

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
7 Butty Place, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 2R5

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NEWSLETTER June 2009

REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP

7 June: Helen; **14 June:** Jean; **21 June** At the Brinks, Christina to help; **28 June:** Bev

UPCOMING DATES – PLEASE COME!

Sunday 21 June: Meeting for Worship at the Brink's home and goodbye to Jesse party potluck;

Saturday 12 September: Hamilton Monthly Meeting participates with seven other West Hamilton congregations in an *Doors Open* event; members of participating congregations will be on hand to answer questions of area residents or new McMaster students who drop in from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. That evening at 6 p.m., to celebrate its 100th anniversary, St. George's Anglican Church, 134 Emerson Street, hosts a complementary BBQ. Note: We will need friends to be at the Meetinghouse.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Everett James was born to Diana and Sean on 8 June 2009. Delighted grandparents are Beverly and Robbie. Happy great-grandmother is Sue.

CELEBRATION OF RICK'S PHD

Following Meeting for Worship on June 14th, we had a celebration of Rick's graduation with his Ph.D. Rick came to Hamilton Meeting in 1987. He became very active in Meeting, and soon, with Tamara, they gave us the benefit of their peace witness, whether in our weekly vigil downtown (initiated by Tamara), Rick's employment as coordinator with CFSC, or in their time in the Middle East and the insights they shared from that experience. Rick's Ph.D. in Anthropology was encouraged and supported by Dick as his f/Friend and academic supervisor, and his soul-support was given by Tamara. He has given Meeting a copy of his excellent dissertation, *The US/UK - Iraq War, 1991-2003: How a Process Model of Violence Illuminates War*. During this time Rick has also served as clerk of CYM, and taught full time at Menno Simons College in Winnipeg, and he is now clerk of Prairie Monthly Meeting. Rick, we celebrate you. And Tamara, we celebrate you.

NEED MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS BUSINESS MEETINGS?

You can find Minutes from previous Meetings for Worship for Business, as well as other information on things Quaker at the Hamilton Monthly Meeting web site, <http://quaker.ca/hamilton>

LAWNMOWING AT THE MEETING HOUSE

Our lawnmowing service at the Meeting House is: Aberdeen Landscaping. Tel: 519 751-2527

NEEKAUNIS LIMERICK

by Wilf (premiered at the unforgettable Mini-Talent Night at Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting, at Camp NeeKauNis, 6 June 2009)

There once was a fine group of Quakers,
Spirited spiritual risk-takers..
Inspired by the Light,
They did what was right,
As reformers, protesters, and peace-makers.

And the children of this formidable crew,
Were steeped in social justice through and through.
They were friendly and kind,
But independent of mind,
And they always found fun things to do.

Camp Neekaunis is where they all came,
For meetings, worship, fun and games.
Yes, life it was good,
And so was the food,
And their talent was widely acclaimed.

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING **MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS** **THURSDAY, 11 JUNE , 2009**

Present: Christopher, Blair, Glenna, Andy (Clerk), Betty, Dick, Carol Leigh (Recording Clerk), Don
Regrets: Mona C, Christina, Beverly

1. Worship: Meeting began at 7:06 with silent worship
2. Minutes of the Meeting of 3 May 2009 were read and approved with one correction, which will be made to the archived minutes: it is Alice and not Jennifer who has requested a transfer of membership.
3. Business Arising
 - 3.1. Update on Fall Half Yearly Meeting: Christina sent an update concerning the HYM to be held at our Meeting House this fall. The date of 24 October was confirmed at YSHYM this past weekend, as was our theme, "Practising Peace and Justice Then and Now". To that end, Carol Leigh has agreed to tell the story of Elizabeth Fry to focus on the "Then" part of our theme and our planning committee has agreed that Christina contact Brian Jeffrey about making a

presentation on "Restorative Circles" as a way to explore a "Now" response to the theme. www.youtube.com/user/RestorativeCircles is a site to explore more of what Restorative Circles are about.

- 3.2. Open House September 12: We ask Outreach Committee (Beverly and Paul) what sort of help they will need for this event, and ask that they prepare a schedule of Friends who will be present at the Meetinghouse. We note that Christopher Cutler is available as a contact through the summer.
 - 3.3. Memorial Minute for Helen P: This is still being completed and will be read at the June 21 or June 28 Meeting for Worship and sent to CYM.
 - 3.4. May Potluck: The potluck was well attended and the presentation was wide ranging and deep. Anne Mitchell is extremely knowledgeable and covered a great range of topics.
 - 3.5. June Potluck: June 21 at the Brink's home at our regular Meeting time. Our potluck lunch will be a farewell party for Jesse. Andy & Don will bring crockery and cutlery and the coffee maker from the MH and put a message on the MH door. Andy will phone Jean to discuss the gift for which donations have been received.
 - 3.6. Party for Rick: June 14 at 12:30 with others outside Meeting invited. Arrangements have been made for food and decor by Betty and Carol Leigh. Rick has completed his PhD work and received his hood from Dick today.
 - 3.7. Abousfian Abdelrazik (cf minutes: April 5.3 and May 3.7): Our Clerk receives updates from the Abousfian Abdelrazik campaign: a request has been made for further letters at this crucial time. The Clerk will write another letter of support for this cause.
 - 3.8. Canadian Friends Service Committee requests for input: We urge all in Meeting to read the documents sent by CFSC, but we do not feel able to create a considered response from Meeting as a whole prior to CYM in session. Individual Friends are encouraged to respond to CFSC as they feel led. The issues are Uranium Mining and Israel-Palestine.
4. Reports
- 4.1. Membership Committees: The Visiting Committees for Wilf and for Shirley have both met. Both Wilf and Shirley are recommended for membership. We joyfully affirm Wilf and Shirley as members of HMM of the Religious Society of Friends. Welcoming Committees will be constituted out of the Visiting Committees.
 - 4.2. Treasurer: Blair presented the Treasurer's report, which is attached. Blair is working with Brian toward Brian's taking on the job at the rise of Yearly Meeting. We thank Blair for his faithful service and for his ability to make our finances clear for us all.
 - 4.3. Report of Spring Half Yearly Meeting: (Jean or Beverly) No report available at this time; we look forward to the report when it is available..
 - 4.4. Peace and Social Action Committee: Proposals from Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee (QAAC) and Kenneth Deer concerning Akwesasne First Nation: Dick brought a request for a letter commending the request to the government by the Akwesasne not to have armed border guards on their reserve. We ask Dick (with input from Don) to draft a letter to be sent by Meeting in support of this request for a dialogue in good faith regarding border control and a non-violent solution at this unique location.
 - 4.5. Report from Meeting Retreat: The retreat was held as scheduled at Cedar Haven, and a number of actions were agreed upon. The report has already appeared as an addendum to the Newsletter. We will read the report for approval at the September M4W4B. Christopher will extract the list of action items for the Clerk to follow up on, as some actions can be begun without Business Meeting approval.
 - 4.6. Naming Committee: The name of Wilf is put forward for Nominating Committee. Approved with thanks to the Naming Committee.
5. New Business

- 5.1. Queries from CYM re Ministry & Counsel: We feel that it would be beneficial to our Monthly Meeting to consider what is the role of M&C in our Meeting, and will consider in the near future how best to do this. Regarding the question of whether Continuing Meeting of Ministry & Counsel should continue as a parallel Meeting to Yearly Meeting or become a committee of CYM, we do not feel that we are prepared to make a considered recommendation at this time.
 - 5.2. Suggestion about Circles of Discernment: (Beverly) no report as Bev is not present.
 - 5.3. Delegates for Canadian Yearly Meeting: We ask Glenna to be our delegate to CYM this summer, 2009, and also to represent our Ministry & Counsel on Yearly Meeting M&C unless someone from HMM M&C can be present.
 - 5.4. Denise: our beloved Friend and friend Denise died on May 19, after a brief stay in hospital. Memorial Meeting for Denise will be Saturday, June 13: Betty and Carol Leigh with Denise's daughter Beth have arranged food and flowers and other things for this event. Memorial Minute: Carol Leigh and Jean Johnson and Betty will work together to prepare the Memorial Minute. Quilt: A quilt made by Denise has been offered to Meeting by Beth. We will accept the quilt to be put on the wall upstairs opposite the table made by Morrie Barron. We will prepare a note about the history of this item.
 - 5.5. New Business from Half Yearly Meeting: (Glenna)
 - 5.6. Suggestion re Potluck Topics: Gordon Thompson from the Quaker Historical Association has suggested that QHA would like to bring presentations to MM potlucks; we lay this item over to autumn. We hope to have the September potluck at Ian's organic farm. Quaker Quest may form the basis for a full day workshop possibly in October. Glenna will follow this up with Virginia Dawson, as someone with QQ will be at Yonge Street MM in October.
 - 5.7. Support for Jaya: A letter has been received from MCC on behalf of Jaya's participation in the dialogue in Amman, Jordan this summer. Each participant must raise the necessary funds for their participation. Hamilton Monthly Meeting will donate \$200; individuals who wish to make a donation may do so through HMM.
 - 5.8. Dialogue with other Churches in the area: (Paul) Paul is not present at this Meeting so the topic is laid over.
6. Correspondence: laid over due to time constraint.
 7. Next Meeting: Sunday, 13 September 2009
 8. Worship: Meeting ended at 9:20 in silent worship.

Carol Leigh, Recording Clerk

RE ITEM 4.4 IN HMM MINUTES, 11 JUNE: LETTER TO PETER VAN LOAN

Dear Peter Van Loan,

We ask the Government of Canada to respond to the requests of the people of Akwesasne with dialog, not with force. Like the Mohawks, we have armed police for keeping the domestic peace. Few people can be expected to accept other armed men into their community.

As Quakers we firmly believe in the power of nonviolence to resolve conflicts. We hope that dialog can generate a peaceful and sustainable solution. We are convinced that using having the O.P.P. use more force will lead to more prompt retaliation by some of the Mohawk "warriors", thereby giving them the political visibility that should be given to the elected Council, and leave a long-term readiness for more violence, on both sides.

Since the Government of Canada has until 2011 to implement a policy of arming customs officials, there is time for a measured and reasonable compromise, and for peace to prevail.

Dick

on behalf of the

Hamilton Monthly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)