

# Letters to the Editor

I hope this finds you well. I am just curious when the next issue of the CF is coming out. As I travel through Central America, I find myself wondering and checking the web site to see when the next one is coming. It is a real source of connection and strength while I amble. ... sometimes I just become fully immersed in life here in Guatemala/Salvador and it gets harder and harder to feel in touch with the Quaker world.

*Donald Bowyer, a Young Adult Friend of Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting*



I found the article, "Homelink" by Sarah Hind and Tim Nicholls very interesting, and I downloaded their web site on the Canadian National Institute of the Blind (CNIB) computer. (I am visually impaired, registered with the CNIB, and have a white cane, but fortunately I am not legally blind.)

I heard about Quaker Social Action (formerly Bedford Institute Association) at the Westminster Monthly Meeting in London, England, when I went to visit my sister. It was this organisation that led me to Habitat for Humanity. I took part in the building of Edmonton's Habitat for Humanity for four years.

*John Armitage, a member of Edmonton Monthly Meeting*



It was with an instant of shock—followed by a flood of fond memories—that I read in the last issue of *The Canadian Friend* of the death of Donald Laitin. I first got to know Don in the 1970s when I attended Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, of which he was then clerk. He was a lovely man, someone who seemed to truly reach out and touch the Spirit and let its light shine quietly forth from him. I was one of — I don't doubt — many who were so touched. Although we found rare opportunities for a reunion since I

moved away, I often thought of Don, especially when I read his contributions to *The Canadian Friend* or read of his service work within CYM and in his community. If you were to ask me if I had one special memory of him, I would straightway know which one to share. At the time I was a member of Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, I was suffering from an inability to manage a state of loneliness that threatened to blight my daily life with painful unhappiness. As Christmas approached one year, I faced the usual seasonal intensification of this state of mind which, I now know, people call "Christmas depression." For some reason I was not aware that Friends did not hold meeting for worship on Christmas Day unless it coincided with a Sunday. In confiding to Don my disappointment, he immediately called a meeting for worship on Christmas Day, and he and several other Friends attended. The lovingness of this gesture did not hit me until later. I have never forgotten it.

*Daphne Davey, a member of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting*



**"Meeting for Worship at NeeKauNis '97" is a drawing by Janet Nunn, of Pelham Executive Meeting**