



Friends participating in a Special Interest Group at Canadian Yearly Meeting 2004

In the above circle we have identified Julie Paradis (Calgary MM) on the floor. On her left are Caitlin Dick (Calgary MM) and Nori Sinclair (Victoria MM). Further back are Dorothy Janes (Toronto MM), John Dixon (Ottawa MM), Gordon McClure (Toronto MM), Linda Foy (New Brunswick MM), Leah Foy (New Brunswick MM) and Shauna Curry (Prairie MM). In the centre is Gabrièle Paradis-Holden (Calgary MM).

(Photo by Donald Alexander of Pelham Executive Meeting)

Images from Canadian Yearly Meeting 2004



Friends contemplating information display tables at Canadian Yearly Meeting 2004

Left to right: Mona Callin (Hamilton MM), Heidi Dick (Calgary MM), and Sarah Dick (Calgary MM)

(Photo by Donald Alexander of Pelham Executive Meeting)

Images from Early Days of Ottawa Meeting

By Betty Page

In the early days of Ottawa meeting, Francis Starr broke the silence with the shocking message, "Bang! You're dead." War is a brutal, immediate, violation of the silence, of the comfortable, familiar way we live. Francis went to war with the Friends Ambulance Unit.

George Johnstone, commenting on the differences among religious groups, said, "It is, after all, really only a dance, before the Altar."

Good Friday has always had a special meaning for me. Sunday School was held in a neighbour's basement. The church was two miles away. When I was twelve years

old, I was allowed to go to church by myself. There I learned for the first time the full story of Good Friday. I was appalled and angry that such things had happened to Jesus, and that the Jews were still being blamed for it. Why should we be angry at something our grandfathers did? Why were they angry with such a good person as Jesus? I was crying as I walked, and stumbled nose first into a telephone pole, getting blood all over my nice Easter coat. I realised then, that life was not as simple as it had seemed. I still do not have answers to those two questions.

I roamed the Humber Valley, finding the spirit of nature in all I saw, knowing that it was the hand-work of God, forgiving, sustaining, dependable, eternal. I went to Roselands School Yard, many days, to watch the sun go down over the valley. I knew that I did not believe the catechisms of the established churches. Yet, I knew God was a unity, in nature, in people, in all creation. In the silence of worship in Meeting I came home.

Betty Page is a member of Ottawa Monthly Meeting. 🌿