



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Upcoming Services

February 5 Which Witch is Which? - Finding your way around modern paganism. Join Debi Skidmore, Angela Day and Bridget Phillips who will present on the richness of earth-based religion. In their brief overview, they hope to reveal the possibilities and differing paths offered by paganism.

February 12 We are a community of memory and of hope, but How Exactly Did TUFF Start Out? As part of the process of creating our Vision, Mission and Covenant statements, we are exploring our history - knowing who we were in order to know who we are. Join us as Jack Henstridge and Murray Neilson present on our historical beginnings. Come for the memories, come for the fun, as these initial movers and shakers add polish to the story of how TUFF came to be.

February 19 Rational Thought: What a Concept! presented by Heather Lunegan. Emile Benveniste once wrote that "There are no preexisting ideas, and nothing is distinctive before the appearance of language." However, one major change in how we think about the world and interact with others can be traced to the European Enlightenment. Heather's talk will be a personal reflection on the birth of "rational

thought" in the 18th century, in particular the works of Jean Jacques Rousseau and David Hume.

February 26 Shaman Healers?: A Talk with Gwen Bear. Many First Nations people do not regard spiritual beliefs and practices as a religion; rather, they are a seamless part of their very being. The term Shaman has its origins in Siberia, but it is often used by anthropologists to refer to Aboriginal healers, who call upon spirits to reveal the healing powers within us all. Join us Sunday, February 26, when TUFF is honored to receive Gwen Bear, an Aboriginal healer and a member of the First Nations people within our community. Perhaps we can ask her if she considers herself a Shaman.

To follow the well-received sermon of January 22nd by retired United Church minister, Rev Eldon Hay, the weeks ahead will feature other services led by Unitarian ministers: Rev Ray Drennan on March 19 and again on April 9, Rev Kitsy Winthrop on April 2, Rev Anne Treadwell on April 30, and almost Rev Stephen Atkinson on May 14.



Women's Potluck

The next women's pot luck dinner will be February 24th. at 6pm, at the home of Patricia des Champs, 193 Church St. "Show and tell" topic is me through the ages or me 'then and now'. Come and enjoy an evening of good food and good conversation. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca

In fellowship
Joan Brewer



Children's Religious Education

We have been having plenty of good times upstairs with the children this month. We welcome Molly, Sam and Sophie's mommy almost every week now. She is a great snack maker (as Tracey was in the fall) and she will be

facilitating the children's service in the 1st 2 Sundays of Feb. when the Flatts are in Florida. As well, Anne, our childcare helper, is back from her travels in New Zealand and will be keeping an eye on the children as usual. Thanks as well to Don, Linda Sprague and Lindsey, Anne's daughter, for volunteering to play for the children. It's great to have such wonderful help with the children's program. Go TEAM TUFF!!! Here are what some U*U kids said when they were asked who/what they thought God is:

God is anything you want God to be.
For me, God is a five-year-old little girl. For my cat, God is a cat.
God is the earth and all spirits, everything, everywhere.
God is in us and around us.
God is all different colors.
God is all those things that make up me. *In faith*
God is in everyone. Sharon Flatt
God is in your heart.



Welcoming Congregation Committee

We are in the process of forming a "Living the Welcoming Congregation" committee. So far we have a mighty core of four and are looking forward to continuing the good work that got TUFF officially certified as a Welcoming Congregation with the CUC. Please check out "Living the Welcoming Congregation" on the UUA website for a hint of what's to come!...and in the meantime, please consider helping with our committee. You would be most Welcome!!!!

In faith
Sharon Flatt



Sharing Our Faith

(Editor's note: the following is extracted from a recent correspondence from Mary Bennett, The February 19th service will be a "sharing our faith" service.)

I want to let you know that the CUC Sharing Our Faith/Sharing Our Ministry Worship packet is now posted on our website at:
http://www.cuc.ca/worship_celebrations/sharing_our_faith/index.htm

and to remind you that the deadline for Sharing Our Faith grant applications is March 31. Details on the application process can be found at:
http://www.cuc.ca/worship_celebrations/sharing_our_faith/sof_apply.htm

Purpose of Fund

This fund consists of monies collected by congregations at special Sharing Our Faith services during the year and sent to the CUC. These funds are to be allocated in the form of grants to congregations applying for projects they may otherwise not afford to undertake, but which can be seen as enhancing ministry, growth and/or outreach for that congregation and for the Unitarian and Universalist movement in Canada.

Who Can Apply

Applicants will usually be either current member congregations or emerging groups. The CUC board will consider new starts where funding is requested for the very early stages of group development and will consider the special circumstances of groups which have been in existence for a shorter time than three years when applying these criteria. Priority is given to applicants who have not received a Sharing Our Faith grant in the previous year.

What You Can Apply For

Congregations are encouraged to think creatively about how these funds could be used to encourage growth in their congregation or emerging group. Examples of possible uses for funds include:

Topping up the salary package offered by a congregation moving to ministry.

Supporting a "Minister on Loan" program for an emerging group.

Providing travel funds to enable remote congregations to have access to ministerial services.

Developing religious education programs for children, youth or adults.

Other uses relevant to ministry, outreach and extension.



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NB Choral Federation

If you love to sing, reserve March 24 - 26, 2006.

The New Brunswick Choral Federation will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Choral Fest, in Fredericton this year, on March 24 - 26, 2006. The clinician will be George Evelyn, the soloists will be Wendy Nielsen, Carolyn Nielsen, David Perritt and David Steeves. The works to be learned will be Mozart's Mass in C, the Coronation Mass, and a specially commissioned work by Michael Capon in honour of the 25th anniversary. The event will begin Friday afternoon, at the Cathedral Memorial Hall, and go on through Saturday and end with a concert Sunday afternoon at Christ Church Cathedral. If you love to sing, please join us. For further information, please contact Sara Kennedy at 453 3731, or email nbcf@nbnet.nb.ca .



Bel Canto Singers

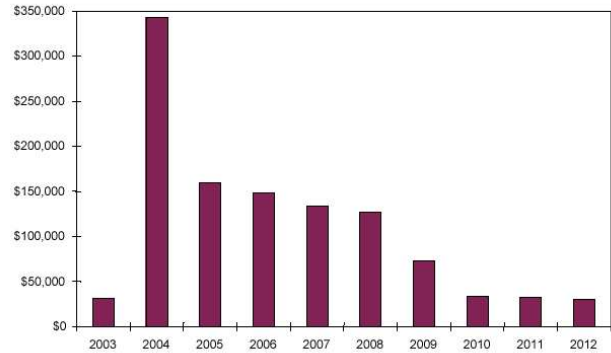
Fredericton's Bel Canto Singers present "From Broadway with Love", with special guests, Triple Jazz: Jeremy VanSlyke, keyboard, Kristen VanSlyke, saxophone and Anthony Savage, percussion. This Valentine's Concert, in support of the Turnaround Achievement Awards, is on Tuesday, February 14, at 7:30 pm at Kingswood Lodge. Tickets are \$30 per person and include a complimentary glass of wine, sweets and savories, door prizes and entertainment. Tickets must be purchased no later than Friday, February 10. Contact Carolyn Nielsen at 363-2814 or alto@warpnet.ca.



CUC Growing Forward report

About two years ago, a number of members of the Fellowship were individually canvassed for participation in the Growing Forward campaign. For those who chose to participate, the following graphs may be interesting and, again, I thank all who did choose to participate. The graphs were extracted from a recent correspondence from the CUC.

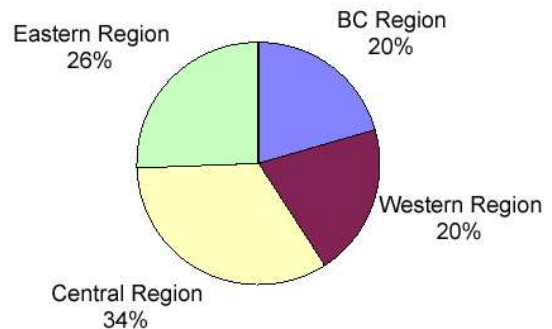
Growing Forward Pledge Fulfillment (\$1.125M Pledged)



Gift Amount	Count
up to \$100	16
\$101 to \$500	72
\$501 to \$1,000	38
\$1,001 to \$2,000	53
\$2,001 to \$3,000	79
\$3,001 to \$5,000	26
\$5,001 to \$10,000	12
\$10,001 or more	8

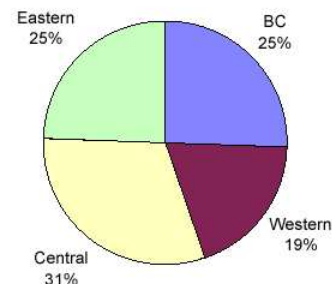
Pledge Length	Count
One-Time Gift	69
1 Year	12
2 Years	8
3 Years	9
4 Years	22
5 Years	181
6-10 Years	3

**Growing Forward Pledges*
Total Amount, by Region**



* Pledges over \$5,000 omitted. This graph represents 93% of all pledges.

Regional Membership, 2004



As indicated, pledges above \$5,000 have been omitted from these graphs. There were a few very generous gifts and including them would have overwhelmed the picture which

I believe the CUC was attempting to show, i.e. the contributions of members of more modest means, the great Canadian middle class. Those of us for whom life is not a struggle but for whom a donation of several hundred to several thousand dollars is significant. That so many have given generously is a good sign for the CUC, however, good works take resources and the CUC has never had the resource base of traditional churches and probably never will.

GREAT MOMENTS IN SCIENCE



Cartoon reprinted with permission

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald

in three words

nothing's going good.

his jacket is too small and the zipper is broken.

i'll have a large one,

he says when i offer him coffee.

just a little cream and lots of sugar,

he smiles, being polite to me.

thank you for meeting me at McDonalds.

he hopes i will buy him lunch before i go.

people don't treat me right,

he begins his story, knowing i will stay for an hour.

you know what i mean?

wanting me to understand, he leans forward,

they treat me ignorant.

he knocks the table; our coffee spills.

oh. . . oh, oh.

he is frantic about the mess, hurries, hurries,

to wipe it up.

Donald sorts people by what he can ask of whom,
tell the church that i want to go to the next pot-luck dinner.
like somebody directing traffic,

tell Antar to call me;

he connects through his need

he hasn't given me a birthday present yet.

to have people give him things.

time. affection. like everybody.

i need a computer.

he varies the pitch,

i need a watch.

but not the tone.

i need a job.

he will sell the watch, lose the job.

the girl in the bar last night,

i think of Donald drinking beer.

she wouldn't even look at me.

the skin on his face is scarred—wanton acne, ignored.

she was rude to me. ignorant.

his eyes look left and right, simultaneously,

all i said was hello.

because of amblyopia.

i just wanted to talk to her. to talk to somebody.

his parents had until he was 17 to get him treatment.

if only somebody would give me a break.

they were busy; neglect was everywhere.

the guys have all turned on me,

Donald lives in a boarding house.

as if they're so special.

the landlady makes the rules.

even Corinne is mad at me.

she gets calls from 1-900 numbers asking for him.

she says i take too many showers.

he is always washing his hands.

yesterday she wouldn't talk to me.

he is thirty-nine.

i knocked on her door

to emphasize the scene,

he raps on the table between us.

i had something important to tell her.

remembering, his knuckles get louder;

the table wobbles.

i knocked for ten minutes but she wouldn't answer.

i grab my coffee

while he pounds the table with his fist.

i was banging on her door,

his lips flutter with anger; his cheeks puff.

i pounded as loud as i could.

other patrons in the coffee shop look our way.

open the door Corinne, i yelled at her.

his eyes roam wildly, separately,

as the memory fills him.

she was in there with Will; they wouldn't answer the door.

his anger subsides; he rubs his knuckles.

nobody ever comes to visit me.

nothing's goin good.

in three words he measures loneliness.

*i'm not a loser, you know.
i don't just sit and look at my four walls.
i sip the last of my coffee.
can i call you next week?*

— allison calvern



Note from Linda Thomson

Linda Thomson, Director of Regional Services - East
linda@cuc.ca

Hello everyone;

Here is the non-region specific material that will be included in the next congregational mailing.

To see regional specific versions, visit our web site at:
http://www.cuc.ca/programs/monthly_mailings.htm

Linda Thomson

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CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL - CONSEIL UNITARIEN DU CANADA

Growing Vital Religious Communities in Canada

www.cuc.ca

Janus—reminding us we are on the threshold

Janus is the Roman god of beginnings, of the past and the future. He is also the god of gates and doorways and bridges, those places where we are perhaps most obviously on the threshold between past and future. He is traditionally depicted as having two faces looking in opposite directions, into the future and into the past as well as inward and outward. January, the month when we, in our calendar, most obviously stand on that same threshold, is named for Janus.

The Romans considered Janus a significant god, before major undertakings and at the installation of appointed or elected officials, sacrifices and feasts were held honouring him.

This seems an appropriate time for us to reflect on the significance of Janus in our lives and congregations not only because it is January, but because there are so many transitions happening on our congregations.

In the Central & Eastern regions there are five congregations hoping to settle new ministers in the coming year. (Don Heights, Waterloo, Peterborough, and Montreal are all searching for full-time ministers and the Ottawa Fel-

lowship is looking for a 1/2 time minister). Toronto First will soon strike a search committee with hopes for a 2007 settlement. And just a few days ago I celebrated with the Ottawa congregation at the installation of their Associate Minister, Lee Devoe

Those are just the changes related to professional ministry. Other congregations are considering changes to their staffing model. Some are already in the thick of renovations and others are considering a change of place.

And then there are all the other changes our congregations are managing: Some long time members have moved away, there are new programs, new people, new hymn books, new ideas and new committees. It seems as if something that causes transitions 'Nis in the water'. Janus is very busy in our congregations.

But as we look into the future it seems important not to forget Janus' backward looking face. We can look with great affection and whimsy at the past. There have been great ministers, good friends, big challenges, disappointments and significant achievements in each of our congregations. History can teach us a great deal, and we ought not to reinvent wheels or forget lessons already learned. We need to temper our reminiscing though, sometimes it's hard not to get too sentimental as we remember all the past events in the lives of our congregations. Yet those days are, for good or ill, over. We can never be in that time and that place again. Sometimes the affection for times gone, makes us want to slow time, or to recreate earlier situations. "Things really worked well around here when—" is a familiar refrain in our congregations. Perhaps the old idea or way would still work, but more often than not, because the context has changed the old solution's effectiveness has waned too.

Ultimately though, whether or not you are a future thinker or a reflector, the work of our congregations happens today. It is today that we need to do our work. Reading # 419 in *Singing the Living Tradition* says,

Look to this day!

For it is life, the very life of life. In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of your existence.

Today is the day when this particular incarnation of our congregation exists. Today is the day these people need support, refuge, challenge and inspiration. Today is the day these youth and children and seniors are looking for ideas and values to use as their lives building blocks. Today is the day when we are called to do good ministry to ensure congregational health, so that we can best serve our members and the world.

Janus looks back and Janus looks forward, but Janus is the god of doors and gates—the places between the past and the future: The transition places where we live our lives.

Transitions are an ever-present part of our lives. Being

aware of them, helps us honour the past and plan for the future, while grounding ourselves solidly in the reality of today. Building for the future, learning from the past, grounded solidly in today.

#419 continues;

For yesterday is but a dream,

And tomorrow is only a vision:

But today, well lived, makes every yesterday

A dream of happiness

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day.

So, as we contemplate the threshold on which we stand, let's pause; and honour this place and this time.

How do we Get there from Here?

So here we are, on the threshold between past and future. Being in the moment requires that we are aware of the context of the moment. To be in the moment means that we are aware of all the past moments, and that there are ahead of us, an as yet uncertain number of moments ahead of us. Being in the moment means we honour this moment for what it is—a gateway. Pausing at the threshold, to reflect on past and present seems to be a useful practice. In Jewish tradition, a mezuzah—a container holding scripture—is affixed to the door post. A Jewish person entering the house touches the mezuzah and then kisses his or her fingers as an expression of devotion to the verses it contains. It is customary to recite, “May God protect my going out and coming in, now and forever.”

Yet when we step through a gate or door, we usually do so with a destination in mind. Looking around the country it is evident some certainly been able to make changes, while engaging the majority of their members in the adventure. This is not an easy thing to do.

Consider the challenges of moving or renovating when many of the long time members remember thinking that the existing building, the product of their efforts, was all the congregation would ever need. How difficult it must be for members who determined an organizational structure to meet the needs of the congregation, only to be told by newer members that ‘Our organizational structure doesn't work!’. How can you move forward when many members remember with affection the children that loved the curriculum that is now being discarded as irrelevant?

Sometimes it is hard to really embrace the words in the hymn, ‘As Tranquil Streams’ (#145 SLT) - “A Freedom that reveres the past, but trusts the dawning future more.” Sometimes the past and the future just seem too difficult to reconcile. Sometimes the voices urging us to remember and those urging us to imagine seem so opposed that the natural and understandable tendency is to stop, in our tracks, on the threshold. But when we stop on the

threshold for too long, we make another decision, one that neither respects the past nor the future. But sometimes thresholds seem so safe and easy!

One approach to this challenge is to ensure you listen to the voices of the past, and to invite people to tell their stories in a way that helps everyone to understand the best of what was. Getting beneath the story, asking questions that focus on the positive is important. Then it is important to help people make the connections between the best of the past with the dreams for the future.

Taking the time to listen to people, to hear and honour their stories helps to mitigate their anxiety about change. Connecting their efforts of the past with the goals of the future takes time. But well done, the result is a congregation that can move forward to the next threshold.

The CUC has Service Consultants who are able to help you as you plan to consider how to begin considering changes in your congregation. Contact us for more information.

Conversational Prompts and Questions—How Do we Get there from Here

So, you are thinking about and planning for change in your congregation and wonder how to deal with the challenges and tensions you face.

The following points may help you as you determine how to move forward.

Small group sessions, facilitated by member of the committee or team exploring change can be an effective way to ensure the wisdom and viewpoints of all are heard. Structuring these sessions so that people are asked to remember the reasons (we wanted to engage young families) behind past practices, rather than the solution (we chose this particular curriculum) are particularly helpful.

Using an Appreciative Inquiry process is useful when considering new directions. In AI, questions are designed to invite people to reflect on the best of the past, the characteristics of the best moments. Then people are invited to use those reflections as the foundation for provocative propositions that can inform future plans.

Invite people to suggest solutions to the challenges you face. “it's true, we don't currently have the staff we might like in order to begin offering this program, are there other ways we can think of that will help us move forward?”

In an non-argumentative way, provide solid information that supports the case for change. ‘Here are the results of a survey asking parents and children about their preferences for Sunday morning programs.’

Be patient and empathetic—sometimes the champions of change act as if the need for change is an emergency. Ask yourself if it really is. Taking things a bit more slowly often helps reduce resistance.

“Taking the time to hold a series of neighbourhood meet-

ings, even when our building was already full to the rafters, and when we knew that newcomers were not returning because of space and parking challenges was frustrating. But in the end, the support (though at times reluctant) from those who were not sure about the wisdom of our plan to move, was worth it. Our vote to buy property was supported by a strong majority, and our fundraising program was very successful—taking the time to process things made a big difference.”

Lay—Chaplaincy Training

Designing and Leading Rites of Passage (“the basics”)

First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, April 28-30, 2006

Lay Chaplaincy Enrichment Training

Saint John, May 19

On-Line registration for these and other Lay Chaplaincy training opportunities is available at: http://www.cuc.ca/lay_chaplaincy/upcoming_training.htm

CU*UL School

This year our made-in- Canada Leadership School will be held in Ottawa, at Carleton University from July 20-23.

Registration packages will be available soon. For a promotional poster, suitable for use in your congregation visit: <http://www.cuc.ca/cal/CUUL%20Promotion%20Poster.pdf>

Annual

Conference & Meeting

Saint John,

New Brunswick

May 19-22

This is our opportunity to come together as a National organization, to do business, learn, sing, celebrate & worship.

Learn more—visit: <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2006/index.htm>



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

December 14, 2005

Present: Ed Leslie, Allison Calvern, George DeMille, Tony Fitzgerald, Don Flatt, Betty Ponder, Rita van Groenewoud and (later) Tracy Walls.

1. Opening: Allison lit the chalice reading an opening selection, after which . . .
2. Call to order: . . . the president, Ed Leslie called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
3. Check-in: Those present were invited to check in.

4. Approval of agenda: It was agreed that the agenda, as circulated, be adopted.

5. Minutes of meeting of November 16: MOVED (Tony & Betty) that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

6. Board of Directors changes: MOVED (George & Allison) that Tracy Walls be named to fill the vacant vice-president (Finance & Facilities) position and Rita van Groenewoud be appointed as associate vice-president (Finance & Facilities). CARRIED

7. Section and Financial reports

(i) Financial report: Prior to the meeting George had distributed a report (attached to minutes) showing a to-date operating surplus of \$3300. He is projecting an end-of-year surplus of approximately \$2000.

MOVED (George & Tony) that the report be accepted. CARRIED

(ii) Programs & Ministry: Allison reported that the adult program is going well. There will be more music input in organizing services. The children’s program is also going well but needs more people involved. The camera in the children’s room is broken and needs to be replaced. An appeal for a used camera will appear in the next newsletter. A chair of Hospitality is still required. The Caring committee is functioning well. Tracy and Sharon Flatt have agreed to serve on the ad hoc Safe Steps Committee.

Ed reported that he had approached Ray Drennan during his recent visit to sound him out about serving our congregation on a part-time basis. Ray has no interest in any contractual arrangement but would be willing to come here from time to time to conduct workshops and/or do Sunday services.

MOVED (George & Don) that the report be accepted. CARRIED

[Tracy arrived at this point.]

(iii) Communications & Outreach: Don reported that there have a few phone calls from persons seeking counseling. He has referred these to the Caring committee although we have no capability to provide counseling. There was some discussion of how we might handle these requests, for example by directing them to external counselors such as William Langmaid. Ed undertook to explore these possibilities. The sound system in the sanctuary is working well, except for some interference with other devices present is sometimes happening. Patricia desChamps is planning on distributing TUFF scarves early in the new year with appropriate publicity.

MOVED (Don & Allison) that the report be accepted. CARRIED

(iv) Finance & Facilities: The building inspection has been

done and Ed and Danny Mathais have met with the inspector. Ed reviewed the report summary for the meeting. There are no major problems but there are several matters which require attention. (The report summary is attached to the minutes.)

MOVED (allison & Betty) that the report be accepted.
CARRIED

8. 2006 Budget: Tony has not yet received budget submissions. It was agreed to have the general budget meeting on Thursday, January 26, preceded by a pot-luck dinner to be organized by the men.

9. Ad hoc committees:

(i) Covenant, Mission & Vision: Allison is planning to have a meeting of all interested during the second week of January to follow up on the decision at the last meeting to seek the services of a CUC facilitator.

(ii) Other ad hoc committees: The newly-struck Safe Steps committee has the mandate of setting up a mechanism for implementing our "safe and sound" policy.

10. Other business - none.

11. Closing words and adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

George DeMille

Secretary-Treasurer

George DeMille
Secretary Treasurer



tUFF Scarves

Our Tuff scarves project has been a great success thanks to all you knitters! Over forty scarves have been knitted in total. Please give yourself a pat on the back. Tuff scarves will be a continuing project for our fellowship. Please bring in unwanted yarn and needles and knit, knit, knit! Remember, you can knit any size you want. It can be long, short, striped or patterned, wide or narrow. I would ask that the children, if they are interested, knit too.

STU staff was so excited - Judy Coates, and Jane McGinn from the International Student Office, Ryan Sullivan International Admissions Officer and Jeff Hart the STU IT person were all there to meet us when the students chose their scarves. Tony Fitzgerald and I went from the fellowship. Judy Coates would like us to present scarves every September and January when international students arrive in Fredericton. We would like to include UNB next year too.

The students were quite excited and took great care in selecting their scarves. All the students put them on and wore them along with a big smile. It was a great welcome

to our cold city!

Judy Coates said the campus was more colourful when she looked out her office window and noticed TUFF scarves being worn.

Thank you all so much for your help and encouragement with this project. Printed below is the article that was in the Daily Gleaner. You will notice it's looks like I, myself knitted too. Well, I can't knit - I can only organize the knitting! Thanks again to all of you.

Blessed be
Patricia desChamps

Daily Gleaner
Greater Fredericton
Article published: Jan 4, 2006

Students get warm welcome



Nothing like wool to beat winter Patricia desChamps, left, of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, shows some scarves to St. Thomas University international students Paulette Valdivieso, of Ecuador, and Mayumi Ishizaki, of Japan, on Tuesday in Sir James Dunn Hall at the university. The Daily Gleaner/David Smith Photo

By JOEL O'KANE
jokane@dailygleaner.com

When Karime Kuri of Mexico first saw Fredericton this week from the window of her plane, she said she thought she had visited the North Pole instead.

She was joking, of course, but the 19-year-old St. Thomas University student, one of about a dozen international students arriving in Fredericton this week to take courses at STU, said the snowy landscape really did seem straight out of a childhood dream.

"It really did look like Santa's village," Kuri said. "It's quite different from Mexico. We get a lot of sun."

She immediately noticed the lack of bright vegetation on trees and the white blanket of snow that covered her new surroundings upon her arrival. She wanted to pick up the snow to see if it felt like she had imagined in Mexico.

“I thought it would feel like ice cream,” Kuri said, laughing. “Obviously it’s not like that at all.”

In order to offer the students a warm welcome to the city, the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton knit a bag full of scarves and hats to comfort them against the realities of Canada’s long, cold winters.

Kuri had worn scarves in Mexico. At night, temperatures in the windy Mexico City can dip below freezing, she said.

Paulette Valdivieso, 19, of Guayaquil, Ecuador, said she is no stranger to scarves either. Although Ecuador is farther south than Mexico, Valdivieso had spent some time in France as an exchange student.

But the French don’t get this much snow, she said.

“It’s so beautiful, I love the snow,” Valdivieso said. “Everything’s all white.”

Mayumi Ishizaki, 21, of Japan, agrees.

“We get a little bit of snow in Japan, but not like this,” she said, measuring about an inch with her hands.

“This is also much colder.”

The students quickly grabbed the free scarves from the Unitarians. Patricia desChamps, vice-president of communication and outreach for the group, said she remembers what it’s like to be new in a country.

As a member of the Canadian International Development Agency, she spent some time in Ethiopia.

Knitting warm scarves seemed to be a nice thing to do, she said .

“Our church does not do outreach,” desChamps said. “We don’t try and persuade people to come to the Unitarian fellowship, but we do feel responsible for people in our community and the world.”

She asked for wool and knitting needles earlier in the year and started making scarves and hats this summer, with the help of several people in the fellowship. Some of the participants were as young as eight-years-old.

Ishizaki said the scarves were a welcome surprise.

“They are pretty scarves,” she said.

