

# Snapshots from Atlantic Friends Gathering, Spring, 2003

By Daphne Davey

\* The sheer joy of the warm weather — the hottest AFG ever?

\* The beautiful belted kingfisher which alighted on a nearby branch on a cliff overlooking the water, with a slim fish in its beak. With one deft toss, the bird gulped down the fish. Curtains for fish!

\* The Sunday visit of Leigh Turina and Dan Cooperstock (Toronto MM) who were passing through on their Maritime vacation.

\* The visit to the Cape Jourimain nature preserve and interpretive centre, and the strawberries and cream thereat!

\* The usual smiles-and-chuckles Family Night, especially the children's improvisations in the "Political Machine" coached by professional actor Charles Follini — another welcome visitor.

\* The preoccupied, but neighbourly, skunk, snuffling in the meadow for juicy bugs in broad daylight.

\* The blessing of the abundant, healthy food.

\* The cry of loons and red-breasted merganzers just offshore, and their amazing ability to swim like

torpedoes underwater and surface a long way from where they dived—just as cool as you please.

\* The oohs and aahs as we watched the red sun swiftly sink into the Northumberland Strait, playing a multi-hued swan song on the quiet ripples of the evening waters. Then, as we sat around the camp fire at the other side of the grounds, up it came again — or was it the moon? — swiftly rising above the opposite horizon!

\* The hope of many of us that this near-perfect camp may be available and approved as our venue every year forever, especially as it is central to all three provinces — though, alas, any Maritime location we choose will still be distant for Friends from Newfoundland.

One can't really give a snapshot-in-words of the spiritual life of such a gathering. It permeates everything, from our worship together, the interesting workshops, the deep appreciation of our natural surroundings, and our fellowship with and caring for one another. ✨

*Daphne Davey is a member of the Prince Edward Island Worship Group, New Brunswick Monthly Meeting.*

## FROM DRAFT CHAPTER – FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH – FOR THE NEW CYM FAITH AND PRACTICE

77. The **first test** [of a Leading] is the most important — one is called to do something that is entirely consistent with fundamental principles of our belief. What we are doing must have "Certain Evidence of Divine Truth." The led person and the Meeting must be clear that the Leading is consistent with the Light. In the presence of revealed truth we must be, as Woolman describes, humble and sinking "into resignation." A Leading that is consistent with the Light is associated with humility. The first test is restated in one of my father's favourite scriptures: "What does the Lord require of thee but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God" [Micah 6:8]

The **second test** of a leading is that it is associated with an unnerving persistence which Woolman called "that tempest in which I had been sorely exercised." A true Leading does not go away; it disrupts and continues to give turmoil and unrest until it is resolved. The **third test** of a Leading is that it resolves to a feeling of profound clarity and sense of "rightness." Woolman writes that he experienced "calmness of mind." Finally, the **fourth test** of a Leading is that it has a transforming, enabling and unifying power. Woolman "went forward" now able to do what previously he had felt was socially impossible.

— Jerilynn Prior, 1992