



Media Contact:  
Kristen Thompson  
Operations Manager  
kristen@westmuskokafoodbank.org  
www.westmuskokafoodbank.org

---

**Media Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
June 27, 2018

## **West Muskoka Food Bank Expanding Operations**

**MUSKOKA LAKES** – The West Muskoka Food Bank is excited to be expanding operations at the Glen Orchard Community Centre in the Township of Muskoka Lakes. Over the past 8 years, the food bank has seen an increase in numbers as awareness surrounding the service has grown. The food bank originally operated out of the First Muskoka Congregational Church, moving to the Glen Orchard Community Centre basement three years ago as more space was required. On July 1, 2018 the food bank will continue to expand by taking over the upper level in the Glen Orchard Community Centre. The organization received permission from the Township for this expansion and has committed to a lease agreement.

Along with new expansion efforts, the food bank is proud to announce the hiring of Kristen Thompson as the first paid employee. Kristen will be a part-time employee for the food bank and will assist with operations. Kristen states, "We are so excited to be taking over the upper level of the community centre while maintaining the lower level. The plan is for the upper level to be dedicated to food services, while the lower level will be for clothing."

The food bank has plans for some small cosmetic upgrades to the building, including an office and waiting room. The goal is to create a warm welcoming environment for people in an effort to make sure everyone feels comfortable. Long term plans include developing classes surrounding cooking on a budget.

The West Muskoka Food Bank is a volunteer organization that was formed in 2011 in response to the need in West Muskoka for assistance with food and groceries. The food bank is open on Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The food bank appreciates support in any form – financial or food. Food donations can be made at Foodland, Port Carling, Freshmart, Bala, and the Post Office, Bala. Financial donations can be made online at [www.westmuskokafoodbank.com](http://www.westmuskokafoodbank.com). Residents in West Muskoka are encouraged to contact Kristen Thompson, Operations Manager at [kristen@westmuskokafoodbank.org](mailto:kristen@westmuskokafoodbank.org), regarding any questions or help.

-30-

For additional information, please contact:

Kristen Thompson  
Operations Manager  
705-646-3997  
[kristen@westmuskokafoodbank.org](mailto:kristen@westmuskokafoodbank.org)  
[www.westmuskokafoodbank.org](http://www.westmuskokafoodbank.org)