

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

Margaret Cantwell likes being able to help those who are down on their luck or just need a hand up. She says her desire to help comes from the days she chipped in around her parents' house in Newfoundland, helping to care for a large family. But she also wants to help, she says, because she wants to be part of a solution.

A volunteer with the Fort York Food Bank (FYFB), Cantwell says her role is one small step to make a difference in the lives of those who truly need help.

"Being a small part of the change, just making the most of my time, is what makes me feel good," Cantwell says of her role as the chair of the steering committee and regular face at the food bank and drop-in centre. "We make the fight with poverty and hunger our fight. We are part of the solution."

Cantwell has been a FYFB volunteer for eight years and it's clear she is familiar to those who

come in needing help. She smiles and nods at almost everyone awaiting a hot meal in the drop-in centre portion of the storefront at 797 Dundas St. W, and everyone seems to know her.

But while some people know Cantwell, she says it can be hard to get new people to open up.

"Some of the challenges I face volunteering at Fort York Food Bank are gaining the trust of others who need help and encouraging them not to limit themselves," she says, adding the food bank has a "very inviting and comfortable atmosphere."

Along with helping people get the food they need, the team at the food bank also has information about housing and can point people in the right direction for other services that will help them get on their feet.

"I encourage others to be the best they can be, to accept the challenges to improve their skills,

and to share their positive experiences with others," Cantwell says.

— If you've seen someone around town you'd like to know more about, e-mail Kate Schwass at kate.schwass@sunmedia.ca



Sorry I missed you ...
the best of today's missed connections

Rockband night

You sat at the bar Sunday night at Slack's Rockband night. You had your dark hair up, skate shoes, jeans and sunglasses on your head. You were drinking a Smirnoff. I just wanted to say that you're cute and I was trying to find a reason to come say "hi." Sadly, you left before I got the courage. Hope you read this.

— craigslist, missed connections

Second chance:

Hey, we took the bus from Kingston to Toronto on Friday night and kept making eyes at each other. You were the cute guy in the hat; I was the girl in the green coat. We had a smoke before getting on the bus. I don't normally do this kind of thing, but as I got off the bus for the subway, I heard the guy beside you laugh at you for not doing anything, which I think means you wanted to? If you do, here's your chance! I'd love to hear from you.

Location: Coach Canada bus

Vampire Slayer fan

You are a girl who wrote a note about being bored and looking for new friends, boyfriends, people in your life. You mentioned having an interest in funny/sarcastic people, and those who have an interest in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer!*

I found your note this morning and couldn't find it again tonight after I had decided that I wanted to respond to it and possibly meet you.

I am a girl, and my intentions are platonic. You just seemed interesting, and I think we have a lot of things in common. I've never done this before, so I'm taking a chance!

— craigslist, missed connections

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Organ donors get breaks

Organ donors could get up to 26 weeks unpaid leave to recover from surgeries under legislation tabled yesterday by Labour Minister Peter Fonseca.

The bill, an amendment to the Employment Standards Act, would ensure anyone donating a kidney, liver, lung, pancreas or small bowel could get 13 weeks of unpaid leave. Patients could get an additional 13 weeks of unpaid leave if a doctor thinks more recovery time is needed.

Fonseca said the goal was to increase the number of people willing to donate organs and to reduce the lengthy wait

lists potential recipients must endure.

The act was dismissed by NDP MPP Peter Kormos, who said the government cannot produce one person who has been fired because he or she took time off work to donate an organ.

"This will do nothing to reduce waiting lists," Kormos said.

What is really needed is for the government to mandate informed consent, Kormos said, which would assume people are willing to donate their organs unless they expressly say otherwise.

— SUN MEDIA

Ticketmaster to be probed: Att. Gen.

Ticketmaster and its online resale site TicketsNow, which recently drew the ire of Bruce Springsteen and U.S. officials, will be probed to ensure people are paying a fair price for entertainment and sporting events, Ontario's attorney general said yesterday. The availability and pricing of tickets sold through the entertainment colossus will go under the Ontario government's microscope.

"More and more Ontarians are increasingly concerned about fair access to

tickets at a fair price," said Attorney General Chris Bentley. "I want to make sure Ontario families get fair access to tickets."

Mel Fruitman of the Consumers Association of Canada welcomed the attorney general's probe, and said Ticketmaster should never have been allowed to redirect customers to TicketsNow, where tickets are often sold at many times their face value.

— THE CANADIAN PRESS

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