

The Harcourt Herald June 2022

The Life and Work of Harcourt United Church





Harcourt Memorial United Church

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

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and Technical Support:
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Custodian: David Kucherepa

The Ministers: The People
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Manna Lead Coordinator,

Director of Music Ministry:
Alison MacNeill

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The Harcourt
Herald is
published 10
times per year
(in paper and
digital formats).

Submission
Deadline: 20th
of each month.
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From the desk of the Editor

I still remember the first time I met Miriam: the Spiritual Life Committee was holding its annual retreat at the Crief Hills Retreat Centre and Miriam had responded to the invitation to partake and to get to know us better. Well, we were impressed: Miriam was personal, involved and made significant contributions.

So, I was very happy to learn that she was indeed becoming Harcourt's second Minister.

Thank you, Miriam! It was a tough job, particularly since it was your first congregation. I hope you will keep us all in your heart and somehow still stay in touch.

All the best to you and your future, Miriam.

Several people responded to the call to talk about their hobbies. I hope you enjoy the articles! We also introduce in this issue "column". That is regular contribution to specific topics. Enjoy the "Poem Corner" and the "Unsung Heroes in our community".

And to all of you faithful readers, see you in September!

The Colour Purple

Rev Miriam Flynn

June is the month when the bold beauty of purple flowers grace the trails we trod and gardens we tend. The bountiful blooms of lilac bushes burst forth to perfume the evening air. Flourishing garden borders are crowned by the magnificent purple of iris. Encountered in the natural world, purple is a flamboyantly joyful shade that shouts out to us to notice the beauty that abounds everywhere.



In the church, we often associate the colour purple with the season of Lent and the spiritual path of repentance. But purple is also the colour of welcome. The story of Lydia, a seller of purple cloth is a seminal lesson from the early church in the art of hospitality (Acts 16: 9-15). We are told that Lydia is the Apostle Paul's first European convert to *the way*.

Lydia is the head of her household, a business woman and, it is implied, a person of some means because the purple cloth she sells is a luxury item. In that day, purple dye could be obtained only from a shelled sea creature found in the Mediterranean. It took 120 pounds of tiny murex molluscs (a sea snail with a dye producing gland) to produce enough dye for one purple garment. And so purple cloth was worn only by royalty and the wealthy elite.

Lydia invited the sojourner Paul to join her circle of friends, praying by the river. Her heart and mind were open to the good news of the Jesus story that Paul shared and she asked to be baptized. That was the beginning of her leadership in the newly emerging church. She invited Paul and others to her home, providing food and a place to rest. She began a home church in which people were welcomed to the community of faith being formed; where open-hearted sharing of *the way* was on offer and where the hospitality of an open table always could be found.

Recently, our Manna worship service focused on Lydia's story. We shared our own stories of occasions when we had been offered unexpected hospitality in ways that made a real difference. It was wonderful to hear from one among our circle that his family, who first began coming to Manna just before the pandemic, appreciated the hospitality they had found there. Manna leaders and members reached out to build supportive connections during our season of "Zoom" gatherings. At a time when young families were prone to feel somewhat isolated and overwhelmed, this made an impact.

Our discussion led us to reflect that there is risk-taking on both sides wherever authentic hospitality is offered and accepted. As we invite others across the threshold to take a place at our table, we open ourselves to the transformation their presence engenders. Lydia, with her open heart, risked being changed by those she welcomed to join her circle. Her ongoing commitment to hospitality suggests that she was able to see everyone as *worthy* of being clothed in purple.

In June, we at Harcourt like to lift up the Affirming ministry of the congregation and support LGBTQ2+ partnerships that are being strengthened in the wider community. Living into our identity and commitments as an Affirming congregation, over the years, has grown us from an attitude of simple inclusion to one of affirmation and justice-seeking. That's the power of welcoming others into community. As we welcome and get to know each other well, we accept the risk of being transformed by our new-found awareness and empathy. Offering genuine hospitality to those outside one's circle is always the first step to creating greater equity within it.

As my time of serving as minister at Harcourt comes to an end, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the many ways I have found welcome as a spiritual leader at Harcourt. What a privilege and gift to have been welcomed into your lives, as we have walked together, sharing the path of a community that seeks to follow Christ.

As I leave, I do so with confidence that Harcourt is well-equipped to live out her call to be a vital hybrid church in a liminal time. There are risks to be sure, but there are also opportunities. The capacity to extend welcome and build bridges across virtual and cultural divides will be essential to realizing our congregation's vision of becoming a hub for spiritual growth and community life into the next generation.

"The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty," author Anne Lamott has written. I am reassured by these words, given my own, ongoing discernment of where the Spirit beckons. Serving at Harcourt, I've been inspired by the breadth of passionate, faithful and life-giving ministry I've witnessed lived out every day by my members of this beloved community. I feel as Lydia must have, praying with her friends by the river, hoping that a heart open and invitational manner will bring greater clarity of call. At this point, the precise form my future ministry will take, remains unclear to me – but my sense is that my call will have less to do with *work* and more to do with *welcome*.

The story of Lydia, who kept an open mind and heart, offering hospitality to weary travellers, spiritual seekers and neighbours alike, inspires us to notice the many at our doorstep who need the purple carpet of royal welcome rolled out to meet them. It's a risky proposition to open our minds, hearts and circles of care. Because in offering authentic welcome and sharing who we are and what we have, we risk becoming converts, again and again, to Christ's way.

But then again, surely that was what was intended by Paul as he urged members of the early church to *welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed you*. May it be so.

A Tribute to Miriam Flynn

Lorraine Holding, Council Chair

June 2022 leads us to recognize Miriam's six years of ministry with our Harcourt Memorial community of faith. Discerning one's call to ministry is deeply personal, reflective and being open to the Spirit.

Since summer 2016, it has been my privilege to work closely with Miriam. Fresh from her ordination, Miriam accepted a one-year appointment as Supply Minister at Harcourt while we were working through our Harcourt 20/20 transition and visioning work. Together, she and Jim Ball helped to keep the life and work of Harcourt strong. When the required needs assessment and search process were completed in 2017, Miriam accepted our call to shared team ministry with Jim.

Through my time as Council Chair, and during many update and planning conversations, my appreciation for Miriam's leadership qualities, caring nature and spiritual guidance has grown. Of course, the impacts of pivoting in ministry during a pandemic have been very significant for all of us. Miriam's gifts and learnings to provide pre-recorded worship services, guide further development of Manna, offer pastoral care in new ways, and participate in many Zoom meetings, have demonstrated her ability to pivot. Additional change and challenge came with Jim's retirement and Marcie Gibson's half-time appointment as Supply Minister for Pastoral Care in early 2021. More need to pivot! Shifting to live-streamed in-person worship in the fall was another significant change, all while our health and safety protocols continued to evolve. Indeed, Miriam's recent sabbatical focus on 'hybrid church in a liminal time' grew from changing ministry roles. It is good to remember Miriam's joyful laughter at times when the going was tough and we needed some relief or a different perspective.

Through all of this, Miriam's messages, liturgies and prayers have provided food for thought, challenge and comfort. Her use of visual images and photos/voices from across Harcourt has been a welcomed addition to provide focus for reflection.

Miriam, on behalf of Council and the entire Harcourt community of faith, I offer our most sincere thanks for your ministry with us. Together, we have explored, experimented, created new practices, and focused on Harcourt's continuing transition into the future.

We wish you well in your discernment process, filled with good health and openness to the Spirit's calling.

Go now in peace ... with God's blessing.

Tribute to Miriam

Lynn Hancock

“Adapt. Adjust. Accommodate. And lead an A Grade life.”. I heard this first from my homeopath. It has stayed with me.

I have been witness to Miriam’s ability to adapt, adjust and accommodate. Prior to the pandemic, I appreciated her leadership in the Chapel for the 9:00am service, in the sanctuary for the 10:30 service and/or in the Friendship Room for the evolving MANNA service. I felt as though I saw many facets of her ministry. I have appreciated her sense of humour and delighted in the sounds of laughter coming from a meeting between Miriam and Jim. Obviously, they cracked each other up at times.

And then March of 2020 arrived. Everything seemed to change overnight. The church on Dean Avenue was locked. Like Jim, Miriam was expected to adapt, adjust and accommodate with what seemed like a moment’s notice. In the last couple of weeks, I have gained a whole new level of appreciation for what Miriam must have been dealing with. I’ve been reading Brene Brown’s book: *“Atlas of the Heart”*. Although it was a Christmas gift from a dear friend and I had read the introduction, I didn’t pick it up again until a couple of weeks ago. WOW!!! Although Julie Ashley had introduced me to Brene Brown a few years ago, I could not have anticipated my reaction to this book published in 2021. There are thirteen chapters and each one begins with: *“Places we go when.....”*. The title for chapter one is: **PLACES WE GO WHEN THINGS ARE UNCERTAIN OR TOO MUCH: Stress, Overwhelm, Anxiety, Worry, Avoidance, Excitement, Dread, Fear, Vulnerability**. If this is the case, I have a whole new level of appreciation for Miriam’s leadership since March of 2020; a time when we have ALL been living in a world of uncertainty and, at times, feeling as though what is being asked of us is **TOO MUCH**.

So....Miriam... thank you for modelling courage in the midst of adversity, being willing to go beyond your comfort zone to shepherd the Harcourt flock through these extraordinary times. I’m sure you must have felt that your sabbatical could not come soon enough for surely you were going through your own range of emotions while attempting to offer leadership and pastoral care to the rest of us. May you continue to feel inspired to respond to God’s call as you begin yet another new chapter in your life.

What I've Enjoyed About Miriam's Stay

Deb Murray

Eight years ago when I first met Miriam at Harcourt at a memorial for a past member of the congregation, I felt it opened up a whole new window for me that day. By coincidence I came to Harcourt with some friends of mine who were also in Girl Guides to attend this special memorial for a past Guider who was also a long-time member of the church! At the time, I was also searching for a new church to join and after the service, I ended up having a long chat with Miriam about the church and its family and that's where it all began for me!

After that day, I made up my mind to return to Harcourt to join the church and Miriam was very warm and welcoming, making me feel right at home from the very beginning! She always was an individual who was very affirming to others around her! I always felt that she accepted everyone for who they were and was always interested in the different things that people contributed to the church to help out.

After I joined Harcourt, I learned as the years went on what a good listener Miriam always was! There were times that I needed someone to talk to, because I was going through difficult times when it was hard not to compare myself to my sister and when it was hard not to feel out of place in my family, because everyone else seemed to be so independent and successful with their careers, whereas I was struggling at finding the right career and it was hard to receive enough income to live off. I was so grateful for Miriam who several times at the last minute would ask me into her office when I was feeling upset and she dedicated her time to having a long conversation with me to help me sort out my personal problems and to listen to what was making me feel disturbed! She helped me learn how it was not necessary to compare myself to my siblings and how I had my own special gifts even though they were not giving me as much income as my sister received. They gave me other special things instead!

As the years progressed I always appreciated how into community outreach Miriam was and her ideas that she always had for ways to help out those in need. I also thoroughly enjoyed how much she always made a point of giving so much credit to the choir of the church for all of our hard work that we put into weekly services!

I thoroughly admired her hard work that she had to do throughout the years of the pandemic!! It was thanks to all of her positive motivation and encouragement towards everyone that the church kept running and alive! The pandemic has been a hard time era for everyone and I can only imagine how difficult it's been for her alone on many days having to deal with so many families who have had major conflicts to deal with let alone the number of deaths that have occurred! Despite all of these challenging times, Miriam has continued to stay positive for everyone along with being comforting too!

I've always enjoyed how she's been able to be flexible with both services and participate in Manna as well as the first service to be with everyone! I've found her to be a light at the end of the tunnel and I will especially miss how she's always been such a good listener! I wish her well in her retirement with her family and God Bless her for all the love and care she has shown the family at Harcourt

Mark your calendars:



**Save the date: Sun. June 26th.
We hope you will join us
in celebrating Rev. Miriam Flynn's ministry at Harcourt.**

Stay tuned for more details.

Council News

Lorraine Holding, Chair

Looking ahead to summer, thoughts of relaxation and renewal come to mind. For Harcourt, June will bring continued focus and work on many issues. Activity on these might slow but not pause during the summer.

Council supported the **Re-entry Planning Group's** update. With falling COVID incidence rates across Ontario, and following the advice of the provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health, we are making a small change to the requirements for masks inside the church. Instead of requiring masks at all indoor worship services, we are now highly recommending them. Our Manna group has decided to keep the requirement for masks in place for indoor worship and events at least until further notice. We continue to encourage the use of masks while transiting through the building and by our various user groups. All other safety measures remain the same including use of hand sanitizer, cleaning of high touch surfaces, and keeping windows and doors open to improve ventilation when possible. The Re-entry Planning Group will continue to monitor COVID-19 and advise Council if any other changes are required.

Please note: **Council is planning a joint meeting with chairs of committees/teams on Wednesday evening, June 15.** This will be an opportunity to share each group's updates and discuss current issues as we look toward the second half of 2022.

With deep gratitude, we appreciate all who are contributing time, expertise, energy and financial support to Harcourt's work and ministries. Especially, we recognize Miriam's conclusion of her ministry with us and invite all to say 'thank you' and offer our blessing as she continues her discernment and future focus.

With faith and hope.

The Property Committee



Chairs Fundraising Initiative

Carolyn Davidson

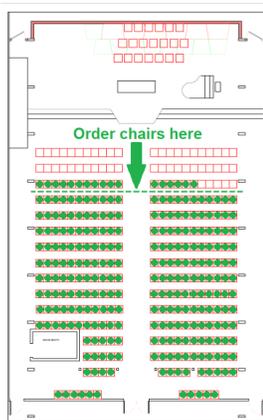
As of May 18, fundraising for the flexible seating project has reached \$35,943. The implementation team is deeply grateful to the congregation for their generous support.

You may recall that the motion passed by the congregation on November 28, 2021, specified that 75% of the estimated project cost of \$45,000, or \$33,750, was to be raised before any order to purchase was placed.

Unfortunately, we have recently learned that our chosen supplier, which had been in the process of moving operations from Ontario to another part of the country, will not be in a position to resume manufacturing before the end of 2022 at the earliest. As a result, we are seeking quotes from other suppliers, including our second choice, in the hope that we will be able to move forward with flexible seating by mid-summer as planned.

Meanwhile, the implementation team has made contact with a local interior designer who is willing to help us choose the upholstery colour. And we continue to welcome your contributions to the flexible seating project, which will allow us to explore different worship styles, expand the use of our Sanctuary for different types of user groups, and support the growth and future of our Manna community.

Take a Seat!



Here's how to donate:

- **By e-transfer** to office@harcourtuc.ca – write “Chairs Fundraising Initiative” in the message.
- **By cheque**, payable to Harcourt Memorial United Church – write “Chairs Fundraising Initiative” on the memo line.

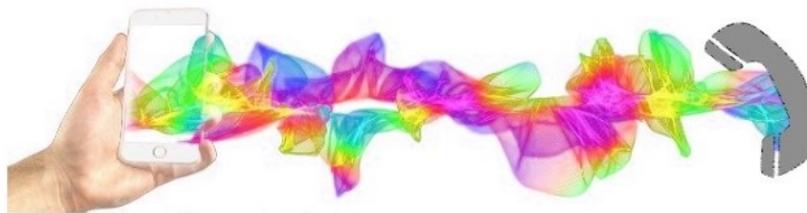
Want to “Buy a Chair”? The suggested donation for a single chair is \$150, but all donations in any amount are gratefully received.

Memorial donations will be recorded in the Memorials Book on display in the Greeting Area.

Please... take a seat! (As you are able.)

Roz' Illustration

**Update your
Harcourt
Directory**



**Stay in touch:
update your information
in the Harcourt Directory**

if you need help contact Casey at the office or via tech@harcourtuc.ca

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Stan Bunston

This article follows upon the “New Life from Grief and Loss!?” article that was in the April Harcourt Herald, (available



in print and on the Harcourt website) that drew upon the insights in Francis Weller's book, *The Wild Edge of Sorrow*.

The Second Gate: The Places That Have Not Known Love

We live ... in a grief-phobic and death-denying society. Consequently, grief and death have been relegated to what psychologist Carl Jung called the shadow. The shadow is the repository of all the repressed and denied aspects of our lives. We send into the shadow the parts of ourselves that that we deem unacceptable to ourselves, hoping to disown them. ... Cultures also also send aspects of psychic life into the shadow.(p. xvii)

If the above quotation from Weller strikes you as strange, please remember that Weller is trying to broaden and deepen our view of grief and loss. It may surprise you that the in the personal sharing that took place during the six week Harcourt experimental group, this Second Gate (following upon the First Gate: Everything We Love, We Will Lose) was one of the most powerful. Yes, the First Gate smacks us as we lose people we love, our health and eventually our lives. However the Second Gate, *places that have not known love*, often subtle and subterranean, are immensely powerful and harmful to both psychic and physical health if left unacknowledged and unattended. Here lies wounds, shame, trauma and “soul loss”. Soul loss refers to a condition where the desire for living becomes so blunted that depression becomes a way of life and death can look appealing.

Let me try to convey a few of Weller's insights with a mix of my own words and Weller quotations. I will use the single word “wounds” to refer to life experiences, be they from childhood or full maturity, that we too long bury, deny or minimize. Oh such varied causes! For sure some are culturally based such as the injuries so many Indigenous and racialized persons have been subjected to in our country. As well the “#MeToo” movement is bringing to light abuse, whether insidious or more blatant. This includes within our own United Church of Canada (see for example, “A Betrayed Trust” in the June issue of Broadview.) Then there is *developmental* or *slow trauma* where instead of dramatic or explosive events at home there were more subtle omissions of care and attention, when no soothing touch arrived, or it was a distracted or inconsistent offering. Among these are the quieter areas of suffering such as my own struggles in my youth with a “nervous stomach” that had me terrified of, or actually vomiting before examinations or overshadowing what should have been joyful social dinners, where I was out of my comfort zone and internally dealing with nausea. Fear of humiliation! Trivial in comparison, yes, but Weller says it so well:

These are profoundly tender places precisely because they have lived outside of kindness, compassion, warmth or welcome.... What we perceive as defective about ourselves, we also experience as loss. ... The proper response to any loss is grief, but we cannot grieve for

something that we feel is outside the circle of worth.(p. 31)

For some, these outcast pieces are connected to their sexuality or bodies; for others it is their anger or sadness – or their joy or exuberance – that has been banished. For many it is their needs that were ignored. These outcast portions of soul do not quietly languish at the edges of our awareness; they appear as addictions, depression, or anxiety, calling for our attention. (p.35)

When Weller was first asked to give a talk on shame, he was reluctant, and expected only a handful to show up, but was surprised that well over 100 showed up, night after night. He has since come to believe we live in a shame drenched society, where so many are “excruciatingly self-conscious” of being seen.

In order for us to open our hearts to self-compassion, Weller suggests three profound changes to how we see ourselves. The first is the movement from negative feelings about ourselves to seeing ourselves as wounded and therefore, secondly, worthy of compassion. Then he suggests a movement from silence to sharing, but, importantly, with people we trust. Strikingly, Weller insists that it is through our inferior parts that we find redemption in life which is hard for us to accept in a positivity and perfect performance seeking world. Accepting our broken parts and revealing our wounds frees us from obsession with getting it right. Grieving the looked down upon parts of life restores our humanity and opens up energy for life.

Perhaps this change in orientation to our wounds explains why so much of Weller's book is focused on the importance of a supportive community, a “village” which provides a safe container for our expression of our loss and grief, and underscores why ritual, both communal and private, is so much emphasized.

Grief is a powerful solvent, capable of softening the hardest of places in our hearts. When we can truly weep for ourselves and those places of shame, we have invited the first soothing waters of healing to wash through our souls. Grieving, by its very nature, confirms worth. I am worth crying over; my losses matter. (p.45)

There is much here for the Harcourt community to ponder and hold in prayer as, together, we make our way forward midst life's inevitable losses and grief, both personal and communal. On a more personal note, my own “apprenticeship with sorrow” has me on a slow healing journey from a “just keep on truckin” suppression of emotional life that I learned and built upon from early days. While in some ways it has served me well in coping with stress and loss, it has also limited my freedom and joy of living fully with heart. I look forward to that journey in community.

The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola

Andre Auger for the Spiritual Life Committee



Do you long for true
Spiritual Freedom?

Try the Ignatian Exercises...

**... a 40-week ecumenical
program of daily
meditation, meeting with
a trained spiritual director
once a week.**

Sponsored by Harcourt Memorial United
Church.

Do you feel a call to develop a more intentional spiritual discipline in your life? Are you seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus? There is no better way than the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, which Harcourt has been offering every two years since the early 2000s.

Starting in September 2022 the Spiritual Life Committee will again be offering the **Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life**. This is a forty-week spiritual discipline which enables participants to deepen their relationship with Jesus and to discern where they are being called to serve.

The process is simple: each participant spends a minimum of half an hour a day praying with material provided by the program, and then meets with a spiritual director once a week to review what is happening in his/her prayer life. There will also be occasional group get-togethers for community-building, support, learning and sharing. During the pandemic, much of this can happen on Zoom.

The material used was originally developed by Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century, and has been adapted for an ecumenical context in our time by Harcourt's Lorraine Dykman and the Rev. David Howells. The Covenanted Spiritual Companions at Harcourt, as well as other trained spiritual directors from the Guelph community will lead the process and serve as spiritual directors. There is also an opportunity, for those who would prefer, to pray with material from a more evolutionary perspective based on the work of Teilhard de Chardin.

The program will run from September 2022 to roughly Easter 2023. To benefit from this intensive program you need to be comfortable with a regular spiritual discipline. It is helpful to have had experience with spiritual direction. The benefits of this spiritual discipline are many: a deeper relationship with God, a renewed sense of purpose, greater knowledge of scripture and many other blessings emerge from engaging in the Ignatian Exercises.

Not sure you can handle the discipline and the routine? Come and find out! Before the Exercises proper, we offer a series of preparatory weeks over the summer – known as the “Disposition Days” - during which you can try out the discipline and experience God's deep love for you. At the end of these “Days,” if you discern that this is not for you, you will at least have had a taste of an intentional spiritual practice. If you decide to continue, the Exercises proper would begin in mid-September.

Participation will be limited. If you are interested and would like further information, please speak to either Marion or Andre Auger. If you wish to apply for participation, please contact Marion Auger at marion.auger@sympatico.ca . We will accept applications until June 30. Application forms will be available from Marion. There is no fee for this, but participants are expected to offer an honorarium according to their ability to pay. Please speak to Marion about this.

Reconciliation, Reparation, and Really Comforting Quilts

Arlene Davies-Fuhr



Jean Hume's quilt

Anne Parsons' quilt

Josie Abel's quilt

"In an increasingly uncertain and uncomfortable world, it helps to remember that there are still soft quilted blankets...and good people – so many really good-hearted people who want the future to be better. If nothing else, take hope in that". - Nanea Hofmann

Reconciliation is a process whereby two groups agree to make amends as they come to value and also respect each other's positions, customs, and perspectives. In addition, reconciliation is the name of a Catholic sacrament involving the confession of sin.

Reparation is the act of making amends for a wrong that one has done, by paying money or otherwise helping those who have been wronged.

The [Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement](#) which, to date, is the largest class-action settlement in Canadian history, began to be implemented in 2007. One vital element of the historic agreement was the establishment of the Truth-and-Reconciliation-Commission of Canada to facilitate reconciliation among former students, their families, their communities and all Canadians. The Truth-and-Reconciliation-Commission of Canada (TRC) was active from 2008 to 2015 and provided those directly or indirectly affected by the legacy of the **Indian Residential Schools** system with an opportunity to share their stories and experiences. Recommendations in the commission's multi-volume final report include 94 Calls to Action, or recommendations, to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples. See Calls to Action: www2.gov.bc.ca

A person I know who is passionate about social justice, has committed herself to engaging with all 94 recommendations in an ambitious, in-depth, multi-year project. Some folks at Harcourt have attended sessions led by First Nations’ elders, read First Nations’ literature, participated in Indigenous learning circles and blanket exercises, supported First Nations’ initiatives like the Water Walkers, visited sites like the Woodland Cultural Centre, Indigenous bookstore in Brantford/*Ohsweken*, or the long houses at Crawford Lake. There are many numerous and varied options for settlers and advocates to become involved in the reconciliation process. I strongly encourage each one of you to get involved and become informed about Indigenous history so we can further the process of reconciliation.



The BC recipient wrapped in Josie’s quilt

Recently, Anne Parsons, Jean Hume, and Josie Abel of Harcourt’s Quilting Group, heard about the Quilts for Survivors initiative, begun by Vanessa Genier of Timmins (<https://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca/>) Quilts for Survivors recognizes the anguish and torment, abuse and torture, the majority of indigenous children and families experienced throughout their residential school years. To acknowledge the pain and assist with reconciliation and healing, the “Quilts for Survivors” project was established. This endeavour encourages non-indigenous Canadians, Americans, and citizens world-wide to create, and then to gift, a large quilt to a designated survivor of the Residential School system. Considering there were at least 80,000 residential school survivors, this is a massive project in which hope, comfort, and love is embedded in each stitch. Accompanying each quilt is a letter indicating the gift is “a symbol of support, love, and respect”.

Each quilt gifted to a Residential School survivor recognizes and honours the person's journey. The fabric that makes up the blocks of the quilt have been chosen with great care with the intent of easing the burden each individual survivor carries. Many of the stories that First Nations folk share on the "Quilts for Survivors" website are difficult, informative, and moving. It is helpful to read about the various Indigenous experiences as they are shared with the general public. This enables more of us to gain an increased awareness and understanding regarding the abusive experiences at the residential schools and the lasting effects of what the young children lived through. The Quilts for Survivors project also offers us an opportunity to donate to this vital and worthy cause (https://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca/?page_id=17).

In addition to the huge number of residential school survivors, there are at least 4118 documented children who died while attending residential schools. In response to this devastating and horrific news, The United Church of Canada has begun disbursing funds to "support the work of the First Nations communities" as part of its "Bringing the Children Home" initiative. The initiative is what Moderator Rt. Rev. Richard Bott calls "an act of reparation" for the church's role in Canada's Indian residential school system. "We should have cared for these children, but we put the national goal of assimilation ahead of our Christian duty," says Bott.

Sadly, part of the history of our ancestors, and we as settlers, has been one of abuse, trauma, and injustice towards our Indigenous friends and neighbours. In a multitude of ways, we have benefited from an unjust and grievously hurtful and disrespectful system. It is now up to each one of us to work diligently towards justice, reconciliation, and reparation in intentional and loving ways.

Crafting Furniture

Brian Magee

Working with wood has been a life-long interest and rewarding hobby. Not being a person who is drawn to club activities, the solitariness of working on wood projects suits my personality. I started making wooden projects at a very early age and still have, barely visible now, scars on my hands from using sharp tools. Early projects were boats that I would sail down ditches that were filled with rushing water from spring run-off. Having lived near the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario, I particularly liked to carve "lakers" out of pieces of cedar rail fences. Bird houses and wooden boxes were common projects. My father appreciated my hobby and one day, without notice, he took me to a lumber store in Napanee and bought a box

of scrap wood that contained some choice pieces for projects. Making wooden boxes is still one of my favourite projects. The method has advanced from the early days as I now use a router for joinery.

I enjoy the process of turning rough cut lumber into nicely milled and sized boards for furniture making. Applying a finish to the project has always been the greatest challenge for me and my least favourite part. I struggle through that process. I also like to restore and refinish older pieces of furniture.

I made my first dining room table from butternut in 1973, a year before Kathy and I were married. We are still using a pine kitchen table that I made in 1974. The lumber was purchased from a sawmill near Manotick. Kathy has been a great supporter of my hobby. She has purchased a number of tools and woodworking equipment to the point where I needed to double the size of my workshop.

I have passed on the enjoyment of woodworking to my grandsons. They spent hours in my workshop making boats, planes, trains and, to the consternation of their parents, wooden guns. The guns stay in the workshop.

Below are pictures of furniture that I have made: a bed from rough cut red oak, a stand from rough cut walnut and cradle for my grandsons (pictured before applying a finish), made from rough cut ash.



Hobbies

Andre Auger

The Herald Editor suggested that we talk about our hobbies for the last issue before the summer. Nothing simpler, right? I could talk about a bunch of them... But then I got to thinking: how do hobbies fit in to a Christian framework? Did Jesus have any hobbies? Do the poor and the marginalized tend to have hobbies? Is a hobby a thing for the “privileged”?

I didn't really like where my questioning was leading me. A real downer, that. But I persisted with this line of critical reflection.

The first point that came to my rescue was that the Jewish culture was the first – and only – civilization in the ancient world which maintained anything like a “Sabbath” practice – a day of rest from all forms of work. Ancient civilizations – and every civilization since – have operated on the principle of wealth generation, usually for the few. Not a day to waste. No time off. No weekends. Perhaps the occasional religious celebration.

Moreover, it is clear from the Sacred Texts that this “Sabbath” practice was one of the many ways the Jews were called to resist wealth accumulation. Think of the Jubilee Year. Think of the practice of letting land fallow every seven years. Leviticus is full of practices which run counter to a culture of work, production and profit. (Whether they were followed is a whole different matter!)

Perhaps that is one way to see our hobbies: as opportunities to break away from the soul-sucking life of production and consumption. Perhaps our hobbies are a way of developing a side of ourselves that we have not been able to nourish through our work lives.

To push this point just one step further, I've noticed that my hobbies tend to develop my “inferior functions” in Myers-Briggs language – the stuff I've never been very good at. I am an “iNtuitive.” I like the big picture. I am terrible with details. (I once told my wife I was going to buy “some wood” and got very uncomfortable when she pushed me on how many board feet of which width, and what kind...). Yet, two of my hobbies – philately and model railroading – are all about details! So maybe hobbies are good for us because they develop different aspects of our personality which would otherwise go underdeveloped!



Yes, there is a part of me that keeps goading me: should I not be spending more of my time and energy “working for the Kingdom” – doing good deeds: clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, as Matthew’s Jesus reminds us? I’ve often wondered how much of my day and how much of my energy goes in the “working for the Kingdom” and how much is spent pursuing goals appropriate for the dominant culture. I’d hate to calculate the percentages... I don’t think I’d come out looking too good.

So what do I do with my hobbies? After all, I am retired! Don’t I have the right to rest? (I remember a spiritual director I know telling a dying directee: “As long as you have breath, there’s work for you to do in the Kingdom.”) Right...

In the end, I think I’ll take my cue from Scripture, and consider my hobbies as a kind of “Sabbath activity,” designed to remind me that I am meant to care for myself if I am to be ready to care for others. The questions that haunt me should continue to do so, however, just so I don’t get carried away and spend all my precious time and talent on hobbies. Just enough to feel refreshed, recharged, re-energized, and ready to respond to God’s Call, whatever that might be...

Fostering Kittens – What a Hobby!

Theresa Daly



So, my hobby ...and my volunteer job, is kittens! This time I had 6 kittens and their mama to care for. It is challenging, educational, smelly, sometimes heart breaking, mostly rewarding. I see life asserting itself, in these new little souls. When they hit the 1000 gm weight, they’re ready for spay, neuter and adoption....and then the next bunch arrives and I start all over!

My Hobbies

Larry Smith

Some folks like a very exciting life, that includes skydiving or bungee jumping. I'm more of a quiet person. I love the smell of fresh air and the impact of Gods' bright sunshine and blue sky around me, but also enjoy a good book for a couple of hours, mostly biographies or the occasional mystery. Music and singing are probably central to my hobbies. I can clamp on a good pair of headphones and get wrapped up in the sounds of a full classical orchestral work or the absolutely staggering work of VOCES8, a British group who sing acapella so beautifully that they drive shivers through my body.



Now retired but having a background in broadcast audio, I also pay attention to the stereo ambience of the recording space as much as the performance itself. That lends authenticity to the recorded performance. John Rutter holds a special place in my repertoire as well and I feel honoured to sing with the Harcourt choir as well as the Village Singers. I recently retired from the Guelph Male Choir, after a 22 year run with them.

Volunteering is high on my list. I've been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Guelph for more than 35 years. For me, the most satisfying event we sponsor is the Special Needs Christmas Lunch at the Italian Canadian Club in early December.



And living in the Village by the Arboretum very much supports that same community concept in retirement. Over 1200 people agree when they move here, to live a respectful and mutually beneficial lifestyle. As a recent example, near the end of March one lady suggested that

we send financial support to Ukraine through the Red Cross. In less than a week, we had organized 11 different musical groups to provide a day long entertainment in Reid Hall as a fundraiser. A couple of days later, the total was announced as \$43,490! And we do semi-annual events for the Guelph Food Bank as well.

I feel very fortunate that my wife Katie and I live in relatively good health and are able to enjoy all that God has offered us.

Preserving Memories

Marilyn Whiteley

“Hobby: an activity engaged in for pleasure or relaxation.” I have no hobbies. I’ve given my long-ago stamp collection to Goodwill. I haven’t done needlepoint for decades, and my quilt projects lie dormant. I’d like to knit, but my arthritic fingers say No. But wait! What’s that shelf full of photo books?

About twenty years ago, after Hugh retired, we started to do more travelling, and as we travelled, I took pictures. I soon switched from taking slides to using a digital camera, and then I learned the challenge—and the fun—of photo editing. How was I going to preserve and share these pictures of our adventures? Aha! It was possible to make a photo book on my computer, then upload it to a commercial site and have the book printed. I began to have a collection on a shelf.

Alas, one can do only so much travel. Both the pandemic and mobility limitations took their toll. But there are photos from earlier travel. Eagerly I scanned prints on my three-in-one printer. Wanting higher quality scans of slides than I could do with an inexpensive scanner, I had hundreds of slides scanned by a professional. Since I was already editing my own photos on my computer, I discovered that I was able to do significant restoration to faded or damaged photos that had been scanned. Some needed work beyond my capabilities. I found a good firm online and uploaded the problem photos for them to repair. I hunted for information in travel diaries and made more books, preserving older memories. The collection on the shelf grew.

And what about all those old family photos? My father started taking snapshots when he was fifteen. He developed a passion for photography, and he saved his prints and later his slides. His parents and their relatives went to studios for formal portraits and also took informal pictures on their own cameras. My mother’s family also amassed a collection of photos, both formal and casual. My mother had only one brother, and he moved far from the family home. I have no brothers and sisters, so picture a funnel: a large collection of photographs came down to me. Why not preserve these memories, too, and share them with our sons and grandson and other relatives by making photo books, adding as text whatever I

knew or could find out? I scanned the photos and did genealogy and online research to learn more about the people in the pictures. Now the collection has grown clear across the shelf. I've even put a few books into the collection of a local historical society.

I still have some long-ago trips to record, and there are other photo projects tucked away in the back of my mind. But I've also developed the skills that would let me help others deal with their boxes of photos, to enable them share their family history and their own stories. I'd be happy to do so—and maybe I'd have a new hobby as a result.

Travelling the World Through Postcards and Stamps

Casey Connor

When I was a child, I was envious of my parents' mail. I imagined all the people and places their letters could be travelling from and I wished I had my own letters to open. My parents would warn me that I didn't *actually* want mail because mail equalled bills. Now, as an adult, I understand their pain! But to make receiving letters a lot more fun, I picked up postcard-writing during university and I continue to enjoy this hobby. Especially when the hydro bill is expected!

I send postcards through a free website called [Postcrossing](#) that I heard about from a friend. Anyone can sign up as a member, all you need is a mailing address. When you are in the mood to write a postcard, you click a button that provides a random user's mailing address, and then you are good to write to them. Once that person receives the postcard from you, your information is put into the "hat" for another user to randomly draw and write to you!



Canada Post's 2017 cat stamps

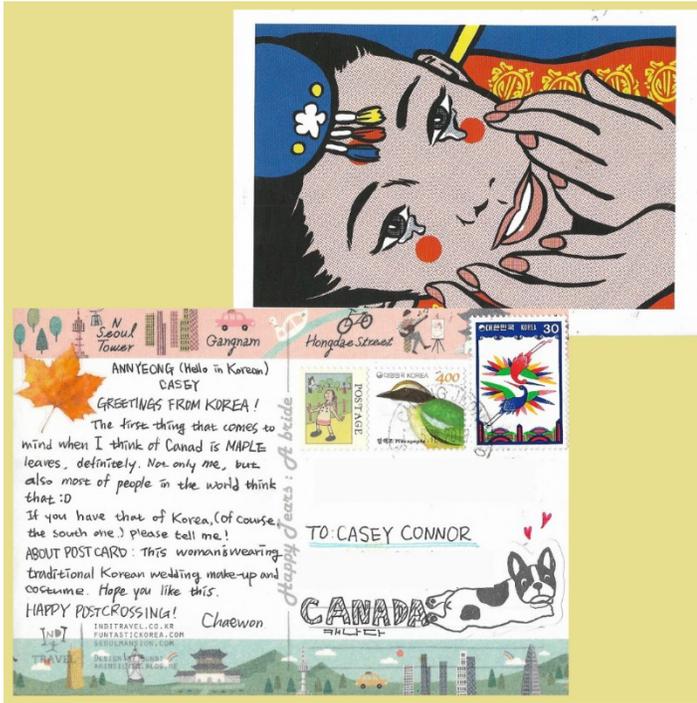
so it's fun to try and "wow" people with what you send. I've realized that cats are a universally loved topic, so I try to keep a stock of cat postcards, stickers, and stamps. Canada Post had a collection of cat stamps in 2017 that people absolutely loved! So another unexpected joy of postcrossing has been the stamps. Yes, I've become one of those people!

When I first started this hobby, I was interested in hearing stories from around the world. I honestly saw my own sent postcards as a means to the end of hearing or seeing something cool in return. It was a surprise when I started to enjoy carefully creating a postcard that would meet the other person's interests. Users are able to write a profile about themselves,



A postcard I received from

Stamps are a unique way to learn about another country (and our own). Being born and raised in Canada, I definitely took for granted the natural beauty here, and I used to be bored with just how many scenic/nature stamps we have. But people love receiving those ones from Canada! It's cool to see how people from different cultures and places interpret Canada's stamps and culture. And seeing what kinds of stamps a country produces is also an insight into that culture and the country's crafted image. I enjoy the psychology of that!



A postcard I received from Korea.

As for my own postcrossing, I have sent and received 92 postcards so far. I most appreciate receiving postcards with the sender's local art and culture. It's remarkable how many postcards I've received from Germany depicting beer! I also like to hear about local events, music, and symbols of good luck from senders. Once a teenager from Spain wrote to me that her favourite musician is Justin Bieber which was equally amusing and disappointing. That's globalisation for you! A serendipitous postcrossing moment was when I received postcards from a mother and daughter nearly a year apart. Both of whom had randomly drawn my name from the "hat". What are the chances?

Thank you for reading about my hobby and if you would like to receive something in the mail besides the usual bills and advertisements that our parents warned us about, I'd be happy to send you a postcard. Just e-mail me (harcourt.tech@gmail.com) your mailing address and it will arrive eventually (they do call it snail mail, remember)!

Reflections on *Threads of Joy; A Memoir* by Marilyn Fardig Whiteley

Bill Lord

It was a great honour to be invited to share my responses to reading this masterpiece of historical remembrances and deep personal insights—a story of faith development in action throughout a faith-filled life.

If you want to have a great read, seek out this book in the Harcourt United Church Library or obtain your own personal copy*. It is the life journey of a scholar of historical theology using the skills she has acquired, to examine many moments in her lifetime. It leaves one eager to turn to the page as the script unfolds. Marilyn in the epilogue, summarizes her memories in this way: *“But this is my testimony: In so many things that I would never have chosen, there has been grace. Even through time of woe there have been threads of joy woven into the tapestry of life”* (191)

One dominant theme is identity. Her early and lifelong purpose was to become a teacher. Yet, her story parallels that of many women scholars who have experienced prejudice not because of their scholarly abilities but their gender or church politics. Throughout the document, she contrasts two expressions that she carried. The first was to ask God on several occasions what God wanted her to do next. At the other end of the spectrum was the well know quote from Fred Buechner: *“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”* (145)

It appears that as she reflects on Buechner’s words and the reality that she faced, she discovered new opportunities to refocus her interests. She turned toward addressing the historical struggles of faithful women like Molly Wesley, Isabel Crawford, and Annie Leake Tuttle. Some of you may have witnessed her dramatic and moving presentation of Molly.

Marilyn offers deep appreciation for the two gifts that she received from her parents. They were faith in God and the planting of seeds of optimism, determination, and perseverance. These were captured in a metaphor carried from a childhood story that she loved *“The Little Engine that could.”* (p11)

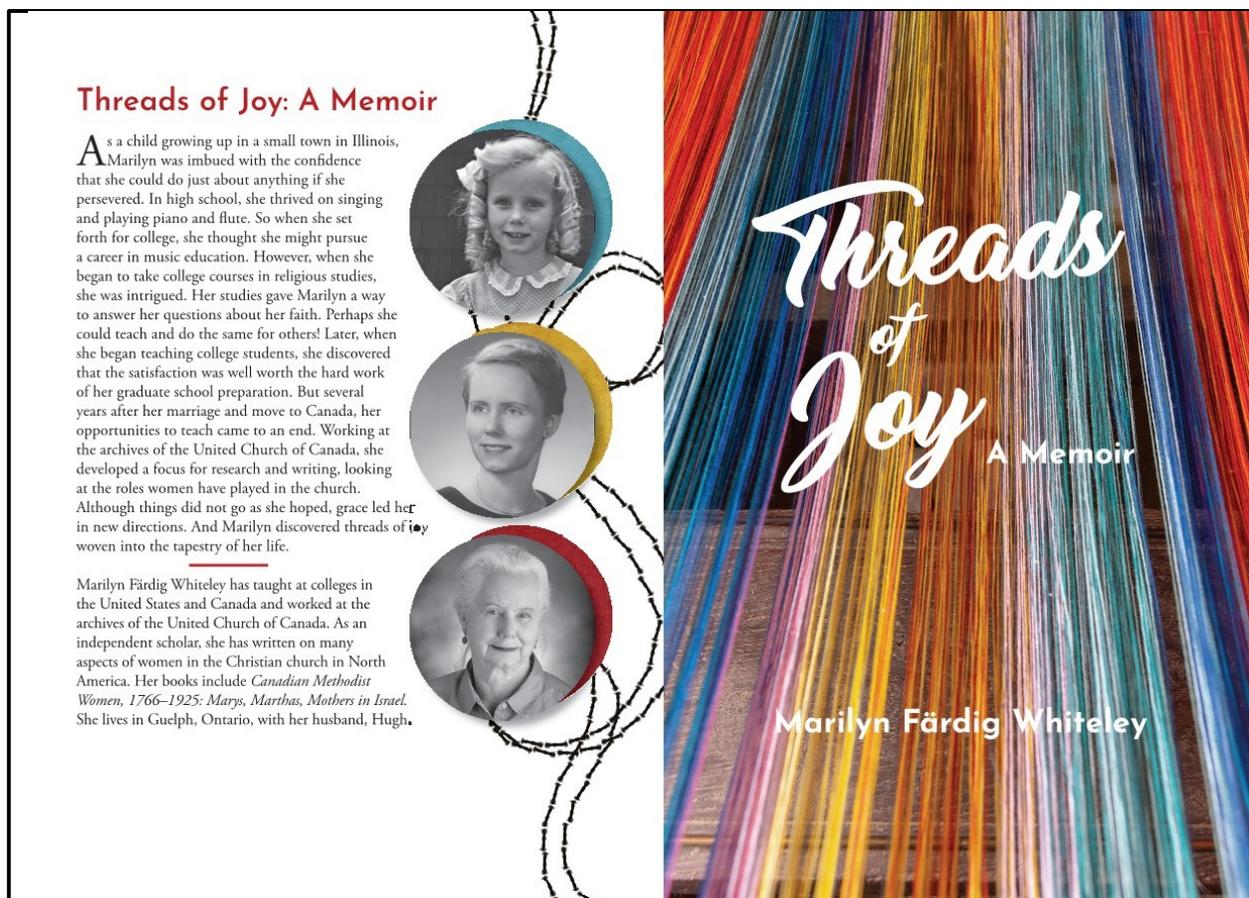
A significant addition to her draft occurred when she was invited by a memoir course leader in Ireland, to include a reflection on her current learning at the conclusion of writing each chapter. These chapter ending reflections display the personal growth that takes place over time.

A word to Marilyn: A scholar of history explores data and looks for patterns and connections. In this manuscript you have also explored human emotional patterns in your life.

Those deeply shared moments of emotional honesty invite the reader to explore fresh perspectives in her/his own life. You remind us that we carry emotions both in our minds and in our bodies.

Thank you, Marilyn, for the gift that you are and the gift you have given in this memoir. You contrast yourself at one point with a colleague graduate student at Union and Columbia and question where you fit. I think now with your lifelong writing including research on John Scotus of Erigena, historical women of faith, and in this memoir, you have demonstrated a significant way of repurposing your first love - becoming a gifted faithful teacher.

I end with these words from Matthew 25;23a, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

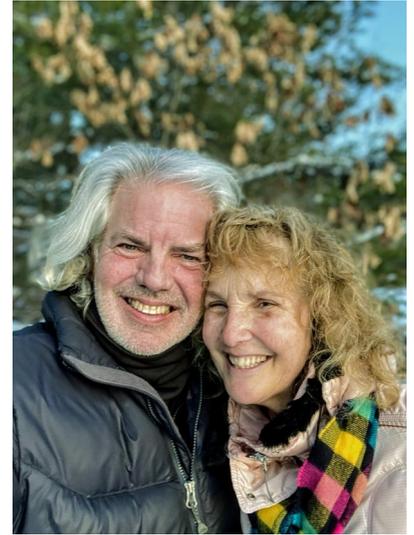


*Contact Marilyn directly for details about purchasing your own copy.

What about quality?

Joan Elder-Weller

Come to Gravenhurst. Gravenhurst is defined by the Canadian Encyclopedia as “...an iconic area of Ontario’s cottage country located approximately 200 km north of Toronto. A destination for seasonal residents and tourists who have been drawn by its natural beauty since the late 1800’s. The district has equally been home to generations of permanent residents.”



To this definition, I’ll add “as well as many retired newcomers who like to play pickle ball at the YMCA.”

Let me introduce myself. My name is Joan and I moved up to Gravenhurst from Guelph in February, 2021, after meeting Jim for the first time the previous summer.

You might say that Cupid, the ancient Roman god of Love, was alive and well despite all odds. It was the first summer of Covid after all. We met and soon fell in love. We often listen to a podcast over breakfast, and this morning a provocative question was raised: “What is your definition of a quality life?” I had to answer it. Here goes.

For me, a quality life is one where I am free to choose the things that pull me forward, enticing me along. As a result, I make the choices that I make, and live within the situations that I find myself. The smallest and most ordinary things will do it. Many of these things are easy to find on just about any day, and are often of little or no cost.

Here are some of examples from the last couple days:

- * the first morning’s light. How it skims across the still and misty lake, creating a reflective vision of rock walls, majestic trees and blue sky. How beautiful it is!
- * the grandeur of the natural world, right out of our door. The tall beautiful White Pine trees that inhabit a radius of one kilometre from the house provide a sense of time slowed down. The old growth style forest within a 15 minute walk gives most of us a sense of calm.

- * the sun's built-in spotlight for all that it illuminates. Shadows are created, adding a magical dimension,
- * the hospitality that Jim extends to my family and friends. He goes that extra mile to make sure that everyone feels welcomed, comfortable and well cared for,
- * the sharing of social activities and engaging in diverse conversations, whether it be:
 - our Holy Listening Circle on Sunday mornings on Zoom (!!),
 - or on what I refer to as a "Walk and Talk" blue toothed phone call,
 - or in person. I feel so rich when I can share a safe outside visit with a friend or or friends or an indoor chat when there is a feeling of safety and comfort that is mutually shared.

A few more examples of quality living come to mind.

- * the underlying trust of good will between friends. This helps to smooth out any rough spots,
- * the food choices at the grocery store, even in times of supply chain disruption, keep us well nourished, and a roof over our heads,
- * a campfire, crackling wood, starry night endless sky, a song to sing and.... *Hot Chocolate with Marshmallows* :) can't be beat!

Underpinning it all:

The mystery of my ancestry, birth and subsequent lifelines, held in the great mystery of it all, have provided me with what I define as a Quality Life!

Harcourt Communal Garden

Jill Gill

It's been another exciting and fruitful start to the growing season at the Harcourt Communal Garden. In the past three weeks we have already harvested 5.22 kgs of asparagus and 5.74 kgs. of rhubarb! And this is only the beginning of the delicious, local, organically-grown vegetables, fruit and herbs that we will be planting, weeding, watering and harvesting this season. All of our produce is donated to Chalmers Community Services Centre in downtown Guelph and at Three Willows United Church on Willow Road. This fresh produce

will be added to the non-perishable staple foods received by many of Guelph's most food-insecure population.

Planting and maintenance in the garden is entirely provided by dedicated volunteers. This year, for the first time in 12 years we are short of volunteers. We work weekly in teams of 3, and usually each team would work 6 or 7 times throughout the season from June to the end of October. Because we have too few volunteers this year, each person will be asked to work more frequently.

I'm asking any of you who have not already offered to volunteer this year, please consider doing so. We would also like you to urge friends, neighbours, children, grandchildren, and high school students who need volunteer hours to take part in this fun and very worthwhile outreach activity. Volunteers do not need vast knowledge in vegetable growing, just a willingness to learn and get your hands dirty! The veteran volunteers are happy to share their expertise with newcomers.

If this sounds like an activity you would like to participate in, please contact me, Jill Gill at peter.gill@sympatico.ca or call 519.767.1244.



A Scout Shed dedication

Jon Welch, Secretary, 3rd Guelph Harcourt Scouting Group Committee



At the dedication ceremony on the evening of May 9th, attended by all sections of Scouting, Roz Stevenson received a copy of the plaque for her generous donation to 3rd Guelph Harcourt Scouting Group in memory of her brother David, who was quite involved in the scouting movement in Manitoba.

This donation allowed us to purchase a secure container for storage of equipment. There is also a copy of the plaque affixed to the inside of the shed door, (protected from vandals).



Community Champions

Lisa Browning

When I was selected as one of the Guelph Y's Women of Distinction in 2018, my category was Community Champion. Not only was I humbled by the award itself, I was honoured by the category. Nothing feeds my soul more than helping to empower others, especially those who have faced, or are facing, adversity and challenge. And I have met a lot of people in that situation. I was also one of them, at one time, which is why I am so passionate about the work that I do in this regard.

I have spent the last ten years in particular helping others to share their stories and speak their truth. I firmly believe that doing so helps not only the person telling the story, but also those who read that story. There is power in vulnerability, and that power provides hope to those who may have lost their way.

Because I spend most of my time helping others write their stories, I am grateful to be given the opportunity to write regularly for the Herald. It's nice to be flexing those writing muscles again!

I spent a lot of time considering what I would write about each month, and after being reminded of my Women of Distinction category, I decided to highlight a different Community Champion each month. Someone who is working to make our community better, often with little or no recognition.

For this month, my focus is Edward Pickersgill. For as long as I can remember, Ed has been working with the marginalized population in Guelph; from 1995 through Fresh Start Housing Centre, and then at 40 Baker Street. Weekend services were made available in 2005 with the opening of Gallery 150, then Baker Street Art Gallery in 2008. Both provided a place to gather and create art. In 2007 Change Now Youth Centre closed and Our Place Youth Centre was born, and since 2017, Ed has been operating on the street, at what is known as The Bench, located on the corner of Wyndham and Woolwich. At that location, Ed and his team of volunteers provide food, clothing and other necessities, donated by local businesses and individuals, to those in need.

He receives no government funding, and relies solely on donations. It is a valuable service to so many who need not only the food and clothing, but also the emotional support and the accompanying message of being valued and cared for.

I first met Ed in person about ten years ago, and was struck by his understated presence. He is not one who wants to be the centre of attention, and he dislikes being referred to as a hero. But the work he does is important, and his unfailing commitment to this work is to be commended, and highlighted.

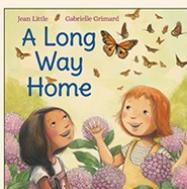
As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

If you know someone who you consider a Community Champion, please email me at lisa@onethousandtrees.com. I'd love to hear from you!

Community Information



A Celebration of the Life of Children's Author
Jean Little
(January 2, 1932–April 6, 2020)



with her last book, *A Long Way Home*,
illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard
(Scholastic Canada)

Saturday, June 18, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
A Few Words—2:00
Cutting of the Cake—2:45

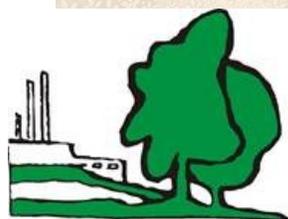
Three Willows United Church
577 Willow Road, Guelph, ON N1H 7H3

Questions?
Contact Jean Little's niece Maggie de Vries at
devriesmaggie015@gmail.com.

Books. Refreshments. Memories.
All ages welcome.
Book sales by The Bookshelf.



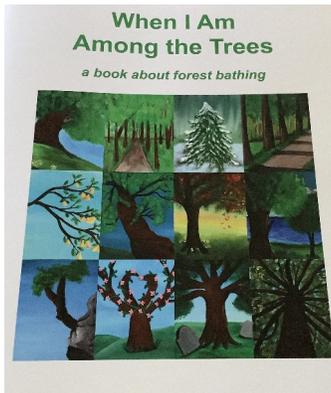
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Jean to The Jean Little First Novel Award
(<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-canadian-childrens-book-centre/campaign/jean-little-first-middle-grade-novel-award/>)
or Three Willows United Church (<https://www.guelphunited.org/three-willows/donate>)



TREES FOR GUELPH

"a project for improving Guelph's urban environment"

I was so disheartened to see how much damage the storm caused – yet the Trees for Guelph plantings in the Hugh Guthrie Park did really well. This is what climate change looks and the one thing we can do is plant. Lisa Mactaggart, OALA (she/her), Communications Director



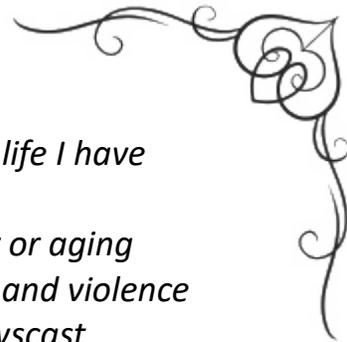
Lisa Browning, has just produced an impressive children's book on Forest Bathing. It sells for \$10.00 and can be obtained from Lisa at One Thousand Trees.

Poem Corner:

Budding

by Sandy Phair

*On Earth Day oh Gaia
May I be guided and stop reacting to the life I have
Let me live more consciously
I help no one if I live in fear of my cancer or aging
I help no one if I read about social injustices and violence
I help no one if I listen to another newscast
or podcast about global warming
As I put energy into avoiding and postponing
or seeking pleasure in food, TV, or e-mails
As I let the demands of others absorb my time and energy
I am spinning away from how I know I can be
I want to focus on the now
And not my fears for myself or the world
I want to act with passion, hope, wisdom and love
I want to have clarity and be strong
I understand that so much starts from within
If winter has been about discernment and intentions
Let spring be a time of transformation
Let it begin with me
Let it be revealed by my actions*



Life Events:

Passages



Dick Julian passed away May 15.

Blair McNeill's memorial is May 27 @ 2pm

Margaret Alexander's memorial is June 3 @ 2pm

Ty Henshaw's memorial is June 11 @ 11am



Thank you to Miriam!

Pamela Girardi: When Miriam first came to Harcourt she - like many - may have wondered what this Manna service was all about!



Miriam jumped into her ministry with Manna with such wisdom, enthusiasm and creativity. We have so many beloved memories of her leadership with us. Miriam took us on walks down to the river to have our service there. She took us on journeys of the “Be-attitudes” around the gym. She set up art exhibits for us to explore. You never knew what adventure you would be on each Sunday! She has brought such depth and joy to Manna with such skill and ease.

Miriam brought puppets, costumes, historical and scientific facts, art and all kinds of ways to bring our stories to life today. When we moved online to zoom, Miriam adapted her ministry to the screen - making slideshows, making packages of supplies to be dropped off to homes. We are so grateful for the way she kept us creating and connected together. We loved when Miriam led us in communion services from our living rooms.

Miriam has woven us as a Manna community with her great, attentive care. When we talk about Miriam’s ministry at Manna, people always bring up her pastoral presence - the one on one conversations, the thoughtful messages received, the ways she comforted and connected with us as we journey through life’s celebrations and concerns.

Miriam, we are so very grateful for your ministry with us at Manna. We are going to miss you deeply! Thank you for all that you have done for us and with us.

We sing “Go now in peace!”