

## New Addition Planned for the Woodery

The green barn at the center of L'Arche Daybreak's original Yonge Street property has an iconic architectural presence in the storied history of the community. With the growth of the Woodery as a day program, there is the accompanying need for more space. A new addition is planned for construction this fall. We anticipate that the Woodery program will continue without interruption during the construction period.

In the early years of L'Arche Daybreak, the barn had continued to be used as a working barn with farm animals and farming equipment. During those early years, Daybreak kept chickens and sold eggs. In the mid '80s, the farm operation came to a close, and the barn found new life as a wood-working shop, the Woodery. Today, the Woodery welcomes participants from throughout York Region as well as people who live in Daybreak homes.

Architect Joe Lobko has worked with L'Arche Daybreak for over



*The new addition at the west end of the Woodery, designed by Joe Lobko, will feature a large new lunch room and a new office. Construction is expected to begin this fall.*

twenty years on a variety of different projects including the award-winning Dayspring chapel and, more recently, the additions to the Craft Studio and the Club, and the renovation of the Big House in 2012. Joe Lobko has designed a beautiful addition for the west end of the barn that will provide a large new lunch room as well as a new office. The new addition will expand the capacity of the Woodery program and provide for a long overdue space where program participants can comfortably fit around a large table. The addition will replace the

now dilapidated "egg room" where eggs were candled in the era when Daybreak had a large chicken coop. The contemporary horizontal lines of the addition will have a classic Joe Lobko look designed to tie seamlessly into the current barn structure.

Building projects bring excitement, and people at Daybreak look forward to the prospect of getting to know the construction crew and seeing the new addition take form. Best of all, the addition will create room to welcome new people to become part of the community. ✦

## Alan Dobb's Kind Spirit Inspired Many

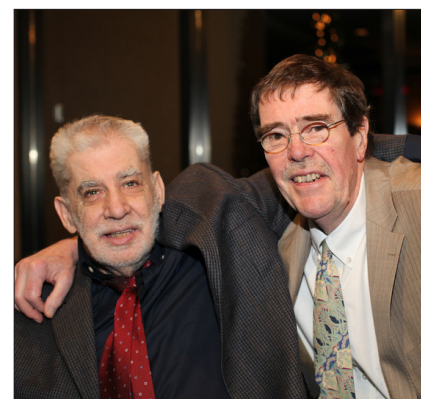
After a long time in the hospital, Alan Dobb, Facilities Manager at L'Arche Daybreak for nearly 20 years, died on April 23rd. The Daybreak community, Alan's wife Catherine, and his family and friends gathered for a moving celebration of his life on Friday, May 6th, at St. Mary's Anglican Church.

Alan began his journey with L'Arche as a volunteer at the Centre Street House. He was the first person to hold the position of Facilities Manager at Daybreak, taking responsibility for countless details about the care and upkeep of Daybreak's vehicles, eight homes, and the six other buildings on the original Yonge Street property. Under Alan's leadership, the original farm property was transformed into green parkland. Alan

oversaw the multi-phased renovation and expansion of the Craft Studio, the Club, and the Big House in addition to many other smaller building projects. Alan was also an avid gardener, aquatic flora in particular. He led the renewal of the pond with the addition of a new boardwalk and the planting of lilies and other flora that created a very dynamic eco-structure. His work was recognized and awarded by the Ontario Department of Natural Resources. He was also recognized in 2015 by the Richmond Hill Fire Department for his work on fire safety.

Alan's zest for life, his love of his family, and his passion for the mission of L'Arche remained strong right to the end of his life.

Alan was a treasured friend and



*Alan and John Bloss became dear friends over the past 20 years in community.*

colleague to many. His work and the relationships he forged built the life of the Daybreak community and has enhanced our community environment for years to come. ✦

# Henri Continues to Inspire Us

by Carl MacMillan

One of the nicest benefits of the recent Nouwen conference was that it became a time to visit with old friends whom we rarely see. Laurent Nouwen, Henri's brother, came to Daybreak the day before the conference began, accompanied by Dutch scholar Barbara Swaan. We had put together a list of the people at Daybreak today who knew Henri when he lived here. It was somewhat shocking for us to recognize how few of us are still here. About twelve of us gathered at Henri's grave that day for a lovely prayer service led by Wendy Lywood. After the opening rituals, Wendy invited each of us to tell a story or share a thought about Henri. The stories came easily. They were funny and endearing, and they were profound. As each of us finished our story, we laid a rose on Henri's grave. When we completed the circle, we laid roses on the graves of all the others from Daybreak buried at the cemetery. Then we all went to the Dayspring – a building that Henri had envisioned – for a luncheon reception where others were able to join us. I think that we were all touched to share such an intimate time of remembrance together. To gather with tenderness like this is one of the things that Henri taught us to do so well.

The *Way of the Heart* conference was



Henri Nouwen's brother, Laurent Nouwen, pictured here with Daybreak Associate Member Jacquie Boughner, visited L'Arche Daybreak on June 8th, the day before the Conference began.

a remarkable gathering in terms of the diversity of people and ministries it drew together. There were theologians and spiritual leaders to be sure – but there were also peace-makers, psychologists, musicians, environmentalists, writers, caregivers, teachers, filmmakers, and people from many other disciplines.

Among the myriad of different presenters were Carolyn and Geoff Whitney-Brown who had been assistants at Daybreak in the '90s. Their breakout session, *Exile on Yonge Street – The L'Arche Years*, captured beautifully the hilarity, complexity, and deep humanity of living in community with a contempo-

rary spiritual icon. Alan Cook, an assistant from that era who is now an Anglican priest, re-enacted a skit presented on the occasion of Henri's fifth anniversary at Daybreak. I think people who saw it laughed as hard as we had in 1991.

Virtually all of the people at the conference had been inspired by Henri — personally or through his writing. One of Henri's great gifts was the way he encouraged all of us to delve deeply and courageously into whatever vocation or relationship or mission where we felt called. The journey itself would inspire spiritual meaning — as Henri's writing continues to do today. ✦

## Community Notes

**New Confirmed Members** Tom Krysiak, Nancy Murtha, and Mary Schneider were welcomed and blessed on Friday evening, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Dayspring. Tom is an artist at the Craft Studio who lives at Centre Street. Nancy is a long-time resident at the Red House. Mary, who is Franciscan sister, has served on several house teams and is now part of Brookwood House.

**New Intentional Members** Sharon Karney and Amanda Tedman were welcomed and blessed on Friday evening, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Dayspring. Sharon, who has been part of house teams at the Corner House, the Green House, and the Red House, now serves as Program Leader at the Day Program. Amanda, who grew up in Thornhill, is a long-time resident of Daybreak's Corner House at Dunlop and Church Street.

**New Associate Members** Jacquie Boughner, Debbie Dew, Christine Gameston and Judith Ludlow received their membership blessing on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Dayspring. Jacquie is a past Board member at Daybreak and a current member of the L'Arche International Stewardship Board. Debbie is the Craft Studio Program Leader. Christine is part of the office team at the Big House. Judith is the Health Care Coordinator.

**Bill Clarke** celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a Jesuit priest on Friday evening, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Dayspring. Bill has been close to L'Arche for all the years of his priesthood, originally in the community in Trosly, France. He wrote one of the first books about L'Arche, *Enough Room for Joy*.

**Beth Porter**, who for many years served as Coordinator of Educational Initiatives and Publications at the L'Arche Canada Foundation, retired in April. Beth is the editor of the popular e-newsletter *A Human Future* that has brought the spirit of L'Arche to contemporary social issues. Beth has also been a leader for L'Arche in inter-faith dialogue. Beth received a retirement blessing from the community on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Dayspring.

**Jim Peterkin**, a long-time Woodery team member, has accepted the role of Property Manager. He began on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The Walk WITH Hope** for 2016 brought in a record \$85,000 with nearly 400 walkers participating. The Walk ended with a festive carnival on the Daybreak property.



*A Reflection by Henri Nouwen*

## Our Desire for Communion

What do we really desire? As I try to listen to my own deepest yearning as well as to the yearnings of others, the word that seems best to summarize the desire of the human heart is "communion." Communion means "union with." God has given us a heart that will remain restless until it has found full communion. We look for it in friendship, in marriage, in community. We look for it in sexual intimacy, in moments of ecstasy, in the recognition of our gifts. We look for it through success, admiration, and rewards. But wherever we look, it is communion that we seek.

As I looked at the faces of the gold medalists at the Olympics, with more than sixty thousand people applauding them and millions watching them on television, I caught a glimpse of that momentary experience of communion. It seemed as if they had, finally, received the love they had worked for with unwavering dedication. And still, how soon they will be forgotten. Four, eight, or twelve years later, others will take their place on the platform of success, and their brief moment of glory will be remembered by very few.

Still, the desire for communion remains. It is a God-given desire, a desire that causes immense pain as well as immense joy. Jesus came to proclaim that our desire for commu-



*Tom Krysiak, holding his prize-winning painting "I Am King," was given the Jane Cameron Award for Art by the Canadian Down Syndrome Society. The painting hangs in the Big House.*

nion is not in vain, but will be fulfilled by the One who gave us that desire. The passing moments of communion are only hints of the Communion that God has promised us. The real danger facing us is to distrust our desire for communion. It is a God-given desire without which our lives lose their vitality and our hearts grow cold. A truly spiritual life is life in which we won't rest until we have found rest in the embrace of the One who is the Father and Mother of all desires. ✦

### Celebrating for a Good Cause!

Giving in honour of someone special and celebrating special events (e.g. weddings, birthdays) are tremendously meaningful ways to support L'Arche Daybreak.

Hosting a party, or creating a fund-raising page for a special event is a fun and easy way to invite people to support our community. To learn more about "In Celebration Gifts," contact Christine Gameson at (905) 884-3454 ext. 233. ✦



*Ruth Patterson, here with Sue Mosteller, visited Daybreak for a potluck dinner on June 18th.*

**Ruth Patterson**, who has co-led many retreats with Jean Vanier in France, visited Daybreak on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Ruth is a Presbyterian minister in Northern Ireland where she leads Restoration Ministries. She has just written a new book, *The Gaze of Love*. Ruth gave a reading from the book at a Dayspring liturgy followed by a dinner with many community members who had attended her retreats.

**Jason Clinker**, who is a participant at the Woodery and the Craft Studio, is the focus of the new film documentary entitled *Unwritten*, produced by a team of media students from Ryerson University. The film documents Jason's life and the challenges that he and his family confront in their search for accessible and supportive housing in York Region.

### Community Wish List

Triple mix for the garden .....	\$50
Pillows.....	\$50
Sheets and pillow cases.....	\$50
Pruning saw.....	\$60
Pruning shears.....	\$75
Blanket.....	\$100
Tablecloths .....	\$100
White spruce tree .....	\$100
Barbeque .....	\$650
Tree shredder.....	\$2,000
Sun shade for the Day Program .....	\$3,000
Sectional sofa.....	\$4,000
Stairlift .....	\$7,000
Mini-van .....	\$25,000

*For more information, please call Warren Pot at L'Arche Daybreak's Development Office (905) 884-3454 ext. 285.*

# Way of the Heart Conference Marks the 20th Anniversary of Henri Nouwen's Death

by Beth Porter



The closing panel discussion included musician Steve Bell and the four keynote speakers. From the left, Steve Bell, Esther de Waal, Shane Claiborne, Sister Sue Mosteller and Father Ron Rolheiser.

The *Way of the Heart* conference, held June 9th-11th, made an important contribution to marking the 20th anniversary of the death of Henri Nouwen. Many former friends of Henri were present and the venue — the beautiful and welcoming Mississauga campus of the University of Toronto — provided a wonderful space to re-connect.

Karen Pascal, Executive Director of the Henri Nouwen Society and Legacy Trust, had the vision for the conference. People came from England and Europe and all parts of North America. Scholarships helped make possible a wonderful mix in ages, from young people to Henri's contemporaries and every age in between. Colette Halferty, Daybreak's former Development Director and now the Director of Philanthropy and Special Events for the Nouwen Society, played a key role in organizing the conference.

The choice of speakers and break-out session leaders reflected the quality and diversity that the conference wanted to achieve. Keynote speakers ranged from our own beloved Sr. Sue Mosteller, to Esther de Waal — a scholar of the Benedictine tradition, to Father Ron Rolheiser — scholar and best-selling author, to Shane Claiborne — a dynamic Christian activist and author whose engaging presentations challenged us to walk the talk when it comes to poverty and homelessness. Perfectly timed audio video content enhanced the presentations. Well-known Winnipeg musician Steve Bell

introduced the major sessions.

In a stirring opening keynote, Sue Mosteller spoke of living into the inner experience that we are "enough," and that we can be at home in who we are and can carry on, trusting that voice and not the inner or outer voices that may tell us we are not good enough. A highlight for me was hearing Father Ron Rolheiser, who gave two fascinating keynotes. In "Henri Nouwen: A Saint for the Complex — The Complex, Anguished Genius of an Artist," he brilliantly explored Henri's sensibility, recognizing the agony and ecstasy - the mystical genius - that are so often bound together in the artist and were evident in Henri's life. I hope that these lectures may eventually emerge as a book.

It was not easy to choose among the interesting break-out sessions, but one was outstanding in my view. This was the presentation by Gabrielle Earnshaw, founding archivist of the Nouwen archives at the Kelly Library who culled through over 3,000 of Henri's personal letters spanning the years 1974 to 1996. Focusing on his pastoral letters, she selected and edited 204 that will appear in a book, *Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life*, to be published by Random House in October of this year.

Karen Pascal commented after the Conference, "There was such a sweet spirit.... I think the conference met the longing of those present for transformational possibilities and called them to action." I would agree. ✚

## 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*, 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.

## DAYSpring CLOSED

**Friday, November 19** - Community Weekend

## L'ARCHE

L'Arche is an international movement of nearly 150 communities around the world where people with intellectual disabilities and those who care for them share life together. Canadian Jean Vanier founded L'Arche in France in 1964.

*"Can we reasonably have a dream of a world where people, whatever their race, religion, culture, abilities or disabilities, whatever their education or economic situation, whatever their age or gender, can find a place and reveal their gifts?"*

-Jean Vanier



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Development Office  
11339 Yonge Street  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4S 1L1 ~ Canada  
Telephone: (905) 884-3454 ext. 285  
e-mail: [wpot@larchedaybreak.com](mailto:wpot@larchedaybreak.com)  
[www.larchedaybreak.com](http://www.larchedaybreak.com)  
Editors: Christine Gameson  
Carl MacMillan  
Warren Pot

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