



Will your congregation become a deeper shade of green?

Joanne Moyer, Mennonite Creation Care Council

Fifty-one Mennonite Church congregations have committed to getting friendlier to the environment – but only eight are from Mennonite Church Canada.

“We can do better,” said Joanne Moyer, a member of the bi-national Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN). She and David Neufeld, both of Winnipeg, sit on the MCCN leadership council and are actively promoting MCCN’s Shades of Green campaign in North America, first launched in the fall of 2010.

MCCN’s goal is to have up to 100 North American Mennonite congregations register to affirm their commitment to creation care.

Being good stewards of God’s world is something all Christians can embrace. And there are many “shades of green”. Does your congregation recycle? Do you have members who are avid gardeners or who bicycle to church? Does your pastor preach about caring for the earth? Has your youth group sponsored an environmental event? Even if you are just dreaming about having a greener congregation, MCCN would like to hear from you.

MCCN is welcoming visitors to its booth at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly or their web site, where supporters can register and share a story from their congregation about creation care (www.mennocreationcare.org).

“No step in the right direction is too small,” said David Neufeld, outgoing MCCN council member. It could mean installing more energy efficient light bulbs, using recycled paper products and low-flush toilets in your bathrooms, low or no phosphate cleaning products, right up to increasing the insulation value or implementing solar energy in your church building, added Neufeld, who has served with MCCN since its beginnings in 2006, and has been involved in creation care initiatives with the church since the early 1990s.

Let MCCN know what you’re doing to get greener, and

“No step in the right direction is too small,”

they will share your stories to inspire others, and send you their e-newsletter too.

Mennonite Creation Care Network is a bi-national group of volunteers affiliated with Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. Its focus is the Mennonite “household”—its congregations, schools, agencies, workplaces and individual homes—we welcome anyone who wishes to be part of a faith-based network of people engaged in caring for creation. ■

We’re Glad You are Here

Karen Martens Zimmerly, Denominational Minister

Welcome to Assembly 2011! Whether this is your first time gathering with us as the National Church, or one of many times, we want this to be a meaningful week that strengthens the body of Christ through worship, discernment, learning and fellowship.

Our worship texts (Revelation 21:1-4, 22-26 and 22:1-5) give us God’s vision and desire for communities where God’s presence and light is experienced on the streets, where the gates are open wide for all cultures to experience God’s marvellous light. May our days together be an opportunity to practice and experience a taste of God’s vision!

Dept. of Peace bill reintroduced

Supporters of a federal Department of Peace in Canada were disappointed to hear that the spring federal election would require MPs to re-introduce Bill C-447. Moreover, MP Bill Siksay (Vancouver-Burnaby) who first introduced the private members bill in Sept., 2009, is no longer in parliament.

However, MP Alex Atamanenko (BC Southern Interior) has taken up the cause, according to a news release on his web site.

The news release states that “According to J. J. Verigin, Executive Director of the Union of Spiritual

Communities of Christ (USCC), an umbrella organization representing many Doukhobor people in Canada, “The establishment of a Department of Peace would have the support of a great many Canadians and could serve as an inspiration and even challenge to people and governments around the world to demonstrate their determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

For more information, visit www.departmentofpeace.ca

Number of the Day

61

In 2010-2011, Canada’s military spending amounted to **\$61 million** per day. This makes us the 6th largest military spender within the 26-member NATO alliance, according to Bill Robinson, Senior Advisor with the Rideau Institute, Canada. Just over 9% of Canadian’s personal individual income tax goes to military spending. If you would like to protest this in a formal way, visit <http://consciencecanada.ca/>

Canadians and Mining: *the ugly truth*

Dan Dyck, with reports from KAIROS

Juan Francisco Durán Ayala's body was found shortly after midnight on June 4th. He had been shot twice in the head. When the Medical Examiner declared his body 'unidentifiable,' he was buried in a common grave in San Salvador. The following week, the Environmental Committee determined the whereabouts of Juan Francisco's body, and on June 14th, Juan Francisco's father positively identified his son.



Linguistics student Juan Francisco Durán Ayala was murdered on June 4, 2011 after hanging posters in protest of poor mining practices.

On June 2nd, Juan Francisco Durán Ayala, a thirty-year old linguistics student at the Technological University in San Salvador, was hanging posters in the city of Ilobasco, in the department of Cabañas. The posters were part the Cabañas Environmental Committee (CAC) campaign which calls for the approval of a law against metal mining in El Salvador and for the Vancouver-based Pacific Rim Mining to leave. The next day, Juan left for classes in the capital city and was not heard from again.

Juan Francisco's murder is part of a pattern of violence in Cabañas province which community members believe is linked to the presence of and ongoing dispute with Pacific Rim Mining. His death comes two years after the murder of community leader and activist Marcelo Rivera. In December of the same year, Ramiro Rivera and Dora Alicia Sorto, who was pregnant, were also assassinated. In recent months, local journalists at Radio Victoria in Cabañas have received persistent threats. Francisco Piñeda, chair of the Cabañas Environmental Committee and winner of this year's Goldman Environmental prize, now lives with around-the-clock armed guards to ensure his safety.

Vancouver-based Pacific Rim Mining has filed a \$77 million lawsuit against the Salvadoran government, arguing that the government's failure to issue a mining exploitation permit in 2009 due to environmental concerns violates the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Recently, the United States government supported El Salvador in the trade dispute, which is currently being heard by an

international tribunal at the World Bank.

KAIROS joins the Cabañas Environmental Committee (CAC), Juan Francisco's family and human rights organizations in El Salvador and Canada in calling on the Attorney General of El Salvador to carry out an exhaustive investigation into this murder and to protect the lives of all human rights and environmental activists in El Salvador. (For more information see <http://tinyurl.com/65e7lft>.)

Canada's culpability

Allegations of the mining industry's bad behaviour are grave: vast environmental destruction, unjust treatment of workers, collusion with para-military groups, contracts with mercenaries, violence, and even the murder of those like Juan Francisco

Durán Ayala who interfere with or protest mining activities.

In a speech at the Mineral Economics Society 11th Symposium in (Toronto, 1999), Vivian Danielson, former editor of the Northern Miner, urged the industry to promote itself as a "progressive, socially and environmentally responsible corporate citizen." In 2006, the headline "Ugly Canadians" characterized the exploitation of Canadian mining operations overseas (Ted Alcuitas, *The Philippine Reporter*).

More recently, attendees at the Canadian Ecumenical Conference on Mining (May 1-3, 2011, Toronto) learned that Canada is "home to 75 per cent of the world's mining and mineral exploration companies, and its stock exchanges trade 40 per cent of the world's mineral exploration capital" (Marites M. Sissons, *Anglican Journal*).

To what degree the mining industry is responding to its scarred international reputation is hard to determine. The main stream media have often universally and eagerly accused the industry of greed – a charge that easily gives rise to defensiveness and muddies the waters of clarity.

Regardless, the industry's dirty laundry has resulted in a quickly fading Canadian reputation overseas as well as a growing credibility problem at home. So far, this has not inspired large-scale changes in behaviour – but Canada's level of investment in

the mining industry comes with leverage. Can the persistent, reasonable, and responsible but few voices of conscientious investors influence the industry?

Public awareness

Irene Sosa is a senior analyst with Jantzi-Sustainalytics, a research firm specializing in environmental, social, and governance research analysis. Sosa, who focuses on the mining and extractive industry, said in an email interview that there is presently no single agreed upon screen for corporate social responsibility (CSR) for international mining operations – though there are some specific initiatives that offer "good guidance."

Sosa says that mining companies need to be alert to factors that increased CSR risk, such as operating in conflict zones, countries with a poor human rights record, a weak rule of law, competition for adequate water resources, and conflict with local artisanal miners. Her firm's role is to assess to what degree companies have implemented management systems to address such risks.

An increased public demand for CSR among mining companies could create pressure for change, but the reality is that the influential retail consumer is far removed from the mineral extraction industry. The supply chain from gold nugget to gold necklace is a long one.

But there is some action to strengthen the link between raw minerals and the jeweler's shop. Sosa points to the Initiative for Responsible Mining and the Responsible Jewelry Council, "which also envisions creating some certification mechanism."

The problem, says Sosa, "is gaining enough credibility from all the stakeholders involved. The Responsible Jewelry Council [RJC] is the furthest ahead on the certification effort, but does not have a lot of respect from the NGO community." The RJC, launched in 2008 as an industry association, is primarily comprised of mining companies with the objective of advancing ethical, social and environmental practices throughout its supply chain.

Sosa expands the list of actions directed toward raising awareness: the NGO-driven "No Dirty Gold" campaign, launched in 2003, has over 70 participating jewelry retailers; the Kimberley Process (a joint governments, industry and civil society initiative) was launched over ten years ago to stem the flow of diamonds fuelling conflict in Africa; in

Epic News is the daily news sheet for the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2011 in Waterloo, Ontario. It will be brought to you daily from July 4 – 8, 2011. Full colour editions of Epic News will be available in PDF format at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1389. We will print an ecologically friendly quantity of hard copies for distribution on site – please share. Comments, questions, and affirmations can be sent to ddyck@mennonitechurch.ca.

Editors: Dan Dyck, Deb Froese; **Design by** Megan Kamei, Ryan Roth Bartel

February 2011, Fairtrade International (FLO) and the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) launched the Fairtrade and Fairmined Standard for gold extracted by artisanal miners; the recently passed USA-based Dodd-Frank Act has provisions on conflict minerals.

“Some of the companies that we consider relatively good and are part of our Jantzi Social Index include Kinross Gold, Inmet Mining, and Teck Resources,” added Sosa.

Can awareness and consumer pressure do for conflict minerals what it has done begun doing for the coffee industry?

A new reality

Vivian Danielson, in her 1999 address to the Mineral Economics Society 11th Symposium, urged the industry to be proactive and take some risks: “Being proactive means accepting new realities and new ideas if they make sense. It means welcoming the contributions made by environmentalists and labour leaders to a better society, and accepting the fact governments have an important role in creating and maintaining the institutions necessary for a fair marketplace, and in protecting citizens and the environment from those who do not take their responsibilities seriously.”

Many more years before Danielson’s remarks, the French Catholic priest, Charles de Foucauld, was assassinated for taking risks. He was shot to death in 1916, just outside of a retreat he built for the Tuareg people of Southern Algeria as they struggled in the midst of World War I, French colonial power and regional famine. Prior to his death, de Foucauld said “The absence of risk is a sure sign of mediocrity.” ■



Irene Sosa is an analyst at Jantzi Sustainability covering the steel and mining sectors. Sosa is responsible for identifying key risks for investors related to poor environmental management systems or strained community relations.



Samson Lo
Director of Multi-cultural Ministry,
on behalf of Chinese language
speakers in and beyond
Mennonite Church Canada

The Translation Project

The offering taken during worship this evening will go toward Mennonite Church Canada’s Translation Project, an endeavour to provide pertinent Mennonite and Anabaptist documents (such as the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective) in languages other than English, French or German, to ease teaching and outreach, and to welcome newcomers to their congregations with materials in their own languages.

我們衷心多謝加拿大門諾會的文字翻譯事工，藉他們所提供的繁體版和簡體版中文資源和材料，確實大大幫助了分佈在北美甚至全世界的華人基督教會，並且造就很多個別信徒的屬靈生命。

We [extend a] heartfelt thank[you] for the translation ministry of Mennonite Church Canada, that the resources and materials provided in Chinese language and their availability in both traditional and simplified fonts are indeed [a] great help to all congregations and enrich the spiritual life of many individual believers across North America and even in the whole-wide-world.

Mennonite Church Canada international workers attending assembly



Erv (Erwin) and Marian Wiens serve as Mennonite Church Canada Workers in South Korea, where they have been invited by the Korea Anabaptist Centre (KAC) to provide training for church leaders, be role models for peace building and restorative justice, and strengthen the connection between KAC and churches in the Anabaptist network. “We thank God every day for the privilege of being in Korea,” they wrote in a recent prayer letter. The Wienses will continue their service in Korea until next summer, 2012.



Tany and Jeff Warkentin have just returned to Canada after spending six years in Burkina Faso with their young family. During their stay, the Warkentins walked alongside a new congregation, Mennonite Church of Ouagadougou, encouraging and nurturing local church leadership. They will visit supporting churches across Canada over the next several months and then settle into a new home in Alberta.



Hinke Loewen-Rudgers has recently returned from Israel/Palestine where her initial focus has been building relationships with Christian congregations in Galilee and in the West Bank on behalf of Mennonite Church Canada. Hinke is currently itinerating in Canada.

Calgary 2010 Green Report

Joanne Moyer,
Mennonite Creation Care Network

In 2007, Mennonite Church Canada delegates passed a resolution to work for more sustainable gatherings. Mennonite Creation Care Network has worked with assembly planners in subsequent years to provide guidelines for greening and to assess events (www.mennocreationcare.org/assets/confgreenguidelines.pdf). The 2010 Mennonite Church Canada Assembly at Ambrose College in Calgary brought successes and illustrated challenges.

Successes:

Facilities: Ambrose College has dual flush toilets and uses 100% recycled toilet paper.

Local transportation: Lodging was available on campus and shuttles were provided for people staying in hotels. Bicycle racks were also available (though use was negligible).

Drinking water: Bulk water was provided (rather than bottled water) and participants were encouraged to bring refillable mugs; many people did.

Paper: Electronic registration and assembly reporting was available. Printed paper was kept to a minimum and printed double-sided on recycled paper.

Seminars: A well-attended creation care themed seminar was presented, focussing on Alberta's tar sands.

Major challenges

Food: Meals always present one of the greatest challenges at large gatherings because we must rely on the ability of local facilities to meet our requests.

Vegetarian options were available at Assembly 2010 upon request, but non-meat protein options were not included in general meals. Seasonal, local and organic food was not offered, and the coffee and tea were not fair trade.

Reusable china would have cost 40% more than disposable dishes, but since Ambrose College promised that the disposable dishes and cutlery would be compostable, the planners chose the less

costly option. However, upon arrival we discovered that most of the dishes were not compostable. For the few that were, no composting facilities were available.

Elsie Rempel, one of Mennonite Church Canada's coordinators for Assembly 2010, investigated. She was informed by the cook that the supplier ran out of compostable dishes and also that composting facilities are lacking in Calgary.

Transportation: Travel to and from assembly locations is another ongoing challenge. To facilitate reflection on this issue, Mennonite Creation Care Network conducted an informal survey at Assembly 2010, inviting assembly participants to indicate their mode of transportation and the distance they travelled by placing coloured stickers on a map of Canada. About two thirds of out-of-town attendees participated in the survey. The majority (72%) travelled by car, with 43% of the vehicles used carrying three or more people. The second largest group (26%) travelled by airplane. Only four people travelled by bus or train. Calculations indicate that we emitted approximately 125,815 kg of carbon dioxide, (about 375 kg per person) to travel to Calgary for this gathering.

Moving Forward

In a seminar about the tar sands, Don Peters of Mennonite Central Committee Canada noted that large scale energy developments pushing the boundaries of environmental safety are ultimately driven by our society's demand for fuel. As disciples of Christ it is our responsibility to be conscious of the energy we use and to work to reduce it.

Mennonite Creation Care Network has attempted to assist in these efforts. Delegates in Calgary affirmed the value of having yearly gatherings but they also reconfirmed our commitment to greening our assemblies, resolving to "commit ourselves to continued efforts that care for the earth which sustains us, in faithfulness to our calling as stewards of God's good earth."



The 2008 Assembly was the first time Mennonite Church Canada used compostable dinnerware and implemented composting for food waste. Senior Youth from Home Street Mennonite Church volunteered at the waste stations to encourage proper waste procedures. Here, Pastor Erin Morash receives guidance from Maxine Wagner. — file photo by Dan Dyck

Mennonite Creation Care Network encourages reflection on ways in which we can reduce our footprint, noting food and travel as the two areas of greatest concern. Planners for Assembly 2011 anticipated ways to improve food services and other aspects of the gathering in Waterloo. Travel choices rest with individuals.

The map survey provided a striking visual of the geographic concentrations (e.g. Vancouver/Fraser Valley, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and southern Ontario) from which we travel to reach assembly locations. Efforts are already being made by some to carpool. When we gather in the future, can we increase the number of carpoolers? Will some people come by bicycle? Can we arrange to travel collectively by train?

Voices from the past

*I value the Holy Scripture above
all human treasures but not as
high as the Word of God, which is
living, powerful and eternal, and
which is free and unencumbered
by all of the elements of this world.*

—Hans Denck, 1527

How can you contribute to greening our future assemblies?

Justice, Food and Art

by Deborah Froese with files from Ray Dirks



Untitled by Jairo Alfonso Castellano, Cuba, from the Equilibrio series

The opening of “Just Food,” an art exhibit at Conrad Grebel University College exploring food justice issues, will coincide with the start of Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2011 at the University of Waterloo on July 4.

Food is essential for human life. It is a commodity, something to be prepared and consumed, but its value extends much further. With food comes vitality, community and celebration. Without it, there is hunger, conflict and death.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 13.1 percent, or almost 1 in 7 people, are hungry. Hunger around the world suggests that our food systems are unjust and raises the question; is the abundant food available to some of us “just” food, when others go without?

Nineteen artists from 13 different countries contributed to this exhibit and represent a wide range of cultural, economic and faith backgrounds. Jossias Siteo’s art is influenced by his experience of extreme hunger and need as a child living on the street.

Tibebe Terffa was imprisoned and tortured under the

previous Mengistu dictatorship in Ethiopia. Isam Aboud comes from the Sahara Desert of northern Sudan where 50 degree summer temperatures taught him the harshness of an unforgiving climate. Hashim Hannon, a refugee from Iraq, knows the effect war has on food production and security.

“Just Food” is a project of The Mennonite Committee on Human Rights and is sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee Canada, the Canadian Food Grains Bank, and the Canadian International Development Agency, among other organizations and individuals. Mennonite Central Committee Ontario (MCCO) is arranging a “Just Food” tour through Ontario. It will be on display at Conrad Grebel University College into September and appear in Toronto during October and November. The art will be on display in Hamilton for December 2011 and January 2012.

Curator Ray Dirks facilitated the first “Just Food” exhibit at the Mennonite Heritage Art Gallery, a ministry of Mennonite Church Canada.



La Oracion by Alejandro Aranda, Mexico

Food Culture and History to meet “Just Food”

Marlene Epp teaches a second year course on food culture and history at Conrad Grebel University College, where the “Just Food” art exhibit will be on display until the early fall.

“When I heard about the exhibit I was very interested,” the Associate Professor says. “I thought it would be a good accompaniment to my course . . . so much of this exhibit talks about how contemporary food issues like food security, stability and hunger relate to culture.”

Epp notes that students from a variety of programs enrol in her class. “I get some real food activists,” she says.

She expects to take students to see the exhibit during their first or second week of classes, and then explore their impressions to discover what kind of food themes they can draw from it. Students will likely be assigned an essay on the exhibit. “I’m hoping the exhibit will pique their imaginations in all kinds of ways.”

Food for thought

A person who lives well, treating others fairly, keeping good relationships...doesn't refuse food to the hungry, doesn't exploit the poor...This person who lives upright and well shall live a full and true life. Ezekiel 18: 5,7,9

Meet Children's Assembly Coordinator Elizabeth Weber

by Deborah Froese

When Elizabeth Weber came to Winnipeg last fall to participate in a Young Adult Leadership Think Tank with Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA, she had no idea that it would lead to the role of Children's Assembly Coordinator for Assembly 2011.

The third-year University of Waterloo student was greeted at the Winnipeg International Airport by Elsie Rempel, Director of Christian Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada.

"We had plenty of time to chat with each other during a two-hour wait at the airport for a late arrival [for the Young Adult Think Tank]," says Rempel. "I was struck by her enthusiasm about experiences with the Vacation Bible School troop of MCEC, and her energy and love for the church."

Rempel responded to the leadership qualities she recognized in Weber by inviting her to coordinate the Children's Assembly. After taking some time to

consider the position, Weber accepted.

Weber says that there were a large number of children in Floradale Mennonite Church during her formative years. "I found myself very active. The church provided an outlet for me to have fun but in an educational religious setting."

She views Children's Assembly as an opportunity for children to have fun, learn and grow together.

In addition to her Vacation Bible School experience, Weber, who is heading toward a career in social work through Social Development Studies, served last year as the coordinator for Nairn Mennonite Church's summer



day camp. This year, the program has shifted from a half-day to a full-day camp. Weber is leading the program again, this time with the assistance of a full-time worker.

Weber says the process of organizing the Children's Assembly has been both challenging and rewarding. "It's been a really good experience so far. Things are coming together slowly, but the highlight will be . . . being able to see the kids enjoy what we've been planning for so long."

Reflecting on the Assembly theme, *Remembering God's Future*, Weber says, "We're coming together to create the future God has in store for us."

Assembly 2011 Begins

by Vic Thiessen

Welcome to Assembly 2011 and the wealth of relationships, activities, worship and information that comes along with it!

Christ, who calls us "friends" (John 15:15), expects us to befriend each other and connecting with our larger Mennonite Church family is one of the big reasons we get together. Although you will probably bump into old friends and acquaintances during Assembly 2011, you will also have the opportunity to find new friends among the brothers and sisters in Christ gathered here. We encourage you to do so!

In addition to relationship-building, Assembly offers a diversity of activities and events. Along with this issue of *Epic News* in your tote bag, you'll find the Program Book. It contains a wealth of information about the next five days. Late changes and up-to-date news items will appear in *Epic News*, published daily, and/or announced from the podium prior to breaks and meals.

The Assembly agenda unfolds in several different buildings here at the University of Waterloo and Conrad Grebel University College. There is a map in your tote bag to help you find your way around campus.

Remember to check out the map for seminar locations. If you have forgotten to register for seminars, a list of those with remaining space will be located by the registration/information desk.

All regular meals will be served in the Ron Eydtt Village (REV) cafeteria on the northern edge of the Campus. An extended lunch break will give you time to enjoy the walk to and from the cafeteria. Most of the special meals listed on page 20 of the Program Book will be served in the Great Hall on the second floor of Village 1, close to the REV Cafeteria. The Mennonite Women Canada luncheon will take place in the South Campus Hall, Festival Room.

Most tour buses will depart from parking lots S and V on Wednesday after lunch. Ushers will be available to direct you to the appropriate Tour Bus. However, the Six Nations of the Grand River Tour will leave from parking lot C, close to Hagey Hall at 10:30 am on Wednesday.

Group discernment is an important part of this gathering. You will find your assigned discernment group number on your name tag. Because the general Assembly takes place in a theatre without tables, discernment sessions will occur in a variety of peripheral meeting spaces. These spaces change daily, so watch the screen in the theatre for the appropriate location for your group.

We are so glad that you've come to Assembly! May your time here be a blessing to you, your home congregation, and to the life of our wider church family.

It's Easier than Ever to Share

by Deborah Froese

Good news, like *Remembering God's Future*, is meant to be shared. You will still want to take your own photographs and notes for sharing in your congregational context, but you'll also find a wealth of resources available for download via www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/waterloo2011/, including photos, audio, videos, PowerPoint presentations and more. We'll try and have as much information as possible posted within a week after the assembly.

Consider presenting a slide show or sharing a selection of videos. Draw information from articles included in *Epic News*. You may even wish to encourage your worship leader to use Assembly worship materials on the day you report back to your congregation.

Assembly 2011. **It's Epic**, and it's meant for all.

How are you enjoying your Assembly experience?

Share your perspectives, comments, or suggestions with us, by emailing dfroese@mennonitechurch.ca

Musician/Environmental Activist to Entertain Young Adults

By Deborah Froese

When Pam Bartel, Administrative Assistant of Student Services at Conrad Grebel University College, was invited to pull together some young adult events for Assembly 2011, she received encouragement to “think outside the box” and include local area young people in her plans.

“I started puzzling about what would make a 20-something person leave regular activities in Kitchener-Waterloo and an evening out with friends...to get them to come to a Mennonite Church Canada event.”

A student wearing a Sarah Harmer T-shirt, raving about Harmer’s music and activism, inspired Bartel.

“I thought; ‘why not?’ and fired off an email to the booking agency.”

It took more than three weeks of persistent email queries from Bartel and her husband, Perry, before Harmer’s agent responded, followed by weeks of negotiations before an agreement was finally reached.

After Harmer was booked, Bartel inadvertently heard a 1999 Harmer recording of southern gospel style music that seemed to reflect a Christian influence, confirming Bartel’s choice. “She [Harmer] has the faith influence and a heart for sustainability. These are things that our church believes in and holds up and this event brings some good connecting points between what she represents and what the church represents.”

With virtually no budget, Bartel had to do extensive fundraising. She made numerous phone calls to people passionate about

young adults in the church, including local businesses who had commitments and associations with Mennonite groups. “Of the phone calls that I made and people I talked to face-to-face, I had about a 95% ‘yes’ rate.”

She notes that donations came in other ways too, including calls to her house from people who had heard about the event and wanted to provide financial support for it. Clearly, Harmer is popular among some Mennonites.

Bartel’s primary objective for the event is to bring young adults together. “I think it’s amazing when young adults make connections with each other. It is such a fragmented group within the church. And to be in a place where there are 200 young adults together at the same time is exciting. The biggest purpose of this was to get them into the same room together where they could make connections and build bridges, and in so doing create some motivation for them to see the church as something that is very valuable for them.”

Bartel has scheduled opportunities for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada to address the crowd. “More than a minute,” she says, noting that representatives will have time to do more than bring greetings. “They can present challenges and share areas that are available for young adults to engage with the church.”

Eight local Mennonite musicians will also play at the coffee house. “They are fantastic,” Bartel says.



Introducing Sarah Harmer

Singer-songwriter and environmental activist, Harmer’s most recent album, *Ob Little Fire*, has been nominated for three Juno Awards and her staunch support of creation care inspired her to co-found PERL (Protecting Escarpment Rural Land) in 2005. The organization originally campaigned to protect the Niagara Escarpment from development, and Harmer performed with her band in local venues to generate financial support. PERL continues to advocate for that region and for rural land in the Region of Halton.

On the PERL website (www.perlofburlington.org), Harmer is quoted as saying, “It is not permissible to add to one’s possessions if these things can only be done at the cost of other men. Such development has only one true name, and that is exploitation.”

Concert for Young Adults

Thursday July 7,

Bombshelter Pub

Student Life Centre
on the University of Waterloo Campus

Doors open at 8:30 p.m.
performance begins at 9:00.

Warming Up for Sarah

by Deborah Froese

Eight local Mennonite musicians will warm up the stage for a performance by Sarah Harmer at Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2011.

Dan Weber is a Kinesiology student at the University of Waterloo who has been singing, playing and writing music for 7 years.

Cody Scott is singer/songwriter studying Geography at the University of Waterloo.

Nichelle Bauman writes music and studies Nutrition and Sociology at the University of Guelph. She released her first CD, *Beautiful Night* in 2008.

Allan Reesor-McDowell of Stouffville partnered with his friend Aidan Boyd to release their debut self-titled album, *Stringer Lake* in 2009.

Brandon Leis teaches voice at Wilfrid Laurier University and Heritage College and he is Director of Music at Stirling Avenue Mennonite church in Kitchener.

Michael Fisher lives in Stratford and teaches Western and Eastern dietary healing. He has been a professional bass player for 13 years.

Mike Erb has released three CDs and has toured across North America.

Announcements

Seminar Room Changes

Please note the following changes to Seminar room locations:

- “Is the end near?” HH150
- “Humour me” ML 246
- ”Join the Anabaptist Party” ML349
- “In the Spirit of Humanity” ML212
- “On the Hot Seat” HH336
- “We Have \$\$\$ For You!” ML311



Additional Nominee

Christian Formation Council

Earl D. Reimer

Occupation: Sales

Church Membership: Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Winkler, MB

Past/present involvement/positions in local church: Church council chair, past vice-chair, Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee (past), Fund Raising Committee (past), Worship Committee Chair (past)

Other church or related vocational/volunteer experience: Music leadership



Church Matters Podcast: Episode 51: The Anabaptist Has No Clothes with guest Stuart Murray, takes a look at of *The Naked Anabaptist*, Murray’s popular book that is re-igniting interest among Anabaptists, while uncovering its core values to many readers for the first time. To download this episode, see www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1526

You can hear Church Matters at 8:45 am CST on the third Sunday of each month via the Golden West Southern Manitoba radio network on CFAM 950, Altona, AM 1250, Steinbach, and CJRB 1220 Boissevain. Church Matters is also available for download from www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/206 or iTunes.

An Invitation for Young Adults

Tonight is Movie Night!

Watch and discuss “The Experiment”

at the Brubacher house,
an historic property located
at the end of Frank Tompa Dr.
in the Research & Technology Park
at the University of Waterloo.

Food provided.
FREE EVENT



Kids from the Children’s & Jr. Youth Assembly will be selling bracelets and necklaces created from seeds and carved clay beads indigenous to the West African country of Burkina Faso. Proceeds will be used for a church building for the Foyer Evangélique Mennonite de Ouagadougou (FEMO), and a proposed Children’s Ministry program there.

Six Nations Tour Pick up location

Those who registered for the Six Nations of the Grand tour on Wednesday will meet their bus in the large parking lot opposite Hagey Hall at 10:30 am sharp.

Canadian Mennonite is here

We’d like to welcome Canadian Mennonite staff to Assembly 2011. Be sure to stop and say “hello” if you see them!

Dick Benner, Editor and Publisher
Barb Draper, Assistant and Book Editor
Emily Loewen, *Young Voices* Editor
Dave Rogalsky, Correspondent for Eastern Canada
Rachel Bergen, National Correspondent.

From the Archives



Arriving in Canada, Remembered

A September 1984 re-enactment of the arrival of Russian Mennonite immigrants to Canada. The 1924 immigrants walked from the Waterloo train station to Erb Street Mennonite Church, where they were greeted by their Swiss-south German Mennonite hosts. Gary Snider, dressed in garb worn by his grandfather when he arrived in Waterloo on July 20, 1924, is being interviewed by a television reporter as the re-enactors make their way up Erb Street.

Prepared by Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Photo credit: *Mennonite Reporter*, Mennonite Archives of Ontario (grebel.uwaterloo.ca/mao)