

SPIRITED SUMMERLEA

Summer Edition



Editorial

It's almost summer! With recent warm temperatures, it was wonderful to be outside, see the trees sprout leaves almost overnight, and to smell lilacs and honeysuckle on the air.

For many of us, this feels like our first "real" summer since 2019. Many restrictions are lifted, and we can travel, go to restaurants and, most importantly, see our family and friends! While I continue to wear a mask indoors in public settings, I feel much freer.

Like many of you, I am looking forward to picnics, day trips to Vermont and the Laurentians, and to Quebec's Wine Route. There are dozens of lovely vineyards to visit, many of which have sculpture parks, picnic areas and/or have food offerings for sale to pair with their wines.

Wishing you all a lovely summer!

Jane Cowell

A Message From Our Minister

Greetings to you all!

I must admit that Summer is my favorite season of the year and I enjoy it particularly in this province of Quebec. We already had a taste of what it could be this year with temperatures flaring up to the 30's already.



My challenge this Summer will be to prepare a family-oriented service for the Fall. Everything will be created as a new program, as the Sunday-school model is completely

outdated. If you have ideas and suggestions, please share them with me. If you would like to get involved, do not hesitate to let me know!

I am not forgetting one bit our elderly congregants who are the apple of my eye. As Covid-19 seems to be growing fainter, I am available for home visitations. Please contact our office and express your need to our Church so that I can come to you. My phone number is 514-944-5068.

During the month of July, our church will be closed. However, I am staying in the area with Bella the dog. I would like to be made aware of any emergency. I am planning to garden a lot, and kayak on the Chateauguay River even more. I would love to play golf, should I find a patient partner! I wish that you too, enjoy this beautiful season. Did you know that following the storms of the past years, there are breeds of birds that did not live in this province before and are now spending the year here! What a beautiful sight! Amen to all this beauty, Amen to your Creation, Eternal God!

The West Island Churches are getting together to set up a web site and the address will be shared with you. By visiting this site, you will be able to follow a service in a different church of the West Island, simply by clicking on the link on the page. The site would eliminate having different links every time. Great improvement to come! You will be notified when the site is set up and running.

Blessed Summertime to you,
Rev. Christine

Church News



With the mask mandate being lifted in certain places starting May 14th, **Summerlea has decided to continue wearing masks indoors** at church services and throughout the rest of the building. We thank you for continuing to keep each other safe.

Doreen Elizabeth Phoenix

It is with great sadness that we announce that Doreen Phoenix passed away on May 8th. Doreen was a long-time and very active member of Summerlea and will be greatly missed by all her friends here. A celebration of Doreen's life will be planned at a future date.

Memorial Service for Iwan Edwards

A Memorial Service to celebrate Iwan's life will be held here at Summerlea United on **May 28th at 2:00pm.**

IMPORTANT We ask that you **RSVP** by responding to this email at summerlea_united@hotmail.com with the number of people that would like to attend. The service will also be live streamed for those who cannot attend.



With
Deepest
Sympathy...

APOLOGY SERVICE



On May 1, 2022, during Summerlea's Sunday service, Professor Brett Meyer read a letter of apology from the Presbyterian Church in Canada. An excerpt from that letter reads as follows:

"Today I offer you the heartfelt apology of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for the hurt and harm our church has caused to the Rev. Darryl MacDonald, his family, and friends, and many of you, the faithful members of the congregation he sought to serve. Through the courts of our church, we made very public our refusal to accept Darryl's candidacy. All this we did, despite Darryl's calling and gifts, because of our past exclusive position regarding sexual orientation and Darryl's loving commitment to his partner. We now have adopted additional perspectives on this matter and are sorry our actions in the past have caused harm. We offer this gesture to you understanding that it has been well over 20 years since you sought to call Darryl to be your minister."

Darryl presided over this service and was joined by his family and friends. Attending the service were former members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian - some of whom now are Summerlea members. The Apology Service was well attended, and a coffee reception followed.

Submitted by Susan Hawke

NEW FURNACE FOR SUMMERLEA

Since the 1950s Summerlea has been heated by 2 oil furnaces. 2 electrical furnaces were added when Hydro Quebec had a dual energy program. These electric furnaces were never designed to adequately heat the church during very cold weather. Dual energy is no longer available.



On January 21, 2022, the pipes broke inside one oil furnace. This resulted in the pipes above the Helping Hands room freezing, breaking, and flooding the room below. Parts to repair it are no longer available.

Fortunately, we have the 2 electrical furnaces, but they are inefficient and parts to repair them are not available. The remaining oil furnace and the 2 electric furnaces were able to partially heat Summerlea and prevent other pipes from breaking.

We consulted with heating experts and have decided to install 2 new natural gas furnaces partly because gas is much cheaper than electricity. We had estimates from 3 plumbing contractors. Right now, there is no gas line running past the church. Once we decided to switch to gas, we selected a contractor. We then informed Energir, the company that would run the gas line to Summerlea. The line will likely run down 50th Ave. at no cost to Summerlea. This will happen in the next 8 to 10 weeks. The new furnaces will be installed and the 2 oil furnaces and oil tank will be removed.

The cost is expected to be \$70,000.00. Some grants are available to offset the cost. This avenue is being explored.

Music Notes Spring 2022



The great news is that our choir is back in person and loving it! We have been singing since before Easter (with masks) and slowly getting our vocal chords back in shape. It didn't take long, fortunately. I'm bringing out all our favourite anthems before I retire at the end of June.

Yes, that is the other piece of news. After 23 years I have decided to step back from being the music director at Summerlea and explore a new phase of my life. This was not an easy decision and I have struggled with it, because I really love my job. But it is time.

To all my choir members, past and present, and all the young people who sang with me in Junior and Intermediate Choirs, thank you for your participation, commitment, and support of the music programme. I am so proud of the work you have done and feel truly blessed.

It is my strong belief that music should be the prerogative of all and not just a select few, and I like to encourage everyone, young and old, to sing whether experienced or not. It is good for the soul! I am particularly proud of my cast in all the musicals, many of whom had no idea they could act and sing so well. This can be life changing. Thank you to all the singers, actors, musicians, costume and set designers who helped me realize this dream of mine.

I've been so lucky to work with dedicated ministers who have appreciated the role that music plays in supporting and enhancing the liturgy of the service. My thanks to Deane and Doreen Moffat, Howard Clark, Heather MacDougall, Scott Patton, and Christine Marie Gladu, our present minister. These good folk have a great love of music and have been a pleasure to work with.



Thank you to the Board for all your support, and to the whole the congregation. I always felt that the music I was offering was enjoyed, and that has made me very happy.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family, especially my husband, John, for patiently putting up with my hectic schedule and hours of practicing all these years.

I will miss my work greatly, but it will be nice to sit in the congregation and participate in the service from the other side of the organ!

My love to all of you and have a great summer.

With great affection,
Connie Osborne



Girl Guide Cookies.

Classic (sandwich) Girl Guide cookies are currently available from the Summerlea Office or from Sinclair. 514 505 1905. sinclair.m.harris@gmail.com. The cost remains \$5. Chocolate mint cookies have been ordered and will be available in October.



Air conditioner

A refugee family living in a small apartment is seeking a used air conditioner. Please contact Sinclair 514 505 1905 or sinclair.m.harris@gmail.com. Thank you!

Outreach

Afghan Refugee project – an update.

At the end of December 2021 members of the West Island Refugee Support Network were approached about the possibility of applying to sponsor 3 young Afghan refugees, siblings, currently living under difficult conditions, with temporary visas, in Pakistan. In Quebec, the first step is to enter the government lottery for the restricted number of sponsorships available.

Over 20 people attended the meeting of WIRSN, to hear presentations from a filmmaker with the NFB, who knows the family, and a sister from the same family already accepted as a refugee. There was unanimous agreement that we should enter the Quebec lottery. We are fortunate that the Unitarian Church of Montreal already has experience in sponsorship applications and has agreed to take the lead. The application to the lottery was submitted in February, but without any expectations that any of the siblings would be accepted for the next step.

However, on Friday April 22, Rev. Diane Rollert of the Unitarian Church of Montreal sent *us exciting news about our application:*

"I have wonderful news! I just received letters from MIFI letting us know that Enjila, Laila and Dawood have been selected to be eligible to apply for sponsorship. Hurray!!!! The next step is to provide all the required paperwork within 60 days. Then we'll have another waiting period before it is confirmed that they are actually accepted to be sponsored in Quebec. Then there will be more paperwork to go through the federal application. It's a slow process, but I'm so happy that we have made it through the first gate."



The timing was amazing, as the following evening there was an event co-hosted by the Quebec Association of Geography Teachers and the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation presenting the NFB film "The Boxing Girls of Kabul". Shahla, the older sister of the siblings, was featured in that film, and it was wonderful that she was able to be with us that evening, along with Ariel Nasr, the filmmaker. If you have not been able to watch this powerful NFB film, it is available for free screening at https://www.nfb.ca/film/boxing_girls_of_kabul.

The evening of the presentation, a freewill offering raised \$550 for the Afghan siblings. And, thanks to the continued support and generous contributions of several people, we were able to send \$1,475 to the siblings, to cover their living expenses in Pakistan for the month of May. In the future, we can support the siblings through monthly contributions, which should be sent to Sheila Laursen at: sheila.laursen@bell.net. Summerlea Outreach has already sent \$500.

Meanwhile, Diane Rollert and her team are hard at work completing the documentation required by the Quebec government before the June deadline. And, in Pakistan, Enjila, Laila and Dawood are hard at work studying French – online. They are determined to greet us in French when we welcome their arrival in Montreal! Their entire family have expressed their deep gratitude for our support and generosity.



Puzzle Sale held on April 4th

People like to do puzzles! We were thrilled to raise over \$1000 at the recent puzzle sale. It was a pleasure to see some new faces from the neighbourhood who obviously appreciate that Summerlea is continuing to function as a community beyond its Sunday services. As a small part of our commitment to reconciliation, the money raised will be donated to the Language Nest in Kanawah:ke, which is a group of mothers and grandmothers who have decided to teach their native language to their children, in order that it not be lost. The group has no funding whatsoever but meets regularly. Rev. Christine contacted them through the Kanawah:ke United Church.

Spring Bake and Goodie Sale on April 8th and 9th

Our second annual Spring and Goodie Sale was a HUGE success. The amazing cooks and bakers of Summerlea prepared breads, scones, pies, loaves, muffins, cookies, squares, fudge, marmalade, soups, chilli, corn bread, quiche, and even dog cookies. All together there were 539 items frozen for sale. Our wonderful Colleen designed our web page and kept track of orders. EVERYTHING sold. A grand total of \$3,495 was raised to support future Outreach Projects.



William Hunter Memorial Fund - May/2022

The William Hunter Memorial Fund honours the memory and contribution of William Hunter who was a minister at Summerlea for a short time. This fund is used to support our overseas family and, if we can, help purchase a smile at a cost of \$240.00 from Operation Smile. Unfortunately, we were unable to donate to Operation Smile in the last year.

We currently sponsor 20-year-old Noami from Ghana, a 6-year-old boy from Paraguay and our third child, 6-year-old Alba Abigail, has moved from her village where the sponsorship program is offered. Children Believe has given us an 18-month-old baby boy in her place. His name is Matias Gadiel Samaniego from Paraguay.

The cost of sponsorship per child has increased from \$468.00 to \$528.00 effective June 1/2022. Like every other place in the world, they are facing inflation. Thank you for your ongoing care and generous support of vulnerable children and families through William Hunter Memorial Fund. You help change the lives of children in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world by ensuring they have access to essentials like clean water, healthcare, education, and nutritious food, so they can overcome their difficult circumstances and thrive.

We deeply appreciate your continued commitment.

Dale Romagosa

Upcoming Outreach Events:

Plant sale on Saturday June 4th – From 9:00am to 12:00 noon

At Sinclair & dik's, 65 Brunet, Pointe Claire (cross street Ste-Claire)
Please consider splitting and potting your surplus perennials as they emerge for our fundraiser. House plants also accepted this year.
Please drop off any plant donations at Summerlea by Friday, June 3rd.
If you need plant pots, please contact Sinclair or Nancy.



Book Sale on Friday June 10th and Saturday June 11th

From 10.00 am to 2.00 pm in Acadia Hall.

This sale is back by popular demand!

Fiction and non-fiction. (Lots of cookbooks!)

If you have books to donate, you may leave them at the church any morning between 8.00 and 12.00

Book Nook

Submitted by Susan Hawke

My very favourite Canadian author is Guy Gavriel Kay. I have read all his books and can truthfully say that I loved every one of them! They are almost always set in Renaissance Italy or Turkey. The names of cities are changed but you can usually figure out the location - Venice, Constantinople, Florence.... The stories often involve conflicts and court intrigue among the numerous Italian city states at that time.

Kay is a master storyteller who mixes history with vivid, very human characters. I have just finished reading "A Brightness Long Ago". It follows an extraordinary cast of characters - that begins with a young man witnessing a woman bent on assassination enter a tyrant's bed chamber. The book is a compelling drama that reflects on the nature of memory and choices we make in life. Great read!

Cooking Corner

MAGIC PAN SALAD

Some of you may remember the *Magic Pan* – it was, essentially, a restaurant that specialized in crêpes in the Eaton Centre. They also had a salad that was very popular. My mother got a hold of the recipe and often prepared it during the summer. It goes with everything. I often serve it as a main course with a chicken breast or a piece of seared tuna on top.

Serves 6 as a side dish

INGREDIENTS

1 cup slivered almonds
2 green onions, chopped
1 head romaine lettuce
1 cup canned mandarin oranges, drained

DRESSING

1 tablespoon sugar
½ teaspoon dried tarragon
⅓ cup vegetable oil
⅛ teaspoon Tabasco sauce
¼ cup white vinegar
1 egg yolk

Shaking constantly, toast almonds in skillet over low heat until golden brown (about 5 minutes).

Wash and dry lettuce. Tear into bite size pieces. Place with almonds, green onions, and mandarin oranges in large salad bowl.

Dressing: Combine all ingredients but egg and vinegar. Add in thin stream and process till well blended.

MAKES: 1 cup dressing. Just before serving, toss well. Leftover dressing keeps up to 1 week in fridge.

Jane Cowell



Smile Corner Thanks to Michele Bitauld for the submissions!



A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. “Ha! That’s not going to help,” she said.

“Sure, it does,” he said. “It’s the only way I can see the numbers.”



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THE BEST JOKES TO SHARE