



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

July 8 Cheryl Saunders *The Student Loan System - unequal access*

July 15 Stephen Pidwysocky *Conflicts around nursing-home placement*

July 22 Heidi O'Donnell *Toxic-free Living*

July 29 Lorna Drew *poetry or poodles*

August 5 Josephine Savarese *Film*

August 12 Glenna Hanley *Is religion harmful?*

August 19 David Brown *DVD documentary on work of Jim Merkel*

Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck is planned for Friday, July 27th. We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm. Linda Sprague will host the evening at her home, 29 Fleet Court. Discussion topic: "How much has luck been a part of your life - either good or bad luck?" For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jbrewer@rogers.com

Invitation to join the Hospitality Committee!

As of July 1st, I am the new chair of the Hospitality Committee for a one year period. I am grateful for the opportunity to give something back to the Fellowship which has given me so much. I am in the process of forming a committee to share in the task of ensuring coffee, tea, and snacks are available at each Sunday service. I envision having a group of volunteers who will provide hospitality on a rotating basis once every 2 months. I would also like to invite members to contribute by providing homemade baked goods as snacks. Please contact me at heidiod@rogers.com or 208-0253 if you would like to share in this important service for our wonderful Fellowship.

Heidi O'Donnell

Fredericton Pride

The letter below was received by Allison Calvern who is currently in St. Margaret's Bay and away from her usual technology. The Fellowship has provided a significant complement to the first and second Pride parades which took place on the walking trail from the Small Craft Aquatic Centre to Officers' Square. This year, with the Princess Margaret Bridge open and City Council apparently willing to allow closure of Queen Street, the parade will switch to the more prominent venue. Allison hopes we could begin planning participation. She would join in the planning when they get back home and functioning.

Good Morning!

My name is Charlie Benn and I am a part of the Fredericton Pride Organizing Committee, heading up the Festival side of things as well as the Media and Communications Committee. For the time being I am also helping out with the Parade as well. Working off of our master list from 2011 on both the Parade and Festival, I've come to touch base with you to see if you would be interested in participating in the festivities again this year. Pride Week in the city will run from August 5th-12th, with the Parade and Festival occurring on Saturday, August 11th.

This is slightly different than usual, as normally we have hosted the Parade and Festival at the beginning of Pride Week as opposed to closing the week with it. We thought that it may be a greater way to both work together with the people who would go to neighbouring Pride's in other cities, as well as help our vendors see some additional bodies greet their booths/carts who would have participated in events leading up to the big day throughout the week.

Just as last year we will be hosting the Fredericton Pride Festival in Officer's Square with vendors and music, and will be greeted about an hour into the event by the Fredericton Pride Parade. One of the key differences between this year and past years is that for the first time the Parade will be on the street (the previous two had been hosted on the Riverfront Trail from the Victoria Health Centre to Officer's Square due to construction on the Princess Margaret Bridge disallowing any parades on the emergency routes downtown). The parade will begin at the Fredericton Legion Parking lot in the West side of Downtown Fredericton, and will be walking 'backwards' on Queen, past City Hall, and ending up at the street side of Officer's Square. This is a really exciting time for the Pride Community in Fredericton as well as that of the province at large as this will be the first time a Pride Parade will have happened with support from City Council in the Capital's History. We would like to mark this occasion with a day of fun that would be bigger and better than ever before! In addition to having the parade on the street this year for the first time, the committee has decided to introduce formal floats into the event. Along with Pride supporters who would like to walk in the parade either as an individual or as a group, we would also like to encourage people to get together with friends and design floats like those seen in other parades. These can be motorized, colourful, musical, or every bit and more!

Just a final note to ensure that you are up to date, the Fredericton Pride Committee has reviewed costs since last year, and have decided that a fee of \$25.00 would be charged for each booth space in the Festival this year. Along with this, floats will also be charged the \$25.00 fee (note, walkers and people-powered groups will not be charged). This will help cover the costs of the insurance for the event as well as things like the sound system for the stage. Hopefully this is only a minor change to you.

If you have any questions at all please feel free to email me back. I'm just touching base with everyone, but if you would like an application for either the festival or parade (or both) before they are posted on the website I can send it along at your request. Feel free to pass this along to fellow vendors, community partners, or whomever you think would benefit from this information. Again, the website will be updated shortly to reflect this information!

Thank you and have a wonderful day!



UFF Board



Outgoing and new board members pose for a photo following the AGM on June 24. Above seated are: Rhonda Connell, John van Abbema; Standing; Allison Calvern, outgoing secretary-treasurer, Joan Brewer, Gail Moore, Tom Hanley, Betty Lou Daye, George DeMille, outgoing assistant to the secretary-treasurer, and president Sheila Thompson. Many thanks to our past years board for the work they have done.



The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton recently elected a new board of directors for 2012/2013. They are; seated, from the left, Rhonda Connell, VP of finance and facilities; John van Abbema, VP, programs and ministry. Standing, Joan Brewer, past president; Gail Moore, assoc. VP, programs and ministry; Tom Hanley, assoc. VP finance and facilities; Betty Lou Daye, secretary-treasurer; and president, Sheila Thompson. Absent, Betty Ponder, assoc. VP, Communications and Outreach. Please let our board members know how grateful we are for their being willing to serve in this capacity.



Rogersville Retreats

My son, who maintains contact with Charles Leblanc, the well known Fredericton blogger, made me aware of a posting from Charles about a recent retreat taken in Rogersville. Following up some of the associated information, I thought it very possible that some of our members might be interested in the chance for a retreat. The information below is taken from the web site of the Cistercian-Trappist Monastery of Our Lady of Calvary near Rogersville. For women, there is a retreat house at the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption (Trappistine) Abbey. Note that the monastery retreat house can accommodate up to four women. The convent retreat house expects guests to observe silence at all times, including meals. More information on either retreat house is readily found using your favourite web search engine and using the search terms Rogersville and "retreat house".

Guests are welcome to come on retreat. You do not have to be Catholics or even Christians, but we expect you to be looking for God. We are only a small community of



nine monks of whom only three are priests, so we cannot give directed or preached retreats. The sacrament of reconciliation is always possible. Guests create their own retreat by joining the prayer of the community, by praying and reflecting quietly, by reading and they can also walk in the fields and woods or sit in the guesthouse garden when the weather permits. The farm and certain other areas are reserved to the monks. The normally expected stay is not more than a week. There is no fixed fee but we suggest \$45 a day to cover all meals and lodging, unless you use one of our en suite double rooms and then we suggest \$70 per day.

Charles Leblanc commented on the quiet. Freedom from the internet, television and radio pretty much force you to think and reflect and definitely give you a chance to read. Charles, being Charles, also had a video clip of a pair of mounties who stopped to question him while he was trying to "thumb" a ride back to Fredericton. The officers claimed not to know who he was, but after running the background check, wished him well and suggested he stay off the Legislature grounds when he got home.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald



Ride Wanted

If any of you are going to Saint John this summer any morning, would you consider taking a passenger? I love doing day trips, would be happy to help pay for gas, and will take the bus (now that they're operating again) home.

Gratefully,

Lorna Drew



CUC Applauds BC Court Decision In Assisted Dying Case

Editor's note: reprinted at request of Tom Hanley.

June 18, 2012 – Toronto, ON

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) celebrates the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and Madam Justice Smith's ruling that the criminal laws prohibiting assisted dying breach the Charter, are not justified and are therefore unconstitutional, said Dr. Gary Groot, President of the CUC's Board of Trustees.

The CUC applauds this decision as the principles of Unitarian Universalism strongly support the right of individuals to make choices for themselves. The CUC's principles also lift up the inherent worth and dignity of human beings, which Unitarian Universalists consistently interpret as a call to improve and preserve the quality of life, Dr. Groot continued.

A large majority of Unitarians, ministers and laity alike, hold that these principles guide them to a position of supporting the widespread calls in Canada for the legalization of assisted suicide or euthanasia, said the Rev. Julie Stoneberg, President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada.

The CUC was granted Intervenor status in the Taylor case because of its long standing involvement in and support for the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia. In resolutions dating back to 1973, the CUC advocates recognition of the right of death with dignity. In 1993, the CUC passed a further resolution that proposed the legalization of the rights of the mentally competent, terminally or irreversibly ill persons to determine the manner of their dying.

In June 1994, the CUC presented a Brief to the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide because an overwhelming majority of Unitarian participants in a nation-wide study held that view. Overall, Unitarians express a clear desire to have choice in the manner of their dying, said Rev. Stoneberg.

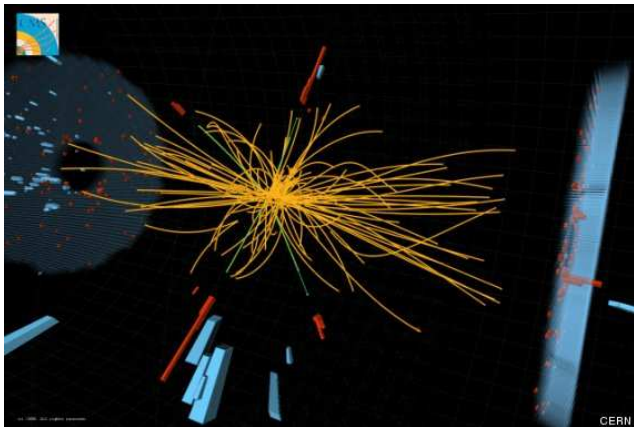
Tim Dickson, the Vancouver lawyer who represented the CUC pro bono in the Taylor case, stated that the BC Supreme Court has declared that those provisions of the Criminal Code are invalid as they limit the rights to life, liberty and security of the person, and that they do so in a manner that violates the principles of fundamental justice.

A complete summary of the court findings is available at www.cuc.ca.

Dr. Gary Groot, President: Board of Trustees
Rev. Julie Stoneberg,
President: UU Ministers of Canada
Vyda Ng, Executive Director: CUC

Congratulations to LHC Staff

Apparently the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research near Geneva on the Franco-Swiss border have detected a number of events characteristic of the expected decay patterns of the Higgs boson. Scientists are very confident that the boson has been detected and Stephen Hawking has paid up on a \$100 bet that he made that the particle would never be found.



The existence of the particle would provide evidence that the mass of objects in our universe is the result of interaction with the Higgs field which pervades all of space. One more step in understanding this amazing universe in which we live.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald

This space wants your material!
