



# The Touchstone

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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## Sunday Services

**September 3** *Corn Boil* Our traditional corn boil and potluck to celebrate the beginning of the "real" new year.

**September 10** *Ingathering Water Ceremony* Start your water gathering. As we have done in years past, this September we will be having an Ingathering/Water Ceremony, wherein we combine the waters brought to the service by friends and members who have scooped it up from various parts of the world over the summer. George and I will bring water from the Great Lakes, or from the kitchen tap of my daughter's new house in Ottawa. Collect yours, too, from your vacation beach, from a day trip to King's Landing, or from your grandmother's well. Also, we will be welcoming representational water.

Here then is the blurb (located from last year and reprinted for you—that's recycling at its most convenient, thanks to George who never deletes):

September 10, TUFF Ingathering/Water Ceremony Service, 2006—Bring water, and/or stones. The

story of creation is not over once it is told, for it is really a story of re-creation, that happens continually, uninterruptedly, and always. Join us September 10 for our Ingathering/Water Ceremony Service, wherein we regroup from our summer busyness, re-creating our congregation. Bring to this service the water and/or stones you have collected from your trips and activities over the summer months—or bring tap water and local stones that represent your summer. Individually we will place these waters and stones into a common vessel, thereby merging the spirit of our comings and goings, into the spirit of our re-creation as a congregation.

**September 17** *Riding the U\*U Tide* Al Sharp will reprise the keynote address given to the CUC ACM in Saint John in May.

**September 24** Heather Lunergan will share some thoughts and questions about the role of "grand" in our lives - that is, grandparents, grandkids, etc. and how she has grown as a person by having become a grandmother. There will be time for discussion afterward, so please bring pictures of your own "grands" to place on the table at the front of the room.





## Children's RE

This year, we will be running a Children's worship service which we will start during the regular service, as last year, after the children's story time. This will run on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays. The only change will be that on the 3rd and 5th Sundays, there will be child-care only. At press time, I have not been able to confirm the full plan for the 3rd and 5th Sundays. Hopefully, we will also be running a 10am Children's Welcoming program but this is still not for sure. I will send out a separate email when I have heard from the potential facilitators. I can guarantee that child-care will be available during the service on these Sundays. Thanks to all who have offered to help with the Children's RE program this year-you are sooo appreciated!

*In fellowship*  
Sharon and Don Flatt



## Women's Potluck

The next women's pot luck dinner will be held September 29th., 6pm at the home of Lorna Drew, 25 Chippin Court. "Epiphany" can be understood as an experience that causes a shift, a change in understanding or awareness. Have you had such an experience? What was it like? What did you call it? The 'show and tell' topic is the experience of epiphany or change. Join us for an evening of food, discussion, revelation, and laughter. For information please contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jr-jeb@nb.sympatico.ca



## Fellowship Directory

It is that time again to update our Fellowship Directory. We want to issue the new directory for 2006 - 2007 within the next few weeks. The Directory of Members and Friends is an important resource for our Fellowship.

Carol Wakeham and I will start putting the new directory together in the next few days. We would like members and friends to look at their current listing in the directory and send us any changes that they wish to make so that we can add them to the new directory. Information should be emailed to me at hmiller@nbnet.nb.ca For further information please call me at 472-1509.

Also, anyone who can't send us the information by email may wish to write their name, address, phone numbers,

email address, and cell phone number on a piece of paper and leave it for me in my file folder. The file is under, Caring Committee, Haifa Miller, and is located on the kitchen counter next to the phone, at the Unitarian Fellowship.

We need the new directory to be as complete as possible. We would like to invite new members and friends who are not currently in the old directory to give us their information so that it may be added to the new one.

Information in the Fellowship Directory is for the use of the Fellowship and may not be used for other purposes unless permission is obtained from the individual concerned.

We need all the information to be in by September 23rd, 2006.

Many thanks for your help in putting this together.

*In fellowship*  
Haifa Miller & Carol Wakeham



*Harvest the Wind*



## The Evolution of a SGM Program at tUFF

This past spring I was asked to facilitate the organization of a Small Group Ministry Program at the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. Plans were in place for Rev. Kitsy

Winthrop to visit with our fellowship at the end of March, and she was prepared to facilitate a workshop on Small Group Ministry. Information about Small Group Ministry and the workshop was e-mailed or mailed to members and friends of the Fellowship and the workshop was attended by 10-15 people who were interested in knowing what SGM was all about. We were informed that 8 - 10 participants in a group was an ideal number and hoped that there would be enough interest to start a group in our Fellowship. Following the workshop and a call to those who had attended the workshop, 12 people indicated an interest in being part of a group. At that point the decision was made to form two groups of six with Al Sharp acting as facilitator for one group and me the facilitator of the other group. Dates were decided upon and a notice was put in the Sunday bulletin which lead to more people wanting to participate in this program. Presently the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton has two groups of eight people, with a waiting list of people not able to attend at the present time, or at the times the groups are presently meeting, or because a third group has yet to be formed.

So what is Small Group Ministry all about? The following is points are taken from the information pamphlet created by the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa and sounds like the things we discussed in starting the program here in Fredericton. To create a respectful, intimate, supportive environment for spiritual and personal growth To strengthen ties among newcomers, friends and new and one-time members To explore broad answers to life's big questions To tackle deep questions of belief and faith To explore the role of ritual in our lives To serve others through a project agreed upon by the group To strengthen bonds within the congregation

Meetings are no more than two hours long and each group meets twice a month. Group guidelines for meeting together are established at the first meeting. The format of the meeting includes: lighting of the chalice, opening words, check-in/sharing, topic discussion, announcements, likes and wishes, and closing. Topics for discussion are chosen by the group from a list that has been provided. Small groups are "open", with a chair always set for a member's friend or a visitor to attend a meeting. The commitment to a group is open ended, however most programs build an annual reassignment date into the program at which point everyone has a chance to re-commit to the group they are in, or ask to join another group.

If you wish to know more about the Small Group Ministry Program, or get involved, either as a participant or as a facilitator, please speak to me. Joan Brewer 455-5169 or jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca

*In fellowship*  
Joan Brewer

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## Diary Entries

### Monday, January 30

The mail was so important. We kids weren't too interested in the Telegraph-Journal—except for Pup's interest in the stock market. There was a period when we rushed in from school to ask about 'Yellow Cab,' a stock he bought on his own, without his broker's advice. We were not aware of the stock market 'Crash of 1929,' but Pup was a big loser for those times, and he was determined that he would never again get caught. He'd put his money in banks and be safe. He did that, but it was just too dull and he gradually got back into stocks, almost totally.

Pup read us Burgess Bedtime Stories from the Telegraph each day. We all sat on his knee. After all, that big chair held a lot of people! That's the chair "made up special" of what Pup called the "best damned Spanish leather." Mum called it a "White Elephant."

In those days, we got the Family Herald and the Weekly Star, a farmer's magazine. It had something for everyone. We kids liked the stories, and what kid doesn't like to have stories read to them? Mothers and fathers do it in their own inimitable way. We liked the Maple Leaf Club and had fun writing to pen pals, and exchanging pictures. I wrote to a Roy Gould from Kelvington, Saskatchewan. I don't think I wrote any more after I got his freckle-faced picture. I should look him up, and Audrey Harcourt, and others. Sometimes we wrote letters saying we were older and were prepared to send a glamorous picture of someone else. I guess there was no harm in it. Oh, this mail topic opens up a whole range of excitement—for tomorrow.

### Tuesday, January 31, Balmy Day

We can't call it a January thaw as we have had quite extreme weather all month, warm for two or three days, rain, then cold, and the pipes freezing. Januarys long ago were the same, I suppose, but I remember banks of snow, and sleighs, and long sleds hauling wood or logs to the sawmill right here in York Mills, and we often climbed on for a ride.

Many of our sliding parties were right here on this hill. We called it 'Elmer's Hill.' Kids later called it 'Howard's Hill.' Then there was 'Jim's Hill' where Johnny Thomson now lives. It was a dandy. We usually laid on our bellies on our sleds and steered with our toes. Our sleds were usually made by Jimmy Kingston, flat runners 2 inches wide. A sled was a necessary item. We had double runners, too, where two sleds were attached. The person steering laid on the front and three or four sat on the back. We went like the wind!

There was lots of crust some years, and we could walk for miles 'on top of the world,' or ski, or slide. Sliding in the

moonlight was especially fun. We could make as much noise as we liked. One night, over behind Henry Wilkins' house in Wilmot, it was very light out, but not moonlight. We were full of joyful exuberance and clowning a lot, being quite risqué. The Northern Lights were so bright and magnificent we were almost frightened. We thought God was trying to warn us to mend our ways. So we did!

### Wednesday, February 1, Still Balmy

Last night at the Curling Club one of the young mothers said she got a shock upon waking up that morning. Her daughter was standing in her bedroom doorway looking strange as her sister had cut one side of her hair—like a brush-cut. What was she going to do? She wouldn't be able to take her anywhere! It reminded me of Marie and the job she did on her bang. She just cut a big gob out of the middle. She was dark,, and it would be difficult to fix, even for Pup who was a barber of some repute. I know he would try very hard because we all said she was his "favorite." She really wasn't was she? We all heard the story of how she cut a few inches off the dining room curtains, so she was a bit of a 'cut up.'

I know from personal experience that she liked to chew on my Kewpie dolls—made of celluloid—and she had a definite preference for arms and legs. This for me was a great source of harassment. One day, when I returned from school, I found my favorite Kewpie doll missing. Mum said Marie was upstairs and "quiet." She was under the bed. I ordered her out, intending to let her have it BUT GOOD. But, as she crawled out, she caught her tail bone on the bed spring and got a deep cut about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch long. Well, all that blood, a quart, or maybe a gallon? She still has the scar to this day, and I think she'd show you if you asked. That was the end of the chewing—at least under the bed.

R.E.C.

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## Lost and Found

Lost metal embosser: Last year the Caring Committee purchased an embosser with the name and address of the Fellowship. We bought it to emboss stationery and cards for the committee but also so others could use it. It is a silver metal gizmo about 10cm long and 6cm high. It was in a cardboard box that was labeled on all four sides 'embosser for all to use, please do not remove from the Fellowship'. It has been missing for several months. If you took it home with plans to return it please brings it back.

Lost wood signs painted green: Two signs are missing that are meant for outside use. They match the large green sign on York Street. There are three marked '784', 'Entrance' and 'Exit' respectively. They are each the size of a can-

taloupe. Several members have searched high and low to no avail. If you have any ideas about where they might be please call Nancy Beltrandi.

*In fellowship*  
Patricia des Champs

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## Social Responsibility

I would appreciate if every member of our congregation filled out the following survey and emailed/gave/snail mailed it back to me. Every member of each family—including youth and children—are encouraged to fill out this survey. It will guide our congregational social responsibility work this year. At the bottom of the survey, you will see a request to sit on the Social Responsibility Committee. I hope that many of you choose to do so. If you would rather help with certain issues, please note that as well. I will go ahead with a UFF social responsibility plan as soon as I have heard from two thirds of our members.

Thanks for participating in the Social Responsibility Survey!

*Editor's note: the survey is on the last page of this newsletter*

*In fellowship*  
Sharon Flatt  
Chair

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## Recent Yard Work

**Parking is restricted to the gravel area only. Please do not park or drive on the lawns.** Michel has finished pounding in the red stakes to mark the driveway edges. The ground water specialist says part of our flooding and drainage problems is a result of parking on the grass. Our property has clay based earth that holds water. Driving on the lawns compacts the clay and that stops drainage of ground water.

The back-hoe came two weeks ago and dug a new drainage trench three feet deep and two feet wide the length of the property (along the south side of the driveway). It has been filled with crushed rock. The trench is for ground water run off and is an upgrade for the old black plastic pipe that used to be buried there. We have had the driveway and parking area realigned and new gravel laid.

Unfortunately, digging the trench left us with a huge amount of clay based earth. The back-hoe operator, Stewart Saunders, thought the old trench had crushed rock in it - he was wrong. We now have a new raised flower bed near the dusk-to-dawn light. It's the old story of making

lemonade from lemons! Does anyone have any day lilies?  
- planting it with day lilies will make it easy care.

*In fellowship*  
Patricia des Champs



## Buildings and Grounds

It's been a busy summer for Buildings and Grounds at the Fellowship

We have cleaned the freezers in the kitchen, the table where we keep our chalice and candles, changed the foil around the stove burners while we wait for people to come to the fellowship (committee members, contractors etc).

The gas light that was original to the fellowship on Charlotte Street was refurbished by Robert Fairweather, Barb's dad. He volunteered his labour to re-electrify it - and, he used a dull paint on the new bright brass parts. It looks wonderful! The light is up and is beautiful! We used a clear incandescent bulb so it looks like the original gas light. The stained glass in the foyer is now well 'illuminated'. It lights up our new file boxes. I made files for each group that uses the fellowship and Barb and I made new tabs for the Board and Committees that includes the person's name. Tracy made a sign about the history of the light that we have framed and placed nearby.

The cloakroom dragged on and on but is finally finished. One more hanging rack and white coated wire racks for shoes has yet to be installed. We have as well ordered a cover for the conduit (electrical cord that runs up one wall and across part of the ceiling). The mail slot is done and now our mail is safely stored in the locked cloakroom. The light will come on when it senses motion (it has a light/dark sensor as well and does not come on in the daylight). There is a newly painted mirror on the wall and a long mirror on the back of the door. I found the mirrors in the garage. There is a clock in the cloakroom as well. The window in the cloakroom was refurbished.

The walls were made of unsafe material and we had to follow strict protocol to make the cloakroom safe to use. It required several coats of special paint - Michel and the electrician had to wear respirators and special suits while the wallboard was being worked with. Note: the garage has unsafe material on the walls and is now a closed area. Our tools are fine there and so is storage. It may not be used for recreation or as we would use an regular room in the house.

The electrician moved electrical boxes from the new cloakroom to the closet in the garage. The floor was painted and a small washable carpet is on the floor. There are coat hooks for the children at 'child height'. A chair is there too for people to use when changing their footwear.

The clothes hanging rod in the cloakroom came out of the large closet at the kitchen entrance. That large closet is temporarily for the vacuum etc. We will lose that large closet when we do the accessible entrance and bathroom this fall. The small closet, where the vacuum used to be, is now the permanent hall coat closet. Michel put a rod in the closet and as well painted it. We put new signs up to show the changes.

The cloakroom was a lot more work than I thought. The entry and doors were completely painted and the ceiling fixtures washed, the door was moved from the garage to the entry way allowing us to enter the new cloakroom from the entry way. We have a new smaller cork board in the entry. The cloakroom and the main door use the same key.

The fellowship was totally re-keyed. Most of us will use the key lock box in the entry. The plan is to change the lock box code three times a year. Keys have been stamped with the position to which they belong. When the new 2007-2008 board is sworn in next year, the keys will follow the position. There is a new lock box on the outside of the general office on the second floor.

I needed a 18 inch wide shade for the ceiling light in the new cloakroom. CTC wanted \$25.00 for a wide shade so I left it there. But, then I noticed a wide shade in the piano room so we took it to the cloakroom. I went back to CTC and bought a discreet small fixture with glass drops - it was \$100 reduced to \$20. It's up in the piano room and it's actually much brighter there now and Margaret likes the new fixture.

Cynthia and Wendy Dionne asked that we put a mirror on the south wall of the foyer. It was their request when they finished painting the kitchen and sanctuary/music room. It is now painted the same colour as the sanctuary and it does look so much better than the original gold gilt finish.

There are foam signs that hang from the library door knobs (and in other locations too). One side is blank the other side says 'meeting in progress' and will alert people about meetings being held in the respective rooms. Please remember to turn them to the blank side when your meeting is finished. There is more signage on switches etc too. Did you know the double switch on the sanctuary west wall turns on the lights above the drapes and turns on a receptacle behind the pulpit as well? It's now labeled.

There is new signage for using the dishwasher. Barb and I put the signs on the wall and on the dishwasher as well. There is a new schedule for recycling on garbage pickup day posted too. There are new little signs over faded ones in the kitchen. There is talk of a kitchen 'deep cleanup' in the fall. Good new signs can be made at that time.

There was a bullet hole in the left outside library window. After much discussion with Simms window people and the insulation people, the hole was plugged with an acrylic compound. There are two more broken windows to re-glaze on the second floor. We still have some donated

glass that we will use to repair the windows.

In the library and foyer the lamp shades are new. The old ones were full of dust and very dirty. The sanctuary carpet and all the curtains and drapes were cleaned last winter. The plan is to put the curtains and drapes through a high heat dryer cycle to remove allergens as soon as the house is closed up for winter and the heat is turned on. Thanks Sharon, for the information about allergens in draperies and fabrics etc.

I spent part of an afternoon cutting hedges and bushes downhill on the lawn. The two Peegee hydrangea had the dead branches cut off, the dogwood were trimmed down from six feet tall to three feet tall. Normally, to do this in July would kill the bushes but we have had so much rain that they will be fine. Some of the bushes were actually clumps of chokecherries/maple trees etc. I cut down two bunches of them with my electric trimmer - I got too hot, strained my back and the branches etc. that now need picking up and discarding are huge. Thanks Tom, for removing most of the brush! The Pagan Group will do bush trimming on the north side of the house.

This week NB Power is removing the Norway Maple near our dusk-to-dawn light pole. It is threatening to topple over. As well, NB Power is limbing the black ash near the power line. They will remove this tree next year if it dies from the huge hole in the trunk that runs the full length of the tree - the hole was apparently caused by the afternoon winter sun thawing the tree on the west side of the trunk and then a very cold night caused it to crack. The City of Fredericton is removing two trees on the street right-of-way that are dying. These four trees are marked with pink tape around their trunks. We removed a sixty foot high maple tree that died last year. The stump and roots still must be dealt with before winter. This tree was located about twenty meters south west of the garage.

Michel primed and painted the upstairs windows on the south side of the house. They were peeling. He primed and painted the area he repaired earlier on our garbage storage bin.

We have almost finished the basement. We attached studs to the concrete walls, used a vapour barrier and insulation. Much of the TrueFoam insulation was donated. We are so much under budget that we were able to drywall and paint the basement. We used a special mildew resistant additive in the paint. The paint is good quality and from Sears. The paint cost \$2.25 per gallon - they were mis-tints. The new Humidex along with the dehumidifier has made a great difference in the basement and the main floor of the Fellowship. It is dryer and fresher - it doesn't have that old smell it used to have!

The week of August 8th was the week that Stewart Saunders (Don Flatt's digger man) came with his back hoe. The driveway re-jigging and the drainage ditch have been delayed because of the blue temporary water pipe that Char-

mac Construction has across our driveway. The truck with the back hoe could not cross the blue pipe. Charmac was finished the York Street water and sanitary sewer project August 4th. The new ditch will make a big difference in our drainage. The re-jigging of the driveway will keep our driveway from being so icy in winter and allow it to drain better. Buddy, our Canada Post letter carrier is delighted - he said our driveway was very slippery in winter. After this is complete, we must park and drive only on the driveway. Several years of driving and parking on the lawn has compacted the clay soil so that it drains even less well. Our soil is clay which holds the moisture so even though we are 'on the hill' we do not drain well.

Insulating the attic is next. It will be a challenge because the roof has long low eaves. We will start this project as soon as the weather is cooler and the attic cools down.

*Yours in exhausted fellowship*  
Patricia des Champs  
Chair Buildings and Grounds



## Top Ten?

*Editor's note: the following was received from Mary Bennett in response to a question on a mailing list*

561	Ottawa First
433	Vancouver
343	Toronto First
270	Victoria
262	Edmonton Church
240	Hamilton
200	North Shore
197	Calgary
197	Montreal
185	Winnipeg

There are many things beside membership numbers.

What "top ten" list would you nominate your congregation for?



## Labyrinth Retreat

Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7, 2006  
The Auberge, Bouctouche, NB (North of Moncton)  
[www.vieuxpresbytere.nb.ca](http://www.vieuxpresbytere.nb.ca)

Friday night - gathering ritual/labyrinth walk/meeting  
Gathering for all who are available at 6pm before dinner; labyrinth walk and ritual at 8:30pm after dinner  
Saturday 9:30-5pm - how to make a labyrinth-drawing/constructing/interfaith, historical uses, examples etc.

We will create a temporary labyrinth on the grounds of the Auberge or enhance the one that has been started there.

This is the result of Ray Drennan and Mary Bennett "drawing" a 7-circuit labyrinth using white paint and then mowing between the "walls" of the labyrinth over the next several months.

Sat. night - closing ritual/labyrinth walk

Fees: include two nights accommodation;

Friday dinner, (7:00-8:00 pm) + snacks

Saturday Breakfast, lunch and dinner + snacks

Sunday a.m. breakfast

Shared accommodation Single accommodation

By September 10 \$215 \$250

By September 30 \$240 \$275

If space available, after September 30 \$265 \$300

Send cheque to CUC office - 018 -1179A King Street West, Toronto ON M6K 3C5 or call 1-888-568-5723/416-489-4121 to reserve via VISA. Cancellations subject to a \$25 administrative fee prior to September 30. No refunds after September 30, although substitutions of a different participant is fine.

Facilitator: Mary Bennett, Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council. Mary first got interested in labyrinths at a conference at the Vancouver School of Theology. She has given other workshops and worship services around the Labyrinth theme and using it as a metaphor for life-individual or congregational life.

To learn more about Unitarians connections with Labyrinths see:

[http://www.cuc.ca/worship\\_celebrations/meditation.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/worship_celebrations/meditation.htm)



## Church of the Larger Fellowship

Do you commute to the office? Travel for your job? Train for the marathon?

Wherever you go, take the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) with you. The CLF can provide thought provoking, spiritual companionship on your journeys.

Subscribe to our podcasts, and you'll have access to Quest, CLF's monthly publication, which offers UU sermons, religious education ideas, and all manner of inspiration at the ready wherever you go.

The new audio version of Quest will be down-loaded to your computer automatically each month, after subscribing to Quest on iTunes. For more information, go to

[www.clfuu.org/quest](http://www.clfuu.org/quest)

We've also changed the main Quest page so that you can listen to each article. You'll see a new icon - a loudspeaker - between the title and the author of each article.

For more information about the Church of the Larger Fellowship and how to join:

[www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org)

617-948-6150

e-mail [clf@clfu.org](mailto:clf@clfu.org)

Happy listening!

All proceeds from CLF membership support CLF's work to bring Unitarian Universalism to isolated religious liberals throughout the world.



## Message from Mary Bennett

Aug15, 2006

From R&R to. R&R Most of us know that "R&R" stands for Rest and Relaxation. After 9 days camping on Hornby Island, I know a fair bit of that. Once again, I took in the Hornby Island Arts Festival. With a concert to go to every night, and favorite places to walk (and eat) during the day, there's always something to do. I tell people there are few choices, but they're all good ones. Quite different from Vancouver and Toronto where I sometimes just stay home because I can't decide among the many options available! Did you also know that "R&R" stands for "Read and Respond". This is a code for groups who meet over email and means, if R&R is in the subject line, everyone is asked to give their opinion - and quickly-so the group can resolve a decision and move forward.

So I've just taken off my vacation message and re-set my email groups to send Individual Emails and I expect my inbox to increase its volume by the time I next check. As well as catching a bit of the first kind of R&R, the CUC staff and I do a lot of planning over the summer months when some of the work slows down a bit.

R&R: Regions and RNG's (Regional Network Groups) Sara McEwan and Linda Thomson as Directors of Regional Services are responsible for yearly Regional Fall Gatherings in each of the four regions. The lineup for this year is: October 20-22 in Saskatoon; October 27-29 in Kelowna; November 3-5 in North Hatley, Quebec and November 10-12 at Neighbourhood congregation in Toronto. These gatherings attract about 100 people, and there are programs for children and youth as well as child care provided. Starting with a Friday night ingathering, then full-day workshops ("streams") on Saturday, dinner together on Saturday and then worship together on Sunday morning. Each region is continuing to develop a distinctive culture based on history and geography, as well as other cultural

factors. Of course, anyone can go to any of the gatherings, so if you're traveling across Canada between mid-October and mid-November, perhaps you'll manage to attend more than one. I also predict that in 2007 when the Eastern Regional Fall Gathering will be hosted by the Avalon Fellowship in Newfoundland, that many Canadians will take the opportunity to visit Newfoundland and meet some interesting folks at the same time. Annual Conference and Meetings - May long weekend..

ACM '07 planning is getting more and more detailed. The national program planning committee is meeting by teleconference to get the theme and request for proposals finalized. The deadline for proposals for concurrent sessions is November 1-a little earlier this year. As this event gets larger and larger, we need more advance deadlines to get all the t's crossed and i's dotted. I am predicting the largest yet-perhaps between five and 700 people. Last year 30 per cent were involved in the kids and youth programs, and I hope we'll meet that goal as well. I am eager to make this year's ACM particularly appealing for young adults (18-35), so if you have ideas on how to do that, let me know.

In the fall I visit Ottawa, partly to choose a site for ACM '08. As Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship asked to host ACM '09 to celebrate their 50th anniversary, the board determined 2010 would be good on Vancouver Island and 2011-the CUC's 50th anniversary-in the Greater Toronto area. So I'm doing different kinds of planning for five different conferences.

Take care of yourselves and each other,  
Mary Bennett  
Executive Director  
CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL  
mary@cuc.ca

PS-I "GOOGLED" R&R and found that there are a number of other meanings as well:

Rest & Relaxation  
Rock and Roll (music)  
Read & Review  
Receiving and Release (prisons)  
Recruitment & Retention (human resources)  
Refit and Repair  
Refuse & Resist! (non-partisan, national membership organization)  
Removal and Reassembly  
Remove & Replace  
Repair & Renewal  
Repair & Return  
Repeatability and Reliability (statistical analysis)  
Resource and Referral  
Response & Recovery (FEMA)  
Rest & Recreation  
Rest & Recuperation  
Rest & Romance  
Review and Revalidation

Rock and Rye (bar drink)  
Roles and Responsibility  
Rules and Regulations

## SHORT SNIPPETS

### PAMPHLETS - GET READY FOR FALL

9 different CUC pamphlets can be viewed and ordered from [www.cuc.ca/store](http://www.cuc.ca/store). These are \$25/100. We are going to reprint book-marks and wallet cards within the next month. If you order 1000 at one time for \$200, you can have your congregation's contact information printed on them at no extra charge. Otherwise, they are just \$20 for 100. Available in English or French.

### CONNECT WITH UNITARIANS ACROSS CANADA

There are many email groups that let you connect with others with similar roles and responsibilities or just interests. To highlight just a few, under the "M" we have cuc-membership (for those on membership committees), cuc-money for people like treasurers and canvass chairs, cuc-music for music and choir directors, cuc-movie-discussion for sharing movie tips and comments (especially as to how they relate to UU ideas and principles) and cuc-mary, where you can (with 800 others) receive Mary Bennett's monthly message directly on the 15th of each month. These and other "technology tips" can be found at <http://www.cuc.ca/business/technology.htm> or contact Janice Lincoln or Phil Strapp at [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca) or 1-888-568-5723/416-489-4121.

### MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY UPDATES

Phil Strapp, CUC Information Coordinator, will update our mailing lists for congregations and individuals at any time, but we make a particular effort to get complete updates at this time of year. If you're moved or recently joined and are not receiving Canadian Unitarian newsletter, send your address and the congregation to [phil@cuc.ca](mailto:phil@cuc.ca) and he'll make sure you receive the next edition. If you wish an electronic copy of the current directory, just ask Phil-or any CUC staff member.



## A note from Linda Thomson

September '06

*Ed. note: shortened for space reasons, I can provide the full letter to anyone interested*

Information & News for the Eastern Region of the Canadian Unitarian Council

### News from Around the Region

There is some big news in some of our congregations...

Montreal -Following a long time settlement of Rev. Ray



Drennan and a very happy and successful year of Interim Ministry with Rev. Peter Boullata, Montreal will welcome their 11th settled minister this fall. Rev. Diane Rollert, comes to the congregation from (most recently) Massachusetts. For more information about Diane, visit: <http://www.ucmtl.ca/about/minister.html>

Ottawa First- In May, the congregation was the site of the ordination of Rev. Debra Faulk (now settled Minister in Don Heights and in June ordained Rev. George Buchanan (who has accepted a call as a Minister of Religious Education in Cleveland). The Rev. Lee Devoe, the congregation's Associate Minister has left and will work in Augusta, Maine as an Interim Minister. Finally the Rev. Brian Kopke has announced a June, 2007 retirement. The changes in ministry haven't slowed the congregation down. They had great representation at the 2006 CU\*UL School and are hosting an array of regional training sessions, of interest to Lay Chaplains, and Religious educators, this fall.

Ottawa Fellowship - After working this past year with Leela Sinha the congregation has announced that Rev. Frances Deverell has accepted the post of one-half time Consulting Minister for the 2006-2007 year. The Summer Newsletter of the Fellowship states, "Our contract with Frances clearly sets out our common aspirations and expectations for the new ministry, and also the Fellowship's and Minister's separate and common understandings and responsibilities in making it successful. It uniquely offers both parties time to get to know one another and work together before making a decision later this year about our future together beyond the period of this contract."

Halifax - the congregation has a lot of exciting programs and prospects. Their music ministry program is vital and alive and offers many opportunities for group singing. The Young Adult UU group recently held a potluck and are planning now for future activities. The Religious Education and Lifespan Learning Leaders are embarking on the CUC's Lifespan Learning Community program. The program provides congregations with an assessment tool and ideas for developing a robust 'whole church' culture. The Rev. John Baros-Johnson has ended his service to the congregation and was thanked by the congregation in June. This historic, originally Universalist Church, is in transition - a sign of life!

#### **DATES OF NOTE- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Conferences, workshop and other events give U\*Us from all regions the opportunity to come together; to learn, to worship and to support one another.

For up to date information about upcoming events visit: [http://www.cuc.ca/CUC\\_calendar.html](http://www.cuc.ca/CUC_calendar.html)

Lay Chaplaincy Training

See:[http://www.cuc.ca/lay\\_chaplaincy/upcoming\\_training.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/lay_chaplaincy/upcoming_training.htm) for full details

§Sept. 30th -Introduction to Lay Chaplaincy, Ottawa  
§Oct. 13-15 - The Challenging Memorial Service - London

Lifespan Learning Training

§Sept. 22-23 - Jr Youth Leadership & Coming of Age Training, Toronto

§Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 - Adult OWL and Basic Youth Advisor Training, Ottawa

Eastern Regional Fall Gathering

Creating Healthy Congregations Nov. 3-5  
North Hatley, Quebec

—Friday Evening Ingathering

—Saturday Program Streams

§ Financial Fitness

§ Lifespan Learning Program

§ Youth & Young Adult Ministry

§ National Conversation

§ Youth & Children's programs

§ Healthy Congregations

—Saturday evening Social Events

—Sunday 'birds of a Feather Networking opportunities and worship at one of our historic congregations

March 10-18, 2007

Sante Fe - A Healing Journey

See <http://www.nuuc.ca> for itinerary and details on this UU event, sponsored by the Neighbourhood Congregation.

May 18-21, 2007

2007 Annual Conference and Meeting

Vancouver, BC

CU\*UL School 2007

July (tbd) & either Central or Eastern Region (TBD)



## **Grandmothers for African**

Fredericton is organizing a chapter of "Grandmothers working for African Grandmothers" and our "kickoff" event will be a tour of the Corn Maze at Hunter Bros in Florenceville on September 23. More details from Sheila Moore, Heather Lunergan or Linda Sprague.

This space wants your material!



# Congregational S.R. Survey

1. Place a 1 beside your highest priority and a 2 beside your second highest priority. (Choose only two.)

Where should we place our greatest attention?

- local issues     regional issues
- national issues     international issues

2. What kind of projects should we be involved in? Place a 1 beside your top priority and a 2 beside your second highest priority. (Choose only two.)

- Education projects to inform ourselves and the community
- Service projects to provide direct assistance to those who need it
- Witness projects to put on pressure by letting people know that we will stand up and be counted on an issue
- Planned action projects designed to try and effect significant social change.

3. Place a 1 beside your highest priority, a 2 beside your next highest priority and a 3 beside your third highest priority. (Choose three.)

- The Environment
- Peace and Disarmament
- Poverty
- Violence in Society
- Respect for Diversity in Society
- Human Rights Issues
- Third World Development

4. Place a 1 beside the item that represents this congregation's greatest strength in resources.

- Financial resources
- People resources - Knowledge and Skills
- People resources - Helping hands

5. Under each topic place a 1 beside your highest priority and a 2 beside your second priority. (Choose two.)

The Environment

- Forest conservation
- Sustainability issues
- Transportation issues in the community
- Air pollution
- Local recycling
- Water conservation

Peace and Disarmament

- Nuclear arms control
- Canadian Military in Middle East
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Using UN forces for peace-keeping

- Converting from a war-based to a peace-based economy
- Military spending in Canada
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Third World Development

- Outreach
- Unitarian Service Committee
- Foreign Aid
- Literacy and Education
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Poverty

- Food Bank
- Homeless people
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Violence in Society

- Gun control
- Animal rights
- Violence against women
- Violence on TV
- Violence in schools
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Respect for Diversity in Society

- The Welcoming Congregation Program
- Racism
- Women's issues and rights
- Aboriginal (First Nations) issues and rights
- Concerns for the differently abled people
- Senior Citizens' concerns
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Human Rights issues

- Amnesty International
- Dying with Dignity
- Freedom of Speech/Censorship
- Literacy and basic education
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you wish to volunteer to help on the Social Responsibility committee?

Yes  No  Name \_\_\_\_\_

7. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attach additional sheets if desired.