

Around the Family

Coldstream Monthly Meeting

Ed and Vivien Abbott of Simcoe-Muskoka Monthly Meeting were the facilitators at our annual Ministry and Counsel retreat in February. They graciously shared their experience on the topic of Community. We were happy to have such seasoned Friends with us.

In January we gathered in the Meeting House for a Twelfth Night supper, an evening of joy through the sharing of food and talents.

A second sewing day was held in March to make dresses for Sheila Havard to take to girls in the orphanage in Bududu, Uganda, when she returns there next summer.

Edmonton Monthly Meeting

Barbara Meyer and John Van Dyk were married under the care of Edmonton Monthly Meeting on 14 January 2006 at the Dutch-Canadian Centre in Edmonton. Family members and friends of Barbara and John joined with members of Edmonton Monthly Meeting in the special Meeting for Worship for Marriage and the reception which followed.

Hamilton Monthly Meeting

Larry Pogue, a member of Hamilton Monthly Meeting, died on 2 November 2005. There was a very moving Memorial Meeting after Meeting for Worship on 4 December 2005.

A group of monks from the Draepung Gomang Tibetan Monastery in India recently visited in the Hamilton area. They attended a potluck supper with Hamilton Friends, where they exhibited examples of their sacred art, performed Tibetan Buddhist chanting, and Tibetan dancing. They provided a slide programme of Tibetan life and culture, including information about the monastery and the monks who live there. We were able to arrange for their visit to coincide with a Young Friends retreat. It was an extraordinary and rich experience.

On February 23, a successful peace event, "Working for peace in the twenty-first century," was facilitated by Hamilton Monthly Meeting's Peace and Social Action

Committee. Representatives from five local peace advocacy groups joined Hamilton Friends in an exploration of various position statements. Also, the Axworthy-Roche letter on establishing a Federal Department of Peace was read. During the discussion period, participation by other group representatives included Peace Brigades International and Physicians for Global Survival.

Ottawa Monthly Meeting

We welcomed Virginia Reinecker into membership. The Dixons hosted a welcoming dinner for her, and for David Jackman who had recently had his membership transferred here. The welcoming committee was John and Carol Dixon, Signy Fridriksson, Steve Ficks, Linnea Rowlatt, Tom Lips, Sue Hill, and Winnifred Tanner. The Quaker Book Service has presented books to these Friends.

Thousand Islands Monthly Meeting

Nancy Clark, a long-time member of Thousand Islands Monthly Meeting, sojourning at Thunder Bay Worship Group, died on 24 March 2006. We give thanks for the many gifts she brought to these Meetings.

Toronto Monthly Meeting

We are sad to announce the death of our dear Friend Isabel Showler, on 16 February 2006. A Meeting for Worship on the occasion of the death of Isabel was held on 25 February at Friends House.

Victoria Monthly Meeting

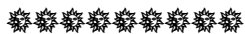
We continue to evolve as a Monthly Meeting, to encompass the Island Worshipping Groups. (Except Saanich MM which is separate). Each worship group in Victoria, Duncan Mid- Island, and North Island now have their own Meetings for Business, prepare their own State of Society report. All meet twice a month, except Victoria, which meets weekly.

All groups have connections with the local KAIROS Group in their communities, and most have connections with the growing War Resisters Campaign. A peace witness is evident in each. Victoria Meeting has connections with the Department of Peace (in Canada) initiative, which is based in Victoria (<<http://www.departmentofpeacecanada.com>>). We have each had meetings around

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the Consultation and Renewal for Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM), and have been stimulated by these considerations. Two Meetings have had discussions about the Earth Charter and CYM queries. These queries can be obtained from <jscull@shaw.ca>.

Duncan and Victoria Meetings have regular Meetings for Learning: Duncan, on Quaker History, and Victoria, around Jim Pym's book *Listening to the Light* and Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity*.



Christian Peacemaker Teams Diary, February 2006 By Jane MacKay Wright

In November 2005, I joined Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in Kenora, Ontario, where a team is working to shed light on mistreatment of First Nations people. In response to information from the Anishnaabe Coalition for Peace and Justice in Kenora about unjust and violent treatment of Anishnaabe people by town police and other officials, CPT began work on a program of human rights documentation last September. The team also met with church and community leaders to discuss these concerns. First Baptist Church in downtown Kenora generously offered CPT a place to stay and work. Soon after my arrival, the team filled the church auditorium for a dinner event where Aboriginal friends and non-Aboriginal church people were invited to get to know one another. Coalition member Laura Calm Wind spoke and showed pictures illustrating her people's history of the area. The last Sunday we were in Kenora, we spoke of our individual spiritual journeys with CPT at a moving First Baptist service.

In late November, we learned with great sadness and concern that four of our colleagues had gone missing in Iraq. We organized a public vigil in Kenora in honour of missing Aboriginals in Canada as well as our colleagues in Iraq, and also held several evenings of silent worship. We were overwhelmed by sympathy from everyone we knew there. Jim Loney, one of the four who was missing in Iraq, worked with CPT in Grassy Narrows and Kenora;

his many Anishnaabe friends were devastated by the news. More recently CPT has returned to Kenora with renewed energy, and have begun nightly street patrols to help reduce violence against First Nations people.

[Editor's update note: One of the kidnapped CPT members, Tom Fox, was killed, while the other three: Harmmeet Sooden, Jim Loney, and Norman Kember, were freed.]



Obituary of Elizabeth Grill Watson

Elizabeth Grill Watson, well-known to many Canadian Friends, died on 24 February 2006. A distinguished Quaker theologian, she had a profound impact on the Society of Friends as a speaker, writer, and workshop leader. She was called to ministry and her words gave expression to her commitment to justice and her knowledge of process, feminist, liberation and earth-centered theologies. Much of her work explored the theological dimensions of current issues, and her special interest in women in the Bible.

Elizabeth was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on 7 January 1914. She is survived by her husband George, daughter Jean McCandless, son John Watson, daughter Carol Watson, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service was scheduled for 22 April 2006, at Minneapolis Friends Meeting.

Trilliums

*God
Opened Her hands
And poured forth the light
And it splashed and sprayed
And rained down through the trees
And now it gleams
White and dazzling
On the forest floor.*

*— Bev Shepard,
Hamilton Monthly Meeting*