

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

Refreshments for Meeting for Worship

May 11 Christina; 18 Darlene; 25 OPEN
June 1 OPEN; 8 Helen; 15 OPEN; 22 OPEN

Upcoming Dates

May 25 CnR brown bag discussion about Yearly Meeting (see below)
June 1 Meeting for Worship for Business
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.

Half Yearly Meeting at Camp NeeKaunis

If you haven't been at Camp NeeKaunis, do yourself a favour and come for the weekend. It is a beautiful place and a wonderful gathering, with Friends from Toronto, Hamilton, Simcoe-Muskoka and Yonge St (Newmarket).

Peace Tax Return

There is still time to submit a declaration that you support legislation making it legal for all taxpayers to declare that they are conscientious objectors and would then be able to redirect their military taxes to peaceful purposes. See part A of the Peace Tax Return. If you don't have one, contact Don or go to the Conscience Canada website.
Don

Spring Retreat April 12

Ministry and Counsel of Hamilton Monthly Meeting sponsored the spring 2008 retreat on the theme: "Slowing Down to the Speed of Life" on April 12th.

About 22 Friends and Attenders gathered at Cedar Haven, home of Beverly and Robbie and Sue. We began with breakfast together, and had a serenely paced day which started and ended with worship. Mona Callin, who suggested the theme, introduced the day. We were introduced to the concept of "mindfulness" (not the Quaker definition) and discussed how it might or might not enhance our lives. We also spent time creating visual images which might symbolize our experience of silence. We had reflective free time, during which many of us took walks on the beautiful LaFarge trail nearby. We gathered together again to end our day with worship-sharing.

It was a day of quietness, interesting discussion, challenging questions, and gentle pacing. It was clear that most were refreshed by our day together.

Carol Leigh

Changes to Canadian Yearly Meeting

On **25 May 2008** we will have a brown bag lunch to discuss recommendation A-2, B-2, and E-6 of the Consultation and Renewal (Working Group of Canadian Yearly Meeting)

Recommendations specific to Monthly Meetings:

Recommendation A-2: that CYM consider the necessary changes to enable less frequent national meetings.

Recommendation B-2: that all Canadian Friends consider if they have a leading to take on some aspect of Yearly Meeting work. Thus groups of Friends in local areas with an interest or concern for a particular project or activity could assume responsibility. This could be through their Monthly Meeting, through a Half-Yearly Meeting or Regional Gathering, or some other grouping where they can work together easily. Accountability lines would need to be worked out for each project.

Recommendation C-2: that local meetings and Yearly Meeting deliberately create opportunities for open dialogue about beliefs and expression of spirituality, thus enhancing our freedom to worship together and to minister to one another with a variety of spiritual language. We remind ourselves to "feel where words come from".

Recommendation E-6: that CYM ask its finance and fund-raising committees to set up a way of financing this Quaker Education Program so that individuals and Monthly Meetings can donate to it specifically.

Recommendation G-2: that CYM encourage and support more gatherings of Young Friends through 1) greater use of Camp NeeKauNis, 2) making available other venues that are practical for Young Friends to use, 3) provision of travel funds and 4) better use of current communication networks.

<http://quaker.ca/cnr/finalreport.pdf>

Note: The above recommendations were included in brief in the agenda for the M4W4B of 4 May 2008. For the full Consultation and Renewal (C'n'R) report please go to the website above.
Glenna

Hamilton Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
May 4, 2008

Present: Andy (acting Clerk), Carol Leigh (acting Recording Clerk), Mona C, Don, Jesse, Sibyl, Glenna

Regrets: Christina, Beverly

- 1 Meeting began with a period of silent worship.
- 2 The minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business of April 6, 2008 were read and approved.
- 3 The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes.
- 4 Continuing Business
 - 4.1 Half Yearly Meeting plans are well in hand; Hamilton Monthly Meeting's adult programme is ready. Information and registration is available on paper and by email. Friends are encouraged to attend. Dates are June 6 – 8 at Camp NeeKauNis.
 - 4.2 Disabled accessible washroom: John has indicated that he is still willing to make this renovation on a volunteer basis, but will need to find an assistant, which he is now seeking among Maintenance Committee. John indicated that we will need a flooring professional and suggested that at the same time we could replace the kitchen and Pendle Hill Room carpets. We will refer to previous minutes regarding the floor and also review the source of financing. Don will do this.
 - 4.3 Request from Leo (neighbour) regarding access through our property. The Clerk has pursued this with our insurance and obtained informal legal advice (at no charge) and we are advised that our rights are not compromised. Beverly has written to Leo indicating this, and he has proceeded with the drive-through. Leo has offered us some shrubs – we refer this to Jean of the Gardening Committee. We have a commitment from Leo to restore the fence in the event of his selling his property.
- 5 Business arising
 - 5.1 Delegates for Half Yearly Meeting: many HMM Friends will be attending but several have large responsibilities. Jesse and Mona C are our delegates.
 - 5.2 Gift books for First Day School Children: Mona reported on her progress and will continue to pursue this.
 - 5.3 Change of emergency telephone number: We ask Nominating Committee to create guidelines and to consider whether this should be added to the Clerk's list of

responsibilities. Our incoming Clerk is willing to take this on.

6 Committee Reports: none

7 New Business

7.1 Request for membership: We received a letter requesting to be considered for membership in HMM of the Religious Society of Friends Beverly, Carol Leigh, and Don will serve on the Committee for Clearness for Membership.

7.2 Consideration of Consultation and Renewal (Working Group of Canadian Yearly Meeting) Recommendations specific to Monthly Meetings: 5 items (These can be found on the CYM website at <http://quaker.ca/cnr/finalreport.pdf>)

We refer recommendation C-2 (that local meetings create opportunities for open dialogue about beliefs and spirituality) to Ministry and Counsel.

We feel that we have a continuing involvement with G-2 (that local Meetings encourage and support Young Friends' gatherings)

We will have a brown bag discussion on the other three recommendations (A-2 {changes needed in order for CYM to meet less frequently}, B-2 {whether Meetings or individuals in them can take on some aspect of CYM work}, E-6 {that local Meetings consider how to help raise funds for the Quaker Education Programme}), after circulating the information by email and inviting e-dialogue prior to the discussion after Meeting on May 25. Glenna will extract the information to send to Don to circulate. Carol Leigh will print off responses and mail or telephone Mona to keep her in the loop.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Virginia Dawson has sent information on the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Section of the Americas) regional gathering to take place at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre September 26-28, 2008. The flyer is posted at the Meetinghouse. We are asked to make donations to a bursary fund to help Friends attend who otherwise might be unable. We are also asked to consider whether we might offer billets. More information will be available soon.

We also ask ourselves whether we wish to offer our Meetinghouse as a venue for any part of this event. We are unclear as to how wide a gathering this is and ask our Clerk to seek more information, including about opportunities for local participation.

9 Time and date of next Meeting for Worship for Business: 1 June 2008 following the social time after Meeting for Worship.

10 The meeting closed with silent worship.