

The Harcourt Herald

The life and work of Harcourt Memorial United Church, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

June 2020

**Going the Distance...
Love and Loss During
COVID-19**



New Online Memorial Quilt
Invitation to a Family History Project

The HH Photo Contest!
And much, much more...

Harcourt Memorial United Church

Guelph, Ontario

An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

Seek. Connect. Act

Our Mission: Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate and non-violent relationships.

Our Vision Statement: To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service.

Our Core Values: Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

Our Purpose: To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus.

Harcourt Memorial United Church
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Webpage: www.harcourtuc.ca

Office Hours:

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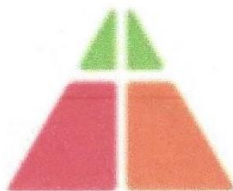
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The Harcourt Herald is
published 10 times per year
(in paper and digital formats)
by the Communications
Committee

Submission Deadline:

20th of each month.
theherald@harcourtuc.ca

Editor: Gillian Joseph



The Ministers' Quill



Who knew?!

by Jim Ball

I have another “map” story to share with you. It is an origin story that shines a spotlight on human behaviour. The story is this: the word “California” is derived from a medieval Spanish romance novel. Really. Published in 1510, the story describes a wondrous island filled with great riches. It is ruled by beautiful women warriors. The island is called *Califia*. Sixteenth century explorers used the name to describe the southwest coast of North America. For the next two hundred years, before the Spanish established missions along the west coast and learned its true topography, European cartographers created maps depicting California *as an island*. What the map-makers knew was limited. They filled the gaps in their knowledge with something “made-up”. Sometimes human beings do this. We fill gaps in our understanding with unwarranted *fiction*. Sometimes we fill these spaces with unwarranted *fear*.

Where are we seeing gaps in understanding in these days? With what are people filling them? Fiction? Fear? In uncertain times, what other, better alternatives are we finding?

Peace to you.



A map from the 1600's depicting California as an island.

Online Sunday Services & Virtual Groups

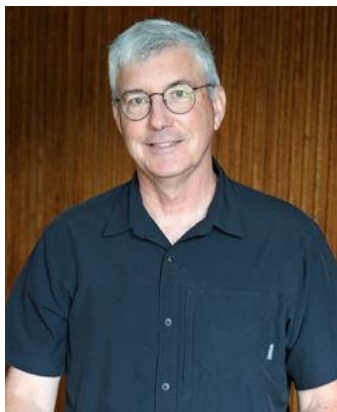
All gatherings and services ordinarily held in the
Harcourt building are suspended.

*The building may be closed **but our community is open....***

Together, we seek, connect & act our shared life of faith.

Please note that due to the COVID- 19 outbreak, Sunday worship services in the church building are currently suspended and the Harcourt church building will remain closed until further notice. However, our office administrator continues to work from her home to respond to calls and e-mails during weekday office hours. Rev Jim Ball and Rev. Miriam Flynn can be contacted by e-mail or by leaving a message with the church office. Staff and lay volunteers continue to explore innovative ways to connect and extend care to our members and our neighbours. Please check the following links regularly for our: [CURRENT](#) weekly online worship service (recorded), for [PAST](#) services, and for [PRAYER](#) resources and updates about connecting with our community of faith. Our webpage is www.harcourtuc.ca.

If you'd like to join some virtual groups please click [here](#) for our growing list of activities, and we encourage you to contact the Church office if you wish to participate. These are ways that we connect with others in a joyful, supportive and spiritual way.



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Council News

by Lorraine Holding, Council Chair

Anticipating what June will be like, or what summer might hold, is much different this year. Our personal lives and our Harcourt life continue to evolve in our adjustments to enduring a pandemic.

The sun's warmth and the increasing colours of nature brighten our days, offering hope for familiar activities to return.

Council met twice by Zoom in May, continuing our discussions about guiding principles for planning 're-entry', financial management, reflections on what differences the future might hold, and opportunities for collaboration across Guelph United Ministries (GUM). We supported the opening of Harcourt's Communal Garden, and Property Committee's plan to spring-clean the flower gardens. Good safety and hygiene practices recommended by Wellington-Guelph-Dufferin Public Health are in place.

Once again, it's important to recognize and say "thank you" to our staff team for all the significant changes they have made in their roles. Together, with the time and contributions provided by committees/teams and other individuals, they are showing that Harcourt Church is 'open' and active. We are people of faith and a community of leaders on this journey through COVID-19.

Perhaps summer will see us sharing our reflections and learnings at some outside gatherings. Perhaps our various on-line connections will continue in frequency. Perhaps some collaborative worship experiences with our GUM partners will sprout. Perhaps new or revised routines will continue to keep us safe and healthy in our altered reality. May we continue to listen for the Spirit in all that we do.

With faith and hope.

ABC News

(Anything But Corona!)

- **Harcourt's Communal Garden Re-opens**



Harourt's Jill Gill was recently interviewed on Roger's TV about the province's decision to allow community gardens to re-open. **Click on the photo on the left to listen to Jill's interview.** All of the produce harvested from the Harcourt Communal Garden is donated to the **Chalmers Community Services Centre's (CCSC) food pantry** at 41 Macdonell



Street, Guelph, enabling marginalized citizens of Guelph to receive more fresh, organically grown produce than they might otherwise have access to. We average 18-20 volunteers yearly, which works out to be approximately one work session per month, usually Thursday early evening, in order to deliver the harvest to be distributed at CCSC on Friday mornings.

- **Need a Bit More Exercise These Days?**

Fitness Blender, offers hundreds of full-length, equipment free online workout videos at different levels of fitness at NO CHARGE, along with meal plans and helpful health, nutrition and fitness information. <https://www.fitnessblender.com/videos>

- **Give Me Two Wheels and Lots of Places to Go!**

Bike sales are rapidly increasing in Guelph as people find new avenues to spend time during the lockdown. <https://www.guelphtoday.com/coronavirus-covid-19-local-news/guelph-bicycle-sales-skyrocket-since-pandemic-started-2371109>

WONDERS OF ON-LINE CHURCH



COMMITTEES AND VIRTUAL GROUPS

Holy Listening Circle on Zoom

by Peter Jackson

We will gather by ZOOM at 11am on Sundays to pray, reflect and then break into small groups to listen to each others' responses. You may speak when it is your turn or simply listen and remain silent throughout. The Circle will conclude by approximately 11:50am.

If you participated in a previous Holy Listening Circle, the link will be sent to you automatically. Otherwise, if you would like to participate please send an email to pdjackson@rogers.com.

Bible Stories for These Times on Zoom

by Peter Jackson

There will be a new three-week study series on Pentecost on Wednesday afternoons, 2:30 to 3:30. The series will commence on May 20 with a study of the Babel story (Genesis 11).

If you participated in or received invitations to the recently completed series on Resurrection, you will automatically receive an invitation to the ZOOM sessions for this Pentecost series. Otherwise, if you are interested, please contact pdjackson@rogers.com. More information will follow closer to the date.

Update from the Finance Committee

by Brian Magee

We recognize that on a personal level this is a difficult time for many of us, emotionally and financially. The same applies for Harcourt. April revenue declined by more than 40% compared to April 2019. This was due mainly to lost rent revenue and Sunday offerings. Harcourt continues to support outreach objectives such as M&S, CCSC and the Welcome In

Drop In Centre. The church is closed but your continued support is needed to ensure that Harcourt can fulfill its mission and service to the community.

Please consider maintaining your regular donations or an extra donation as you are able. Cheques can be mailed to the church or online donations can be made as described in the financial section of Harcourt's web site. Thank you for your support.



MANNA in the Wilderness!

by Laura Hofer

Manna is currently experiencing *Manna in the Wilderness*. As with the broader church and society, we are rapidly learning new ways of being together while staying apart. Manna has been meeting on Zoom each Sunday morning, as well as having a community check-in, parent gatherings and providing kids crafts and colouring pages. We've had virtual communion, baked muffins in Miriam's kitchen, had a special visit from James the puppet, made prayer walls in our homes, enjoyed small group discussions, shared our celebrations, concerns and birthdays, and enjoyed beautiful music with multiple musicians. The kids have jumped in with *show and tell* and sharing about their schoolwork and daily activities. Many of us miss our snack and social time after the service... but some stick around on Zoom to visit. We are a community together - apart.





Peaceful Madrigal Singers - a Gift to the Ears

This beautiful rendition of *May the Lord Bless You and Keep You* is sung by over 40 members of an Indonesian group called **The Batavia Madrigal Singers**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akT32E83zjI>

Feel Like Stretching your Mind? An Opportunity for Community

by Peter Jackson

Do you have extra time on your hands? Are you spending more time alone with your own thoughts for company? Perhaps you might enjoy Mindstretch. We meet every Thursday from 8:45 to 10 AM to exchange views on questions we've posed and things we've read. The emphasis is on listening respectfully to each other, without interruption or argument or correction.

Soon we are going to embark on a new course of study based on a lovely little book, **The Sacred Depths of Nature** (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998). The author, Ursula Goodenough, is a prominent cell biologist and her goal is "to present an accessible account of our scientific understanding of Nature and then suggest ways that this account can call forth appealing and abiding religious responses - an approach that can be called religious naturalism" (p. XVII).

There are twelve chapters, each dealing with topics such as Origins of The Earth, Origins Of Life, How Life Works, How An Organism Works, How Evolution Works, and so on. Each chapter contains a brief and accessible account of our scientific understanding and a reflection on the awe and wonder of it all. The book's conclusion sets out "emergent religious principles" such as gratitude and reverence that both Christians and others can share.

Our plan is to read a chapter each week in advance of our meeting, where we will share the results of our personal reflections on both the intellectual and the spiritual dimensions. If you're interested in participating, please send an email to pdjackson@rogers.com.

Property Committee Report

by Dave Hume, Chair Property Committee

This is a brief report of what's going on at the church and in other related topics. First, after the threats of freezing temperatures had passed, the heating system and pumps for circulating hot water were turned off to decrease expenses. Gary Parsons helped David Kucherepa and me get the lawn mowers and a string trimmer running well and now the lawns have had spring haircuts. We have not been conducting further expensive repairs to the church until we get a better feeling for where we are going to be financially. Our income from rentals have gone essentially to zero until we learn when and what kind of activities can start and under what conditions.

A few kind people have shown up to help with spring cleanup and that was much appreciated. We have adopted a number of rules about notifying people like Mark Sears or Sarah Lowe or me about scheduling, bringing your own tools or using church equipment, how multi-user tools are to be wiped down before and after use and where refuse can be placed. Those rules are essentially the same as the rules Jill Gill drafted for people helping with the Chalmers gardens.

Joan Barham and I have been meeting via Zoom with a small number of people from other GUM churches. This started as a discussion about the potential for repurposing our four church buildings, but lately the discussion has expanded into what the priorities are for the United Churches. I was interested to hear that, in a recent survey, the priority supported by the most respondents was "Serving the Wider Community". I think we have made big strides in that area but there is much more to do.



Family at Riverside Park. Photo by Gill Joseph

COMMUNITY

How Will You Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day?

Canada's *National Indigenous Peoples Day* is annually held on June 21st to celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Unfortunately this year, due to the seriousness of the COVID-19 crisis, the Government of Canada invites Canadians to celebrate this year's National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day at home.



Last year in Guelph, approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people celebrated in Royal City Park. This was much larger than the celebrations from the previous year, 2018, which saw a turn out of roughly 400 people on Carden Street and featured, among other entertainers, world champion hoop dancer Ascension Harjo . In 2019, the celebration included traditional Indigenous dances and music and the inauguration of the Sacred Fire space. The celebration kicked off with speeches and performances that included Inuit drumming, a community drum circle, Métis fiddling and jigging, big drum and dancing and the Fancy Dance by men and the Fancy Shawl Dance by women. To see photos of last year's event visit: <https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/guelph-celebrates-national-indigenous-peoples-day9-photos-1519409>



An Invitation to a Family History Project: Storylines and What we Learn from Them

by Jim Ball



Many of us study our ancestry. We trace bloodlines, connect names and dates, and create family trees. Various factors motivate our interest. Facts and dates are important, but reveal only so much. The tales we tell about our migratory history are also important sources of learning. So too are the tales we don't tell. To acquire a better understanding of our family's migration - the challenges they faced, the decisions they made and the impacts they had - necessarily requires a careful exploration of the stories and the silences, and the cultural and political dynamics that surround both.

The exploration of family history was the focus of the program I attended in Oak View, California, this past February. Themes at the Institute vary year to year, and the programs usually include significant time spent in scriptural and social analysis. For several years I have served as a chaplain to the event. This year's gathering invited us to explore our family history in relation to the story of settlement in North America, including its intersections with, and impacts on, indigenous peoples. We were invited to examine carefully the way we came to our present place on the continent. Importantly, we were asked not to judge any of our ancestors decisions. Instead, we were encouraged to look at our family story as clearly as possible.

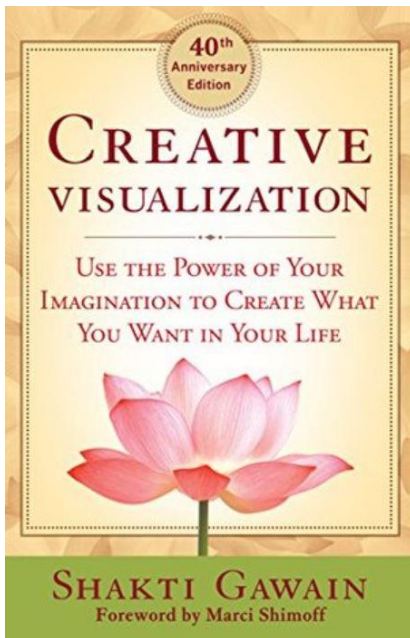
We used small group sessions to share our stories. Along the way we encountered several commonalities. Many of our ancestors fled hardship and persecution to be here. Almost all worked hard to establish themselves and advance the family's opportunities. Misfortune, sickness and early death touched many. Other commonalities included the frequent portrayal of ancestors as heroic, resilient, determined or long-suffering. We discovered gaps and silences in our stories, often in the same places. And occasionally, we bumped into convenient "not-knowing." Again, none of this was to be judged. Only noted. As we walked through our histories, we were invited to jot down the questions that were emerging in us because of what we were seeing and feeling.

To strengthen the process, seven indigenous elders from across turtle island facilitated the larger plenary sessions. As we shared key learnings, they never judged, but occasionally enriched our understandings by adding their own stories and perspectives to the shared history. Most conferences I have attended have fed and exhausted me. This particular exercise left me feeling energized at the end, which for me, was a first. While not in a position to recreate all of the elements of the experience, I promised myself that, upon my return, I would share this process with any who were interested. Hence this letter to you and my invitation. If there is sufficient interest*, I propose **that our study take place in August.**

A fascinating article by University of Guelph Archivist Graham Burt describes what happened in Guelph during the 1918-1920 Spanish Flu Pandemic with photographs. The article is entitled: **Unprecedented Times? COVID-19 and the 1918-1920 [Spanish Flu](#) Pandemic at U of G**. Click on the words "Spanish Flu" above to read the article.

Creative Visualization – A Great Read!

by Lisa Browning



Creative Visualization: Use the Power of Your Imagination to Create What you Want in your Life by Shakti Gawain (Novato, California: New World Library, 2002).

Today, I read this entire book, start to finish, as I waited for my car. Just under 200 pages, it's a quick read, but it's also a very easy read ... the text just flows, and you can lose yourself in it.

The amazing thing is I had started to read it months ago and put it away because it wasn't resonating. Nothing could be further from the truth today. What an absolutely phenomenal book! I lost count of the number of times I said "Wow" or "OMG" ... out loud no less! So many awesome insights, brilliant exercises, and life-giving inspiration! Cannot recommend it highly enough.

COVID CRAZY! (From Facebook)

When the hairdresser is closed and you do it yourself 😂



Day 10 Quarantine, still can't find that other sock





Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

National Indigenous Peoples Day



JUNE 21

How will you celebrate?

Canada.ca/national-indigenous-peoples-day
#NIPDCanada



Canada 



HARCOURT HERALD PHOTO CONTEST

Love to take photos with your camera or phone?

Why not enter our Local Landscape photo contest!

Submit a maximum of 3 photos per person of landscapes in and around Guelph by e-mail attachment to theherald@harcourtuc.ca with the subject line HARCOURT PHOTO CONTEST by AUGUST 10TH, 2020 to enter. The Contest is only open to members of Harcourt Church (including MANNA) and not to the general public. Photos will be judged by people from outside of Harcourt and the top 3 winners will each **win a prize** and have their winning photo published in the September 2020 Harcourt Herald, put on the Church website and shown on the Church Information Screen once onsite services begin again. First prize will be worth \$100 and two other similar prizes of \$50 each will be awarded. Photos should be original and not include people, but only landscapes. What are you waiting for...

Get Snapping!!

*Please remember to social distance. Organizers reserve the right to cancel the contest if they deem it to be necessary.

The Church Garden Corner

Through a Neighbour's Eyes

by Sarah Lowe

I have lived next door to Harcourt for 36 years, on the other side of the cedar hedge beside the Celebration garden. This gives me an excellent chance to observe the life of the church through a neighbour's eyes. How different it has been, this year.

The church garden was sadly quiet this spring, except for wildlife which has flourished. A red fox strode across the parking lot at dawn, rabbits nibbled warily on the new grass, mallard



Majestic Pink Star Magnolia

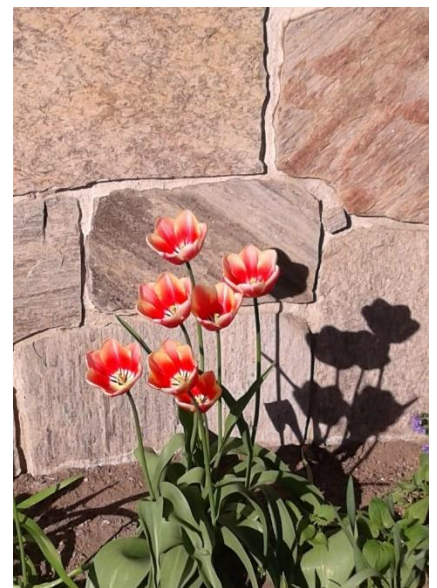
ducks investigated the library flower bed, and many robins probed the lawns for worms. Later on, mourning doves nested in their usual place under the eaves, and young squirrels practised their trapeze artistry up in the oak and basswood trees. But there were so few people!

I really miss the buzz of families bringing their kids to and from Pre-school, and wonder what the summer will be like. I will miss the students spilling out of the sanctuary during summer music festivals, members of the youth group racing round the paths Friday evenings, church members

coming and going for meetings and services, the weed and wine parties. All the normal life of our church community.

However, people have slowly started to return, which makes me very happy. The first was a most welcome garden volunteer (Deb Murray), who came to tidy up the flower beds, the minute we got the green light to go ahead, mid May. Thank you, Deb!

Now at the end of May I see an increasing number of visitors. Young families play with kids, couples sit on the benches, photographers admire the blossom. The occasional church member strolls by to check up on things. Someone harvests stalks of rhubarb for Chalmers. Our new custodian Dave mows



In the Shadow of Tulips



A Mourning Dove wants to raise her children in the church rafters!

the grass. The worship committee holds a meeting under the redbud trees, well separated on the benches.

The life of the garden is returning!

Note: All photos in this article taken by Sarah Lowe

We would love to see you at our virtual coffee time on Sunday! If you would like to join this Sunday, at 12 noon, please email office@harcourtuc.ca



See you soon **Manna**! Manna meets on zoom at 10:40am on Sunday. You can email yourweeklymanna@gmail.com for the link.



"You shall not pollute the land in which you live..." Numbers 35:33.

- I know that we have a recycling program in Guelph...but how many of you would LOVE to find a cool and crafty thing to do with empty cans? Check out this website: *50 Jaw-Dropping Ideas for Upcycling Tin Cans In to Beautiful Household Items!* The website is: <https://www.diyncrafts.com/17424/repurpose/50-jaw-dropping-ideas-for-upcycling-tin-cans-into-beautiful-household-items> and it includes some lovely items that make great gift ideas such as wedding table decorations, wind chimes, candle votives and much more.
- Have plastics bans and environmental monitoring fallen by the wayside during the pandemic? A Guelph Today report. <https://www.guelphtoday.com/national-news/plastics-bans-environmental-monitoring-get-short-shrift-during-pandemic-2371842>
- In early May of this year, the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology announced a new partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) "Faith for Earth" initiative that will integrate new science and policy research with the perspectives of religion and ethics. The collaboration represents "a transformative moment" for the field of religion and ecology, highlighting the moral and practical contributions of the world's religions to addressing the planet's mounting environmental challenges. <https://environment.yale.edu/news/article/yale-forum-on-religion-and-ecology-launches-partnership-with-un-environment-programme>
- Faith, COVID-19 and the push for a healthy environment. Faith is helping many through the coronavirus pandemic — and it can also be instrumental in climate protection, say UNEP's Inger Andersen and Azza Karam of Religions for Peace in a guest commentary. <https://www.dw.com/en/opinion-faith-covid-19-and-the-push-for-a-healthy-environment/a-53270128>

Harcourt Cares

Supporting Families During COVID-19: The Memorial Quilt

by Joan Barham, Chair Communication Committee



When there is a death in our family, those left behind will gather, hug, weep, tell stories and be in community together in a way that helps us to remember the person who has died. This also helps us to provide support to each other by doing so. However, during COVID -19, we cannot gather and act in our usual ways that are so helpful and meaningful. In fact, right now we can't even hold a funeral or a memorial service.

Because these gatherings to honour a family member who has died during COVID -19 are not permitted right now, we have created an opportunity to support our Harcourt families who have experienced a loss through a *Memorial Quilt* feature now on the Harcourt website. This *Memorial Quilt*, which is accessed from the slider on the top of the Harcourt website home page, leads the visitor to a "Quilt" where one can select and click on a photo of a person who has recently died. Clicking on this photo takes the visitor to a slide presentation of the loved one that consists of photographs, music and an obituary that has been put together by the family.

This is Harcourt's way of holding families in our arms during their grief and remembering them openly when we cannot gather to express our love, gratitude and thankfulness for a loved one's life. Please visit the *Memorial Quilt* through the Harcourt webpage at www.harcourtuc.ca or go directly to the quilt by clicking <https://www.harcourtuc.ca/services-celebrations/in-memoriain/>

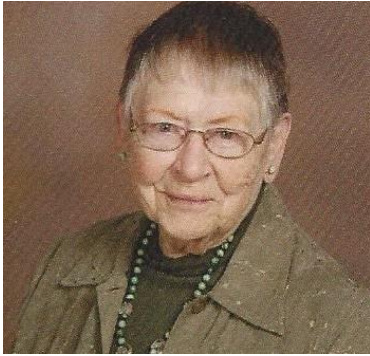
THE NIGHT WATCH



Cartoon by Roz Stephenson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passing:



Ball, Kathleen (nee Landsdell). Died peacefully at home in her 93rd year. Musician. Singer. Music teacher and director. Real estate agent. Church administrator. Mother. Grandmother.

Cremation has taken place according to Kathleen's wishes. A celebration of life will be scheduled for a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Diabetes Canada or an organization of your choice. A tree will be planted in memory of Kathleen Ball in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest, University of Guelph Arboretum.



Behind the Scenes

COVID-19: Weddings and Funerals Postponed due to Virus

by Glenda Luymes
Vancouver Sun
March 21, 2020

Alyssa Lapinski planned to grow a garden full of flowers for her wedding this summer. Instead, the Vancouver gardener may plant vegetables.

COVID-19 is changing the way British Columbians are marking life's major milestones. While health experts say social distancing is necessary to stop the spread of the virus, it also limits the connections that add meaning to life's joys, and comfort in its sorrows.

Vancouver wedding planner Nicole Yeasting said she is contacting clients to see if they have a Plan B in case plans for their dream wedding have to change.

"There's always a lot of stress involved in planning a wedding. We try to help our clients to manage that, and in this situation, it's no different," said the owner and principal planner at Emanate Events.

At Kick Ass Cakes in Chilliwack, the orders have stopped coming in, said owner Tasha Nagy. In the last four days, 20 people have called to cancel or postpone their wedding cakes.

"It's absolutely devastating," she said.

While weddings are about 80 per cent of the baker's business, people aren't ordering birthday or anniversary cakes either.

Confetti Floral owner Kari Dueck said she has had cancellations for both a wedding and a funeral. She closed her Abbotsford flower shop and is letting people contact her about planned events.

"It's sad," she said. "It's one thing to postpone a wedding, but with grief, that's hard to work through alone."



Family wedding online - photo by Gill Joseph

Randy Hawes made the difficult decision to postpone the Celebration of Life for his wife Alma, who died from cancer at the end of February.

“It would have provided some peace, and it’s hard not to have that,” he said.

There was little doubt in his mind that the funeral should be postponed as he expected several hundred people from across Canada to attend. His immediate family gathered together to remember Alma, and they will make plans for her ashes in the future, he said.

When asked about grieving while social distancing, Hawes said he is supported by his children.

At Vancouver’s Mountain View Cemetery, staff are making plans to deal with large numbers of delayed memorials when things return to normal, said manager Glen Hodges.

A large majority of people choose to be cremated, but bookings to inter the remains have dropped significantly. For the small events that are still happening, staff are practicing social distancing, while the cemetery’s indoor celebration hall has closed.

“This will be an abnormal and challenging time,” said Hodges. “Individual families are impacted by loss, but we’re also looking at the broad societal impacts.”

The cemetery manager said it is unclear what “delayed bereavement” will mean for people who have lost a loved one.

“It’s all about getting together with other people to support one another in a difficult time. It will be hard to be denied that important social aspect while struggling with loss,” he said

Editor’s note: Please see our new Harcourt webpage feature entitled the **Harcourt Memorial Quilt** as described by Joan Barham earlier in this Herald.

****Normally this would be the last issue of the Harcourt Herald as we break for the summer. However, during this time we will be printing a summer issue (July 2020) to help us stay informed and in touch. Stay tuned....**