



# Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

## Newsletter

May 2016



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### CALENDAR

#### May

8 Sun 10:30am Mother's Day

15 Sun 10:30am Food Sunday  
with Communion

15 Sun 3pm Duo Giocosco Concert

17 Tues 7pm Taizé Service

18 Wed 9:30am Worship/Memb mtg

22 Sun 10:30am Sunday Worship  
28 9-Noon Plant Sale

29 10:30am Sunday Worship

#### June

5 Sun 10:30am Communion Sunday

12 Sun 10:30am Blessing of the  
Animals Service & church Picnic

19 Sun 10:30am Father's Day

26 Sun 10:30am Sunday service

*No church services from July 3 – 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive*

#### August

07 Sun 10am Sunday Worship

14 Sun 10am Sunday Worship

21 Sun 10am Sunday Worship

28 Sun 10am Sunday Worship

Elders' Corner:

Notes

Next Communion:

Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### A WORD FROM THE EDITORS:

*Jane Cowell Poitras,  
Susan Hawke & Lynn Closs*

I am an early riser. Mostly due to a pesky cat who insists on breakfast at the crack of dawn. One morning, I had filled his bowl and had padded over to the kitchen sink to get myself a glass of water. Bleary-eyed I filled the glass. As I raised it to my lips to drink, my eyes shifted from the sink to my backyard which I could see through the kitchen window. Holy smokes! What was that? I did a double-take rubbing my eyes in disbelief. Walking along the picket fence not 20 feet in front of me was a roly-poly mother raccoon and her 3 babies. As they delicately but swiftly stepped over the pickets their chubby little bodies undulated back and forth. What a delight! Omigosh I thought, I must get a picture of this - but unfortunately by the time I returned to the window they had vanished. I wish now that I had just taken the extra minutes to enjoy them and not waste precious time searching for my camera. Today I was riding the bus around Dorval Circle. Not the most inspiring of sites in the West Island. As I gazed out the window, what did I see smack dab in the middle of the hill but a ground hog. Well, I am no expert on fauna and perhaps it could have been a beaver but it definitely was no cat or dog! Who would have thought ground hogs live in Dorval Circle? My head swivelled around to see the reaction of my fellow riders. What did they think of this unexpected little fellow sunning himself on the grass? Much to my dismay, no one else had noticed. Everyone was busy either on their phone or reading.

Spring is upon us – it is that lovely season of warmth and renewal. It is a time of miracles and delight. Sadly much of it is fleeting, as with many things in our lives, and we must be vigilant to watch for wonders or they may vanish as quickly as a family of raccoons!

*Susan Hawke*

### A Word from the Minister

Ah, Springtime! A season of new life, a time when we emerge from our winter cocoons and shed our heavy coats and boots and bask once again in the warm sunshine. Every day, when I look out my front window, I see that the grass is getting greener and greener. The crocuses (croci??) are already blooming in my garden, and the green shoots that are getting bigger every day hold the promise of daffodils and tulips yet to come. Soon we will be in that time when the leaves begin to sprout on the trees and the whole world seems to turn that vibrant spring green, a welcome change after the grey of winter. Spring is also the time when a man's fancy (this man, anyway) turns to... puppies! I have seen how people react whenever someone brings a baby around. The little one gets passed around and everybody oohs and aahs. Well, that's how I am with puppies, especially in the spring. I see them in the dog park, and I immediately start to think about getting a little "sibling" for Ben. Even the advertisers seem to know of this and are not at all afraid to exploit it for their purposes. There is a commercial on television these days that has a whole litter of the cutest Yellow Lab puppies you've ever seen, one of which even gets its own close-up, and I want to just reach into my TV and pluck it from the screen!

I love dogs especially, but really I love all animals. And as a person of faith, I try to take seriously God's call to be good stewards of God's creation, "to live with respect in creation" as we say every time we repeat the Creed of the United Church. And speaking of green grass and warm sunshine, how often have advertisers

shown us images of farm-raised animals strolling through the green grass and frolicking in the warm sunshine. Recently, I have begun to become aware that the reality of how farm animals are raised is very, very different from this. Chickens are raised by being crammed into tiny cages, their sores and wounds left unattended. The feed that they are given often causes them to grow so fast that they cannot even walk under their own weight. Pigs are placed into "gestation crates" that confine them to spaces where they cannot even turn around, and they spend their lives confined to that one, small space, with seemingly no one concerned for their welfare. All of this is bad enough, but often, the horror that these animals experience in being transported and processed for meat is worse than what they experienced at the factory farm. All of this is done, of course, so that we can buy cheaper meat at the grocery store. Many of us would rather "look the other way" than recognize the need to provide better care for God's creatures, but this seems to be the way of the world these days.

When I was a child, there were two family-run dairies in Lennoxville, a town of about 4,000 people. Milk would be brought to our front door in glass bottles early in the morning, and we knew where that milk came from. Today, these and other local dairy farms are long gone. On main street, there was Nichol's butcher shop that sold meat that was raised only a few miles away. Now we buy meat at giant "super stores" and we don't even know where it comes from or how it was raised. I heard recently (although I cannot confirm this to be true) that at some point in the future, the milk we drink will be coming from the United States, and will be of inferior quality to the milk we drink now. I can't help but feel that, as Hamlet would have said, "there's something rotten in the state of Denmark" (although, ironically, many European countries have stricter laws regarding the humane care and transportation of farm animals).

In the meantime, I am willing to put my money where my mouth is. I am currently looking for a

source of meat that can assure me that the animals were raised ethically and processed humanely. I happen to think that it is not too much to ask to have a source of meat where the animals are allowed to roam through the green grass and enjoy the sunshine. It is enough that these creatures must give their lives so that we can have meat to eat – there is no need for them to suffer as they do in the process.

I am also turning my love of animals into a worship experience as well. On June 12, Summerlea will have its first ever “Blessing of the Animals” service. If the weather permits, I am planning to have the service outdoors (so that we, too, can enjoy the green grass and the warm sunshine and the beauty of God’s creation), and will be followed by a picnic on the church lawn. All of you are invited to come to church that day with your beloved pets, and at the end of the service, to come forward to receive a blessing for your pet. These creatures that are such a wonderful part of our lives deserve to be loved and cared for, and in this service, we will have an opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for the love and companionship they provide for us, even as we acknowledge those animals that are not known to us, but provide for us in so many ways. As we celebrate this season of new life, may we strive to find ways to provide a new lease on life for all God’s creature, both great and small.

*Rev. Scott A. Patton.*

### Summerlea Outreach Committee

Dictionary.com gives a definition for “Outreach” as “to reach beyond; exceed”

At Summerlea, every single activity that takes place within the walls of Summerlea buildings – from Square dancing, to Meals on wheels, to Piano lessons to Musical evenings, could certainly be said to be “reaching beyond”, and of course all the members of the church who attend, support or facilitate any of these activities “exceed” their mandate. Congratulations to you all!!

Under the more official title of the Outreach Committee, recent projects have included collection of **Lenten loonies** for the Haitian midwifery school, support for the **Lachine Foodbank**, and ongoing support for the St Columba House hot lunch program through **miles of pennies (kilometers of nickels)**.



- Please remember to put your nickels and dimes in the maple syrup bucket at the back of the church or give them directly to Barbara Davidson.

We continue to liaise with Undeg Edwards, our presbytery representative, in the raising of funds for the **Dominique literacy project in Haiti**.

We have to thank Sue and Michelle McKenzie and the Pathfinders for once again organizing a successful **Artisan Fair and Book sale**. The proceeds from this are used to support several, mainly local, organisations such as the Women’s Shelter, Maple Grove lunch program, and several others.

**Syrian Refugee project:** John Osborne is providing a separate update on “our family”. So here we will just mention Summerlea’s involvement in the sponsorship program for Syrian refugees. Not only are we members of the Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition (SRSC), but we are also members of the West Island Resource Network (WIRN). It has been heart-warming to be part of this group where all are working towards a common goal without any evidence of competition.

### Upcoming event:

Please don’t forget the **Summerlea Annual Perennial Plant Sale** that will take place on **Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 – Noon**.

- Please bring your plants to the church on **Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>**.
- Please label all plant specimens, and if possible classify as shade or sun loving.
- Popsicle sticks are good for labels.
- Herbs are always in demand, so if your Mint, Oregano or Thyme are out of control – try splitting them and we can sell the cuttings.

Proceeds will once again go to the Montreal Presbytery sponsored Dominique literacy project in Haiti



## Summerlea Refugee Update

Since the fall of last year Summerlea has, through the Outreach Committee, quietly continued its work to help sponsor a Syrian refugee family. To this end we have partnered with the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation (LUUC) and the Merging Waters Pastoral Charge. A committee of six, the Summerlea Refugee Sponsorship Coalition (SRSC), chaired by the tireless Sheila Laursen of LUUC has been working with the Action Réfugiés Montréal (ARM) organization to become partnered with a refugee family seeking resettlement. The government resettlement of 25,000 Syrian refugees may be completed but the need for safe haven is very far from over. After all, more than five million Syrians have had to flee their home.

Through ARM we have now met with Salman who came with his family to Canada five years ago as a Syrian refugee. Salman has been working continuously to bring various members of his extended family to Canada and is now hoping to help his brother Bilal with his wife Farah and their four children to relocate to Montreal. Bilal, together with his wife and children fled Syria to Saudi Arabia.

Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia does not recognize refugees and Bilal is unable to work nor are his children able to attend school as they can only remain in Saudi Arabia as visitors. They are currently able to survive only by receiving financial support from other family members. The oldest child is a girl of ten years and the three boys are aged eight, four and two. The hope is that the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will be able to have Bilal and his wife properly classified as the refugees they are so the process of relocation may begin. This may be possible in Saudi Arabia through the Canadian Embassy but may require being escorted by the UNHCR safely out of Saudi Arabia to a country that recognizes refugees so the application process to come to Canada can proceed.

As you can see, nothing is easy. We can only imagine the stress this imposes upon people already under terrible strain in their search to establish safe and productive lives and to secure a future for themselves and their children. The SRSC, through the three congregations continue to raise funds

towards this end. Your prayers and financial support are crucial components of the continuing efforts.

## Blessing of the Animals Service – Sunday, June 12, 10:30am



Please bring your pets to our very first “Blessing of the Animals” service on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The service will take place outside on the church grounds, weather permitting. If your pet is not a traveller, consider bringing your favourite picture of him/her to have it blessed, or, perhaps a stuffed animal representing your pet. There will be a church picnic following the service. Look for more information in the church bulletin closer to the date.

## Artisan Fair

Hello Summerlea friends! My mum and I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s Artisan Fair yet another success! Without all of your help and support we wouldn’t be able to continue this amazing event. This year, we raised just under \$4,000, which will be split between the Outreach Committee and Girl Guides of Lachine.

As many of you may know, we are both involved in the Guiding community in Lachine. Together we run the Sparks unit (5 & 6 year olds) and I also work with the Pathfinders (12 -15 year old), who are heavily involved in the running of the lunchroom. The Saturday before the Artisan Fair, we met to make the quiche for the lunchroom and baked some bread for the bake table. The evening before they came from school and set up the lunchroom and prepped the dishes and then the day of, they worked as waitresses and served all of our lunch guests. Without their hard work and commitment, we would not be as speedy or as pleasant a service.

The funds that get allocated to Guiding in Lachine help us to subsidize the cost of our camps across all levels, so that more of our girls can experience the joys of camping, learn new skills and create great memories. This summer, myself and some of our Pathfinders will be travelling to Sylvan Lake, Alberta

to attend Guiding Mosaic, which is a large international camp held somewhere in Canada every few years. With airfare and the cost of camp and travel, the girls have been hard at work in order to fundraise the funds to be able to go, so part of the funds we get from the Artisan Fair will assist in that greatly.

As much work as they put in, they are far from the only ones who give so much of their time to help make it a success. Whether you made hot "cross-less" buns, delicious soup, or whipped up your favourite recipe for our fabulous bake table; whether you helped set up books or the bake table, or prepped the nursery; whether you helped out the day of at the bake table, the book sale, in the lunchroom or the kitchen, or even just came out to support us, none of it would have been possible without you. Your generosity with your time is always so incredible and there is never enough thank you's to go around. But from the bottom of our hearts, we wish to thank each and every one of yours or giving so much of your precious time, without which none of it would be possible. We look forward to yet another amazing fair next year! And again, THANK YOU.

*Michelle (and Sue) McKenzie*

### Bursaries from Montreal Presbytery

**Two Bursary funds** are available through the Finance and Extension Board for students who are active United church members, and registered in Universities and post-secondary institutions. See <http://www.montrealpresbytery.ca>. Applications must be submitted by June 10, 2016.

**Mums for Mums:** Unfortunately this year, we were unable to find any chrysanthemums or alternative at an affordable price to offer for Mother's Day. We hope to find another activity to support the "Grandmothers" of the Stephen Lewis Foundation Plant Sale.

**Annual Perennial Plant Sale** - Saturday May 28th in aid of the Dominique literacy project. If you have any perennials



beginning to emerge in your garden, please consider splitting and potting them for our fundraiser this Spring. Please label your donations (popsicle sticks work well) and place with soil in clean pots, water well and store in shade until May 27th. Bring your plants to the church on Friday, May 27th. Then, come and shop on Saturday! Used pots are also appreciated, and can be left at the church.

### Haiti School Project



Summerlea is one of the few churches supporting this project on a regular basis. Donations are dropped into a jar at the back of the church regularly every Sunday and, in addition, \$332.00 have been donated at Soup Sunday events since January.

The children at this school (The Dominique Literary Centre) now have a permanent building with a water filtration system and the students receive one hot meal per day. A budget of \$800 (\$1,200 CAD) a month is required to run the school. The land and the building are owned by the school and this will allow them to plant crops to provide food for the school meals. Excess produce can then be sold or traded.

The School Project Committee, based in Beaconsfield United Church, is hoping the project will have continued support over the next four years, so that the school can become self-sustained in terms of food and qualifies for further financial support through international funding.

Thank you, once again, for your generosity.

### Green News

A cell phone contains over 60 different metals all of which are essentially non-renewable resources and all of the rare earth metals contain radioactive elements. As the prices of electronic devices fall the demand for them increases and the need for rare earth metal mining soars. These mines all have enormous negative environmental impacts. Ask yourself: "Do I really need that latest model cell phone?" If you absolutely must buy a new phone then make sure to have your old one recycled. To find a drop-off centre nearby there is a drop-off locator at [www.call2recycle.ca](http://www.call2recycle.ca).



In Lachine the Saul Bellow Library, the Jean Coutu on Victoria (near MacDonald's) and the Uniprix at the Le Savignon residence all accept cell phones, rechargeable batteries and alkaline and single-use batteries. But, do you really need a new cell phone?

**Meals on Wheels** is a volunteer organization that provides hot meals to our seniors in the community. We are always looking for volunteers to help cook, deliver or clean up after meal preparation.



Volunteers work as a team of 2 or 3 people for as little as 2 hours a month (one shift), or twice a month if you prefer. If this interests you, please call Susan at 514-634-2651 or 634-4827, and I can provide you with more details. Something to think about for a new Fall activity??

### Music Notes



At this printing, we will have finished our recent musical, *The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit*. I hope you all enjoyed it! I would like to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to work once again with my able cast, my pianist, John Torunian, and my backstage costumers and decorators.

It takes many hands to make a large project like this come to fruition, and I am blessed with enthusiastic and talented folk to help and support me. Thank you so much, everyone!  
It was great fun!!!

Don't forget we have **Duo Giocoso**, (Elias-Axel Pettersson, piano, and Roland Arnassalon, violin) performing on **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00pm**. Please come and enjoy these wonderful musicians as they share their talents playing works by Schubert, Mozart, Elgar, Takemitsu, Pärt, and Massenet, among others. The programme lasts about an hour and 10min. and there will be a reception afterwards to meet the artists. We are so fortunate to have such a quality chamber music concert in our own backyard. So, tell all your friends! Suggested donation: \$15.00.

Thank you to all my choristers who have come out, rain or shine, all year round to provide lovely

music for your services. You are a great group to work with!

*Connie Osborne,  
Music Director*

### Out and About in Montreal

If you like music I am sure you are already aware of all the festivals the Quartier des Spectacles downtown has to offer every summer. But many people are put off by the huge crowds and the high cost of parking at these so-called "free" outdoor concerts.

For the last couple of years, I have been going to free concerts all over the West Island during the summer...Parking is free and plentiful and there is a wide variety of musical offerings available for every taste - the crowds are not overwhelming - and it's relatively close to home.

It requires a little research however. As a general rule, these concerts are advertised only to the residents of the towns hosting the concerts - concert information is contained in the summer activities booklets delivered door to door...But these booklets are also available on the websites of the different cities, towns and boroughs. Get a calendar and a pen and visit the web sites in late May and mark down the concerts (and the locations, times, etc.) that interest you. The web sites worth visiting are those of Dorval, Pointe-Claire, Beaconsfield, Baie-D'Urfé, Dollard-des-Ormeaux and Pierrefonds-Roxboro. And don't forget Lachine's Classical Music Festival and the West Island Blues Festival.

Last summer I spent several Sunday afternoons on the terrace of the Pierrefonds Cultural Centre surrounded by trees and music that ranged from jazz to rock to classics. Many of my friends pack picnics and head out to Baie-D'Urfé Thursday evenings for big Band concerts at Fritz' Farm...Folding chairs kept in the trunk of your car are a MUST - wine is optional!

Enjoy your summer!

*Jane Cowell Poitras*

### RECIPE CORNER



*With the weather finally getting warmer here are a few salad recipes you might enjoy.*

### **Tomato Salad**

Sliced tomatoes  
Thinly Sliced onion

Place a layer of tomatoes in a serving dish, top with a thin layer of onion. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, basil, ½ tsp sugar, 1 tsp vinegar and 1 tsp oil. Repeat for several layer. Prepare several hours in advance and refrigerate.

### **Cucumber Salad**

2 English cucumbers, thinly sliced  
1 yellow onion  
1 tsp salt  
1 cup water  
½ cup vinegar  
½ cup sugar  
½ tsp celery seeds  
½ tsp mustard seeds

In a bowl, put the thinly sliced cucumber and onion. In a small saucepan combine the salt, water, vinegar and sugar, heating slightly to dissolve the sugar. Add the celery seeds and mustard seeds. Pour over the onion and cucumber. Cover and refrigerate for 24 hours.

### **Salade d'Amour**

1 cup sliced mushrooms  
2 cups cooked rice  
2 cups bean sprouts  
¾ cup red pepper, diced  
¾ cup green pepper, diced  
¾ cup chopped celery  
¼ cup chopped scallions  
1 cup chopped cashews (optional)  
3 tbsp chopped parsley  
½ pkg spinach

#### **Dressing:**

½ cup olive oil  
¼ cup soy sauce  
1 tbsp wine vinegar  
1 clove garlic

### **News and Notes**

Barbara Davidson shared an excerpt of a letter from Annabel McLauchlan dated March 2<sup>nd</sup> which says, in part, she received the Summerlea newsletter and wanted to be part of our Refugee Program and so enclosed a cheque. Annabel closed the letter by sending "love and cheers to all my friends". *Thanks for sharing Barbara!*

In March, we received news from Louise Emanuel. Louise was a long-time resident of Dorval and choir member at Summerlea for many years. She still misses her time here as well as all her friends; however, she continues to enjoy her residence in Lac Brome and the wonderful meals they offer. *Thanks for keeping in touch, Louise!*

Summerlea recently welcomed through the act of Baptism **Dylan Michael Kyte**, son of Kayne Michael Kyte and Mary-Jane Backer; we also welcomed **Xavier Pierre Andre Boulanger**, son of Ann Marie Boulanger.

**Congratulations to Kevin Romagosa and his bride, Robyn O'Reilly** who were married on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please continue to keep in your thoughts and prayers those in hospital, or recuperating after a hospital stay. We wish you all speedy recovery. Let's remember our shut-ins as well.

If you would like more information on Summerlea's monthly activities, or would like to view Sunday's service along with current events at the church, please visit us at [www.summerlea.ca](http://www.summerlea.ca). Many thanks to John Osborne for keeping our website updated weekly. If you are receiving this Newsletter via regular mail, and would prefer to receive it via email, please contact Susan at [summerlea\\_united@videotron.ca](mailto:summerlea_united@videotron.ca).

The sunshine of a summer day  
A blue and silver sea,  
The wonder of a garden plot,  
And all of these are free.

*Susan Ippersiel*

### **Mother's Day in Canada**

*Many Canadians celebrate Mother's Day by showing their appreciation for mothers or mother figures. The*

*Mother's Day date in Canada is on the second Sunday of May each year.*

### ***What Do People Do?***

Many people in Canada express their gratitude towards mothers and mother figures on Mother's Day. Mother figures may include step-mothers, mothers-in-law, guardians (eg. foster parents), and family friends. It is the time for people to thank mothers and mother figures who took the time care for them and help them through life's challenges. Father's Day is also celebrated in Canada on the third Sunday of June, when people thank fathers and father figures for the positive contributions they made.

Some people give cards, flowers, or chocolates, and/or make handmade items or special meals on Mother's Day. Others take their mothers or mother figures to the movies, a restaurant, café, or a day in a park. Some mothers and mother figures also receive special gifts such as jewelry, clothing, accessories, and gift vouchers for services or products.

### ***Public Life***

Mother's Day is not a federal holiday but it is on a Sunday, when many organizations, schools, and government offices are closed. Public transit systems run to their normal Sunday schedules and restaurants may be busier than usual as some people take their mothers out for a treat.

### ***Background and symbols***

Early celebrations of Mother's Day originated from Canada's neighboring country, the United States. Carnations are a popular Mother's Day symbol in both Canada and the United States. Some people may choose to wear a carnation as a brooch on Mother's Day. However, other flowers are also given to mothers or mother figures to symbolize one's love and appreciation for them.



TODAY I CHOOSE TO  
LIVE WITH GRATITUDE  
FOR THE LOVE THAT  
FILLS MY HEART, THE  
PEACE THAT RESTS  
WITHIN MY SPIRIT AND  
THE VOICE OF HOPE  
THAT SAYS ALL THINGS  
ARE POSSIBLE.

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