



Don Denton/News staff

Don Evans, executive director at Our Place Society, stirs a large pot of vegetables that will be added to an equally large pot of meat to create a stew for dinner at Our Place. Demand for meals at the Pandora Avenue centre increased in October by 62 per cent over last year with 58,000 meals served.

# Our Place is serving record number of meals

October saw 62% increase in demand from previous year

Kevin Laird  
Victoria News

Demand for a hot meal and warm shelter at Our Place has almost doubled in the last two months.

In October alone, Our Place served more than 58,000 meals – a 62-per-cent increase from the previous year. And it's not slowing down, said Grant McKenzie, Our Place director of communications.

Already in November, Our Place is setting new records on a daily basis for the number of meals served.

Our Place has recently

extended its hours until 9 p.m., seven days per week, to meet demand during the winter.

McKenzie said part of the reason for the increase has been the extension of hours, but also the reduction of services at other social services agencies such as the Salvation Army and the Mustard Seed.

"We are seeing a lot of new faces," said Don Evans, executive director of Our Place.

"The cold weather plays its part, but we're also seeing more low-income people, seniors, working poor, and those with mental and physical disabilities, seeking out help because their cheque can't stretch far enough to provide both shelter and meals."

Our Place operates on an annual \$1 million budget to provide meals and, but that is eaten up quickly with the influx of new

clients, McKenzie said.

"Our staff is working extra hard to make sure everyone gets a hot meal in a safe place," he said.

Our Place feeds between 500 to 800 people a day.

McKenzie said donations are always welcome, especially cash. But clothing, such as jackets, socks and gloves are also needed.

"We are very grateful to have such generous supporters who are making it possible for us to keep our doors open," said Evans.

In addition to providing meals, Our Place provides 45 transitional housing units, hot showers, free clothing, counselling and outreach services.

To donate, please go online to ourplacesociety.com or call 250-388-7112.

klaird@blackpress.ca

# Singing for joy Out Loud

Sing Your Joy will bring their song to First Metropolitan United Church when they perform in Out Loud on Dec. 5.

Under the direction of Christine Chepyha and Gordon Miller, Sing Your Joy is a non-auditioned chorus of young adults from all walks of life, joining voices together in an exuberant expression of joy and building friendships.

Also performing at Out Loud is spoken word artist Annie Lepage.

Lepage has been a finalist at the 2014 Vic Slam Championship and semifinalist with the Vic Slam Team at the 2014 Canadian Team Slam Championship, and is a workshop leader with the Raising Voices high school poetry program.

Tickets for Out Loud are \$15/\$10 and available online at singyourjoy.ca or phone 250-213-1948.

First Metropolitan United Church is located at 932 Balmoral Rd. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

editor@vicnews.com

**'Tis the Season!**  
**Customer Appreciation Event!**

**ENTIRE STORE ON SALE!**  
**30% to 50% OFF**  
LIMITED TIME ONLY  
*Give the gift of fashion!*

*Suzanne's Suzanne & Jenny's*

Hillside Centre 250-598-3502  
Westshore Town Centre 250-478-3885

Beacon Plaza 250-656-0096  
Broadmead Village 250-658-3618

\*discount applies to original ticketed price.\*\*See in store for details.

**THE AMAZING TRAVELING DINOSAUR SHOW LTD.**

**COME AND JOIN US**

Kids corner with books, toys, activities and a dig zone!

A hands on educational experience!

**December 3rd - December 7th, 2014**

3531 Uptown Blvd, suites 115-117, Victoria

See and touch an astonishing collection of fossils rarely encountered outside of a museum! Full Dinosaur skeletons, Mammoth tusks, Ammonites, Meteorites, an actual Tyrannosaurus Rex skull and more! Visit the gift shop with fossils for every budget!

**\$10 Adults - \$8 Youth (5-19 years) - \$8 Seniors**  
**Children 4 and Under are Free**

Discounted Rate for School Tours on December 8th - Limited space... so book now!  
Call or email for more details

Tickets available at the door, 10% of all admission sales will be going to the local Help Fill a Dream Foundation. For more info and sneak peaks follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Twitter: AmazingTravelingDino@TDinoShow  
Instagram: Amazing\_Traveling\_Dino\_Show  
Facebook: The Amazing Traveling Dinosaur Show Ltd

250-507-4232  
amazingtravelingdino@hotmail.com

103.1 JACK FM  
98.5 Ocean  
HELP fill a DREAM FOUNDATION  
Black Press Uptown

GUTTER CLEANING • REPAIR • GUTTER GUARD

**Painting, Renovating**

PAINTING • RENOVATING

WINDOWS • PRESSURE WASH

**CAP'S Since 1969 380-2662**

Sooke to Sidney

CARPET CLEANING • ROOF DE-MOSSING

**BOORMAN'S**  
SINCE 1933

250-595-1535  
mikeboorman.com