

Muskoka businesses go above and beyond

By Sandy Lockhart

Well-known Huntsville restaurant 3 Guys and a Stove is committed to feeding hungry children in Phonjwane, Swaziland and restaurant patrons can support the cause too.

Each day when someone eats lunch or a weekend breakfast at 3 Guys and a Stove Huntsville, they will be supporting the Breaking Bread...Breaking Aids campaign. Fifty cents from each lunch and every weekend breakfast goes directly to help feed children in Swaziland.

Partnering with Missionary Ventures, 3 Guys and a Stove is supporting a community in Swaziland, providing food at a new school.

"We'd like to make life a little better," explains restaurant owner Jeff Suddaby.

Already 3 Guys and a Stove has sent money to set up the kitchen and equip and stock it to operate the nutrition centre.

"Often families have to choose between food and medication," says DeVonna Taylor, administrator for 3 Guys and a Stove. "Not only will we be providing food, we are going to be getting vaccines brought to the school."

By providing a healthy lunch each day, Taylor explains that a lot of the other health problems are reduced because so many are related to hunger. When the children also get the necessary preventative vaccines, their whole system is stronger.

The plan is to feed 70 kids each day, but Suddaby says, "I'd like somewhere down the line to feed 1,000. Our community gives to us and I'd like to give back to another community."



BREAKING BREAD: Jeff Suddaby, of 3 Guys and a Stove, is helping feed hungry children.

an patents for their new King Post design.

Rob Wrightman, owner of True North Log Homes, designed the system and started the patent process for the King Post in 2002.

The new patented timber frame King Post is an optional system that is structural but can also be used for cosmetic purposes.

"It stretches the wood instead of putting under compression load which is typical when working with wood," explains Wrightman.

Industry experts were skeptical and said this is normally something you don't do with wood but that didn't stop him. He had the King Post specially engineered, by two different independent engineers to ensure it would meet specified loads. He has been using it since 2002.

The design is a unique feature only offered by True North Log Homes. The patent protects it from competitor use.

"It is very aesthetically pleasing," says Wrightman. "It becomes the focal point in the building."

True North Log Homes Patent

True North Log Homes of Bracebridge has just received the United States and Canadi-

Lakehouse Cabinetry expands

Lakehouse Cabinetry in Port Carling is expanding,

adding 3,000 sq. ft. of space, including special design areas. They have also hired three new staff members.

"We've been pretty low profile and we've decided to expand and start advertising," says Dawna Roy, an owner of Lakehouse Cabinetry, which opened about two years ago.

The business has two designers - Brad Boswell and Kate Roy - plus four cabinetmakers in the shop.

"We have young innovative tradespeople and a foreman with 25 to 30 years experience who oversees the shop," says Roy.

When the construction is complete, Lakehouse Cabinetry's site will be completely landscaped and the building will look like an old-style factory. Construction should be completed by late spring.

Muskoka Kia wins award

Muskoka Kia of Bracebridge was awarded the Highest Market Share Award at the National Dealer Meeting in Atlanta, Georgian in January.

"It is basically the dealer award for Ontario," says Gary Williams, who owns Muskoka Kia with Paul Mascarin. "We had the highest market share of any dealer in Ontario and Manitoba."

Williams explains that Muskoka Kia, which is based in Bracebridge, has 3.5 to four times the Canadian average of market share of vehicles sold in Muskoka. Williams explains that market share is calculated using reports the measure all new vehicles licensed.

He sees even better things for Kia in the future. The newly re-designed Sorento, will be popular, he believes. Three Kia cars are up for Automotive Journalist's Car of the Year, including the Forte sedan, Forte Koup and the Soul.

"Our customers are not just the deal seekers," says Williams. "They are educated people, having done their homework and knowing this is an excellent choice."

Telford now offers leasing

James Telford, mortgage agent with Invis Inc., says his company's expansion creates a new leasing option for businesses in Muskoka.

Late last fall Invis Inc. connected with Vantage Leasing, which is one of the largest leasing companies in Canada so now Telford, of Bracebridge, can offer leasing



TOP SPOT: Gary Williams, owner of Muskoka Kia, holds the dealership's recent award.

options to his clients.

"We've added another tool to the bag," he says of setting up business leases for equipment. "There is really no limit to the type of equipment we can provide leasing on."

He notes leases can be arranged for equipment from \$2,500 up to millions of dollars with terms from 24 to 84 months.

"You can structure a lease plan that goes up and

down with the seasonality of your business," he says. "Payments are structured around what you can afford per month."

Business equipment can include everything from office furniture and computer programs to heavy equipment and machinery.

"There's an old business saying that goes 'Buy what appreciates, lease what depreciates,'" Telford says.

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