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## Pie-in-the-park dream lives for Kitchen in the Park Project

February 02, 2010

Greg Layson

[glayson@guelphmercury.com](mailto:glayson@guelphmercury.com)

GUELPH — Trish Van Watyk and Staci Barron don't just have some pie-in-the-sky dream. No, the Elora women have a pie-in-the-park dream. Pizza pie, that is — in Bissell Park.

The two are spearheading the Kitchen in the Park Project (KIPP), an effort they call “an innovative, not-for-profit volunteer-run community wood burning oven venture.”

Their mission is to create a community outdoor kitchen to be used for baking pizza and bread in the Elora park.

Van Watyk, a mother of three, borrowed the idea from a park in Toronto.

When she lived in the city's core, she used to take her kids to Dufferin Grove Park, which had two wood burning stoves. She said she and the kids would head to the park and make pizza.

“Within three minutes, we were all eating lunch,” Van Watyk said.

She said plays, dances and theatrical performances all centred around the two wood burning stoves.

“It's like a house party where everyone always ends up in the kitchen,” she said.

Community members will create the pizza and bread but trained volunteers will do the actually baking.

The women's proposed project includes a kitchen that meets public health standards, two ovens and a sheltered serving station. The estimated cost is \$66,000.

“We're in fundraising mode. We have to fundraise as aggressively as we can,” Van Watyk said.

So far, Stempski Kelly Association Design Landscape Architecture Planning has donated preliminary designs for the project. And John Morris Law Office has donated its services.

The women have raised \$800 on their own through various initiatives and Tuesday the Elora Lions Club has committed \$5,000 to the project.

There may also be some funds available through the Trillium Foundation.

“I think everyone in the club agrees that it's a great addition to the park,” Elora Lions president Tom Waind said.

The Elora Lions last summer added an additional 286 feet to the boardwalk at Bissell Park.

“This Kitchen in the Park Project initiative is something additional and we felt it was a nice addition,” Waind said.

The women are also selling breadboards and fridge magnets to raise money. And they will host a sewing circle Feb. 6 at which donated sweaters will be cut and unstitched and sewn back together to create other fashions that will be sold in shops around town.



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