

GOOD WORK NEWS

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

Issue 108

March 2012

Subscription: A Donation Towards our Work

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We're MOVING!
37 Market Lane, Kitchener
April 2012

Recycle Cycles has outgrown its present space at 43 Queen St. S. The new location on Market Lane will nearly double the available shop space, allowing us to accommodate many more volunteers and participants at a time. The new shop is accessible via King Street, and is located on the main floor of the building. We plan to open the new shop by early April, 2012.

Call 519-749-9177 x222 for more information!

A New Home for Recycle Cycles

Recycle Cycles is a community bike shop whose focus is to promote cycling by making bicycle purchase, maintenance and repair accessible and affordable.

Members of the public can reserve bicycle repair stand space and make use of our tools, parts, and volunteer assistance to repair their bikes. Recycle Cycles volunteers will not fix your bicycle for you, but they will service it with you. Use of the shop and volunteer assistance is free.

Recycle Cycles has over 50 volunteers who are the main workforce for the project. The shop has open hours from Tuesday to Saturday when Recycle Cycles volunteers work with members of the public to provide whatever level of assistance

is required to repair their bicycles. Volunteers also work on refurbishing bicycles donated to us, which are then sold to help support our free services.

When The Working Centre adopted Recycle Cycles from the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) in 1998, it only operated during the summer on a federal summer grant. Since 1999, Recycle Cycles has steadily grown as a practical bicycle resource. In the first years at 43 Queen St. S., Recycle Cycles would recycle 100 bikes and 300 people would use the shop to fix their bikes. This year, 703 bikes were recycled and sold and given out

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Margaret & Bob Nally Fostering Creative Community

By Joe Mancini

Over this past summer, a strong interest emerged among Mayor Zehr and Mayor Halloran and members of the Mayors' Dinner Committee that the 25th Mayors' Dinner should celebrate The Working Centre community. We thought of many different ways to do this and we are pleased to announce that Margaret and Bob Nally will be Guest Narrators of The Working Centre story and 25th Mayors' Dinner Guests of Honour. We feel blessed to honour Margaret and Bob not only for their role as spiritual generators of The Working Centre community some thirty years ago, but also for their continuing life journey towards building community.

The Mayors' Dinner became a fundraising project of The Working Centre after we successfully held a dinner in 1988 to honour Kitchener Mayor Dominic Cardillo, recognizing his 25 years of service as a municipal politician. The dinner has evolved over these 25 years to uniquely recognize long-term community commitment. Our list of Guests of Honour is made up of outstanding leaders who have spent their lifetime weaving community into the core of their lifework whether in business, philanthropy, social service, sports, social justice or volunteerism. The Mayors' Dinner draws our citizens together and publicly recognizes and celebrates community commitment.

To celebrate The Working Centre community, we have asked Margaret and Bob Nally to narrate the story of The Working Centre. This distinctive role is a natural fit for Margaret and Bob. The Working Centre is at its heart a spiritual

We are pleased to announce that Margaret and Bob Nally will be Guest Narrators of The Working Centre story and 25th Mayors' Dinner Guests of Honour. We feel blessed to honour Margaret and Bob not only for their role as spiritual generators of the Working Centre community some thirty years ago, but also for their continuing life journey towards building community.

commitment to address poverty and unemployment, not only through programs and services but through a whole hearted commitment to community and the foundational values that make this possible.

The Practice of Community

The Working Centre commitment to community took root around the kitchen table of the Nally's. It was not the result of an accidental meeting, but rather part of a continuum, a practice on the part of Margaret and Bob of welcoming, inviting spiritual reflection, gathering people together and of being a leaven for entrepreneurial creativity. When Margaret reflects on service, she likes to quote the Indian writer Tagore's eloquent poem: "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service is joy."

Back in the early 1980's, the Nally's had just been in Canada for a little over ten years. Emigrating as a young couple from Ireland, they had found their way to Kitchener when Bob was accepted into the Electrical

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Twenty-Seventh Year

Issue 108

March 2012

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 10,000 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

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Contributors:

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Margaret & Bob Nally

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Engineering Coop program at the University of Waterloo. By Christmas 1970, Bob had a coop job placement lined up for the beginning of January at the City of Kitchener's old City Hall. Yet, with bright job prospects, the young couple had run out of money struggling to make ends meet while renting a run-down house around Weber and Cedar with their baby daughter Sue.

10 years later, Bob already had his masters in Electrical Engineering and was Director of Engineering at NCR in Waterloo. A second child Aoife was now 8 years old and Margaret had completed her BA in Religious Studies while working at WLU. Their immigrating experience had marked them profoundly. As they built their family, church and work connections they consciously chose community.

The Global Community Centre

Margaret chose to work at Global Community Centre as the church animator. Her motivation was the exploration of the social dimension of the Gospel. The early 1980's was a time when Catholic social teaching was aligned with Latin American Liberation Theology. Civil war was raging in El Salvador and the Sandinistas were under siege from the Contra's funded by Reagan's White House.

When Archbishop Oscar Romero was gunned down by a Junta death squad, the solidarity movement supporting the El Salvadorian people only grew. Bishop Paul Redding of the Hamilton Diocese was present at Romero's funeral when the military disrupted the service with bombs and army sharpshooters. Bishop Redding personally called Margaret to tell her about the

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Mayor Carl Zehr and Mayor Brenda Halloran
 Invite you to Celebrate...

25 Years of Mayors' Dinner & 30 Years of The Working Centre

With Guest Hosts Margaret and Bob Nally
 Narrating the story of The Working Centre's Community Building Efforts

March 31st, 2012

Held at Marshall Hall, Bingemans, Kitchener

Cocktails and Auction Preview: 5:30 pm
 Dinner: 6:45 pm

For more details call (519)743-1151 x119

Mayor Zehr of Kitchener and Mayor Halloran of Waterloo invite you to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Mayors' Dinner. The event will also recognize The Working Centre as an example of creative community building.

The Mayors have invited Margaret and Bob Nally as Guest Hosts to narrate this event. As original Working Centre board members, The Working Centre took shape around the Nally's kitchen table. Margaret is a pastoral worker providing spiritual direction in workplaces, shelters, and churches, and serves on the boards of community organizations. Bob Nally is an accomplished eco-entrepreneur whose designs and widely acknowledged business start-up skills are behind successful local companies like RDM and Virtek. The Working Centre developed into a model of bottom up, small-scale local work committed to cooperation, and helping people to shape their tools.

For 30 years, the people of The Working Centre, modeling cooperation, have developed over 30 vital initiatives through the Job Search Resource Centre, St. John's Kitchen, Community Tools, Access to Technology, Transitional Housing and the Waterloo School for Community Development. Margaret and Bob will narrate the story behind these projects and the cooperation that is essential to involving people in building community.

Mayors' Dinner Guests of Honour

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1988 Dominic Cardillo | 2000 Peter Hallman |
| 1989 Jonas Bingeman | 2001 Chloe Callender |
| 1990 Betty Thompson | 2002 Walter Hachborn |
| 1991 Milo Shantz | 2003 Edna Staebler |
| 1992 Sr. Aloysia Zimmer | 2004 Mary Bales/Martin Buhr |
| 1993 John Wintermeyer | 2005 John Thompson |
| 1994 Lorna Van Mossel | 2006 Dr. Donna Ward |
| 1995 Milton Good | 2007 John Jackson |
| 1996 Anna Kaljas | 2008 Sylvia & Stephen Scott |
| 1997 Ken Murray | 2009 John & Donna Weber |
| 1998 Steve & Eve Menich | 2010 Lynda Silvester |
| 1999 Lucille Mitchell | 2011 Jim Erb |

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



I would like to purchase:

- Individual Ticket: \$85 (includes one tax receipt for \$45)
- Contributor Sponsorship Package: \$205 (includes 2 tickets, recognition in dinner program, and one tax receipt for \$125)
- Community Group Package: \$640 (includes 8 tickets and one tax receipt for \$320)

Name: _____

 Address: _____

 City: _____

Visa Mastercard
 Amount: \$ _____
 Card #: _____
 Expires: _____
 Signed: _____



St. John's Kitchen

Don Allen Volunteer Emeritus

By Joe Mancini

This article is a thank you to Don Allen who has been a steady and almost full-time volunteer with The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen since 1992. Around 1995, we first recognized how much Don Allen was volunteering in a Good Work News article that noted how "Don keeps a volunteer schedule that is more rigorous than most people's full-time job."

Every morning Don was at St. John's Kitchen by 7:30 helping to get things started before we opened at 8:00. Then he was off for donut, bread and other pickups along with a twice weekly Waterloo Region Foodbank pickup. By lunch time he took charge of dishwashing and led a dedicated crew that also cleaned up the whole kitchen. The hectic day would end by 2:15. This was a full day of volunteering that Don continued until about 2003 when he cut back his schedule a bit.

Don came in contact with The Working Centre when he was laid off from Moors Forms during an early 1990's restructuring. He took some job search courses at The Working Centre but slowly he chose a different course of work; committing to volunteering rather than to enter back into the high expectations of sales work. He had done that already for over 30 years. Don used some resources he had saved and he used those to construct a simple lifestyle that allowed him to commit his time to serve others. In 1995, he told me about a quote that motivated his commitment.

"We must try to demonstrate the essential worth of life by doing all we can to alleviate suffering, establishing relationships with people in our reach and go to their aid – whenever they need us."

Over these 20 years Don Allen has been a rock of community volunteering for several organizations, but The Working Centre has benefited the most from his commitment. We have evolved a system over these 20 years where Don has looked after every morning and afternoon food pick up for St. John's Kitchen. A rough guess of the number of pick ups over these years would total well over 8,000 and then there is a further 1,700 pick ups from the Waterloo Region Food Bank. These pick ups fill a cargo van to its weight capacity with boxes of canned goods, pasta and frozen meat.

During this time, Don has played a major role in two of our long-term fundraising events. Since the 1990's, his main role has



been picking up silent auction and golf prizes. Don has been a major supporter of the Mayors' Dinner. He picks up items, he solicits for items and for many years he has sponsored an item, paying up to \$500 and negotiating to purchase a quality item to enhance the auction. More than that, Don has spent hours designing certificate boards for the Mayors' Dinner that attractively displays each item. Some years he makes up to 100 of these boards. For this task he purchased his own specialized cutting equipment to ensure his work was of high quality.

When Don volunteered he wanted the situation organized, he wanted the quality of the work to be exceptional and he wanted to help out in a way that maximized his talents and efforts. What is so unique about this is that Don understood his volunteer work to be his core work and he conducted himself with us as if he was an employee, knowing that he was contributing like a full-time worker.

Don has made a true lifetime commitment to the work of community volunteering. Don is a friend and colleague and he counts among the longest serving volunteers and employees of the organization. He has remained with us through a combination of flexibility and commitment towards the goal of serving others.

As Don retires and moves to his home town of Burlington, we have a great sense of gratitude for this model of community volunteering, helping in hundreds of ways to support the work of distributing and serving food at St. John's Kitchen.

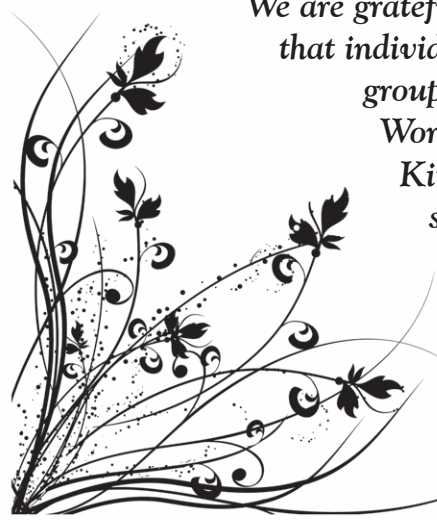


Volunteer Driver Needed for St. John's Kitchen

With Don Allen's retirement, St. John's Kitchen is looking for volunteer drivers who can use our van to make pick-ups from Waterloo Region Food Bank and other food donors.

The job does entail some heavy lifting. Pick-up schedules are usually first thing in the morning.

Please Call St. John's Kitchen at 519-745-8928 if you would like to help out.



We are grateful for the generous support that individuals, businesses, churches, groups, and schools offer to The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen. This Christmas season, the generosity towards our work is a true blessing. A deep thank you to all those who make this work of building community possible.



Myths About Homelessness

By Michael Brown

"Why don't the homeless take responsibility for finding themselves a job and for getting on with their lives? Why don't those street people stop whining and pick up their boot straps? Aren't social services enabling them to remain lazy and dependent on those services? I have gone through hard times and I made it through, so why don't they?"

These types of questions sit deep among members of our community in the Waterloo Region, and at an emotional level, I sometimes must pause before I respond back. In that pause, I remember when I used to ask the same questions, based on my snap judgments and hazy assumptions.

In that same pause, I also remember what incredible people from our street community have helped me realize, when I was an outreach worker at The Working Centre. When they allowed me into their lives and gave me an opportunity to know them, to know each other.

Taking Responsibility

People who we categorize as homeless take responsibility. It depends on who uses the word "responsibility" and why they are using it. That is, how they choose to apply it to some people and situations, and not to others.

People without a roof over their

These types of questions [about homelessness] sit deep among members of our community in the Waterloo Region, and at an emotional level, I sometimes must pause before I respond back. In that pause, I remember when I used to ask the same questions, based on my snap judgments and hazy assumptions.

head take responsibility for their health and well-being. They do this, for example, by walking daily from St. John's Kitchen, to the employment centre, to labour ready, to view an apartment, and to their next destination. They often walk under extremely hot and cold weather conditions and carry their belongings with them, since they are not provided lockers by our community, among other necessities.

They do all this walking because they cannot afford bus tickets. We have made it very difficult in our culture for people to ask for bus tickets or small change. We have created beliefs that attack a person's ego through repetition, until they feel too humiliated to ask. But as I learned from people experiencing abject poverty, you can receive mon-

Margaret & Bob Nally

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situation in El Salvador and to encourage her solidarity work.

Social Justice in the Early 1980s

There was a great deal of work to do. The Christian churches had aligned themselves into coalitions and at the grassroots in Kitchener-Waterloo, Global Community Centre was the hub for supporting groups like the InterChurch Committee on Latin America, Amnesty International, The Taskforce for Corporate Responsibility, Project Ploughshares, and Ten Days for World Development. This was concrete work supporting high school fasts and retreats, writing letters, and organizing educational forums. Hulene Montgomery and Lorna Van Mossel worked closely with Global on the work of organizing churches to support the Vietnamese refugees.

Margaret and Bob remember holding a drumming circle in the basement of St. Michael's Catholic

dedicated to supporting grassroots local social justice projects. By May The Working Centre had a name, an office above Global Community Centre on Queen Street South and an advisory group made up of Margaret and Bob Nally, Patrice Reitzel, Anna Hemminger, Jane Reble and Leo McNeil.

Under Margaret and Patrice's guidance we also had a model to develop an alternative employment service dedicated to understanding the deeper issues of unemployment and poverty. The praxis model that we continue to use even today was called the Pastoral Circle. It starts with learning the experience, doing social analysis, developing theological and ethical reflection and then creative action. The Working Centre had much more than that. It grew directly from the community of Global Community Centre, a community where Margaret and Bob had offered their many gifts towards its growth.

Community and Spiritual Work

The foundational efforts of the



Margaret & Bob Nally as students arriving in Canada from Ireland.

Church as part of an educational initiative with Project North and the Berger Commission while Sunday mass proceeded directly above. In the early 1980's, Good Friday meant a bus trip to Litton Industries in Toronto for a Stations of the Cross ceremony to protest the development of cruise missiles.

The Working Centre Takes Root

As young married university students, Stephanie and I started helping Margaret on projects like memorial services for Oscar Romero and the INFACOT boycott of Nestles over the promotion of infant formula in developing countries. In March 1982, after a Global Community Centre dinner, with many people gathered at the Nally's, the discussion turned to understanding unemployment and poverty in Kitchener-Waterloo. It was Margaret who challenged us to consider ways to learn how to apply social justice ideas to our own community. Within weeks, with the help of Patrice Reitzel (now Thorn) who shared the job of church animator, an application was filled out to another inter-church group called PLURA

early 1980's only reinforced a lifetime of effort on the part of the Nally's who continued and expanded their social justice and entrepreneurial work. Margaret worked for almost ten years at Global Community Centre where she also became closely involved with the K-W House Church at 101 David Street. While working with a community organization on Race Relations Margaret became increasingly aware of the plight of Refugees in our area. She brought her concern for housing and orientation to the House Church and from there the Reception House project for government sponsored refugees was formed.

Margaret trained and practiced as a Spiritual Director and has been a Chaplain at Mary's Place, an emergency shelter for families who are homeless, for almost 10 years. Her and Bob are members of Kitchener-Waterloo House Churches for over 20 years, affiliated with the Mennonite Conference of Eastern Canada. The Mennonite Church became Bob and Margaret's spiritual home.

Margaret has provided leadership in retreats and days of prayer and has performed wedding services for many social justice minded young



This photo taken at The Working Centre's original centre at 94A Queen Street South above the Global Community Centre. The Nally's were instrumental in creating this unique space. (Photo courtesy of Doug MacLellan).

couples. She has also served on the board of the YWCA for 6 years, the last two as President. She is currently President of the Board of Mennonite Central Committee Ontario as well as a director of Menno-Homes. Margaret and Bob have traveled extensively in the developing world visiting and participating in MCC and other short-term projects in Israel/Palestine, Iran, Guatemala, Jamaica, Brazil and West Africa.

Entrepreneurial Work

Meanwhile, Bob built his entrepreneurial skills around systems design, image processing and pattern recognition. He has transferred this knowledge into an extensive career of successful commercialization and innovation of advanced technologies, management of intellectual property, building management teams and business plans for high-tech companies in a range of industries and markets.

Bob left NCR to become the Commercial Development Officer for the University of Waterloo with the mandate to transfer and commercialize technology through forming new start-up technology companies, mainly from the University, based on research breakthroughs. During his tenure, Bob cofounded more than fifteen information technology and environmental technology companies.

Clean-Tech Innovation

Bob has been active in the development of several clean-tech companies through Canadian Venture Founders. He has been part of investment and management teams that have established such companies as Biorem Technologies Inc. which aims to be the world leader in design and implementation of bio-filter technology for air purification and odor removal. Ecoval Inc. is a developer and marketer of its brand of 100% natural, environmentally safe fertilizers, a patented non-toxic organic herbicide and patented tree recovery systems. Another company, TurboSonic is a global supplier of air pollution control and liquid atomization technologies. Waterloo Barrier Inc. has installed over one million square of toxic waste containment.

RDM and Virtek

Bob has been associated with two other significant local compa-

nies that he has helped found and build from start-up. RDM Corporation is a provider of solutions for the electronic commerce and payment processing industries, providing Remote Check Deposit systems and Web-based image management and transaction processing services for retailers, small businesses and financial institutions. The second local company, Virtek is an innovator in the production of laser systems that creates precision laser-based templating and CNC manufacturing solutions.

Bob's entrepreneurial drive is unique in itself. Over a 40 year career he has progressively invested in a commitment to clean technology, the development of local jobs and the use of technology for the common good.

The Bells Have Meaning

Margaret and Bob have served as models for young and old, all of whom recognize in them a spiritual grounding that is rooted deeply in their core. Margaret commented on this core in a talk to the local Mennonite Economic Development Associates chapter.

"When I travel to Muslim countries and hear the call to prayer at 4:00 am, I don't grump about the time or the noise – I am brought back in time to my early days growing up all 9 of us, on the other side of a 15 foot convent wall where daily life of the sisters was regulated by the bells calling all to prayer. Morning, noon and night – bells – most probably disliked by most but I loved them and I still do. The bells rang out all over the city reminding everyone to stop at noon and six for food and family but also to set a marker in human time for the intervention of God into daily life."

The Working Centre in its early years was marked by a spiritual call to serve others and build community. The model we set out to create was far beyond a social service, it required new ways of thinking, new ways of acting. Over 30 years, Margaret and Bob have offered guidance, financial support, thoughtful insight and in their own lives, a full commitment to the work of social justice, entrepreneurial creativity, and inclusion. We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration of the 25th Mayors' Dinner and the 30 year anniversary of The Working Centre.

37 MARKET LANE A NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE BUILDING

A New Home for Recycle Cycles



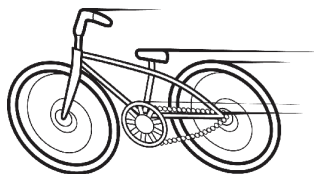
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in the community while 3089 bikes were repaired on public stands.

The growth in the services of Recycle Cycles demonstrates two trends; the usefulness of a well-organized, widely accessible community bike shop, and the potential for Recycle Cycles to continue that growth by relocating to a facility that is larger, main floor-accessible, and can accommodate a more efficient flow-through operation for dealing with bikes.

The Working Centre's recent purchase of 37 Market Lane, a three-storey building with main floor access from King Street will solve Recycle Cycles' space problems. In March 2012, Recycle Cycles will relocate to the main floor with approximately 3200 square feet of space.

Recycle Cycles will be relocating to the new building on Market Lane, accessible from King St., in March. The success of Recycle Cycles at 43 Queen St. stretched its space needs to the limit, and it became clear that additional space was needed to continue to meet the public's growing demand for its affordable cycling services. In our present space, we have been forced to turn volunteers away. For example, this summer Recycle Cycles closed to the public for one week in order to clear the backlog of bikes that were piling up.



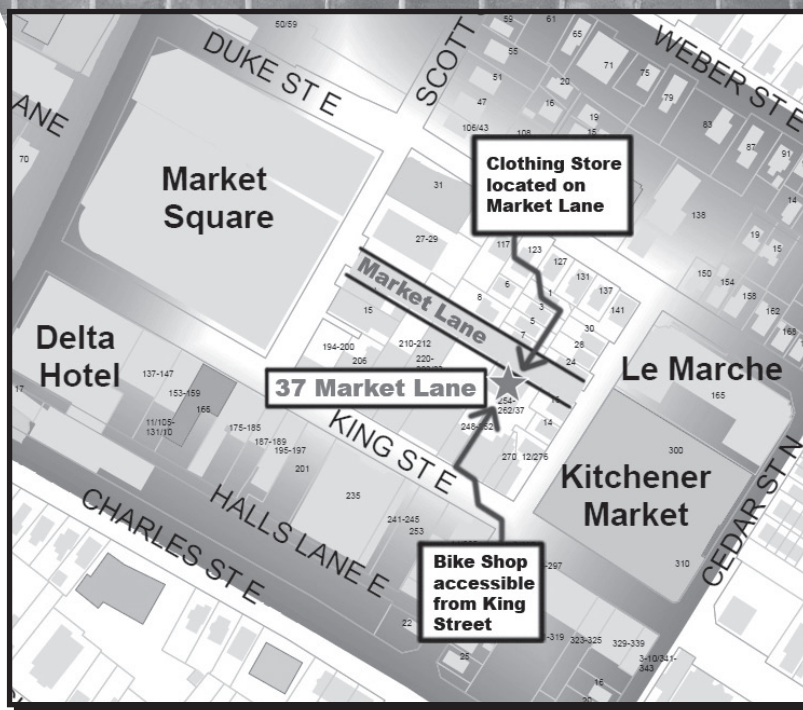
Once Recycle Cycles has moved into the new building, we expect over the first two years to recycle, resell, and repair 50% more bicycles annually, and increase the number of individuals who can work to repair their own bike or refurbish bikes for resale at a given time. The increase in revenue will help to offset the cost of the new building. This new space will open up opportunities for more volunteers, who become expert bike mechanics. These individuals share their knowledge generously with friends, family, and neighbours.

With the increased capacity, it will be able to refurbish and sell a larger number of used bicycles at very affordable prices. This will provide a greater number of people with affordable, environmentally-friendly transportation while keeping thousands of additional bikes out of landfills each year.

The new space will also allow us

to involve many more volunteers who will pass along their skills to participants needing bike repairs. As these skills are passed on to a growing community of cyclists, cycling will become more accessible and affordable. The act of sharing skills helps to build connections between shop participants, and these connections are what build and spread cycling culture.

This project will also expand the help we provide for practical transportation for individuals living on low incomes who often struggle to get around town affordably.



The Working Centre's Clothing Store Opening Up On Market Lane

By Kim Knowles

As the walls come down and the space opens up, The Working Centre's new second-hand clothing store is taking shape. The store will offer inexpensive, quality, second-hand clothing. It will be located in the downtown core on Market Lane near the Kitchener Market. The new store location is presently being transformed into a bright colourful space that will highlight all the excellent reusable clothing that is donated to Worth A Second Look.

Clothing Re-use stores are a popular way to create access to affordable clothing. They are also important for a culture of sustainability. The local ability to collect and sell clothing with care and enthusiasm ensures that less clothing is thrown away or is sent overseas. Pricing for affordability and volunteer opportunities in return for store credits are also an important part of the concept.

The store will sell common items that are donated such as women's, men's and children's clothing as well as various accessories to embellish and tailor your creations. The store will especially focus on hospitality. We hope for a store where people come often, where they are welcomed and are assisted to find what they are looking for. Some of the ideas that have been suggested to create a welcoming place include an area for children, developing a creative and artistic feel, a comfortable sitting place, a sewing machine to mend a piece of clothing, cheerful conversation, someone to guide you through

Vincent de Paul where it was sorted and sold at its store on King Street. With the closing of the St. Vincent de Paul store on King St., The Working Centre has been searching for a way to introduce a new local clothing store. This winter we have been sorting clothing for distribution at St.



the store and a helping hand.

True hospitality welcomes everyone, an informal kind of helping that is often missing in our increasingly tight culture. We are very excited to create another place where the ideas of hospitality will flow together with reusing clothing.

Our store will be run largely by volunteers, relying on the support of clothing donations. This is the model that works well at Worth A Second Look Furniture and Housewares, The Working Centre's successful thrift store venture, and we will draw on this experience to create the clothing store. Many of the great volunteers at Worth A Second Look have been instrumental in setting the vision and preparing for this clothing store. We are looking forward to their energy and input as we continue to shape the project.

This clothing project has been in the works for over a year. For the past five years, Worth A Second Look has collected clothing that was sent to St.

John's Kitchen and we will continue to do this. This new location on Market Lane will provide a vibrant new space, especially convenient to Saturday Market shoppers.

A very important part of creating a hospitality culture will be the 3rd floor space that will be set up to integrate our sewing classes and workshop space, for both creative and practical sewing and craft projects. Some of the ideas for this space are for individuals to learn how to embellish and tailor their creations, hem their dress pants, and learn how to dress for an interview. This new sewing space will connect the clothing store with access to sewing machines and sewing classes.

Come and check out the new clothing store when we open sometime in April at 37 Market Lane. We appreciate all your clothing donations at Worth A Second Look, 97 Victoria Street North where we will continue to accept and sort clothing donations there.

Myths About Homelessness

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ey from a stranger on the street depending on how you dress, the way you talk, the reason you give, and whether or not you carry a clipboard and wear a non-profit company uniform. As I have both observed and experienced, if you look like you are happy and have a job, then it will be easier for you to get change from someone.

Many people I knew from the street community worked, whether paid or unpaid. This ranged from part time jobs, to day jobs, to volunteering at different organizations, to panhandling, to walking long distances, to meeting strangers in new services where you will have to talk about your life at some level. Their range and depth of work goes beyond our culture's strict definition of it. And there is the strange belief that acquiring paid work, no matter how lousy the pay and how meaningless the job, means that you are a (more) valuable human being in our society. If you do not fit into our culture's definition of paid work, then expect to be treated as inferior.

There is also collective responsibility in our Kitchener-Waterloo street community. Sometimes a person who was previously homeless takes responsibility by having others who are homeless stay at their apartment. They take a risk that they might lose their place, but this decision is made within a very constricted context where members of the broader community are not likely to help. So this previously homeless person with other homeless people collectively take responsibility to share food, clothes, blankets, and other necessities in that place. They also take responsibility to drink together under that same roof, because they can look after each other and pass out safely with others they trust and know.

I do not want to romanticize the experiences of people living in poverty. Theft and violence are real occurrences in the subculture of poverty - due to a complex set of interacting issues related to financial,

There is also collective responsibility in our Kitchener-Waterloo street community. Sometimes a person who was previously homeless takes responsibility by having others who are homeless stay at their apartment. They take a risk that they might lose their place, but this decision is made within a very constricted context where members of the broader community are not likely to help.

material, social, and psychological deprivation. Addictions issues, as experts from our street community will tell you, are related to all this.

Many people in our street community are coping with addictions and mental health issues. This includes depression and the self-attacking that comes with it, reinforced by consistent judgmental attacks from members in their larger community. This also includes subtle and obvious social attacks from people who own and produce newspapers, magazines, books, films, TV news, and other cultural means of communicating to masses of people in a very short time.

There are also an extremely small number of individuals experiencing poverty who have the ability to conduct paid work but would rather not, at least not until a better job comes along that fits with their kinds of skills, resources, and level of education. This is because they had consistent work experiences where employers treated them horribly, and paid them non-living wages in a job that was uncertain to exist for very long. This became too demoralizing and too degrading for them. "I was treated like a dog," is a common remark, so they no longer want to directly internalize those heavy, shuffling feelings.

The context of using the word "responsibility" often involves class based assumptions and stereotypes, valuing those who are wealthier more than those who are not. An honest, thoughtful discussion starting with ourselves, starts to examine our own class based assumptions and values. It is an uncomfortable starting point, where we begin to examine our narrow ways of interpreting others, and of our world that we travel through. Enron founder Kenneth Lay's irresponsible and criminal accounting practices demonstrate that no class has a monopoly on good behaviour.

Applying Analysis

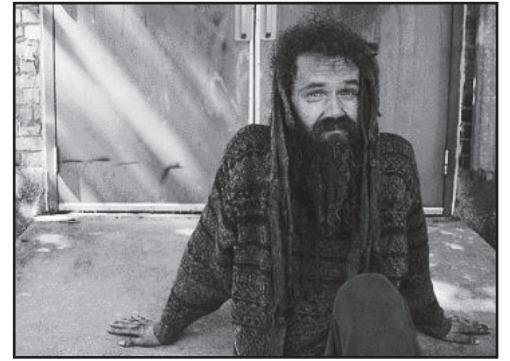
People in our street community apply analysis by highlighting serious problems with government, education, and agency services they use, as well as with workplaces they

experienced in the private sector. For some reason, their analysis is often curtly interrupted by people who are more formally educated, wealthier, and confident than they are. Typically the tactic is to use a demeaning word or term to shut down analysis of real issues - especially evaluation provided by an increasing class of poor people who are responding to the problems they experience with economic, social, and political systems they had no hand in shaping.

Dealing with Social Assistance

One example of analysis from our street community concerns social assistance. Social assistance refers to a government program that distributes money to individuals to help them live in a market oriented society - until that individual finds a job in the paid labour force appropriate to their skills, resources, and educational level. There is one problem among many with this reality that I will underscore here. People experiencing poverty repeatedly identify that social assistance rates do not lift people out of poverty but keep them in it. In fact, you are eligible for this program only when you use up your entire savings, including investments and other assets. This is how our society has chosen to distribute resources to people who live in poverty.

Often people in our broader community take the short cut in life, by accusing individuals in pov-



erty stricken communities for their own living conditions. Bill Keller's book, *Class Matters* (2005), follows the lives of individuals from different classes in the United States, and helps the reader to start thinking about, and question, the unequal balance of social, economic, and political resources found in class dynamics. People often prefer to blame rather than listen to the life stories, knowledge, and analysis of those experiencing poverty. It is easier to blame and devalue others to make yourself feel good, rather than get to know each other across class differences. What I learned from people through my role in outreach is this: to care about each other in truly mutual ways is a serious commitment, and requires a lot of hard, honest personal and political work. The experiences we all created at St. John's Community Kitchen and beyond sit in me deeply, and have profoundly, permanently changed who I am.

Michael Brown was a Streets to Housing Outreach Worker at The Working Centre for 4 years. This fall he enrolled in a social work PhD program in Social Policy at York University.



Rita Corbin

Gardening Workshops



Illustration by Axel Scheffler

Grow
Herbal Gardens

GROW Herbal Gardens will be hosting its second annual Seed Starting Workshop on Saturday March 17th. Come join the fun as we work together to grow our own vegetables, flowers, and herbs from seed! Beginners of all ages and experienced gardeners are welcome. Space is limited. Workshop will take place at the GROW greenhouse at 79 Lancaster St., Kitchener. For more information visit <http://www.theworkingcentre.org/calendar/calendar.html>, e-mail grow@theworkingcentre.org, or call 519-743-1151 ext. 113.

Queen's Greens Community Garden is working in partnership with REEP, GROW Herbal, and other community members to develop an ongoing series of gardening and sustainable living workshops for the upcoming season. Possible topics include "Vegetable Gardening 101", rainwater harvesting, and more. For more information about how to participate or get involved, please e-mail grow@theworkingcentre.org.

For more information about workshops offered through REEP, please visit www.reepgreen.ca.



Books for Sustainable Living

Books for Sustainable Living



Books for Sustainable Living at Queen Street Commons Café offers a wide selection of books on such topics as the environment, education, poverty, social alternatives, the philosophy of work, simple living, and more!

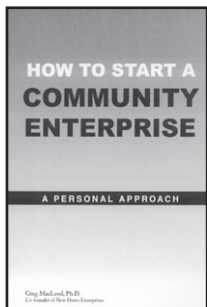
You can place orders by fax (519-743-3840), phone (519-743-1151 x111), or mail (see order form on page 7)

How to Start a Community Enterprise:

A Personal Approach

By Greg MacLeod

Co-founder of New Dawn Enterprises



Reviewed by Joe Mancini

In May of 1982, in the early weeks of establishing The Working Centre, I read a footnote in a National Council on Social Welfare report about a community enterprise in Cape Breton called New Dawn Enterprises. New Dawn, established in the early 1970's has always been one of Canada's outstanding functioning models of sustainable community enterprise. It is also one of the best documented, thanks to Fr. Greg MacLeod, who was one of the founders of New Dawn and a leading practitioner of community development. His latest book is meant as a primer, a distillation of his vast community development knowledge into 80 pages that breezily inform the reader on the most important enterprise development steps.

Greg MacLeod is a philosopher, social activist, entrepreneur and Catholic priest who in 1973 co-founded New Dawn Enterprises which has grown into a multimillion dollar business employing more than 150 people in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Dr. MacLeod, who also teaches at Cape Breton University and is now a Professor Emeritus, has written several books including *From Mondragon to America: Experiments in Community Economic Development* and *New Age Business: Community Corporations that Work*.

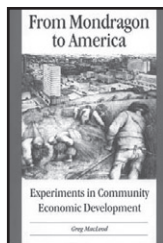
MacLeod is wise, pragmatic and full of social vision. His book is easy to read and it immediately draws the reader into the essential questions of enterprise development. The book quickly moves through the relevant steps showing how successful groups must move from the activist stage to consensus building. The next step is learning how to gain traction towards action by identifying and harnessing resources and choosing the proper legal structure. MacLeod packs this simple handbook with wisdom and anecdotes that he has

accumulated through his central involvement in multiple community ventures.

MacLeod's values shine through in a section he calls Shared Vision which he summarizes in this way:

1. **Money is a tool.** It ought to serve human development and not vice versa. A community business is a means of human and community development. Not an end in itself.
2. **Personal commitment is required.** This is reflected in volunteer participation motivated by a personal belief and not simply by personal financial reward.
3. **Democracy must be active.** It presumes that each person has one vote regardless of the amount of money put in. However, this value refers to more than a ballot. It is more of an ongoing process: a search for methods to permit participation and consultation.
4. **Management must be disciplined and competent.** This is reflected in the formation of the board and selection of staff.
5. **The relationship with the local community is one of solidarity.** This implies personal investment to initiate more job-creating enterprises when unemployment exists.

MacLeod is a champion of enterprise development because he knows that the survival of all communities, in particular rural communities, is dependent on people and communities taking advantage of their own human and cultural resources. This takes effort and community process. This handbook is designed to help diverse groups evaluate the best approach that takes into account their community and their resources. Fr. Greg's handbook is backed up with over forty years of experience. He has created a practical guide so that others can learn from his experiences in the trenches of community development.



From Mondragon to America Experiments in Community Economic Development

Greg MacLeod
This book is the most thorough explanation of the community economic development experiments in Spain and their applications to communities in Mexico and in Canada. Father Greg MacLeod shares both the philosophy and the practical application of methods used in encouraging development in the Basque community of Mondragon. This book gives real-life examples to teach activists a better way to do business.

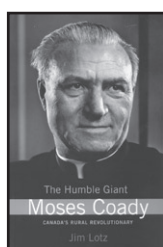
192 pages \$24.95 softcover



The Lichen Factor The Quest for Community Development in Canada

Jim Lotz
This book offers the collected wisdom of "a very wise man" describing how community development, governments, and individuals can work together to create better societies. He reviews the history of community development as he has seen it and explores its potential and limitations using practical experience combined with vision. Using the cooperation of algae and fungi in lichen as a model, he suggests how goals, rules and structures encouraging community can be identified, enhanced and strengthened.

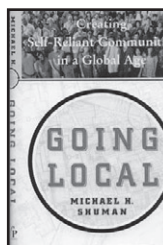
288 pages \$22.95 softcover



The Humble Giant Moses Coady: Canada's Rural Revolutionary

Jim Lotz
Jim Lotz has documented the best of local initiatives that make a difference. He is known for his interpretation of the life and works of Moses Coady and has worked closely with those on the East Coast who have inherited the Antigonish movement. In *The Humble Giant*, Lotz tells the story of "how Coady and his followers laid the foundations for the cooperative and credit union movements that now play a significant role in the social and economic life of people around the world."

141 pages \$15.00 softcover



Going Local Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age

Michael Shuman
Communities are losing control of their economies to outside interests as national chains are squeezing local shops out of business, and corporate downsizing ships jobs overseas. *Going Local* describes how some cities and towns are fighting back. They are taking over abandoned factories, switching to local produce and manufactured goods, pushing banks to loan money to local citizens, and investing locally.

336 pages \$48.50 softcover

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The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden

A volunteer-driven initiative to develop an inclusive, hands-on learning environment to demonstrate, promote, and share knowledge about sustainable local food production and environmental stewardship.



By Adam Kramer

Ron Doyle, owner of the Hacienda Sarria has offered The Working Centre a unique arrangement to establish a productive community market garden on the back property of the Hacienda Sarria. He has upgraded the land with terraces, top soil, and compost and has been planting over 40 fruit trees. Approximately 20,000 square feet in gardening beds have been laid out. Mr. Doyle has made a commitment to The Working Centre that in return for creating beautiful gardens, developing urban food production and teaching market garden skills, we can market and sell the produce and use the revenue for project sustainability. Ron has provided a significant contribution of land near the downtown that can be used towards establishing an urban sustainable food production model and land stewardship.

The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden seeks to

- Create beautiful bountiful gardens

- Teach urban food production
- Develop sustainability through selling market produce
- Offer fresh food for those participating in the garden community

The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden project is designed to give people the opportunity to participate in the production of food three kilometers from the downtown core. Growing food is hard work and involves specific tasks that include preparing and amending the soil, planting, weeding, and watering. The harvesting is crucial and this work must be attended to daily, to ensure the fresh produce will get to markets. Our goal is to work closely with volunteers who want to learn these skills or are looking for the opportunity to be involved in a large scale community gardening project.

Our main markets will be nearby restaurants looking for fresh local food and a market stand at the Hacienda Sarria. We are presently developing other marketing plans for the produce. The main crops that



the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden will grow include loose salad and spinach greens, radishes, green onions, early carrots and beets, kale, chard, early potatoes, dill, basil, parsley, and cilantro.

This project is designed as a teaching garden. We hope to in-

volve people in the work of the garden as well as teach the skills of urban market gardening from planting, harvesting and marketing. It is our goal to offer harvest vegetables in return for people's labour.



If you are interested in volunteering at the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden, or for more information, please contact Adam or Kim: call 519-743-1151 x113 or email kimk@theworkingcentre.org



A Community Supported Agriculture project offering weekly deliveries of healthy, local, farm fresh food

Build your own share!

- Fresh, seasonal, affordable, local organically grown produce
- Freshly baked bread
- Locally made cheese
- Freshly picked flower bouquets from our farmers' gardens
- Fresh baked pies & cookies
- GMO-free, nutrient-dense meat
- Eggs from free-range chickens



Choose which items you would like to receive every week or every other week and receive fresh, local supplies to keep you eating well!



The CSA Model provides the growers and producers with a guaranteed market for their produce. By joining the CSA, we can offer them stability while discovering new recipes and ideas around cooking with local food.



Please go to www.theworkingcentre.org/market for a detailed flyer and registration form.

Email market@theworkingcentre.org for more information.

Sustainable Urban Food Production

- Reduces the need to transport food over long distances
- Teaches gardening methods that require limited damaging inputs like fossil fuels, toxic pesticides, excessive irrigation, and over-fertilization
- Creates spaces where people come together to learn the skills of local food production