

Dear Friends,

As I write this editorial, I am feeling the harsh edges of life. My next-door neighbours' son was killed recently; a terrible fire in a nearby town destroyed a whole family; the election results of the United States have just come in; and suffering and violence in the world is widespread.

My next-door neighbours are, of course, devastated; I think about what it must be like to live where whole neighbourhoods, towns and one's entire country are suffering devastation. I also think about how the devastation that wreaks havoc with lives in most of the world today has its roots in the everyday choices we make: the way we vote, the way we spend our money.

There was some concern that an issue of *The Canadian Friend* dealing with money might be dry and boring — not so! Bernard Schulmann's courageous discussion of involuntary simplicity, a rarely-discussed topic, cuts immediately to the heart of what life's greatest riches are. This issue's collection of articles are sure to motivate and inspire: they continue with Kristin Lord inviting us to consider the legacy of Irene Sotiroff. Other stimulating ideas are offered by Rose Mae Harkness, who shares how Ottawa Monthly Meeting plan their finances; by Adrian Dolling, who writes on the recommendations by a small group from Western Half-Yearly Meeting regarding financial reporting; and by Dan Poisson, reflecting on finances as love in action.

On the topic of Friends and money, I wish to express my gratitude to Montreal Monthly Meeting who have not only shared a short history of their Meeting with us, but who also gave *The Canadian Friend* a large donation that paid for the publication of this issue.

Suggestions made by John Woolman over two centuries ago have as much importance for us today as when he wrote them, and as strong an impact:

“Now my friend I have beheld that fullness and delicacy in which thou and thy family liveth. Those expensive articles, from beyond the Sea, which are gotten chiefly to please the desire of the eye, and to gratify the palate, which I often observe in thy family and in other rich families; these costly things are often in my remembrance, when those piercing instructions arising from hunger and want have been before me ...

Your example in plain life might encourage other rich families in this simple way of living ...

I have felt hardships amongst poor people, and had experience of their difficulties; now, my friend! Were our Stations in the world to be changed, were thou and thy children to labor a few years with your hands, through all the wants and difficulties of the poor, toward Supporting us and our families in that expensive way of life in which thou and thy family now liveth, thou would see that we might have a Sufficiency with much less, and on abating our demands might make thy labor and the labor of thy children much easier, and doubtless in my case, to thee such abatement would be desirable. ”

These and other words by Friends in this issue offer us increased clarity and help in making our everyday choices. The mere fact of reading Friends' submissions softens the harsh edges, renewing the strength that is to be found in our life as a spiritual community. And I give thanks for this privilege.

In Friendship,
June Etta Chenard

In June, 1905, Canadian Friends had a dream: to develop a communication link, to which Friends from all three Canadian Quaker traditions: Canada Yearly Meeting (Five Years Meeting), Canada Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Genessee Yearly Meeting (General Conference) would contribute and read. Their dream brings us to two exciting anniversaries in the upcoming year: the one hundredth anniversary of *The Canadian Friend*, to be celebrated in the May issue; and the fiftieth anniversary of Canadian Yearly Meeting as a united Yearly Meeting, to be celebrated in the August issue. **Please consider sharing with us your memories and photos of these important milestones in the history of Canadian Friends. The due dates for submissions are listed on the back cover.**