

canoe.ca

Custom Party Goodie Bags You pick the goodies, we wrap them together in a cute package! www.goodieGumDrops.com

The Loot Lady Canada's Loot Bag Specialist Name Brand Toys to make them Smile www.lootlady.com

Birthday Goodie Bag Ideas Search multiple engines for birthday goodie bag ideas www.webcrawler.com

24°C Winkler
 SPONSORED BY Weather Sponsorship Available!
 5 day forecast
 Click here

Ads by Google

The Winkler Times

- Careerad.com
- Classifieds
- Obituaries
- Autonet

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010

News Sports Special Sections Opinion Contact Us

UR Winkler
 View, submit, participate!
 Interacting with your community
 JOIN | SIGN-IN

Archives

Home / Archive: A friendly face to welcome newcomers

Birthday Party Favors

Find the perfect party favors & birthday decorations today!

Parent of a Newborn?

HUGGIES® has Smart Ideas and Tips For New Parents. Learn More Now!

Ads by Google

A friendly face to welcome newcomers

Posted 2 months ago

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Joyce Bergen wants to welcome newcomers to town.

But, first, she needs to know they're here.

The co-ordinator of the Winkler Welcomes You program wants to get the word out to Winklerites: if you know someone who has recently moved to Winkler, had their first baby in town, or gotten married, give her a call.

"I



Joyce Bergen of the Winkler Welcomes You program with a welcome bag handed out to new residents. The bag includes information about various community services, as well as coupons from local businesses. Photo by Ashleigh Viveiros/Winkler Times.

For some people, this is the first person coming to meet them in their home in a new community ...

rely very much on word of mouth to find out about these things," Bergen said. "I'm always listening, keeping an ear and an eye open." People who fall under one of the above categories are eligible for a visit from Bergen, who will come armed with a gift package full of information and goodies.

Each package includes everything a newcomer, newlywed, or new parent might need to know about our community, she said.

The newcomer package, for example, includes city maps, contact information for area businesses, brochures for various community services and groups, and a bunch of coupons designed to get new residents out into the city.

"It's just some basic, general information about the community," Bergen said, noting she hands out far more newcomer bags than anything else. "It's a really practical package."

The other two packages overlap, somewhat, but are both focused on things new parents or a newly married couple might need to know about Winkler, as well as coupons and gifts they would find most useful, Bergen said.

"The baby one has a growth chart, and a bib that I've made," she said.

But the packages are only one element of the Winkler Welcomes You program - Bergen also provides a friendly sounding board for newcomers or new homeowners to ask any questions they might have about Winkler.

"For some people, this is the first person coming to meet them in their home in a new community," she said. "To me, that's a huge thing."

Advertisement

Party Goodie Bags
Pre-Made & Customized Goodie Bags For Parties!

The Loot Lady
Name Brand Toys in all our Bags! Disney, Dora, Batman, Bratz & more

Ads by Google

"Some are just full of questions about Winkler," Bergen added. "Often you leave feeling you've made a new friend."

17 YEARS AND COUNTING

The program - which is run by the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce - has been around in one form another for decades; Bergen has been with it in its current incarnation since 1993.

Search

 Newspaper
 Archive Information

Need Bags?

www.EnvyPackaging.com
 Ads by Google

Sign up for
 the latest, breaking news, weather, sports and more
 sent right to your inbox!
 Subscribe

What are these icons?

 Click here for the icon legend

Calendar
 Today
 Huntington's Society of Canada National Conference Nov 11 - 14, 2010

canoe 411
 Find a Business:
 Business Name
 City

The number of visits have gone up and down over the years. In 2009, Bergen made about 250 visits.

"That was low compared to what I've done in some years," she said, noting some years she's made several hundred visits.

Privacy laws have made it a bit more difficult to track down contact information for newcomers, Bergen said, which is why she'd love to see more Winkler residents getting in touch with her when they know someone eligible for a welcome package.

"This city is full of people who own houses and rent them out, and very, very rarely does any landlord call me and let me know they have someone new living in their house," she said. "I would really like to encourage them to call me and let me know."

You can contact Bergen by calling the Chamber office at 325-9758.

Once provided with the name and phone number of a potential recipient, Bergen will contact the person to set up a time to stop by.

"It's always at their convenience," she said, noting some people decline the offer of a free bag of goodies, but most are eager to accept.

While the newcomer and newlywed packages are for Winkler residents only, new parents who live in one of the villages surrounding Winkler are also eligible to receive a baby package, Bergen said.

"Out of town births in the Winkler region can call me to pick up a package," she said, adding the requirement for getting a package is simply having your first baby in the Winkler area - that means existing parents who moved here and then had another child are eligible.

Businesses interested in supporting the Winkler Welcomes You program can also contact the Chamber for more information, though only members are allowed to supply coupons for the packages, Bergen said.

Article ID# 2670306

Share       Tools   

Archives Articles:

Party Goodie Bags

Pre-Made & Customized Goodie Bags For Parties!

www.goodieGumDrops.com

The Loot Lady

Canada's Loot Bag Specialist Name Brand Toys to make them Smile

www.lootlady.com

Wholesale Party Supplies

Themed, Kids, Adults & More! Make Your Party One to Remember.

www.WindyCityNovelties.com

CANADIAN Supplier Prizes

School carnival game prizes & plush High quality inexpensive toys

FunServices.ca



Ads by Google

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Special Sections](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© 2010, Sun Media | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Website Advertising](#) | [Research](#) | [RSS](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Report a Bug](#)