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The Reel Cafe Kingston Canadian Film Festival I've posted the link to the Kingston Canadian Film Festival. Mary Beth and I went last year and had a blast!...

A helping hand

Local News

By MIKE NORRIS, THE WHIG-STANDARD

Posted 1 month ago

Tammy Babcock is impressed by the resiliency of the people of Cite Soleil, the Haitian slum where she has done humanitarian work for the past two years.

In January, the country was hit by a devastating earthquake that killed between 250,000 and 300,000 people. Earlier this month, hurricane Tomas hit the island, killing at least 20 more.

Now a month-long cholera epidemic has claimed more than 1,500 lives and sent almost 30,000 people to hospital.

"I can't believe they're going through so much," said Babcock, whose organization -- Help Tammy Help Haiti -- built a water tower and has nearly completed a medical clinic in the city of 200,000, located just north of the capital of Port-au-Prince.

"The people I work with there are survivors. I have no doubt they're going to be OK."

On Thursday night, Babcock was honoured by the Kingston Family YMCA for her humanitarian work. She received the 2010 YMCA Peace Medal, awarded to "an individual or group who, without any special resources, demonstrates a commitment to peace through special contributions made within their community or overseas."

The person who nominated her for the award is a complete stranger.

"I don't know who nominated me, but they obviously did some research into what I've done," said Babcock.

"It's quite nice that someone went out of their way to nominate me."

Babcock said credit should also go to Cari Wolsey and Jaime Wood, the other two members of her humanitarian team, as well as "everybody who's helped me and everyone else who has volunteered" with her group.

The clean drinking water, purification packs and supply of salts and sugars provided by Babcock's organization should help to fight cholera, an infection of the small intestine caused by the bacterium Vibrio cholerae and whose symptoms are vomiting and watery diarrhea. It's transmitted primarily through the consumption of contaminated drinking water or food.

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The simple and successful treatment is the replacement of fluid and salts lost through diarrhea.

A Pan American Health Organization official said this week that there could be as many as 400,000 cholera cases over the next 12 months.

The outbreak is occurring as Haitians head to the polls Sunday for the presidential election, which features 19 candidates.

"It's ridiculous that (the presidential election) is going to carry on," said Babcock. "It's hard to care about an election when your loved ones are sick with cholera."

She won't let the epidemic stop her from returning to Cite Soleil in January.

"I'd like to go now," said Babcock, who hopes that her group's two-storey medical clinic will be completed by then.

During her last trip to Haiti in August, she and her team broke ground to dig the foundation for the clinic, which will provide basic first aid. By early September, she said, the bottom floor was almost finished.

Babcock dropped by the YMCA Wednesday night and was pleasantly surprised by what she saw -- numerous displays about Haiti located throughout the building.

"Every five feet," she said. "I've never had this done for me before. It's great for awareness."

mnorris@thewhig.com

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There's alot of 'me' in this story, (even in the self-serving name of the charity). I wonder if the reporter did any factual research. Is there a water tower? Is there a nearly completed medical clinic? Pictures?

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Post #1 By : [puppy131312](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



I counted only three me.

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Post #2 By : [Harry Sphincter](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Keep trying Harry...

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Post #3 By : [Schlitzie Troll](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



And just what have you guys done for others???

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Post #4 By [workerbee](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**

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Why does it matter if there are "I"s and "me"s in this article? It's about Tammy winning an award, is she supposed to talk about herself in the 3rd person? Tammy happens to be a friend of mine and is an amazing, giving person. How many of you would be willing to go to one of the most violent ghettos in one of the most violent cities in the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere of your own free will? Please keep your snarky comments to yourself and focus on the good that Tammy has done for these people out of the kindness of her heart and on her own free time.

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Post #5 By [Tierney](#), 1 month ago | 2 Votes | **Vote:**



Uh, sure. Your opinion is objective and not biased is it?

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Post #6 By [:Harry Sphincter](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



agreed tierney....tammy is an amazing woman!! keep up the great work tam!!!

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Post #7 By [high~hopes gal](#), 1 month ago | 1 Votes | **Vote:**



puppy...check out her web page...'help tammy help haiti'...lots of pictures....

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Post #8 By [high~hopes gal](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Again mr. sphincter, why would it matter if my opinion is biased? Would you be willing to do the humanitarian work she has been doing will continue to do? That's what I thought.

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Post #9 By [Tierney](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



What facts are you looking for?

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Post #10 By [Tierney](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



I guess puppy thinks this is just a made up story. You want pictures puppy then grab your camera and head to Haiti, some people do good things - and then there is you being critical of it or not believing it. Only a liar themselves believes everyone is telling a lie. Now why don't you do some factual research and get back to us with the truth. Remember now not to make anything up, as you will get caught cheating.

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Post #11 By [citymess](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



citymess, that post of yours is a mess. Get off the computer and head to school with the kids. Pay attention in English class.

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Post #12 By [:Harry Sphincter](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Again, who really cares what the name of the charity is?! Seriously, all the nitpicking is overshadowing all the GOOD this woman has done. Do you really think the name of the charity is more important than the charity itself?

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Post #13 By [Tierney](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Tammy cares, and Tammy does...

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Post #14 By [:Harry Spincter](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Are you saying that Tammy thinks the name of the charity is more important than the charity itself? You DO realize that when she started this charity up she was the ONLY one doing any of this charity work? So, in essence, it really was Help TAMMY Help Haiti, because there was nobody else with her. Harry, you really couldn't have picked a better username (besides Troll) because you, sir, are an ***hole.

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Post #15 By [Tierney](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Tierney don't pay no attention to them, all they are doing is trying to turn a good story, a good thing into a twist.

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Post #16 By [citymess](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



@puppy. The reporter was interviewing Tammy about her accomplishments. How could she avoid saying "I" or "Me" if she was being interviewed about herself? Great work Tammy you make us proud!
The reporter on the other hand... "watery" diarrhea? What other form does diarrhea come in? By definition it is a liquid discharge. That's like saying cold ice.

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Post #17 By [pauliewalnuts](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Perhaps if some of you ignorant and uncaring posters took the time to think of others in a positive way, life would not be so uneventful for you.
A job perhaps?? Huh what a wonderful idea that would be and then "I" would not have to support you.
Take a look at the website and see the amazing work this woman has done.
The Whig truly needs to start monitoring all the "IDIOTS" posting on this board.
You sicken me!

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Post #18 By [insupportofhaiti](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Hey Harry, here's an idea...if you are so skeptic of the good deeds that Tammy has done, and having to have proof...jump on a plane and fly down to see for yourself! And, while you are there...do some good deeds yourself! HA! Right!!

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Post #19 By [notbuyingit](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Why is all this conversation going on? Where has all the money (at last count a billion) gone to repair this country?
Lining peoples pockets. Why is this country still have people dying and living in shacks. Where is the money?
Why does a person like this Ms Babcock have to do this? Where is all the money that people donated gone to?

Exactly. I never never donate to stuff like this.

Indonesia still is in a state of despair and the money is still not showing up there.

Haiti is controlled by gangs and corrupt officials.

Always has and always will be.

Ms Babcock is doing what she can.
Not for me though.
The same poverty and disease and lack of water can be found in Northern Ontario. Same corruption there as Haiti.
I have always been, look in your backyard before you go afield.
There's lots to fix here.

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Post #20 By [judoman](#), 1 month ago | -1 Votes | **Vote:**



@judoman - and what are you doing to help those in need here? Have you ever thought that someone like Tammy is doing what she is because she knows that even though there are people in need in this country (and I am not disputing that) the people in Haiti are more worse off than you and I could ever imagine. We at least have a government who has put into place services for those who are in need.

Those in need in our country are similar to what would be considered "lucky" in Haiti.

All that money that was donated has been hand delivered by Tammy to those in Haiti to help construct the medical clinic. If you can't donate money, what about supplies? Every little bit helps.

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Post #21 By [Tierney](#), 1 month ago | 2 Votes | **Vote:**



Oh and I am sorry, but comparing Northern Ontario to Haiti in terms of poverty and corruption is incredibly ignorant. Haiti is the poorest nation in the WESTERN HEMISPHERE. You will not find cholera in Northern Ontario, there is better access to clean water and shelter here than there is in Haiti. Northern Ontario does not have armed gangs roaming the streets because the largest prison holding the most heinous criminals was destroyed in an earthquake and they all escaped. Seriously, educate yourself before you make a comparison like that. Completely apples and oranges.

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Post #22 By [Tierney](#), 1 month ago | 2 Votes | **Vote:**



Oh puppy. You've done it again. Where did you come up with such a whitty coment. You're the best. (PAT ON BACK) I just love your input.

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Post #23 By [bailey d](#), 1 month ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**

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