

GOOD WORK NEWS

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

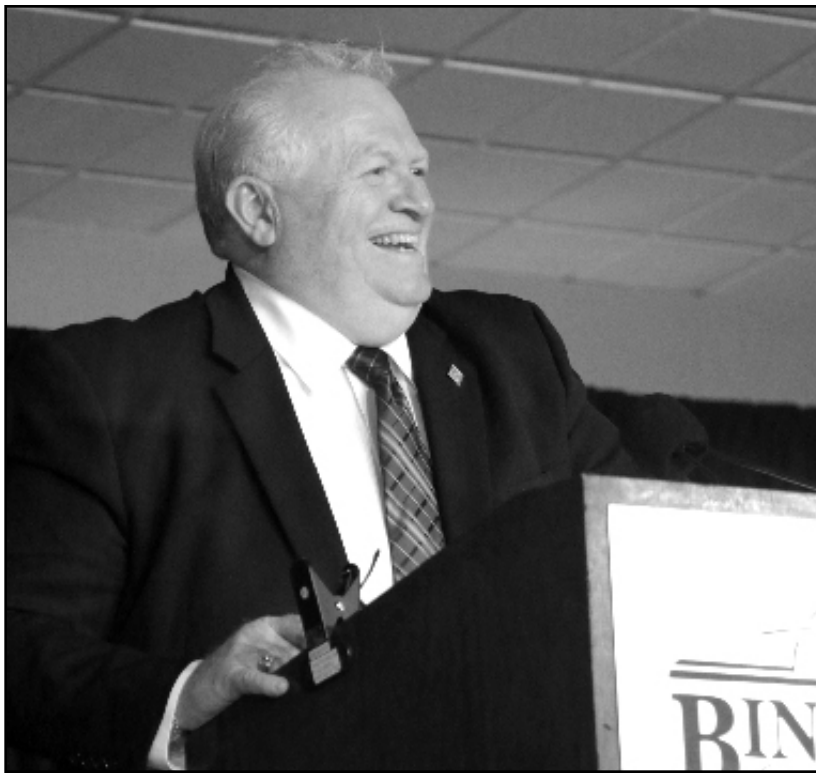
Issue 128

March 2017

Subscription: a donation towards our work

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Neil Aitchison: A Natural Builder of Community

By Dave Thomas

If you have ever attended the annual Mayors' Dinner, you know who Neil Aitchison is. The long-time host has emceed 24 of the past 29 Mayors' Dinners, with his big smile and affable charm and is one of the major highlights of the yearly event. But it will be different this year at the 30th Annual Mayors' Dinner. Neil will be the Guest of Honour, celebrated for his many years of community contributions.

Public speaker, advertising sales rep, actor, comedian, radio host, marketing executive, community booster, husband, father, grandfather and all-around funny guy are among the many roles Neil has taken on. He has been an active Rotarian for more than 35 years with the Kitchener Westmount club. He received Queen's Jubilee Medals in 2002 and 2012 to recognize his community work at home and abroad, and last year was named KW Citizen of the Year. As his Mountie alter-ego character Archibald F. Inskter at Drayton Entertainment, he's entertained audiences for years.

The third of five children in his family (and "the only redhead"), Neil was born in 1947 in Harriston, Ont. He had a happy childhood, and he learned the virtues of hard work early on, helping out at his uncle's farm from the age of 10, and working at Canada Packers at 16, making ice cream, cheese and powdered milk.

High school wasn't his strong point (he says he failed four times), but his principal saw a lot of potential in him, steering him to the new broadcasting program starting up at the nascent Conestoga College. Be-

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fore starting classes, though, Neil and friends went on a cross-continent trip, ending at the Expo '67 fair. This trip helped cement Neil's lifelong interest in travel.

During his time at Conestoga, Neil's ability to win people over with his genial nature resulted in him being elected class president, not once but twice. He even had to miss the campaign second time around, because he was on assignment at a radio station out of town. He based his campaign on the slogan "I promise nothing" and garnered 87 per cent of the vote. The Conestoga Students Association arranged four annual scholarships in Neil's name.

Working Together

By Joe Mancini

This spring at The Working Centre we are working with an ever changing but integrated stream of projects that are organized in the midst of highly complicated social circumstances. Here are some examples of our open model that allows for workers, volunteers and participants to design together the best way of accomplishing the tasks at hand.

The Arabic Employment Project is focused on helping new Canadians enter the labour market but first there is a great deal of cultural and language training and experience that is needed. People are learnign workplace expectations through working in our community tool projects and through workshops.

Job Café is developing new infrastructure so that we have the ability to help people access more day labour opportunities.

It is now the last week of February and the Resource Centre on Queen Street is overflowing with people job searching. Next week starts the free income tax service where we expect to assist over 3000 people with their income tax returns over 2 months.

256 King East is now completing the renovation phase and is occu-

pying the main floor and basement space. This building integrates the 8 units of supportive housing on the second floor with a coffee bar that will be named Fresh Ground, with new workshop space that will host myriad of events, with the Common Studio and Digital Media Lab space, with the coved sound and video studio in the basement, the co-working space and the new Bike Pit space for refurbishing old bikes.

Community Dental is completing its pilot phase and now has a full-time Dental Assistant. Our main focus has been to support the homeless population. During the first phase we have learned about the intensive tools of a dentistry project while also working closely with a group who have trouble accessing dental care.

The bunkies have also been used this winter and that too has generated more learning. The context of increased access to drugs such as crystal meth and fentanyl has had significant impact on our work at St. John's Kitchen, Community Dental, the medical clinic, the Outreach work, and our supportive housing especially for those who have been homeless. The work and learning continues.

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Thirty-Third Year

Issue 128

March 2017

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. There is a circulation of 11,000 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

Editors: Joe Mancini, Stephanie Mancini, Jennifer Mains.

Contributors: Kyle Murphy, Dave Thomas, Nathan Stretch, Ken Westhues, Fr. Murray McDermott C.R., John English, Jonathon English, Adam Kramer, Rachael Chong, Radha Smith, Daniel Zuccala, Carl Hiebert, Deb Cripps.

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**Dave
Jaworski**

**Berry
Vrbanovic**

**Doug
Craig**

The Mayors of Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge invite you to celebrate...

30th Annual Mayors' Dinner

in honour of

Neil Aitchison

Saturday April 8th, 2017

Marshall Hall, Bingemans, Kitchener

Cocktails and Auction Preview: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:45 pm

The Mayors' Dinner is an evening that celebrates outstanding contributions to our community, and serves as an important fundraising event for The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen.

To purchase tickets and for more details call (519) 743-1151x119

or mayorsdinner@theworkingcentre.org

You can purchase tickets online at www.theworkingcentre.org/dinner

Individual Ticket: \$100 (includes one tax receipt for \$55)

Contributor Sponsorship Package: \$250 (includes 2 tickets, recognition in dinner program, and one tax receipt for \$160)

Community Group Package: \$750 (includes 8 tickets and one tax receipt for \$390)



**ARABIC EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS
for employers**

Work is an important form of welcome for the Arabic speaking New Canadians who have joined our community. Many are coming to the end of their one year of government sponsored assistance. In spite of lower language levels, many in this group are eager to work to support their families. They are learning English rapidly in a workplace situation, and need some additional supports when first starting work.

The Working Centre, in collaboration with our community partners, has customized some workplace supports to help employers as they welcome Arabic speaking newcomers into their first jobs in Canada.

Access to general labourers familiar with workplace safety

Resumes and Profiles - quickly scan for potential employees

Interviews in Arabic/English with the help of a Transition Assistant

Up to 2 days on -the-job orientation for new employees in Arabic/English

A phone number you can call when communication is challenging

Ongoing job maintenance/coaching as required

On-request problem solving assistance in Arabic/English



We are also offering tours of local workplaces to help build labour market awareness. Would you be willing to have a group tour through your workplace?

Please call 519-504-4057 for more information in English or Arabic



Interfaith Community Breakfast

Wednesday April 26th 2017 7AM

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Kuhnert
Mental Health: Supporting Wellness
in Community**

Embassy Room at Bingemans

For tickets email ICBreakfastTickets@gmail.com

Gifts of Time & Resources

St. John's Kitchen operates largely, on gifts of time and resources. The Kitchen is a thriving community of hundreds of people who gather in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support to produce and share a daily meal, to connect with a range of community resources, and to explore together the complexities of daily life.



The Kitchen is also a place where people are able to connect with Outreach workers who provide support accessing health, income and housing resources.

If you are interested in supporting the Kitchen consider volunteering. In addition to financial contributions please see the list below of items we often need or contact us to learn more.

519-745-8928 or tomf@theworkingcentre.org

- Tea towels, bath towels,
- Mugs
- Toiletries - razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, lotion, pads, shampoo,
- Socks, Shoe laces
- Plastic shopping bags
- Plastic containers with lids
- Food items - rice, sugar, jam, tea, coconut milk, coffee whitener, vegetable oil, salt, pepper, spices

Neil Aitchison: Builder of Community

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CKKW/CFCA/CKCO

As the first Conestoga Graduate (in alphabetical order) in 1970, travel beckoned again, as Neil and a group of friends chartered a plane and arranged a tour around the United Kingdom and Europe. Returning to Canada, Neil got a job at CKKW/CFCA in media sales. Before working fulltime he served as a CKCO-TV news reporter. For 14 years, Neil played Santa Claus on the locally produced Romper Room TV show's nationally broadcast Christmas special.

Neil declined broadcasting opportunities in Wingham and Barrie and stayed in Kitchener-Waterloo to go into ad sales because he saw a solid future in it, and it allowed him to play to his strengths. "The secret to sales success," he says, "is all about relating to people, and listening." He was also the first college graduate that the station hired on the team, and within a few years became the number one sales rep. He was eventually promoted to general sales manager.

One success story Neil is fond of relating was about the Hi-Way Market account. The department store's owners spent most of their advertising budget on print and TV. But Neil wanted to convince them of the immediacy of radio as a medium. He convinced them to try an ad for snow shovels, which would not be aired until the first storm of the season. Through a not-quite accidental error in the script, the price of the shovels was misstated to be at a huge discount. When the ad aired on the day of the storm, the store sold over 1,000 shovels. Having seen the power of radio advertising, the company became a regular client (and forgave Neil for the "error" in the shovel price, which he made up by crediting the company on some future ads).

Neil's decision to stay in KW proved to be a fortunate one because he met a new colleague who was working as a secretary in the sales office. He saw Helen Magwood at the photocopier and was intrigued. At a staff party soon after, Neil and Helen were the only people attending without partners. When it came time to dance, "we danced like we'd been doing it forever," Neil remembers. They went on their first date on June 26, 1971. Neil proposed one month later, on July 26, and they got married Nov. 27.

Neil and Helen (whom he often refers to at his speaking engagements



as his "first wife") recently celebrated their 45th anniversary, and have a daughter Tammy and son Todd, and four grandchildren, Patrick, Rebecca, Tanner and Brier.

coach all the officers in the service to use humour in their work when possible. From that gig evolved his most popular presentation topic: The Power Of Laughter. Neil conveys how essential laughter is for surviving in a stressful world.

570 AM

He returned to radio in 1997, hosting the afternoon drive time show on 570 AM for almost three years. The show reflected his folksy, informal style, and it got excellent ratings. But when the station wanted the show to change direction,

naire. He served as director of marketing and development for six years, during a period of major growth from one theatre to seven. He is still actively involved too, currently serving as Board President. Building on his love of travel, he's led many fundraising tours for the organization. This year's itinerary includes a trip to New York City in the spring and a cruise from Vancouver to Mexico in the fall.

Market Development at Melloul Blamey

Since 2006, Neil has been senior manager of market development for Melloul-Blamey Construction. He hosted their annual general meeting that year and roasted the owners. They enjoyed it so much that they offered him a job. Though he says he knew nothing about construction, it's his people skills that have helped him contribute to the company's growth.

Constable Inkster

But it's on the stage and in the community supporting good causes for which Neil is probably best known. In his red serge Mountie uniform as Constable Inkster, he pokes fun at life in Canada. Neil was a close friend of comedian Dave Broadfoot, who had his own Mountie character (Sgt. Renfrew), and the two performed together three times, and collaborated on shows many times.

MC and Guest Speaker

He also acts as MC and guest speaker at countless local events. He still does about 40 events per year. Among the many groups he's been involved with are Sleeping Children Around The World, United Way of KW and Area, Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association, Western Ontario Athletic Association, KW Oktoberfest, Cambridge Chamber Business Awards, all sorts of Rotary, Probus and one-off community events. One such event was a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for a wheelchair van for the daughter of a co-worker. Melloul-Blamey kicked it off with a \$10,000 donation; Neil and fellow employees engineered raising the rest of the money. He also served as a member of Conestoga College Board of Governors, was a Grant Review Team member of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and was a Board member of the Ontario Pharmacy Council.

Even though there are so many other events, the Mayors' Dinner is special for Neil. It "has a very warm place in my heart," he says. "Though it's very much the same every year, it's also different, because of the people being honoured, people who've really made a contribution. As far as I'm concerned, it's THE community dinner of the year. Joe and Stephanie Mancini and their incredible team have built a model which could be emulated by every community in Canada."

The 30th Annual Mayors' Dinner will take place on Saturday, April 8 at Bingemans.



The Power of Laughter

Since leaving advertising sales in 1994, Neil's canvas has grown much larger, as he took on more projects as a communications consultant and public speaker. One of his first big engagements was with the Waterloo Regional Police Service, when then chief Larry Gravill hired him to

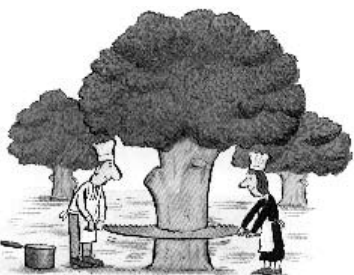
to be more edgy and controversial, Neil moved on.

Drayton Entertainment

Neil has also had a close relationship with Drayton Entertainment since it was established, as a long-time board member, performer and fundraiser/ fun-raiser extraordi-

*Thank You to all those
who contributed so generously to The
Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen
during the Christmas Season*

*So many donations were
received, both large and small that help make
possible all the projects of The Working Centre.
We appreciate all the support you provide to
make this work possible.*



New Space at 256 King Street E. Swiftspace donates functional workspace furniture

After completing the apartments in April, we now have occupancy on the main floor and basement. Here is some news on the first projects that are moving in.

Co-working Space

In our new building at 256 King St. E. we are providing co-working space for entrepreneurs; using an Enterprise Facilitation model we support the start-up and delivery for people engaged in self-employment as part of their livelihoods approach. You can work for yourself, but you don't have to do it alone. Woven into this co-working space are small business supports including training, mentorship, and networking. Our BarterWorks network, the Local Exchange platform, and space for a weekly market all complement this work.

Common Studio

King me! The Commons Studio has relocated to King Street East in a much anticipated move to a ground floor location. Due to growth and partnership, the Commons Studio space at 43 Queen Street South above Queen Street Commons Café was bursting at the seams with people and equipment, rendering our once

recording voice-overs in the equipment closet, interrupting workshops with equipment orders, or filming on the green screen while people used the editing stations just off camera. And while we have fond memories of 43 Queen – especially our lively neighbors, the bustle of the Working Centre, and the vibrancy of the Café – we are excited to be located WayDowntown (as Martin DeGroot has coined it) near the Kitchener Market, Recycle Cycles, The Green Door, and our previous neighbors in Encore Records.

Swiftspace Donation

The Common Studio has been blessed by some fantastic office furniture donated by the CEO of Swiftspace, Rob Way (see photo below). As part of the Housing Campaign, a separate fund was established in Fr. Bob Liddy's name in recognition of his long time commitment to inspire opportunities for youth towards establishing some of the main floor and basement programming. Rob Way, a long-time friend of Fr. Bob, responded with a donation of \$25,000 in office furniture.

It is a very special donation as the furniture highlights the new working



spacious studio/lab tight quarters. Commons Studio volunteers, members, and staff made the move from Queen to King an enjoyable and easy one – pitching in to load and unload the delicate or heavy (and sometime both) film-making equipment, computers, and furniture we rely on to build digital media skills and tell stories in downtown Kitchener.

The new location is spacious and bright with dedicated space for equipment storage, sound recording, editing, and meeting on the main floor. Complimenting these street level resources are a coved studio, control room and green room in the basement. Gone are the days of

spaces. The economical, modern design makes it highly versatile. We are able to use a combination of desks and accessories to create a unique workspace that accommodates a variety of users and user preferences (standing, sitting, more or less privacy) – and it works perfectly in the Common Studio space as it will in the Co-working Space.

We are grateful to Rob Way for this creative donation. Swiftspace is a company dedicated to transforming rigid workspace situations into simple, fast and flexible solutions. This is Rob's second entrepreneurial venture having established Softcare Innovations Inc. in 1995.

In Memoriam Andrew Telegdi 1948-2017

The Honourable Andrew Telegdi, PC died in Waterloo on January 23, 2017 at the age of 70. Andrew's family fled Hungary during the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 arriving in Canada as refugees. This experience marked Andrew with a deep commitment to social justice. After 7 years in municipal politics, he turned to Federal politics in 1993 and won the Federal riding of Waterloo, remaining a Member of Parliament until 2008.

John English wrote in Andrew's obituary that, "As one who knew personally the character of an authoritarian state, Andrew strongly supported human rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He courageously resigned as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration as a protest against allowing politicians, rather than courts, to remove Canadian citizenship. His position was ultimately upheld by the all-party House of Commons Committee on Citizenship and Immigration and by the government under Paul Martin."

Andrew became involved with The Working Centre at the same time that he became a Waterloo city councilor in 1985. He sought out organizations that were concerned with issues of poverty. He soon joined The Working Centre board and was instrumental in organizing a public campaign to support St. John's Kitchen when the provincial government withdrew funding. This campaign was instrumental in helping St. John's Kitchen and The Working Centre develop its own means of fundraising. Andrew rejoined The Working Centre board in 2012. Andrew's long-term involvement with The Working Centre was an extension of his commitment to serve those left out.

In gratitude we present three reflections. The first is John English's eulogy for Andrew that John delivered at Andrew's funeral service on Saturday January 28. The second is an excerpt from Jonathon English's eulogy and the third is an article written by Ken Westhues for the January 30 edition of the Waterloo Chronicle.

My Cherished Friend and Conscience

By John English

On behalf of Irene, Jonathon and me and our families, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Nancy and Erin and the Telegdi Family.

It is impossible to imagine Waterloo without Andrew Telegdi. He first appeared with shoulder length hair in the 1970's when he was fighting marxists, maoists, anarchists and capitalists as President of the Student Federation at the University of Waterloo.

He then became the Director of Youth in conflict with the Law, a pioneering attempt to recognize that neither young people nor society are served well when young people go to jail. Andrew and I met in those days when he was driving politicians crazy with his schemes for raising money for his various programs.

In the 1980's we got to know him well. Every Saturday morning our family would go to the market and come home with Hungarian sausages, schnitzel, and goulash, and Hilde would choose one of them to make for lunch. Andrew was never the most punctual guy but regularly on Saturday morning at 11:55 the doorbell would ring and there would

be Andrew ready to discuss the latest political issues and eat lunch.

We were delighted, all his friends were, when he and Nancy married and the 11 pm phone calls from Andrew finally ceased. Andrew and I developed an enduring and close relationship where we taunted each other but shared a common vision of the world that could be made better. I would banter with him about his Hungarian obsessions, his peculiar moustache and his truly weird hats. He would chide me about my academic proclivities, my swelling waistline and my thinning hair, although this last jibe became less frequent as his own locks faded away.

Andrew was for me, for this community, for the Liberal Party, a conscience. He and his family fled dictatorship, and he grounded his politics firmly on the base of individual rights and on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that he deeply admired. His politics always had purpose and a conscience.

During these last year's we talked often and shared our excitement when Justin Trudeau led the Liber-

Andrew was Unscripted and Unspun

By Kenneth Westhues

A long, successful political career sometimes rests on strengths markedly different from the usual ones.

A case in point was Andrew Telegdi, Waterloo's Member of Parliament for fifteen years, from 1993 to 2006. He won five elections handily and lost the sixth by seventeen votes.

The seat he held was not safe for a Liberal. Conservative Walter McLean held it capably from 1979 to 1993, and New Democrat Max Saltzman for eleven years before that.

Telegdi had no family wealth behind him, no Oxbridge polish, and no ancestral roots in Canada. No one but he himself made his surname recognizable in this country.

He was not a charismatic orator. His speech was stumbly. Born in Hungary, he sounded like a more recent immigrant than he was.

Nor was Telegdi a media darling. Many journalists found him scrappy and combative.

Yet Telegdi had an authenticity that made up for his liabilities. How he handled a gaffe in the 2008 campaign shows what led so many thousands of voters to keep checking the box beside his name.

In his opening statement at the main all-candidates debate, sponsored by the Record and Rogers at RIM Park on September 23, Telegdi misspoke. Misreading a five-letter word, he said the number-one job was to elect Stephen Harper as Prime Minister. The word he meant to say was "eject."

Snickers, then applause rippled through the Young-Tory segment of the audience. All of us on the campaign team winced as our candidate soldiered on, unaware of his mistake.

We knew the fumble was too luscious for our opponents to ignore, that it would be on YouTube by morning. The question was how to

In a parliamentary system like ours, any politician's career depends more than anything on the party and its leader. Telegdi's edge was that he remained his own man. His party loyalty was always tempered and sometimes compromised by allegiance to higher principles, especially those set down in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

handle it.

My suggestion was a video statement by the campaign chair, that in a nation of immigrants like ours, people of good will routinely overlook mispronounced words and slips of the tongue.

Damage control, I thought, the right spin. The rest of the campaign team agreed.

The candidate thought better. The next morning he himself recorded a YouTube clip in his inimitable elocutionary style. It is still online.

"You have to have humor," Telegdi began, "when you run in an election, and I must say, last night at our first debate on Rogers, with the other candidates, I sort of stepped into it."

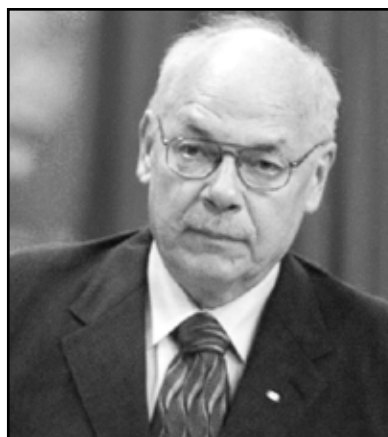
Telegdi was incapable of spinning anything. His supporters might advise him on the politically wise thing to do. He might even try to do it. In the end, the inner Telegdi always surfaced. What you saw is what you got.

Voters loved him for it. He was honest to a fault, unscripted, unspun.

Plainspokenness was hardly the only factor that kept Telegdi in Ottawa so long. He worked hard on his constituents' behalf, especially in boosting this Region's high-tech and education sectors.

In a parliamentary system like

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A Personal Reflection

By Jonathan English

Andrew did everything he could to fight for the new Canadians like himself, for refugees, for young people trapped in the criminal justice system and for the unemployed. Andrew was no defender of the powerful.

In 2011, I had the honour to be Andrew's campaign aide for his last campaign for MP. I followed him around as he furiously worked to find those 17 votes that had eluded him the time before. I knocked on a lot of doors in that campaign. I can tell you, 2011 wasn't always the easiest year to be a Liberal knocking on people's doors. But I began to understand something as I spoke to voter after voter who said, "I'm not a huge fan of the Liberal party right now" (they didn't always say it quite that nicely), "but I'm voting for Andrew because I know that he'll always fight for what is right and stand up to anybody, regardless of the cost to his own career." Now we didn't win that campaign, like I said, 2011 wasn't exactly the easiest year, more like swimming against a tsunami, but Waterloo was one of the only ridings in Canada to see its Liberal vote go up. And that was all Andrew.



My Cherished Friend

continued from page 4

als to victory and his beloved Bardish Chagger became his successor. You simply can't imagine how he brimmed with pride as Bardish rose quickly to be a minister in the Trudeau government. But not all was joyful.

His health was failing and he was horrified by the ascent of Donald Trump and the recurrence of the racist nationalism that had ruined the homeland of his parents. I deplored Trump but after a disturbing stay in the States, I bet Andrew last spring that Trump would win the election. Andrew would have wept had he heard this morning's news of the Presidential executive order to ban refugees from seven countries.

The month before the election as Hillary rose in the polls, Andrew suggested I pay up before the November 8 because he wanted a steak and wine dinner and he was feeling better. He pestered me daily with poll results, and I was duped by his persistence into believing Hillary would triumph. A week before the US election we went for dinner at The Keg, and had steaks and excellent wine to toast Hillary's impending victory.

We both laughed when he pointed out, as he often did, that the fact that he was the Honourable Andrew Telegdi and I was not Honourable meant that he, but not I would have Mounties at his funeral and the flag above parliament would be at half-mast when he passed. Today, alas, that flag is.

As the flag flutters in the afternoon Ottawa wind, let us recall a principled politician, a devoted husband and father, and a dear friend who would never rest as long as there were wrongs to right, refugees to help and Canadians to champion.

Today his voice is stilled forever. His spirit will abide. God bless you, my cherished friend and conscience.

John English is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Waterloo. He served as a Liberal MP for Kitchener between 1993-1997. He is currently the founding Director of The Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History at the University of Toronto and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs.

The Illuminative Forest of Storytelling Trees

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Opening March 23rd 7:30 - 10:30
Tickets: THFMUSFLUM in Kitchener

The forest is alive with
Art, Music, Technology, & Stories

You'll enjoy live music,
SURPRISE guest speakers,
hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

www.illuminativeforest.ca

17 talking trees want to have a conversation with you about community!

Plainspoken

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ours, any politician's career depends more than anything on the party and its leader. Telegdi's edge was that he remained his own man. His party loyalty was always tempered and sometimes compromised by allegiance to higher principles, especially those set down in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Our campaign literature always highlighted Telegdi's record on this score: his defense of civil liberties and the rights of citizenship even in defiance of the Liberal leadership, his success in working across party lines, his support for parliamentary structures that let MPs openly voice the concerns of their constituents.

Helping in his campaigns, I was often struck by the depth of Telegdi's respect for ordinary Canadians. In no way did he consider himself superior. Democracy was in his bones.

This showed in his obsession with loading information into brochures and ads. Advertising experts advise to the contrary. Less is more, they say. Better a few catchy slogans than long paragraphs that nobody reads. Telegdi thought otherwise.

We once had campaign ads ready to go for the UW and WLU student newspapers, when Telegdi proposed adding a statistical table. I told him the ads were already packed too full, that the font size was already so small readers would have to squint.

"That's okay," Telegdi pressed on, "students are smart. They want to

understand what this election is about."

It was the inner Telegdi surfacing. He had confidence in ordinary people's intelligence. He did not treat voters as pawns to be played but as citizens to be informed, listened to, argued with, commended when they agreed with him and lambasted when they did not.

Waterloo voters could not have given Telegdi a better thank-you gift for his lifetime of political service than their election of his protégée and former assistant, Bardish Chagger, in 2015. She serves much the same values as her mentor did.

With Bardish Chagger in Parliament, and in Justin Trudeau's cabinet no less, despite Donald Trump holding power in Washington, Andrew Telegdi will rest in peace.

Kenneth Westhues is Professor Emeritus at the University of Waterloo in the Department of Sociology. Ken was a Working Centre Board member for 28 years and is a leading researcher on the phenomena of mobbing as human group bullying behaviour.



Belonging and L'Arche

Belonging is the Language of Local Democracy

Fr Murray McDermott C.R.

I believe that there is a universal cry within the human heart to belong. Belonging is so important to the human heart and the human soul. When we feel that we belong, when we believe that we belong and when we are affirmed in our belonging, we can begin the journey of discovering that we are loveable, that we are beautiful and that we have a meaning and purpose in life.

I believe that an archetypal story that speaks to the issue of belonging can be found in the Bible in the Story of Noah and the Ark. God tells Noah that there is going to be a flood and that Noah needs to build an Ark if he is to survive. Noah builds the Ark and invites his family aboard along with two of every species of animals that existed on earth. The skies became dark, a thunderous clamor shook the earth, the rains began to flow, and the winds blew in the strength of a gail. Noah's Ark was tossed upon the water and rocked back and forth and up and down and around and around. But something

Jean Vanier tells us that we are a people conceived in relationship and born for relationship. Not only are we conceived in relationship and born for relationship; but we live relationship, we breath relationship, relationship is the essence of our lives.

wonderful happened. Noah and his wife and their children and their children's children and the animals were all safe. For one and all, the Ark proved to be a place of safety, a place of refuge from the storm, a place of belonging where all were kept safe to live and love and belong.

This beautiful image of Noah's Ark became a powerful metaphor for Jean Vanier when it came to naming the place of belonging for the family, the community that Jean would create for himself and two men, Raphael and Philippe, when he welcomed them from the institution for persons with intellectual

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A Blessing for the Streets

By Ruthi Knight

*We send and we are sent,
outside these walls
where so many walk, alone, together
on this holy unholy ground.*

*Where there is so much to
learn outside of books
and so much to respect
beyond these titles.*

*Outside these walls
where so many gather
to share stories and laughter
and a bottle or two*

*Where who you know and
who's your brother
creates bonds beyond blood,
a network not online.*

*Outside these walls
where shelter is scarce and
souls hunger for more than
bread alone.*

*Where line-ups and checkboxes
fill the empty spaces
from pay cheque to yet
another waiting room.*

*Outside these walls
in the spaces between what
is known and seen, there is a
deeper knowing,
another face to these streets.*

*This is holy unholy ground,
some remove their shoes,
others utter divine speech
kneeling by the way to pray
their words unintelligible
on the sidewalks edge
as many pass on by.*

*Blessed are the ones who walk,
who walk this road
alone, together, with the many
silent voices.*

*Blessed are the ones who
dance in traffic, the drummers
with their primal beat,
the tired weary wanderers.*

*Blessed are the mothers
scraping dollars,
mourning yet another little one in
a home away from home,
blessed are those who mourn,
who pour one out for a fallen
brother as tears mingle
with memories shared.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst, for justice, for bread,
for a place at the table.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
the wayfarers,
the left behind, out of line,
those lost in these changing times.*

*Blessed are the children,
the sons and daughters,
fathers, mothers,
those outside these gendered lines.*

*Blessed are the first nations,
the ones who've fled,
the ones who've been taken,
bless the healing of the
seven generations.*

*Blessed are the street corners,
with their preachers and sex workers,
those with hands held out
for just a little more.*

*Blessed are the wild ones,
the sad-eyed, the vacant ones,
the ones with beds
and those with nowhere
to lay their head.*

*Blessed are the fragrant,
the terrified, the institutionalized.
the beautiful ones, the creative
and the dreamy-eyed.*

*Blessed are those who nod,
who beg for more,
whose bags are full and always packed,
those who search for dimes in cracks.*

*Blessed are the comforters,
the accompaniers,
the daily walking side by side,
the holy loiterers.*

*Blessed are the friendship circles,
the new homes,
the centres working for change,
choosing hope instead of fear.*

*Blessed are the survivors,
the strong ones,
those who brave each day,
fleeing trauma's haunting ghosts.*

*Blessed are the safe spaces,
community places,
the lives remembered, the meals shared,
blessed are those who reach out.*

*Blessed are the cries in the night,
the whispered smoky prayers,
the needle's piercing search for hope.*

*This is holy unholy ground
that we walk together, side by side,
knowing that we do not
walk alone.*

*Knowing that the One who
walks before us,
walks beside us on these
cracked sidewalk stones.*

*The body and bread, shared and
broken
at St. John's Kitchen,
the blood and wine poured out
on city streets.*

*The hands held in silent vigil
at Mary's Place,
the doors opened in welcome
at the many Menno Homes.*

*Outside these walls,
we all are walking
this holy unholy ground,
we all are sent, to love,
beyond this shelter.*

*Beautiful are the feet of those
who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who walk together on these city streets.*

This poem by Ruthi Knight was written for and read at Margaret Nally's licensing service held on Jan 15, 2017 at Erb Street Mennonite Church. The Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is licensing Margaret for Community Ministry in recognition of her ministry that she has generously shared with the Kitchener Waterloo community for over 20 years. By granting this license the Mennonite Church affirms Margaret's work, especially at St. John's Kitchen and the YWCA, with prayerful support for her continuing presence in settings where love, respect and support are needed for those who live on the margins in our community. Ruthi Knight has worked as an outreach worker at The Working Centre and is presently studying spirituality and counselling.

Belonging and L'Arche

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disabilities. He named their first house, "L'Arche" and L'Arche is the French translation for the words "The Ark". L'Arche would be for those who came to live there, a place of safety, a place of refuge from the storms of life, a place of belonging where all could discover their gifts, their talents, their abilities, their beauty, their wonder, the capacity to love and be loved.

How Jean Vanier Began L'Arche

So who is this Jean Vanier anyway? Well I begin, by telling you that he is the son of George Vanier one of the former Governor Generals of Canada. When he was 13, Jean asked his father for permission to join the navy. His father trusted Jean's decision and gave him his permission. After a number of years in the navy Jean wanted more. He went to University and eventually earned his PhD in Philosophy writing about the Philosophy of Aristotle. In 1962 and 1963 Jean taught Philosophy at St. Michael's University in Toronto. He liked teaching and the students enjoyed him as their professor. Jean noticed that the greatest concern of the students was getting high marks, doing good, and doing better and doing best was their goal.

During the summers of teaching, Jean went to Trolley France to be with his Spiritual Director, Pere Thomas, a Dominican Priest. Fr. Thomas had been made the chaplain at a place called "La Val Flurie", which was a home for about 30 men with intellectual challenges. Jean discovered that these men had no particular interest in what Jean had in his head or what he could teach them; but rather, they desired to discover that which was in his heart. This profoundly moved Jean and the end result of this experience was that he gave up teaching University, moved to France, bought an old house and invited two men, Raphael and Phillippe, from a local asylum to come and live with him as brothers in Jesus, in the spirit of the Gospels. They named their home L'Arche or "the Ark".

This L'Arche home would be a place of welcome, a place of hospitality and a place of deep belonging. Jean knew that in inviting Raphael and Phillippe that he was making a commitment for life. There was no going back. His plan was that the community would be no larger than the number of those who could fit into one of those French Puget cars, which can fit at a max four people. The following year the director and all the staff of the La Val Flurie quit. To make a long story short, Jean became the director and unlocked the doors of the Val so all the men could go into the Village of Trolley and all hell broke out

with the residents of Trolley. The good news is that there are now 147 L'Arche Communities in 35 countries of the world. L'Arche is a non-denominational and inter-religious community. The closest L'Arche Community is in Stratford, where I have belonged as a friend for 36 years.

Belonging and the Spirit

Now here is the Coles Notes Version of my life. I spent ten years in the seminary before I was ordained a priest. I entered the Seminary for a lot of good reasons and a lot of not good reasons. The constant question in my mind throughout those years was should I stay or should I leave. Well, I decided to stay, got ordained, and after I was ordained I felt that I made a mistake, got sick physically, emotionally, spiritually, got treatment and went on a leave of absence from the priesthood and my religious community. I worked for 13 and a half months as a security guard on the executive floors of the bank of Montreal, at First Canadian Place in Toronto for four dollars an hour, 60 hours a week. I sent out 125 resume's and got hired as a Case Worker for the Perth County Children's Aid Society in Stratford where I began working on Feb. 19, 1979 and ended up working there for 35 years. My first supervisor was the best friend of the founding director of L'Arche Stratford and when I came to supervision she kept encouraging me to meet L'Arche. I met L'Arche about a year later during the time of my supervisor's death. I was invited to go on a pilgrimage to Lourdes the following spring during Holy Week, with members of the Stratford L'Arche Community. I began visiting L'Arche during their monthly Monday night masses. Then, the associate pastor who celebrated those masses was moved. I was asked to begin celebrating mass for the community even though I was still on a leave of absence and I agreed to do so.

One of the most powerful moments of my life was the first night that I celebrated mass for L'Arche. The Chapel was a former living room and

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I believe that there is a universal cry within the human heart to belong. Belonging is so important to the human heart and the human soul. When we feel that we belong, when we believe that we belong and when we are affirmed in our belonging, we can begin the journey of discovering that we are loveable, that we are beautiful and that we have a meaning and purpose in life.

there were mattresses all around the room for people to sit on. There was a mattress in front of the altar where I sat. I will never forget getting vested for mass, coming into the chapel and sitting down and looking around the room at the faces of the people who had gathered. I remember beginning to laugh and laugh and laugh because it was the first moment in my life that I felt that I was at home in our world. I felt like I belonged. I sensed that it really didn't matter to the people with intellectual disabilities or the core people, as we refer to them, if I would stay in the priesthood or leave. I sensed I belonged right here and right now, here in this place and space. It didn't matter how stable or screwed up I was, because I sensed that I belonged. It didn't matter what I preached or what I would say in my homily. They didn't care. The only concern within the hearts of those who gathered was that I valued them by being there. I was with them and they were with me and we belonged together in this place of safety, this place of refuge from the storms and battles of life, this place of belonging which is called "The Ark" or L'Arche.

My ongoing journey would teach me that I had missed a lot about life and love and faith by about 11 inches which is the distance between my head and my heart. Jean Vanier tells us that we are a people conceived in relationship and born for relationship. Not only are we conceived in relationship and born for relationship; but we live relationship, we breath relationship, relationship is the essence of our lives.

Discovering Through Relationship

If you think about what Jean says, we discover that we learn to love through relationships. We discover that we are loved through relationship. We learn to forgive through relationships. We grow through relationships, we problem solve through relationships. We discover life's deepest meaning and purpose through relationships. We

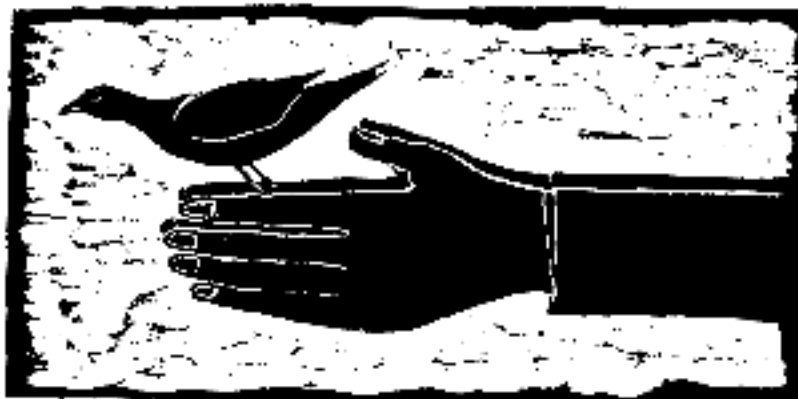
discover hope through relationships. We come to faith through relationship.

Now the short story is that I probably would not be a priest today had it not been for L'Arche. It is the spirituality of L'Arche that nourishes my life, my heart my spirit and my soul. Jean says that it is the poor have a privileged way of entering into the heart of Jesus the heart of the Gospel and the heart of the Church. My experience is that it is the poor of L'Arche and the poor of God's world who continue to break open my heart to hear and preach the Gospel.

I fell asleep one night at the United Church during Taise Prayer which is a repetitive type prayer. Our Stratford L'Arche community used to go there once a month. It was during the ten minute private reflection time that I fell asleep. However, I not only fell asleep, I began to snore. The core people in my house never let me forget it. At the supper table, Pat, one of our Core people who can speak but one word at a time, would say in the midst of our supper meal, "Murray" and then he would make a snoring sound to which all would join in pretending to snore and then laugh and laugh. Night after night I was reminded of my folly. How much better can it get, knowing you are at home, that you belong and that you are loved? L'Arche continues to be for me home for my heart and home for my soul, a home for my spirit and a home for my being.

My gratitude to one and all for listening to my story. Congratulations to each of you graduating this evening. I wish you all the best in all of your futures!

Father Murray McDermott C.R. has recently retired from the Stratford Children's Aid, he has been a member of L'Arche Homes Stratford and is a priest to the University Campus Ministry. Murray is now serving as Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Resurrection. This speech was the Commencement Address delivered at The Working Centre on November 16, 2016 to the combined graduating classes of the Diploma in Local Democracy Class and the Humanities 101 from Renison University College.



Hacienda Sarria Market Garden CSA

Become Involved with the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden

The Working Centre's Hacienda Sarria Market Garden is a volunteer driven community enterprise that demonstrates, promotes, and shares knowledge about sustainable urban food production. It is a place where gardeners from a range of backgrounds and experiences work together to relearn old skills and gain a sense of belonging with collective purpose. This is all done while growing and selling organically-grown, healthy and delicious produce. Join us!

Volunteer. Volunteers, unafraid of dirt and sweat, are the life of our operation. Weeding, harvesting, cultivating, planting, and seeding – we do it all! When harvests are plentiful, volunteer gardeners are offered some of the delicious leftover vegetables. Beginner or advanced: all are welcome!

Buy a Share. Support the garden through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), a model of food production that connects farmers directly with people - bringing relationships back into the business of food production. CSA members purchase their shares each year in early spring and receive fresh, locally-grown vegetables weekly for 20 weeks from mid-June through October. The garden is also proud to offer shares of Microgreens, Flower Bouquets, as well as freshly roasted Coffee, Dinners, and Baking from the Working Centre.

The 2017 Season will offer:

Vegetable Shares

The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden is a small farm growing over 70 varieties of vegetables, fruits, and herbs! We grow lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, garlic, beets, peas, and onions just to name a few. As a CSA supporter, each week you will receive a share of the fresh, bountiful produce. Our fruit trees are maturing nicely, so you might even get to enjoy some of our apples, peaches, pears, plums, or apricots!

Microgreen Shares

Microgreens are just-sprouted baby vegetables that are bursting with nutrients and flavour. For just a few dollars a week you'll get the chance to try a range of varieties including pea shoots, broccoli, radish, sunflower, radish, and mustard to name just a few. They are amazingly easy to throw into salads, sandwiches, or beautify any dish as a garnish. As your dinner guests marvel at how fancy you are, you

Join our Community Supported Agriculture project this spring and enjoy fresh, local, organically grown vegetables from June to October



Hacienda Sarria Market Garden

Add to your vegetable share...

- Freshly picked flower bouquets
- Freshly baked cookies and pies
- Ready to Enjoy dinners from **Maurita's Kitchen**
- Fresh and locally roasted coffee from the **Queen St. Commons Cafe**
- Microgreen and Pea Shoot Shares

The Working Centre's Hacienda Sarria Market Garden is a vibrant urban garden that grows healthy, fresh produce using organic methods, 3 km from downtown Kitchener. It is a community-based project that demonstrates sustainable food production.



To buy a CSA share online visit:

catalogue.theworkingcentre.org

See our CSA sign up sheet at:

www.theworkingcentre.org/CSA

Email: hacienda@theworkingcentre.org

Phone: 519-743-1151, ext. 113

"For the past two years I've been gathering vegetables and other goodies from the Hacienda gardens... Picking up the shares from the garden, you get a feel for what they are accomplishing. Besides growing the food they are stewarding the local ecosystem and fostering skill development for local people as they go."

–Scott Verhoeve



will secretly congratulate yourself for being extremely healthy and getting Vitamin C, K, E, beta-carotene and lutein in every bite.

"I add microgreens to at least half of what I eat. It's so nice to have something fresh and green on my plate."

–Andy, Queen Street Yoga

Flowers Bouquet Shares

The flowers we grow not only bring colour to the garden but also help sustain it! With a broad colour palette, your bouquets are skillfully arranged by a team headed up by an amazing volunteer - Lucille. Liven up your table, or purchase a share for a loved one. You are sure to have some fun each week deciding which one you'll take home!

Coffee Shares

It doesn't get fresher than taking home coffee beans or grinds that have been roasted that day. The Queen Street Commons Café has been said to have some of the best coffee in the city and now you can enjoy it at home! We offer a lot of choice in the coffee share: light roast or dark roast of various origins, fine grind or whole bean.

"I love getting my Coffee Share. I look forward to enjoying my freshly roasted coffee beans and... I enjoy it even more because I know my money is going to a great organization doing important work in our community."

–Julie

Meal Shares

CSA members have always raved about their take-home meals from Maurita's Kitchen, the Working Centre's project that provides all the tasty food served at the Commons Café. It is a perfect share for anyone who may not have time to cook every night, but wants to avoid the grocery store's processed food. These meals are healthy, vegetarian, and delicious.

Baked Goods and Cookie Shares

Now that you've got all your healthy items looked after, it's time to for a treat! Maurita's Kitchen bakes daily, and you can order a Baked Goods Share to receive an assortment of cakes and squares, or a Cookie Share to receive an assortment of cookies. If you're a regular patron of the Queen Street Commons Café, you know how good they are. Vegan brownies, carrot cake, and chewy oatmeal cookies are some of our favourites. Definitely something to look forward to each week!