



News from L'Arche Halifax

Issue No. 3
Fall 2005

Thank You Ron

Ron Beed has stepped down from the L'Arche Halifax Board of Directors after serving faithfully for more than three years. Ron was co-chair of the fund development committee and instrumental in securing funds for the Founding Director's salary and start up costs for our community. Ron's great love of L'Arche and his ability to be an 'innovative' thinker propelled the board forward on many projects. Ron was always willing to attend that extra meeting, make that important call or write that crucial letter in his quest to bring L'Arche to Halifax. His easy going manner won him many friends and admirers. Ron and his wife Aileen welcomed us warmly into their home many times to discuss our latest endeavor.

Ron Beed



An avid golfer and world traveler, Ron uses his golf tours as a way to educate people about L'Arche. Ron has been involved at the regional level, as well, keeping his hands and heart in the work of L'Arche that stretches beyond Halifax borders. He promises to keep us in his prayers and will always be available as a resource, helping those that follow in his footsteps.

Good Golfing Ron, We'll Miss You

Welcome Cathy!



Cathy and her parents

Cathy MacMillan will be assuming the job of Founding Director for L'Arche Halifax on January 9, 2006. Cathy has been an assistant at L'Arche Cape Breton for over twelve years. While on sabbatical in Halifax, Cathy was a familiar face at our gatherings, even celebrating her birthday with us.

There will be more about Cathy, her appointment and plans and hopes for the future of L'Arche Halifax in the next newsletter. In the meantime, here is Cathy talking about community in a short excerpt from an article in Au Furan, the newsletter of L'Arche Cape Breton:

"Community is what we long for. We long for the recognition of another. We want to know there is someone who knows us and loves us. We desire a place of belonging and we are willing to work for it.

...When you truly enter relationships in L'Arche you are stripped of barriers and limits and it is sometimes hard to find this elsewhere. So we come back to be stripped and filled again.

Living community is not easy and it takes commitment. And it is, in my eyes, a beautiful way of life..."

We look forward to welcoming Cathy to our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Craft Show
L'Arche-Homefires - NOV 26
(Sat.) - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
10 Gaspereau Avenue, Wolfville

Advent Gathering & Christmas Party - DEC 11
Please bring new mitts, hat, scarves for those in need.

Sunday Gathering - Welcome to our Founding Community Leader, Cathy MacMillan - JAN 8

Sunday Gathering - FEB 12

Sunday Gathering & St. Patrick's Day Party - MAR 12

All Sunday gatherings are held at St. Agnes Hall, Mumford Road, 1:30-3:00 on the second Sunday of the month. All are welcome. For more information or to arrange a drive, please call Nancy (826-7050) or Pat (477-8269).



Welcome Senator Alasdair Graham

Toronto -- The Honourable Alasdair Graham has joined the L'Arche Canada Foundation as a Patron. He will help raise public awareness and financial support for L'Arche. Senator Graham is a veteran of public service who has a deep conviction that societal change can happen through the efforts of ordinary citizens.

"I feel privileged to be granted the opportunity to be an ambassador for this organization," said Senator Graham. "Throughout my public life in Canada, I have endeavoured to play a small part in the creation of a political culture for the respect of all people. L'Arche works on many levels: It provides home and work environments for developmentally disabled people and, through its curricula in the education system and other initiatives, it promotes important values for building a compassionate Canadian society. That has always been one of the primary objectives of my public life".

"We can't think of a more natural partnership than this one with Al Graham. His thirty- year career of service has been characterized by the conviction that all citizens - irrespective of creed, ability, disability, race, colour or class - have a contribution to make in the development of a healthy society. The L'Arche communities are grateful for a patron who is such a committed champion of what is most precious in our society," said Dean Levitt, Chair of the L'Arche Canada Foundation.

For further information, please contact: Nathan Ball, Executive Director L'Arche Canada Foundation

Halifax in Solidarity with Santo Domingo

As a project of L'Arche working to establish a first home, L'Arche Halifax is also joining with the region in helping to support the L'Arche community in the Dominican Republic where resources are very limited.

"We in Halifax are pleased to be able to help Santo Domingo with a special fundraiser," says Pat Goulet, chair of the Community Development Committee. "We came up with the idea of selling canvas bags bearing the L'Arche logo. When people see them we will be happy to tell them about our project and about Santo Domingo."

The bags were produced by the Halifax Prescott Group and are available for \$15.00. Should anyone wish to participate call Erin at 857-9047.



L'Arche bag enthusiasts celebrate at the lakeside home of Robbie and Jane Abernethy-Parker. Potluck and barbeque enjoyed by all.



Love and sympathy are sent to all members of L'Arche Homefires. Linda de Wolfe, a core-member went home to God on October 19 after a brief illness. She died at home held in the love of her family and the community. Her joyful spirit will be much missed.



Congratulations Athletes!

The Special Olympic summer games were held in July and eight members of L'Arche Halifax participated. It was a hot, sunny day when the athletes paraded into SMU stadium for the opening ceremonies. The athletes had trained for months, attended regional meets and tournaments in preparation for this weekend. The goal was to compete to the best of your ability, have fun and hopefully bring home some medals.



- Elizabeth Flemming and Beverly Burke took to the lanes in five-pin bowling and contributed to the success of their team.
- Tom Clancey who bowls for Lunenburg-Queens was awarded MVP for his team.
- Elizabeth and Karla Graves-Smith hit the pool with a big splash capturing two medals each.
- Jennifer Graves-Smith, Beth Rahr and Stan Gilbert tore up the track, each posting a personal best and all going to the podium twice.

A mom was heard commenting how the Special Olympic program had changed her daughter's life: the young athlete exercised regularly, had more confidence and new friends, a winning combination.

Special Olympics Halifax fall program has started, for more info contact Stephen Gilbert at 826-7050.

Top: Karla, Elizabeth and Jennifer. Middle: Tom and Stan. Bottom: Beth, right, with a fellow competitor.

A Dream Come True in Saint John

After 14 faithful years of journeying, the dream of a L'Arche home in Saint John became official on June 7, 2005.

The excitement of building and developing a community where we witness to and value a shared life together and a simple lifestyle that embraces the spirit of the Gospels, would never have come to be without the encouragement, hard work and generous support of so many people over the years. We thank you all.

Blessings

Dan Kirkegaard, Community Leader / Executive Director



L'Arche Saint John
Changing the world...one heart at a time!

Prescott Street Group Christmas Tea & Sale

December 3, 2005 - 10am - 2pm
3430 Prescott Street

Crafts, bags, baked goods etc.
Lunch available (chili, chowder, dessert)

'Providing vocational services for individuals with intellectual disabilities.'

Christmas Card Sale

To support L'Arche in the Dominican Republic.

Designed by core members.

Pack of 6 for \$5.00

Call Jennifer 431-7724

L'Arche Halifax Bags

Make great gifts!
\$15.00 call Erin
at 857-9047

Thomas displays his L'Arche bag.





as presented to a recent Halifax gathering by Mary Ellen Clancy

Jean Vanier took two men home; they became a family. It's that simple. It's that difficult.

- To see the face of God in everyone we meet... everyone;
- To see the beauty and value of every life God gives... every life;
- To love everyone... everyone;
- To help everyone belong... everyone.
- It's that simple. It's that difficult.



The L'Arche logo tries to capture the paradox in a single image. The vessel in that image has always seemed to me incredibly frail, its passengers solitary, afloat, surviving amidst a vast, empty sea.

The water images we have seen of late have not been of a life-giving, nature. They bear tales of cruel suffering, terrible hardship, heart-breaking isolation. We have seen parts of the world's wealthiest nation brought to third world conditions by the power of water. We can recognize that kind of suffering, hardship and isolation in the history of many of the adult mentally challenged whom we know. They wait in that little boat, surrounded by the deep, waiting to put their arms around each other, to open their arms to us.

The waters recede. The ark must come to rest ashore. The passengers must walk into a world, a community, a life.

That is why we are L'Arche. We cannot all bring home a Raphael or a Philippe, as did Jean Vanier, but we can help make a good life for those we have come to know in our community.

A life with family

A life with friends

A life with useful work

A life with music, dance and celebration

A life with sport and recreation and just plain fun

A life within the great circle of God's love.

L'Arche has changed in 40 years. It will continue to change, but what is at its core never changes. Jean Vanier took two men home; they became a family. It's that simple. It's that difficult.

My six-days holidays with Porter and Dawe families

by Elizabeth Samson

One day in August, I called my friend, Kathryn. She invited me to stay overnight with her Family. I ended up staying six days with Kathryn, Mary, Tiffany, Linda and David.

Oh, and I came To see Monty and Millie, the two swamp dogs. They like to swim in the swamp. This means Kathryn and Mary have to give them a bath, which they don't like very much.



Elizabeth with Tiffany and Kathryn at the Carnival.

We had lots to do, Tiffany, Linda and I went for walks everyday, I helped Kathryn with her garden and David and I browsed the net looking for games.

Here are some other things that we did, The first thing we did was the Natal Day parade. Over the next few days we went to Fisherman's Cove, we went shopping, swimming at Rainbow Haven and Lawrencetown beaches, Then we went to see the fireworks on the Dartmouth waterfront. We went to a carnival where we had lots of fun. Before I went home, Linda and I looked at pictures of her trip to Australia, and Linda looked at my work with Neptune Theatre and my Scholarship certificate for 2005-2006. I really enjoyed myself, I would really like to thank Mary for picking me up, driving me home and driving us everywhere!



The Rainbow

A rainbow plays in the water spray
It always seems to find its way
Its vibrant pattern following round
It speaks to me without a sound.

Its ray shines like a chandelier
I feel that it is drawing near
With shining bands of brightness pure,
An ark afloat, my passage sure

But look! If I should beg it stay
It pales and moves, it fades away
Misted, in tears, it goes to meet
More children, on another street

~ Marion MacInnis (Class 7 - 3)