

GOOD WORK NEWS

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

Issue 118

September 2014

Subscription: A Donation Towards our Work

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Above is one of two wide angle photos (the second is on page 5) that proudly displays the rows of produce and the progress we have made on the landscaping at the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden. We are now in our third year of converting an old field into a productive market garden selling vegetables, greens, herbs and flowers. The garden is located 3 km from the downtown. We welcome visitors and volunteers. Come and help with the work join our community of gardeners.

New Building Update

By Joe Mancini

This summer, The Working Centre was offered the opportunity to expand its presence in the Kitchener downtown east end, through the purchase of the Ray of Hope building that formerly housed the Morning Glory Café. We immediately knew we could utilize the 12,000 square feet of space by readapting the upstairs apartments into singles housing, the use of the main floor for program development and the basement, after some renovations, for creative uses like clothes sorting and a sound and video studio.

Our first consideration was that the property adjoins 37 Market Lane where we recently moved Recycle Cycles, The Green Door and the Green Door Arts Space. This building has been transformed with three functioning and growing

Community Tool projects. We envision creating a new courtyard between the buildings, opening up the fences and developing a pathway that goes towards the Kitchener Market.

Our second consideration was the opportunity to take advantage of the seven single housing units that Ray of Hope renovated in 1999. These units were created with the hope of providing supportive singles housing. Over time these units were used by International Teams for refugee housing. Before Ray of Hope sold the building it was agreed that International Teams would be finding a new less expensive model for this type of refugee housing as Ray of Hope had generously supported the program. Our goal is to return these units to singles

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In Memoriam Lorna van Mossel (1923-2014)

Editor's note: Hundreds of family and friends attended the celebration of Lorna's life on July 3rd, 2014. The following is an abridged eulogy given by Theron Kramer, one of Lorna's dearest friends.

By Theron Kramer

It was a great honour for me to be able to pay tribute to this wonderful woman in a eulogy celebrating her long and impactful life. I did not speak specifically about her many accomplishments, her lifetime of commitment to our community, the sacrifices she made in assisting immigrants and refugees, her often successful efforts at challenging governments and other institutions to be more humane, her unwavering dedication to the legal and moral rights of all vulnerable people. Instead, I talked about what it meant to be Lorna's friend and what I learned from her.

As Lorna's friend I never felt that I was being judged. That does

I know that some people viewed Lorna as a political animal, always going after politicians, unfair systems or misguided policies. But for Lorna, her work always grew out of deep, deep concern for others.

not mean she never disagreed with me, or that she necessarily accepted my view of the world. It did not mean that she would not, in her subtle way, sometimes let you know she did not agree with you. In any discussion, when you heard her respond with "Oh really?" or "Do you really think so?" you knew you needed to take another look at whatever stance you were taking. And, as many a politician at all levels learned, sometimes, no matter how much she liked you, she would not hesitate to challenge your

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Twenty-Ninth Year

Issue 118

September 2014

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 12,000 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

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Friday Night Movies: 6:00 pm at Queen Street Commons Cafe

By Martin de Groot

Friday is "Movie Show & Tell" night at the Queen Street Commons Cafe.

Thanks to a grant from the City of Kitchener, the Commons Studio, which includes the Multi-Cultural Cinema Club (MC3), has been able to secure a license to screen any title in the Criterion Collection of "important classic and contemporary films".

The shows start around 6:00 pm every Friday. If something else is happening at the cafe, the show takes place in the Commons Studio upstairs. Everyone is welcome, and there is no charge for admission.

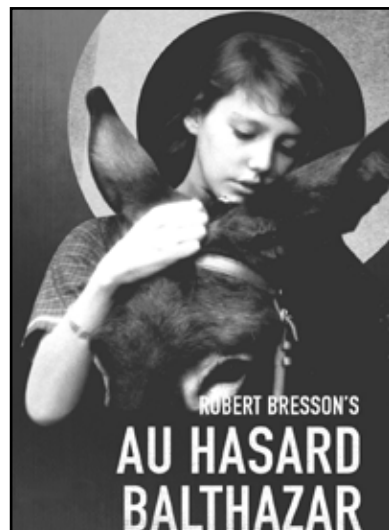
The screenings are "living room style": it's OK to react with a brief comment now and then. Because the cafe can be noisy, movie night regulars have expressed a preference for films that have subtitles or are closed captioned. We've also shown a number of silent film classics.

The program sometimes follows a theme – for example, we presented a series of films about migration in conjunction with World Refugee Day in June, which was followed by a sequence of movies that deal with various modes of travel that ran throughout the summer and into the fall.

So far, most of movies have been selected by Commons Studio staff or recommendations from

History of Film Club members (a group that meets Monday evenings at the Commons Studio).

The aim, however, is to follow suggestions from The Working Centre community and the public at large. If you're interested, check out the Criterion catalogue (www.criterion.com), and if there's something you'd like to see, let us know and we'll do our best to secure a copy and schedule a screening.



If you're reading this before Friday, October 3, please join us for a special day before the Feast of St Francis "Blessing of the Animals" screening of Robert Bresson's **Au Hasard Balthazar** (France 1966), which follows the life of a donkey as he is passed from owner to owner.



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Other titles that we plan to present over the next few months include:

- Le Havre Aki Kaurismäki
France/Finland 2011
- I Know Where I'm Going!
Michael Powell & Emeric
Pressburger UK 1941
- Taste of Cherry Abbas
Kiarostami Iran 1997
- Bicycle Thieves Vittorio De
Sica Italy 1948
- Yojimbo Akira Kurosawa
Japan 1961
- The Third Man Carol Reed
(screenplay by Graham Greene)
UK 1949
- The Thief of Bagdad Raoul
Walsh U.S. 1924 silent
- Naked City Jules Dassin U.S.
1948
- Cléo from 5 to 7 Agnès
Varda France 1962
- La Strada Federico Fellini
Italy 1954
- Mon Oncle Antoine Claude
Jutra Quebec, Canada (NFB)
1971
- Vanya on 42nd Street Louis
Malle U.S. 1994
- Tokyo Story Yasujiro Ozu
Japan 1953

The exact date and order depend on availability. The movie for the week is usually announced on Monday or Tuesday online (kwmcc.org), through the Commons Studio "film update" email broadcast (to sign up, send a note to film-making@theworkingcentre.org), and posters around the Queen Street Commons Cafe.

Our 25th Golf Tournament

By Dave Thomas

It was a milestone for The Working Centre/St. John's Kitchen Golf Tournament on August 14, as the event marked 25 years. We raised \$17,000 to support our operations, capping a quarter century of support from Unifor Local 1524 (formerly CAW 1524) as the main anchor for this successful event.

Back in 1989, Sue Oberle, the CAW Local 1524 financial secretary, was serving on The Working Centre Board and she undertook to organize a yearly fundraising golf tournament that would involve and recruit labour unions to support the tournament. In the first years we had some smaller tournaments but soon the idea caught on. We have had great support especially from CAW locals (now UNIFOR), the UA Plumbers and Steamfitters, Steelworkers and businesses like Strassburger Windows, MTD Products, Lear, Brinks, and Bell. We often have teams from Lear's corporate office in Michigan and the UNIFOR National Office. For 25 years, The Working Centre Golf Tournament has been a fundraising event where unions and community work together.

The temperature barely reached 16 degrees at Rockway, but that didn't chill the enthusiasm of the 108 golfers. There were a lot of good shots, a few bogies, birdies and eagles, but no holes-in-one, at least on the three holes where golfers had a chance to win \$10,000. There were also contests for longest drive

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Lorna Van Mossel

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policies, your decisions, your “misunderstanding” of the real world. In the end, however, she always respected you and your right to hold your opinions. Well, almost always.

Lorna was not a saint. She struggled with her negative judgements of people who hurt others, either in their personal or their professional lives. But usually she would come to terms with those judgements, often finding something positive to say about the person, a rationale for their behaviour and, almost always, a hope that they could change.

As a citizenship court judge for Waterloo Region and area Lorna had a terrible time with bureaucrats who insisted on applying petty rules to the whole citizenship process. She would challenge them head on or quietly just go about doing what she thought was most important to her role. For example, she often took far longer interviewing citizenship applicants than the rules allowed, usually because she was listening to the stories of the struggles they were experiencing while settling here. Even though citizenship judges were told never to get involved in applicants lives, that never stopped Lorna from trying to help them when she was convinced they needed her advice or even her intervention. For Lorna, what was important was not whether petty rules were followed but what would help to make sure that the person applying for citizenship was able to do it successfully and become a full participating member of the community. Bestowing citizenship on stateless refugees was the right thing to do because she understood the sacrifices they had made to reach this country and that they would be more dedicated to contributing to Canada than many of us who gained our citizenship just because we were born here. If they needed help to learn how to pass the citizenship test Lorna would get them that help and allow them the time they needed to come back with a greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities in their adopted home.

As a friend, I learned from Lorna that too many of us today are too afraid of being inappropriate, or rude, or un-Canadian when it comes to important issues of social justice, human rights and inclusion. Over the last few months of her life, when we talked, Lorna was very clear that the recent policy changes of our federal government around refugees, immigration and citizenship are wrong and more of us need to be paying attention and speaking out about those issues.

Being Lorna's friend meant you



As many a politician at all levels learned, sometimes, no matter how much she liked you, she would not hesitate to challenge your policies, your decisions, your “misunderstanding” of the real world. In the end, however, she always respected you and your right to hold your opinions.

never stopped learning from her. I learned over and over again, not just from what she said but how she worked in the community, that the individual, the family, the community had to be central to all activism. I know that some people viewed Lorna as a political animal, always going after politicians, unfair systems or misguided policies. But for Lorna, her work always grew out of deep, deep concern for others. More recently, when Lorna and I talked about issues related to her last institutional home, where she had challenged or wished to challenge management, it was never about what she needed or wanted. It was always that, out of her experience with some of her own disabilities, she could see how things could be made better for others. For Lorna it was never about doing politics because you enjoy a good fight, it was never challenging systems because of some vague principle, it was never fighting for more humane policy decisions because they were being made by someone who's politics she did not agree with - it was always about making things better for those who were being excluded from living a full life in their communities - whether locally, nationally or even in other parts of the world.

I also learned a great deal about humility from Lorna. The day I visited her in the last week of her earthly journey friends from the Interfaith Council had visited and brought her a small history of that organization. The dedication in that book was: “to Lorna van Mossel, our guiding light”. It was a wonderful

testament to the influence Lorna had on so many people, but she was completely overwhelmed by it. She sincerely did not understand how much she had influenced the people involved in that effort to make this region a more inclusive community by bringing together, in ongoing dialogue and action, a multitude of faiths.

I had a more personal experience with Lorna's ability to impart humility when I had an opportunity to speak at an event honouring her a few years ago - the Equity and Inclusion Dinner, put on each year by the K-W Multicultural Centre. After what I thought was a pretty good speech I came down from the stage to receive a hug from Lorna and what I thought would be an effusive thank you. What I got instead was a whispered, “Oh Kramer, you are so full of it”.

The most important thing I learned from Lorna, and I am sure this is shared by many that knew her, is that you can always do more - more to serve your community, more to make life better for others, more to change the world, or at least that part of the world within your sphere of influence.

Lately, as her world shrank, she never stopped trying to understand what would make things better for those around her - for her friends who regularly visited her, for her family members who sacrificed so much in her last months to ensure that she had the best care possible, for the staff and volunteers who helped her through those last days in this part of her life's journey. When she herself was often in distress, she still worried that I or the other friends who visited her had not had our supper on time. She worried that Mila, her personal support worker, was hurting her own back while trying to give Lorna some relief for her back pain. And she was very concerned that her children were giving up way too much to be here with her.

What was it like to be Lorna's friend? It was to know you were always loved and respected. But it was also to know that you would be challenged to be an active part

Lorna Van Mossel

Born to immigrant parents 87 years ago in Shelburne, Ontario, Lorna spent her adolescent life in Orangeville. She graduated from the Toronto General Hospital's School of Nursing and it was in Toronto that she met her husband Bert, a Presbyterian Minister. After arriving in Kitchener, Lorna and Bert's commitment to social justice guided their community and church involvement. Besides their extensive church work at the local national and international levels, they were active with the Host Family Program befriending international students and started the Friendship Family program which supported Government sponsored refugees. Lorna was also involved at the beginning of the Global Community Centre, worked in settlement services and sat on the Board of the K-W Multicultural Centre, as well as numerous other committees and boards. For many years she was the local Citizenship Court Judge.

For her passion and dedication to community Lorna was honoured as an Oktoberfest Woman of the Year, was the Guest of Honour at The Working Centre's Mayor's Dinner, and was recognized at the Multicultural Centre's Equity and Inclusion dinner. She was probably most proud of her role as mother to her 6 children, grandmother to 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

of your community. Wherever her energy, her spirit, her soul is now, I hope that Lorna will continue to nudge those who knew her, and those who are only beginning to learn about her contribution to this community, to remember that it is about the other that we need be concerned.



Lorna Van Mossel was the Guest of Honor at the 7th Mayor's Dinner in 1994. Here Lorna is surrounded by her friends who paid tribute to her, Master of Ceremonies Neil Atchison, Hulene Montgomery, John Lord and Jassy Narayan.

Do We Love Our Machines More Than Our Children?

By Tony McQuail

Our current problems stem from our failure to understand and accept that we are biological organisms on a finite planet. We have experienced a brief moment in history when we seemed able to step outside those constraints and that has coloured our assumptions of what is real and normal. In a century we have burned through millions of years worth of accumulated biomass in the form of fossil fuels. Our beliefs in economic growth and mechanical progress rest on this conflagration. It seems intuitively obvious to me that we cannot sustain these levels of energy use with renewable sources. But what seems obvious, is unthinkable in most discussions of how to address climate change, peak oil and environmental degradation. Our society is committed to technofix fantasies that will allow us to continue on our present trajectory. Don't believe them.

I've been an organic farmer interested in renewable energy for nearly 40 years. In the 70's we built a passive solar home. We put up the first modern interconnected wind generator on the Ontario Hydro grid in 1978. We were using photovoltaic panels to run electric fences more than 20 years ago and currently use them to run our livestock water and garden irrigation in the summer. We formed a coop, although unsuccessful, with



other farmers and tried to make an ethanol still. We bought a team of horses for farm power that could run on home grown renewable fuel. We helped form the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario.

In the early 70's as an environmental studies student at the University of Waterloo and while

10 units of energy are used in the system to get one unit of energy to the table. Industrial Agriculture is a system for converting petroleum into food in an extremely wasteful fashion.

farming, I looked at the research on energy productivity of different systems. Energy Return on Energy Invested (EROEI) or Net Energy Productivity is the ratio of energy that comes out of a system divided by the energy put into it. What was fascinating was comparing pre-industrial with industrial agriculture and food systems. Pre-industrial systems showed an EROEI of 5 to 50, for every unit of energy put into the system between 5 and 50 units came out. In pre-industrial agriculture that energy was human labour, draft animals, tools and seeds saved from previous crops. The high end of the scale was intensively managed and layered systems like paddy rice. The low end was simple subsistence agriculture – but to me the interesting thing was that agriculture systems did not go lower than 5 units out per unit in. My guess is that an agricultural system that produced less than 5 units literally “starved out”. It didn't yield enough surplus energy to have a reserve for bad harvests or to raise the next generation.

Industrial agriculture with its fertilizers, pesticides, diesel fuel, big machines, transport, processing and distribution networks has an EROEI of 0.1. In other words 10 units of energy are used in the system to get one unit of energy to the table. Industrial Agriculture is a system for converting petroleum into food in an extremely wasteful fashion. Unfortunately, what we have done with industrial agriculture has been echoed across our whole economy where we have redesigned our activities to use ever greater amounts of energy as we replace labour with fossil fuels. When we first started this substitution the EROEI of petroleum was impressive. Early oil wells often produced over

100 units of energy for every unit spent in drilling. There is little easy oil to find now. Today's light crude is returning between 6 to 8 units for every unit in. The Tar sands may be getting down to 1 out for 1 in if you count all the hidden subsidies. As EROEI decreases environmental impact increases and the driver of our past 100 years of economic growth collapses. Without a high EROEI the rate of growth that we assume denotes a healthy economy is impossible. Trying to achieve those rates of growth with low EROEI energy systems will be incredibly destructive and counter productive.

The reason is the “compost conundrum”. We've all heard of the greenhouse effect but I'd like to offer an additional phrase to help us grapple with the challenges ahead. We actually have a greenhouse on our farm. I understand that CO² acts like glazing helping hold radiant heat inside the earth's atmosphere. But I also think that if I took all the biomass that I grew in



the greenhouse over the course of the summer and torched it inside the greenhouse some night the greenhouse would still experience a sudden rise in temperature – even if there was no sunlight. Our burning of the fossil fuels is taking the biomass accumulated by millions of years of photosynthesis and burning it in the geological equivalent of a night. So I'm concerned that we not get so focused on CO² that we lose track of the CAUSE of the problem which is our intensity and scale of energy use. CO² sequestration and carbon credits attack the symptom but not the root cause of our problems and delay our addressing the real issue.

As an organic farmer I make compost piles. These heat up, not because of sunlight, but because of the metabolic activity of the rapid increase of microbial populations within the compost pile. They are oxidizing carbohydrates within the compost pile and generating heat from their rapid growth.

As a society we need to develop an ecological agriculture around and within our urban centres where food is grown with a minimum of energy inputs and a maximum of ecological design. We need to redesign our cities to be walkable, bikeable, breatheable and liveable.

Back when 1 unit of energy produced 5 to 50 units, the food we ate only produced a fraction of waste heat. Once we started eating food produced in the industrial system each unit of food eaten contributes 11 units of waste heat – one for the food eaten and 10 for the energy used to grow it. The growing human population is on a J curve, similar to the microbes in a compost pile. If we add in the additional energy we humans now use, plus the energy from our food, we see an incredible increase in our energy use and waste heat generation. A “modern” North American probably produces 100 times as much waste heat from their machines as from their body heat. We are turbocharging our compost pile.

If we use high energy-embedded food to create so-called new energy for our machines, we will destabilize society, especially if food is taken out of the mouths of the poor to put into SUV's and jet planes. This will also destabilize the ecological life support of our planet. Are we reaching the point of “peak oil” or as Richard Heinberg has written “peak everything.” What can we do?

Well, the answer seems to be right under our noses. We need to redesign our economies and societies to run on the energy that goes into our mouths. And we need to remember how to produce that energy (call it food for ease of comprehension) in a manner that yields an EROEI of 5 or more. As a society we need to develop an ecological agriculture around and within our urban centres where food is grown with a minimum of energy inputs and a maximum of ecological design. We need to redesign our cities to be walkable, bikeable, breatheable and liveable. Where most of the energy to make the city function comes from the food we eat. If we did that then we

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Meeting Place Organic Farm

ESTABLISHED 1973



Meeting Place Organic Farm
86016 Creek Line, RR 1
Lucknow, ON N0G 2H0

519-528-2493 o mcqufarm@hurontel.on.ca

Do We Love Our Machines...

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could likely use photovoltaics, wind generators, methane digesters and convert some biomass into liquid fuels to provide the energy to run public transit and communications technologies and even some tractors and combines in larger farm fields. And we could use our remaining petroleum far more carefully to bridge the gap between where we are today and where we need to be if we are to have a tomorrow.

We may love our machines – but they don't love us. We need to remember that as we make choices. We need to love our children more than our machines.

As individuals we can set out to redesign our personal lives. Each time we have a choice to make we can ask "Is there a way I can accomplish this task with my own energy?" "Can I live close enough to my work so I can walk and bike there?" "Could I grow some of my own food with my own labour?" "Could I use a heat exchanger and seal and insulate the house so we could heat it with passive solar and our families body heat?" Each time we figure out ways to meet our basic needs with our own energy we are part of the solution and we buffer ourselves from the disruption to our lives from peak oil and the economic chaos associated with it.

If we don't there will be hell to pay. Most of the "new Technologies" have dismal EROEI's. When Petroleum had a 100/1 EROEI it meant that for 100 units of CO² released by burning that petroleum only 1 unit of CO² was released in producing it. With a technology that yields only 4 units per unit of input energy it means that 25 units of CO² are going to be released in producing 100 units of energy

What are the global warming implications of our High Tech Low EROEI culture? The global warming debate ignores the law of thermodynamics that states that all energy eventually ends up as waste heat. The more energy we use the more waste heat we dump into the Earth Ecosystem. The act of burning fossil fuels adds to the heat load of our planet. Turning tar into liquid fuel or beaming solar energy from space to become waste heat hardly

I would be much happier if the bright minds seeking techno fixes and the stacks of dollars funding them were focused on learning to live within the "solar power from space" that we get on an annual basis.

seem like wise plans.

Rather than stacks of dollars funding techno-fixes, we should learn to live on the "solar power from space" that we already get. For all of our species existence, we have managed wisely the solar energy stored in our food. Stonehenge, the pyramids and Tical were built with that energy. Redesigning our society to run on food that we grow ourselves may hold out far more hope for "Safe, Clean, Renewable Energy" than high tech fantasies. The experience of paying for Ontario



Hydro's nuclear mistakes through the "debt retirement charge" and its failure to deal with decommissioning the reactors or coming up with solutions to radioactive fuel wastes, are lessons we do not seem to learn. The environmental costs of that "energy too cheap to meter" fantasy have been swept into the future.

Let us be careful not to commit vast quantities of our limited resources to high tech adventures that are likely to make matters worse not better. We are more likely to survive and prosper if we return to being tool users and minimize our reliance and addiction to machines. We can set our personal and societal design criteria to rejoin the community of life on this planet. Rediscovering our own "metabolic energy" can be the key to our survival. It would address the causes of both the "compost conundrum" and the "greenhouse effect."

King Street Building

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housing, similar to our supportive housing model that provides 24 hour on-call support.

Even before the announcements this summer that some Out of the Cold sites would be closing, The Working Centre was exploring new affordable supportive housing units, largely because many individuals can not afford the available housing. When Out of the Cold started in 1999, there were few supportive housing options, but over the years housing services have developed. The Region's STEP Home (Support to End Persistent Homelessness) has coordinated increased efforts to ensure more supportive housing options. The Working Centre, for example has created 30 such units during this time, to respond to this constant need for people with few options. As well, other groups in Kitchener-Waterloo have developed projects, while there has also been a decrease in affordable housing, especially in the Kitchener downtown. We see the addition of these seven units as part of a growing community response to ensure there are affordable, supportive housing units for those least able to find housing.

The third consideration was our need for program space. In the former Morning Glory Café space we will be locating projects that reflect our livelihood initiatives. This Fall we are starting a

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Tony McQuail is a farmer, environmentalist and politician who graduated in 1976 from Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo. He is a founding member of the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario and has been farming organically since the mid 70's. In the early 1990's he was Executive Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Tony and Fran own Meeting Place Organic Farm and operate it with assorted interns, apprentices and Belgian Work Horses. Tony is a Holistic Management Certified Educator helping farmers learn how to have healthy people, land and profits.

.....

We plan to readapt the upstairs apartments into singles housing, use the main floor for program development and the basement, for uses like clothes sorting and a sound and video studio.

Youth Entrepreneurship Project (funded through the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment) that is designed to help at-risk youth to start their own businesses. This eight month project helps youth explore small business as part of learning how to create one's own income from work they enjoy, a necessary skills in the today's labour market. The project is designed to support young people who have faced challenges in their lives from being a newcomer, to having conflicts with the law to dealing with mental health challenges.

Other projects that will locate in the new space include our Local Exchange Help Desk, the base for BarterWorks, and the base for WRAP – our ten week home business training program. It has been our goal to bundle these projects in one place. We envision operating the space with a small coffee shop, workshop space and on Saturdays creating an indoor market for participants who want to sell their products.

The fourth consideration was the opportunity to combine increased digital media training. We hope to accomplish this by moving the Commons Studio to the main floor. This move will enhance the accessibility of the Studio's public digital editing labs and will also link with our goal of increasing training for graphic design, website design and video production. These are skills that are relevant for business development. Also, with main floor space we expect the Commons Studio video equipment rental services will grow. We also hope to build a sound and video studio in the basement.

Altogether, we are excited by the potential of this new building at 256 King Street East. We look forward to creating this new community space over the next year.



Annual Volunteer Dinner

The Working Centre's volunteer dinner is a lively community event where volunteers from over 15 projects gather together. This year we held a big barbeque at St. John's Kitchen on Friday, September 19th. In the afternoon, Working Centre staff prepared salads and set up the tables for 160 guests. By 5:00 pm people were arriving and we started barbecuing the burgers and hotdogs donated by John Villemarie's M&M Meat Shop.

Over the years we have stopped putting aside time for speeches. We

have learned that the volunteers already know how much they contribute to make The Working Centre community what it is. Instead, the dinner is a celebration of the work accomplished. All the tables were filled with friends who have gotten to know each other doing the work of community from serving meals to fixing bikes to repairing computers to growing food and selling furniture and clothes. The volunteer dinner reminds us how work and friendship combine together to create community.



The Working Centre is pleased to announce that

Murray Haase

will be the Guest of Honour at the 28th Annual Mayors' Dinner

Saturday April 11th, 2015

Option for Community Engagement

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between Laurier and The Working Centre to create a School in the Community, offering an option in Community Engagement. Strongly supported by the Dean of Arts, the option was collaboratively designed through the creative input of both Laurier and The Working Centre. Arts faculty, Laurier's Centre for Community Service-Learning, and The Working Centre team came together to design the three core courses of the option, which this first cohort of students is now helping to define.

An integral part of these courses is that by mid-Fall, students will begin spending a few hours a week embedded in one of The Working Centre's projects. In the second course, AF301, they will explore thinkers like Ivan Illich, E. F. Schumacher, and Paulo Freire, and reflect on how the ideas promoted by these thinkers are practiced in daily life of The Working Centre.

During the third course, AF305 (offered during the winter term), students will deepen their understanding of community engagement through a capstone

experience within The Working Centre. Building upon the Fall courses, students will deepen their understanding of local democracy, social inclusion, and community enterprise through participation in Working Centre projects.

The Community Engagement Option is unique in that community thinking has been integrated into curriculum design and each course is integrally connected to the next. The professors have been working closely with The Working Centre and each other to design and deliver these three courses.

It's exciting to be working with a dedicated group of individuals in a collaborative effort between the community and the academy to shape this option, which will give students a new perspective on Community Engagement - a perspective that promotes an approach focused on local democracy, social inclusion, and community enterprise, grounded by thoughtful reflection on the common good.

This word cloud depicts the student's first reactions to this experience:



25th Golf Tournament

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(men's and women's) closest to the keg and closest to the pin.

This year's top foursome consisted of Ray Wintermeyer, Tyler Cockram, Brian Bledsoe and Bob Servo. The women's team of Denise Nash, Karen Alaske, Cindy Shnell and Farrah Osbourne received trophies, as did the mixed group of Butch Staycoff, Lisa Gray, Tim Lyons and Mark Whittaker.

It was a warm atmosphere in the club house, where players enjoyed a buffet dinner, reminisced over memories of past tournaments and made plans for the future.

We would like to thank the Unifor National Office and Lear

Corporation for returning as the main sponsors of the tournament, along with MTD Products as patron sponsor. There were 28 hole sponsors. Brinks and Strassburger Windows and Doors sponsored the prize packages for players again this year. Once again, UA 527 Plumbers and Steamfitters furnished the trophies.

We are grateful for the support and leadership of our organizing committee: Chris Riehl (UA 527), Fred Walker and, from Unifor: Jim Woods, Tim Mitchell, Dayle Steadman and Brian Little.

Stay tuned for details on the 26th tournament in August 2015.



Now with 7 locations serving the Kitchener-Waterloo area:

- Kitchener Market
- Sunlife Financial (access off John and Caroline Street South)
- Your Neighbourhood Credit Union (King & William)
- Charles Street GRT Terminal
- The Walper Hotel and CIBC on Queen Street South
- Kitchener City Hall
- The Tannery (Charles & Victoria)

All-Candidates Meetings

To foster voter awareness during the 2014 municipal elections, The Working Centre is hosting a series of four all-candidates meetings. These meetings are open to all, and will focus on candidate responses to audience questions.

All sessions will run from 7-9pm at:

Queen Street Commons Cafe

43 Queen Street South, Kitchener

- Wednesday, Oct 1, 7-9pm: Kitchener candidates for Regional Council
- Wednesday, Oct 8, 7-9pm: Kitchener Ward 9 candidates
- Tuesday, Oct 14, 7-9pm: Kitchener Ward 10 candidates
- Wednesday, Oct 22, 7-9pm: Kitchener Mayoral candidates

We invite members of the public to participate. These live events will be recorded and put it online so those who cannot attend can still benefit. Visit the What's New section of our website at www.theworkingcentre.org

Please join us for these sessions, and help spread the word about these events to others.

For more information, contact Paul at pauln@theworkingcentre.org, or leave a message at 519-743-1151 x147.

Local Democracy

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if democracy can flourish only if it is experienced in I-and-Thou relationships?

Another participant told the class the story of two communities: Roseto, Pennsylvania and Geel, Belgium. These two communities were cities on the hill, so to speak, lights of local democracy. Roseto was known through studies in the 1950s that pointed out that, although their diet was by no means healthy, they had half the national American rate of heart disease in the mid-20th century. The primary reason for this was the high-level of community engagement coupled with strong families and vibrant neighbourhoods. Community spirit had a real effect on health! Geel in Belgium is another luminous community. The city has a millennia-old tradition of personal hospitality to and community inclusion of those who have psychiatric needs. Here hundreds of families take into their own homes people who suffer from various mental illnesses ranging from schizophrenia to obsessive compulsive disorder. The stories of Roseto and Geel were inspiring for me on a deep level. Six months after the course ended I still find my thoughts drifting in their direction. I wonder in hope: what kind of community is possible in Kitchener-Waterloo? If this is what community can do in Roseto and Geel, what beautiful thing will come as we continue to build community here?

Mystagogy of Local Democracy

I want to end with an appreciative recounting of my co-facilitator, Sean O'Seasain's, 'Swan Song' (that is to say, his last talk for our Local Democracy class). Sean, for some time, has been referring to something he calls the Mystagogy of Local Democracy. The phrase made little sense to me – Mystagogy? What does that mean? When Sean delivered his final talk, on the Mystagogy of Local Democracy,

it was like a veil had been lifted from my eyes. Not only did I now understand the strange word 'mystagogy' but his explanation helped me understand the class and, indeed, local democracy itself.

Sean explained that mystagogy was a bit like pedagogy. Both come from the root "agogos" meaning "to lead." A pedagogy is about leading into a definite body of knowledge like mathematics, history or chemistry. Mystagogy, on the other hand, is about leading into mystery, into the unknown-becoming-known. Mystagogy is leading into something other than a definite body of knowledge, it is about being led into something not yet fully revealed.

The phrase 'local democracy' is a bit ambiguous, it does not lead to any precise definition this way or that. There is a sense that local democracy, the relationships and skills of equality and community, do not fully exist in our everyday lives – at least not yet. In this sense it is not fully revealed and so when we explore it we do so together, entering into conversations and learning from each other as we "enter the mystery." That is why every year our explorations in the Diploma are different. We are not exploring something definite but trying to catch glimpses of democratic relationships in everyday life and describing to each other what we have seen.

Through conversations about Buber, Roseto, Geel and Mystagogy in the Local Democracy class this past winter my own understanding and practice has been enlivened. This new year we are running the Diploma in Local Democracy again and I look forward to the new explorations that will occur. There's no predicting what learning will arise but I fully trust that new participants will add their own voice to the wisdom of our group. Will you join us in this collective journey?



Last winter, a broken heater early in the morning, inspired Maurita's Kitchen workers and volunteers to bundle up as they prepared food for the Queen Street Commons Café.

Summer Interns at The Working Centre

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actions interact with those ideas every day.

Concepts that we came back to throughout our conversations included reciprocity, building genuine relationships, and work as gift. For many in this group of mostly young people embarking on their paths in work and life, these were new and complex conversations to engage in, and to reconcile with their experiences in the job market outside of The Working Centre. One intern said to me recently that "even though my internship here was 10 hours per week and I work 30 hours per week at my other job, my time here was incredibly impactful. It's so easy to translate my internship experience to interactions in the rest of my life. As a manager in my other job, there are some things that I can't avoid, but our conversations have made me think about how a manager should act, versus how a manager is expected to act. Our conversations have helped me understand that my role is to recognize people's skills and talents, and be receptive to people. I've become more conscientious towards people I work with."

As we move into the fall, many of our interns remain connected. I caught up with some of them to hear their thoughts at the end of a dynamic summer. Below are some of their stories, reflections and comments.

"Before my internship in Maurita's Kitchen, I always believed that I could learn something from everyone, but I didn't feel like I embodied that philosophy in my actions. Working in Maurita's Kitchen, I was able to see what that looked like. I watched the staff do it and learned from them."

"Interning in Computer Recycling, I learned a lot about working with hardware, and also gained a lot of soft skills. Coming from India, I'm used to interacting with a variety of people, but it's different in Canada. Working with people from different age groups and backgrounds was challenging at the start, but I

learned to communicate well. For my first time in a Canadian work setting, this experience really helped me settle in. With my MBA, if I move to management in the future, the things I learned this summer will help me to work with different people."

"When I started working in the Hacienda Garden, everyone was working in a team, and I was slowing everyone down. I was surprised that people stopped to help me. That made me feel at home all at once. It's easy to form bonds with people here very fast. Just working with someone on something that is so challenging makes you feel close."

"One thing to get used to at Worth a Second Look is the changing geography. Every time I come in, chairs and tables have switched spots. Initially I responded to it in a stressed out way – even on a subconscious level, it created uncertainty. I've learned that this is a space where, rather than relying on the underlying physical structure, we rely on communication with other human beings. That's what keeps things together."

"I knew the internship at the Hacienda Garden would be about community and growing things, but I didn't realize how much I would learn about myself. Being an older person, I was worried I wouldn't be able to keep up, but actually I had a lot in common with people. We all brought something and it didn't matter if you were young or old, inexperienced or a seasoned gardener. Personally, I was a stay-at-home parent with a kinesiology and health degree and a horticultural therapy background, but I didn't have farming skills. With what I've learned in the internship, I can get out and offer my skills at a nursing home or senior centre, or even at a school. I could see when I'm retired, going and helping at St. John's Kitchen or Computer Recycling, and my kids getting involved. I'm just going to keep turning up like a good penny. You'll probably have to ask me to leave!"



Waterloo School for Community Development

Laurier Option for Community Engagement

By Heather Montgomery

September always feels like a beginning to me, the summer is winding down, the world seems to be shuffling its way back into a more settled routine, and the air is full of the excitement of a new school year.

Student excitement was felt in a very tangible way at The Working Centre this month, as 35 upper year Laurier students were welcomed into the Queen Street Commons Cafe for their first class of the term. They came together for AF300, the first in a series of three Arts Faculty courses that form the core of a recently designed Community Engagement Option. Studying Sociology, Global Studies, Geography, Communications, and History (to name a few), students arrived with perspectives grounded in a cross-section of Arts Faculty

35 Laurier students gathered at the Queen Street Commons Café for AF300, the first of 3 Arts Faculty courses that comprise part of the Community Engagement Option that also includes AF301 Social Inclusion, Local Democracy and Community Enterprise and AF305 Semester in Community Engagement.

programs.

Designed as a culture camp, students spent two and half days immersing themselves in downtown Kitchener. Classes took place at Queen Street Commons, Kitchener City Hall, Lyle S. Hallman School of Social Work, and the Kitchener Public Library. These first classes were day-long sojourns into the life of Downtown Kitchener and The

Working Centre.

Students were taken on a tour of TWC, had lunch at St. John's Kitchen and Queen Street Commons, and thoughtfully discussed the meaning of Engagement, Community, and Welcoming Spaces. They also spent time doing street-level field observations around concepts of globalization, constructs of power, and social inclusion. They learned about the social, geographical and historical contexts that inform how Kitchener developed and continues to evolve. And, they began to thoughtfully reflect on their own positionality within the context of the various communities that exist within the downtown.

Many students reflected on their experiences at St. John's Kitchen; for most of the students, it was their first time being in a community kitchen. Karli, a Global Studies student chatted with a guest about the connections between global studies and community engagement and reflected that:

"Too often people go unnoticed because of the way they dress, their socioeconomic status, or the way they live their lives. People may dress or look different but that does not make them less of a person, nor does it discredit their stories and experiences. I am looking forward to this class because of the conversation and dialogue it will create amongst different groups of people."

Another student, Shannon, shared this reflection after speaking with Gretchen:

"I became more aware of how my presence affected the spaces I was occupying and the people surrounding me. I realized that every individual despite their socioeconomic status created the community that we refer to as Kitchener/Waterloo and to be fully immersed in this course I need to shed the categorizations that I have developed."

After asking a guest for help understanding a bylaw sign, another student Leah, reflected on "the importance of engaging with others in the community to gain knowledge and respect for one another."

These students are participants in an innovative new partnership

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Summer Interns

By Radha Smith

This summer, 13 interns contributed their work and gifts to Working Centre Community Tools projects. Each intern engaged in hands-on training in one project, and also interacted with the broader ideas of The Working Centre through regular conversation gatherings and a tour of other Working Centre projects. I had the opportunity to join the tours and conversations, and was struck by the energy, humility, and openness of spirit with which every intern approached their work, and reflected on their experiences and learning.

Interns' day-to-day activities ranged from fixing bikes with community members at Recycle Cycles, to practicing natural, no-spray market gardening at the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden, learning nutritious vegetarian cooking methods in Maurita's Kitchen, supporting community members in unique ways at Worth a Second Look, building bikeshare infrastructure with Community Access Bikeshare, contributing to community filmmaking projects at the Commons Studio, repairing hardware in Computer Recycling, and much more. One intern described to me the breadth of experiences he engaged in, saying, "I just fixed a clamp on a bike, but two weeks ago I was in a boardroom. I feel like the fact that I was an intern didn't limit the activities I could be involved in."

This was the first year that such a large number of interns have joined The Working Centre's projects. The idea of conversation gatherings arose as a way to host this group thoughtfully, offering opportunities to engage more deeply with the ideas that provide context to our daily work. We were able to bring all of the interns together for regular gatherings throughout July, to reflect on some core ideas expressed in readings and artwork, and to talk about how our thoughts and small

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Facilitating the Diploma in Local Democracy

By Isaiah Boronka

This past winter I had the enjoyable opportunity of co-facilitating the Diploma in Local Democracy for the first time. Each year new participants shape the course by sharing their own thoughts and experiences, further enriching the collective wisdom of the class. This year was no different and, as co-facilitator, I benefited greatly through listening to the stories, ideas and questions of those who took the class. My own conceptions of the meaning and value of Local Democracy has grown in listening to and learning from what they shared.

One of our participants spoke at length of Martin Buber (1878-1965) and his spirituality of relationship, distinguishing I-and-Thou relationships (where people are treated as a person, as a 'you') from I-and-It relationships (where people are treated as objects, as an 'it'). Buber's wise, poetic words were enlightening as we began to see the richness of I-and-Thou relationships. His thoughts were especially poignant for the theme of our class. Local Democracy seeks to imagine democracy as a way of life rather than simply a set of properly functioning national institutions (as important as those are). The nature of institutions means that relationships will almost always feel like I-and-It – but what if that's not the end of the story? What

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Graduation of the
6th Local
Democracy Class
Wednesday November 19th
7:00 pm
Queen Street Commons
Café

Professors Michel Desjardins and Bob Sharpe will give the Commencement Address to the Graduating Class describing the Community Engagement Option

Next Class begins
Wednesday
January 7th 2015
7:00pm

For more information:
localdemocracy@theworkingcentre.org



Professor Bob Sharpe designed AF300 as a culture camp in downtown Kitchener where students have been immersing in the downtown Kitchener community. The first day's class ended at the City of Kitchener Council Chambers.