

GOOD WORK NEWS

The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S. Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6

Issue 147

December 2021

Subscription: A Donation Towards our Work

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Image by Gary Palmatier

Facing the Changing Realities of Poverty and Homelessness

By Joe Mancini

The numbers of homelessness continue to grow and they are reflective of the precarious circumstances that result from living with a low-income. The cost of rent has increased substantially over the years and now a one-bedroom is at minimum \$1000 per month. Even those with money can barely find an apartment because the vacancy rate is so low. Those on a social income, those who are unsheltered cannot compete within the housing market. Their only hope is social housing or family. Furthermore, both social housing and shelters are stretched by the complex mental health and substance use issues that are prevalent in society.

This fall the Region of Waterloo put in place a focused plan to have a more complete picture of homelessness in Waterloo Region. This was done by engaging with those experiencing hidden homelessness as well as those in formal Housing Stability programs. This meant a comprehensive effort to survey those who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness and those living in encampments.

The chart below summarizes the findings.

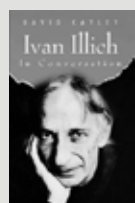
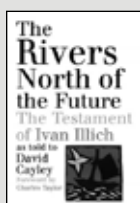
Since 2017, we have seen a growing spike in homelessness. At The Working Centre we have seen this reality in more encampments, more people losing their housing, more people frustrated by the

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“People need not only to obtain things, they need above all the freedom to make things among which they can live, to give shape to them according to their own tastes and to put them to use in caring for and about others.”

Ivan Illich

Ivan Illich (1926 - 2002) influenced The Working Centre with his deep critique of how institutionalization effected the way people act in community. He advocated a philosophy of tools, recognizing how the humble use of tools can help us heal our alienation to each other and to the natural world. Illich emphasized how tools arranged for conviviality have the potential to generate community.



Read a review of David Cayley's *Ivan Illich: An Intellectual Journey* on page 6

Homelessness in Waterloo Region

Individuals experiencing homelessness

1,085

from the Region of Waterloo's Point In Time Report, 2021

↑
225% increase over three years

333

2018

2021

813 Homeless for more than six months

412

Living rough in encampments, on the street, or in a vehicle

335

Hidden homelessness

191

Emergency shelter

84

Transitional housing

63

Institutions (Hospital, Police custody, Women's Crisis)

Emergency Temporary Shelter at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's Presbyterian (Queen N. and Weber) has agreed to be a partner to establish a shelter seven nights a week this winter, operated by The Working Centre and supported by the Region of Waterloo.

As we work to open the shelter as quickly as possible, we will be looking for:

- donations of blankets, pillows and sheets
- volunteers who are able to support this work
- offers of support to help make this effort possible



Donate to support The Working Centre Community

Read our donation letter on page 8

Thirty Seventh Year

Issue 147

December 2021

Good Work News

Good Work News was first produced in September 1984. It is published four times a year by The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen as a forum of opinions and ideas on work and unemployment. Four issues of Good Work News constitutes our annual report. There is a circulation of 13,000 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

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Alternative Gift Giving

Your donation to The Working Centre can be turned into a creative gift giving idea. Each donation card details the work supported through your donation. *As the donor, you will receive a tax receipt, plus the card to give as a recognition of your gift. Also available through our online catalogue.*

Lunch for 400 people using St. John's Kitchen each day

A \$50 donation will help to cover food costs for providing the daily meal

Winter Items

A \$10 donation will help purchase gloves, hats, scarfs, and socks for someone in need

Laundry and Clean Clothes

Each day, 5 to 10 people do laundry, take a shower, and access clean clothing. A \$50 donation will go towards laundry costs per month

Cab Fare

A \$20 donation will help someone in crisis pay for their ride to the hospital or detox.

An Alternative Christmas Gift Idea

For donations made in the name of family and friends, we will gladly send a Christmas card acknowledging your gift.

Please direct my gift to:

St. John's Kitchen The Working Centre

Please send a Christmas card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Your name, email, and address:

(So we can send you an Income Tax receipt).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

For credit card payment please visit online at: donate.theworkingcentre.org or call 519.743.1151 x111

Would you like to donate through e-transfer?
Please call us at 519.743.1151 x111 to set it up.

Facing Changing Realities

continued from page 1

inability to get in from the cold. When we opened the warming centres in November 2019 at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and the vacant Tim Hortons, it was because the numbers sleeping unsheltered were higher than they had ever been. We were not surprised when over 225 different people sought shelter at these sites.

Two years later, even with the 80 people at University Avenue Dorm housing, the 50 people at A Better Tent City and a further 70 motel rooms, there are still many without the ability to access shelter.

Here are just some recent examples from outreach workers:

- A woman in a tent, unable to access shelters because of past violence, refusing mental health supports, keeping warm as the nights grow colder
- A couple takes over someone's supportive housing unit, offering money to help buy drugs, thus compelling the person to let them stay long after the money is spent
- A dozen people huddle together under blankets outside UA, sharing body warmth in order to sleep
- Person after person sneaks in to the dorms at UA and crash with a friend, who is only too happy to share their room
- Campsites across the city, where outreach is asked to visit - people are connected to services but there are no solutions to find housing or shelter - and they are required to move on to a new place
- A man running a propane heater so he and his dog stay warm in a storage unit as the days get colder
- A mom and three adult sons all struggle to find housing, and are able to move out of their car as they share a temporary motel room
- Tents, sleeping bags, socks, warm coats, boots - shared in constant supply to help people keep warm

The situations and stories are increasingly stark and harsh.

In our financial empowerment partnership with Prosper Canada and other organizations across Canada, we are seeing the precarious situations faced by many people who



In October, A Better Tent City moved to its new location on Ardelt Place in Kitchener

are not quite homeless but are just managing to hold things together. See the link to the Prosper Canada report down below for more details.

These numbers are reinforced by Waterloo Region Food Bank statistics. The Working Centre has distributed about 12% of the food distributed by Waterloo Region Food Bank who state that:

- 6,845,860 pounds of food was acquired, coordinated, and distributed to a network of 100+ community programs and agency partners in Waterloo Region
- 34,620 people in Waterloo Region had access to food when they needed it

The evidence is all around us, as we all pitch in to respond to this disturbing shift over the past five years. There is so much work to reconcile these shifting realities with our perception of Waterloo Region as a caring community that is equitable and looks after those most vulnerable.

Plans to Establish A Temporary Shelter at St. Andrew's

We are grateful that St. Andrews will be partnering with The Working Centre as we host a temporary shelter this winter. They have acted to respond to the reality that there are not enough shelter spaces, resulting in too many people left out in the cold. With the help of the Region of Waterloo, this response is possible. It is hard, steady work, night after night providing supports in spite of the complexities while ensuring set up, garbage collection and cleaning, serving meals and snacks, listening and problem solving. We welcome community support as this temporary shelter gets off the ground.

Waterloo Region Point In Time Count:

<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?newsId=b22ceaaa-2181-404f-b52b-5c162ba7999f>

Prosper Canada:

<https://prospercanada.org/News-Media/News/New-study-shows-low-income-Canadians-fighting-for.aspx>

Food Bank of Waterloo Region Annual Report:

https://www.thefoodbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/HR-11752_Foodbank_Annualreport_Digital-1.pdf

Beautiful Acts of Solidarity

By Stephanie Mancini

Our work, as it has been lived during the pandemic, has been hard and deep, relentless and beautiful, as we have stood with people who are left out in so many ways – of housing, of indoor spaces, of bathrooms, of safety, of work. Many of the updates in Good Work News reflect the breadth and depth of the activities we have engaged in, but these stories have not been enough to convey the depth of the numbers of people affected. We have:

- Opened our doors at St. John's Kitchen to those who are unsheltered, supporting access to bathrooms, showers, food, community and healthcare supports;
- We serve 600 meals a day to people needing access to food supports;
- We support 70+ people in motels offering interim shelter based on health and mental health issues;
- We support 80 people at University Ave interim housing;
- We problem solve the income support and work related issues for people who are teetering on the edge of homelessness;
- We have participated in consistent strategic problem-solving tables focusing on youth homelessness, adult men homelessness, adult women homelessness, unsheltered homelessness.

Our work has responded to the basic needs of people before us for food, tents, sleeping bags, support, problem-solving complex mental health and health access, job searching, income support conundrums. A person at a time, a situation at a time. Each important and teaching us about the challenges before us as people in our community face deeper hardships, particularly centred on the lack of affordable housing.

The Record article about the Point in Time Count, which reported the efforts to draw attention to this issue stated “hundreds of people are living in the roughest possible conditions, have been homeless for months on end and struggle with other serious health issues while also being without a permanent home.”

Waterloo Regional Councillor Jim Erb stated, “I think it's a wake-up call for all of us in the community to recognize how widespread this is.’ Hundreds of people living without access to shelter or housing, and cold winter weather approaching.”

See the highlights of the Point In Time Count on page one of Good Work News.

Every day in our work we see beautiful acts of solidarity as people gather to share a place, watch to keep each other alive, ally with us in creative ways to create community, humbly walk through the challenges they face. Every day in our work, we see the importance of small, strategic, steady acts of radical kindness that work to unravel the deep challenges that mire people in a web of complexities.

How do we make sense of this as a Waterloo Region reality? Now what?

There are long-term systemic strategies that are important, and we keep at the work of this change, but it does not reflect the urgency and importance of short-term responses now.

Every day in our work we see hardship, a poison drug supply, deep physical and mental health issues and breakdown, people who are becoming more disenfranchised, stealing from one another to support a pervasive drug dependency, people looking for work that can support the increasing cost for housing/shelter.

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There are many stories, people, moments that could be shared in Good Work News. Two stories will highlight the risks faced by people who are off-grid and homeless, and those who are at risk of losing their housing.

Holding on to Housing

J was a man who had built a life supporting a disabled partner. He had about \$250/month in income but worked as her live-in care-giver in subsidized housing. Unfortunately, COVID took her away this Spring, and he descended into depression, overwhelmed by his situation and the world around him. As she had gotten sicker, they had fallen behind in rental payments and owed arrears. After she died he receded from the world and was unable to face the realities around him, thus leading to an eviction notice. A chance meeting with an old friend, a Working Centre housing worker, helped to start to open up the story, followed by an email to ask – what can we do?

A beautiful series of events ensued. J was connected to our Money Matters team, where we explored his potential for a social income, for access to benefits through completing a couple of years of income tax returns, and helped him to receive survivor benefits through OAS. An application to Trillium Drug Benefits helped him to receive support for his medication expenses. He was connected to Ontario Works emergency benefits, helped to access supports for an eye exam, and we are working to help him get the coverage he needs to get new glasses. He will have back payment coming to him that may be close to the amount he owes in arrears. The eviction notice still looms and our housing team stepped in to problem-solve. Conversations with his landlord have determined the process has to continue at this time as planned, but we will walk with him through the RTA hearing and hope to strategize a way he is not evicted, and can come up with a payment plan for arrears. He turns 65 soon and will receive more income at that point.

More than anything, he feels heard, feels like he has allies around him, and the problems don't feel as daunting as they were. Complex, inter-related issues leave people feeling so overwhelmed that they become frozen and unable to act. Patient listening, unravelling of the knots, improving access and feeling the support of a community – these are the stepping stones through the rapids that threaten people's well-being.



A Christmas Story

And now for our “Christmas story”, which layers this story in myth, but also reminds us that these are moments that can be lost so easily in the blur of the day-to-day busy-ness.

We currently support around 70 people in emergency motel situations – places where life is hard, often dangerous, but provides shelter when people have medical/mental health situations where living outside is no longer possible. These rooms are a scarcity – motels are full, funding is limited, so many people seek access to these spaces every day and we need to make hard decisions about how to shepherd this resource.

A call came from one of our outreach nurses – a couple has approached me today, they have been living in the woods for a year, but she is pregnant and he has a painful back issue – I would like to help them to access a motel room, can we do this? We are facing this decision at the same time as a deep pressure to reduce the number of motel rooms – the COVID funds that have supported these motel rooms is ending, and we need to reduce the number of motel rooms by half. Urgently!

Ethic of right action confronts responsible brokering of community resources. The answer should be no. There is no room at the inn. Literally. The next issue is before us, new priorities demand attention, the moment could be missed.

But we didn't. Instead, we said right action says we need to support this couple who are becoming a family. In retrospect we have such gratitude that we said yes. The baby was born early, the next weekend after they came to the motel, on the floor of the motel room, and then whisked off to hospital with a community of support around them.

We are grateful for grace, for the personal action that holds each person as important, for the gathering of resources that help us to do right action. Understanding that it is so easy to miss important moments, so easy to let other pressures distract us. Grateful for the solidarity and creative problem-solving that helps us to be present with people in harsh, complex and heart-breaking circumstances.

This is the web of relationships, connections and responsiveness that holds each person as important, loved and respected. It takes a community to do this work. We are grateful for you, who help us to make this work possible.



Reflecting on the Gifts of Work

By Kara Peters Unrau

As we head into winter, it is amazing to reflect on where we all were this time last year! We have closed, transformed, built, renovated, re-imagined, held, re-held, opened and re-opened time and time again – all within this Working Centre ecosystem.

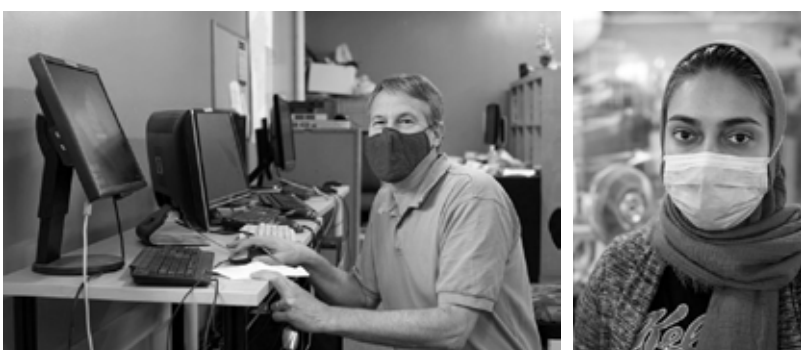
There are many new faces involved in the work at TWC since March 2020 (Welcome! Welcome!), and many others who have had to work remotely, or in a more restricted way. In pre-COVID times we would intentionally spend time in multiple project spaces to weave the threads of projects, resources, and people at The Working Centre. It continues to feel strange to be this disconnected when historically we were so incredibly interwoven and integrated. And yet 120 people show up and work together, contributing their daily work to our community projects. No small thing!

Photographer Doug MacLellan, a friend of The Working Centre, has been spending time in our spaces this fall – using his talent with a camera to help us to see each other in another way. The gift of work is offered in such a wide range of ways, in many different contexts – and it is so important to reflect on the meaningful relationships that hold this complex work together.

- Sarah as she hands out mail to community members at the Resource Centre on Queen Street
- Michael stirring a very very big pot of beans at Maurita's Kitchen
- Gemma serving coffee at SJK in the morning
- Alex hauling scrap metal from Recycle Cycles
- Pam making grilled cheese at the UA kitchen for a resident
- Nikki accompanying a community member to the hospital
- Ala on the Money Matters phone with CRA talking through a complex tax benefit situation
- Kiegan putting together the new furniture for Water Street House resident rooms
- Katinka bringing food or drink to someone in their room at UA
- Myrna baking yummy muffins (so many!) at Maurita's Kitchen
- Orhan programming a fob for a new resident
- Aaron strategizing with a contractor to fix the plumbing
- Bryan hosting community members at the laundry at SJK
- Connie and Sarah in the WASL parking lot checking in on sleeping folks in the morning
- Krista at the Receiving Desk handing out bus tickets to Nico for Street Outreach
- Zana providing wound care for a community member at a motel
- Don walking up the back steps at 256K to check in with a resident in supportive housing
- Ian hosting the front door at UA
- Gwen handing out to-go meals at the SJK Garage
- Deb walking through uptown Waterloo with the Discovery Team
- Hoshim unloading furniture from the WASL truck for a community member who has just moved into their new home
- Jen supporting a scheduling request for a housing worker
- Chris meeting with Job Café workers before their Clean Team shift in downtown Kitchener
- Rebekah negotiating an order of supplies
- Martin setting up a cell phone for a new outreach worker
- Diane picking up a donation of masks and sanitizer
- Berenice organizing the Food Bank supplies at Maurita's Kitchen

...and so many more people, and so many more ways of contributing!

It is exciting to be able to reflect on all the good work that is happening – even in this time of pandemic. It is a step of faith and a movement into the unknown to be meeting people who are vulnerable where they are at. There is so much gratitude for all the people who are a part of our interconnected web – and all the intention and presence that is brought as we walk with real people, with real complexities, each and every day.





St. John's Kitchen

St. John's Kitchen has been open on weekdays for 30 – 40 people at a time, serving up to 200 people a day, mostly those who are unsheltered, to eat a meal, to connect with other services, use of the washrooms (there are very few public washrooms that are open), showers, access to laundry, the hamper room for take-away snacks, and drinking water.

St. John's Kitchen distributes up to another 150 meals each day in packaged take-out containers. These are served out of the Garage. Many of these meals are given out to people who live near the kitchen in rooms and apartments and would have been regulars at St. John's Kitchen.

We continue to be an important base for problem-solving, connection to community resources, and support for housing or shelter options. In collaboration with our Inner City Health Alliance partners we support vaccination clinics, COVID-responses and testing, providing PPE, supports to people isolating, and encouragement along the way.

Preparing 600 meals per day

Last year we renovated Maurita's Kitchen into a commissary kitchen. Every day delicious and hearty meals are prepared and made ready for serving to St. John's Kitchen, University Ave housing, our supportive housing locations, and motels.

In partnership with the Food Bank of Waterloo Region, we have made sure that people have access to hearty meals, snacks, drinks, and hamper items – a real discipline when so many other access points have shut down during COVID.

This year the Food Bank of Waterloo Region delivered 754,195 pounds of food. This food was distributed or turned into daily meals serving over 600 people each day. We are grateful to the Food Bank and all those who prepare and serve this food. This is important work to ensure equitable access to food.



University Avenue Housing

We are one year in to our interim housing project at University Ave, a converted student dorm, providing housing for 80 people who have been long-term unhoused and unsheltered. With the help of the Region of Waterloo, we brought together a complex mix of people to create a space of stability, affordability and safety. Our cafeteria-style kitchen at UA feeds 80 people a day, 24 hours a day. It is a place that offers rest, nutritious food and social supports. 80 people have made this challenging but successful housing project their home this past year.

Shelter and Housing

We are currently hosting 60 motel rooms for people who are unwell and unsheltered. We are grateful to the COVID-funds that have made these motel rooms available, and for the combined Street Outreach and Specialized Outreach Services that support access to medical supports, wound care, COVID-isolation supports, connections to primary care, housing services, legal services and wellness checks. The deep mental health and substance use issues combine in ways that leave people vulnerable in these times where resources are scarce.

The daily rounds and wellness checks, the food deliveries, connection to health care and probation, helping people to line up documents in order to be housing-ready, helping people to be as safe as possible as people scramble for basic needs in a world turned upside-down.



Employment and Financial Supports

The world of Job Searching and Income Support has also turned upside down. Finding work that is safe, helping New Canadians with limited language skills, and sorting out the changing landscape of Income Support and benefits. We are supporting older workers looking to be safe in their work and feeling vulnerable, women who are trying to support their children after family breakdown, people who are searching for new work.

Hours and hours are spent researching, accessing supports, and offering patient, thoughtful work to unravel knots and open up possibilities. The Job Search Resource Centre helped over 500 people with job searching while Money Matters helped 2,854 people navigate income supports and 1,685 people file tax returns.



Community Tool Projects

Community Tool projects create access to basic resources like furniture, clothing, bikes and computers. These projects are important public spaces that counter social isolation. The Market Garden has had a successful growing season demonstrating urban agriculture, Worth a Second Look has been open and redistributing used furniture and housewares, Computer Recycling is starting new open hours and Recycle Cycles has had a good summer recycling and repairing bikes. Volunteers help make the work possible.

The Job Cafe has provided continuous work throughout the pandemic doing renovation work, Discovery Team in downtown Kitchener and Waterloo and daily evening garbage pick up in downtown Kitchener.

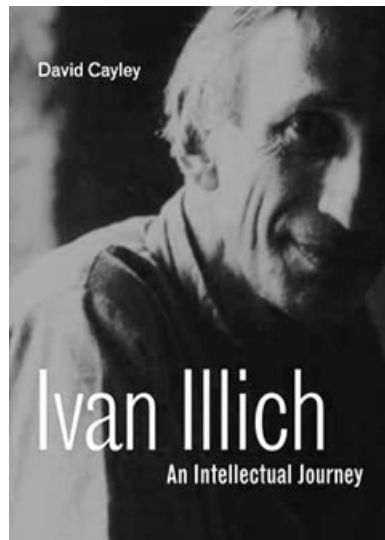
Ivan Illich: An Intellectual Journey

By Joe Mancini

It is encouraging to see a resurgence in awareness and understanding of the ideas of Ivan Illich. Much credit for this revitalization goes to David Cayley and his staunch determination to keep the flame alive. Earlier this year, Penn State University Press published Cayley's latest work, *Ivan Illich: An Intellectual Journey*. This book is a masterpiece of storytelling that unpacks the insight behind Illich's writings while intertwining his influential work on the ground as a priest, activist, itinerant scholar and founder of an alternative education culture in Cuernavaca, Mexico. This book is truly Cayley's gift to the reader, providing a key to help decode our tumultuous world.

Cayley tells the story of Ivan Illich through descriptions of the many ways in which society has managed to sleep walk into a fully and completely institutionalized existence. When Illich started writing in the 1950's he, similar to many of his peers, saw the possibility that institutions could be democratically managed and turned into instruments of creativity, diversity and cultural support. Illich's insights flowered in the 1970's with books on medicine, energy, schooling, work and tools that proclaimed the possibility of an alternative future that incorporated limits, space for the homemade, access to tools, learning networks and self-care. Yet at the same time the scope for institutions grew and expanded with little interest in making decentralized structures effective. Rather, the combination of digitalization, dependence on consumerism, centralized tools and management techniques became the means for dominating cultural structures. The ideals of *Tools for Conviviality* were swarmed by dominating institutional growth.

Illich warned of the institutionalized cage that was being built. In *Tools for Conviviality* he had already predicted what would



happen if limits and balances were not found. He described an "uninhabitable social and natural environment in which personal initiative would shrink, polarization would grow," "all bridges to a normative past" would be broken and "the world [would be] transform[ed] ... into a treatment ward in which people are constantly taught, socialized, normalized, tested and reformed."

The Art of Living

The world that has been created through institutions and technology gives the illusion of freedom but this technocratic world holds little meaning if our culture has forgotten how to teach the art of living. The search for meaning and foundation is now being conducted after our social and cultural traditions have begun to fade. The art of living is the heart of culture. It is a deep understanding of the meaning of suffering. It is the teaching of relationship building and the importance of compassion. It is practicing how to know who is my neighbour. It is creating room for seeing joy in the success of others. Dorothy Day taught that the only way to personally deepen the meaning of love is by taking less and giving to others. The art of living is not taught in institutions, it is lived in cultures where the common good

is "summoned through solidarity" and comes alive in day to day work.

In this dense but readable journey of the Illich story, David Cayley follows three themes that are relevant to Working Centre ideas on how to re-embed the art of living into culture. In other words, how to slow down the institutional train and start building a more intentional culture in our neighbourhoods. This is less a political program than the importance of teaching culture to one another.

Multiple Balances

David draws a portrait of Illich as a philosopher of complementarity, a philosopher who saw the need for multiple balances on every question, and especially how contradiction and proportionality were a fact of human existence. Illich drew these insights into his works, describing the social reality on the ground. He was certain that as the number of cars increased, bikes and people were pushed off the road. Even with a new push for bike lanes, it is hard to refute that conclusion. The more schooling dominates society, the greater the number of people who are marginalized by credentialism. One size fits all solutions are worse than an illusion, they turn into dominating structures that reduce autonomous action. Complementarity for Illich was a principle of opposition to large, centralizing structures and it offers a means towards developing limits. His hope for multiple balances was creating room for decentralized ways of acting that renounce grand plans and instead contribute to projects and simple daily living that make the community better.

Constitution of Limits

A core tenant of Illich's thought was his concern that society had an "impossible dream of endless growth and ever-intensifying institutional care." Cayley summarizes Illich's opposition to this dream in one catchy phrase – a Constitution of Limits.

How can we embrace limits both to understand our humanity and to create structures at the grassroots that avoid dominating interventions that reduce autonomous action?

Illich, as Cayley often emphasizes, had no more use for state imposed healthcare than state mandated environmental plans. Illich used all his life energy to teach and describe how human communities can use less and share more. But now, as consumption of the earth's resources skyrocket beyond sustainability, absolute limits are on the table. COP26 considered capping fossil fuel use. The Globe and Mail wrote an editorial supporting the Liberal government's proposed cap on greenhouse gases from the oil and gas industry which now represents 26% of all greenhouse gases in Canada. Limits are part of our inherent reality. How can we embrace them before even more limits are imposed?

Tools for Conviviality

Community Tools projects at The Working Centre have tried to reflect Illich's insights from his book *Tools for Conviviality*. Cayley helps the reader understand the multiple meanings behind inverting the structure of tools, or as Illich framed it:

"The crisis can only be solved if we invert the present deep structure of tools; if we give people tools that guarantee their right to work with high, independent efficiency, thus simultaneously eliminating the need for either slaves or masters and enhancing each person's range of freedom."

In Illich's language, bikes, gardens, recycling projects, housing all have the potential to be tools where culture grows from the cooperative structure. These projects use tools to model reciprocity, generate sustainable income, recognize the meaning of limits, teach craft and instill the virtues of cooperation. They are gathering places for friendship and service to the community.

David Cayley takes the reader through Illich's 60-year battle with the forces of institutionalization. As a consummate outsider, Illich found strength through lasting friendships. Cayley returns the gift of that friendship as he generously elaborates on Illich's imagination for the common good of becoming fully human.

JOIN ONLINE DISCUSSIONS AT THE WORKING CENTRE



**LOCAL DEMOCRACY CLASS
BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 5th, 2022**

"Democratic relationships in everyday life form the roots of a democratic society."

This winter we are hosting this six-week class online. Classes are **Wednesday evenings from 7 - 9pm** until mid-February.

Together we reflect on our own experiences of democracy and think about what it means to include people in the decisions that affect their lives, what practicing reciprocity looks like, and why everyday equality is necessary for a democratic future.



**READING GROUP:
DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS**

**Online group begins
Monday, January 17th**

How do we design an economy that meets human needs in an environmentally sustainable way?

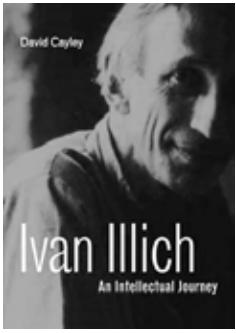
Kate Raworth explores exactly that in her bestseller *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like A 21st-Century Economist*.

If you are interested in participating, **please RSVP by January 10th**. Books for sale through the Working Centre.

To register or for more information, email Isaiah at: isaiahr@theworkingcentre.org

BOOKS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

You can place orders by phone (519-743-1151 x111), or by visiting catalogue.theworkingcentre.org

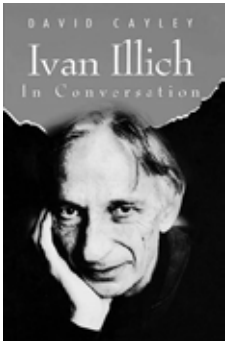


Ivan Illich: An Intellectual Journey

David Cayley

In the years since Ivan Illich's death, David Cayley has been reflecting on the meaning of his friend and teacher's life and work. Now, in *Ivan Illich: An Intellectual Journey*, he presents Illich's body of thought, locating it in its own time and retrieving its relevance for ours. Ranging over every phase of Illich's career and meditating on each of his books, Cayley finds Illich to be as relevant today as ever and more likely to be understood, now that the many convergent crises he foresaw are in full public view and the church that rejected him is paralyzed in its "folkloric" shell.

560 pages | \$63.95 hardcover

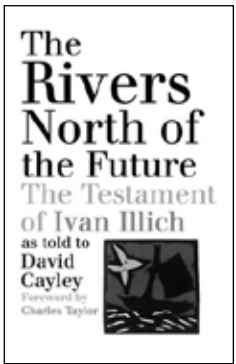


Ivan Illich: In Conversation

David Cayley

In the late 1980's, David Cayley started interviewing Ivan Illich and these fascinating conversations for radio are gathered in *Ivan Illich in Conversation* and range over a wide selection of the celebrated thinker's published work and public career. Illich's brilliant mind alights on topics of great contemporary interest, including education, history, language, politics, and the church.

320 pages | \$21.95 softcover



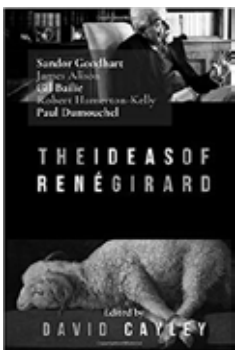
The Rivers North of the Future

The Testament of Ivan Illich

as told to David Cayley

"Ivan Illich was an iconoclast who urged a fundamental rethinking of modern institutions. He believed that Western civilization can only be understood properly as a corruption of the New Testament" This book is based on a series of interviews during which Illich explores how 'the corruption of the best is the worst.' As Charles Taylor notes in his foreword, 'from within [Illich's] perspective, the significance of the Good Samaritan story appears obvious: it is a stage on the road to a universal morality of rules.' Illich's analysis of contemporary society is both a bold historical hypothesis and an invitation to believers to revise and renew their understanding of Christian faith."

256 pages | \$24.95 softcover



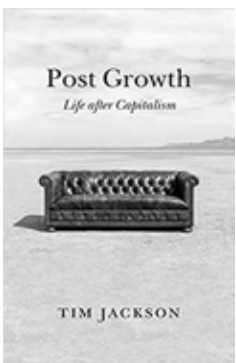
The Ideas of Rene Girard

An Anthropology of Religion and Violence

David Cayley

René Girard was a thinker who fits no category. His ideas fit no academic niche, but they attracted many followers during his long career as a teacher and writer. A large annual conference, "The Colloquium on Violence and Religion," is devoted entirely to his ideas, as is a journal, *Contagion*. Those who participate in these conventions believe that Girard's insights are an intellectual breakthrough. Within the growing circle of his readers and intellectual colleagues, René Girard is regarded as one of those fundamental thinkers who changed the way people look at the world. In this *Ideas* volume, David Cayley and René Girard explore the whole body of Girard's work. En route, they touch on literature, anthropology, the Bible, and the way Biblical revelation has shaped the modern world.

121 pages | \$13.10 softcover



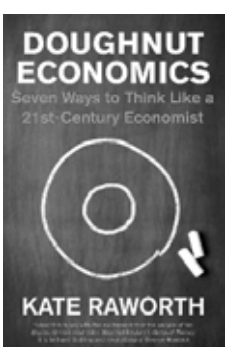
Post Growth: Life after Capitalism

Tim Jackson

Capitalism is broken. The relentless pursuit of more has delivered climate catastrophe, social inequality and financial instability – and left us ill-prepared for life in a global pandemic. Tim Jackson's passionate and provocative book dares us to imagine a world beyond capitalism – a place where relationship and meaning take precedence over profits and power. *Post Growth* is both a manifesto for system change and an invitation to rekindle a deeper conversation about the nature of the human condition.

Tim Jackson is Director of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) and Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey in the UK. For over three decades, he has pioneered research on the moral, economic and social dimensions of prosperity on a finite planet.

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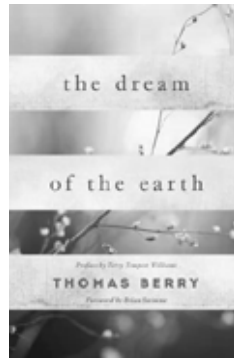
Doughnut Economics

Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist

Kate Raworth

Kate Raworth sets out seven key ways to reframe our understanding of what economics is and does. How we can break our addiction to growth; redesign money, finance, and business to be in service to people; and create economies that are regenerative and distributive by design. Raworth handpicks the best emergent ideas—from ecological, behavioral, feminist, and institutional economics to complexity thinking and Earth-systems science—to address this question: How can we turn economies that need to grow, whether or not they make us thrive, into economies that make us thrive, whether or not they grow?

384 pages | \$24.95 softcover



The Dream of the Earth

Thomas Berry

Noted cultural historian Thomas Berry provides nothing less than a new intellectual–ethical framework for the human community by positing planetary well-being as the measure of all human activity. Drawing on the wisdom of Western philosophy, Asian thought, and Native American traditions, as well as contemporary physics and evolutionary biology, Berry offers a new perspective that recasts our understanding of science, technology, politics, religion, ecology, and education. He shows us why it is important for us to respond to the Earth's need for planetary renewal, and what we must do to break free of the "technological trance" that drives a misguided dream of progress. Only then, he suggests, can we foster mutually enhancing human–Earth relationships that can heal our traumatized global biosystem.

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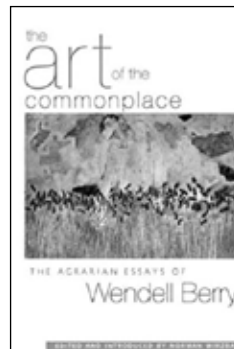
Finding the Mother Tree

Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

Suzanne Simard

Simard describes up close—in revealing and accessible ways—how trees, living side by side for hundreds of years, have evolved; how they perceive one another, learn and adapt their behaviors, recognize neighbors, and remember the past; how they have agency about their future; how they elicit warnings and mount defenses, compete and cooperate with one another with sophistication: characteristics previously ascribed to human intelligence, traits that are the essence of civil societies. And, at the center of it all, the Mother Trees: the mysterious, powerful forces that connect and sustain the others that surround them. Her powerful story is one of love and loss, of observation and change, of risk and reward. And it is a testament to how deeply human scientific inquiry exists beyond data and technology: it's about understanding who we are and our place in the world.

368 pages | \$34.95 hardcover



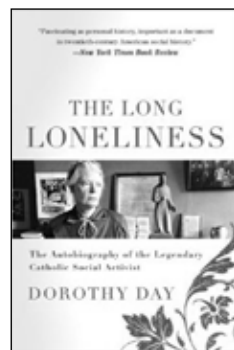
Art of the Common Place

The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry

Wendell Berry

A gathering of twenty-one essays by Wendell Berry that explore ideas such as Why is agriculture becoming culturally irrelevant, and at what cost? What are the forces of social disintegration and how might they be reversed? And, how does the corporate takeover of social institutions and economic practices contribute to the destruction of human and natural environments? These essays express support of local economies, farming communities, and family integrity.

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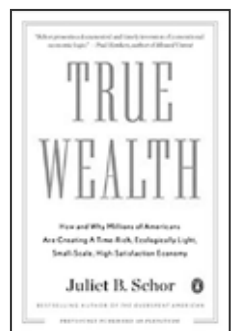
The Long Loneliness

Autobiography of Legendary Catholic Social Activist

Dorothy Day

Here, in her own words, Dorothy Day tells of her early life as a young journalist in the crucible of Greenwich Village political and literary thought in the 1920s, and of her momentous conversion to Catholicism that meant the end of a Bohemian lifestyle and a common-law marriage. The long *Loneliness* chronicles Dorothy Day's lifelong association with Peter Maurin and the genesis of the Catholic Worker Movement. In her commitment to peace, nonviolence, racial justice, and the cause of the poor, she became an inspiration to many other activists.

304 pages | \$21.00 softcover



True Wealth

A Time-Rich, Ecologically Light, Small Scale Economy

Juliet Schor

In *True Wealth*, economist Juliet B. Schor rejects the sacrifice message, with the insight that social innovations and new technology can simultaneously enhance our lives and protect the planet. Schor shares examples of urban farmers, DIY renovators, and others working outside the conventional market to illuminate the path away from the work-and-spend cycle and toward a new world rich in time, creativity, information, and community.

272 pages | \$24.00 softcover



Transition to Common Work

Building Community at The Working Centre

Joe and Stephanie Mancini

The Working Centre in downtown Kitchener, Ontario, is a widely recognized and successful model for community development. Begun from scratch in 1982, it is now a vast network of practical supports for the unemployed, the underemployed, the temporarily employed, and the homeless, populations that collectively constitute up to 30 percent of the labour market both locally and across North America. This essential text is about The Working Centre—its beginnings thirty years ago, the lessons learned, and the myriad ways in which its strategies and innovations can be adapted by those who share its goals.

212 pages | \$20.00 softcover

Building Community for 39 Years



Dear Friends,

It is hard to express the substantial changes to The Working Centre community because of the COVID pandemic. For almost two years, our focus has been to prioritize those unsheltered, those homeless who have been left outdoors, while so many public and private services have been closed to the public.

The commitment of the workers of The Working Centre, in the midst of the pandemic, to extend and grow projects designed to reduce the conditions of homelessness has been breathtaking.

St. John's Kitchen has remained open each weekday as a vital service for the unsheltered. At the same time, each morning in the parking lot, we have run a major food distribution project for those who have shelter but do not have access to healthy food.

By converting Maurita's Kitchen into a commissary kitchen, 600 meals are prepared each day; and are packaged or served at St. John's Kitchen, University Ave housing, motels, and Working Centre supportive housing projects.

Outreach workers during the pandemic have been a main support to the homeless group helping to navigate the challenges of homelessness through providing medical, mental health, wound care, legal, food and housing help. We have been surrounded by those who have no access to housing. The despair is palpable as the cold weather approaches.

The Water Street House has operated throughout the pandemic, providing a safe place for dealing with homelessness and drug use. Our learnings from this work will continue to grow.

Each day The Working Centre estimates that it is supporting over 200 people through our housing projects. The most important example of this are the 80 people who are now living at the dorm residences on University Avenue. UA, as we call it, has become a home to a group of people who had been out in the cold for many years. It is truly remarkable the difference this housing has made on people's lives. Here are some comments from residents:

"I now have a place of my own; I have no family and don't want to feel alone; I finally have a roof over my head."

"I'm not homeless anymore; I think that the medical services provided by the harm reduction team are really helpful."

"I am glad not to be homeless, having the chance to get a house and get my kids back. I have 2 cats, medical services provided."

On Queen Street, the Job Search Resource Centre has been constantly busy providing job search help and support with income tax and navigating COVID income programs. Our Job Café projects in downtown Kitchener have continued street sweeping, evening garbage pickup, and Discovery Teams support that has expanded into Waterloo. We have re-opened most of our Community Tool projects including Recycle Cycles Community Bike Shop, the Market Garden and Greenhouse, Computer Recycling, and Worth A Second Look Furniture and Housewares thrift store.

Your donations have helped us reweave our creative projects to serve the pressing homelessness issues that continue to grow. Supporters of The Working Centre have proven, year after year, that community donations are vital to respond to local issues. We are grateful for your ongoing support of our community building efforts.

Sincerely,

Joe Mancini, Director

We share our quarterly newspaper Good Work News with our contributors. Learn more about our community-based initiatives by visiting our website at www.theworkingcentre.org

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