

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

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March 2020

Upcoming Events at Hamilton Meeting

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.

April 5 will be our April Meeting for Worship for Business, beginning after coffee and refreshments.

April 26 will be our MAY Meeting for Worship for Business, beginning after coffee and refreshments. This meeting has been moved up so as not to be on the same weekend as Half Yearly Meeting.

May 2 (Saturday), we will be hosting Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting at our Meeting house. Further details will be available in the April newsletter.

June 5-7 is the Camp NeeKauNis Spring Gathering of Hamilton Quaker members and attenders. We would like to especially welcome families with children, and have also extended an invitation to our fellow Quakers in Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting to join us.

June 14 will be our final Meeting for Worship for Business before the summer break.

Dear Friends Across Canada
Yearly Meeting

Last Sunday, we completed a couple of days of face-to-face Representative Meeting. I expect that, with that statement, I'm causing responses varying from "Ah, yes!" to "Huh?" I know that Representative Meeting has a very low profile among many Friends, but I don't know why. Every Monthly Meeting but one in CYM has named a representative to Representative Meeting, and these representatives bring their Meetings' views on larger issues to Rep Meeting, and return to their Meetings with reports of the activities and business of CYM between sessions, as well as other Monthly Meetings.

Every Representative Meeting I've attended (and I've been attending for a long time, in one capacity or another – about 25 years, I think!) has felt special: seeing Friends from across the country with some time to get to know one another, being hosted by a Monthly Meeting so that we can become acquainted with those Friends as well, considering issues important to the whole of Canadian Yearly Meeting and the Friends who are part of it. But the Rep Meeting just finished seemed especially special.

Why was that? I think it was because of the sense of hope. If you've been attending Yearly Meeting, reading the minutes of YM or RM, or in any other way following the affairs of CYM, you know that we've had deficit budgets for several years, a clearly unsustainable situation. So why did I feel hope at this Representative Meeting? One reason was the presence of young adult Friends from several different Monthly Meetings – people around the age of George Fox in 1652 when he walked through northern England creating the Quaker Way. They are informed, concerned, caring, involved, and inspiring. (I don't like to hear the oft-repeated sentence, "Young people are our future." They and other Friends of all ages together are *WE*, and *WE* are our present as well as our future.) But the fact that *WE* includes Friends who have more future to look forward to than I do provides great hope.

Another reason for hope was the attitude of Friends of all ages there from all

parts of the country. I didn't hear sighs of defeat or dire predictions. People were asking each other what they valued about CYM, what they needed CYM to be and do, and how they themselves could help bring about the change we want. There were smiles and encouragement and lively conversations over coffee and meals. The atmosphere was positive – and full of hope.

Yes, we still have vacancies on standing committees, but we *do* have the Friends to fill them – we just have to match the people to the needs. There are many different ways to get involved, and they're all rewarding – and often even fun! Yes, we have forecast a deficit budget again for 2020, but the deficit for 2019 was smaller than predicted, and we *do* have the Friends to turn this around. If every active Friend donated the price of a coffee-shop coffee every other week we'd be fine. The Friends at Representative Meeting last weekend gave me the feeling that all this is possible.

I hope that your Meetings' representatives felt the same lifting of the spirit that I did, and that they will share it with you. Let's cherish the present of our beloved community and nourish the hope for its future.

In Light,

Beverly Shepard,
Presiding Clerk

Cambridge Worship Group

The Cambridge Worship Group will be meeting on Friday 27 March 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!

Coffee List

Our coffee organizing list stands sadly empty for the remainder of this month, and all of April! Our thanks to those who have committed to bring food for the potluck on March 22. 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 time soon.

Mona Callin: Her early years

Mona Callin, a member of Hamilton Monthly Meeting for many decades, died on March 7 2020. As her health declined, we saw less of Mona, but when she did come to Meeting for Worship, she usually enjoyed a cup of tea, a sweet and conversation with old and new f/Friends. I believe that Mona came to Hamilton from Montreal to set up the extremely innovative nurse practitioner education program at McMaster University School of Medicine. This is when I first met her—but from a distance. After retiring from teaching, I remember Mona was Clerk (and I’m guessing other positions) of the Canadian Friends’ Service Committee. She held just about every position within Hamilton Monthly Meeting.

Mona was the middle child of three, having an older brother, Michael, and a younger sister, Voirrey. They lived in Scunthorpe, England, in the county of Lincolnshire, which was a town with three steel companies. Mona’s father was a manager in one of these companies. She attended a local public school until the age of 13 when her parents sent her (and later Voirrey) to Ackworth, a nearby Quaker boarding school. Mona’s parents were not originally Quakers, but around the time Mona was 13 her mother read a novel which featured Quakers in a “romantic” way. Both parents subsequently started attending Meetings, mostly in local homes with a small number of people, as there was no nearby Meeting House. Mona felt very in tune with Quaker values and practice as she learned them in high school, from age 13 to 17. Mona had fond memories of

these years.

After high school, Mona enrolled in a three-year nursing program in Orthopedics. She described this choice as “rash” since most of her fellow students went to a Baccalaureate program. Mona picked nursing from the few traditional professions for women that she felt were open to her. Voirrey also became a nurse, eventually marrying a doctor and moving to Australia.

While training in orthopedics, Mona was befriended by a Quaker couple for whom she had great fondness and appreciation. This was one reason she continued her connections to Quakers. After three years, Mona followed the usual education path and moved to a two-year nurse training program in a general hospital and was “adopted” by another warm Quaker family there. Once she finished her general training, she went on to train in midwifery. All this, Mona said, was the common path to becoming a nurse. During all of her nursing training, Mona was taught by Ward Sisters (i.e., nurses working on a hospital ward) who used a hands-on approach so she feels as if she worked as a nurse from the very beginning of her education.

Her older brother, Michael, entered an electrical engineering program at university, after having fought in World War II. After his graduation, he worked in England for a time, before being transferred to a position in Canada. It may have been Michael who encouraged Mona to move to Canada and work at the brand-new Montreal General Hospital.

Mona never married. She explained that, unlike her sister, she tended to work with doctors who were older than her, so she didn’t meet a lot of eligible men. Hilary, her brother Michael’s daughter, noted that Mona didn’t have many boyfriends, and it did not seem to bother her. Mona told Hilary that she didn’t ever meet “the right one.”

Submitted by Harriet Woodside (Archives Committee)