

Hamilton Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
7 Butty Place, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 2R5
www.quaker.ca/hamilton
quakers@hwcn.org
905 523 8383

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006

Refreshments: M4W Refreshment Providers
November 19 Jessie; November 28 Christopher C
Dec 3 Mona C; Dec 10 Amelia and Sylvie; Dec 17 Ray

There are still a two spots in December that need volunteers to provide refreshments. Do sign up on the sheet in the foyer if you would like to offer yourself or your family for this opportunity. Please contact Christina or Nikki if you need further information.

Upcoming Dates

Nov 30 Potluck on Responsibility to Protect; by Peace and Social Action Committee
Dec 3 Pottery sale; Helen Brink seconds; use Peace Dollars (if in doubt, contact Ray or Helen)
Dec 9 Cookies and carols; gather at noon to assemble plates of cookies you have brought with you, then go sing carols to less-mobile friends.
Dec 17 First Day School Christmas presentation following Meeting for Worship
Jan 12 Potluck; Ian on Living Sustainably
Feb 15 Potluck; Anthony MacFarlane on Quakers and the Underground Railway
March 30 – Apr 1 07; Meeting residential retreat at Mt Mary in Ancaster
May 4-6 Representative Meeting in Hamilton

Help Needed!

For March 07 weekend retreat; speak to Christina
For Representative Meeting May 4-6/07: speak to Beverly

Attention Needed!

When you give ministry, be sure it is loud and clear enough for everyone to hear it.
Mona C submitted this friendly reminder.

For Quakers Who Believe There is That of God in Every Shoe

There are some Quakers who
Speak only to their shoe.
I wonder how it is they knew
God meant the message for their shoe.

New people have said
Since the world begun:
There is that of God in everyone:
Muslims, Christian, Buddhists, Jews,
But did God mean to include our shoes?

It's said that God is everywhere,
In the Earth and in the Air.
Thus even shoes might adore
To hear words sent to the floor.

But dear Friend, be assured!
The older Friend on yonder bench
Is also yearning for the word
Which is, alas, by her unheard
So if you're moved to speak to shoes,
A distant pair are the shoes to choose.

Lynne Phillips

Published in *Friendly Woman*, Vol. 14 (10), Spring, 2002, p. 10.

Half Yearly Meeting Coordinator from Hamilton Monthly Meeting :

During the recent Meeting for Business of Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting, Hamilton Monthly Meeting (HMM) was asked to appoint an alternate member of the Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Coordinating Committee to replace Dawn while she is unavailable. The HYM Coordinating Committee (1 member from each Monthly Meeting within HYM) plans Half Yearly Meetings which are held in autumn and spring. (Spring HYM is at Camp NeeKauNis.) The upcoming meetings of Coordinating Committee are: November 8th, February 14th and April 11th at Yonge Street MeetingHouse in Newmarket. Members and attenders may contact Nominating Committee (Mona C, Betty P, and Glenna) to express their interest or to suggest someone who might be a replacement for Dawn.

**Report to Hamilton Monthly Meeting
on Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting
28th October 2006.**

Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) was held the 28th day of Tenth Month at Yonge Street Meeting House. Members and attenders from Hamilton Monthly Meeting (HMM) participating were: Mona C, Beverly, Sue, Carol Leigh and Glenna.

The day was a celebration of the bicentenary of Yonge Street Monthly Meeting through worship, fellowship, and presentations of historical episodes. Two re-enactments assisted us in putting ourselves into the past: one that included William Penn regarding the relationship between Quakers and First Nations peoples, and the second of Timothy Rogers, a Quaker instrumental in the establishment of settlers at Newmarket and of the

Yonge Street Meeting. The re-enactments followed morning worship in which a Friend read from the queries of the men's and women's Meetings for Business of 1806 and from the queries now in use by Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM). Before and after worship and at lunch and dinner, Friends met, talked, and browsed at the Quaker Book Service items, a display about the privatisation of water, and the Fair Trade coffee, tea, olive, oil and chocolate available.

In the afternoon, small groups met to discuss two of the queries from the CYM Consultation and Renewal (CnR) working group that spoke to Half Yearly Meetings and Regional Gatherings taking on some of the Canadian Yearly Meeting obligations including religious education and visitation. The small groups raised questions of small numbers, travel challenges, membership obligations, financial entanglement / disentanglement, bringing presentations and young Friends to other Meetings, and spiritual leadership. One group presented three queries as a response to the queries of the working group: What is Christ's message to us today? What does it mean to call ourselves Friends? How do we continue to search and grow in faith as individuals and as a community? Concerns, comments, or responses of any kind on any part of the C'n'R report should be forwarded to Marilyn Manzer by March 1, 2007.

In the absence of affirmation by a HMM Meeting for Worship for Business, the four HMM members present indicated they would all be delegates.

During the Meeting for Business, Mona C was affirmed as a member of HYM Ministry and Council (M&C). The other members are: Gini Smith (Yonge Street Monthly Meeting (YSMM), Kathleen Hertzberg (Toronto MM), Vivien Abbott (Simcoe-Muskoka MM). Members of constituent Monthly Meetings' M&Cs are also part of HYM M&C.

Two items for action by HMM arose at the Meeting for Business:

- Appointing an alternate member of the HYM Coordinating Committee to replace Dawn while she is unavailable
- Planning for Spring Half yearly Meeting at Camp NeeKauNis: Hamilton Monthly Meeting will be responsible for the food June 1 through 3, 2007.
- We are reminded to remit our quota in timely fashion. We noted that Meetings smaller than ours have sent in amounts higher than their quotas.

The Responsibility to Protect

As everyone can see the world's one organization specifically charged with the elimination of war, the United Nations, has serious flaws. As presently constituted it is not an organization that primarily seeks peace, but an unbalanced association of military states seeking domination. At its heart is a closed club in which a handful of leaders from a few countries attempt to control the peoples, boundaries, and resources of the entire planet. Many cling tightly to the 18th century concept that nation states have sovereign rights over their peoples. This notion is dangerous because well-armed states tend to destabilize neighbouring countries and sometimes whip up fears that can lead to ethnic cleansing or genocide.

One suggestion recently put forward is that nation states, in return for the right to control their peoples, have a responsibility to **protect** them. Failure to provide at least minimal safety for victimized minorities may oblige the world community to disregard state boundaries to help the ones in danger. This is analogous to the idea that a family is expected to protect its members. If it fails to do so the police can be called in.

Unfortunately, as yet, there is no international police force. Nor is there any widely accepted international law. The present choice of the U.N. security council (in Darfur for instance) seems limited to sending in the troops or doing nothing. Since all the council members have armies and none of them have Peace Academies, this body seems little suited to the task of providing peaceful leadership. Nevertheless, in spite of limited experience in resolving disputes with minimal violence, a reformed United Nations is still the best hope for humanity's future.

As a counterbalance to the great powers a new player is entering the scene, one that transcends many previous limitations. Civil society, composed of thousands of non-government organizations, women's groups, people of faith, doctors, lawyers, environmentalists, academics and business groups – together with the hopes of millions of ordinary people around the world -- is emerging as a major influence. Some are calling it a new superpower.

With the recent development of communication systems and easy mobility, formerly isolated groups can now make links across the planet and point to weaknesses in the present system. Satellite pictures of the earth clearly show the borders of many nation states make little sense. Such boundaries not only fail to stop pollution or the spread of disease, they are a constant source of friction between peoples and are zealously guarded by troops. Cross border transgressions become ready-primed flashpoints for war.

Contrary to popular opinion the world's repository of enlightened leadership is not found in international politics, but at the local level. On a day to day basis it is not the armies of the great nations that control the way we treat each other: it is local custom. In normal times Serbs and Croats, Christians and Jews, Hindus and Muslims, live side by side without serious trouble. Most of them do not carry weapons. The majority of people around the globe go about their business in relatively peaceful ways. It is only after a group's normal way of life is threatened by hostile forces or the terrifying chaos that follows military action that trust and order breaks down. What is becoming clear from the examples of Iraq and elsewhere is that wars don't solve problems; they **cause** them.

The idea of protecting people by sending in armed soldiers is simplistic. When guns and tanks are dispatched to 'keep the peace' many in the population freak out. Soldiers are not seen as heroes by those they attack. While the world sympathizes with refugees and displaced persons, military interventions often make tense situations worse rather than better.

Protecting lives is better done by police than by the military. The real responsibility for a less violent world lies with its population of six billion who want to live in peace. Rather

than calling for more soldiers or more weapons they must call for international laws and an international police force.

Although nation states may not be ready to abide by such rules, there is a pressing need for local groups to discuss and promote these goals themselves.

A Presentation on Creating a Department of Peace in the Government of Canada at the Peace Education Conference

McMaster, Nov 24-26, 2006

Facilitator: Bill Bhaneja (Spokesman, Canada Department of Peace Initiative)

Format: Presentation and discussion.

Sunday at 15:15

Weary of waging war, people everywhere are seeking ways of waging peace. The Working Group for a Federal Department of Peace is part of a growing international movement to establish Departments of Peace and Ministries for Peace within national governments. The fundamental aim of the Department of Peace would be to reduce violence at home and abroad by implementing a culture of peace. The Minister for Peace would address domestic and foreign issues from the perspective of non-violent conflict resolution, human rights and peacebuilding.

Link: <http://www.departmentofpeace.ca/>

Epistle of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) 2006 (re: Minute 69)

We heard and approved the epistle of CYM. We authorize our Epistle Committee to make, and our Clerks to approve, minor changes before it is finalized:

Greetings to Friends everywhere from the 173rd Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends!

Under prairie skies, with the theme of Peace within, with others, with Earth, 145 Friends of all ages gathered for the 51st united Canadian Yearly Meeting. We met August 12th to 19th at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a place where we feel welcomed and at home, as Mennonites and Friends are both historical Peace Churches.

We were blessed with opportunities for shared worship: early morning meeting, worship-study and worship-sharing following Bible study, walking meditation, chanting, and a profound sense that all business sessions were held in worship. Lesbian and gay Friends met for worship, a silent room was available to all, and a meeting for healing was held daily. A memorial meeting was tenderly held to celebrate the grace of God shown in the life of Friends who died in the past year. And when the Spirit moved us, heartfelt songs of praise were sung and inspired ministry was offered.

In a meeting with the theme The experience of the Spirit in my life, we shared deeply-felt spiritual experiences and the peace that comes when we let go of fear.

Young Friends and Young Adult Friends met to explore inner thoughts and create deep friendships, and to discuss war resistance and peace. Spontaneous ecumenism emerged when there was fellowship with a group of Young Lutherans sharing

the campus. It included late-night discussions, and testing and deepening beliefs and convictions. Young Friends searching reports on their experience of the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends, in Lancaster, England, were joyfully received. In the Children's Program, younger Friends laughed and played together, and explored their experiences of Quakerism.

The Power of Positive Anger , a pre-meeting workshop, was energetically led by George Lakey and Ingrid Lakey. It challenged us with the idea of the sacred potential for making creative use of anger, if it is owned as a gift of transforming power.

More than half the Friends gathered participated in the food co-op, which acted to meet the Peace with earth part of our theme by securing locally grown organic foods. Assembling in a circle for a moment of silence before meals was an experience of spiritual community.

The Canadian Yearly Meeting Consultation and Renewal Working Group presented an extensive report of their two years of working in a spirit-led process. To help introduce the report, they led the meeting in inter- generational activities that enacted some of the aching and difficult scenarios in our Yearly Meeting. Amid laughter and tears, we opened our hearts to really hear their recommendations.

In deep unity, we held our urgent concern for our brothers and sisters in those places on earth that are torn by armed conflict, and we have been led by the Spirit moving among us to take further action by writing a letter to Stephen Harper, Canada's Prime Minister, to speak truth to power, and by approving a public statement, Toward a Culture of Peace, inspired by our Peace Testimony. The letter and the statement will be published as widely as possible. We hope that this initial expression of our deep concern will lead toward a Minute of Record to address both militarism, and our urgent and tender concern for the earth.

Katie Aven's Bible study introduced a radical new way to look at sacred scripture by suggesting a Fifth Gospel representing our personal narrative of relationship with God. Katie emphasized the critical distinction between literal interpretation of word and fact, and the deeper, sacramental experience of faith and the radiant grandeur of the divine presence that walks with us at all times, in intimate, unconditional, spiritual relationship.

Following our annual picnic, the Sunderland P. Gardner lecture, Toward a Culture of Peace: Can we afford to pay the price?, was presented by Murray Thomson, a distinguished and beloved life-long Canadian peace worker. Murray succinctly outlined the global frenzy of militarism plaguing the world, which shatters countless human lives, devours the earth and ruinously distorts social, cultural, and political sensibilities, and wastes trillions of dollars worth of Creations precious material and human resources. Vivid examples Murray gave included the fact that annual military spending is at a rate equivalent to more than a million dollars every day since Jesus birth. He ended his talk by challenging us with a set of proposals to take action. Murray and the public audience joined our celebration of the 75th anniversary of Canadian Friends Service Committee, a Friends ministry to which he, with many others, made an enduring contribution. (There was cake!)

We prayerfully hold Friends far and near in the Light and ask that we might be so held. We depend on and give thanks to God for the grace that has been made known to us through these and other gifts of prayer, service and ministry, humbly offered, in the spirit

of peace.

Shanti-Shalom-Salaam... (Peace-Peace-Peace...)

Hamilton Monthly Meeting
Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business
Nov 5, 2006

Present: Rex, Ian (recording clerk), Blair, Nicki, Jesse, Glenna, Beverly, Don (clerk),

- 1 The meeting began with open worship at 1:15pm.
- 2 Minutes of Oct 5th, approved with correction to spelling of Chanda Chevannes name in 4.3.
- 3 Continuing business.
 - 3.1 Pot lucks:
 - November 30th will be a potluck on The Responsibility to Protect (UN report). Jesse reports that CFSC package on this topic was ready by late October, and will be distributed to the meeting.
 - January 12th, Ian to present on Living Sustainably in an Energy Scarce World.
 - February 15th, (Black History Month) with Anthony MacFarlane about Quakers and the Underground Railway.
 - March _____ Chanda Chevannes will be invited to come as our guest speaker on her experiences in Africa over summer 2006.
 - 3.2 Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) funding: problems and solutions. Beverly has asked the clerk of CYM Finance Committee (Dan Cooperstock) for a summary of pressing financial questions and possible cuts, but has not received a reply. We await further information before arranging a meeting.
 - 3.3 Consultation and Renewal (CnR) report. A brownbag to discuss this recommendations paper will be held Jan 28st after meeting for worship. Sybil will prepare several paper copies and distribute them to those without internet access. It is available on the CYM website, www.quaker.ca This is provocative material for some Friends.
 - 3.4 Retreat Planning. The date for the March retreat is March 30-Apr 1.
 - 3.5 Advertising in Spectator
 - The cost is \$100 per week for the smallest size display ad, which we agreed is more than we want to spend at this time. We like the idea of publicizing our Nov 30th potluck event in the no-charge "Too Good To Miss" column in the Spec.
- 4 Business arising:
 - 4.1 Representative Meeting would like to meet in Hamilton May 4-6, 2007. We agreed to host this meeting. Bev will make this invitation to Representative Meeting.
- 5 Reports
 - 5.1 Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting. Glenna read her report of the Oct 28th event at Yonge Street Monthly Meeting. We receive this report, with thanks. Attached.

6 New Business

6.1 Memorial Meeting for Janet Nunn. Ministry and Counsel (M&C) has approved the use of Hamilton Monthly Meeting (HMM) for the Memorial Meeting for Janet Nunn on Saturday Nov 25th, under the care of Pelham Executive Meeting. HMM will offer through M&C to provide support as they prefer. We agreed that HMM will make a donation to the NeeKauNis Memorial Fund in memory of Janet. Members are invited to send personal donations to the treasurer of HMM for this purpose. Bev will confirm the appropriateness of this gift with Rob Nunn.

6.2 Memorial Fund for Margaret Vallins grandson, Tyler Michael Page. Tyler died tragically in Ottawa a couple of months ago. A fund has been set up in his name at Algonquin College where he was a student. Don is pursuing more information on the fund and will report back.

6.3 Half Yearly Meeting Coordinating Committee. We need a replacement for Dawn, our representative to this group, which organizes the two meetings each year. We will announce at Meeting for worship and in the newsletter that this position is an opportunity for engaging in the life of the meeting. We ask Nominating Committee (NC) (Mona C, Betty P, Glenna) to receive offers to serve and make a decision.

6.4 Art in the Meeting House.

We identified two related issues: how do we decide additions or changes to the worship space; and is there a place in the Meetinghouse for the particular art that has been added recently? We are in agreement that intended permanent changes to the worship space be brought to Meeting for Worship for Business (M4W4B) for discernment before being implemented. Some people feel that art objects can be considered as ministry similar to spoken ministry and that it would be unfortunate to become too doctrinaire on this matter. We suggest that this question “is there a place in the Meetinghouse for the art that has been added recently, (entitled ‘chi ball’)?”, be brought to announcements at meeting for worship and comments be directed to the clerks for a discussion at the December M4W4B.

7 New business:

7.1 Garden maintenance. We need to attend to end of season gardening, an announcement will be made after worship.

8 Correspondence: none

9 Next meeting: Thurs, Dec 7th at 7:30 pm.