

Argenta Monthly Meeting

Argenta Monthly Meeting welcomes the establishment of the South Kootenay Worship Group which will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, September through June. 10:30 a.m. Singing. 11:00 Meeting for Worship in the meeting room under the Nelson Public Library. Contact Michael Phillips for information. (250) 364-2038. EMAIL: mphilip@netidea.com

Hamilton Monthly Meeting

Hamilton Friends haven't updated our news in a long time! So much has happened, I can hardly keep up, but I will try to highlight the most exciting parts:

Young Friends have continued to be active: HMM supported Beth Shepard to the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in Britain in the summer, and continues to support Anna Peters, who is on the FGC Gathering Planning Committee, and, as co-clerk of the High School Gathering 2001, was sent to Pendle Hill on a clerking workshop. Three teens attended the Young Friends Retreat in Toronto in September, and the Kitchener Area retreat in February.

Another Hamilton attender was also supported to Pendle Hill in the fall. We have welcomed two new members this year, both of whom are working devotedly with the Culture of Peace Committee, as well as many other pursuits. We also welcomed two children into Associate Membership.

HMM helped to sponsor a visit from Staughton Lynd, in cooperation with several other area peace groups. A number of Hamilton Friends are involved in a new venture called Peace House; stay tuned for further developments!

As usual, Hamilton Friends gathered for a shared meal, including visitors, for Thanksgiving, and also celebrated in like manner the coming of the new year, with our now traditional intergenerational new year's eve party. First Day School continues to enjoy intergenerational outings once a month. Our Christmas "pageant" included both children and adults in its depiction of the Huron Carol.

A number of Hamilton Friends met over three days of two weekends in March to participate in a "Visioning Process." This was a major commitment of time and energy, which meant that many friends were unable to participate, but those who did devoted themselves to a new task with caring energy.

By the time this comes into print, Hamilton's major multi-year project of transforming our back garden into an ecological project of native plants will be active again. It is intended as a demonstration and teaching garden, too, so please come visit!

Ottawa Monthly Meeting

The January Meeting retreat on ecological issues produced the following minute, which is being used as the basis for the Regional Gathering in May:

What in nature and human knowledge is it right to own?

We note from the 1998 minute of the Ecology Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

The world is God's creation. How we treat the earth and all its creatures is basic to our relationship to God and of fundamental

religious concern to the Religious Society of Friends. What we are learning about the destructive effects of affluence and technology in our society gives new urgency to Friends' historic testimonies on peace, simplicity, equality and stewardship.

Friends gathered in this retreat talked about the need to seek appropriate language to express our concerns.

We are concerned that the world, encompassing all of creation, the natural world and the universe of human knowledge, is being expropriated, commodified, removed from the language of public discourse, discussion and debate. We see this in many realms:

- ±□ *privatization and commodification of biological and genetic knowledge of peoples*
- ±□ *in the patenting of life forms and processes*
- ±□ *in the privatization of public goods and services including medicine and health.*

We would ask Friends in their Monthly Meetings and other gatherings to consider:

How can we as Friends in the public and political fora and in our own lives encourage a deeper consideration of what in nature and human knowledge it is right to own?

Victoria Monthly Meeting

Our 1913 Meetinghouse is needing foundation work, and plans are proceeding to have this done. It continues to serve us and several community groups who use it, such as Victoria Storytellers and Amnesty International. Our Meetings for Business have been helped greatly by a Clerk's Committee which meets prior to Monthly Meeting, to prepare the Agenda. Our Nominating Committee is undertaking an "inventory of gifts" to facilitate the process of matching Friends with meeting service needs.

On March 31-April 1, over 55 Friends from all parts of Vancouver Island participated in a gathering, with the theme "Light & Lively--Live Adventurously." This was held at the Fern St. MH, but the program was prepared by "up-Island" Friends.

Social justice outreach continues to be an important part of Meeting life. We approved \$50 a month to go to the school at Port Renfrew, which has many First Nations children, toward an "adequate food" program. Several Friends attended the ecumenical Jubilee 2000 event--Year III. The focus was on First Nations issues and our response as churches. As well as native elders, we had Ed Bianchi (from ARC) and Julia Graham (from 10 Days for Global Justice) at this event which attracted 80 persons. Bill Eastman of Victoria Meeting was the co-ordinator.

Mike Peddle is off to Guatemala for a month, beginning March 31st, for first-hand observations on the management of the Pueblo Partisans project there, a co-sponsored Victoria Meeting/CFSC project. Our Peace, Earth and Social Action Committee has also been active in the area of letter-writing on a number of concerns too many to mention here.

Dear Friends

I write to let you know of the both expected but unexpected death of Douglas Summers. Douglas died last night, Saturday, March 24, at the Wakefield Nursing Home.

I returned earlier Saturday from visiting Mum and Douglas. Adrian and Rosalie had been in Cullen for 6 days, and I was able to overlap one day with them.

Douglas had been admitted to the Wakefield about three weeks ago. He had become too frail for Mum to be able to give him the care he needed. The single room at the Wakefield was available and with the help of the GP and local social services it was possible to admit him very quickly. He received warm and loving care while there. The last three days I was there Mum was unable to visit due to a very severe cold. I visited in her stead, and spent some good time with Douglas, including a time of reading from the Psalms. When I left yesterday he was playing the music of Evelyn Glennie, music with life and celebration!

Douglas had failed a lot in the four weeks I had been away, continuing to lose weight. Speech became difficult for him. Yet the spark continued to peep out of his eyes from time to time, and just before I left on Saturday Douglas and I had a short chat with Anne, one of the nurses, about being children of God! Mum spoke to Douglas by telephone later that day, and had been expecting to go in to visit today. Instead she was called to the Wakefield after Douglas's peaceful passage into death, something about which he had earlier said to me 'I hope it's interesting!'

I plan to go north today for a couple of weeks, to be with Mum through the funeral and, with grace, a bit beyond. It means I will not be here to be able to get any emails. But the snail address is: Muriel Summers, 11 Ogilvie Park, Cullen, Buckie, AB56 4XZ, phone 44-(0)1542-840 207.

Peace to you all. Please hold us in thought and prayer!

Elaine Bishop

Births

Sylvie Elizabeth, on January 22, 2001, born to Shirley Schellenberg and Wilf Ruland, attenders at Hamilton. New big sister for Amelia. A shower following Meeting for Worship at Hamilton in March joyfully welcomed the newcomer.

Deaths

Kay Starr of Thousand Islands Meeting died on April 4th.

Membership

Helen Paulin and Rex Barger, and two children, **Kelly Graham and Kendra Graham** were joyfully received into membership of Hamilton Monthly Meeting.

Linda Foy was joyfully welcomed into membership of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting (Sackville Worship Group).

Anna and Michael Dulin were joyfully welcomed into membership of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting (Houlton-Woodstock Worship Group).

Jonna, Zephrum, Abril and Eden Dulin were joyfully welcomed into junior membership of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting (Houlton-Woodstock Worship Group).

Correction

Ministry: a True Calling, Active Laziness or Violence? By June Etta Chenard in the March issue of *The Canadian Friend*, incorrectly mentioned that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting had decided to take a year's sabbath. This should have been Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.

Position Available

Editor, *The Canadian Friend*

This position becomes vacant January 2002.

Applications deadline is August 1st, 2001.

Home Mission and Advancement Committee invites enquiries. To receive an information package.

Contact Daphne Davey, HMAc, Box 299, Cornwall, PEI, C0A 1H0, Fax 902 675 2533, Tel: 902 675 3501. Email: ddavey@isn.net