

# L'Arche Daybreak's Vision for 2011

By Carl MacMillan

The beginning of a new year is always a good time for us to reflect on what we are living in our own community, and to be reminded of the international community of L'Arche of which Daybreak is part. It has been a harsh beginning to 2011 for people in Australia and Brazil where there has been horrific flooding, and in Egypt and the Ivory Coast where there is continued political instability. As we review our hopes and goals for L'Arche Daybreak over the coming year, it is important to remember these places where life can be very fragile and where things are often centered on survival. At Daybreak, we keep in our prayers many people across our world. We also offer our ongoing commitment to L'Arche communities in the South through Solidarity initiatives.

In October, the Board of Directors, the Assistant Council, and the Leadership Team met to re-visit our Community Mandate and to discern some key directions at L'Arche Daybreak for the coming year. The meeting was fruitful, and we outlined these three goals: 1) Building relationships in the local community, 2) Developing a strategic plan for archival photographs and images, and 3) Supporting the commitment of Board members.

Over the course of our *Signs of Hope* capital campaign, we have developed



David Harmon stands with Carl MacMillan in front of the mural for this year's Community Weekend at Daybreak's Meeting Hall. The theme for the weekend was "Signs of Hope."

some significant new relationships in Richmond Hill. We want to continue to nurture these new friendships as we make renovations to the Big House and the Club with funds that have come to us through our *Signs of Hope* campaign.

L'Arche Daybreak has over 5,000 photographs, slides and digital images from the history of our community that we want to add to the L'Arche Daybreak Archives in the Kelly Library at the University of Toronto. We realize that the large project of scanning and cataloguing these images will require time and energy, and we know that it will be important to begin this work while some founding members can contribute to it.

The L'Arche Daybreak community

depends on its Board of Directors for guidance and governance, as well as for legal and financial accountability. We want to honour the commitment of the members of today's Board, as well as prepare for the Board in years to come.

The year promises to be an exciting one as we embark upon construction projects that we have been dreaming about for years. Our hope is that these endeavours will expand L'Arche Daybreak's capacity to welcome new people to our day programs, as well as to broaden our ability to build relationships of all kinds locally and regionally – with other human service organizations, with schools, with the business community and with religious and cultural entities. ♣

A Meditation by Henri Nouwen

## Birthdays

Birthdays need to be celebrated. I think it is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion, or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone: "Thank you for being you." Celebrating a birthday is exalting life and being glad for it. On a birthday we do not say: "Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished." No, we say: "Thank you for being born and being among us."

On birthdays we celebrate the present. We do not complain about what happened or speculate about what will happen, but we lift someone up and let everyone say: "We love you."

*"Celebrating a birthday reminds us of the goodness of life, and in this spirit we really need to celebrate people's birthdays every day..."*

I know a friend who, on his birthday, is picked up by his friends, carried to the bathroom, and thrown clothes and all into a tub full of water. Everyone eagerly awaits his birthday, even he himself. I have no idea where this tradition came from, but to be lifted up and "re-baptized" seems like a very good



Nancy Murtha and Carlos Rivera animated the opening ceremonies for the Community Weekend.

way to have your life celebrated. We are made aware that although we have to keep our feet on the ground, we are created to reach to the heavens, and that, although we easily get dirty, we can always be washed clean again and our life given a new start.

Celebrating a birthday reminds us of the goodness of life, and in this spirit we really need to celebrate people's birthdays every day by showing gratitude, kindness, forgiveness, gentleness, and affection. These are ways of saying: "It's good that you are alive; it's good that you are walking with me on this earth. Let's be glad and rejoice. This is the day that God has made for us to be and to be together." ♣

## New Henri Nouwen Spirituality Series Launched

Developed through a partnership between the Henri Nouwen Society and Upper Room Ministries, the new Spirituality Series offer fresh presentations of themes close to Henri's heart. The first volume is *A Spirituality of Fundraising*. The second volume, *A Spirituality of Care-Giving*, will be available later this year. All books in the Henri Nouwen Spirituality Series may be purchased at Daybreak Books & Media by calling 905-884-3454 ext. 234 or 1-800-853-1412. ♣

## Community Notes



Sania Ahmed, a new artisan at the Craft Studio, presses coils together to make a ceramic bowl.

**Amanda Winnington-Ingram** was baptized at Richmond Hill United Church on Sunday, November 28th. Amanda participated in a preparation program with other young people at the Church where her presence is deeply appreciated.

**Liska Stefko**, former Dayspring Coordinator, was ordained as an Anglican priest on the evening of November 30th at Church of the Redeemer in Toronto. The Spirit Movers, dancing *How Can I Keep from Singing?*, were part of the Gospel procession during the ordination ceremony, moving the entire congregation to tears in an unforgettable way. Many people from Daybreak attended. Liska celebrated the Eucharist at Dayspring for the first time on a Friday evening on February 4th.

**Jenna Power** is L'Arche Daybreak's newest core member. Jenna lives at Brookwood House and is part of the Day Program where she has participated for the past several years. Jenna, a graduate of St. Elizabeth Catholic High School, is from Richmond Hill.

**The Gospel of John** is the theme of a L'Arche retreat given by Jean Vanier at La Ferme, the retreat house at the original L'Arche community in Trosly, France. Now 81, Vanier travels less yet he remains active as the founder and spiritual leader of L'Arche. The retreat was given in two sessions — in September of 2010 and February of 2011 — gathering 30 long term members from throughout the world. From L'Arche Daybreak the following people attended: Jacquie Boughner, Wendy Lywood, Sue Mosteller, Marie Paradis, Ann Pavilonis, Lorenzo Sforza-Cesarini, and Toni Urbanski.



Mary Bastedo and Wendy Lywood give Amanda Winnington-Ingram a blessing at her baptism at Richmond Hill United Church.

## Community Wish List

Twin bed sheets.....	\$50
Spruce tree .....	\$100
Plexiglass candle moulds .....	\$200
12 setting dinner set .....	\$500
Spirit Mover costumes .....	\$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.

## Signs of Hope Campaign Nears Goal



This architectural rendering shows the form of the enlarged 'Club' after the planned renovations.

Since the public launch of the *Signs of Hope* Campaign in September, L'Arche Daybreak has been very encouraged by the generous support that has come from our friends and donors, from foundations and from the corporate community. Among the gifts was a major pledge designated for renovations at 'The Club' which is housed in the small white cottage just north of the Big House. The house itself was a gift given many years ago by the Pick Seed Company that once had offices just south of Daybreak on Yonge Street.

In the mid-1990s, the Ontario Trillium Foundation gave a major grant to L'Arche Daybreak that made the house accessible for wheelchairs. A long, inviting wheelchair accessible walk, designed by architect Joe Lobko, now winds up the incline upon which the house is perched. Over the years, a wheelchair accessible washroom has been added, and in recent years the kitchen was fully remodeled. The building has long been home for 'The Club' which was in its early years called 'the Seniors Program.' Now an inter-generational program that operates every weekday, 'The Club' welcomes people who are interested in a more gentle rhythm than the industry of our work programs. Tea-time, table crafts, and the faithful viewing of the TV game show *The Price is Right* are among the regular activities treasured by members of 'The Club.' Francis Maurice, who is featured in the front page articles of this *Daybreak Newsbreak*, was a founding member of 'The Club.'

The living room at 'The Club' is a traditional size for a cozy cottage – but it

has become very cramped when there are several people there with walkers or wheelchairs – especially during nap-time when the sofa footrests are kicked up! The renovation planned for 'The Club' is modest – but it will have a welcome impact on the space and its spirit of welcome. The south wall of the living room will be "punched out" adding precious new space and providing a wall of windows that will bathe the room with daylight. *The Price is Right* will be viewed in a built-in wall-mounted television. New flooring material with consistent colouring will provide security and comfort for members of 'The Club' who appreciate that feature so dear to people of a certain age. We expect work to begin on 'The Club' renovations this summer and take about two months to complete.

The Big House will also be undergoing major renovations, although from the outside the changes will be subtle. Built in 1926, the building is considered of "heritage" vintage for Richmond Hill. The original window and door openings and brickwork will be maintained. Windows will be replaced in an historically sensitive way to be consistent throughout the building. On the inside, especially on the first floor, the Big House will have a very new look. The south entry will feature a new vestibule that will shelter the interior from the elements. The new reception area will include working space for two people, bringing a personal touch for the welcome of visitors. An enlarged meeting room and a first floor kitchen will also enhance opportunities for hospitality and community-building at the Big House. ♣

### 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 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 130 communities where people with intellectual disabilities and those who care for them live, work and learn 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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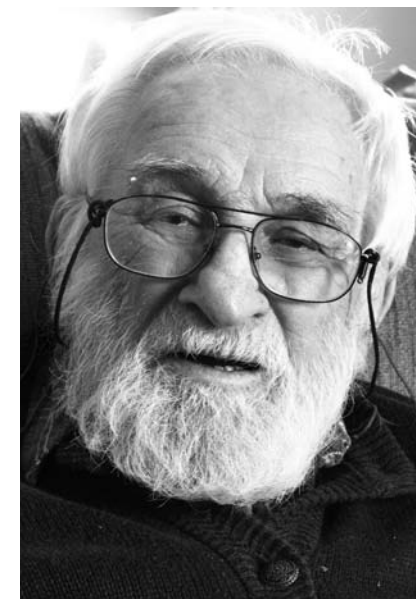
Daybreak Newsbreak

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## Francis Maurice Created Home *By Mary Bastedo*

For the past 88 years, we have held the treasure of the life of Francis Maurice. Francis was born on October 15, 1922 in Ingersoll, Ontario, the fourth youngest of the 13 children of Rose and Thomas Maurice. He lived in Ingersoll for almost 50 years. Francis was very engaged with the community and with his family. His brother Jimmy remembers fondly swimming and fishing with him. Francis loved sports. He was the bat boy for the Ingersoll Junior softball team and part of the hockey team. He was also a real support for his mom, doing errands and jobs around the house, like shoveling snow, mowing the lawn and chopping wood. After his mother died, Francis moved to Markham with his brother Joe and sister-in-law Patti, and soon afterwards came to L'Arche Daybreak in April of 1972.

Francis lived initially at the Big House, and then in 1974 was part of the founding group that opened the Green House. In 1984, he helped to found Daybreak's former Mill Street House. And in 1995 Francis joined Linda Slinger, Mike Arnett and Helen Jordan in starting the Red House. So, Francis was a founder of three Daybreak homes – the Green House, Mill Street and the Red House. Fran-



Francis Maurice lived at L'Arche Daybreak from 1974 until his death in 2010. He died on October 27th at the Mariann Home in Richmond Hill.



Francis Maurice is pictured here with some of his paintings that were part of the art show and auction at L'Arche Daybreak's 40th Anniversary Gala in May 2009.

cis had a gift for creating home. He enjoyed being in the kitchen – cooking, emptying the dishwasher, taking out the recycling. He was companionable – great at peeling potatoes. Francis assumed a role at the head of the table, as the patriarch, leading prayer. He was especially mindful of the weaker members of the household and he made sure the assistants were being attentive to their needs. Francis was a real leader in creating home at

Daybreak in four of our homes for nearly four decades. ♣

*Mary Bastedo gave the eulogy at Francis' funeral from which these articles were adapted. The funeral took place on October 29th at St. Mary Immaculate Church in Richmond Hill where Francis had been an usher for many years. Mary Bastedo is Coordinator of the Cedars, L'Arche Daybreak's retreat house.*

## Francis Lived to Celebrate

Over the past year Francis experienced a series of medical challenges. He was in and out of York Central Hospital for various respiratory and heart problems. Finally, in August he moved into long-term care at the Mariann Home. Francis liked it right away there. He had his T.V. positioned in just the right place so he could watch his beloved cowboy movies and musicals and do his drawing. I think something profound happened within Francis during those two final months. He became more peaceful and content. I had the feeling that God was holding him, cradling him, preparing him for the next transition.

Francis kept talking about his birthday. I had the sense that he was living for that birthday celebration. I sense his 88th birthday was a birth-

day into a new life. It was an amazing day. He went down to the cafeteria for breakfast and everyone sang 'Happy Birthday' to him. His girlfriend Linda Martin was there to greet him bright and early, along with Ann Pavilonis and myself and Beth Porter.

The treasure of Francis' life became more and more evident, even as his body weakened and fell apart. I value those wonderful qualities of his – enthusiasm for life, kindness, friendship and creativity. I'm inspired by his life. I also witnessed to the way God so tenderly and lovingly cared for him and brought his life to a place of peace and fullness. That gives me hope, fills me with gratitude and renews my faith. Indeed, through the face of Francis we have seen the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. ♣