

Spring is at our doorstep and with it comes a time of new beginnings, a time of hope of what is to come. For the eight core members and the assistants that will call Sullivan St. home the time is fast approaching for a major change. They will soon be welcomed into a new place of belonging. The house that evolved from a cement slab into a structure filled with windows and colourful siding will come alive. We have all called many places home as we travel through life. From our parent's care to living with friends, on our own, or with a partner each phase offers both gifts and challenges. Some of us move easily from one situation to the next but for some the transition can be difficult.

As a parent I know I want the best for my children and will worry about them to the day I die. My Mom in her 80's would often remind me to wear my hat in winter so I wouldn't catch a cold. Although my 27 year old son Jim has lived away from home for many years, I still dispense motherly advice whenever I can. I actually cry when I think of the day that my son Stan will leave our home and strike out on his own. Is it because he is a young man with developmental disabilities or is it just the pain of letting go?

Over the next few months eight families will see a change in their dynamics. Sons and daughters, sister and brothers, will leave the home they have known for a number of years to become part of the L'Arche family. What a wonderful journey this will be for them. They will be welcomed into their new family, where their abilities will be celebrated, where their voices will be heard, and where there is a loving community waiting to embrace them. Of course there will be ups and downs, good days and bad. But what family doesn't experience all of these.

History for L'Arche Halifax will be made this spring when the doors are opened on our first home.

Ciad Mile Failte (a hundred thousand welcomes) to all those who will be part of this community.

~Nancy Gilbert

**L'Arche Halifax Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday June 23, 2009; 6 p.m. Cambridge Military Library; Building 3

Royal Artillery Park; 1575 Queen Street, Halifax (Refreshments will be served)

Parking is available and wheel chair accessible off Queen St at Artillery Place

**All are welcome, however, please note that if you wish to vote**

**at the AGM an annual membership fee of \$15.00 (individual) \$25.00 (family) must be paid.**

**Yes, I want to help L'Arche Halifax build community**

I am enclosing a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ OR I will be making a Credit Card donation to L'Arche Halifax through the National Office

www.larche.ca

I understand a receipt will be issued for income tax purposes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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L'Arche Halifax News

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**We are all connected ~ Cathy MacMillan**

I don't know about you, but I like being needed. And when I am in need I like knowing someone will be there for me. And I don't think *need* is a bad word. So often I hear of the importance of being independent and standing on one's own two feet. It seems we are trying to deny the simple truth that we are social beings and as such we need each other.

dom isn't necessarily about independence but can be found in relationships of interdependence and mutuality. True interdependence recognizes that both independence and commitment to others are important: Having both makes us whole and connects us to the world around us.

Yes, it is important that we know what our needs are. But is it not equally important to know which of our needs



It is my hope that as we begin a new stage of life together in L'Arche Halifax we each discover the value of the other and that we are valued by others.

we need help meeting? I believe one of our greatest needs is to recognize we are all interdependent. Today we are beginning to recognize this in relation to the environment but I still do not feel we see it in relation to each other. One the things my life in L'Arche has taught me is we are all able and we are all needy.

The world is because we each exist and the truth of our existence is that we belong. I feel we need to be reminded of this and stop thinking the world might be better if some people didn't exist. It may be true that what each of us contributes to our world may not always be easy to name but that does not mean the contribution is not real.

When I left my parents' home for the first time I discovered so much about myself and what I really wanted and needed in my life. I also discovered that as much as I wanted to be independent I still needed my family and I wanted to be needed by them. When I came to L'Arche I learned that free-

When Anna talks to me of moving into L'Arche she says she wants to learn to be more independent and to get and give help when needed. Doesn't this sum it all up: Wanting to know how to do more for ourselves while staying committed to others and to our need for others?

**News and Events**

~Regular monthly gathering June 14th, St. Agnes Hall 1:30 (silly Olympics & ice cream social)

~AGM June 23, 2009; 6 p.m.; Cambridge Military Library (see page 4)

~Annual regional picnic June 25th, Truro, 11-3, contact Cathy 402-1582

*We are in a world that values independence but to discover what the world is really about we have to deepen our understanding of belonging and community.*

Jean Vanier

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# When you visit our house you'll meet...

*Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of (humanity) as self-sufficiency.*

*Mahatma Gandhi*



My name is Shawn Moulton. I am 24 years old and I live with my parents in Halifax. Recently I have started working at Prescott Group and like it so far. I really enjoy going to the Clay Café and am making some containers for tea, sugar and such for my new house. I also like playing computer and card games, bowling and going to hockey games.



My name is Elizabeth Flemming. I am 51 years old and live with my mom. I am involved in Special Olympics through bowling and figure skating which I really enjoy. I also like helping my mom around the house. I have been attending the L'Arche gatherings for the last few years and have many friends there.



My name is Danny Foren. I am 48 years old and I live with my mom in Halifax. I work at Prescott Group and really enjoy spending my days there; I like the people at work. I enjoy bowling and going to Swiss Chalet. Meeting new people is fun and I will get to meet many new people in L'Arche



My name is Beth Rahr. I am 24 years old and live in Clayton Park. These days I work in the mail room at Prescott Group. I like listening to music and spending time with my family. I also like being active and through Special Olympics I am involved in speed skating, curling, golf, and track and field.

# Moments in time...



Allison enjoys a Sunday afternoon gathering.



Mark, Cathy, Nathan, Jocelyn, Noreen, Trevor and Patrick take a walk through our new house.



Jacqueline struts her stuff in a fashion show based on diversity put on by a group of Dalhousie students.



Cathy and Karla also took part in the Dalhousie fashion show

*Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities ...Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

*Martin Luther king, Jr.*

*When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.*

*John Muir*



A rear view of the L'Arche house in Halifax.