

GOOD WORK NEWS

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

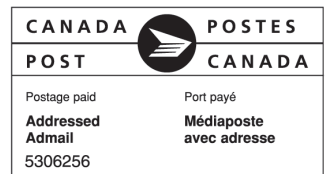
Issue 113

June 2013

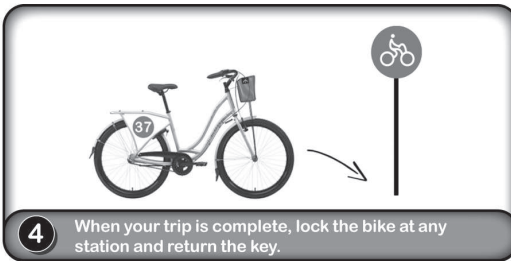
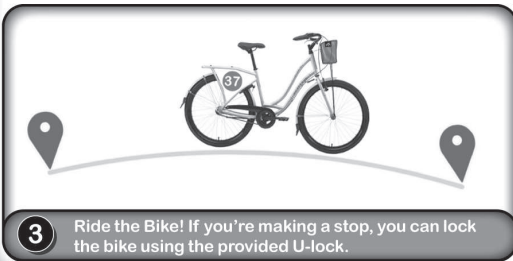
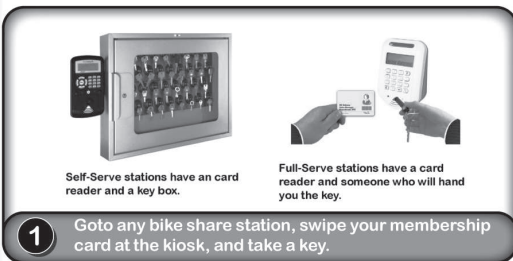
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HOW DOES IT WORK?



Community Access Bicycles

Simple, Affordable, & Sustainable

By Adrian Underhill

As we move towards summer 2013, the Community Access Bicycles project is gaining momentum in preparation for its second launch. Bicycles are being built, technology is being tested, and locations are being negotiated. But at the centre of all the swirling logistical details is a simple vision – a community-based bike sharing project that will provide affordable local access to bicycles. That's it! And it's this simple goal that has encouraged us to continue developing a unique bike sharing model that reflects local priorities.

Annual memberships will be available for an introductory price of \$40 – by visiting our website, you can join our email list to be notified as soon as memberships become available early this summer. Once you register to become a member, you will be invited to come in to The Working Centre to pick up your membership card and become oriented to the project. As we build relationships with new members, their experiences and ideas will become an ongoing part of this project.

There are a couple of features in particular that make the Community Access Bicycles project unique. Firstly, members will be able to register without needing a credit card. Bikes will be available for longer trip lengths such as 3 hours so that members will have enough time to complete an errand or go to a meeting and return the bike. CAB bikes will come with a standard U-lock that allows members to lock the bike at any point during their trip, not just at CAB stations. These are some of the ways that the Community Access Bicycles project is making

Learnings and Reflections on Older Workers

By Zinnat Jaffer

My brief 'incubation' at The Working Centre (TWC) since January 2013 has been indelibly marked by my exposure to its role as one of the providers of Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TIOW) since July 2010. The dedication of the workers (who operate without any distinction based on status or qualification) attached to this Initiative has been outstanding to say the least, starting with those involved in employment counselling 'doubling up' as facilitators, trainers and intuitive listeners, to those who collect and collate data, co-ordinate and convene discussions, thus 'trebling up' as relentless enablers and motivators for those who often enter the doors of TWC's bee-hive formally referred to as the Job Resource Centre at 58 Queen Street South.

Many of the older job-searchers, looking rather ambivalent, if not slightly daunted, who stray in, do so with trepidation and a battered self-esteem, some at an age when they

thought they would be enjoying the fruits of their past toil and preparing a legacy for the generation in tow. Many do not know how to identify themselves any more, having become 'discouraged' or having been out of any 'gainful occupation' or active participation in community life of any description for quite some years. Others want a hand to help pick up the pieces of their lives, having lost valued jobs and positions with the closure of manufacturing plants and once-thriving enterprises in the wake of the infamous 'downturn' in 2008.

Many other downturns seem to have followed that watershed in their lives. In recognition of this spiral of events and the need to tap into an existing pool of skills that could be more cost-effectively refurbished into a transferable and perhaps more reliable workforce, the TIOW became a vehicle for the governments of Canada and Ontario to enable unemployed older workers access opportunities for re-training, to obtain adequate job-search

counselling and support to re-enter the labour market, in a presumably smooth trajectory.

The wealth of experience and wisdom reaped over the last couple of years has created a solid basis for subtle tuning of the original program. The criteria for determining who would be the most likely to benefit had to be set out within the broader program directives. However, as intimated already, the level of social support in the life of the older worker mattered as much as the level of work experience, well-being, self-sufficiency and motivation that they enjoyed prior to this program and therefore the benefits that they were likely to reap.

It gradually became self-evident to me that the onerous task facing the 'seeker' of employment had to be matched by the competency and the sensitivity of those guiding the 'creating' or re-fashioning 'employability' particularly for those in the older demographic who had stayed out of the workforce for longer periods, knowing that there would be the toll of psychological and emotional (and even physical) impact that this process would exact from those involved in this journey. It

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Twenty-Eighth Year

Issue 113

June 2013

Good Work News

Good Work News was first produced in September 1984. It is published four times a year by The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen as a forum of opinions and ideas on work and unemployment. Four issues of Good Work News constitutes our annual report. There is a circulation of 12,000 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

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Canada Post Bulk #05306256

Charitable Registration #13092 9607 RR0001

Community Access Bicycles

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ing accessibility a priority.

Bike share projects are about giving people more options – more ways to get around town. Use a bike to meet a friend, run errands or get to a meeting. It can be spontaneous or part of your daily routine. If you don't already own a bike, you:

- Have access to a high-quality bike at a low cost;
- Never have to worry about bike storage or bike maintenance;
- Save money on transportation and make short trips quickly.

If you do already own a bike, you could:

- Have spontaneous access to a bike when you're already downtown (maybe you drive to work or take the bus);
- Not worry about the security of your own bike;
- Make one-way trips – take the bus one way, bike the other way.

There are lots of interesting ways that the Community Access Bicycles project can integrate with your existing transportation options and be part of how you get around.

As we negotiate locations we are building connections with businesses and organizations that are a known part of our community. Over the season we will be launching stations incrementally and growing the project as locations are confirmed. We have the capacity to initiate up to 12 stations and 96 bikes this year. A typical season will run from April

to November and will have some flexibility to adapt to the weather.

This past May, we were invited to be part of the City of Kitchener's first annual BikeFest, which is part of their new BikeKitchener campaign to "promote and foster a sustainable culture of bicycling for Kitchener residents of all ages, backgrounds and abilities." The campaign also includes the installations of new artistic bike racks and the King St. super sharrows. The support of the City of Kitchener through their Local Environmental Action Fund has been instrumental in pushing this project forward. CAB is part of this bigger effort to build a strong cycling culture in our community. Other important supporters of this project are the Ontario Centres of Excellence, the Region of Waterloo's Community Environment Fund, and TD Friends of the Environment.

The successful 2011 CAB pilot project gave us some clear ideas about how to evolve and move this project forward. Our many years of experience operating Recycle Cycles Community Bike Shop provide's the basis of our bike knowledge and speaks to our strong connections within the local bike community. As we prepare to launch Community Access Bicycles for its second year, we are excited to see how this relationship-based project will continue to be a collaborative effort – building personal connections with members, creating trust and listening for user feedback and ideas.

Evening with John McDermott A Fundraising Event at the Hacienda Sarria

This winter, a new fundraising event was organized to support The Working Centre and John McDermott House. The idea for this event came from Ron Doyle owner of the Hacienda Sarria, Matt Torigian Chief of Waterloo Regional Police Services and David Fedy a lawyer who focuses on Corporate and Commercial law with McCarter Grespan Lawyers.

Their goal was to raise money for both organizations and they accomplished this with a delightful evening of music that filled the courtyard of the Hacienda Sarria. 150 tickets were sold and generous sponsorships were provided by Christie Digital, Home Hardware, Programmed Insurance Brokers (PIB), Regional Safety Inc., Bell, Voisin Developments, Hogg Fuel and others.



Thank you to the organizing committee that was made up of Ron Doyle, Matt Torigian, Alana Holton and Rob Bridel from WPRS, David Fedy, Stephanie Wilsack from McDermott House Canada, Owen Lackenbauer from the Royal Highland Fusiliers, Jamie Martin from Miller Thomson, and Jen Smerdon from The Working Centre.

Thank you to Rogers Daytime Host Susan Cook-Sherer and Rob Bridel who were the MC's and Auctioneers for the event.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Michael Kelly, AJ Bridel, Cassandra Hodgins, Suzanne Doyle, and John McDermott.

In total the event raised \$20,000. We are already planning next year's event that is booked at the Hacienda for March 2014.



Please Join Us at the 24th Annual Golf Tournament



In support of
The Working Centre
& St. John's Kitchen



Wednesday, August 14th, 2013

at Rockway Golf Course

(625 Rockway Dr., Kitchener)

\$120 per Golfer
(\$40 tax receipt)

To register: \$15 for Golf Bonus Pack
(for prizes, gifts, & more!)

Call Kara at 519-743-1151 x119

or visit theworkingcentre.org



The 26th Annual



By Dave Thomas

More than 900 guests were on hand to celebrate the accomplishments of community leader Ron Schlegel on April 6 at the 26th Annual Mayors' Dinner at Bingemans.

Schlegel, whose many roles include business owner, farmer, land developer, professor and philanthropist, was celebrated for a wide range of accomplishments, including the founding of the Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging (RIA) and Schlegel Villages, a group of retirement and long-term care homes throughout southern Ontario that are based on a social model of senior care.

As a professor in applied health sciences at the University of Waterloo for 20 years, Schlegel helped establish the health studies and gerontology department. His grow-

ing commitment to promote new and better ways of providing service for older adults led to the founding of RIA, as well as the recent acquisition of Homewood Health Centre in Guelph. The "village" concept underlies the projects of Schlegel Urban Developments.

Governor-General David Johnston provided greetings by video at the community dinner, hosted by Mayor Carl Zehr and Mayor Brenda Halloran. Other speakers commemorating Schlegel included: Feridun Hamdullahpur, President of the University of Waterloo; John Tibbits, President of Conestoga College; Ron's three sons and business partners, Rob, Brad and Jamie Schlegel; Mike Sharratt, President/CEO of RIA; Bob Kallonen, Vice-president and COO of Schlegel Villages; and Jagoda Pike, President/CEO of



Homewood Health Centre.

This year's dinner was one of our most successful, thanks to the support of many, including Bell as the major sponsor, Van-Del Contracting Ltd. as the inaugural Innovation

Sponsor, along with 16 Patrons, 28 Community Group Sponsors, and the many Contributor sponsors. The live and silent auctions helped us to raise over \$21,000 and the event itself raised a total of \$62,000.

Thank you to all who supported the Mayors' Dinner, including this year's...

Patrons Sponsors

- Ahmet Jakupi Financial Solutions
- Arvan Rehab Group
- Bell
- Bob & Judy Shantz
- Church of St. John the Evangelist
- Cornerstone Architecture
- Elizabeth & Cam Witmer
- Erb & Good Family Funeral Home
- Hallman Construction Ltd.
- Mercedes Corp.
- MHBC Planning
- RBJ Schlegel Holdings Inc.
- Schlegel Urban Developments
- St. Jerome's University
- University of Waterloo
- Van-Del Contracting Ltd.

Community Group Sponsors

- Bingemans • Bob & Margaret Nally
- Centre for Family Medicine • Downtown Kitchener BIA • The Eby Family
- Erb and Erb Insurance Brokers Ltd.
- GSP Group • Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region • Hacienda Sarria • Home Hardware • KPMG • Mennonite Foundation of Canada • Mennonite Savings & Credit Union • Margaret Motz • MTE • PwC Management Services LP
- Reitzel Heating & Air Conditioning
- The Schlegel Family • Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for the Aging • Schlegel Villages • Peggy Snyder • St. Jerome's University • Stassburger Windows & Doors • Superior Memorials • George Turzanski, Sharon Gingerich & Friends • University of Waterloo - Faculty of Applied Health Sciences • Village of Winston Park • Wilfrid Laurier University



Dominic Cardillo

1930 - 2013

By Joe Mancini

Dominic Cardillo had a unique personality that was larger than the City of Kitchener. He seemed to know everyone. He liked to walk the back alleys of the downtown as much as the main street. He took the time to see for himself what was going on. He grew up in Guelph but Kitchener became his home. Dom was hugely popular because he connected with people in Kitchener. His trademark way of doing this was by simply walking around. He was known for picking up litter and he was also known for stopping to talk with people and listening to what they were saying. When he became Mayor in 1982, he quickly established himself as a populist politician who cared about the issues of common people.

In 1988, The Working Centre asked Mayor Cardillo if we could organize a fundraising dinner as a public celebration of his 25 years in municipal politics. He trusted us to do all the organizing work and to sell the tickets. We were confident that people would want to be part of a celebration of Mayor Cardillo's commitment to his city.

On a cold and snowy night in February we sold over 400 tickets for the dinner at the old Market Square and

the idea for The Mayor's Dinner was born. Dave Broadfoot provided the entertainment but this was Dom's show. We had over 10 speakers all of whom had stories of Dom's commitment to the city and municipal politics. Everyone agreed it was a fun evening and a good way to celebrate our municipal culture. The next year, Mayor Cardillo was the Host of The Mayor's Dinner and the Guest of Honour was Jonas Bingeman. In 2013 the 26th Mayors' Dinner continued the tradition and was hosted by Mayors Zehr and Halloran with Ron Schlegel as the Guest of Honour. The Working Centre is forever grateful to the legacy Dom provided to promote The Mayors' Dinner as a fundraiser and as a way to recognize citizens who have made outstanding public contributions and to encourage commitment and dedication to our community.

Dom became Kitchener Mayor in 1982, in the middle of the recession with unemployment nearing 12%. Cardillo almost immediately organized the Mayor's Committee on Unemployment which was organized into four subcommittees of labour/training, social services, economic development, and recreation. Each group looked at government and community issues related to each topic. The goal was to find



ways to ensure the unemployed were getting help. The Working Centre participated in the labour/training and recreation committees. These were our early days but Mayor Cardillo reached out to include us. The main Mayors' Committee meeting took place in a large room at Kitchener City Hall on Frederick Street. Dom ran the meeting and I remember one meeting that featured a rigorous debate between labour and business. This was the democratic process working itself out at the municipal level. Dom excelled at making everyone feel equal on the committee.

At Dom's funeral Fr. Earl Talbot captured Dom's earthy approach to politics. Dom was the kind of politician that made sure potholes were filled. The workers in the road main-

tenance department always acted when Dom called them because he had personally taken the time to get to know the workers and to learn about their concerns. This is how trust is built. Fr. Earl compared 'filling potholes' to 'filling the hole in your soul' and the only way to do that, is to do it with love. And what is love but developing respect for the other, looking after people who you know and who you don't know, caring about their concerns. Every Christmas while Dom was Mayor, he would visit St. John's Kitchen and bring a big fruit basket that someone had given to him. He would visit to pay respect, ask us questions and thank us for our work. That was Dom's way of building trust and he generated a lot of trust everywhere he went in the City of Kitchener.

A Slow Awakening: Talking About Our Taxes

By Jen Smerdon

The Working Centre's Free Income Tax Clinics opened with a flourish and the job search resource centre was full of people wanting to meet with a CVITP (Community Volunteer Income Tax Program) volunteer to prepare and submit their income tax return. This year, The Working Centre offered drop-in and drop-off services Monday through Friday. From the first days of March the resource centre was full of people wanting to access the free income tax clinic.

Recently, we have seen several changes at our Income Tax Clinics and Money Matters Help Desk. Prior to 2012 anyone living on low income - whether as a result of a low wage or being on Ontario Works (OW) or the Ontario Disability Supports Program (ODSP) - had the option of completing their tax return before Christmas using a fee-for-service tax preparation company. In essence, people were selling the larger lump-

sum tax refund they would have received later on for a smaller amount during the holiday season. (These refunds were mainly for tax credits that included the Ontario Sales Tax Credit, the Energy and Property Tax Credit and the Northern Ontario Energy Credit.)

Starting in 2012 people were no longer able to get these tax credits as lump sum refunds, but instead would receive them as monthly in-



stallments; this resulted in tax preparation companies no longer being able to offer to buy a person's income tax refund. The immediate impacts of these changes were a dramatic increase in demand at The Working Centre's Free Income Tax Clinics - far greater than we

Thanks to All of the Volunteers Who Made the Income Tax Clinic Possible!

Altogether 1200 volunteer hours were contributed by 26 volunteers over 10 weeks with 3 volunteers working each 3 hour shift. This worked out to a total of 31 full time work weeks. During this time, 1900 people were assisted to complete their income tax forms.

were expecting - and, of far more impact to people living on a limited income, many did not know that these changes had occurred; to say they were surprised is an understatement. Many people who had always received a lump sum tax return were counting on this money to pay their next month's rent, or to purchase summer clothes for their children. Explaining why these changes had occurred was a difficult and routine part of our CVITP volunteers' day, as disappointment, confusion and frustration was understandably expressed by many people.

What happened was a slow awakening that we didn't expect. Those that had completed their Income Tax Return in 2012 started to receive their monthly payments in July 2012. Our financial inclusion worker noticed this change almost instantly. In July of 2012 she had a noticeable increase in people stopping by to complete their 2011 tax return. We hadn't anticipated this 'message on the street - between friends, neighbours and friends'. These monthly payments were keeping finances in the realm of everyday conversation. For those that hadn't completed their tax return yet, there was now an incentive - a monthly payment from Canada Revenue Agency.

The Money Matters Help Desk continued to be busy throughout the year and use of our Free Income

Tax Clinics almost doubled. Many new people participated, while a many returned from the previous year. This year, these free income tax clinics were able to help over 1900 people complete their income tax returns. Our Money Matters Help Desk was available for those that had multiple years of income taxes to complete. The two projects worked together in harmony, each supporting the other. The Working Centre was fortunate to have some very experienced CVITP volunteers that were comfortable helping people complete multiple year returns and through the CVITP program we were able to provide them with the software to do this.

What we noticed was people freely talking about their taxes and their financial situations - topics that traditionally have been viewed as highly personal, now becoming a part of a public conversation. We are hopeful that this change, this slow awakening, will encourage people to continue talking, and more importantly reinforce the concept that participation in financial planning and completing tax returns is of benefit to everyone, not just the affluent. We continue to explore the ideas of how concrete financial advice and assistance, complemented by the idea of financial inclusion, strengthens community ties and resourcefulness.

Urban Agriculture Projects

By Meg Herod

Part of the fun of gardening in the spring is that you can celebrate your first sunburn one day and need your winter coat the next.

Despite this fluctuation in temperature, customers are already eating Hacienda produce! Radicchio and parsley planted late summer of 2012 were overwintered and harvested in early May and this year's lettuce and kale transplants, grown in the greenhouse in the winter, are almost ready to eat. On a weekly rotation consistently throughout the summer, crops are planted creating a cycle of planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. Every day new emergence of growth brings excitement for a bountiful growing season ahead. The relief when a seed takes root and finally breaks through the earth is expressed by the cry of a gardener, "come look, come look it's coming up!" A sentiment shared by all.

Call for Volunteers: Throughout the week, Monday to Friday 9-4, and one evening a week volunteers share their time conversing over weeding, harvesting and planting. If you are interested in gardening please phone 519-575-1118 or email hacienda@theworkingcentre.org to get involved. All are welcome!

Accessible, Edible & Sustainable

One of the most distinguishing features of the Hacienda market garden is the intricate brick pathways weaving throughout beds of

flowers and vegetables, connecting the nearly two acre garden and providing accessibility to almost all growing areas. Last week, the last stretch

of pathway was completed. The final 3000 square feet of interlocking brick was laid by Father Toby and a team of volunteers. Thank you to all involved for your hard-work and commitment to this project.

In addition to the new pathways, the area of production has almost doubled. New vegetable and flower beds stretch around the building and are trellised all the way down the slope, building on the concept of sustainable urban gardening, using limited space to maximize growth.

Hacienda CSA Starts Week of June 17th

The first pick up for the Hacienda Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project will start on Wednesday June 19th at Queen Street Commons Café and the Tannery between 4-6pm. For members picking up at the Hacienda, the first pick-up will be Thursday, June 20th from 4-6pm.

CSA members purchased their shares in March and will receive a weekly supply of Hacienda vegetables from June through to October. Over 50 Kitchener-Waterloo residents are participating in the CSA. Shares are sold-out for the 2013



growing season but you can still purchase Hacienda vegetables from Full Circle or Healthy Foods and More. Please contact hacienda@theworkingcentre.org for volunteer opportunities or for more information about supporting the Hacienda.

The Living Classroom

Students from Blessed Sacrament Elementary School participated in a two-month-long workshop series as an initiative to engage students in learning where their food comes from. Students volunteered at the Green Door, Lancaster St. Greenhouse and the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden, grew pea shoots in their classroom, learned about community building and resource sharing, the importance of local and themes surrounding sustainable living and urban gardening. Students will tell you the bruschetta and sweet potato fries they made using entirely local ingredients were a hit!

Summer in the Garden, a workshop series designed to connect gardeners and people interested in learning more about local food

production in Kitchener-Waterloo, will begin late June. Please contact meganh@theworkingcentre.org for more information.

Saturday Markets

On your way to and from the Kitchener market, stop by the Green Door Saturday Market to say hello and to take home a hand-picked bouquet of fresh flowers. Starting in July, Hacienda flowers will be sold by stem or bouquet at the market.

Our market season began in early May with heirloom tomato plants for sale on Saturday mornings. Hundreds of tomato plants, grown in the Grow Greenhouse, were sold at a variety of locations throughout Kitchener and Waterloo. Also, Grow Greenhouse microgreens and living greens are available at Full Circle, Vincenzo's, Healthy Foods and More and the Queen Street Commons Café. These tasty sprouts and shoots are a delicious addition to summer salads and sandwiches.



Option for Community Engagement

A Collaboration with Wilfrid Laurier University

By Michael Bernhard
& Joe Mancini

The Wilfrid Laurier University (Laurier) Centre for Community Service-Learning (LCCSL), Laurier's Faculty of Arts (FOA) and The Working Centre (TWC) have entered into a partnership to develop an innovative community engagement learning experience as part of an evolving Laurier School in the Community. Building on a history of joint projects and drawing on each partner's unique strengths the goal is to generate a deeper understanding of community engagement and to foster social inclusion.

The Laurier Senate recently approved credit courses and in-depth placement experiences for Laurier students as part of a Community Engagement Option. This Option is the first component of the School in the Community. The long term development of this School has the potential to support community access to learning at Laurier and the development of a Certificate in Community Engagement.

For 30 years, TWC has been developing alternative educational initiatives. Many of these educational projects are informal learning opportunities at diverse places like St. John's Kitchen and Recycle Cycles. Other projects have formal educational goals like Self-Directed Computer Training, Job Search workshops and the 10 week MEDA sponsored home business course.

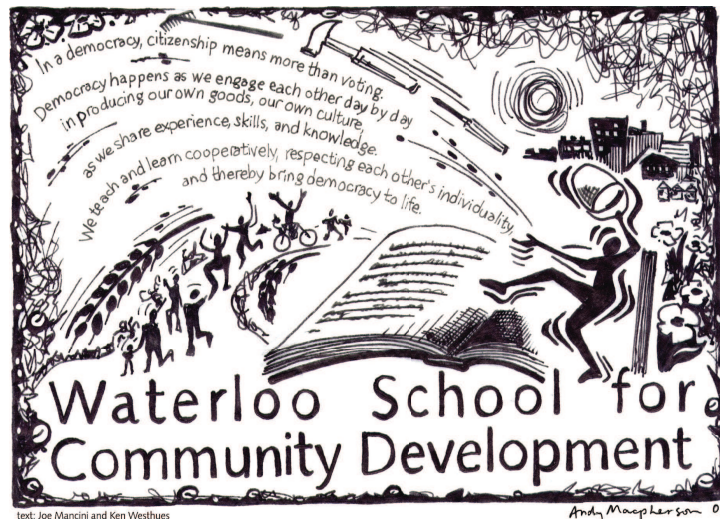
For 20 years, The Working Centre hosted a University of Waterloo Sociology of Work course taught by Ken Westhues. In addition, this winter 15 participants completed TWC's 14-week Diploma in Local Democracy course.

The Laurier School in the Community seeks to bring together the learning experiences of Laurier with the engagement opportunities offered through TWC. The project, once it is fully realized, will provide access to higher education for non-traditional learners who typically face barriers in accessing universities, such as New Canadians, Aboriginals, older workers, and those living on a limited income. TWC has worked with Laurier on a number of access projects for New Canadians (teachers, social workers)

and this project will build on these experiences.

This project will establish a creative space in the Kitchener downtown for innovative pedagogy, co-learning and social innovation. Students, faculty and community members will creatively explore the ideas of social inclusion and community development in a learning environment that fosters creative participation in long-term engagement projects.

This Option in Community Engagement meets a need for community-engaged pedagogy that enables students to learn creatively from practical projects and to complement this engagement with thoughtful reflection and discourse. In the Fall of 2013 Laurier and TWC will begin offering the Option in Community Engagement.



text: Joe Mancini and Ken Westhues

Andy Macpherson 05

Learnings on Employment Supports for Older Workers

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seems to me that this is precisely the area that The Working Centre has done exceptionally well in, or in which it seems to demonstrate a special edge. Given its historical approach towards work since its inception in 1982 as an all-embracing ethos in life, the duty of care towards others is expressed with a conviviality that is rather rare in the hard-driven, competitive world of both 'diminishing' material returns and intrinsic humanity in the world out there.

Time and again, I saw fatigue written on the faces of the core-team leaders at the end of each round of job-search training that was encapsulated in an upbeat, sensitive and even inspirational style. More recently while reading through a batch of participants' feedback, I came across abiding admiration and gratitude for their mentors, endorsing their individual and collective contribution while noting, for instance, that: "Even if they have problems of

their own, they're always there for us and never complain", while resonating the sentiment and the general acknowledgement that: "The Working Centre is a group of caring people trying very hard to help us find jobs and make us feel like real people..."

This sentiment is re-affirmed in the regular feedback and letters of appreciation written by those who have exited clearly with a much-improved sense of self and personal achievement. One beneficiary stated that the workshop series "gave hope to older workers, people looked happier (than when they first came in) upon completion". That they were treated "as equals, and never looked down upon", neither did the counsellors seem to get "stressed trying to keep us positive".

Another stated the critical inputs that TIOW had provided in the form of resources that carried an array of interesting and enlightening topics, books, a wealth of informative websites on memory sticks, transportation, short courses that

enhanced existing skills or opened doors for new ones (such as computer literacy) which were new experiences or though unaffordable on depleted savings.

Importantly, they applauded the opportunity to interact with a supportive peer group and an empathic 'other' who would draw out the best in them and help them create a new vision, set new goals, rebuild their threadbare morale and encourage them "to dig deep into their past experiences and rekindle dreams and renew past talents" as never before, according to one beneficiary.

Another participant learned how to teach English as a second language and develop the confidence to teach, primarily because she had a wonderful "guide and helper... who helped to bring my strengths back" and thus felt that the one year in which she received training had brought about "a new dynamic, wisdom and strength" in her life.

Yet another renewed her membership in a therapeutic arts association and started retraining to qualify as a licensed practitioner so as to set up her own business. As a believer in holistic healing, she began to bond well with others in her cohort group, given her 'old' capacity to listen, empathize and articulate the feel-

Courses that are part of the new option:

AF300 – Introduction to Community Engagement. The bulk of this half-credit course will take place over two weeks in downtown Kitchener, from August 26 to September 6, with assignments extending into the Fall term. The course asks: How does an enterprising and inclusive culture grow and adapt in a downtown? Using the pedagogy of a culture camp with tours, guest speakers, evening potlucks and gatherings, students will be introduced to theories related to Inclusion, Local Democracy and Community Enterprise while exploring the neighbourhoods, main street, businesses, street life and community groups that are part of the downtown.

AF301 – Social Inclusion, Local Democracy and Community Enterprise. This half-credit course will be offered in Fall 2013. It will focus on the theories and practice of the community development and social enterprise field while offering students opportunities to be involved in The Working Centre's 30 community projects. TWC animators will meet with students individually and in groups to design and shape their placements and facilitate Reading Circles. This course draws its reading list from TWC's influences including Dorothy Day, E. F. Schumacher, Moses Coady, Ivan Illich and Wendell Berry.

AF305 – Semester in Community Engagement. This full-credit course will be offered in both Winter and Spring terms, after students complete AF300 and AF301. Laurier faculty will support students engaged in community projects at The Working Centre, exploring new ideas in the field of community development and social enterprise. TWC animators will support the engagement of students and facilitate group discussions.

ings of those around her. The gloom in the midst of many, visibly seemed to dissipate as they cohered around mutual interests and concerns. They instill hope as they strategize about the way forward, find ways to earn some income, share their optimism and vitality in an atmosphere of safety and good humour.

Inadvertently, the project has become a source for generating a vital community linkage, a social capital that needs to be consolidated as new employment, self-employment and other forms of livelihood open up through this 'organic' seedbed of shared knowledge and resources.

Hence, out of the total 508 individuals that TWC has nurtured a total of 86% having gained further training as a result of this project. 65% gained employment of some kind as of the end of April 2013.

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Democratic relations in everyday life form the roots of civil society

A 14-week course starting in the Fall of 2013

This course explores Local Democracy as:

- an expression of building community
- ensuring people are not left behind
- practicing the skills of equality
- challenging hierarchy and affirming equality

For more information, call Kara at 519-743-1151 x119



Easy Essays By Isaiah Boronka



A Parable of Hospitality

In the early 20th century there was a man in China who upon conversion decided to make a pilgrimage to Rome

For most of his journey he only had to introduce himself as a religious pilgrim and he would find a place to stay and food to eat in any village he came to

But something changed when he entered countries that had a Christian history he no longer found a bed to sleep on or a table to eat at in people's homes

first he was put in these special hostels and eventually, the closer to Rome he got, into hotels but no longer did he stay in people's homes

Ivan Illich tells this story because to him it shows that a corruption that happened in Christianity seventeen hundreds years ago has repercussions today

In the early Church, Illich says, all Christian households were said to have an extra mattress, a loaf of bread and a candlestick in case "The Lord Jesus came knocking in the guise of a stranger"

But then when the Church became Rome's state religion it started getting a lot of government money

to take care of the poor and the stranger and so hospitality, which once was what I would offer you now becomes what 'it' offers you 'it' being the institution, the faceless institution

So because so long ago the church as an 'it' started taking care of people instead of people taking care of people in their own homes our whole culture has lost the delicate, beautiful art of hospitality and has instead created

countless bureaucracies that do the job of loving our neighbour for us



The Time for Prophecy Lies Behind Us

In the first two centuries of Christianity each church community had a prophet

the role of the prophets after the life of Jesus was to predict the coming not of the Christ but of the anti-Christ

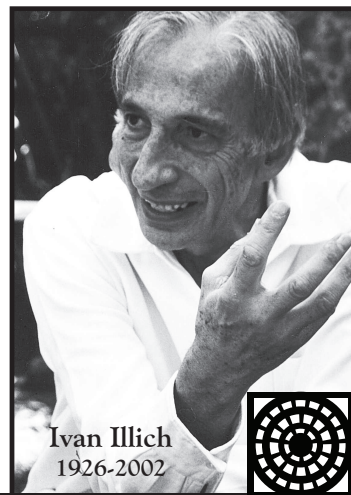
but then prophets largely disappeared for the next eighteen hundred years so to did any talk of the anti-Christ

Ivan Illich believes that the anti-Christ is not a person he believes that anti-Christ it is the institutionalization of love your neighbour and take care of the stranger where bureaucracies of service replace acts of friendship and hospitality

When at a confirmation party a future prime minister of Italy said his words were prophetic Illich answered him "The time of prophecy lies behind us"

Today the thing that will expose this great evil of face-less, person-less love is not prophecy but friendship

Illich says that this is the way the hope for a new society can spread through friendship and through little acts of foolish renunciation



Ivan Illich
1926-2002



Reflections and Learnings

continued from page 5

38% found full-time jobs while 20% found part-time positions, and 7% became self-employed. About 22% had not found a job, a further 12% had become unable to work, and 1% had decided to go back to school.

All the participants wanted to continue meeting in the support group that had fostered their new learning and experiences in the job market so as to share ideas and create their own 'alumni' connections towards a more gainful occupation. They also wanted to continue periodic workshop training and shorter, refresher courses in order to hone their skills and improve their earnings.

But many wanted more graduated training in computer technology to improve their efficacy for the new labour market and overcome the deficits in their learning capacity. Yet they seemed to resist the idea of employer-driven 'continuous learning' pressure and preferred instead the more communitarian approach to imbibing and sharing skills with their peers.

As one participant mused, perhaps we should think of alternative scenarios that we cannot even bear to imagine, so as to grasp the urgen-

There is clear evidence in the practice of TIOW that the existing framework can harness social capital. To roll back these critical inputs would stop a process that is happening for the community good.

cy of our message. She tentatively asked: "Do (they) realize how many more people would rely on the Food Bank or become homeless if The Working Centre were to close?"

There is clear evidence in the practice of TIOW that the existing framework for the government to harness this social capital has begun to sprout. To roll back these critical inputs before full foliage would be to stop a process that is happening for the community good. The point is to have the foresight and the courage to complete a task once it is set in motion. To my mind, TIOW is just one stepping stone to a healthier and more inclusive society.

Zimmat Jaffer gained her PhD in sociology in the 1970's and has taught in universities in Tanzania, Kenya and Dubai. As an older worker she has entered the WLU Masters of Social Work program. This winter, she completed her placement at The Working Centre.

Don't Waste Your E-waste! Recycle Your Old Electronics

By Charles McColm



In late 2009 The Working Centre's Computer Recycling project joined the Ontario Electronic Stewardship and became the only recognized OES computer refurbishing site between Mississauga and London. Recently the Computer Recycling project and Worth a Second Look, The Working Centre's used furniture and housewares project, partnered up with a new Ontario Electronic Stewardship e-waste processor. Over the past 2 months the projects have sent a total of 9570 lbs of electronic waste to our processor

and raised \$2657.50 to help both projects.

When an accepted item is brought in, volunteers assess the item to determine if it should go in our reuse stream or our recycling stream. In Computer Recycling dual core or better computers are separated for rebuilding. When you bring your electric waste to Computer Recycling or Worth a Second Look, we receive income to help support these creative projects...and electronic products are either re-used or recycled responsibly.

Computer Recycling accepts:

- CRT & LCD monitors
- Digital cameras
- Cell phones & pagers
- Small copiers & printers
- Desktop computers & Laptops
- Desktop printers
- Portable audio players
- Speakers
- Telephones
- Video projectors
- Various desktop computer parts



Worth a Second Look accepts:

- VHS, Beta, DVD, & CD players
- Televisions
- Stereos
- Large photocopiers
- Turntables



For large items or large donations, please contact:

e-waste@theworkingcentre.org

Charles: Computer Recycling
519-743-1151 x121

Don: Worth a Second Look
519-569-7566 x230



The Books of Stonegarden Studios

By Judith Miller

On March 21, in this year of a slow opening into spring, lots of people gathered in the Queen Street Commons Café to celebrate two books from Stonegarden Studios: one by Karin Kliewer and Diane Eastham, the other by Leslie Morgenson and Michelle Purchase.

The hospitality there was warmly welcoming, the conversations a great pleasure. People mingling in the room discovered all sort of connections in this community that they had not recognised before. It is easy to function in a silo, not seeing all the structures that support and link us. The staff at the Working Centre know that better than anyone as they work to establish or cultivate such inter-locking structures.

The Stonegarden Studios publishing project, independent and non-profit, reaffirms the strength of the arts and writing communities in this area. It has also discovered how rich this community is in the skills needed to make books. They would not have happened without the talent of book designer and art photographer Karl Griffiths-Fulton or the printing capability of Pandora Press as well as Arkay Printing and Design--where Chris Yellow does meticulous work.

Each book pairs a writer and a visual artist--not to illustrate one another but to demonstrate what can best be called "correspondence." Two bodies of work play off one another, creating new spaces for a reader/viewer to wander into, to experience new insights or to renew memories.

Places to buy Stonegarden Studios books, visit Wordsworth Books in Waterloo, The Queen Street Commons Café, or our website: www.stonegardenstudios.ca. Each one is \$20.

These are our books.



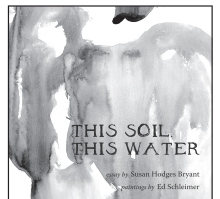
HOME Leslie Morgenson & Michelle Purchase

Leslie Morgenson's reflections about home arise out of her personal experiences and her observations about living outside the more usual ideas of home, finding community and love which do not depend on walls in a particular configuration. Michelle Purchase challenges ideas about the urban environment and about housing, with whimsical, sometimes almost Gothic prints of tree houses--which we thought we knew all about. Some have clear access through ladders or ropes. Others are less open.



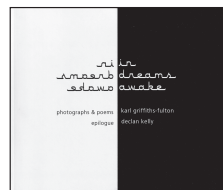
WITH BOOKS Paul Roorda & Marianne Brandis

Paul Roorda uses unexpected materials to accent his encaustic drawings, gathering such artefacts as nails from an old barn about to be destroyed. When he incorporates those into a drawing, he makes them part of a new story, a new reading of them. Marianne Brandis writes memoir about reading, silently and aloud, shared reading and private reading. She remembers the power of her mother reading to her by the light of a flickering fire when that's all there was to light a page, a story.



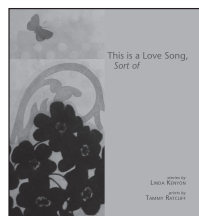
THIS SOIL, THIS WATER Susan Bryant & Ed Schleimer

Susan Bryant wrote this essay as part of a presentation to the judge in the Walkerton water inquiry. She sets out matter-of-factly the story of Elmira's struggles over the pollution of their water supply by the chemical industry. There is little editorial comment here. The astonishing facts speak eloquently. Set against that desecration of land and water are Ed Schleimer's beautiful watercolour sketches of flowers in his mother's garden--altogether another way of responding to the land.



IN DREAMS AWAKE Karl Griffiths-Fulton & Declan Kelly

Karl Griffiths-Fulton presents negatives of abstract images, texture and movement caught by the camera, shown here in their most basic form, images of the world we might not notice. His one word poems came out of the challenge he set himself to catch the first word he thought of as he wakened each morning. They are highly evocative, inviting the reader's own associations with each word, playing off the images. The pairing makes a meditative space to linger in.

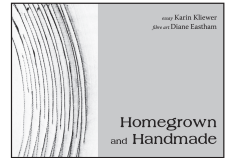


THIS IS A LOVE SONG, SORT OF Linda Kenyon & Tammy Ratcliff

Short short fiction is like a fragment of song heard on the wind. It stays with the listener, echoing and re-echoing, as do Linda Kenyon's pieces which are a love song, sort of, exploring the sometimes difficult connections between men and women. Tammy Ratcliff's delicate prints have a similar effect. They look fleeting, almost evanescent, but they too linger in the memory. Together, these works create the aesthetic pleasure of work carefully done, as well as the emotional recognition of familiar experience.

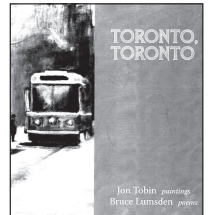
HOMEGROWN & HANDMADE Karin Kliewer & Diane Eastham

Karin Kliewer writes about homesteading in an urban environment, about establishing a bed and breakfast, about finding ways to share discoveries about sustainable living. Remarkably, she and her family have done this within the urban environment of Kitchener at The Little City Farm. Diane Eastham too has chosen an unconventional way to live, in the uncertain life of an artist. Here she celebrates colour and texture, in fibre art where rows and rows of fine stitching set off her hand-painted fabric.



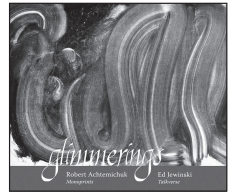
TORONTO, TORONTO John Tobin & Bruce Lumsden

In Toronto, Toronto, Jon Tobin's outdoor paintings of Toronto streetcars and street scenes have a mystical quality. At first glance, they look like realism, but there is a hovering sense of "more" about them. Somehow, he captures energy, essence, just beyond what the eye can actually see. Bruce Lumsden writes poems about growing up in Toronto. He writes with unpretentious humour, evoking memories which readers seem to enjoy. Everybody was a child once--in Toronto or somewhere else.



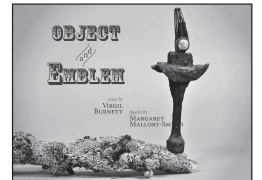
GLIMMEMRINGS Ed Jewinski & Robert Achtemichuk

Robert Achtemichuk's watercolour figures of women catch movement and the poise of the human body. They glimmer with energy, with a moment caught on paper, inviting close "reading." "talk poems" offer similar glimpses of people, often women, seen out of the corner of the eye and remembered. They celebrate human responses and relationships. Neither artist romanticises observations; each is engaged in a search for a very human truth.



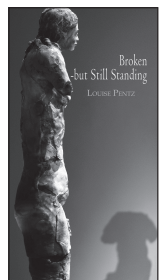
OBJECT & EMBLEM Margaret Mallory Smyth & Virgil Burnett

Margaret Mallory Smyth's whimsical figures seem appropriate companions for Virgil Burnett's meditations on drawing. He writes with a self-deprecatory, even rueful tone about the adventures of drawing, offering tongue in cheek, profoundly serious, suggestions about the connection between an artist and the work. There is a kind of archeological aura to Mallory Smyth's figures. Assemblages of found and created materials, they suggest something discovered.



BROKEN - BUT STILL STANDING Louise Pentz

Louise Pentz set out to do a series of life-size clay sculptures of women, wanting to present the older woman, not the young and idealised women she says are more usual in art. She found inspiration at David Lewis's Grandmothers gathering. The result is Broken but Still Standing, an astonishing series of sculpted women who have struggled. Often, their conflicts have marked their bodies or their faces, but there is a sense of triumph about each and every one of them. They may be broken, but they are still standing, still exuberant.



I AM HERE NOW Lucinda Jones & Judith Miller

Lucinda Jones is a master printmaker. In this series of prints, she records a woman's journey, from uncertainty to strength. That is often the human journey as well as the artist's. Each piece can be appreciated in isolation, standing alone, but taken together, the series is strongly narrative. It was a surprise for me to find in a drawer a series of poems that in odd ways mirror that journey, from uncertainty through defiance to a sense of arrival.



These books are available for \$20 each at
QUEEN STREET COMMONS CAFÉ
as part of The Working Centre's
BOOKS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING
43 QUEEN STREET SOUTH, KITCHENER



The Queen Street Commons Café

A Place of Conversation

By Rebecca Mancini

The Queen Street Commons Café is a place of conversation. It happens as people meet others accidentally or purposefully - over shared coffee and lunch, in the moment of placing their orders or serving food, while waiting in line, clearing tables or hanging out at the Coffee Bar. It is a conversation that happens through an invitation to play cards, a recommendation to try someone else's favourite dessert, the gift of music played on the piano or a quick comment across tables. It is a conversation that comes from the sense of comfort, familiarity and welcome that people extend to each other.

Food is always at the centre of the conversation. The Café serves many meals but doesn't have a menu. Each day the food changes with a selection that is as diverse as the people who eat it. Our daily special and soup change every day and are often not repeated for weeks. Our entrees, wraps and salads are always slightly different with a flair coming from the mix of people doing the preparing in Maurita's Kitchen. The desserts shift with the seasons, though we have learned to make sure that the tried and true favourites are always present! The food has the wholesome taste of a home cooked meal and there is always something for people

It is a conversation that comes from the sense of comfort, familiarity and welcome that people extend to each other.

with dietary restrictions and differing taste buds. Without a menu and with such a diversity of options, each order becomes a conversation and people talk with each other about the food they are enjoying.

The Coffee Bar fills the space with the deep smell of freshly roasted coffee. We have recently added the coffee bar and are delighted at the ways it engages people in more conversation. Our daily roasting of coffee is a visual display that is fun to watch while it also fills the place with the warm comforting smell of coffee. People sit with us at the Coffee Bar, watching (and offering comments) as we make specialty coffees, teas, cold summer drinks and prepare bags of coffee to sell.

There is a constant flow of people in the Café - from the rotation of volunteers who help to serve the food, prepare the drinks and keep the Café running; to the people who come for lunch or an afternoon snack; to the people who come to say hello. We work to keep our prices low so that many people can afford to enjoy a meal out or a coffee

10 Examples of Our Daily Entrees

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---|
| ○ Pad Thai | ○ Kung Pao Tofu | ○ Mushroom Quinoa Sloppy Joes |
| ○ Mjeddrah | ○ Gourmet Poutine | ○ Burgers, such as Lentil, Chickpea, Black Bean & More! |
| ○ Taco Bowls | ○ Ethiopian Lentil Stew | |
| ○ Lasagna Rolls | ○ Balsamic Cauliflower Curry | |

10 Examples of Our Daily Soups

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| ○ Tahini Roasted Chickpea Carrot | ○ Roasted Mushroom | ○ Curried Sweet Potato |
| ○ 4 Corners Lentil | ○ Spanish Split Pea | ○ Brazilian Black Bean |
| ○ Corn Chowder | ○ Golden Tofu | ○ West African Peanut |
| | | ○ Babaganoush Soup |

10 Examples of Our Desserts

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| ○ Cheesecake | ○ Black Bean Brownies (Gluten & Dairy Free) | ○ Cinnamon Buns |
| ○ Carrot Cake | ○ Pumpkin Raisin Cake (Gluten & Dairy Free) | ○ Cookies, such as Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Peanut Butter, Snickerdoodles & Haystacks |
| ○ Brownies (Vegan) | | |
| ○ Date Squares (Vegan) | | |
| ○ Fruit Squares (Vegan) | | |

All of our food is prepared in Maurita's Kitchen!



We are now roasting Fair Trade Organic Single Origin Coffee Beans and Single Origin and Blended Coffee Beans at The Commons Cafe.

Have a seat at our new coffee bar and enjoy a cup of fresh brew or take some beans home to enjoy!

~ Buying Our Beans ~

Listed below are some of the varieties of Coffee Beans you can take home.

Single Origin Coffees & Blends: \$14.00/lb

- * Breakfast Blend ~ Light / Medium Roast
- * Columbian Supremo ~ Light / Medium / Dark Roast
- * Kenya AA ~ Medium-Dark Roast
- * Queen Street Commons House Blend ~ Medium Roast

Fair Trade Organic Single Origin Coffees: \$16.00/lb

- * Doi Chaang (Thailand) ~ Dark Roast
- * Ethiopian Yirgacheffe ~ Dark Roast
- * Indonesian Sumatra ~ Medium Roast
- * Nicaraguan ~ Medium Roast



with friends but there is no need for anyone to buy anything and people are welcome to spend the day. Many people take us up on this invitation - playing cards, doing puzzles, working on their computers, doing school work and visiting with others. They are the people who welcome each other and who keep the conversation going.

Evenings in the Café are often full of events. Monday evenings are for Open Space, a time for people with disabilities and their caregivers to hang out together. Speak English Café fills the space on Thursday evenings with people practicing English while Tuesdays and Wednesdays are open for groups to host their events ranging from meetings to movie nights and speaker series. Friday evenings are music nights, with a wide range of groups from jazz to folk to punk rock sharing their music. We welcome people to think creatively with us on how the space can be used and the events that can be hosted.

Conversation can be uncomfortable and it can be unpredictable and challenging, but it can also be enlivening and exciting. For many people, the Café is the old style corner store or the village square - it's the place to engage in discussion and companionship, it is the place to live out life's highs and lows. You never

Each day the food changes with a selection that is as diverse as the people who eat it...The food has the wholesome taste of a home cooked meal and there is always something for people with dietary restrictions and differing taste buds. Without a menu and with such a diversity of options, each order becomes a conversation and people talk with each other about the food they are enjoying.

know what a day will hold, but you do know that it will be interesting and full of people who bring themselves fully to the conversation. In her book *Turning To One Another*, Margaret Wheatley says: "The practice of conversation takes courage, faith and time. We don't get it right the first time, and we don't have to. We settle into conversation, we don't just do it. As we risk talking to each other about something we are about, as we become curious about each other, as we slow things down, gradually we remember this timeless way of being together." This is what happens every day at the Queen Street Commons Café.