

Reflecting: Relocation and Renewal

By Maggie Knight, VIMM

In many ways, since I left Victoria to attend university in Montreal, my most meaningful Quaker connection has been through Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC). I went to Montreal Meeting a few times, but because it is located a long walk or an expensive metro ride away, and because attending means giving up several schoolwork hours, I have chosen not to go more frequently. A new Wednesday evening worship sharing group is becoming a regular part of my life, but in some ways I have yet to settle into it. I have stayed in touch with certain members of Victoria Meeting, but it is difficult to maintain the sort of communication Friends are best at, by e-mail. The more frequent e-mails from my CFSC standing committee, Quakers Fostering Justice, and from members of CFSC Nominating Committee, add a component of daily service. This helps me to keep strong a connection that I hope will last long after university.

I became a member of Victoria Meeting the summer before I left for university, a year and a half ago. During my membership process I recognized that my faith is the root of the activism and volunteer work I undertake. Being at a CFSC General Meeting is an incredible thing for a young activist. The expertise and quiet passion of the assembled Friends is often understated. I discover bit by bit the endeavours and experiences those around me have accrued. It makes me wonder when they began the life of an activist. Was it when they were in high school? In university? Through Friends? More impressive is that many have continued their work for decades, compared to my scant half decade. Personal conversations with CFSC members and staff, and the interview with Pashta MaryMoon for the last issue of *The Canadian Friend*, give me hope that I will be able to juggle the commitments of family life with my beliefs in social justice and environmental work.

I appreciate the chance to deepen my experience of Meeting for Worship for Business and to do social justice work through Quaker Process, which in many ways is very different

from the work I do with student groups. I am learning so much about the way Quakers work. The experience helps me to ground and explore my understanding of justice, and how it relates to my opinions, actions, and activism. I am thankful for the care that the rest of the committee shares for each other, and I look forward to seeing them the next time we descend en masse on Friends House in Toronto.

Maggie Knight is a Young Adult Friend doing a BAsC in Environment at McGill University in Montreal. In 2007-08 she served as YF representative to CFSC. She is now in the middle of her first year of a full membership. See photo on page 27.

Reflections on QUNO Summer School

By Francis Prescott

In July of 2007, I attended a two-week Summer School program hosted by the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva, Switzerland. I have wanted to write about my QUNO experience for quite some time, but have put it off due to busyness in my own life and a difficulty putting such an intense experience into words. Now I hope this will give the reader an understanding of the QUNO Summer School.

With its offices located in the *Palais de Nations* building – the home of the ill-fated League of Nations – the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is the second biggest UN mission outside of New York. Most notably, the UNOG is home to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, and the International Labor Organization (the latter two loosely affiliated with the UN). Geneva is also home to significant non-UN organizations including the International Red Cross and World Trade Organization.

QUNO was founded in 1945 and represents Quaker concerns at the UN through the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). QUNO has Offices in Geneva and New York. Its Geneva office employs three full-time representatives, each focusing on a specific area of Quaker concern, namely, disarmament and peace, human rights and refugees, and global economic issues.