

GOOD WORK NEWS

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

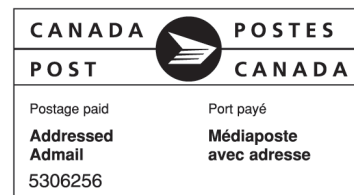
Issue 119

December 2014

Subscription: a donation towards our work

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The Changing Place of St. John's Kitchen

By Joe Mancini

Since January 1985, St. John's Kitchen has been serving a free hot lunch weekday meal in downtown Kitchener. 30 years ago, the Kitchen was established during a time when there was skepticism on the part of many who questioned the moral value of providing a free meal.

The project took shape during the fallout of the 1982 recession when the Ontario Progressive Conservative government under Bill Davis announced the Emergency Shelter and Food Program, designed to help Ontario communities cope with the growing number of people using emergency shelters.

Establishing St. John's Kitchen

A new committee called the Core Area Ministry Committee, made up of representatives from downtown Kitchener churches, had recently been established to learn about and provide church resources to address downtown social issues.

At a Core Area Ministry Committee meeting on October 31, 1984, attended by the YWCA, House of Friendship, The Working Centre and downtown church representatives, Martin Buhr, the Executive Director of the House of Friendship explained to the committee the details behind this new government program. The committee agreed with Martin's suggestion that churches could take advantage of this grant by helping The Working Centre establish a community kitchen at one of the downtown churches.

The Working Centre knew exactly where to turn. For the past two years we had operated a drop-in centre in the gymnasium at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church. We had learned that workers who could no longer find work appreciated a place where there was coffee, a meeting place and information on community services.

When we met with Rev. Cy Ladds, Rector at St. John's Church,

The roots of homelessness can be understood by focusing on these economic trends. By now, the combination of the unemployed and temporary workers is often tracked at over 20% of the labour market.

he immediately offered the full support of his Church, recognizing how this opportunity could involve his church in Christian mission. There were some conditions. We could only use the gym between 8:00 and 2:30, Monday to Friday, as the gymnasium was also used by schools and church groups in the afternoons and evenings. These hours are substantially the same hours that St. John's Kitchen has for the past thirty years.

By the time we served our first meal in mid-January 1985, there was already a debate about St. John's Kitchen. There were those who were enthusiastic to ensure that a daily hot meal was served and there were those that saw the service as helping those who don't want to be helped, giving a free ride to people who refused to help themselves. In 1985 there was only minimal discussion about mental health breakdown or the debilitating effects of addictions. Underlying this discussion was a growing recognition that the 1982 recession had marked a turning point. Previously, industrial jobs were full time and plentiful, but now the trends of automated technology and the use of temporary labour to keep workers off payroll had resulted in a large group of contingent workers.

The Roots of Homelessness

The roots of homelessness can be understood by focusing on these economic trends. By now, the combination of the unemployed and temporary workers is often tracked at over 20% of the labour market. Not counted are those who have



given up participating in the labour force often because they lack the skills or abilities to compete in our hyper-competitive labour market. In Waterloo Region there are a further 9,000 individuals on Ontario Works and another 9,500 on the Ontario Disabilities Support Program. These numbers represent a substantial number of people who each week struggle to financially make ends meet and who also must deal with the frustrations of being left out.

These 2014 statistics describe the economic conditions that have fueled the growth of the homelessness issue. In contrast, when St. John's Kitchen first opened, the word "homelessness" was not used to describe people who came to the Kitchen. Looking back on old newsletters, we first used this word in an article written by Arleen Macpherson in September 1991. She noted, "Everyone at St. John's Kitchen has a roof over their head – in rooming houses, substandard apartments and local shelters. But in a real way they are homeless. They are aliens in a land where luxury condominiums and extravagant suburban houses are the norm." Arleen talked about the dispossession she observed. Many owned very little, yet they hardly owned their

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Youth Projects

By Nathan Stretch

As a response to high youth unemployment rates, The Working Centre has been working on a number of initiatives to engage young people. The labour market is changing again, and unlike the situation their parents faced, creating a livelihood now requires that youth engage a combination of income generating ideas and moving past the expectation of work right out of school.

The Youth Employment Fund provides employers with an incentive to hire young people – placements can be subsidized for up to 6 months, and we work to help young people identify how to apply these funds. Sometimes it is a practical incentive to an employer to provide important work experience and to demonstrate to the employer that they are a good employee to maintain for the long term. Other times it is a valuable work experience that helps the young person to build a work portfolio in their chosen field of work. The ideas are as varied as the people we are working with – together we strategize and build opportunities, making use

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Thirtieth Year

Issue 119

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

Editors: Joe Mancini, Stephanie Mancini, Jennifer Mains, John R. Smith

Contributors: Kyle Murphy, Radha Smith, Marshall Ward, Thomas Mancini, Judy Paul, Suzie Taka, Nathan Stretch.

Editorial comments, changes of address and new subscriptions should be directed to:

The Working Centre
 58 Queen Street South Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6
 Phone: (519) 743-1151, Fax: (519) 743-3840
 e-mail: genmail@theworkingcentre.org
www.theworkingcentre.org
 Canada Post Bulk #05306256
 Charitable Registration #13092 9607 RR0001



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**

The Mayors' Dinner is an evening that celebrates individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our community

It is a special pleasure to announce that Murray Haase has been chosen as Guest of Honour for the Twenty-Eighth Mayors' Dinner in support of The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen.

Murray Haase is known as a driving force behind many local boards, committees and organizations. It is well known that when Murray Haase gets behind a project, he gives his complete dedication to helping that project become successful.

Murray developed his community skills through building a successful business. While working in sales at the Four Wheel Drive Company, Murray and his wife Merle opened a convenience store in Cambridge. He soon built up a chain of 30 Kwikie Minit Markets that were sold in late 1980's.

By 1985, Murray was named Citizen of the Year. He is known as a legendary fundraiser for organizations as diverse as Junior Achievement, Family and Children Services, both the Grand River and St. Mary's Hospitals, and The Working Centre. As a new member of the Kitchener Conestoga Rotary Club he is credited with creating the Dream Home Lottery and is always the top ticket seller. Murray has chaired the Tree of Hope campaign and was a Lutherwood Board member for over 30 years. Murray is a long-time city of Waterloo volunteer on municipal committees. If there is a major sporting event, then you know that Murray is helping out behind the scenes.

We are celebrating Murray's grassroots fundraising approach that has benefitted so many organizations throughout Kitchener-Waterloo.

We invite you to become involved by buying tickets, purchasing a community table for your group, company or church, purchasing sponsorships, or contributing an item for the auction.

For more details, please call Kara at (519)743-1151 x119.



2014 Year In Review

Oh The Places CAB Has Gone...

From Few to Many **From All Over the Region**

Starting with just 40 members in May, we grew to 156 by the end of the season!

Members come from all over, but mostly live and work in Kitchener and Waterloo

■ Kitchener
 ■ Waterloo
 ■ Alliston
 ■ Ayr
 ■ Cambridge

We Grew

We Made it to the Finish Line of Our Season With

7 Stations
60 Bikes
2 Cities

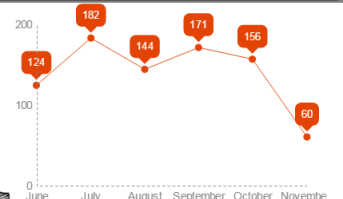


4356km But really we just stayed local

Month by month, CAB members rode enough KM to get from KW to Vancouver!

Cycling around town to a variety of stations. We grew from 4 to 7 active stations, with plans to double this in 2015

943 Total Rides Were Made in 2014



Ridership peaked in July to correspond with the gorgeous weather, and momentum built from a month of cycling promotion activities in June for Bike Month. This helped to build cycling culture, a necessity for projects like Bikeshare to thrive.

We Made New Partnerships, and Fostered Old Ones

- City of Waterloo
- Neighbourhood Matching Fund
- Your Neighbourhood Credit Union
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- LSPiRG
- Clipped Outdoors
- City of Kitchener
- The Tannery
- CIBC
- Libro
- The Walper Hotel
- Queen St. Yoga
- Region of Waterloo
- The Working Centre
- KW Community Foundation
- Sunlife Financial

THANK YOU

Volunteers promoted us at events, helped to plan for our future, fixed bikes, and helped to build a community of inclusive and accessibility minded cycling advocates

Especially Our Volunteers

With this much momentum, we're looking to

GROW
 even more in 2015

More Bikes
 More Cycling!
 More Events

More Members
 More Stations
 New Partnerships

CAB

Fun
 Practical
 Affordable
 Sustainable
 Community Based
 Community Building

For more information please contact Community Access Bikeshare at 519-743-1151 ext 172 bikeshare@theworkingcentre.org theworkingcentre.org/CAB

For more details view this graphic online at: theworkingcentre.org/CAB

Youth Employment

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of a variety of government funded projects.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Project, funded through the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment and hosted by The Working Centre, is now in its second month as we work closely with a group of 12 young people who are looking to start their own businesses. The project promotes a livelihood approach – participants are working half time on starting their own business, and we are working to find a part time job to support an income stream while the business is being developed. This is an ambitious project, trying to capture the ideas of young people looking for alternative employment/business ideas that they can build into an income stream. Few start-up businesses develop an immediate sustainable income stream. This project helps youth follow multiple income streams (work and self-employment) in a supported and practical way. (There are still 3 spots open in this project.)

The Youth Skills Link (YSL) project is a work experience project. We have recently hired 5 people on this project (5 more youth start in 3 months, and 5 more in 6 months). The work experience is based in Maurita's Kitchen, the Queen Street Commons Café, and at Worth A Second Look. After 12 weeks in these placements, participants move on to a supported, paid work placement with employers in the community for a further 13 weeks (we are currently looking for employers who offer kitchen, café, and customer service work opportunities - we pay the full salary and the employer pays the employer related expenses). After this 6 month work experience program,

we continue to stay committed to these young people, helping them to find ongoing work.

The Working Centre is "stacking" these programs to try to address the unique challenges faced by the young people we are helping. If there are multiple challenges to overcome, we can pull together a number of programs to help respond. One young New Canadian woman built work experience through our YSL, and a creatively timed Employment Services placement helped her to continue to build work skills and now she is employed full-time. Another woman with a challenging background completed the YSL. As a single mother she explored the right kind of workplace that would help her to contribute positively. She continues to work full time after a Youth Employment Fund placement has ended. Another young man took advantage of a Youth Employment Fund placement to get hired in a high-end competitive job, while completing an Internship at The Working Centre (we hired 13 Interns this past summer). Now his part-time work is turning into full time work as the employer recognizes his contributions.

The range of challenges youth face include finding work in one's chosen field despite inexperience or it can be gathering one's resources and skills to overcome growing up in an unsupported family. These challenges are compounded by the shifting labour market that requires youth to be attentive and strategic.

We are finding that youth focused funding, embedded in wrap-around, relationship building, done collaboratively, is resulting in good things! We continue to build approaches that provide extensive, non-traditional supports.



In mid October with building permit in hand, we finally started the long-awaited joining of the Hospitality Houses at 87-91 Victoria North (see page 5 for a description of these houses). The construction crew is mainly through Job Cafe, a day labour project.



Attention Employers

Are you an employer interested in working together to hire and train job searchers using The Working Centre?

The range of people is quite diverse – **New Canadian professionals, recently graduated young people** looking for work, **older workers with a wide range of experience** who are seeking their next employment, **diligent workers unable to find a stable niche in this labour market**, **young people who can build work skills** through employment.

We are interested in helping you to find the people that can complement your workplace. We have hiring incentives and we can subsidize some individuals who have a few more challenges but lots of potential and intention.

Incentives to Hire opportunities include

- **Employment Supports Work Placements** – offering around 4 months to help train someone on-the-job for the specific job skills.
- **Youth Employment Fund** – Helping youth to find work experience and employment through 4 - 6 month incentives, with additional funding for employer identified specific training.
- **Targeted Initiative for Older Workers** – We are working with over 150 older workers and can offer an incentive for hiring older workers who often have years of diverse work experience and skills.

Canada Ontario Jobs Grant (COJG)

Train Your Existing Staff

The COJG offers opportunities for employers to receive funding to train their existing employees. Employers can qualify for up to \$10,000 per employee to support approved training. The Working Centre can help you explore your options, understand the requirements of the program and your share of the costs. There is a small amount of paperwork, and the rules are favourable.

Job Posting Service

www.theworkingcentre.org/jobs

We host a lively Job Posting site at www.theworkingcentre.org/jobs. The listings are diverse, with almost 3,000 hits on this site every week. A growing number of interesting job seekers pay attention to this site. This is a free posting service for employers – its simple to send us a copy of your available jobs and we include them on our site.

If you are interested in hearing more about any of these options, please contact us at The Working Centre (519) 743-1151 x 289, or email us at employers@theworkingcentre.org.

www.theworkingcentre.org/employers



St. John's Kitchen

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own lives, being accountable to welfare agencies, landlords and the goodwill of others. She asked, "how do people flourish without belonging and a sense of security...instead they are surplus to a system which assumes unemployment for the lowest skilled."

By 1990 St. John's Kitchen had settled into St. John's Church undertaking a major \$37,000 renovation to upgrade the kitchen with a new commercial gas stove, a walk-in freezer and cooler on the stage. A commercial dishwasher was meant dishes were no longer washed and dried by hand. At this time our funding, now called the Winter Emergency Relief Program, was scheduled to be terminated in March 1990.

We learned of this cut in funding a little more than a year after a local controversy surrounding St. John's Kitchen had been played out in the media. The debate was related to a recommendation from the Social Resource Council, a body directed by the provincial government. The Council produced a report that recommended that St. John's Kitchen should start charging for its meal. We rejected this scheme as unrealistic. We knew that most people coming to St. John's Kitchen hardly ever had money in their pockets, and such a policy would either encourage begging or turn away the very people we were serving. We perceived this as another version of the underlying distrust that questioned access to a free meal.

Learning to Operate on Donations

The loss in 1990 of a third of our funding for St. John's Kitchen forced us to change how we operated. We developed a plan to move away from staffing the meal service. Instead we invited people who used the service to participate in the work necessary to produce the meal each day. This added an important and core activity into the daily drop-in. We were



Anna Hogan

pleased that this approach quickly built a new solidarity that contributed to the lessening of isolation.

In the 1990's, the Kitchen evolved into a place where people came for the lunch meal, to help out and to meet friends. A regular day consisted of 250 visitors including children and seniors. Along the way, people were dealing with many issues such as alcohol or drug related problems, emotional and mental health issues, physical issues and injuries, there were street kids, refugee families, and youth to middle aged adults seeking employment. The majority lived alone and they found in St. John's Kitchen a common gathering place, a way to escape the one room in which they lived.

It was only in the late 1990's that the word 'homelessness' was regularly used to describe the realities people faced on the streets in Canada. In 2000, Jack Layton published his book, *Homelessness, How to End a National Crisis*. When Layton was a Toronto city councillor, before he went into federal politics, he identified homelessness as a growing crisis that needed political attention. Layton marks 1999 as the beginning of a new movement to address homelessness that began with a report compiled by Anne Golden

It was only in the late 1990's that the word 'homelessness' was regularly used to describe the realities people faced on the streets in Canada... Layton's book analyzed how Canada's housing policy had gone off the rails in the last twenty years. On the ground at St. John's Kitchen we had long sensed this reality. Layton noted that previously, Canadians associated homelessness with wanderers, eccentrics and addicts. Now he suggested that the growing number of community kitchens were underlining how our social system was leaving more people behind.

for the Toronto Mayor's Action Task Force. The Toronto Mayor hosted a national conference on the topic and by that summer, Jean Chretien sent out his Labour Minister, Claudette Bradshaw to start coordinating a national response.

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In 2003 New Outreach Services Developed

In early 2000, when the provincial and federal governments started funding initiatives to reduce homelessness, St. John's Kitchen was not even on the radar. It took an effort by a group called the Downtown Kitchener Community Collaborative in 2003 to establish Kitchener's first Downtown Street Outreach Worker with funding from the City of Kitchener. The outreach worker reported to a committee made up of The Downtown BIA, Kitchener Housing, City of Kitchener and The Working Centre.

At the same time, Jennifer Mains, as the new coordinator of St. John's Kitchen in 1999, questioned the lack of services based at the Kitchen. Soon the Downtown Kitchener Community Health Centre started offering clinics, and shortly after a volunteer psychiatrist started doing street work one day a week. Over time, a full outreach strategy developed through St. John's Kitchen. Our main support for this work is through the Region of Waterloo STEP Home (Strategies To End Persistent Homelessness) which is the Region's body that

coordinates Federal and Provincial Homelessness directed efforts in our Region. The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WW-LHIN) has also contributed to this homeless support strategy. See page 5 for a comprehensive list of the St. John's Kitchen Outreach projects that have developed.

In 2006, after 22 years at St. John's Anglican Church, St. John's Kitchen moved to its new location at 97 Victoria St. N., where we built a medical clinic, laundry, showers and an open kitchen fully visible to the large dining area. St. John's Church was our home, the place from which the idea for St. John's Kitchen grew and matured.

Homelessness Today

Today if you visit St. John's Kitchen you will be confronted by the level of homelessness that has morphed into a growing social reality. Where previously St. John's Kitchen was a place where people found community, increasingly it puts in full view a social system that leaves so many people out, that their abandonment is accepted with little hope for a different future. Why has homelessness grown to such an extent over these years?

The list of people left out is not that different today than it was 20 years ago. Youth, the unemployed, people struggling with mental health, physical injuries, developmental challenges, and addictions still claim people in our society. The difference today is the level of abandonment, the lack of hope that the labour market can offer a way out. People experience the job market as a limited chance, an unforgiving structure that has minimal openings for those that don't fit in.

The stress of living is higher today, there are expectations that people cannot meet, and people choose to give up because they cannot see a way forward. It is also true that people in some sense understand how much they have been marginalized and respond with resentment and anger.

Gabor Maté, a psychiatrist who works in the Vancouver East Side has written about the hungry ghosts of addictions. He asks us to imagine how we help addicts now. "Would we come up with a system that stresses them to the max? Who would design a system that ostracizes, marginalizes, impoverishes and ensures the disease of the addict, and hope, through that system, to rehabilitate large numbers? It can't be done." A society that reduces social supports leaves many to fend for themselves against systems and structures that are often incomprehensible.

The medical clinic at St. John's Kitchen has become a focal point for responding to the abandonment that people face. When Dr. George Berrigan retired from his family practice he chose to commit up to 30 hours a week seeing people at the new medical clinic. His work has integrated our outreach strategy so that outreach workers can spend time with people assisting with legal, income, and housing issues, while

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This picture was taken in 1987 of St. John's Kitchen in the St. John's Evangelist Anglican Church gym. In our first years, our main goal was to ensure a daily lunch meal was served. ensured a daily meal was served daily lunch meal in its first years. This picture was taken around 1987.

St. John's Kitchen Outreach Hub

The network of outreach projects at St. John's Kitchen have grown into a web of supports that are rooted in commitment to the dignity of each person. These projects operate through ongoing collaboration and conversation. These services are nurtured through the friendships and community that are essential to St. John's Kitchen. These integrated projects are described below.

St. John's Kitchen

Over the years, we have added three roles that are dedicated to working with volunteers to ensure all the services at St. John's Kitchen are looked after each day such as the breakfast breads, jams, peanut butter and sweets, the lunch meal, coffee and tea, laundry, showers, fresh and canned food distribution, and clean up. The main work is to build relationships by getting to know the people who come to St. John's Kitchen and being available to help out in many ways.

The Changing Place of St. John's Kitchen

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the psychiatric outreach nurses and Dr. Berrigan can provide immediate medical attention. Over time this work has convinced Dr. Berrigan of how thoroughly our legal, health and housing systems put up unbending rules that only provoke people to walk away, reinforcing their abandonment.

In essence, as our homelessness problem has grown, so has the rigidity of systems imposing arbitrary structures. At this time, 30 years later, we are witnessing a vicious circle of more people being abandoned by the labour market, which leaves people in a position to lose relationships, housing, and future employment opportunities while the realities of addictions and mental health are exacerbated by these conditions.

Conclusion

St. John's Kitchen has been a place of refuge for 30 years. It is a place where we work to create social solidarity among those who participate in building its culture.

Downtown Street Outreach Workers

These workers are available in downtown Kitchener and Waterloo to support people who are homeless and homeless at risk. They problem solve together around issues related to legal, income, police, addictions, shelter, health, housing and banking. These workers also problem solve with business owners around issues in the downtown related to homelessness.



Streets to Housing

These workers support about 40 individuals who are long-term without housing or social supports that can help people maintain housing. They first work to help find housing and then they continue the support, walking with the individual, helping people to maintain that housing which is often about help with settling in, finding ways to connect and engage in community. When housing is lost, they are there to be supportive and help with finding new housing.

At Home Outreach

This outreach worker supports older people with minimal income who have health issues and who are trying to maintain either their apartment or rooming house. The goal is to help with medications, appointments, and other issues. The worker is available to accompany and coordinate for CCAC and other

Together, people ensure a daily meal is served and now a wide range of services have been developed to help people deal with the systems and structures that surround them. The work of St. John's Kitchen, relying on the dedication of hundreds of people, is a commitment to create a place that lessens the harsh realities that poverty inflicts. We are grateful for all the ways people in Kitchener-Waterloo have contributed to make St. John's Kitchen a place of hospitality and welcome.

medical services. This is preventative work to maintain a residence rather than requiring institutional care.

Hospitality House

These two houses are located beside St. John's Kitchen and offer 6 beds for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are acutely ill and not able to maintain other shelter. This project has been in place for 6 years and this fall we are joining the two houses to make one facility. Last year Hospice of Waterloo Region recognized the Hospitality House for its grassroots approach to palliative care.

Psychiatric Outreach Project (POP)

This project has been in development for ten years. Presently it has received partial WW-LHIN funding after many years of incubation. The project provides psychiatric nurses and a clinic nurse working along side Dr. Berrigan and Dr. Lubitz. This project starts with outreach workers who build relationships and POP complements this work with medical support. Clinics are held at House of Friendship, ROOF, YWCA and also provide supports for the Drug Treatment Court and the Mental Health Court.

Community Dental Clinic

This is a new project to be established in the third house on Victoria Street North beside the Hospitality Houses. This project has been in development for almost two years. With the help of Henry Schein Dental, a dental equipment supply company we are soon ready to install the equipment. We have been working with a group of dentists and hygienists who are helping us develop this clinic to provide dental care for those least able to afford this service. The KW Community Foundation has granted us a operating grant to support the first year of operation. We expect this clinic to open in April 2015.

Mojo

as he gave me a hug. "If there's one thing I respect in this life, it's police officers, fire fighters, doctors, nurses, and these volunteer workers here at the soup kitchen. These beautiful people are my heroes."

For his grace amid a difficult life, and for his sincere appreciation of the kindness of strangers, I'd say Mojo was something of a hero, too.

Community Has Lost Its Mojo

The following article appeared in The Waterloo Chronicle in November 2014; reprinted with permission.

By Marshall Ward

Mojo's greatest joy was strumming an old acoustic guitar in front of Entertaining Elements in downtown Kitchener.

"The difference between me and a panhandler is I don't ask for money," Mojo told me the first time I met him, when I sat down on the cold sidewalk beside him five years ago in Waterloo. "I just love playing my guitar."

I was saddened to hear Mojo, whose real name was Maurice Doiron, passed away in his sleep on October 27. He was 59.

The last time I saw Mojo was spring of last year. We chatted at St. John's Kitchen, and I was touched by his appreciation of the generosity of others.

"Entertaining Elements, they sell pots and pans, and the store is run by beautiful people," said Mojo. "When they first moved in, I asked if I could play guitar and entertain people when they walked in, and they said, 'Sure,' when a lot of other places said no. I love them for that."

"One time I gave them a Christmas card with a scratch and win, then two days later they called me into the store and gave me this new winter coat," Mojo beamed, showing off his heavy, black winter jacket. "I went two doors down to find out how much they spent on me and I couldn't believe it — \$240. That was the best Christmas present I ever got."

Born in Timmins, Ont., Mojo boasted that Shania Twain lived just two blocks away from his home. "Had I met her, I would have married her," he said with a laugh.

His first guitar was a gift from his mother, sent to him while serving time in a Christian reform school as a child, where he was sexually abused by the Christian Brothers.

"I had stolen some bicycles and I was put there when I was 10 years old," said Mojo. "In a reform school, you run into other criminals and I got myself in more trouble and had to go back and spent a total of eight years there."

Though he never married, Mojo raved about his children — two daughters and a son. "And I got my little grandchild, Isabella, and I love her," he said. "You know what I used to play for my little girls? That (Trooper) song, 'One for the money, two for the show...'"

"I also have three sisters, one of 'em is dying," Mojo told me when we last spoke. "I lost my two brothers to cancer, along with my mother. I'm not afraid to die."

Before I headed home, I shook Mojo's hand — he was wearing a fingerless grey glove — as he pointed to a quote by J.R.R. Tolkien, written on a chalkboard in St. John's Kitchen: "Not all who wander are lost," it read.

"God bless ya, buddy," Mojo said



For almost ten years Conestoga-Rovers Associates (CRA) has made a special commitment to St. John's Kitchen during Thanksgiving. Staff come down during the week to help prepare the meal and then they help out to serve the Thanksgiving meal. We are grateful to their commitment to St. John's Kitchen!

Books for Sustainable Living

Books for Sustainable Living

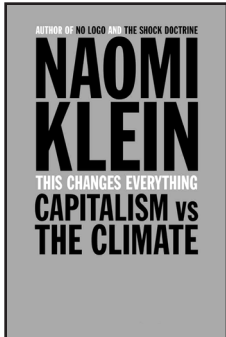


Books for Sustainable Living at Queen Street Commons Café offers a wide selection of books on such topics as the environment, education, poverty, social alternatives, the philosophy of work, simple living, and more!

You can place orders by fax (519-743-3840), phone (519-743-1151 x111), or by catalogue.theworkingcentre.org

This Changes Everything Capitalism vs the Climate

Naomi Klein



Naomi Klein tackles the most profound threat humanity has ever faced: the war our economic model is waging against life on earth. Klein exposes the myths that are clouding the climate debate. We have been told the market will save us, when in fact the addiction to profit and growth is digging us in deeper every day. Climate change, Klein argues, is a civilizational wake-up call, a powerful message delivered in the language of fires, floods, storms, and droughts. Confronting it is no longer about changing the light bulbs. It's about changing the world—before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe.

576 pages, \$36.95, Hardcover

Reviewed by Judy Paul

Climate change, as devastating as it is, may offer us an opportunity to remake our society. That's the message behind Naomi Klein's latest book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*. Klein argues that "the real solutions to the climate crisis are also our best hope of building a much more stable and equitable economic system, one that strengthens and transforms the public sphere, generates plentiful, dignified work, and radically reins in corporate power."

Klein is known for her analysis of social issues, but by her own admission she had left climate change "up to the environmentalists." As somewhat of an outsider, and without a history in the environmental movement, Klein now places herself at the centre of the climate debate and argues convincingly that this crisis has the power to be a transformative moment for the environment and also for a host of social issues.

The premise of Klein's book is that the climate deniers have got it right. They know that to address the root causes of climate change is to challenge free market fundamentalism. "When climate deniers claim that global warming is a plot to redistribute wealth, it's not (only) because they are paranoid. It's also because they are paying attention."

This perspective is what sets *This Changes Everything* apart from other books on climate change. Klein asserts that the right has effectively stalled action by making the climate about economics. The left has not done a good job of allaying people's fears by convincing them that there is a way to have both economic security and a stable climate. Implementing progressive economic policies must go hand in hand with climate solutions, she argues. "Indeed, fighting inequality on every front and through multiple

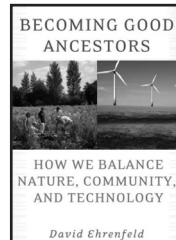
means must be understood as a central strategy in the battle against climate change."

According to Klein, we need to offer people something the current system fails to offer. She points out that just the glimpse of another kind of economy can be enough to energize the fight against the old one. *This Changes Everything* is a call to articulate a vision, to capitalize on people's desire for a better life, and then act on as many fronts as possible to mitigate climate change.

In Part Three: Starting Anyway, Klein describes some hopeful trends. She cites the wider constituencies that populate today's protests: Indigenous peoples, women, and young people. Klein lifts up numerous examples of resistance that demonstrate the power of unconventional alliances, such as Anglos, Acadians and First Nations protesting fracking in New Brunswick. Social media has allowed us to join localized actions with other groups providing inspiration and a connection to the wider cause.

There is, however, a missed opportunity to have a fuller discussion about the notion of prosperity without growth. While this concept is mentioned, more of the book could have been devoted to examining the types of governance issues a no-growth or low-growth economy would raise. What kinds of mechanisms need to be employed? What can be learned from the field of ecological economics?

Klein stresses that building a caring economy that does not force people to choose between "dirty jobs" and the health of their community is the way forward. "There is no more potent weapon in the battle against fossil fuels than the creation of real alternatives." Klein challenges us to communicate an alternative worldview and adopt the language of morality. She cites the abolition of slavery, which depended upon a "major transformation in moral

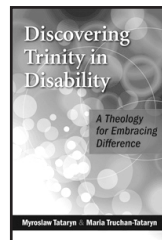


Becoming Good Ancestors How We Balance Nature, Community and Technology

David Ehrenfeld

The book focuses on our present-day retreat from reality, our alienation from nature, attitudes towards technology, the denial of non-economic values, and the decline of local communities. Through down-to-earth examples, ranging from a family canoe trip in the wilderness to the novels of Jane Austen, Ehrenfeld shows how we can move ourselves and our society towards a more stable, less frantic, and far more satisfying life, a life in which we are no longer compelled to damage ourselves and our environment, in which our children have a future, and in which fewer species are endangered and more rivers run clean.

320 pages \$21.95 softcover

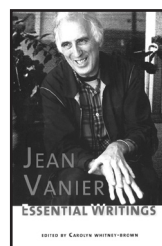


Discovering Trinity in Disability A Theology for Embracing Difference

Myroslaw Tataryn and Maria Truchan-Tataryn

A challenge to Christians to rethink, through a theological lens, how we embrace disability in our communities. As parents of three daughters, two of whom are labeled disabled, the authors explore the Scriptures and writings of early Christian thinkers to challenge conventional attitudes – and fears – toward those who are different.

128 pages \$18.95 softcover

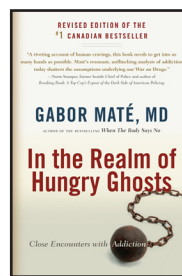


Jean Vanier Essential Writings

Edited by Carolyn Whitney-Brown

Through l'Arche, and later Faith and Light, Jean Vanier showed how the world can be transformed when we open our hearts to the experiences of people who have known life only at the margins. In this selection of excerpts from the works of Jean Vanier, editor Carolyn Whitney-Brown explores five decades of inspiring words and actions. Vanier sees the challenge as the need to "change the world, with love, one heart at a time." The result is a compendium of essential and deeply moving readings that reveal the powerful insights, the gentle wisdom and the profound spiritual significance of this great Canadian.

176 pages \$21.95 softcover

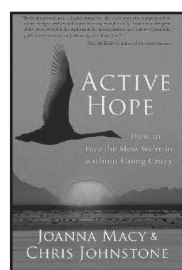


In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts Close Encounters with Addiction

Gabor Maté

Based on Gabor Maté's experience as a medical doctor and his work with the severely addicted on Vancouver's skid row, this book radically reenvisioned this much misunderstood field by taking a holistic approach. Simplifying a wide array of brain and addiction research findings from around the globe, the book avoids glib self-help remedies, instead promoting a thorough and compassionate self-understanding as the first key to healing and wellness. *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts* argues against contemporary health, social, and criminal justice policies toward addiction and those impacted by it.

480 pages, \$22.95

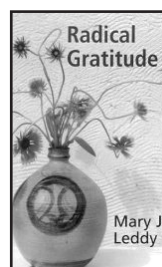


Active Hope How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy

Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone

The challenges we face can be difficult even to think about. Climate change, the depletion of oil, economic upheaval, and mass extinction together create a planetary emergency of overwhelming proportions. *Active Hope* shows us how to strengthen our capacity to face this crisis so that we can respond with unexpected resilience and creative power... the authors guide us through a transformational process informed by mythic journeys, modern psychology, spirituality, and holistic science.

288 pages, \$20.95



Radical Gratitude

Mary Jo Leddy

Mary Jo Leddy's latest book is a meditation on the miracle of the everyday and a guide to discovering what is most real in oneself... The freer one becomes, the more one appreciates the earthy things that give true joy and become the path to greater authenticity. For Leddy... the path to that authenticity and gratitude also becomes the path to a deeper relationship with the God of ordinary grace. Ever aware of the way zealots morale about changing the world, while themselves being slaves of anger and the need for external order to compensate for an inner void, Leddy unfolds the Christian life as a Way of responding to ordinary grace that in time will make an extraordinary difference.

192 pages, \$26.95

perception," as a historical event from which we can learn. In the end, Klein argues that we will win the battle for a stable climate on the basis of morality. This declaration is heartening because it means that ordinary citizens do not have to be experts in economics, renewables, or in the financial details of divestment, to argue passionately for climate

justice.

At the end of the book, Klein refers to a cartoon in which a man stands up at a climate summit and asks, "What if it's a big hoax and we create a better world for nothing?" *This Changes Everything* lays out concrete strategies and solutions, and shows us that a better world is possible.

New Catalogue

Community Enterprise at The Working Centre

supporting creative community projects

catalogue.theworkingcentre.org



As The Working Centre's Community Tools Projects have grown and matured, we have seen them become productive enterprises. These enterprises now not only sustain their own activities, but also provide support for The Working Centre's other projects, all while fostering inclusion and contributing tools to our community. To describe this, we have been building a concept of **Community Enterprise**: combining social enterprise with community service.

This fall, we created a catalogue that brings together all ten of The Working Centre's Commu-

nity Enterprise Projects. The projects cover a wide range of activities from urban agriculture to filmmaking to bike-sharing. The catalogue gives a mini-tour through these projects, highlighting the common threads that run through them all. Some of these threads are hosting inclusive spaces, providing access to tools and technology, and providing the means for everyone to live well with less.

On this page, you can see a couple of our Community Enterprise Projects featured. Visit our website to browse the whole catalogue.

The Green Door Clothing Store and Arts Space

At The Green Door, we are celebrating Christmas with hand-crafted and repurposed gifts. Come on down to **37 Market Lane** to check out our range of scented body oils, soaps, holiday cards, screen-printed t-shirts, stockings and bunting, all made in our Arts Space. Bring the festive season to life in your home while contributing to inclusive community spaces.



The Green Door's handmade bags are one-of-a-kind.

Queen Street Commons Café

The Queen Street Commons Café is the kind of gathering place that is central to community vitality.

We are a place for sharing space, inviting people into reciprocal relationships, and working to build respect, inclusion and conversation together.

We invite people to enjoy our affordable, vegetarian home-style meals, snacks, desserts and fresh-roasted coffee. Prices are set low because we have created a space where people can come together on equal footing. By offering food that is affordable, we have a café where a diverse group of people gather each day.

This winter, come and visit us as we roast green coffee beans in our fluid-bed coffee roaster. Enjoy a hot cup of coffee or buy some freshly-roasted beans as a gift for a loved one.

We roast and sell fair-trade and single origin beans, including varieties from Ethiopia, Colombia, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Thailand. Buy individual bags, or order coffee as a series to enjoy all season long.

Purchase our coffee in-store at **43 Queen St. South**, or preorder online and pick up.



catalogue.theworkingcentre.org



For over 30 years, The Working Centre has responded to the needs of those experiencing poverty and unemployment in Kitchener-Waterloo, developing collaborative, innovative, and practical projects.

An Invitation to Creative Gift Giving!

Your donation to The Working Centre can be turned into a creative gift giving idea. Each donation card details the work supported through your donation. The cards have a variety of activities and donation amounts – you can select the one that best suits the person you are gifting. As the donor, you will receive a tax receipt, plus the card to give as a recognition of your gift. Also available through our on-line catalogue.



Public Access Computers

Each month our 25 public access computers are used 1000 different times. A \$50 donation will go towards costs such as paper, repair and computer licenses.

Lunch for 300 at St. John's Kitchen

300 people eat at St. John's Kitchen each week day. A \$65 donation will cover food costs not donated by the community.

Lunch, Shower, Clean Shirt

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

A Free Bicycle for a Child

At Recycle Cycles volunteers throughout the year refurbish childrens bikes and then they are offered for free. A donation of \$25 will go towards the cost of parts and tools to provide free bikes for a child.

Refurbished Computer

Computer Recycling receives donations of used computers and refurbishes them for people living on a limited income. Your donation of \$80 will go towards costs such as providing a fully licensed refurbished computer for someone living on a limited income.

Transitional Housing for a Month

Our 30 units of Transitional Housing help many people. A donation of \$350 will go towards assisting the many costs associated with supporting people in our Transitional Housing.



To the Readers of Good Work News

Dear Friends,

The Working Centre seeks to address important social issues as they evolve in our community. Over three decades, we have developed community-based responses with projects that address high unemployment, environmental issues, food distribution, homelessness, housing and access to technology.

Our method is unique. We start by involving those affected by the issue in the work to address the problem. Secondly, we look for frugal, non-hierarchical ways of developing services. Thirdly, we integrate hospitality into each project to ensure a welcoming spirit in all our spaces. Together we work on creating practical responses that engender community. With 500 volunteers helping out in 30 different projects, our community makes a difference in people's lives each day.

The Working Centre combines government support and revenue from our social enterprises, along with donations, to help us accomplish the work of community; from serving meals, to providing housing, to recycling bikes, this work is primarily supported by volunteers and financial donations.

We rely on your contributions to make this creative work possible. Community donations are vital to a culture that addresses local issues. Supporters of The Working Centre have proven that year after year. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Joe Mancini
Director

An Alternative Christmas Gift Idea

Each year we are grateful for donations made in the name of family, friends or associates. If you use this order form, we will gladly send a Christmas card acknowledging your gift. Please fill out the form carefully.

Please direct my gift to: St. John's Kitchen The Working Centre

Please send a Christmas card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____



Your name, email, and address:

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

You can make Donations on our website at: donate.theworkingcentre.org

You can purchase Gift Giving Cards, Gift Certificates or items from our On-Line Catalogue at: catalogue.theworkingcentre.org

Yes I want to support The Working Centre's Community Building Projects!

Please direct my donation to:

St. John's Kitchen The Working Centre Where it is needed most

Please make cheque payable to:
The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S.,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 1V6

To donate by phone, please call 519-743-1151 x111

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my donation for:

\$35 \$50 \$75

\$100 Other \$ _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard
Amount: \$	_____
Card #:	_____
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