

**HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING**  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
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**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007**

**Refreshments for Meeting for Worship**

Mar 11 Sybil, 18 Dick, 25 Bev  
April 1 Ray, 8 Robbie M, 15 Open, 22 Don,  
Please contact Christina or Nikki if you need further information.

**Upcoming Dates**

Mar 16 Potluck: Chanda Chevannes (filmmaker) on her trip to Africa in 2006  
March 30 – Apr 1 07: Meeting residential retreat at Mt Mary in Ancaster  
April 26 Potluck: Hamilton Monthly Meeting history and archives  
April 28: Meeting House clean up party  
May 4-6: Representative Meeting in Hamilton  
June 1-3: Half Yearly Meeting at NeeKauNis , Quaker camp near Midland

**Come, Let's Clean, Paint and Garden!!**

Sat Apr 28 9:15 – 4 pm  
We will begin and end with a few moments of silence. We will have a potluck lunch, music, singing, games and surprises. Come and bring cleaning supplies, garden equipment, paint brushes and clothes.

**Hanna Newcombe**

Hanna has recently been honoured by being selected this year for the Order of Canada. The award is for her 40 years as a peace researcher and activist and as head of the Peace Research Institute Dundas (much of that time in collaboration with her husband Alan Newcombe.) It is a richly deserved award. We have been grateful for her presence in our meeting over the years. We will be looking for a way to celebrate.

**Denise Barron**

Denise's Residence has been quarantined for over a month for Norwalk Virus. She has had two bouts of it. She has been confined to her room for extended periods. She is now feeling better but is bored. I'm sure that phone calls and cards would lighten her day until visitors are allowed back.

Betty P

**Ursula Franklin Reader**

Sybil has ten copies of Ursula Franklin's book "Pacifism as a Map, the Ursula

Franklin Reader" and they can be picked up on Sunday. They came from Ursula as the Quaker Book Service has sold out twice! Ursula is delighted we are considering it and made them available at \$20 each.

### **Retreat**

The Hamilton Monthly Meeting Retreat is being held on the weekend of March 30, starting after supper on that day and ending on April 1 after lunch. Our theme this year is based on "the Foolishness of God" . Starting with George Fox our call as Quakers has been to be Fools for God. Over the weekend we will celebrate this Foolishness and examine ways to deepen our own Foolishness in a creative, supportive and life giving environment. The retreat will be held at Mount Mary in Ancaster. Registration forms with further details are available in the foyer at the Meeting House. The deadline for registration is Sunday March 18.

### **Half Yearly Meeting**

Half Yearly Meeting, a regional meeting with Quakers from Toronto Monthly Meeting, Yonge St MM in Newmarket, Simcoe-Muskoka MM in Orillia, and Hamilton MM, is held each year at Camp Neekaunis, near Midland, on the first weekend in June, This year it will be June 1-3. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. It is a wonderful way to meet other Quakers, get a view beyond our own meeting, and enjoy a weekend in rustic beauty on the shore of Georgian Bay at very low cost.

### **PSAC report to HMM 4 March 07**

1. Our Dept of Peace meeting of Feb 22/07 was attended by twelve persons, half of whom were from other groups. The main item for business was the planning of a public forum to publicize the move for a Dept of Peace. It was felt advisable to wait until fall in order to obtain a large audience for a high-profile and well-informed speaker.
2. Dick has mailed out 21 copies of our Newsletter #1, and will attend a Department of Peace meeting in Ottawa next April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our mailing list has expanded to 34.
3. Pelham Meeting Friends have written to support Hamilton MM in its efforts to establish a chapter of the Department of Peace movement.
4. There was concern that the potential audience for our forum would be predisposed to see the DoP as a "pie in the sky" notion, so we would do well to provide very specific practical details about the structuring and economics and feasibility of a dept of peace. (see below)

Specifically, the Department for Peace and its Minister would have the following mandate:

- 1) reinvigorate Canada's role as a global peacebuilder and provide for early detection of potential conflict and methods of conflict prevention;

- 2) promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights and the security of persons and their communities, consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, other related UN treaties, conventions and the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace(1999);
- 3) promote disarmament, from nuclear weapons to small-arms, and strengthen non-military means of peacemaking;
- 4) develop new approaches to non-violent intervention, and utilize constructive dialogue, mediation and the peaceful resolution of conflict at home and abroad;
- 5) make annual reports to Cabinet and Parliament on the sale of arms from Canada to other nations, with analysis of the multiple impacts of such sales and how they affect peace;
- 6) encourage the development of peace initiatives from civil society including the creation of unarmed civilian peace service, by which NGOs in partnership will be able to expand and further develop their ongoing work in the field of nonviolent conflict prevention and/or management;
- 7) implement UN Resolution 1325 on the key role played by women in peace through new policies and programs of women's involvement in conflict resolution and peace education covering full spectrum from peace making, peace building, to post conflict reconstruction;
- 8) provide, with National Defence, for the training of all Canadian military and civilian personnel who administer post-conflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies, and;
- 9) fund the development of peace curricula at all educational levels and university-based peace research to build a peace of culture in Canada and globally.

Citizens in at least 11 countries, including the USA, UK, Japan, and Australia are calling for a Department for Peace. In Canada, groups working for a Department for Peace are established in Ottawa, Victoria, and Vancouver. The proposal is supported by former Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Senator Douglas Roche, and endorsed in a resolution by the Council of Canadians.

### **Quaker Initiative to End Torture**

Ottawa Meeting is hosting a Canadian Quaker Initiative to end Torture (QUIT) conference on April 27 and 28. John Calvi will convene the conference, and will be joined by Hector Aristizabal, a Colombian torture survivor who does a lot of work with the campaign to close the School of the Americas.

Friday night will consist of a performance by Hector called Nightwind. Hector is a gifted actor who draws on his experience of being captured and tortured in Colombia. He does a one man show to describe that night that is both riveting and harrowing.

Saturday morning will consist of panel presentations and workshops by a wide variety of people looking at the Canadian and US legal response to torture, security certificates, the handing over of prisoners of war by Canadian soldiers to the Afghanistan government.

On Saturday afternoon we will look at the response of the faith communities to this situation. Janet Melnyk will do a workshop centred around Bible texts. More information will be forthcoming from the conference organisers.

## **Caledonia**

FRIENDS! I only got this idea on Monday, after business meeting - I wish I'd had it sooner so that it could have come to monthly meeting for some discernment a whole month earlier than it now can. Here's what it is. Should Hamilton area Quakers be trying to help in the ongoing stalemate at Caledonia? Do we have practices (for instance, Claremont Dialogue) which might be helpful, or could we perhaps create an atmosphere for listening to each other? Are we failing to live our testimony for peace and equality? Or do we definitely NOT belong in this difficult situation? I would like to get some discussion on this going. Perhaps it could be talked over after worship next Sunday - I hesitate to get into an e-mail "discussion".

Beverly

### **Minutes Hamilton Monthly Meeting** Meeting for Worship for Business March 4, 2007

**Present:** Rex, Mona C, Ian (recording clerk), Blair, Jesse (presiding clerk), Glenna, Betty, Dick, Carol Leigh, Don, Robbie M

**Regrets:** Bev

- 1 The Meeting began in silent worship at 1pm.
- 2 **Agenda** review, ordering, and approval
- 3 **Minutes** of Feb 8<sup>th</sup> were approved, with corrections.
- 4 **Continuing Business**
  - 4.1 Potluck for May. A desire was expressed to have potluck theme that would be engaging for children. Brought forward to next month.
  - 4.2 Retreat March 30 – April 1. A request for \$120 for expenses approved, the amount to be from Education account.
  - 4.3 Representative Meeting May 4-6
- 5 **Business arising**
  - 5.1 Nominating Committee. Positions' terms of office. Betty presented a set of recommendations which were approved:
    - that individuals may serve two terms consecutively, or less if so desired.
    - Three years: treasurer, assist treasurer, nominating committee, clerk, ministry and counsel, librarian, archivist, telephone tree, ecumenical committee for refugees.
    - Two year term positions: clerk, recording clerk, First day school,

coffee and housekeeping, newsletter.

- One year: Pastoral care (in this experimental first year, otherwise 2 years)

- Positions with terms assigned elsewhere: Yonge St Half Yearly Meeting coordinating cttee, Representative meeting delegate(5 years)

- No fixed term: auditor, garden, trustees, PSAC, CF liaison, cleaners liaison, website, plants, bulletin board, directory, statistics. A report of positions and incumbents, with terms and current standing will be prepared by NC and posted on the bulletin board, included in the minutes and newsletter.

5.2 Telephone tree. Nominating Committee recommends a phone tree be kept current (for special needs) which includes everyone in meeting. A smaller list would be used for the attenders not using email. Louise Trepanier and others will create these lists.

5.3 Black History Month. Letter proposal is referred to PSAC.

## 6 Reports

6.1 Budget 2007 A revised cashflow budget for 2007 was presented by Blair. We approve this, with thanks. A copy is attached to the archival minutes and will be distributed in the newsletter.

6.2 State of Society Report draft. Dick reported that a draft has been prepared and will be read at M4W next week, and finalized at next month's M4B. The draft will be distributed by email for comments, which should be directed to Carol Leigh, clerk of M&C.

6.3 Nominations List. Betty reported names for recommendation, which were approved.

- Yearly Meeting positions: John for Camp NeeKauNis Committee

- Clerk: Bev

- Recording clerk: Ian

- Treasurer Blair

- Asst Treasurer: Andy

- Auditor: Grace

- Trustees: Helen B, Betty P, Don, Bev

- Ministry & Counsel: Carol Leigh, Robbie M, Dick, clerk

- Pastoral care: Harriet

- Outreach: open

- First Day school: Wilf, Nancy CH, Mona Z

- Nominating Committee: Mona C, Glenna \_\_\_\_\_

- Housekeeping: Christina, Nicki

- Maintenance: Reuven, Luc, John, Sybil

- Garden: Jean Johnson, Louise Trepanier, Glenna Janzen

- PSAC: Dick, Rex, Helen B, Ray, Jesse, Hanna, Helen, Don, Brian

- Newsletter: Don
- Library: Ian
- Statistics: Reuven, Ruth
- Archivist: Robbie M, Robbie S, Andrew
- Telephone tree: Louise
- Ecumenical Cttee: Darlene
- Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting coordinating cttee.: Christina
- Rep Cttee delegate: Dawn
- Other tasks, not delimited terms:  
Liaison to Canadian Friend: Mona, Liaison to cleaners: \_\_\_,  
Website: Dawn, Plants: Mona C, Directory: Emily

6.4 Peace and Social Action Committee: Department of Peace project. Don reported that the Feb 22 meeting was attended by about 12 people. The next public event is planned for the fall.

6.5 Maintenance report. A status report was read by Don, and received with thanks.

## 7 **New Business**

7.1 Dawn Marriage celebration. A committee comprised of Harriet, Jean, and Jesse has begun planning. June 30 is the date of the celebration to be held at the Meetinghouse.

7.2 Outdoor Ashtrays. A need to provide ashtrays for smokers has been noted. We ask Maintenance Committee to provide a solution.

7.3 Folding Tables. We approve sending our excess folding tables to Health Initiatives for Youth. Carol Leigh to follow up.

7.4 Speaking Tour: Adrian Niyongabo, African Great Lakes Initiative. We ask Jesse to seek more information on dates and the subject of a talk which would be delivered at the Meetinghouse.

8 **Correspondence:** none

9 **Date and time** of next meeting: Thurs, April 5<sup>th</sup> , 7pm at the Meetinghouse.

We ask that there be more preparation and shorter briefs from Friends bringing business to the Meeting, in order to end at an earlier hour.

10 Closing Worship