

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

February 2020



First Day Explorers!



Intrepid young people from Hamilton Quaker Meeting's First Day School explored and saw waterfalls, cliffs, caves, ruins, and wonderful woods on a group hike on January 26th - and even had a chance to sip stinky sulphur water! More hikes are planned -- stay tuned!



Peace in First Day School

This Winter and Spring, the younger children of First Day School are exploring PEACE. Peace is important to Quakers/Friends. We are studying Peace inside and Peace Outside. Glenna Janzen, from our Meeting, has put together a very carefully thought out curriculum on some of the different aspects of Peace. Glenna searched out Children's books that illustrate stories and ideas of Peace and kindness in the world and has used them as a basis for her program.

Fun is a really important too. We are singing songs, doing crafts, playing games and perhaps sharing with Meeting. The children will be wearing name tags each week with the hope that the other Meeting folk will get to know them better, so please speak to them if you have the chance.

Today, was our First Sunday and because we had snow we played Fox and the Goose outside for awhile.

Children are always welcome!



Call for Participation

As most of you know, the work of Hamilton Monthly Meeting, and most of Quaker work throughout Canada, is made possible entirely through the time and services generously volunteered by members and attenders. To this end, Nominating Committee would like to inform us of the following positions that still stand vacant for our Meeting: Archives Committee (1), Nominating Committee (1), Ministry and Counsel (1), Representative to Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel (1).

The Ministry and Counsel position is open to members of a Quaker Meeting only, and the HYM Ministry and Counsel Representative must have already served at least one term on Ministry and Counsel. Both of the other positions are open to attenders as well as members.

If you are interested in filling any of our vacant positions, please contact Chris Hitchcock or Katherine Smith.



2020 Budget

A draft of the proposed budget for 2020 was presented by our Treasurer at February's Meeting for Worship for Business, and will be finalized at March's meeting. Due to urgent and expensive repairs that were required to our Meeting House's sewer line, we are currently showing a deficit in our upcoming 2020 fiscal year. If you are in a position to make a special donation to help defray this one-time expense, then this would be very helpful. All of our activities are made possible by the generosity of our members and attenders, and this is very much appreciated.

Cambridge Worship Group

The Cambridge Worship Group will be meeting on Friday 28 February at 2 pm. Our venue this month is 64 Wellington Street, Cambridge, N1R 3Y7. Please let Christina know if you plan to attend. Her email is cmeedwards64@gmail.com
All are welcome! Hope you can make it!

CFSC Events in Toronto

Join Canadian Friends Service Committee for 2 nights of film and discussion.
Location: Toronto Friends House, 60 Lowther Ave. Toronto, ON

Saturday, February 15th at 7pm.

Film: *Sgaawaay K'uuna (Edge of the Knife)*

Inspired by the Gaagiixiid/Gaagiid wildman of Haida mythology, the film charts a simple narrative about a reckless uncle who can't bear the guilt of having unwittingly led a beloved nephew to his demise.

Followed by a discussion on reconciliation with CFSC's Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator, Jennifer Preston.

Thursday, February 20th at 7pm

Film: *Conviction*

A microcosm for a worldwide crisis, the film chronicles the women's journeys as they navigate the world inside and outside prison walls, joining advocates and politicians in questioning the ideas of punishment and prison.

Followed by a discussion on Canada's criminal justice system with CFSC's Criminal Justice Program Coordinator, Nancy Russell.

These events are FREE. All welcome. Snacks provided.



QUAKERS

Canadian Friends Service Committee

As many of you know, CANSEC is an annual arms fair held in Ottawa and attended by militaries from around the world, including those from countries with terrible human rights records. This year CANSEC is happening May 27th and 28th.

The nonprofit World Beyond War will be hosting their annual conference in Ottawa starting on May 29th, and is helping to organize a large nonviolent protest of CANSEC. Some Friends are also involved with the planning of these protest actions, which will bring together a diverse range of peace and justice advocates from Canada and other countries.

At CFSC, we were very inspired by the work of British Friends who, in 2019, organized hundreds of Quakers to sit in the street in London, England, to hold a Meeting for Worship that peacefully blocked arms companies from setting up for the London arms fair. More than 50 Friends were arrested for this peace witness (see photos at: <https://rootsofresistance.org/>).

Participating effectively in nonviolent protests takes some preparation. There will be multiple trainings offered leading up to the CANSEC protests, including a brief training on May 26th. (The full schedule of this and other events happening that week is at <https://nowar2020/>). Some participants in the nonviolent CANSEC protests may choose to risk arrest, but this is by no means a requirement of people wishing to participate.

Given Friends' minuted concern about Canada's involvement in the arms trade (<https://quakerservice.ca/>), we are reaching out to Monthly Meetings to find out if any Friends feel led to participate in the upcoming protests of CANSEC.

We feel that this could be as spiritually unifying and nourishing for Friends in Canada as it was for Friends in the UK. We also recognize that our capacities are limited and we're geographically more removed from each other, so coordinating Friends to take part in a significant protest action may or may not be possible. If there is widespread interest, CFSC may choose to take a more active role in coordinating.

Please contact Paul Dekar of Hamilton Monthly Meeting, or Matt Legge (matt@quakerservice.ca 416-920-5213) if you are planning to be in Ottawa for the CANSEC protests.

Peace and Social Action Group

[submitted by Dick Preston] We do **not** have a Canadian Department of Peace, contrary to what I have said to Meeting, while overcome with childish enthusiasm. What the Trudeau government established on June 12, 2019, is an Ambassador of Women, Peace and Security. It consists of the ambassador, Jacqueline O'Neil, supported by a chief of staff, an administrative assistant, and two people assigned to her office from other departments. When life settles down a bit for our Meeting -- maybe next summer -- perhaps we can consider re-starting our Peace and Social Action group. Ms. O'Neill deserves all the support she can get, so that her initiative can grow.

Jacqueline O'Neill has a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Alberta and a master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Throughout her career, Ms. O'Neill has supported the creation of national strategies and policy frameworks for more than 30 countries, NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the United Nations. She has helped establish the field of women, peace, and security and its application in governments, security forces, and multilateral organizations.

She has advised the Government of Canada on the country's first (2011-2016) and second (2017 to present) national action plans on women, peace, and security.

As President of the Institute for Inclusive Security, Ms. O'Neill directly supported coalitions of women leaders in Colombia, South Sudan, Sudan, Pakistan, and beyond. Through this work, she advocated for women's meaningful inclusion in peace negotiations, national political dialogues, and policy making. She also worked at the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Sudan and at Khartoum's Ahfad University for Women.

Along with former Lt. General Roméo Dallaire, she helped found the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative to eliminate the use of children during conflict. Prior to that, Ms. O'Neill was a policy advisor to Canada's Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific region. Most recently, she was a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Canada Institute, an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, and a member of the board of directors of the Canadian International Council.



Upcoming Events at Hamilton Meeting

March 1: Meeting for Worship for Business will be held after the refreshments following Meeting for Worship.

March 22 at 12:30: Potluck and programme presented by HMM's ad hoc Committee on Truth and Reconciliation. "Both Sides Now" Following up our commitment to further education about First Nations issues, we are grateful to be able to welcome June Anderson and her adopted Cree daughter Mairi to talk to us about the 60s scoop, and its effect on the adoptive parents, the scooped child and others.



Coffee List

Our coffee organizing list stands sadly empty for March! Our thanks to Betty, who has signed up for February 16, and Darlene, who has spoken for February 23. Please add your name to the sign up list on the bulletin board in the lobby if you think you could facilitate post-Meeting refreshments some week in March.

In Memoriam

As most of you know, we lost our friend and long time member Ray Cunnington this past December. Ray's presence is dearly missed in Meeting. At the time of his death, this poem came into Carol Leigh's view, and she thought she would share it with all of us. Though Ray's days were certainly not brief, it otherwise seems appropriate for him.

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,
Where no storm or night or pain can reach you.

Your love was like the dawn
Brightening over our lives
Awakening beneath the dark
A further adventure of colour.

The sound of your voice
Found for us
A new music
That brightened everything.

Whatever you enfolded in your gaze
Quickened in the joy of its being;
You placed smiles like flowers
On the altar of the heart.
Your mind always sparkled
With wonder at things.

Though your days here were brief,
Your spirit was live, awake, complete.

We look towards each other no longer
From the old distance of our names;
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,
As close to us as we are to ourselves.

Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,
We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,
Smiling back at us from within everything
To which we bring our best refinement.

Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Beside us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;
May this dark grief flower with hope
In every heart that loves you.

May you continue to inspire us:

To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again
In that land where there is no more separation,
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.

- John O'Donohue

