

“I Know About That”

By Trish Glennon

Over the past few years, we’ve been engaging in conversations about our growth as a community. In facing the limitations of accessibility and the age of some of our homes, we made difficult decisions in recent years to sell and replace two of our homes. These decisions prompted deeper conversations about our desire to remain responsive to changing needs, as well as how we might respond to the growing need for housing and supports for persons with disabilities in Ontario.

What became clear in our conversations was that there is a desire to grow, to welcome others, and also a deep belief in our values and mission of creating intentional community with others. In this past year, a steering committee, supported by the Board of Directors, was created to begin seriously looking at how we might develop growth in housing on our main property. The result of the work has led us to a conceptual vision of housing and additional program space on the northeast corner of our main property.

In recent weeks, I toured several homes and programs to meet with community members to share about some of the concepts, and update community members on next steps. There were many great questions and responses. What was most important for me was that our com-



Members gathered in small groups at our recent community retreat day.

munity members understood why a project like this is so important. Many core members talked about not being able to navigate stairs; others talked about needing more quiet. At the Woodery, Patrick Cronin sat next to me as I reviewed some slides and talking points. I reminded him and others that there are many people waiting, who need a place to live and who need a place to feel like they belong. Patrick responded: “I know about that.”

Housing and supports are important and critical issues facing countless people in our province. But more deeply, it is belonging—to be where we are known, respected, included, and where our gifts can be celebrated and flourish—belonging is ultimately what matters most. It is something that all of us long for.

‘I know about that’ is a wonderful confirmation and encouragement as we continue to contemplate our growth. In many ways, this statement expresses responsibility. When we know about belonging, when we have experienced it, and we are part of a community that intentionally tries to create it, we feel responsible for it. We feel responsible to not only care for it and participate in creating it, but to also nurture it, to share it, to extend it further.

Our mission in L’Arche invites us to be part of creating a world where we all belong. Growth takes time, planning, and a lot of hard work. It is filled with inherent risk. I am grateful for Patrick’s insight—that a call to growth is rooted in our responsibility to our mission, to our responsibility to create, and to grow a sense of belonging. ☙

Walk with Hope 2026 — Thank You



The Walk with Hope took place on May 9th, a time to be together, celebrate and spread hope. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped raise \$104,000 to support Daybreak homes and programs.

Community Notes



Rudy Ricci died on April 28th.

Rudy Ricci, the beloved father of Mike Ricci, passed away on April 28th. He was a generous member of our family group and played a significant role in fundraising efforts for Daybreak over the years.

Doug Cronin, the beloved father of Patrick Cronin, passed away on March 18th. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

University of Notre Dame students Elizabeth Coleman and Easton Porter arrived in May for eight weeks as part of a partnership with Notre Dame’s Centre for Social Concerns Bridge Program. This program invites students to reflect critically on issues of social justice. We are grateful for their time here and wish them all the best as they return to their home and studies in the United States.

Serve with Liberty took place in April where we welcomed Liberty Mutual Canada volunteers. This year, their contributions included volunteering at the Craft Studio, the Lively Loaf, and preparing the property for our Walk with Hope. We give thanks for their time and efforts.

Daybreak’s Volunteer Appreciation blessing was held on April 13th, at the Dayspring. We took the time to express our heartfelt gratitude for all that our volunteers contribute each day to community life.

The Curtain Club Charity Night occurred on May 28th, featuring a screening of Dracula. Members from the Green House, Big House, and Heart House enjoyed the lively play. Thank you to the Curtain Club for generously donating the tickets to us.

Visitors from the Dzherelo Centre for Social Services and Rehabilitation in Ukraine, visited us on May 15th. The Centre provides social and rehabilitatoin services to various groups in Lviv. Their visit was both one of sharing and learning. We are grateful to Zenia Kushpeta for the opportunity of connection with them. Zenia is a former Daybreak assistant, and a member of the L’Arche Daybreak community.

The Voices Alive Choir performed at Victory Baptist Church with the proceeds from this concert going to Daybreak. There was also a fundraising bake sale during the intermission. The choir was directed by Mary Bennet, a long-time Daybreak volunteer and included community members Anne Todd and Fran Johnstone. Members from Connections and the Lively Loaf attended the event. It was a wonderful evening of music and friendship.

The annual tree-planting event was held on June 9th, and organized by Alex Karney and his team. Many community members volunteered their time successfully planting 140 trees and shrubs. We would like to express our gratitude to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their generous support, which made this event possible.

Community Retreat took place on June 22nd at the Dayspring featuring the theme *Messengers of Peace*. The community reflected on peace in our community through our many stories, gifts, and relationships. Small groups were formed and members created cards and notes of peace that were later shared with their friends and families. We ended our time together with a pizza lunch!

Community Wish List	
Rice Cooker	\$120
Humidifier	\$150
Kitchen Knives.....	\$200
Stainless Steel Table.....	\$300
Bannetons for Bread Proofing.....	\$300
Vacuum	\$400
Porch Swing	\$450
Rocking Chair	\$600
Pillows for all homes	\$800
Baking Tins	\$900
BBQ	\$1000
End Tables and Lamps	\$1000
Gazebo	\$3000
Deck Extension	\$16000
Wheelchair Van.....	\$100000
For more information, please call Carol-Anne Forsythe at L’Arche Daybreak’s Development Office at (905) 884-3454, ext. 285.	

Longing for Home Conference: Room at the Table

By Clara Frascchetti



Father Henri Nouwen celebrating the Eucharist with members of the L'Arche Daybreak community.

This past May, L'Arche Daybreak had the privilege of participating in the *Longing for Home* Conference at the University of Toronto, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Henri Nouwen's passing. Assistants and core members from our community presented an interactive workshop, *Room at the Table*, sharing the story of an extraordinary piece of Daybreak's history that continues to shape our life together.

More than 30 years ago, Henri commissioned the building of a communion table for the Dayspring chapel. His vision was beautifully simple: a table close to the ground where the sacred meal could be seen and shared by everyone—whether seated in a chair, a wheelchair, or on the floor. For Henri, the table reflected God's love: never out of reach, always available, and always inviting us closer.

The workshop told the story of how this vision came to life through Joe Child, then the head of our Woodery program. Joe was reluctant to accept the task, feeling unqualified designing something of such sacred importance. Henri, however, recognized gifts in Joe that he could not yet see in himself. Working with reclaimed cherry wood that had been destined for the scrap pile, Joe, with the help of his friend John Bloss at the Woodery, drew on his experience as a kayak builder. Inspiration came when he designed

the altar's base to resemble the hull of a boat—a fitting symbol for L'Arche, named for Noah's Ark, where a diverse community journeyed together toward hope and new life.

Through storytelling, humour, dramatic reenactments, music, and historical photographs, the session invited participants into this remarkable story. The workshop concluded with the unveiling of the actual communion table, brought from our Dayspring chapel. As participants gathered around the table and joined us in a closing song, the story became more than a piece of history—it became an invitation. Just as Henri envisioned, the table once again became a place where strangers became companions, differences were welcomed, and those present found a place to belong.

Through simple rituals of welcoming, remembering, listening, sharing, music, and gratitude, we caught a glimpse of what L'Arche has always sought to embody: a place where we are invited to make room at the table. ✚

Henri spent the last years of his life in our community forming many relationships, and took the time to write about these experiences during his time spent at Daybreak.

L'ARCHE DAYBREAK

The L'Arche Daybreak community is a dynamic example of how people of different intellectual capacity, social origin, religion and culture can live and learn together.

The first L'Arche community in North America, L'Arche Daybreak began in 1969 and now includes eight homes in Richmond Hill, several day programs of creative activities, and the Dayspring Spiritual Centre.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Our Community Prayer Time is held on Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m.



L'ARCHE

In a world that often sees people with intellectual disabilities as less than whole, L'Arche celebrates their creativity, transparency and great capacity for joy as important gifts to be shared. Started in France in 1964, L'Arche has become an international movement with over 150 communities throughout the world.

"What makes us human is not our mind but our heart, not our ability to think but our ability to love."

—Henri Nouwen



Daybreak Newsbreak

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Daybreak Newsbreak

Revitalizing Our Boardwalk

The L'Arche Daybreak pond and surrounding boardwalk hold a significant place in the life of our community since our beginning. Created by our founding members, the pond was a place to swim and gather for picnics and to rest. In the mid-90's, the pond and its surroundings formed the perfect location for the building of our Dayspring. It was then, in an effort to enhance access to the beauty of the pond and wetlands, that a boardwalk was constructed around its perimeter. The boardwalk's creation was a wonderful partnership with Ontario Streams, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and a project of the Ontario Social Development Council for youth at risk, who helped to construct the original boardwalk.

The boardwalk has been an integral part of everyday life for our community since its creation. It is used daily by members of programs and homes for afternoon and evening walks. It's a place that offers users an opportunity to breathe, to listen and witness the incredible diversity of wildlife and nature that exists in



The Craft Studio enjoying their daily stroll on the boardwalk around the pond.

our local surroundings. It's a place to rest, to have a quiet conversation, or a contemplative walk. It has provided thousands of people in our community and beyond with the opportunity to experience the natural habitat and diversity of a local ecosystem and to do so barrier-free.

After 25 years, this much-loved and now worn boardwalk has unfortunately reached a point where its condition is deteriorating, necessitating a complete replacement to ensure its continued safety and accessibility.

Over the next year we will be fundraising for a replacement boardwalk. Our goal is to revitalize this cherished space so that it can continue to be enjoyed in the years to come.

If you are inspired to contribute to this project, we invite you to reach out to Carol-Anne Forsythe at caforsythe@larchedaybreak.com in our Development Office for more information on how you can donate. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and any support you can provide towards its restoration. ✚

Remembering John McLean By Rob Tunney

John McLean, a long-term assistant at Daybreak, passed away on June 14th. John was so proud to be part of his L'Arche family, especially at the Red House—a place where he offered his gifts and discovered his belovedness. Below is an excerpt from a reflection by Deacon Rob Tunney given at John's funeral mass:

The book of Ecclesiastes, includes a powerful declaration: "For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." These verses remind us that life is filled with seasons—each with its own purpose and beauty. There is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. In the life of John, we see the unfolding of these seasons, each moment woven together to

create a rich tapestry of experiences.

John lived through various seasons, embracing every joy and challenge with grace and courage. In moments of laughter, we remember the joy he brought into our lives, the many birthday cakes and Thanksgiving dinners he cooked for all of us, the many board games he played with his friends and family even though he always said he forgot how, the many fun facts he would share when we did not know the answer—his smile that could light up even the darkest of days. In times of sorrow, John was a source of comfort, reminding us that even in our deepest grief, we are never alone. As we reflect on these seasons, let us remember that they reflect the beauty of a life well-lived, one that has left an indelible mark on all of our hearts. ✚



John came to Daybreak in 2005 after having first been an assistant in L'Arche Mobile for more than ten years.