

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
7 Butty Place, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 2R5  
[www.quaker.ca/hamilton](http://www.quaker.ca/hamilton)  
[quakers@hwcnc.org](mailto:quakers@hwcnc.org)  
905 523 8383

### NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

#### REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP

**Nov 1** Jean, Amy and Sylvie; **Nov 8** Betty; **Nov 15** Ruth; **Nov 22** - ; **Nov 29** -

#### UPCOMING DATES – PLEASE COME!

**Thursday 12 November:** Potluck: 6:00 set-up for 6:30 meal with Paul sharing from his participation in a human rights delegation to Colombia. He will show *Hasta la ultima piedra*, a documentary about the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado, a film nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the AFSC.

**Sunday 15 November:** Raking at the Meetinghouse after Meeting. ALL WELCOME!

**Saturday 12 December:** Cookies and Carols

**Date TBA:** December Potluck and First Day School Christmas presentation

#### SALT MARSH

Green to gold to yellow

Parading to the water's edge

Feet wet as they stop short

Like a stand of wheat

Curtailed by reaper

Then blue stretch of water

Saturated with stillness

And God comes close  
In a silver fish.

~ Beverly Jane Shepard (*In Poems from the Journey*, poetry by Friends in Canadian Yearly Meeting, 2007. Canadian Quaker Pamphlet No.65, Argenta, BC: Argenta Friends Press, p. 27)

**HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS**  
**SUNDAY, 1 NOVEMBER, 2009**

**Legend:** yellow highlight for what HMM Friends should do; aqua highlight for specific Friends tasks

**Present:** Mona C, Jean, Andy (Clerk), Betty, Dick, Bev, Louise, Carol Leigh (Recording Clerk), Sue, Don, Harriet

**Regrets:** Chris, Glenna

**1. Worship:** Meeting began at 12:33 with silent worship

**2. Minutes of the Meeting of 6 September 2009:** the Clerk read the minutes of the Sept M4W4B. Approved with one correction which will be made for the archived minutes.

**3. Minutes of the "Virtual Meeting" of 8 October 2009:** the Clerk read his notes on the business of the October M4W4B, at which he was the only Friend present. Accepted as read. This report will be filed as a report, not as Minutes, since a meeting did not occur.

**4. Business Arising**

1. **Memorial minute for Denise Barron.** In progress

2. **Potlucks:** In October, we hosted a public evening for a presentation by Florence Ntakarutimana, which was attended by 20 people, some from outside Meeting; \$400 was donated for the African Great Lakes initiative, to be forwarded to CFSC.

1. November: November 12, Paul will be making a presentation on his experiences in Bogotá, Columbia, this summer 2009.

2. December: As usual, we will extend the day and the refreshments on the day of the children's presentation; Friends are invited to bring lunch items to share. We will follow up with First Day School to establish the date.

3. January: Tentatively, we will expect to have a potluck on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> for an intergenerational social evening, unless something pressing arises between now and then. We will make our final decision at the December M4W4B.

3. Feedback to **Canadian Yearly Meeting's Consultation and Renewal** Implementation Committee regarding Recommendations K-1, K-2, K-3, and L-1, and on the proposal that CYM meet biennially. The recommendations appear in the October minutes. Friends should decide whether we wish to discuss any of these issues, and if so, how.

HMM feels that K-1, K-2 & K-3, regarding the archives, records, and ecumenical/interfaith committee, are acceptable. L-1 presents some issues around maintaining membership in Friends United Meeting. HMM supports continuing membership in FWCC and FGC, and supports continuing dialogue with FUM and within CYM in regard to continuing membership in FUM. Carol Leigh will write up a small summary of the issues related to FUM, which will be sent to the HMM list. There will be an opportunity for Friends to discuss these issues after Meeting for Worship on November 8 over a brown bag lunch. At the same time, we will also discuss the question of whether CYM should meet yearly or every second year.

4. **Ecumenical luncheon** at Good Shepherd: Two Friends agreed to attend this luncheon, but at the last minute were unable to; apologies were made.

5. **Spring Retreat**: we will hear about the 2009 Spring Retreat in the Outreach Committee report. The retreat for next spring, 2010, is in the hands of M&C: we look forward to hearing the plans at a future M4W4B.

## 5. Reports

1. **PSAC**: Dick reported: The Peace and Social Action Committee decided some years ago to concentrate on the Department of Peace Initiative; this has been the focus since that time, and has expanded far beyond HMM. Consequently, we do not have an entirely (or even largely) Quaker PSAC, nor one with a more general peace and social concerns focus. Friends should consider whether we wish to constitute another PSAC as well; the present group, which is no longer properly a committee of this Meeting, will continue its work in either case. Dick will circulate a summary of this issue to Friends, to be considered at the December M4W4B. The proposal for a Department of Peace is coming forward as a private member's bill, with twenty MPs seconding. It is unknown whether it will ever reach a debate in Parliament; Friends are urged to read the PSAC report (attached) and to make their views known to their MPs and other relevant members of the government.

2. **YSHYM**: Our delegate, Beverly, reported on the business and programme, which

is attached. We thank the Committee and the food committee for the work done to make the day a success.

3. **Outreach:** Outreach Committee (Bev and Paul) met in October. It was noted that most non-evangelical Christian-based faith groups are also struggling with the issue of attracting members and maintaining attendance. The report is attached. Friends are asked to read the report and offer suggestions to the Outreach Committee, and think about ways in which actions can be taken. This will be discussed in December. We will try the suggestions regarding the order of events after Meeting for Worship, so that we have some experience of that prior to discussing it.

## 6. New Business

1. **Examination of Draft CYM Faith and Practice:** We have received copies of the proposed Faith and Practice document from CYM and are asked to consider it.

Friends are urged to read the draft, and make responses individually, which will be collected by the end of January by the Clerk and forwarded to the Faith and Practice Development Committee.

2. **DVD on Uranium Issues:** We have received a DVD with the presentations made at CYM concerning Uranium issues and are asked to let CFSC know of any plans we make to use it. Friends should consider how to do this. This topic is laid over.

3. **Potential request for aid from Dunford bequest:** Harriet explained the situation of a refugee who may need funds for legal counsel around his immigration. If so, it will be needed on short notice. We agree that Dunford Bequest funds can be used for this purpose, up to the amount of \$700, depending on how much is actually available. The trustees will determine the amount available and provide the money if needed.

4. **Request from FGC Development Committee for hosting meeting:** The Clerk read a letter from Michael Wajda, outlining the responsibilities involved. HMM agrees to host the meeting of the FGC Development Committee September 17-19, 2010. The Clerk will write to Michael to invite the Committee for that time.

5. **Cookies and Carols** will be held on December 12

7. **Correspondence:** laid over.

8. **Next Meeting:** Sunday December 6, 2009

9. **Worship:** Meeting ended with silent worship.

Carol Leigh, Recording Clerk

**ATTACHED REPORTS FOLLOW**

**DEPARTMENT OF PEACE REPORT**

November 1, 2009

To HMM Friends,

On behalf of the Peace and Social Action Committee and the Hamilton Chapter of the Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, please join us in celebrating a significant milestone in our campaign for a Canadian Department of Peace and a Canadian Civilian Peace Service (CPSC). On Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, a Private Members Bill calling for these institutions was presented in the House of Commons and seconded, as of October 29<sup>th</sup>, by 14 M.P.s.

Here is a link to an article that appeared in the National Post, the Edmonton Post and the Vancouver Sun:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/propose%20army%20peace%20professionals/2051493/story.html>

Mr. Bill Siksay (Burnaby—Douglas, NDP) when he moved for leave to introduce Bill C-447, An Act to establish the Department of Peace, said:

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to table a private member's bill today that calls for the establishment of a department of peace as a full federal government department.

I would like to thank the member for Scarborough—Agincourt for seconding the bill.

The bill is based on the model developed by the Canadian Department of Peace Initiative. This bill would establish a full, comprehensive department of peace as part of the infrastructure of the Canadian government, with its own minister, department and resources, and put peace at the centre of government rather than on the corner of a desk of another minister or other public servants.

There would be a voice dedicated to the promotion of peace at the cabinet table.

The department's mandate would be to promote a culture of peace and the non-violent resolution of conflict in Canada and around the world and to build institutions for long-term research policy and action for sustainable peace.

The bill would also establish a Canadian civilian peace service to further professionalize peace work by Canadians.

A similar youth peace service is also contemplated by the bill.

As the co-chairs of the Canadian department of peace initiative, Bill Bhaneja and Saul Arbess have noted that this bill is about the need to bring peace through peaceful means. (Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed)

I hope that, with this development, we will all dedicate ourselves even more strongly to the creation of our dream.

Friends,

Bill C-447 is a rare opportunity for all of us. Tabling of this Act in the House is a once in a lifetime opportunity to champion a Department of Peace independent of political party platform constraints.

We must ensure that we have done everything in our power to make use of this unique space our two MPs have created for a possible debate in the House on DoP. Both Bill and Jim have told us that it is the call/email from local constituents that energizes Members to act.

Please take the time to make your voice heard.

Dick

Clerk, Peace and Social Action Committee, HMM  
chair, Hamilton Chapter, Canadian Department of Peace Initiative

#### **REPORT ON YONGE STREET HALF-YEARLY MEETING**

24 October 2009, Hamilton Meeting House

Friends from the constituent Monthly Meetings of YSHYM - Yonge Street, Toronto, Simcoe-Muskoka, and Hamilton - spent an interesting and enjoyable day together. The morning was devoted to worship, partly open worship and partly with an attention to business.

At the business meeting, many matters were the usual "housekeeping" items, such as Treasurer's report, but we did prepare and sign a card to be sent to Ed Abbott of S-MMM, who is presently recovering from surgery to amputate one foot. We appointed Judy Gilbert (stc), also of S-MMM, to act as a representative from YSHYM to Representative Meeting, as Canadian Yearly Meeting has invited regional Meetings to send representatives to RM and to Yearly Meeting of Delegates for greater ease of communication between YM business sessions and regional Meetings. We also had a careful and sensitive discussion of the unfortunate matter of YSHYM attenders having left Camp NeeKauNis in an untidy and unclean condition after our June meeting there. We agreed to give the Resident Friend, Amanda McKinnon, \$100 as compensation for her extra trouble in cleaning up after us, and to take specific measures to ensure that this doesn't happen in future. Monthly Meetings are asked to consider seriously whether CYM should meet on an annual or biennial basis, and as your delegate to HYM I am to remind our Meeting to discuss this matter.

The afternoon gave us presentations on our theme of "Peace and Justice, Then and Now". In the absence of Carol Leigh, who was suffering from the flu, Laurel G read Carol Leigh's story "Charlotte's Quilt", a moving account of the profound influence Elizabeth Fry had on the life of one female convict. We also had a presentation by Brian Jeffrey and an associate on Restorative Circles, although we were unable to hear everything they had come prepared to say because Friends were so taken with the topic that they tended to turn the attempted presentation into a discussion.

Wilf had prepared a children's programme, but no children attended.

The organizers of the programme and the food planners all did a splendid job. The day was informative and absorbing, and the meals and snacks were satisfying and delicious. This HYM was fairly well-attended, with 26 Friends present during the day. More would have been welcome and would have found the experience delightful!

- Respectfully submitted, Beverly

#### **HAMILTON FRIENDS MEETING, OUTREACH COMMITTEE, 18/10/09**

After Meeting for Worship Bev and Paul met at the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. We discussed outreach ideas, including

- Members inviting family and friends: the single most important outreach strategy. (Paul mentioned this out of his experience teaching evangelism, noting the continuing decline of institutional religion and difficulties most denominations/congregations are experiencing.)
- Welcome visitors following "Afterword," followed immediately with opportunity to meet guests over refreshments.
- Circulate announcements on an 8 ½ x 5 ½ " sheet (i.e., two sets on one letter-size sheet)..
- Continue to seek to enhance visibility through events such as the September 12 Open Doors and presentations on Burundi and Colombia (upcoming). These enable people to visit Meeting House, become aware of us and consider coming Sunday a.m. The Open Doors event is likely to be repeated next September..

We reviewed several practical steps developed during the retreat 9 May 09:

- welcome statement on a board just inside (or outside?) Meeting House;

- follow up with people who cease to come;
- inquirers packet.

- Prepared and submitted by Paul and Beverly

**UPCOMING EVENT ... PLEASE COME!**

**Sunday 9 November.** Brown Bag Discussion after Meeting on the issue of whether Canadian Yearly Meeting should retain membership in Friends United Meeting. An outline of the issues has been sent out on the e-list. If you didn't receive this, and would like a copy, please send your request to [hamiltonmonthlymeeting@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonmonthlymeeting@gmail.com)

**FROM FRIENDS RECIPE FILES ...**

**SARAH'S MATCHLESS CORNBREAD**

2 Cups COARSE cornmeal

1T baking powder

1t. salt

1 egg

1 + 1 cup milk

Mix dry ingredients, then add egg and one cup milk and stir until well mixed. Add the second cup of milk until the mixture is the consistency of porridge.

Preheat oven to 450°

In a large cast-iron skillet, heat about 2 T bacon fat until smoking. Pour the batter into the hot skillet and immediately place in hot oven. Bake for about 20 minutes. It should be done through, with a golden crunchy crust.

Best enjoyed immediately. If you have some left over, it is best reheated.

If you want a smaller batch, use a smaller pan and cut the ingredients in half except for the egg, of which you can still use one.

Sarah Preston was another valued member of HMM known to some and not to others of our present group. She grew up in the US south, and this recipe is part of that heritage. I remember eating this cornbread hot out of the oven on plates made by Helen B at the farmhouse on Highway 99, with Sarah's great coleslaw that included chopped walnuts – yum!