

# Daybreak Responds to Today's Call for Growth *By Carl MacMillan*

Listening, we discover in community, is one of the most important activities of sharing life together. I sense that this is the case as much for a couple as for an entire community of people. We do listen to each other at Daybreak – at least most of the time – but we are also listening to the voices in the wider community. Every month I attend a meeting with the directors of other organizations serving people with intellectual disabilities in York Region. Every month we look at the statistics of the people who are waiting – for a home, for a place to work, for respite services, for someplace to belong. The numbers are staggering. For day programs alone, over 400 people with intellectual disabilities in York Region are on the waiting list. These people are invisible to most of us. They are at home, often living with aging parents, many without any meaningful daytime activity.

L'Arche Daybreak has an intentional reflection on its mandate every four years. We reflect on what we are living in the community today, what we need to preserve, and where we feel called to grow. Together we write a mandate, a map of the direction we want to pursue for the next four years. Our mandate now, which began in January, clearly outlines a path for the expansion and promotion of our programs of work and daytime creativity: the Woodery, the Craft Studio, the Club, the Day Program and the Spirit Movers. All five of



Caroline York attaches labels to the stunning collection of candles at the Craft Studio.

these programs are outstanding places of work, creativity or recreation. They respond to the varying abilities and needs of the diverse group of people who live in Daybreak's homes – and increasingly those who live nearby with their families.

In a community that is alive, there is always movement. Life is rarely static. Daybreak's programs are also in movement. Some people who have worked in the Woodery for decades are now ready to join the Club, our "slow track" program for people who are looking for a more gentle rhythm of the day. The Spirit Movers, our dance and movement troupe, is adding theatre arts to its repertoire. Last year the Craft Studio

doubled its square footage. Our Meeting Hall, built in 1984, has long housed the Day Program, a dynamic program that welcomes people of all abilities for recreational activities and for learning the skills of daily living.

We realized several years ago that to be able to welcome more people to participate in our programs, we needed more room. So, we are launching the *Signs of Hope* campaign. Many people in York Region have their hearts set on L'Arche Daybreak. We are inviting all our friends, old and new, to contribute to this campaign that will enable Daybreak to stretch its wings and grow – and continue to be a sign of hope to our local community. ♣

*A Meditation by Henri Nouwen*

## The Fruit of Hope

There is an intimate relationship between joy and hope. While optimism makes us live as if someday soon things will go better for us, hope frees us from the need to predict the future and allows us to live in the present, with the deep trust that God will never leave us alone but will fulfill the deepest desires of our heart.

Joy in this perspective is the fruit of hope. When I trust deeply that today God is truly with me and holds me safe in a divine embrace, guiding every one of my steps, I can let go of my anxious need to know how tomorrow will look, or what will happen next month or next year. I can be fully where I am and pay attention to the many signs of God's love within and around me.

We often speak about the "good old days," but when we think critically about them and let go of our romanticizing memories, we might soon discover that, during those very days, we were doing a lot of worrying about our future.

When we trust profoundly that today is the day of the Lord and that tomorrow is safely hidden in God's love, our faces can relax, and we can smile back at the One who smiles at us.

I remember once walking along the beach with a friend. We spoke intensely about our relationship, trying hard to explain ourselves to each other and to understand each other's



Members of the Spirit Movers dance troupe, Rebecca Beayni and Anna MacLean, are captured beautifully in this dramatic moment on stage in performance.

feelings. We were so preoccupied with our mutual struggle that we didn't notice the magnificent sunset spreading a rich spectrum of color over the foam-capped waves breaking on the wide, silent beach.

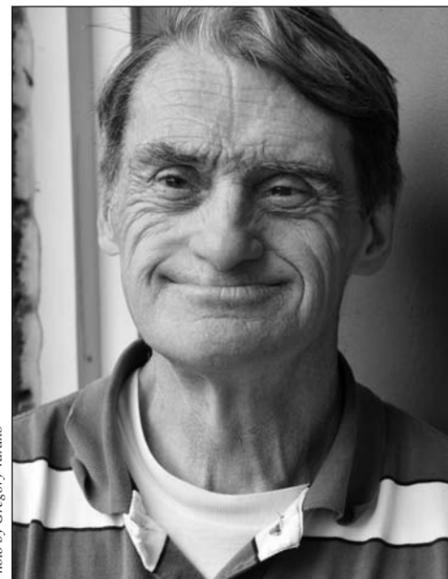
Suddenly my friend exclaimed: "Look ...look at the sun...look." He put his arm around my shoulder, and together we gazed at the shimmering ball of fire vanishing gradually below the horizon of the wide ocean.

At that moment, we both knew about hope and joy. ♣

## Henri's Remains Moved

The remains of Henri Nouwen have been relocated to St. John's Cemetery, 12125 Yonge Street in Oak Ridges. Henri's new resting place is next to Bill Van Buren's. It had always been Henri's wish to be buried with other members of the L'Arche Daybreak community. As that had not been possible at Henri's original gravesite, arrangements were made for the transfer this summer. On Friday afternoon, July 30th, there was a lovely blessing of Henri's new grave. ♣

## Community Notes



John Smeltzer turned 60 on July 11th.

**John Smeltzer** celebrated his 60th birthday on July 17th with over 120 of his friends who dropped by the New House to mark the occasion with him. Among those friends was Steve Newroth, the founder of Daybreak who welcomed John to the community over 40 years ago. The event featured live music with guitars, a fiddler, and John himself on spoons. Toes were tapping and hands were clapping as everyone gathered 'round for what became the most significant community gathering of the summer. John has become L'Arche Daybreak's leading public relations ambassador, visiting local businesses on Yonge Street every Saturday morning. When Tim Horton's heard it was his birthday, they donated donuts, coffee and a birthday cake for the celebration.

**The Barn Dance for Solidarity** will be held on Saturday, September 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the Barn at 11339 Yonge Street. This is a really fun dance with music and refreshments. The suggested donation is \$10.00 but this is a pay-what-you-can event. The proceeds from the Barn Dance will go to our L'Arche sister communities in Honduras. All are welcome!

**An Art Show** featuring artwork from the nine L'Arche communities in Ontario will open this fall at Queen's Park in the offices of the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

**Trish Glennon and Steve Knezevic** welcomed a son, Matthew, born on June 24th. Big sister Frances is thrilled with her new brother.

**Francis Maurice and Janice Byrne** both moved to the Mariann Home, a long-term care centre at 9915 Yonge Street. It is very close to Daybreak homes so visits from community members happen easily and often.

**Kathy Kelly and Joe Child** celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, July 31st with a moving liturgy and festive reception at the Dayspring.

**Laurent Nouwen**, the brother of Henri Nouwen, travelled from the Netherlands to visit L'Arche Daybreak this summer. He was on hand for the blessing of Henri's new gravesite on July 30th. Since Henri's death in 1996, Laurent and his family have remained very close to the L'Arche Daybreak community. Laurent has become deeply involved with the ministry of Zenia Kushpeta in the Ukraine.



Robin Steel proudly displays his trophy from the Brothers of the Blade Picnic on June 19th.

## Community Wish List

Plain single or twin bed sheets.....	\$50
Japanese Maple tree .....	\$100
Plexiglass candle moulds .....	\$200
12 setting dinner set .....	\$500
Vacuum cleaner.....	\$500
Barbeque .....	\$650
Recycling storage shed .....	\$1,500
Tree shredder.....	\$2,000
Patio furniture .....	\$3,000
Sun shade for the Day Program .....	\$3,000
Stairlift .....	\$7,000
Grounds equipment.....	\$10,000
Sanding machine for Woodery .....	\$10,000
Mini-van .....	\$35,000

For more information, please call Jean Jarvis at L'Arche Daybreak's Development Office (905) 884-3454 ext. 244.

## Doors Open Brings Local Community to Daybreak



Photo by Gregory Varano

The "Doors Open" Welcome Team, from left: Rita O'Connor, David Harmon, Linda Martin, Jean Jarvis, Colette Halferty, Lorenzo Sforza-Cesarini, Carl MacMillan, Amanda Winnington-Ingram, John Smeltzer, Mary Bastedo, Namju Baek, Toni Urbanski, Kathy Kelly, Joe Child.

On June 12th, Daybreak participated in the Second Annual *Doors Open Richmond Hill*. Daybreak was one of thirteen historical sites open to the public throughout the town. We offered tours of the Big House, the Dayspring, the Woodery and the Craft Studio. Volunteers arrived early to set up for the day. There was a huge banner on the porch of the Big House displaying Daybreak's history. Despite the heat, humidity and torrential downpours, it was a huge success. 129 people joined us. Many of them told us that they were interested in the history of the Daybreak property and had made us their priority tour for the day. We look forward to participating in this event again next year.

### The Story We Told

In the 1920s, the Toronto congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph faced the challenge of caring for the many nuns in their order who had contracted tuberculosis. Completed in 1926, the convalescent home on Yonge Street was specifically designed to support sisters suffering from TB. Most of the second floor bedrooms faced south to optimize the benefit of sunlight. A door from each bedroom opened onto the long balcony that covered the porch below. "The North Farm" was comprised of 100 acres of prime farmland. There was also a large green barn and a big chicken coop.

In 1949, the Sisters of St. Joseph passed the farm to the Basilian Fathers, a teaching

order of priests based in Toronto. Young men who were considering the priesthood lived and worked at the farm for a novitiate year while discerning their vocations.

In the 1950s, the Basilians wanted to support the beginning of a new religious congregation dedicated to foreign missions. The Basilians carved out several acres of land that included all the buildings from the original North Farm and gave the parcel to the Sisters of Our Lady's Missionaries.

In the mid-1960s, Ann and Steve Ne-wroth had a dream to begin an extraordinary community. They had lived in France in a new community called "L'Arche" founded by an inspiring young Canadian named Jean Vanier. Ann and Steve wanted to bring home to Canada this dynamic way for people of all abilities to live and learn together. The Sisters of Our Lady's Missionaries offered the generous gift of their Richmond Hill farm for L'Arche to begin in Canada. In October of 1969, L'Arche Daybreak opened its doors. The dream had come true.

Today L'Arche Daybreak includes eight homes and five vibrant places of work and daytime activity. The Dayspring spiritual centre was built in 1999 and now welcomes thousands of people each year. The building is featured in the book *Canadian Churches* as "one of Canada's most sparkling examples of contemporary religious architecture." L'Arche has become an international movement with 29 communities in Canada and 136 communities around the world. ♣

### L'ARCHE DAYBREAK

The first L'Arche community in North America, L'Arche Daybreak began in 1969 and now includes eight homes in Richmond Hill, as well as *The Woodery* wood-working shop, *The Craft Studio*, *Daybreak Books & Media* bookstore, and the *Dayspring* spiritual centre. The L'Arche Daybreak community is a dynamic example of how people of different intellectual capacity, social origin, religion, and culture can live and learn together.

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday** mornings at 8:30 at Dayspring.

**Friday** evenings at 7:30 at Dayspring.

### L'ARCHE

L'Arche is an international movement of over 135 communities where people with intellectual disabilities and those who care for them live and work together. Canadian Jean Vanier founded L'Arche in France in 1964.

### L'ARCHE MISSION STATEMENT

- To make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities revealed through mutually transforming relationships.
- To engage in our diverse cultures, working together towards a more human society.
- To foster an environment in communities that is inspired by the core values of our founding story, and that responds to the changing needs of our members.



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## Signs of Hope Campaign Launches in September

L'Arche Daybreak is about to have its Community Launch for the capital campaign *Signs of Hope*. The campaign's purpose is to support the expansion of Daybreak's day programs to be able to welcome more local people with intellectual disabilities living at home with their families. In York Region alone, over 400 adults with intellectual disabilities are on waiting lists to participate in programs where they can work, learn new skills, and participate in meaningful day-time activities. Until the age of 21, people with intellectual disabilities are entitled to appropriate educational programs in the school system. As adults, there is no such entitlement. Many people have been waiting for years.

L'Arche Daybreak wants to be part of the response to this dramatic need for more day program opportunities for local people with intellectual

disabilities – but to expand capacity, it needs to develop new space to have room to welcome more people. The first phase of expansion has already begun with the addition to the Craft Studio. Over the past year, this enlarged capacity has enabled the programs to welcome six new people, increasing overall capacity by 15%.

There are more plans – for an addition to the Club and for renovations for the Big House, as well as growth for the Spirit Movers – that the funds generated by the capital campaign would help to make possible. The most public and intense phase of the campaign will take place this fall with a creative public awareness campaign including significant coverage in the media, the "Walk for Hope" on September 11th, and a direct mail appeal. *Signs of Hope* is the Daybreak's first capital campaign since the completion of the Dayspring in 1999. ♣



Photo by Gregory Varano

Darryl Dickson makes paper at the Studio.

## Adam Joins the Workplace By Carl MacMillan

Adam Whaley is one of the new people working at the Woodery and the Craft Studio. In 2007 Adam graduated from the Dante Alighieri Academy in Toronto. Adam is twenty-four years old. He had been looking for a good place to work when he and his family discovered L'Arche Daybreak. Adam visited a few times and experienced several of Daybreak's programs. Since April 2010 he has been working three days a week at the Woodery and two days a week at the Craft Studio. Adam is a valued member of the workplace and a natural community person. He enjoys community gatherings and he has made many friends at Daybreak.

In addition to his full-time work at L'Arche Daybreak, Adam plays hockey with the North York Gladiators, basketball with the Special Olympics Grandravine L'il Raptors, baseball with the Special Olympics Grandravine Wolves, and soccer with the Special Olympics Grandravine Kickers. He also swims with the Special Olympics North York Eels, bowls with Reena Special Olympics and



Photo by Gregory Varano

Adam Whaley works at paper-making in the new addition to the Craft Studio.

participates in several social clubs.

Adam's favourite activity is helping his peers. He has a special talent for bringing others out of their shells and getting them to participate in life

around them. Adam lives in Maple, Ontario with his parents and his younger brother, Christien. He is very happy to come to work everyday at a job he really loves. ♣