The foundation mentioned is the one that donated the four chest freezers to us 10 years ago that are still serving us well even after being moved three times and placed in storage for a month. How do you say thank you on behalf of all the thousands of people who benefited from a gift given from the heart? We here at the pantry, in joined appreciation, wish the foundation and those connected with it happiness and peace.

The Boston Globe

By line Boston:

Spinazzola Foundation announces its end

By Carol Beggy & Mark Shanahan, Globe Staff | August 8, 2007

The Anthony Spinazzola Foundation, which has been helping the homeless and supporting culinary education in the state for the past 22 years, announced yesterday it's closing its doors. Board chairman Chris Spinazzola said the decision was driven by several factors, including the health of his wife, Marjorie Clapprood, who suffers from leukemia and recently underwent a bone-marrow transplant. "That's helped me realign my priorities in the last few months," said Spinazzola. "I've been doing [the foundation] for over two decades, and I just need to take a break and focus on my....."

Chapter 4 the Engines Roar

On September 13, 2008 the first of Mike's annual Bikers Ride and Rock Benefit for the Food Pantry and co-beneficiary this time Camp Sunshine took place.

Mike Paul of Mike Paul Foundations and his wife Christine decided to organize the Ride and Rock Bike Run after hearing about how difficult it was for food pantries to provide food in the tough economy. Although we did not have to turn any people away, I had heard of other pantries who did. Mike said he and his wife wanted to do something because it bothered him

that anyone would have to go hungry. They also raised money for Camp Sunshine, a camp for kids and families with life-threatening illness, by selling T-shirts. Five dollars from each sale rung up at I Love My T-shirt Company went to benefit the camp.

It grew from there and with each ride we saw an increase in food, monetary donations and riders wanting to do their part in helping those in need. The run on August 21st 2010 had a dual purpose the pantry itself and Open Hands / Open Heart the out reach program connected with us were the beneficiaries' of the ride.

Chapter 5 a Gift of Song to Feed the Needy

Across the mighty Saco River on the warm summer evening of August 15, 2009 at Biddeford Middle School on Tiger Drive, the Voices in Harmony Choir and Singers under the direction of Camille Curtis- Saucier lifted their individual and collective voices in concert to provide for those we serve at the pantry. Those collective voices raised in song resonated across the river and reached the ear of owner, Barbara Stork, of Heart's Desire Consignment Boutique on Main Street in Saco. From their outside sidewalk sale on Aug. 22 the proceeds were given to the pantry and yet again the pantry is lifted by the shoulders of our caring supporters.

Chapter 6 a Man From The Past

On October 2nd 2009, as we were waiting for clients during a slow point, a gentleman came in with a donation. Nan Cone was standing near the desk and I was standing a short distance in the aisle. As he turned to leave Nan thanked him for his donation but I felt that I knew him from somewhere. Realizing I had to settle my curiosity, I hurried out the door to his car while he was backing out.

After I motioned to him to stop and lower the window, he did so. At that point I asked him if he had been in the area when the church was destroyed by fire; "yes" he said, then I asked if he had donated a sizable bank check to the pantry when we were at Shaw's. "Yes", he replied. I extended my hand to shake his in thanksgiving for his gift. Because of the upheaval during that

time, we were unable to thank him personally. I told him, the next time he came in, there would be a copy of the just completed journal at the desk for him as the original story of his gift was written in into it as a major point of interest.

His name, I found out is and will remain a secret and shall remain that way until I receive a personal release from him. He was the gentleman who donated \$2,000 to the pantry. Nan handed it to Bryce during a live interview with WGME Channel 13. While writing this chapter, one thing comes to mind, the title given the journal "A Phoenix Rises". With this recounting the pantry has again come full circle and risen again.

Chapter 7 the Module in the Back Yard

On October 17th 2009 the portable office being used as a recycling place, for lack of a better description, was opened by Elaine Fournier. She conceived the idea and had been experimenting with it for about a year. As a school bus driver she was able to see first hand the problems faced by families in trying to cope with the economy. Seeing kids boarding her bus and needing school supplies, clothing of all types and with no way of getting them because of money problems at home, she took the proverbial bull by the horns did something about it.

She formed Open hands / Open heart. She gives out all mentioned above to children from infant to age eleven, at no charge. The only thing asked for in return is an item or two to replace what was taken so that it in turn will be passed on to another family that may be able to use it. The first day she was open they helped twenty two grateful families.

She rents the module from a local supplier. She also pays for the electric by raising the funds herself and volunteers to manage the whole operation. They use our facilities but that is all. We at this writing, October 20th , have her under our umbrella for tax purposes until she is able to file and get her own, much as we did when we were under the Council of Churches. The entire ramp, deck and labor needed for its erection were free as a donation or purchased at cost from Bob Demers at Trade Centers and Deering lumber.

The electric was supplied by us through an up grading on 10/19/09. Haley's Metal, in Biddeford, was moving our water heater from the service area to the second section to make more room internally instead of building on at the present time. To do this and the space above insulated we had all the electrical components upgraded to meet code. They were grandfathered in when we purchased the building in 2006. Mike Roy the electrician showed me some issues that was, to say the least, not exactly top of the line, more like the bottom of the barrel wiring.

Our snow lift and pile friend, Steve Gay from up the road, was approached previously by me to have the 16 concrete (thorns in the rear yard) posts left by the previous owner removed. They were the supports for the propane storage tank mounted on them. (After they were gone I remarked to Steve that we could now see for ever). The cost by outsiders would have been upwards of \$1,500.00. He also filled in all the four foot holes left by their removal with small stone and put down some loam and seed covered with straw. About two weeks after the above took place (mid October) Steve removed all the concrete. I hadn't been back there and didn't know until Wayne Dow, our snow plow man, and I went back to figure out the parking for Bryce's daughter to store cars during the winter months. This is where the snow will be plowed and piled. It's been about two months and I'm still waiting for a bill.

Chapter 8 into November of 2009

During July and August the amount of food we received from Good Shepherd was cut. They were feeling the crunch of less food and more hungry people. The article previously included "Coping with empty shelves (July 30, 2009)" was the way it was then and when school came back in session. We started to slowly see the shelves a little fuller. Life and the accessibility to additional food went on as usual up to the middle of November and the flood gates opened. UNE in Biddeford did a food drive for some of the pantries and meals programs in York County.

On every work day after that until Thanksgiving Day (11/26), we were accepting donations whether by delivery or pick up. We did our food drive at Shaw's in conjunction with the Trinity Episcopal Church's Fill the Bus

drive and netted between 10,000 & 12,000 pounds. Because of the out pouring of support in the month of November, I estimate the combined weight we took in between 15,000 & 20,000 pounds of food. On Wednesday before I was considering moving some to the donated module (at Sure Winner) in order to make room. By rearranging some stock we created room in the third section. In the interim as we gave away Hannaford's gift boxes (Fund a Feast worth \$10.00) as an extra and were down to the last when they called with 30 more.

On the eve of the big day while working for the K of C dinner preparations (a free meal to anyone), we accepted the food brought to mass as an offering. At 8:15 we took in another 650 lbs. + / - that we unloaded at the pantry and plugged another hole we had created in anticipation. Below is a portion of a thank you I sent to the newspapers. I try to come up with a different lead in and exit to try and catch any eye that may be thinking of donating. The names have been eliminated that were in the center portion. They were printed because of the amount of money we also received during that same period (over \$4,000).

The wind may be called Maria or be known as a restless wind but the one phrase that best describes the wind that blows past the food pantry is "the wind beneath my wings".

The closing paragraph in part said, to us you are the hero's that helped provide 7000 meals to the 655 people we served in November. On behalf of all those in need that look to you and the pantry in their time need I can only say, thank you and God Bless. Bob Nichols, Saco.

Chapter 9 an Early Christmas Present

On Dec. 21st Elaine the founder of Open Hearts / Open Hands approached me while I was unloading the van of a donation. She stated she had been to city hall and talked to someone about putting a permanent addition on the back part of the property. I told her it was out of the question because I was planning an addition with a walk in freezer in about three to five years.

Fast forward twenty four hours. I ran into Leo Menard at one of my stops and he told me the two Rotaries of Saco Bay and Biddeford Saco, along with an anonymous donor, and Lowe's were planning to get involved with the community and as a project of all their combined efforts were looking to provide a permanent structure for Elaine as it was a much needed cause in

the community and at the same time enlarge the pantry operation with a walk in freezer that was desperately needed.

After checking with Flora about the date for the next board meeting on Jan. 8th, which I thought too far in the future and in talking to John Gardner we both thought the entire board should be notified and an emergency meeting set as soon as possible. It took place today Dec. 24 at 9a.m. as the pantry was closed for the holidays till Jan 4th.

At this time the entire project was presented to those present and a tape recording made to insure that those absent could hear the exact plan as it was presented. We voted at that time to give Leo the green light to explore all avenues concerning this project. As it was winter and even having all the ducks in a row it would be late spring before anything actually got under way.

Chapter 10 Progress Report on the Addition

On January 21st, we had another meeting at Captain's Galley with Leo after the rotary finished theirs. All board members were present with the exception of John because he was sick. At this time, Leo gave us a good look and explanation of the prints that were in the first rough stage. They had only been received the day before from the vocational school in Biddeford. The permission needed to use Bob Moline's plans as a base measurement and he had only just authorized them. They were based on his drawings of the pantry when we did the extension in 2007, and he still owns them as he donated his skills at that time.

Even though they were in the first stages they were sufficient enough to give all a good birds' eye view of the finished design as it stood then. Leo also is looking to procure a commercial washer / dryer for Elaine to clean the cloths before distribution. This he found out later presented a problem because of the existing plumbing. It may also impact the thoughts of an air lock three door entrance that was proposed.

The walk in freezer and cooling part is proving difficult as there is none available at present. It is winter and not much is happening as far as remodeling is concerned. Another point is he doesn't know if it will be an inside or outside model. But that can be addressed at a later time.

We discussed the propane situation and renting the tanks every year. The procurement of a larger tank mounted at the fence line and piping it under ground would give us a better bargaining chip for lower prices in the future.

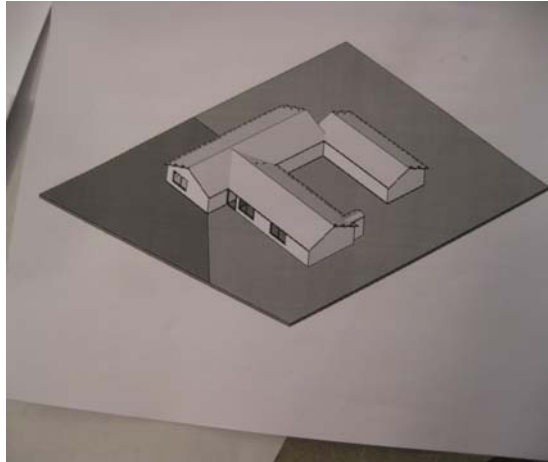
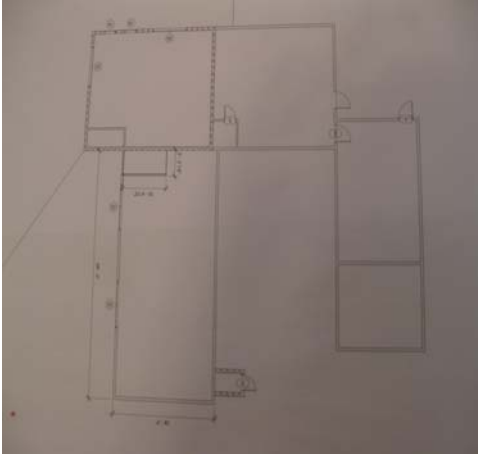
Also broached was the position of the fence line and actual property line with regard to the house at 60 Cumberland Avenue side of the new section put up in 2007. The law says if after twenty years of them mowing that area for us they would own it. We will have a legal document drawn up that addresses that in the near future. When they did the survey on the property I thought we only owned four feet past the fence line. Leo told and showed me the actual line is at a tree in the rear yard and runs to the street about six inches to a foot from their driveway. This is why they can't put up a garage because of the set back.

We also broached the subject of a generator in the future. The last price we were told by Dana of St. Ours & Sons Electric in about 2007. When he did the wiring on the addition was \$15,000.00 for what we needed at that time. I don't know what size it was but with the walk-in freezer it will have to be larger and automatic to a point.

The cement block construction of the original portion will be re-done over to add insulation to the two remaining sides to save money in the future. Parking became an issue but we have enough space to cover the requirements. I also approached the Elks club for and received permission to put the trailer on their property from July to December when it will be finished.

The requirement of 75 feet from the road will be met and we will inform them prior to the date needed to move it. I will also talk to Bob Demers about the ramp being broken up and reassembled, not easy, but do-able.

Below (L) is the first drawing shown as a rough draft of how the new section of the pantry that will house Open Hands/ Open Heart will look. It is shown looking at it from a sky point of view with Cumberland Ave. at the top and Ocean Pk. Rd. to the left.



Above (R) is a more comprehensive look at the base plan for the addition that will hopefully come into being during 2010. You are looking at it standing on Ocean Park Road side.

Chapter 11 April Progress Notification

From this point on I will use Leo's e-mails to me as footnotes. As point man with a more extensive background in construction, having worked in it, he is able give a better view of the progress being made.

About the first of April, Leo told me that Saco & Biddeford savings had committed to his request for support. When the physical year started at other banks, they would also be on board for the support needed for the project. He also emailed me that there was a drainage problem because of the land composition. We may have to go to attic storage instead of basement. Then a few days later he and Dave McKinney did a more in depth look at the plot and Leo sent me this e-mail.

Footnote from Leo:

Well I met with Dave McKinney and he had forgotten about the drainage ditch & the culvert under Ocean Park Road. The culvert is deep enough to allow for a positive perimeter drain (drain works by gravity) so we are back to a full dry basement. Also we got a big donation of most of the rebar/steel from Pepin Bros. in Sanford. Also Vic Dube confirmed this afternoon that he is going to help with the cost of sheet rock & insulation.

Chapter 12 A Walking Tour with Leo

The generator that was located is up state in Limestone and will arrive at the end of the month. It is Government surplus generator at \$4,500 delivered. We save \$5,200 on this deal. They will need two heavy duty batteries to show and test it before we take possession.

The plan is to cover the exterior cement block wall, of the original building, with foam insulation and cover it with siding instead of trying to match the wood portion. There will be a propane tank at the fence on Cumberland side and piped underneath to the building. Paving will also be done by paving the strip between the fence and the buildings and marking parking areas. We have to think about what to do for the generator once it is here. It is diesel powered so fencing will be needed to protect everything from theft etc. On Sunday morning May 16, I stopped to see Steve Gay on the Ocean Park Road. He will lift it, but needs a twenty four hour heads –up.

On May 25th, Leo told me the generator would be in about Wednesday the 2nd of June. Based on this date, I ordered two heavy duty batteries from VIP on Main Street. They are needed to establish a trial run of the machine to see if it operates prior to storage. It will be on the property until needed after all the construction is finished. We also received a check from Lowe's for \$25,000.00 toward the building fund.

June 2nd the generator arrived and was lifted by Steve Gay and put in a temporary place out of the way of future construction. The batteries cost \$229.00 + /- at VIP and \$8.39 for terminal ends at Napa because VIP didn't have them in stock. It was fired up on one try, covered by tarps and the batteries brought into the third section. We also moved the jeep out of the way for Allison, Bryce's daughter. We may not start digging until August as per Leo.

On Thursday July 14th at the seven a.m. meeting of Saco Bay Rotary breakfast, Lowe's again presented us with an enlarged replica of the previously donated check with Dru Laduke the new president of the rotary for this year. Pictures were taken for publicity purposes.

Footnotes from Leo: I received the following e-mail on July 7th from Leo.

It looks like this is on the city council Agenda for Monday the 19th at 7pm. See note from Ron. It might be good to ask if someone from the pantry could be there as well. I may not be able to attend (both my kids are playing all-star softball and baseball with practices every night) but I have advised Dru of this date and he could assist you at the meeting as well.

Also, just let me know when we might be able to get a letter from the pantry as it relates to the board assisting the disabled on which Eric Cote serves. He said we should ask for a specific dollar amount as it relates to the project and quantify this in the letter/request to the Maine Pooled Disability Trust. The letter needs to state how the pantry serves the disabled population. The example we talked about was something like a handicapped ramp or some other cost to make the facility handicapped accessible. If we have the specific item in the build/remodel, I'm pretty sure Eric will be able to get his board to approve a donation. He had mentioned it would probably be about \$1000 but could be more.

Below is the website for this organization.

<http://mainepooleddisabilitytrust.org/> Thanks Chris

Hi Bob,

Looks like we are on the agenda for 7/19 and as you can see from the note we should both plan on attending.

Also if you could compile some stats on the handicapped population the pantry or Elaine serves we may be able to get some money to put the new ramp up.

Chapter 13 A Meeting with Our Elected Officials

We attended the council meeting on Monday July 19 2010 as planned. Chris, from Biddeford- Saco Rotary opened with his remarks and then turned it over to Leo who painted a broader picture of the project and where the funds for the construction were coming from as well as who and what contractors would be doing to further the cause. Elaine went first explaining how Open Hands/Open Heart came into being as well as the need for it to continue.

After that she deferred to me and after passing out a letter of facts I stated the pantry position, hi-lighting some important facts verbally of last year distribution of meals as well as those given out in the first six months of 2010. There was emphasis on the expected total at years end surpassing last years total by approximately 83,000 meals.

There were those who opposed the city getting directly involved because of the liability issue, and the fact the distribution takes place on private property. We save the tax payers probably between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year that is not paid out in welfare costs. This is the duty of the city to provide for its citizens.

Seeking to reach the Mayor and all council Members, I put together a letter that I emailed to all, and I have it placed in another folder relating to this part of the story and for use only by board members.

Chapter 14 An Electrifying Time

On July 26, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Dana & Danny St.Ours, Leo and I met at the pantry to go over the generator and how it will spliced into the system. We also discussed a tie line to the trailer so Elaine can keep operating while construction takes place. Once it starts, it can't stop until he is finished in December. We also have to see about the Elks allowing it. There has been a change in administration.

Chapter 15 Getting the Ducks in a Row

On July 31st, the board met at the pantry with Leo and Dru from Saco Bay Rotary and finalized the entire project. We reviewed donations received and requested. We looked at the way the pantry will look when finished, what may have to be pushed back? The project is calculated at \$150,000 and we may have to take out a loan to cover the last \$15,000. The payments will have to be made, but the actual cash in hand to pay everything goes into next year. The business structure in outside donations is responsible for this. On the following Monday, August 2nd, we had to do a photo -op because of the poor quality of the ones taken when Lowe's gave us the \$25,000 in the early part of the month. The board also attended the City Hall meeting of the

Mayor and Council. The council, by an 8-1 vote gave the pantry because of propriety, about two thirds of the services we asked for two weeks previously. I emailed a thank you to all concerned as I felt both parties came out even on this somewhat sticky situation. Below is the Journal Tribune's partial take on that decision.

Saco OKs fee waiver, materials for pantry

Published:

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 12:07 PM EDT

SACO — The city has decided to assist the Saco Food Pantry in an expansion project, by waiving construction fees and providing building materials.

The food pantry, located at Ocean Park Road, is planning to construct a 24 by 48 foot addition to the building, which would house the Open Hands Open Heart program. The clothing donation program is currently located in a cramped trailer on the food pantry property...

Chapter 16 Starting the Big Push

On August 3rd 2010, at 8:15 a.m. with all available dignitaries present the first shovel of dirt was lifted from the earth and the project took on a new dimension. After a few laughs and hand shakes of thanks, the site was turned over to Mac Donald excavators of Old Orchard Beach and the job of carving the backyard into a workable addition started in earnest. If you were to back track fourteen hours to 6p.m. on Monday night, I didn't think it would happen.

I had a meeting with Denis and Melissa Laduex our neighbors, to bring them up to speed on what we planed on the entire project. After listening to all the ins and outs, they told me that their sewer line drained through our yard. This information was based on the problems they had after moving in a few years ago. Leo talked to them about the situation. Now we skip ahead to Tuesday morning and our big dig. During the day when cutting up the area

needed and after being reassured by the sewer department that the neighbor's line did not cross our land they struck pay-dirt. The sewer line was there all right except it wasn't theirs but ours. Eyeballing the position of the broken pipe you could see it ran back under the new addition put on in 2007. It wasn't found out before this because the new sections as well as the original two units were put on a slab. Although not a true measurement this will give others that follow a location of the sewer pipe on property as it turns and drains into Cumberland Ave. Using the front edge of the addition as a starting point it is about 16 feet back where it comes out from under the wall and is about 2 feet down. At that point about 5 feet from the wall is the bend to get it to Cumberland Avenue. I posted a notice high on the wall over the rollers in plastic for a back up system.

Chapter 17 Cement Mixer Putty-Putty

After being away on August 6th taking care of personal business, I went down on Sat. August 7th about 7a.m. and found that Mike McKinney had poured the footings along with the up right steel rods that help connect the walls of the basement to them. There was also a pile of stone gravel there; it may have been part of the city's contribution, for stabilizing everything. I found out later it came from Pullen Brothers up on Route 5. When I returned on Sunday morning to load shelves with John at 7a.m., I discovered they had set the wall forms of all but the rear wall. This will be against the pantry's rear wall and I surmised that Monday August 9th will be pouring day. When I finally caught up with Mike on Monday morning I asked him about the settings and found out we had just missed one another the whole weekend.

Late Monday morning, Dayton Sand and Gravel, the concrete delivery people, showed up with two trucks and "the stuff that dreams are made of" started to flow forth. Pardon the pun line by Boggy but it came to mind as I was writing this and I couldn't resist the urge. I watched as the first truck was spotted by backing him up and around the driveway between the 2007 addition and the fence. As the first was cleaning out shut and barrel the other was pumping it into the Ocean Park Road side. With the temperature high, sunshine in abundance and no rain in sight Mike, his son Tyler and cousin Adam were making a lot of progress. They removed all the form boards on

Tuesday morning August 10th and prepared the site for the floor scheduled to go in the following week.

Bright and early Wednesday morning, August 11th, they started to back fill with the digger's long arm reaching over the entire pit from the Ocean Park Road side. The inside part was done first and the stone leveled to the top of the footings. Between that, two dump10 wheeled dump trucks, dumping the stone, the construction pick-up truck, volunteers cars, as well as clients trying to get their food, parking for even a scant 10-15 minutes was at a premium.

Adding to the mix I received the following in an email from Leo this morning August 11th and extracted the entire last paragraph; Also yesterday I found out that the foundation wiz, Mike McKinney, has been able to get everything but the concrete donated and he and his two helpers, one is his son Tyler and Adam a cousin will not be charging for their time. This should result in a \$5,000 savings for the foundation but we spent \$500 more on the permit than was budgeted but still a \$4,500 net gain! If Carl Goodwin is successful with his idea for the project he will save us \$2,000 on the material for the Open Hands / Open Hart addition to the pantry building. I need to meet next week with Portland Glass as the manger noticed the project on my Face Book page and offered to help. We may wipe out the cost of \$2,000 of windows and doors!

In addition to the above taking place, as far as fill is concerned, the entire lower portion below grade was tarred and over that was placed what appears to me to be a two inch two by eight foot panels of Styrofoam for insulation to preserve heat and at the same time in summer make it cooler. While down there on Wednesday evening, I took note that cement blocks that are used under the slab floor of the original building. On Thursday afternoon before a schedule meeting with Liz Gotthelf a reporter for the Journal Tribune, I looked behind the building to find the entire area had been cleaned up to the point of more parking being available for the volunteers. The new walls were back filled almost to a point of level. The surrounding area and the fence removed for access to the drainage area was back. It was temporary set so more work could be done. It helped make the area safer. The joining footings were also put in that will allow the two parts to be joined. At this time there will be no internal passage way between both parts.

When I finally got a time out, bedtime, I was able to read the article in this weeks' Courier by Gillian I had heard so much about it from everybody that was able to read it before me. Another wonderful piece to go along with the one she did previously in July of 2009. This article, because of everything taking place, was a triple covering article, pantry, Open Hands / Open Heart and the rotaries part. Elaine and I had put our views forward and Leo had his say about the project as a whole in hopes after it was read others would come forward and help with donations of money or by the benefits of their talents and time.

Chapter 18 A Labor Saving Rotarian

The following was taken directly from an email sent to me by Leo on 8/17/2010 and used in order to cut down on the work load of trying to keep the clients fed and at the same time keep up this journal. All I did was change the type face and size of the print.

Footnotes: from Leo

“Hi Everyone,

I know you all have been wondering why no progress reports since the 12th? Well it has been mostly a lot of back ground work with few photographic possibilities until today. Last weekend Elaine Fournier led a crew of tree workers on a tree cutting / brush clearing project. Monday Mike Souliere sent in his crew to chip the branches and today we hauled away the brush. Monday we had Mike McKinney and crew back in to pour the two short walls by the existing building & today they were back to pour the basement floor (see attached photo's). Also today the decision was made to make the optional improvements to the existing building (insulate the 2 masonry walls, build out the roof over hang & re-shingle the roof) as it would be foolish to leave things as they are with a new addition being tied in”.

On Monday I met with the Saco Public Worker Director Mike Bolduc and he would like to see the Ocean Park Road entrance closed and the first Cumberland Ave. entrance reduced to 16 feet as the code requires. This will create a lot of parking and a chance to beautify the front of the building. So I called Dana at Dayton Sand and Gravel paving division and met with him

this morning about how we could get the paving work done for a reasonable amount (previous estimate for work was \$15,000). After some discussion about Mike Bolduc's plan to create a planter across the front and around the corner of Cumberland Ave. Dana asked what we needed. I told him we need the three areas paved for \$6,000. He said, "Fine call him when we are ready". This new paving will include lowering the grade around the pantry to stop water from leaking in during big rain storms and will allow for the parking area to be graded for proper drainage. All of this was discussed with me, Bob Nichols and Mary Tucker from the pantry board. We are happy with this news.

Chapter 19 Like a Plague of Locusts

On Wednesday morning, August 18th, when John, Jeff and I, reached the pantry at 7:15 a.m., it was already a bee hive of activity. Lowe's delivery trailer was parked across the corner section with the driver preparing to take the folk lift, his muscle, from the back end of the trailer. The wood sections required were place in the order they would be needed as well as in the rotation would be needed. Patrick & Mark Mondor along with Edwin Berry were at various places on the property visually laying out the locations of the load so they would have everything at arms reach when needed.

After we unloaded Hannaford's donations that we needed, Jeff and I left to finish the run and John took care of the inside. By the time we got back it was coffee time, I thought. It was at that point about 8:15 that the swarm was in a very active mode. Pat was in the rear yard putting out his chop saw and other work areas to make it convenient and there were three others on the roof of the original structure starting to skin off the old shingles with some of the wood frame showing. Leo was starting to put on a safety harness and told me they were waiting for Blow Brothers Incorporated, our long time supporters to drop the roll off in place. With all this going on, parking areas cordoned off with yellow tape, stuff falling and everyone moving around at various points, it was time to close up shop. As it was now 8:30, Evelyn was called so she could call the volunteers and stop them from coming into the pantry and Jeff was posted to send any client's home for the day as their safety had to come first.

After a period of time, John and I took off to his house and I could do some other work with Jeff there to cover for me. I returned with John for a telephone -scheduled board meeting with the representatives from the siding company and Lowe's, at 9:30. The dumper ordered was there, the roof was down to almost nothing with five of them working on the roof and the representatives were heading into the pantry while the rest of the board was still in route. Since there were no objections, I didn't ask, I was finely able to sneak in a cup of coffee by about twenty of ten. We finally had all the ducks in a row and by 10:30 a.m. The color had been picked out as well as the trim. The vote being unanimous, with one not voting, (I am color blind) I get to sit back. I love it when a plan comes together. In the middle of all this Nancy Tripp came in with another donated load of fresh veggies from master gardeners.

The meeting ended at about 11:45 after other issues were decided. Leo explained what was coming down the road as the entire project's time line. He set this prior to starting. The entire project by my estimation, is anywhere from 3 weeks to a month ahead at this time. By 2 p.m. they had just two more rows to do at the peak edge going the length of the building. I sent an email out to Nancy Brain of the Cohen Foundation. She wanted to be updated. I gave her my take on the project so far and sent her a few pictures.

Chapter 20 Look Out It's The Cops

On Thursday morning there were two pictures from Leo. There was also a notice that our men in blue, the Saco Police had been staked out over night to protect us against theft of the material. It was in the thousands. To Chief Brad Paul and all those men and women who chose to Protect and Serve, THANK YOU.

If I thought Wednesday needed crowd control Thursday the 19th was even busier. They moved the roll off dumpster around to another area in order to get the back side of the roof and received the entire floor joists sections that were due. There was also an array of trucks, workers, nail guns, tape measures, saws, hammers going in all directions. All the joists were put in and two thirds of what would be flooring was down and ready for the barn rising to begin.

Since 10:05 when I left them till 1:10 when I returned they had finished the floor, put up two walls, bracing inside and out, plus the end cap and one of the roof trusses for stability. They were working on putting the scaffolding in place for the rest of the trusses. Twenty minutes later I took some pictures from inside the pantry as they were preparing to lift the second and third trusses into place.

Below is what Leo actually sent me with reference to the above.

Date it happened 8/18/10, date opened 8/19 from Leo

Footnotes: from Leo

“Hi Everyone,

We made a lot of progress today and the next 2 things are really going to happen. Today Carl Goodwin’s crew stripped and re-shingled half of the main pantry building & started the details to install the floor system for the addition.

Tomorrow (Thursday 8/19) the floor system will be installed, the walls will be built and stood up and the roof trusses started. Friday the rest of the roof trusses should go up but it’s only a half day. Next Monday Carl crew will finish the pantry roof and tie in of the addition roof. So by Monday night it should look like a new building and if time permits they may install the windows and doors & start the vinyl siding. Everyone should thank Carl if you see him for his very generous donation to this project”!

Happened 8/18 received early 8/19

“Hey Bob; Wait until you see what is parked in your front yard guarding the lumber? Yes a Saco PD car watching over your supplies so someone doesn’t take them. Tomorrow we will have a camera set up that will video them if they do that anything, so be careful what you do back there because the cops will be watching! Lol”

Footnote from Leo to me on 8/20....

Hey everyone, Here are the pictures of where the project was as of 3:30 today, the crew left 1 hr early because were out of material to be able to continue the roofing. Tomorrow they work a half day and should get most of the addition shingled. Monday should be the tie into the existing pantry building and a start on the metal for the trim work before we start the siding. Also Monday Steve Boissonneault will be reconnecting the sewer piping and rough in the new half bath.

Thanks to Brad Paul's effort we didn't lose a thing last night even though we had a ton of material sitting right out by the Ocean Park Road, thanks Brad"!

Chapter 21 Nearing an End

On Friday the 20th at about 7:45 or so everyone was on station and the symphony of work by Carl Goodwin and his orchestra began. Fast forward to 1p.m., the symphony ended, everything was put away, musicians gone, with no trash around over the weekend. The new roof on the edition was covered entirely with the exception of that part where the two roof lines meet and a peaceful quiet fell over the property.

Footnotes: by Leo at close of day

“Hi Everyone,

Short day of work today for the construction crew everyone left at noon but look at all the progress we make in a half day with 9 men from Carl Goodwin's crew (even Carl & his son Adam came to work!).

Carl will be sending 3 man crew back on Monday to finish the roofing & do some interior petitions & build cellar stairs' and then it is up to us to finish the project. It should be noted that Carl's donation is worth thousands of dollars & have put this project in high gear & should allow us to finish way before the weather turns bad. At this point we are about 6 weeks ahead on my construction schedule and with the next three trades (electrical, plumbing, insulation) all being done by full time workers, we should get a lot accomplished in September! If things continue we should be able to

finish this project by the end of October. Our construction site did have a little vandalism last night someone tipped over the port-a-potty but it had very little in it so nothing spilled out”.

Second email from Leo on Friday

Hi Everyone,

Here is a revised timeline for the project which reflects the speed in which work was done this week (Thanks to Carl Goodwin!). Elaine has been saying she would be into the addition before Halloween & I wasn't sure but now I believe! The real key issue is after Monday's work is completed we have taken the weather out of the equation because we now have plenty of inside work. The other reason I think this will progress faster than expected is because we still have 4-5 major trades that are going to donate their time to do their share of the project which will mean work will be done during normal business hours. This will leave very little work to be done by volunteers on the weekends so we should continue on the fast track for the next 4 – 5 weeks.

We also expect to get help from Lowe's Biddeford Store employee's that will lead volunteer groups during the week for those that can take time during the week to volunteer. More information on those possibilities will follow when all the details have been worked out.

Our latest contributors are Dayton Sand and Gravel Paving and Biddeford division of Portland Glass. I'm also working on a security system donation and an automatic door opener system and looking for a desk top computer donation. If anyone hears of a company that would like to join in please get their information to me and I will do my best to get them involved!

Chapter 22 A Shoot 'em Up

On Saturday morning 8/21/10 while down at pantry with Alex Sutton, a friend and client, I walked around the grounds and met our neighbor Dennis who told me he hadn't looked at the site in a few days and was surprised at the progress. The last time he looked the foundation had been poured and now there was a building there. I told him of the work force and Carl Goodwin's crew with each man a symphony in motion with the finished

composition standing before him. It was at that point he showed me the hypodermic needle he had found around back of the 2007 addition. He had kicked it into some higher grass near the building to protect his children. I called Saco P.D. and they dispatched Officer Mike Trembley who was on duty to pick it up, and the site was cleared.

Chapter 23 Chef –Boy-R-D- Time

On Monday 8/23, we put on a noon time BBQ for Carl Goodwin and his crew. We wanted to say, Thank You. Before you knew it they were out the door and back on the job. The project is six weeks ahead of schedule at this point. Leo told us that the plumber was on site. The drains that were cut two weeks previously would be back soon. The big day actually took place the following morning.

Footnotes from Leo:

“Hi Everyone,

In the attachments you will see a couple of pictures of the Carl Goodwin crew that put up the building in 3.5 days! Today they we treated to a Burger/dog cookout by Bob (hot legs, see 3rd pic) and his crew!

As for progress today it was mostly inside petitions, cellar stairs, cellar entry, bathroom framing & Steve Boissonnault and crew reconnected the sewerage piping for the existing bathroom (yeah indoor plumbing again!).

Tomorrow the plan is to finish the roofing of the addition and the back side of the pantry. That means progress will slow down until windows and doors are in around the first week in September. Then we will see rapid progress again as the rest of the plumbing, electrical rough-in, insulation and sheet rock will be completed in the first two weeks. I would like to have a Rotarian Volunteer day around mid month as we get ready to vinyl side the addition.

Chapter 24 Tucking in Loose Ends

Today saw the culmination of what seemed like a never-ending job of putting a Lego building together. But this Lego building will, in the not to distant future, mean more to all who through, no fault of their own, will find people there willing to extend a hand and with a smile say “how can we help”. Carl Goodwin’s crew started before we arrived at 7a.m. to begin removing the back pantry roof so the new extension roof could be fused together in one sweep to avoid the snow build up that will come along in Maine’s other season. I took some pictures of the mornings work and Leo will send me the ones from the late afternoon when they were looking to end their outside time with us.

Footnotes from Leo:

“Hi Everyone,

Busy day today at the pantry; Carl’s crew finished the shingling and the cellar entry. Steve Boissonnault and Chris from SPB Plumbing and Heating roughed in the half bath plumbing. Tomorrow Carl’s guys will finish the interior petitions and the plumber will complete the plumbing rough in. We had a siding contractor (that has worked with Carl) volunteer to help with siding and can get going right away so we may get started on the technical stuff (metal bending, soffits and trim pieces) next week.

Sam Anagnostis and Haley’s Sheet Metal will have the furnace in their shop by Friday and we may start the heating install. Jim Godbout is working on a propane tank and ductless A/C system for the building & we have two other people working on a desk/file cabinet and desk top computer.

Chapter 25 The Rain in Maine

So far this project has been, I feel, blessed with weather that if asked for or planned couldn’t be better. Ever since the ground was broken on August 4th, the weather necessary to advance the time line from its original set date to the present August 25th date has been looked on with favor by the powers above. Leo has roughly calculated the project as being about six weeks ahead of schedule.

I was setting up with the guys and doing the Wednesday the 25th run and checking in with the three man crew that were on site doing all inside work necessary to further pull in all the loose ends. Chris the plumber was also there doing the necessary rough in work as far as drain and water supply lines. I gave him a key as Leo may not be around when he and Carl's crew may want some coffee or some other supplies stored inside. They anticipate the final hook up to water will come on Thursday.

On a phone call from Leo about noon I made a fast trip back to the pantry to remind Carl's crew that there was to be some sort of support put in under the bathroom area. By the time I arrived Chris was there boring a hole into the bottom of the floor in the basement storage area. I asked about it and he indicated that the 2x4 frame he was working through was indeed the one I was talking about and the crew had cleared the site as their work was finished there.

To Carl and his entire crew of professionals on behalf of the pantry board, Elaine and her board as well as all our clients that will benefit from the work of their hands, we extend our heartfelt thanks. From me, personally, it was an honor and privilege to be associated, although in a supportive roll, with all of you.

Footnotes by Leo:

“Hi Everyone,

Short day today, Carl's crew came back in for a half day to finish the inside petitions and the hurricane clamps (see attached pictures). Steve's worker Chris worked all day on the plumbing. Also Portland Glass was in today to measure for the new windows.

Jim Godbout a member of the Bidd/Saco club got a 320 gallon propane tank donated today along with the setting and under ground piping. He is also working on a ductless system donation.

Found a new source for a donation of a few exterior doors and hope to have news about that tomorrow. Also tomorrow we have a meeting with a Lowe's paint representative to see if we can get a paint donation to paint the exterior to match the new siding. After that meeting I have one with Saco Public Works and Dayton Sand / Paving Division to work out the parking lot resurfacing”.

Chapter 26 the day is getting very sloooooo

Footnotes from Leo: (Aug.26)

“Hi Everyone,

No pictures today as there was progress but not the type you would notice in a picture; we had our framing and plumbing inspection, met with a paint vendor from Lowe’s (free exterior paint), met with Saco Public Works representative and Dana from Dayton Sand / Paving about re-paving project details and what the city’s part would be. I should have a written plan from the city in a week.

I contacted the Hancock Lumber representative about getting exterior doors at a discount from Hutting. Follow up meeting for tomorrow with Hutting to finalize details.

Contacted Eric Parent about sheet rock hanging & finishing for project, he will get back to me with what he can do to help”.

Chapter 27 Monday the 30th

If Leo thought last week was slow he should have been here over the weekend. There would have been more action pouring maple syrup from a bottle in winter. No one was around except Blow Brothers Incorporated who moved the roll-off to the rear yard and allowed not only sunshine through the window facing Ocean Park Road but gave us some much needed parking space for clients. September 1st of next week is Wednesday. We expect the usual rush of clients for the remainder of the week; probably between twenty and thirty families a day if it runs the normal cycle. I took some pictures today and when posted on line will be back dated as the actual event of the shelving being stored on site took place on the 27th , I think, and was taken care of by rotary people as a “we can do” project.

Footnote from Leo:

“Hi Everyone,

Today was a slow day; the siding guy had to delay his start until tomorrow, Sam A. came by with some of the duct work, Lowe’s call and confirmed that their paint supplier is give us 10 gallons of paint for the old siding and 3 gallons of white for the trim.

I tried to get exterior doors donated today from Hutting in the Saco Industrial Park is on vacation this week. Hancock lumber has already said they would do part of the cost if Hutting would match it.

Eric Cote feels that his group, the Affordable Housing Committee, will be able to help with the handicapped door openers and the handicap bathroom installation but his approval person is away on vacation also. Thanks to Chris Jacques for pointing the project out to Eric Cote.

As you will see from the attached pictures the Biddeford/Saco Rotary Club banner was hung today so it will be known to all that both clubs are working on the project as a join effort”!

Chapter 28 Remembrances of the Past and.....

As suddenly as the project came to a halt, memories of the past ten years came flooding back. It was Friday morning August 31st, 2000. The work on the church was continuing and I did some video of it as usual. I talked to the crew about securing the area as much as possible because of the three weddings taking place during the weekend. At my home, at the other end of Middle Street, for lunch with Flora and mom a normal day nothing unusual was happening. I was about to leave to go back down about two o’clock and check on things (I worked for them as security) the fire engines could be heard on the avenue and mom said to me “they didn’t pass the house”. She looked out the door then yelled to me “there at the church”. With that statement, I was out the door, and over the next three or four hours I watched as hundreds of firemen with water and parishioners with tears streaming from their eyes tried in vain to save this historic landmark all to no avail. By nine that night, despite the pleadings of the parishioners for the safety of all who stood in disbelief, watched the skeleton remains of the First Parish

Congregational Church, built in 1862, was ordered to be knocked down and reduced to a smoldering pile of rubble and precious memories.

September 1st Ten Years Later and a Grinding Halt

Compared to the hustle and bustle seen over the first twenty eight days of the month the last few days have been like a giant time-out. The siding pieces that were delivered days ago sit where placed as the installer is still tied up on a previous job site. With the threat of heavy weather possible (hurricane Earl) hitting over the long weekend it was time to start to batten down the hatches. (That's Navy talk for picking up everything not nailed down and put it where it belongs). The generator stored in the yard should fair well as it's covered with two tarps and secured with rope. At close to 1000 pounds I don't think it will move. With Leo's help I moved the insulating panels needed for the freezer to the basement. Jeff picked up the remaining roofing shingles and put them into the roll off. Windows that were to be installed will not be. Seems they ordered the wrong size windows so the time saved in the front part of the month is going to be lost in the following month. All this makes me think of September Song, with the days getting long. They certainly are Ollie!

Footnotes from Leo:

“Hi Everyone,

Not much progress today, just a little ductwork for the heating system. Tomorrow the siding guy will be at the job installing the windows and starting the metal work and soffits.

In the attachment you will see some adjustments to the timeline; I have tried to document the date each task is completed and predict when the next will happen. I also adjusted the budget to reflect items added and discounts that have been confirmed. I have also updated the donations collected list to reflect the money received recently. We have about \$1,000 left in the account & expect to get the Biddeford – Saco Rotary club donation tomorrow (\$2,000). Also we should have the line of credit from

Saco/Biddeford Savings Bank available to use by next week but hope that some of the donations requested will start arriving.

Everyone should be looking for an article about the addition in the September 1st Portland Press Herald”.

Chapter 29 the Sound of Quiet is Deafening

September 3rd and there has been no activity in days due to the delays of missed schedules or wrong orders. So I guess it is chill out time till the ducks are in a row again. Lowe's did, however, stop by and pick up the windows as they passed this morning. The place is secure and rain from Earl is beginning to fall. At 7:45 a.m., September 4th our on line site stood at an even 800 hits since it first came on line May 13th 2010 another mile stone. These are single hits. Sandy Kats, our private on line wiz, set it up so if you log on again, it will recognize the IPC and not recount the viewer again.

Footnote:

John told me on Saturday that he had heard noise but couldn't see anything. I looked in the basement on Tuesday and found out a portion of the heating duct had been installed along the ceiling of the basement. Evidently Haley's crew was in working there, unbeknown to each they were in the building.

Chapter 30 It's a Contractor

On Thursday September 9th, when I started the day at the pantry, Jeff met me with the news that a 320 gallon propane tank was in the back yard. In mid-afternoon while at the pantry to prepare signs for distributing the food, determining what was needed and where I would put it for distribution, all in preparation for my packing team the next morning. The siding guy came in

looking for Leo. I walked out side with him intending to show him around when Leo drove on site. Well there goes my tour money.

Footnotes from Leo Date line Sept.8th

“Hi everyone

Made a little progress on a few items today; they delivered the new 320 gallon propane tank and Jim Godbout confirmed he has a ductless A/C system that has been donated. I hung the few signs displaying the contractors that have helped with the project. We expect more signs to be delivered in the next week or so.

I spoke with the Hancock representative today and it looks like they will split the cost to the doors with Hutting. I did some more research about a vendor to help with the freezer. I will meet tomorrow with the second siding guy”.

Chapter 31 Ending a Long Dry Spell

When we went into the pantry on Monday Sept. 13th there was nobody around working and that held for most of the morning as far as I know. Next morning (Tuesday) I seen they had started to install the parts for the siding to be installed.

Footnote from Leo:

“Hi Everyone

I just got word today that the United Way (thanks to Bob Nichols) will be providing a used computer for Open Hands / Open Hearts. Once they are in the new addition, they will be able to maintain their client files there without taking the paper work home. Also we have a siding contractor Dana Furtado working on the addition and will be asking the Rotarians from both clubs to help out with the siding and exterior painting on Friday 9/24 and Saturday 9/25. The contractor will be doing all the complicated work and we will just be installing siding.

Yesterday I met on site with Joel Roux from Hancock Lumber and he agreed to supply the four outside doors with help from Hutting in the Saco Industrial Park. This should be a big savings to us and these doors will be specially reinforced for the automatic door openers and have handicapped thresholds. They promised delivery by 9/20 so they can be installed at the same time as the windows which will allow the interior work to start up.

The City of Saco Public Works Dept. continues to gather information about the under ground drainage and drainage fixtures at the end of Cumberland Ave. Angela hopes to have plans we can sit down with and look over by the end of this week. I spoke with Gervais Dube over the weekend. He has agreed to lead the finish carpentry crew when we are ready in October.

The search continues for a refrigeration supplier that would give us a deal on a walk-in freezer. We have an instructor at SMTC working on this and hope to have good news soon (hang in there Bob!).

My understanding is that we have the ability to use the “line of credit” at Saco/Biddeford Savings Bank but continue to hope for a response from some of the companies we have asked for a donation. We presently have about \$2,000 in our account with \$7,500 in donations promised for January 2011. Elaine Fournier has been working on grant requests to Kennebunk Savings and TD Bank but they are involved applications. Mary Bishop has been assisting Elaine with technical advice on grant requests”.

Chapter 32 That's a wrap

On Tuesday 9/14 in the afternoon they started to wrap the building in Tyvek paper for protection against the elements. They also put up some of the siding hardware.

Foot notes from Leo:

“Hi Everyone,

The good news is that the windows and doors will be on site Tuesday and installed this week by John Tarbox. This allows the siding to go onto all three sides when our work parties occur on Friday and Saturday. The bad

news is that the electrician can't do his rough-in this weekend but can the weekend of Oct. 2-3rd. This will mean a 5th week will go by without any progress on the interior of the building.

So if you check the timeline in the attachment you will see I have adjusted the schedule and still hope to have the Grand Opening before the 1st of November. This Saturday Elaine was able to view and pick out the office furniture for the addition that is being donated by York County Federal Credit Union (Janet Davis).

On a personal note: At about this time we are fortunate to receive a sizeable donation from a woman that was settling her brother's estate. I was fortunate enough to meet her, receive it personally and give her a guided tour and explanation of the pantry's life. I will at this time share with all of you her note to me as it was one of the nicest received, and the reason I and all the volunteers keep coming.

September 19, 2010

Dear Bob,

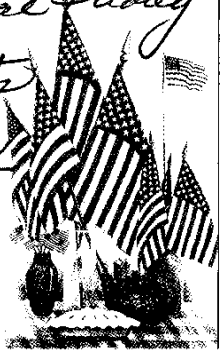
Just finished reading your journal "A Phoenix Rises".... Saco Food Pantry, Its Life and Times. It shows that with compassion and love, team effort: nothing is impossible.

There is much goodness in the human being if one loves his fellow being.

It was a pleasure meeting you and the volunteers. One felt the warmth and caring. Thank you so much!!

Your personal note on page 22, probably would reflect on many of us with our family and work, so busy.... we are not aware.... That Friday August 31st day led to opening many hearts and the Pantry's work will open many more hearts to "love" into the future.

"God's Blessings and Graces" Jean



Chapter 33 Reversing Rolls

With the project at a virtual stand still the news received from Leo is more than I could say. I'm going to play the footnote part in this one and preserve history from my point of view.

Footnote from Leo:

“Hi Everyone,

Well we seem to be ready for major work to happen on the outside of the addition this Friday and Saturday. It looks like the weather will clear early morning on both days and should allow us to install windows and doors and do the vinyl siding on all three sides. We will have to see if painting can be done with the actual predicted weather.

The good news today is that we were approved for a \$400 grant for the handicapped bath and \$2,800 for the auto door openers. Along with the re-installing and modifying the old ramp, this addition should meet all the current handicapped access codes requirements.

Next Tuesday I plan to meet with the city engineer, Dana from Dayton Sand and Gravel and Con from Crepeau Excavation to go over the new look for the exterior and the grading plan to eliminate water build up in the old building. This plan will call for the removal of the split rail fence and the closing of the entrance from Ocean Park Road and the beautification of the road side looking from the Elks Club toward the pantry.

I only wish I had the artistic talent to draw out how great this is going to make the building look. Between the new parking lot & landscaping, new windows, roof & siding on the pantry, it should look very sharp.

We should have a lot going on from 10/2 – 10/10 (wiring rough-in, insulation, sheet rock & painting) the interior should start to look really well. I would still like to have the grand opening before Halloween and if everything goes well we still could”.

Footnote by me: While the preceding was taking place, the pantry was I’m sorry to say open and taking care of business. In the week September 13 – 17 we took in one new family each day we were open. On September 21st we served six families, it being the slow part of the month and of those, two were new to the pantry.

At the same time this was taking place, I listened to the news of the day and was told the recession was over and had been for a number of months. They also said this was taking place even though jobs were scarce or non-existent. If I could get through to the people whose job it is to track all this

information, I would challenge them to work with me here in the trenches. Come listen to the stories, see the expressions on the clients faces, take note of the embarrassed ones and those almost in tears who in better times supported the pantry and now are looking for support.

The saving grace and the reason the pantry works is the volunteers who give unselfishly their time, efforts and patience towards all they serve. More importantly are all those churches, businesses, civic organizations and just plain people who when times are the darkest step forward, extend a hand and say lean on me I'm here to help.

Chapter 34 The Symphony of Working Hands

At precisely some time after 8a.m. the whistle blew and the hammers started banging out the happy tune of people back to work. At first it was just a few, actually two, that were measuring, slicing and dicing on the siding but by two p.m. the students from UNE college in Biddeford, never showed up to start swinging the brushes and paint in true Navy fashion even though it wasn't battleship gray, green works. Well so much for "trust me, I'll be there". We did, however, get the promised doors from Hutting so that's a good thing and combined with the windows received earlier in the week from Lowe's on Saturday Sept. 25 th with a little luck and lots of help, we may get the job back on track.

Footnote from Leo:

"Hi Everyone,

There is major progress to report on today. Dana Futada and Company have been doing the prep work for our volunteer crew to come in today and do the siding. Thanks to Doug Hooper who brought all the specialty siding tools and a ton of experience, we made a lot of progress. Dennis Robillard came by and worked with Doug and me for the morning. At noontime Curt dropped off some staging so we could work up higher on the building in the afternoon. Picture # 1 and # 2 show the detail work Dana's crew did and # 3 shows how fast siding can go on if the prep work is done before hand.

We didn't touch the painting today but it looks like we will have a bigger crew tomorrow September 25th and better weather which will allow for painting and siding to go on at the same time. Thanks to Bob we had a good lunch (burgers and dogs) & Elaine even cooked for us (a rare occurrence from what I'm told).

Tomorrow's work should really make the place look good from the road, so stay tuned for those pictures".

Chapter 35 Up and At 'em

The new day dawned on Saturday, September 26th, with just a hint of a shower that quickly dissipated and by mid morning. Two men from Tarbox siding and construction wasted no time in getting the brand spanking new double hung windows and doors in place so the work could go forward. They also finished the fine work connected with the siding taken place. All necessary corners as well as the pieces that need that special touch of a skilled master of the trade framed out around all that the installed, cleaned up, packed up and cleared the site before noon.

At that point it was fully turned over to Leo and the Rotarians that came in to hang siding on the road side as the back and blind face were covered previously with the peak fitted in this morning by Leo and a few others from Saco Bay doing the cutting of each remaining piece needed at the peak. Watching them work over the last two days and with some knowledge about fitting things, into a given space, you could do a whole half wall in the time it takes to get that precise angle to fit just right.

After receiving a donated refrigerator, about 9:30 that was not needed, I mostly sat around passing time waiting for the receiving church to show up and take it off my hands. As I said before we don't refuse anything or almost anything offered. At the time it was offered to the pantry I contacted Jodi at York County Food Rescue and told her about it, she sent it out to forty other pantries and within a day or two someone contacted me as needing it. At that point a relay system was put in place and it is now in a new home. Life is good, helping your fellow man is better.

Chapter 36 It's Sunday morning

Leo had called me late Saturday evening on 9/5 with a verbal on the day's progress and problems. The problems though small were annoying but solvable as they created a minor set back till next week when all could be rectified with Lowe's. The door hardware was mismatched so they installed bars across the doors for security and safety.

Then we have the paint work. Leo told me they had painted the entire original back wall, around the 2007 extension between us and our neighbor Dennis Laduex, and finished at the corner of the middle section of the original building. Hearing this I asked him if he used a spray gun because that is a lot of wall to cover in a day. At that he told me that he had lots of young blood there to help. When I left about 12:15 there were only a few from the rotaries on site and they were cranking the BBQ up for lunch.

When John, Alex and I went in Sunday morning to re-load the shelves, striped for cleaning, I took a fast look around. What an amazing transition between Friday and this morning. Over seventy percent of the entire structure was either painted or sided and with the white windows and doors in place. It looked like a brand new building was put down in place of the old one. What a difference.

Footnote from Leo 9/27

"Hi Bob,

I'll send out an update this evening as the majority of my pictures are on my friend's camera. I knew that Haley's Metal Shop was going over as Sam called me to make sure the doors were installed. Just spoke to the electrician and he's all set for this weekend. The inside should see some major advances next week.

Lowe's should have the rest of the siding to us by the weekend. The weather looks good for painting again this coming weekend. I might try and get in a day of volunteering.

Footnote: continuation Hi Everyone,

The two days of volunteer work (Friday & Saturday) this weekend produced some very nice results. The #2 picture for 9/24 shows what the rear section of the addition looked like Friday morning & #3 shows the results of that days labor. On Saturday the exterior of the pantry was painted (except for the front and side that will be vinyl sided). The front of the addition was covered with vinyl siding, windows and doors were installed (see attached pictures #40 - #55). This work was done by three Rotarians on Friday and six on Saturday along with six Interact Students from UNE. Meaning a lot of work was done by very few people & we only worked partial days! Thank you to all who were able to come and help.

Now that the building is weather tight we are able to have the wiring roughed in this weekend and next week we will have insulation and sheet rock installed. Hopefully we will have the interior painted”.

Chapter 37 A Meeting of the Minds and More

Nothing much happened after the weekend flurry of activity until Tuesday morning the 28 th when Leo, Con Crepeau, Angela the Saco City engineer, and Dana from Dayton Sand and Gravel walked the property discussing the way, time, and where with all, to complete black topping of the site and when it should take place. The most critical point is not the property but the drainage system on Ocean Park Road. As I understand the city can't do their part until spring. Con wants it to be closed out before winter. I think it came down getting all the piping and all else needed and when he did his part he would do theirs as well. They would finish it in the spring next year.

Now they tell me that both entrances to the main part of the lot are to be closed leaving only the back end where the truck and I back in to handle the in and out of moving the food. They think by doing both, angle the parking and sending the volunteer cars to the line between us and the Laduex it will give the required number of spaces. I still don't know why we have to be based on a major store parking lot? It's heavy the first week and a half then slows to a crawl until the last few days of the month. We do not have the cars to warrant this lay out or the time used. They come in and are there for twenty minutes and gone.

Haley's metal installed the furnace and duct work September 24th and 27th. Two Rennie Security Systems representatives were in on the 30th to see about an estimate for an alarm system. The plumbers were in to finish the attachments that were left out now that the building is secure.

Sandy don't put this part in but pick it up at the next chapter. I'll leave it in my notes here though.

Footnotes from Leo on the e-mail express

“Hi,

I installed the locks on the cellar door to the addition & I hid a key under the cover of the propane tank closest the cellar door. You will find it hanging on a ring around the small copper tubing if you need to get some into the addition.

Chapter 38 An Electrifying Team

On Friday, October 1st the father and son team of St.Ours and Son Electric, Incorporated hit the ground, running, inside the addition. Dana was there when I arrived about 7a.m. visually laying out the job as well as marking areas out, waiting for Danny with the truck and installation equipment. I checked in on them every once in a while to see if they needed anything, but I really wanted to make sure the work was getting done and within code, Yeah right! When I left them shortly after noon they were finishing up their first phase and getting ready to pick up some other supplies. Danny told me the city's electrical inspector, Marcel Desrosier, was coming in about five o'clock as a special favor, so the work in both plan and progress could go forward.

On Saturday morning October 2nd when I arrived about nine o'clock, so I was later than usual, the insulation guys were into it already. They were putting up the vapor / holding barrier with one, the father David Belivean, walking around doing the lower sections and supplying the other. His son Chris was, on elevated extension legs, doing the high parts. While watching them and the way they operated each doing his job and knowing what the other one needed without too much talking going on, it was like watching a well designed machine.

Lowe's also made a drop of siding and I called Leo to let him know. On his call back he told me after a pizza break, he and some others would be down this afternoon to install it as they would be finished with another rotary project by then. While I was home, the phone rang with news from Mary Wiggin. The TA senior class homecoming was taking place and after the traditional parade, up Main Street, they would be donating food to the pantry. When the suggestion was made to donate needed food to the pantry, the vote was unanimous. I set up a plan and Mary and I met at the pantry and unloaded the float. It totaled over 500 pounds. Way to go TA Seniors.

Footnotes from Leo

“Hi Everyone,

Nice to have daily progress to report again; Friday the electrical rough in was completed and inspected. Saturday October 2nd the building was insulated. As you will see from the attached pictures the furnace work was completed early in the week. The insulator was going to charge us a reduced price to do the job but has reconsidered and will do the job for free! Dube Drywall had already donated all the material so we have reduced the budget again. In the attachment you will also see the updated timeline / budget which show that we are within \$500 of paying for the addition with the extra money. The pantry has deposited into the account (\$1895). The down side is \$7,500 of the funds raised won't be in to us until after the first of the year.

Next week I hope to have the sheet rock completed and interior painting on the weekend. Also on Monday Con Crepeau will be back to dig for the freezer foundation (hopefully this will please Bob!). We have two Rotarians (Don Lauzier & Jim Godbout) working on a freezer donation and I hope to have good news to report next week.

Last Tuesday I had an onsite meeting the Bob Nichols, Angela Blanchette, Saco City Engineer, Con Crepeau and Dana Robinson from Dayton Sand and Gravel. It was decided that the city would need to do their drainage work before we could redo the exterior grading/paving that we have planned for the fall. After some discussion (city schedule wouldn't allow them to start before sometime in November). It was decided that Con would do the work for the city so we could complete the outside work before the weather turns. Con will be working onsite over the next two weeks to do grading, drain onsite and in the public right of way. This will add some cost

to our budget but I think in light of what the end result will be for outside appearance. This will be a deal worth doing. Dayton is doing there part (\$20,000 - 22,000) job for \$6,000, Curt Scammon will donate all the sod needed and the city will provide all the material for the drainage work. This work was not part of Con's original estimate so there will be some extra cost. This may be offset by a reduction in the cost I estimated for the electrical work, more to follow on this next week".

Chapter 39 Hold Everything...Time Out

Con and John Cote, the earth mover, came in early on Monday the 4th and started to scrape the area where the freezer was to go. By not knowing if it was going to be an inside or outside freezer, each requires a different base, that plan came to a halt. Not wanting to loose head way, they began leveling out the rest of the area and marked the Ocean Park Road street side as to how the drainage would be lined up. The town cannot get to it until November. Con knowing the ash fault plant would be closed, and then offered to do the job in conjunction with our site. The town would supply the parts he would do the work but more money came into play. This necessitated a board meeting on Wednesday, October 6th.

Footnotes from Leo

"Hi Everyone,

We finally have what is starting to look like a finished interior as they completed the hanging of the sheet rock today. As you will see from the pictures, they still need to return and clean up the scrapes and apply the three coats of compound to seal the joints (that should happen in the next three days). Hope to have painting start this weekend and carpentry and linoleum installation next week.

Con Crepeau has moved his equipment back to the site and did some grading, back filling & fence removal to prep the site for final grading, paving and lawn installation. We also installed the locks into the front doors of the addition (thanks to Doug Hooper). All the locks are keyed alike so one key will open any door.

We have a Food Pantry Board meeting tomorrow at 11:00 to discuss the progress, budgets and extra's to find out if the Board is ok with the plan and how it is progressing. We are down to our last resource to find a company that will assist us with a freezer and hope to have good news to announce soon!

Chapter 40 Lights, Camera, Action

What a great play, symphony, musical, picture, call it what you will I was privileged to watch at times over a two day period. If you were in my position to be there witnessing all that was accomplished over Friday and Saturday October 1st and 2nd you would stand and cheer the performers as I hope to do in recounting in words the artistry of two father and son combinations as they worked on the extension of the pantry. Though pictures by both Leo and me at the different times taken of the various stages of inside work done, nothing could give the viewer a true picture of what actually took place. Hundreds of feet of wiring inserted through hundreds of holes, outlets installed, retainer netting using thousands of staples, a pile of blowing insulation pumped into the ceiling and walls, filling each crevice to insure a weather tight seal. All accomplished by two teams of father and son with each team performing their chosen tasks to perfection. They talk about symphonies playing music, dancers performing different and difficult performances through my eyes they pale by comparison. I hope this description is worthy in describing the transformation I witnessed take place but I don't think it will give the reader and viewer a true picture of for lack of a better term, "poetry in motion".

Chapter 41 Paraphrasing Al Jolson

"You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet"

Monday October 4th dawned a little on the chilly side. I guess it was the opening movement of Maine's other season. Not much happened because the conductor was late. The dry wall being supplied by Dube Dry Wall was held up for whatever reason and would not be there till Tuesday. As Leo said

many times, he sounds like a broken record, he, he, ha, ha, something like “in the construction game nothing is guaranteed”. Ah! But Tuesday was another story with the whole orchestra in place on the same page and same line. Dube’s big ten wheeler was there before us and opened up the place, removed a window, had the boom loaded, a man saving wonder, with twelve foot sheets of sheet rock suspended and half way through the opening, the overture was already being played. The two men inside were carefully sliding them off and carrying them to three different staging areas where the installers that were to follow could have them accessible yet not in their way when installing would take place.

After they left, about ten thirty, I found out later the place was quiet again with no workers present. Taking a look around I snapped a few pictures of how I actually viewed one area and when you view it you will be able to see back in time and imagine you were there to see it as I did. Out of curiosity, I counted the panels they had taken in and spotted. They totaled thirty eight but that was packages of two so in essence they had lifted seventy six, 5/8 x 4’ x 12’ panels. I’m getting tired just writing this. No wonder they probably have no problems sleeping at night.

After going home well after eleven a.m. Sue called as she had some men looking to get into the addition. Finding that they were the ones that would be doing the installation on the sheet rock, I told Sue where the key was and she let them in to start their transformation from the rough bulk of the insulation look to a smooth wall finished room. On my way to have the car serviced I stopped by to check it out and see if they needed anything. This was about twelve forty-five. I looked in and Rick Martin, with a crew of two, had already covered about half the ceiling in about an hour later. After the servicing I again stopped to see if they needed anything before I went home. I casually looked in through the open door and had my eyes behold the eighth wonder of the world. In the hour and a half I was gone and adding the previous hour on the three man crew had covered about eighty percent of the entire room and was closing in on all the smaller detailed work that was needed to complete the job. And dear readers please remember Dube Drywall & Supply Co. Inc. of Biddeford donated both parts and labor. As sports announcer Mel Allen said; “Holy Cow”!

Chapter 42 The Women In My Life

With authorization, from my main squeeze of fifty two years, I am now going to introduce you to two remarkable women who have become, over time, an essential part of not only my life but the pantry's as well. If not for each ones talent and patience you would be doing something else right now. So sit back and let me introduce you to these ladies in my life.

When I was given the task of putting the pantry life to paper I knew I needed help "big time". Having tracked down people familiar with its beginnings, putting it on paper and doing it, as Bryce had told me so often, "do it from the heart", it came out great, I thought. Needing work, before it was actually printed, that was another story. English is my language but not exactly my forte. Punctuation, over stating things, and spelling are not my strengths, I love my tools and spell check buttons.

The first one is Lois Soucy, a retired school teacher and principal. She became a volunteer, in retirement, to help those in need obtain food. When Helen, our secretary / treasurer became somewhat incapacitated because of health reasons, it was decided that those two jobs should be split because of the ever growing number of people we were starting to serve. Lois was offered and accepted the job of client records keeping. This post afforded her the opportunity to not only continue to help the pantry but fit into her personal life as well.

When the first journal was drafted she was the one that spent long hours editing my work to make it presentable. Now, because I still "don't get it", she is doing this one as well. For being there for me and all who read both journals, Thank you, Lois.

And now meet the second woman in my life. Sandy Katz became a pantry volunteer some time before May of this year. To me she was one of the gals that helped distribute food on the front line. Where she came from, or how she became interested, at the time to me was unimportant to me. The fact she was there helping meant I didn't have to, "Thank you", Sandy.

Of what some would call "no big deal", the web site, conceived, started and maintained, by Sandy, with a computer mouse as her magic wand, had reached the 1,000 hit mark at 5:15 p.m. on October 18th. Only started on

May13th, 2010, it crossed that point and just a few hours later was in the process of heading toward the next milestone.

I have, over the ensuing months, in a way spoon fed her material, both in print and picture form, as well as other matters of importance to be posted. I would send her ideas for the site along with any posting material, and she, with her little mouse friend, called Minnie, would create a whole new section that would not only generate but hold the viewers interest.

Like Lois, she too, was also given problems, with wrong rotations, misplace and mind changing ideas from me but through it all she would show the patience of both a mother and saint when she heard me “knocking on her door”. Through it all and in organized fashion Sandy has put up, kept up and posted up, ensuring that everyone connected with the pantry would be proud to tell the viewing and supportive public the news of the pantry.

To both Lois and Sandy, the women in my life, for all you do for our clients, the Board of Directors, the supportive public and for me, I wish you and yours, Happiness, Peace and Heartfelt Thanks.

Chapter 43 Interior Work and Other Things

Footnotes from Leo

“Hi Everyone,

I have heard from, Eric Parent, the sheet rocker that he will be applying mud Monday – Wednesday, which means he will be able to finish sanding Thursday and will be ready for paint. The following week (10/25), we will get the underlayment down for linoleum installed and hope to get the bathroom fixtures installed and the finish carpentry started at the end of the week. That following week (11/1) we should be ready for second coat of paint and trim paint and finish electrical and carpet installation.

10 / 18 – 20 Sheet Rock mudding, 10 / 21 – 24 Paint primer and first coat

10 / 25 - 26 Underlayment and linoleum install, 10 / 27 – 31 Install bathroom fixtures and finish trim install

11 / 1 – 8 2nd coat of paint, finish electrical, carpet installation 11 / 9 –
11 Move in

11 / 13 Grand Opening

EXTERIOR WORK

10 / 18 – 26 Excavate the Cumberland Ave. drainage changes, lift pavement
around old pantry, pads for freezer & generator, work on pantry wall
insulation

10 / 25 Install curbing on Ocean Park Road & Cumberland Ave. and remove
fencing

10 / 26 Backfill around curbing and install sod, 10 / 28 Paving

11 / 1 – 3 Freezer construction and generator building construction

11 / 4 – 7 Make electrical connections for freezer and generator, pipe new
gas tank and test fire gas furnace, 11 / 8 Line new parking lot

11 / 13 Grand Opening

It would great to hear back from every contractor to know if this
schedule works for you. Obviously this is counting on everything going well
which doesn't always happen in the real world"! Lots of luck!

After the volunteer breakfast, on October 18th at a local
restaurant, Captains Galley, I went in to see how and who was on
site working. I met and talked to the men from the Parent Sheet
Rock Finishing and watched them for a while. Both Eric and Adam
were dancing around the entire room on leg extensions. Walking
on the floor normally is one thing, using a ladder to reach the
ceiling and high places on the wall are another. Doing both on leg
extensions with out looking down at the position and reaching over
head applying mud to the joints with out missing a spot or stroke,
can only be call a work of art. Slap it on, pack it in, and smooth it
out, leaving no ridges and then move on to the next area. Michael
Angelo would be proud.

Chapter 44 E-Mail message

“Hi Bob, 10/12

Spoke with the salesman today. He had the prices, on freezers, but couldn't give them to me until he checked with the guy that called him (Jim Godbout). I should have them by tomorrow and will let you know. I also emailed the sheet rocker about when we were coming up on the schedule but didn't get a response yet”.

Hi Leo,

I just talked to Barry Hobbins and he mentioned Energy Maine or something, on those lines, having grant money available? If they need a grant, I'll try a letter if I had a name to use. By the time you do a grant, winter will be here and I can store the stuff out side in the snow at -20.

Freezer box 20x20x8 with door, pitched rubber roof, light, heated door galvalinized. Finish 4” foam walls with shipping from Johnstone Supply \$12,381.98

No evaporator or compressor. I think you should look for used unit.

Jim Godbout Plumbing and Heating Inc. P.O. Box 365 48 Elm St.
Biddeford, Maine 04005

Hey Bob,

Here is the price from a vendor.

Yesterday I got a return call from YCCA that they don't have anything, but she had a name of someone at Shaw's to see if they could help. I called him but have not heard back from me yet. I would guess a condenser will cost in the \$4,000 range and Hannaford has an evaporator they will donate if we can make it work.

Chapter 45 Like Watching Paint Dry

There was not a lot happening so not much to tell. Steve Boissoneault of SPB Plumbing and Heating was on site doing work on the new heating unit and the sheet rock finishers had their portable heating unit and fans drying out the freshly applied finishing coat. As I said, not much, so I'll let Leo take over and finish this chapter. Take it away Leo.....

Footnotes from Leo:

Hi Everyone,

Short progress report on the expansion project; Monday Eric Parent and crew started the sheet rock taping and expect to be finished by the end of the week. Saturday, Doug Hooper and I will install the underlayment and the linoleum will be installed later in the day. That will allow Steve Boissoneault of SPB Plumbing and Heating to install the plumbing fixtures. Steve's crew is in the building today getting the furnace vented and gas piping ready for the system to be fired up. By the end of the week, Con Crepeau should have the new propane tank in place and under ground line installed so the switch to the new tank can be made.

Scott Cochrane will be in on the weekend to spray paint the interior of the expansion and get the place ready for Dan of St. Ours Electric to connect the juice to the expansion panel and start installing lights!

We have had a little hold up on getting the material needed from the city to do the drainage work on Cumberland Ave. but expect material to arrive soon. The dumpster has been removed to make room for the parking lot expansion and the existing paved area should be lifted soon and the new windows and siding started on the existing building.

I'm meeting with the Saco Building Inspector this afternoon to show him the changes we want to make to the freezer location and backup generator building location. If he approves it, will leave room for a future expansion on 20' x 28' should the pantry ever need the room. We are still struggling to find a donor or financial supporter for the freezer but the pantry Board of Directors have decided to go ahead and order it based on the assumption that the funding will come in eventually.

We still hope to have the building ready for the first week of November but that assumes everything happens as planed, so stay tuned!

Chapter 46 An Award Winning Breakfast and A Whole Lot More

On Monday October 18th, the pantry Board of Directors was finely able to get the time, people and restaurant ducks all in a row. For whatever reason, since it was first proposed at the start of the year, something always came up that necessitated moving the date. But it finally happened and about thirty five to forty people managed to make it. As with all meetings lately, that I was requested to attend, I was again blind sided and this time by my own people. Like the two local Rotaries, I was again given an award for doing what has to be done.

This one though held more meaning for me for two reasons. First the words spoken came from not only their mouths but from the heart. Secondly the actual award was not purchased but the work of their collective hands. Again carrying out the mission each of us practices each time we ask a client “how can I help”. I was so proud to receive their collective thoughts, poems, and drawings that I have put some in the picture section of this web site and invite you to share my appreciation for all I consider both friend and family.

With the festivities over and the week ahead it was time to get back to the reason we are here, “to help those in need”. Fortunately others had the same idea. On Thursday evening at 6p.m. sharp the donation flood gates opened and an estimated 1,000 pounds of food came flooding in. The Boy Scout Troop known as Troop 222 with parents in tow donated the fruits of their collective labor.

They had previously told Alice Finnegan, our pantry chair, that they were planning a drive. It would be done over a given time

period by first notifying the neighborhood. They were doing it by a written note along with a bag or two to put the donated food in and the date and time they would be picked up. It was a lot of work for a worthy cause. I must confess we have in the past had scouts drives that produced about 300-400 pounds for which we were very thankful. This drive to use a younger generation's vernacular was "AWSOM".

Chapter 47 The Work of Skilled Hands

Saturday October 23, after a week of work, but only after working all day the mud, spackling, put on the ceiling and walls by both Eric and Adam Parent was finished, and what a finish it is. The walls with each joint permanently sealed, smoothed and waiting for the next set of skilled hands to give color to where but only temporarily there was white patches. The ceiling is another story. While Michelangelo laid on his back to paint the ceilings, Eric and Adam stood on leg extensions carefully moving over the entire room applying with skilled hands a covering that was perfectly applied and ready to be admired by all who will view it in years to come.

Although smooth over the entire surface they skillfully, in some places, gave it a finish where though ever so slight some was missing to give it a some what textured look is the only way I can describe it. Now between Rick Martin and crew, Eric and Adam Parent, and what was once just an empty shell was transformed to what with a little more work, a place that will very soon be called home. Thanks to all for their donated time, skill and caring.

So dear reader we reach the end of the second book of "A Phoenix Rises". Now you are invited to continue the journey,

through the life of the pantry, by reading the third book of “A Phoenix Rises” when it is posted in the future. Until we meet again, Au Revoir, Auf Wiedersehen, Arrivederci, L'hitraot or just Good By.