

Hamilton Friends March 2018 Newsletter



Advices and Queries

16. Do you welcome the diversity of culture, language and expressions of faith in our yearly meeting and in the world community of Friends? Seek to increase your understanding and to gain from this rich heritage and wide range of spiritual insights. Uphold your own and other yearly meetings in your prayers.

Coffee List

March 11 Glenna and Louise
18 Darlene
25 Christina Edwards

April

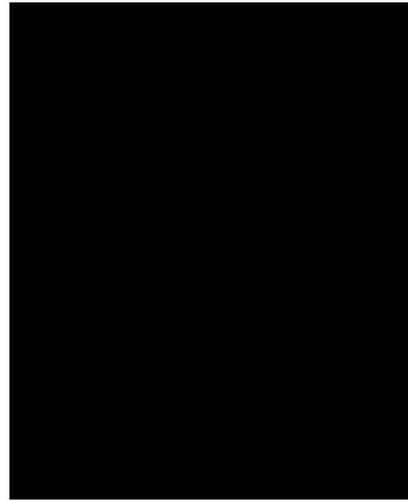
1st Easter Sunday _____

8 Wilf and Shirla

15 Glenna

22 _____

29 Woodsides

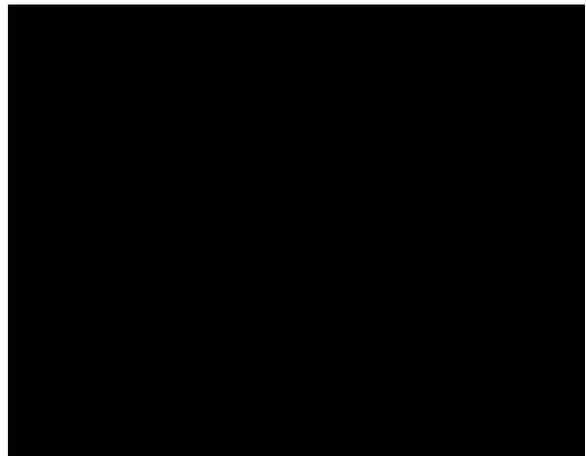


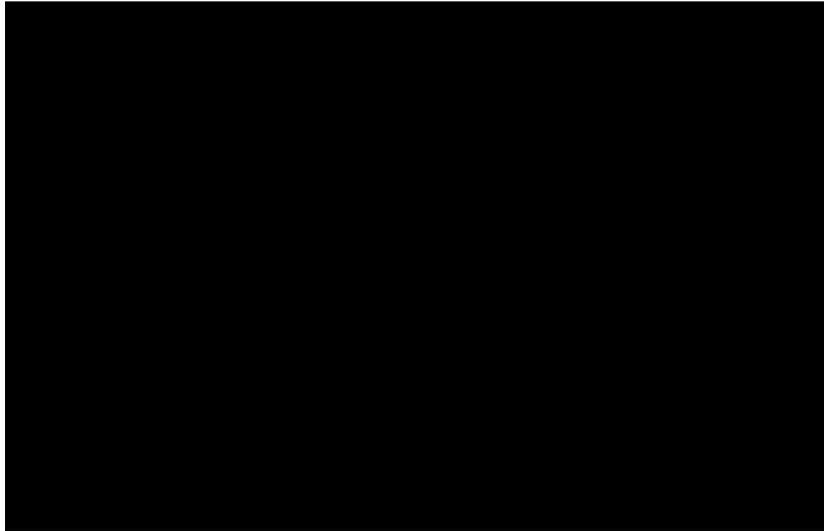
Calendar

March 18th -- We'll have a potluck lunch following worship, with a surprise presentation! Bring foods that don't mind waiting through worship; soup will be provided (volunteer soupiers welcomed).

April 8 -- Meeting for Worship for Business

April 14 -- One-day retreat at Cedar Haven (home of Bev and Robbie Shepard). The theme is "What Canst Thou Say? Our Personal Quaker Witness". Save the date! Details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.





Canadian Friends Service Committee Liaison report, Paul R. Dekar March 8, 2018

1. As my second 3-year term comes to a close this summer, I express my gratitude for CFSC work. Despite our small numbers as F/friends in Canada and worldwide, we make a positive difference in two areas of the world where conflict is endemic (Democratic Republic of Congo and Israel/Palestine) and in Canada on issues of civil liberties, indigenous rights, criminal justice, refugees, synthetic biology and fostering a culture of peace. Among achievements during my time of service has been the development of a strategic plan and template by which we evaluate the impact of our activities, and challenges faced by our partners.
2. In October 2016, Matt Legge (Peace and Communications Coordinator) and I met MP for Etobicoke Centre Borys Wrzesnewsky. He talked about a private member's bill to create a Department of Peace. He was concerned about getting it passed and said he would discuss it around the National Defence, Global Affairs, and Prime Minister's offices. He has now introduced motion #163 (http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_sexes/theory_of_change-theorie_de_changement.aspx?lang=eng). It asks the House to
 - a) recognize that Canada has a rich tradition of peace-making and peace-keeping;
 - b) recognize that Canada is a world leader in the promotion of human rights and peace, having contributed to crafting the wording of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, envisioned the creation of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, championed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (the "Ottawa Treaty") and initiated and led on the Responsibility to Protect doctrine;
 - c) recognize that the government drafted Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which calls on member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to contribute to

- the further development of peaceful international relations, including by seeking to eliminate conflict and promoting conditions of stability and wellbeing;
- d) recognize that harmful practices and social norms, including among women, that uphold gender hierarchies and other intersecting forms of marginalization and exclusion or condone violence are often exacerbated during conflict and that women and men must be equally committed to changing attitudes, behaviours, and roles to support gender equality;
 - e) acknowledge that overcoming insecurity and achieving sustainable peace are daily concerns for these communities and that women and girls suffer disproportionately in these conflict settings but remain almost entirely excluded from the processes that build peace;
 - f) recall resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council, notably Resolution 1325 (2000), which reaffirm the important and consequential role in women's engagement in preventing and resolving conflicts, in peace operations, in humanitarian response, in post-conflict reconstruction, and in counter-terrorism, and countering violent extremism;
 - g) acknowledge Canada's own challenges, including gender-based violence and underlying gender inequality and work to develop a framework to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda domestically; and
 - h) reaffirm Canada's commitment to build on our recognized accomplishments and enhance our leadership role in advancing the cause of peace domestically and throughout the world by calling on the government to develop a plan to appoint a Women, Peace and Security Ambassador to: promote research and studies relating to root causes of and preconditions leading to violent conflict and to conflict resolution and prevention, for respect for women's and girls' human rights and to conditions conducive to peace; support the implementation of education, training and counselling in nonviolent conflict resolution, initiate, recommend, coordinate, implement, and promote national policies, projects and programs relating to the reduction and prevention of conflict and empowerment of women and girls and the development and maintenance of conditions conducive to peace; encourage the development and implementation of gender and peace-based initiatives by governmental and non-governmental entities including engaging with stakeholders, educational institutions and civil society; lead implementation of the Canadian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security; promote gender equality and integration of gender perspectives into peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and review/assess the Departments' yearly Action Plan reports.

While not endorsing the ambassadorship CFSC will post information on our website. We ask F/friends to consider it.

Though disappointed we will not at this time see creation of a cabinet position, I affirm this is promising. The Ambassador for Disarmament, created in the 80s, offers a precedent. Douglas Roche was first of a succession of distinguished incumbents who

have had policy input and a role representing Canada in some international forums on issues such as nuclear disarmament.

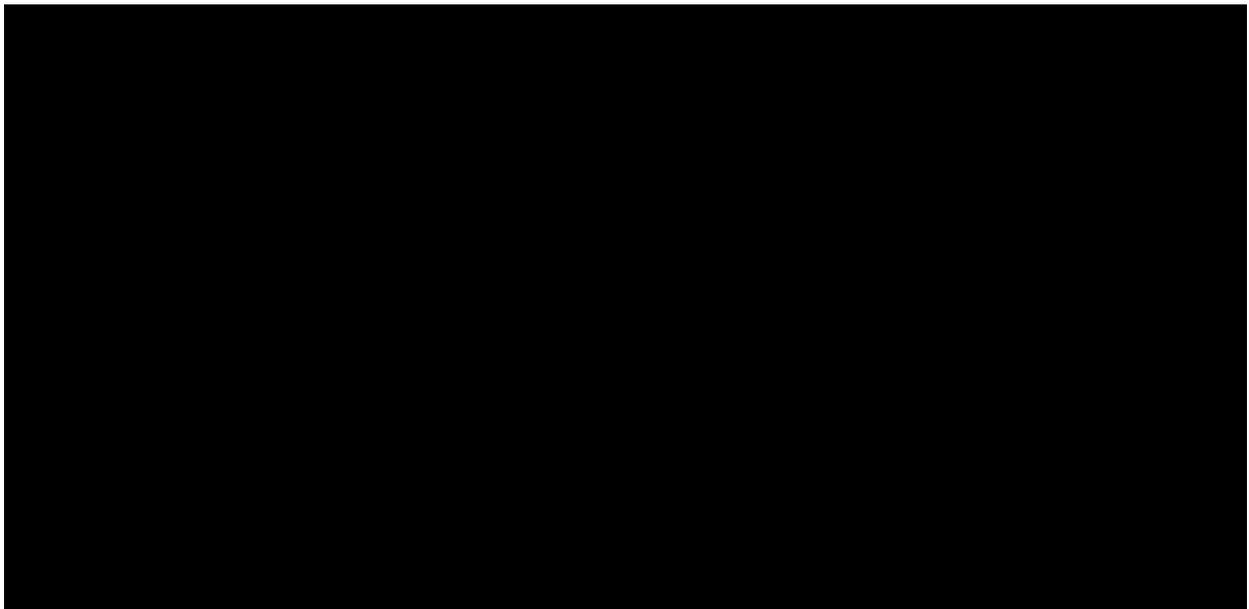
I encourage F/friends 1) to be mindful in ensuring Parliament adopts the legislation with an adequate budget and mandate that includes providing input into government decision-making; and 2) to read updates, most recently Matt Legge's excellent article in Quaker Concern (Winter 2018) on the No Way to Treat a Child campaign that we support. Canada has an opportunity to press Israel that traumatizing children is not a way to build a more just and peaceful country or world. We also included support for Israeli conscientious objectors in our budget.

Finally, CFSC committees meet face-to-face in different locations once a year. Quaker Peace Committee on which I serve met recently at the home of committee member Linda Tiffs and her partner Ion Delsol Moruso in Chemainus, British Columbia. As well as offering great hospitality, Linda and Ion facilitated Matt Legge making presentations about his forthcoming book The Peace Virus: Infectious Skills to Celebrate Life on Vancouver Island. We trust this has enhanced visibility of our work and increased our impact for social change. He plans to respond to our invitation to visit Hamilton Monthly Meeting and share this book (New Society Press is reviewing the manuscript for possible publication).

Writing on the day the Vatican announced the canonization of Oscar Romero, whose icon rests on my desk, I close this report with his words that are appropriate to CFSC work:

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well. We may never see the end results but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

-Submitted by Paul Dekar



Hi everyone,

As you know, through our testimonies and also through our actions Quakers have always had a strong affinity and interest/concern for our natural environment.

William Olenek who is an alumnus of the Hamilton Monthly Meeting (HMM) First Day School (FDS) exemplifies this combination of affinity and interest/concern.

William has been a key member of Hamilton's hardest working environmental organization (Stewards of Cootes Watershed), which has as its goal to get all of Cootes Paradise plus all of the inflowing creeks in the Cootes watershed back to pristine condition. Every Sunday from April through late fall members and supporters of Stewards of Cootes pull accumulated garbage from the creeks and the banks of Cootes Paradise, as well as the natural areas which drain into them.

William has played a key role with the Stewards of Cootes team for several years now. William attended the FDS session on Sunday March 11th, and gave us a presentation about the Stewards of Cootes Watershed organization and the natural areas which it is working to preserve and enhance.

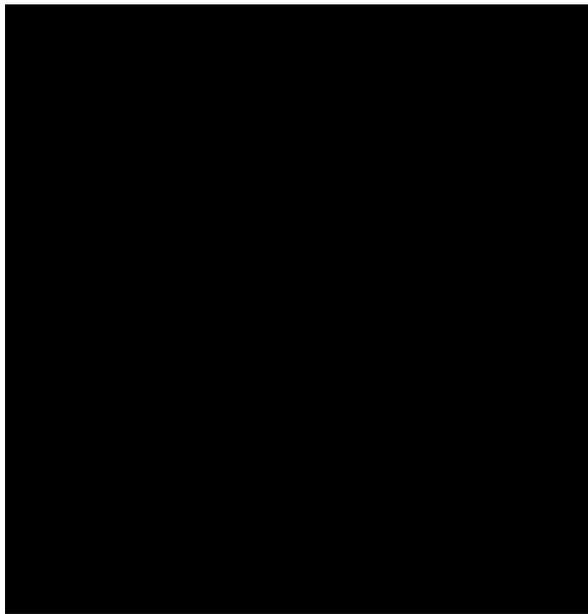
We are planning an FDS outing to join in the watershed clean-up activities on the afternoon of Sunday April 22nd (1 pm), and we are inviting everyone else associated with HMM to join us!

So please mark Sunday April 22nd into your calendars for the FDS watershed clean-up activities with the Stewards of Cootes. The clean-up actions start on Sunday the 22nd at 1 pm, and we will be assembling at the Meeting House at 12:30 pm to car pool to the Stewards of Cootes gathering place in Dundas.

There are a variety of tasks (in creek and out of creek) and a variety of difficulty levels. I will be going with the FDS crew and participating in one of the “moderate” clean-ups (as per the photos above), which can include challenging terrain. William’s mother (Katherine Smith from our Meeting) will be accompanying a group in one of the easier clean-ups for those who are not so acrobatically inclined.

I’ll be sending out more information as we get closer to the date, but just wanted to get this news out there so you can mark your calendars - be there or be square!

Wilf Ruland



Betty Peterson Leaves a Legacy of Peace

It is with great sadness, but also with an immense appreciation of her contribution to peace and justice, that we let you know of the peaceful passing of our mentor, inspiration, and “grandmother with a hug”, 100-year-old Betty Peterson. Longtime Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace member and activist, Betty will be greatly missed. At her recent 100th birthday party in Halifax, many people who have worked with her over the years regaled the gathering with reminiscences and stories of common projects and initiatives. Her dedication to non-violence and social justice shone through in her reactions to every issue she cared about, advocated for, or protested against.

Of Betty Peterson, Michael Lightstone wrote on November 2, 2017, in Halifax’s website, *The Coast*: “A role model to a large number of women in Nova Scotia, Peterson is a Quaker who has steadfastly practiced what she’s preached. During her lifetime, she’s been a familiar sight at marches, sit-ins, anti-poverty protests, Indigenous rights activities and other events staged to shine a light on injustice. Those who know her are presented with a diminutive, straight-shooting woman who wears her heart on her sleeve.”

In 2016, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace presented Betty Peterson with the Muriel Duckworth Award for Peace Activism. Here is the dedication on the Award:

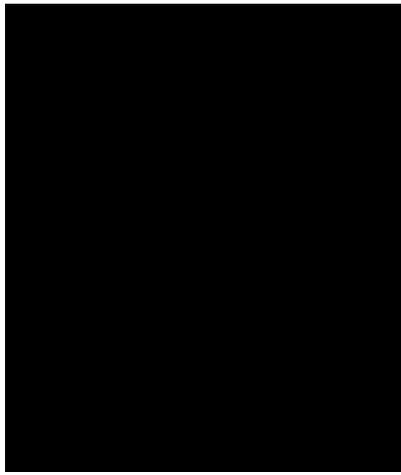
“For many years, you have dedicated tireless hours to many of civil society’s peace and social justice communities. As an unstoppable advocate through non-violence trainings, campaigns, workshops, lobbying, especially for disarmament and First Nations peoples’ concerns, your leadership speaks of the resourcefulness and strength you have dedicated to positive change.”

From Canadian Voice of Women for Peace Newsletter

-Submitted by Harriet Woodside

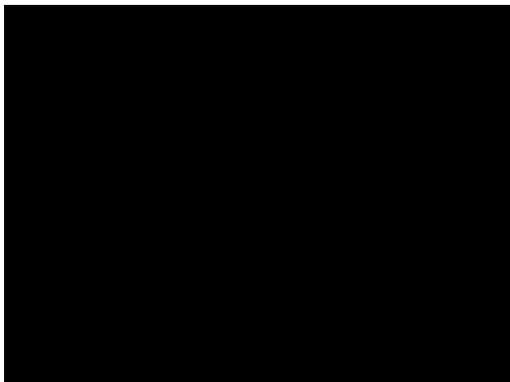
The Cambridge Worship Group will meet at 2 pm on March 23, 2018 at the home of Carol Leigh and Glenna. All are welcome. Please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting Carol Leigh at clwehking@gmail.com

-Submitted by Glenna Janzen



Rex Barger's website has re-entered the web. Many of his writings and recordings of him singing his songs can be found at <http://rexbarger.com/>.

-Submitted by Lynn Comiskey



Thank you so much to Friends for holding me in the light during my recent illness.
Louise

-Submitted by Louise Trepanier

