

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

Refreshments for Meeting for Worship

April 13 Betty P, 20 OPEN, 27 Harriet and Don
May 4 Chris, 11 Christina

Upcoming Dates

April 12: Spring Retreat 9 to 5 at Beverly and Robbie's home(see below)
June 6 – 8: Half-Yearly Meeting at NeeKaunis (Quaker camp on Georgian Bay). Theme is
“Peace: responsibility, conscience and action”. Workshop/discussions on: department of peace,
nonviolent peace force, conscience Canada, and lobbying your MP.

**Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation
2008 Tax Time Campaign**

Please see the item in the March newsletter for information on how you can register your
opposition to the use of your taxes for war.

Spring Retreat: Slowing Down to the Speed of Life

A day-long retreat sponsored by Ministry and Counsel for HMM members and attenders, at
Cedar Haven, home of Beverly and Robbie and Sue, starting with breakfast at 9:00, and ending
at 5:00 before suppertime.

We will have structured and unstructured times, slowed down to a speed we can all manage.
Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will all be provided, but please bring your own mug and cloth
napkin.

If you have not registered yet, please do so immediately with Bev or Caroleigh; shopping for
groceries needs numbers. Registration (to cover food) is \$10, but if that is difficult for you,
please register anyway and Ministry and Counsel can cover your registration fee. Travel
arrangements can be made if requested.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Hamilton Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
6 April 2008

Present: Beverly (clerk), Andy (acting recording clerk), Ray, Betty, Mona C, Jesse, Christina, Helen B

Regrets: Carol Leigh, Glenna, Roberta

- 1 Meeting opened with silent worship
- 2 Minutes of 2 March 2008 were read and approved.
- 3 The agenda was modified by adding (4.4) help for a meeting family and (7.2) books for children in first day school.
- 4 Continuing business:
 - 4.1 Christina reported that YSHYM warmly received our proposed program for the half-yearly meeting. The theme is Peace: Responsibility, Conscience and Action. Don reported that there is a great deal of material available for the program and that it was beginning to fall into place. We will consider appointment of delegates at our next MFWFB.
 - 4.2 Beverly reported on plans for the Spring Retreat: Slowing down to the Speed of Life
 - 4.3 Disabled-Accessible Washroom: This project has been approved and we would like to see it move forward. Beverly will contact John to ascertain whether he would like to undertake the job on a contractual basis: either time and materials or fixed price. If he prefers not to undertake this, we will investigate other options. We ask the Clerk to use her discretion in pursuing this.
 - 4.4 Help for a Meeting Family. Beverly read a report from Ian on behalf of the Committee of Care concerning support for a family in our meeting. He recommends that we support them to the extent of \$1100 to subsidize the childrens' summer activities. We approve establishing a "Summer Camp Fund" to be used for such purposes and ask Friends to finance this fund through voluntary donations.
- 5 Business Arising
 - 5.1 Request for access to driveway. Our neighbour has requested permission to access our driveway from his backyard by installing a gate in his fence which adjoins our property. Beverly has been assured by our insurance company that this request raises no questions of liability. Our meeting has contacts among several lawyers. We request the Clerk to ask one of them whether this is a case for which written legal advice is required. If it is, we request the Clerk to obtain such advice if this can be done for 200 dollars or less.
- 6 Reports
 - 6.1 Nominating Committee: Mona reported that Chris Cutler is willing to serve on the Emergency Response Group. Another individual is still being sought. We approve this nomination. Carol Leigh has been nominated to the Camp Neekaunis committee by that committee. No one has come forward to represent us at Project Ploughshares. NC will attempt to find a formal representative. In the meantime, Ray will continue to provide liason.
 - 6.2 Request for Emergency Funds. Beverly received a request for emergency assistance

- and took it to M&C. Robbie M and Beverly visited the caller and spoke with him for about two hours. They had a very positive impression of the individual and provided \$50 in emergency support. We thank Beverly and Robbie for this effort.
- 6.3 Appreciation for our cleaner. We have expressed our appreciation with \$25 in gift certificates to Tim Hortons.
- 6.4 Statistical Report. Betty presented the report for 2007, which is attached. In 2007 we had no additions, no losses, and we corrected one error. We now have 50 members, 31 active and 19 inactive. Most are over 60. We have about 36 active attenders. Estimated average attendance is about 20.
- 7 New Business
- 7.1 For about a decade our telephone message has given Beverly's telephone number as an emergency contact. This is no longer appropriate, given her distance from meeting. We ask for volunteers to take over this responsibility. Volunteers are asked to contact Nominating Committee. We will announce this request after MFW. We ask NC to pursue this matter if no appropriate name comes forward.
- 7.2 We usually give a book to FDS children at about the age of 12 or 13. We would like to make sure this continues. We ask Mona to contact parents of first day school children to ascertain who is in need of a book and what the most appropriate choice would be.
- 8 Correspondence
- 8.1 Mona reports that the annual FGC gathering, to be held in Johnstown PA, will be entitled "Courageously Faithful". We draw this gathering to the attention of Friends.
- 9 Next MFWFB will be held 4 May 2008 following social hour and lunch. We will need an acting Clerk.