



## Event shines light on poverty situation

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You can stand up and help make poverty history next week.



York Region's Poverty Action for Change Coalition and Make Poverty History have teamed up with the York Region Food Network to host the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty stand up event in Newmarket.

The day is also known as World Day to End Extreme Poverty, celebrated every Oct. 17.

The first event took place in Paris, France in 1987 when 100,000 people turned out to pay tribute to victims of poverty, hunger, violence and fear.

"The idea of the event is to give a voice to those living in poverty," coalition member Tom Pearson said. "We are opening the discussion of the issues surrounding poverty, bringing it to the public."

This will be the fourth year Newmarket participates. The first was on the front lawn of the region's office building as it poured rain and performers stood on a milk crate sheltered by an umbrella, Mr. Pearson recalls.

The event has come a long way, this year featuring a host of guest speakers including some who are living in poverty so people can hear their stories. Other speakers include Mr. Pearson, York Region Alliance to End Homelessness' Jane Wedlock, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, author Ivan Prokopchuk and more.

"There will also be an open mic portion for those who are living in poverty, have witnessed or want to speak out against poverty," Mr. Pearson said.

"We are encouraging local artists to write songs for the cause, too."

Entertainment for the event will feature Schtik Jagger, Fred Joly, Freedom Chuck, Brenda Bakos, Stephanie Rudd, Gregory Carbis, members of Spotlight Theatre and more.

Healthy hot and cold meals and free trade coffee will be served while supplies last.

For more information about the event, from 1 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 17 at Fairy Lake, visit [povertyacc.com](http://povertyacc.com)