



THE FIRST EDITION

Rev. Kathleen Mowat

Welcome to our first copy of Trinity's newsletter! I am sure you will discover lots of interesting reading here. We hope to publish four times a year and we will cover a wide variety of topics from interviews with our members, happenings in the church, book reviews and a kid's corner.

I would like to thank Maryleah Otto for her wonderful contributions as the editor and Sharon Kittson for the publication and set up.

If you have ideas you would like to see included please let us know.

It is our hope that the newsletter will help to keep us connected as well as provide communication with our community-so when you have finished please pass it on to a neighbour or friend, let us share the news that Trinity is a wonderful place to be!

~Blessings~

A BIG WELCOME TO DAN MCCOY

Dan's history goes back a long way with Trinity. He began piano lessons at the age of 4 with Marion O'Hara in the Trinity Chapel. During High School, our former music director, Terry Vint, asked him if he would accompany a Choir Member/Cellar Singer John Milne in a rendition of "Were You There?". That was his first contact with the Church. He then took over for Terry Vint during summer months playing organ and piano.

He spent a number of years working alongside our past minister Rev. Hills. "It is with a great deal of excitement that I will be returning to Trinity," says Dan. "The sense of community here has never failed to help recharge my batteries and it is a privilege to be able to enjoy that again."



THURSDAY EVENING SUPPER CLUB

The Thursday evening Supper Club has been in existence now for three years. It has proven to be successful in providing a specific need in our community. Everyone who attends receives a warm nutritious meal. This is not just a supper club for the financially needy, but a supper club promoting community and social connections as well. The Supper Club commences at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays with a social hour and then from 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. 'dinner is served!' It could also be noted that the Supper Club provides meals for those who live alone as well. Should you know of anyone who may require this service they just have to drop by and pick up a meal for that person. Perhaps you can join us one evening for dinner! All are welcomed.

NEED HELP, START HERE... 211

Did you know that by dialling 211, you can get instant access to: Government Offices, Social and Health Services, Legal Programs, Housing & Utilities Services, Financial Help, Transportation Services, Counselling & Addiction help, Child and Youth Programs, **Seniors support services** and volunteer organizations-**Community Connection** your one-stop information source.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY



By: Maryleah Otto

As Ellie Lyon graciously receives me into her stylish yet homey condominium apartment overlooking a tranquil woods, I am immediately struck by the sight of much loved paintings, photos and beautiful accent furniture that are clearly suggestive of precious memories. A huge Chinese chest made of aromatic camphor wood lavishly carved with figures and scenery takes pride of place in the entry hall. It too suggests memories. As I settle myself comfortably in a beckoning rocking chair, I see Ellie's son and daughter-in-law busily assembling a new vegetable and herb planter on the balcony. An offer of cranberry juice is made. This is truly a 'home' a place of love and friendship.

Ellie (Ellen) McCready was born at home on her parents' farm in Milton Ontario, the third girl in the family. She was joined a few years later by a fourth sister. While the girls were still in school, her father gave up farming and moved to Toronto where he found work with Imperial Oil Limited. He remained there until his retirement many years later.

In 1948 Ellie graduated from Oakwood Collegiate where she was active in various clubs, the choir and different sports. She always enjoyed her classes and until recently she corresponded with two of her favourite teachers. Ellie really wanted to go to university but the cost of post-secondary education and her father's view that a girl's future lay in marriage and family life caused her to abandon her dream of continuing in school.

At 19 Ellie married Herbert Lyon, "a handsome young man recently demobilized from the Royal Canadian Navy." Herbert worked

for Bell Canada in Toronto but soon the young couple moved to Byron Ontario now part of the city of London. At that time, Byron was a small police village about the size of Bala and it was there that Ellie and Herb's first son was born. They remained in Byron for ten years and their second son and twin daughters were also born there.

Church had always been part of Ellie's life so it was not surprising that she threw herself wholeheartedly into Byron's United Church. She sang in the choir, was active in the UCW, the CCIT (Canadian Girls in Training) and she also served as an elder. In Ellie's words, "the church became my outlet for my creative and social interests and for whatever leadership qualities I had." Not having any relatives close by, the church and the neighbourhood became Ellie's pseudo family.

The next move was to Goderich Ontario where the twins started school and Ellie once again became involved in numerous church activities. After Goderich came London, where the Lyons remained for many years. Ellie was immediately a familiar face at the United Church. She also did volunteer hospital work and she ran a weekly card party at the church for a long time. She is justly proud of the fact that she was the first woman Clerk of Sessions at Colborne Street United Church. The only 'additions' to the family were a couple of birds and a "character cat called Percy."

One of the most significant influences on Ellie's life was the family cottage, as it is for so many people in Muskoka. Ellie's father purchased the cottage near Bala in 1947 and it remained a cherished retreat not only for the McCreadys but also for their children and their grandchildren until 2002. More memories, sunny days on the dock, refreshing dips in the lake, board games on the dining room table after supper, afternoon tea under shady trees and mercifully no TV or telephone! This cottage turned out to be almost next door to that of John and Molly Ayling (see the interview with John) and the Lyons and the Aylings enjoyed each other's company all those years.

Con't from P.2—Getting To Know Your Church Community

Ellie has been at Trinity for fourteen years. Our conversation revealed her as the embodiment of all that is best in both the 'old' and the 'new' in church life. While she believes in the importance of faith communities in the overall social fabric of communities and in the need to instil high ethical standards in young people, she also welcomes the many changes that have taken place within the United Church in more recent times. She believes in the value of the Golden Rule, and in respecting the worth of each individual. "After all, we are all God's children," she says lovingly. She sees the potential of social media to help people from many different parts of the world to get to know each other and to understand each other's different points of view. She would like young people to have the opportunity to learn more about church history and its role in the making of this country. She likes to keep her eye on the essence of Christ's love for humankind, rather than on the slavish adherence to protocol that so often passes for piety or for "being a good Christian." She worries that many young people may see the hypocrisy in this type of behavior, and if they do, then maybe the Church as a whole needs to re-examine its role in society.

POP CAN TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Sharon interviewed Dr. Jim Goodwin by phone on Thursday to ask about the Pop Can Tabs that we all collect for him. She asked him if this was a Royal Canadian Legion Project, or was it an organization that they have adopted.

Dr. Goodwin said that this organization began 15-20 years ago by two Legion Members in Elora, Ontario. Over time this group expanded from local to national and the efforts have proven very successful. To date, Dr. Goodwin stated that they have provided approximately 1,370 wheelchairs across Canada. Air Canada supplies the transportation for **free!** The two gentlemen that spear-headed this organization received the **Order of Canada** for their program.

Sharon asked Dr. Goodwin why they only collect the tabs of the pop cans. He said that the tabs are pure aluminum

and can be thrown directly into the smelter, unlike the can itself. The can is coated inside and out and it would take nine different processes in order to be able to return it to its original state, being aluminum.

Dr. Goodwin is the *go-to-guy* in Muskoka. He picks up the tabs all over the place and gets them to Elora. Dr. Goodwin's brother, Larry, lives in Elmira and is a part of this organization. He picks up from many locations and gives talks on the program.

The headquarters for this endeavour is at the Elora Legion. Dr. Goodwin informed Sharon that the wheelchairs are not just for the Veterans and Legionnaires but for anybody who needs one. The requirement: Call the Elora Legion @ 519-849-9611 or e-mail them at info@eloral legion.ca. That's all it takes! **Thanks Dr. Goodwin!**

HAPPENINGS

Muskoka Men of Song, and the Valley Men from Ottawa IN CONCERT at **Trinity United Church in Huntsville**, Friday Sept. 23, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m. Cost \$15.00/person. Enjoy an evening of varied musical selections from two male voice choirs who will bring together a beautiful blend of music.

TONIGHT-SUNDAY SEPT. 11TH

Be there or be square!

Tonight at Trinity, Gravenhurst, Concert for The Horn of Africa Relief Fund, 7:00 p.m. Bring your friends. Performing: Just 8, Dalton's Dixie Devils- Admission by donation. Funds will be matched by Canadian International Development Agency.



FUTURE ISSUES

If anyone in our church community has any information that they think would benefit any of us, please bring your information forward for our next issue of the Trinity Tribune. You may fax the office at 705-687-1435, e-mail the information to: trinityu@bellnet.ca or just call the office and leave the information with Linda at 705-687-2542. As simple as that. We look forward to your news!

CHURCH INFO

Secretary: Linda Richardson
705-687-2542
Chapel Services 9:15 a.m.
Sanctuary Services 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Care available at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School available at 10:30 a.m.





GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY Part 2

John Ayling was born on March 20, 1918 in Lloydminster, a small prairie town that straddles the border between Alberta and Saskatchewan. His parents, who were English immigrants, were farmers in Paradise Valley, twenty-two miles to the southwest, in Alberta. Like many homesteaders, they had acquired a quarter section of good farmland and they broke the grass covered virgin soil using a team of oxen. The family grew when a second son and then a daughter were born a few years later.

Music became a vital part of John's life at an early age. His father played a hand-pumped pipe organ in the church hall and everyone in the family sang or played an instrument. When several years of poor crops forced John's parents to sell the farm in favour of finding a different way of earning a living, the family returned briefly to England. But Canada still beckoned and in 1925 the Aylings once again sailed for the New World and settled in Oshawa where John's dad began work at General Motors. Then came '29 and the stock market collapse. Earning a living was a challenge but the purchase of a small farm near Bowmanville proved successful.

The Ayling household continued to be music centered. Weekly concerts that included piano, violin, cello, trumpet and trombone as well as choral singing were part of the routine. Church too was part of life and John's dad played the organ each week for the services. After graduation from Oshawa Collegiate and Vocational Institute, John went to work in the Chev Pontiac Olds division of GM. His very first car was a '28 Chevy for which he paid \$130.

With the coming of World War II in 1939, John hoped to enlist in the military but a heart murmur made him ineligible so he found a tool design job with John Inglis Company in Toronto. Here he began designing Bren guns and it was here too that he met Molly Pickup, whom he married following a two year courtship. In 1943 John was sent to England for a year, along with a team of weapons designers, to hone his skills.

Following the war, John and Molly lived briefly in Lindsay, Ontario and then they moved to St. Thomas where John spent 33 years with the Timken Company where he rose to the position of Manager of Engineering. John and Molly's children, Peter and Julie, grew up in St. Thomas and John was a charter member of the St. Thomas Curling Club. He was also a director of the St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce, president of the Elgin-Middlesex Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society in the '60s, 1971 president of the Rotary Club, and a busy volunteer for Meals-on-Wheels. Both John and Molly sang in the choir at First United Church.

Like so many people who move to Muskoka, Molly and John followed their heart here in 1989 because of the family cottage at Bala. As John says, "The cottage is the glue that keeps the family together." They bought the house on Fairview Avenue where John still lives and although Molly passed away in 2007, John has continued his love of music, bridge, curling and volunteer work. He plays in the tuba section of the Muskoka Concert Band and has served on the Board of Directors of the Gravenhurst Curling Club. He is a familiar face at the Seniors' Centre and for the past several years he has sung in Trinity United's choir.

John Ayling is an amazing man. Brimming with vitality and zest for life, he seems like someone decades younger than 93 years. He would like to see music play an even greater role in church life than it does. Like so many older church members, he looks with sadness at the aging congregations and the declining memberships, especially among younger people. He feels that people who aren't familiar with church life have little understanding of what church is all about these days. For many people, he thinks much of what they *think* goes on, is irrelevant to today's problems, outlooks and interests. He suggests that the church, as we know it, may even disappear in the not too distant future but he is convinced that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in us all and that whether or not people participate in church life, most acknowledge the power of Love and Goodness – God – in significant ways that will ensure our ultimate progress on the heavenly path.

Pastoral Care Committee Last July 4th, The Pastoral Care Committee hosted another delightful Ladies' Afternoon Tea in the Church parlour. Maryleah Otto was the guest speaker and she presented an overview of a meditation course she recently studied called "Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction". This course is given twice a year in Huntsville by Dr. Bill Knight M.D. and it has been a boon to hundreds of people for over 20 years. It is based on the healing power of all spiritual traditions and it has a strong connection to the principles of yoga. Maryleah provided the group with Dr. Knight's brochures and contact information.

The Shawl Ministry spends Wednesday mornings meeting and knitting shawls. The shawls are distributed to individuals who may be living in residence, in hospital, alone or in celebration of a special event. These are not exclusive to church members. If you feel you may know someone who would appreciate receiving a cozy shawl, even if it's for cuddling up and reading a good book, or watching television, let Linda know at the church and she will contact Pat Bruin and let her know.



A COMMUNITY NOTE

And the Winner Is.....Rev. Kathleen Mowat

Rev. Kathleen was the recipient of one of the Daisy Awards for her garden. Yay Rev. Kathleen! This award was developed in 2002 as a Gravenhurst Communities in Bloom initiative and is now organized and implemented as a partnership with the Gravenhurst Horticultural Society. Not only are the awards meant to recognize property owners for their efforts, but they are also meant to encourage other residents and businesses to upgrade and beautify their property.



Kids Corner

As the evenings get darker and a little bit colder, Maryleah Otto has come up with a good book that your children/grandchildren may wish to read. The book is entitled: ***The Glory Wind***, written by Valeri Sherrard. Toronto: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2010, 192 pages, \$12.95 paperback.

This touching family story will appeal to boys and girls aged 10 to 14. Told in the voice of 11 year old Luke Haliwell, the novel recounts the events of one summer during the late 1940s in a small Ontario community. A young mother, Raedine Moor, and her daughter Gracie, age 11, have just moved into town. Gracie tells everyone that her father died a hero during the war. When rumours run wild about what Raedine does for a living, suspicions arise that she may be in the sex trade and Gracie may never even have had a 'legal' father.

Gracie, who had at first been warmly welcomed by her classmates, suddenly finds herself the victim of relentless bullying and rejection. Her friends' mothers instruct their daughters to shun her. Cold shoulders are also turned towards Raedine. Only Luke and his mother, and Gracie's schoolteacher, Miss Prutko, stand by the child and her mother. The teacher's loyalty earns her no support from the school board which soon decides to fire her.

When a sudden tornado sweeps through the little town, touching down on a field where Gracie was on her way to borrow silk stockings for her mother's forthcoming wedding, the young girl is swept up in the violence of the storm. Her body is never recovered. Many of the townsfolk, including most of the churchgoers, believe the tragedy is God's judgment on Raedine for the life they *think* she has led. Others are more compassionate, wisely giving Raedine the benefit of the doubt as to the source of her livelihood.

The novel would be a fine addition to a church library as well as to any home collection of books for young readers. It will help parents discuss with their pre-teens the wisdom of not judging others lest we be judged ourselves. It also highlights the fact that what often passes for being 'a good Christian' can actually be a sadly misunderstood interpretation of Christ's message. Highly recommended.

If anybody has any suggestions for the Kids Corner, or a special book that they liked, or even if your children have read a special book and would like to do a book review, please let Sharon know and she'll include them in the next newsletter!

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH'S
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**



**THE HAPPY SMILING FACES
OF OUR CHILDREN
AND
OUR LEADERS
THANK YOU!**