

## This week at RHUC

**Sunday, June 30**  
10:30 a.m. Service - Sanctuary

**Monday, July 1 – Happy Canada Day!**  
Building closed

**Wednesday, July 3**  
6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Minister's message

Each year at this time we pause to celebrate what it means to call Canada home. As long as I can remember, I have appreciated the way we celebrate this day. I have cousins who are American and on visiting them I was always struck by the similarities and differences in our celebrations. While we both celebrate with fireworks and barbecue suppers, in the US there is a lot more flag waving. There is also sloganeering about how they are the best country in the world. This was particularly pronounced in 1976 during their bicentennial celebrations. As we celebrated our sesquicentennial two years ago, we were patriotic but also circumspect, recognizing how over the centuries the Canadian project has not benefited everyone evenly. There are chapters in our history, rooted as they were in colonialism, racism, sexism, ableism and homophobia, that are not easy to face. But we are willing to do so. Some people poke fun at our Prime Minister for all of the apologies he has been making over the last few years but I am proud of him for doing so. It is one way of being both honest and hopeful, facing our past so we can live differently in the future. We want to be a country where everyone can belong, where we look after one another, where we welcome people who are in need and share a desire to be who we know we should be. In this way Canada Day for me is a time to be aspirational, to ponder as well as be patriotic, a time to pledge ways forward so that everyone can truly benefit from the vision of the just and inclusive society we yearn to be. Happy Canada Day everyone!

### Worship notes

**This Sunday, June 30:** On this Canada Day weekend, we reflect together on Luke 9:51-62. The first part is shocking. James and John want to call down fire on their "enemies". Fortunately, Jesus rebukes them and then reminds his hearers, and so each of us, of the challenge of being his disciples. James unpacks what this means in our own time in "Staying the Course".

**Next Sunday, July 7:** As we come together we ponder Luke 10:1-11, when Jesus sends out his disciples in pairs to announce his message of love to everyone.

Anyone up for a road trip?

We have been invited to be part of a joint worship service between members of the Chippewas of Georgina Island and Keswick United Church on **Sunday, July 14**. If you would like to join members of our Living Into Right Relations Committee for this event, please let James or Tracy Wixon know.

**Meditation Service:** Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

**Upcoming Vacation:** James will be away on vacation and study leave from July 10 to 29. During that time Rev. Basil Coward of Victoria Square United Church will be available for any pastoral emergency. Please call the office for contact information

### Celebrations of Life

Upcoming Celebrations of Life:

There will be a celebration of life for **Art Miller on July 8 at 1 pm** in the chapel.

On **July 11 at 7 pm**, there will be a celebration of life for **Jim Quance** in the sanctuary followed by a reception in Centennial Hall.

## A MAP Minute

A few weeks ago, members of our MAP Pilot Team led a "Lunch and Learn" to discuss strategies for being a Centre for Community. It was a great turn-out with enthusiastic conversation. One of the strategies raised was the possibility of renaming the CD Building to be more reflective of our shared vision. When our predecessors built our facilities, they did so with an eye to the needs of the wider community. That is still the case. Unfortunately, people in the wider community often think they need to be members of this church to rent space. We may know that isn't true, but we also need to signal that to the wider community, especially to groups that have been historically marginalized by faith communities. As we consider a name change for the CD Building, we continue the legacy of our predecessors, keeping the needs of the whole community and not just the congregation in their hearts.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## Let's go camping! Skylight Festival

Are you in planning mode for your summer? **Consider coming to the Skylight Festival! Held at Five Oaks Retreat Centre this coming July 26-28**, Skylight is a creative and inclusive gathering where diverse people connect to explore music, art, spirituality and justice. With a pow wow taking place at nearby Six Nations, the plan this year is to conclude on Sunday morning so people can attend. You can camp, book a room or stay in nearby Paris. Shad is headlining and James and Glen will be leading Forest Church activities. **Let's go as an RHUC group!** Register at [www.skylightfestival.ca](http://www.skylightfestival.ca).

## Shalom Seekers

Shalom Seekers will be taking a break for the summer. We will meet again on **Monday, September 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel** and resume the Living the Questions DVD study: First Light with Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer! Peg Hiscoke & Sandra Loughton, Facilitators.

## H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group continues its viewing and discussion of thought-provoking TED talks. The last session before the summer will be Monday, June 24. All are welcome in the chapel from 7:00-8:30."

## RHUC Book Club

The RHUC Book Club is on summer hiatus now until Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. The book for discussion at that first meeting in the fall will be: **THE BOAT PEOPLE** by Canadian author Sharon Bala. (Please note that there are at least twelve books at the library with the same title, so take special note of the author's name.)

*The Boat People* was a finalist for the Canada Reads competition in 2018 and, it was also a finalist for the 2018 Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

"*The Boat People* is a high-stakes novel that offers a deeply compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis. Inspired by real events, with vivid scenes that move between the eerie beauty of northern Sri Lanka and combative refugee hearings in Vancouver, B.C. where life and death decisions are made, Sharon Bala's stunning debut is an unforgettable and necessary story for our times."

New members are always welcome to attend and try out the group. No previous book club experience is required -- just a love of reading and talking about books with others. For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton, facilitator, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. Happy reading this summer!

## Special Occasions

While we include in our prayers, the names of people who are ill or mourning, we are not always aware of the special occasions which give rise to rejoicing. Please let us know to add any special occasions that are coming up.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

## Wanted - yarn

Cleaning out, downsizing? Bring unwanted yarn to the church to be knit and crocheted into pray shawls. Thank you. Donna Smith 905-884-6307

### CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

#### Secret Friends

June is the month when our young people are finishing up another school year but for Grade 12 students, June is the closing of a chapter in their years in high school and sights being set on beginning college/university in September. For most this will mean leaving home for study and we at RHUC keep in touch with them through our Secret Friends ministry. Students are matched with a volunteer who sends cards, notices and goodies throughout their first year with our faith community's best wishes and support during this big change in their lives. If you know of any student, please give their name to me and they will be part of this program. Thanks. Donna Smith, Coordinator 905-884-6307

#### Summer 2019 community events in Richmond Hill

**Sunset Paddle:** Thursday, July 4 & 18 / 7 – 9 p.m. Lake St. George Field Centre (950 Bethesda Sd., Rd.,)

**Paddle Lake St. George:** Saturday, July 6 from 1 – 3:00 p.m. \$25

**Tree Maintenance Event:** Thursday, July 9 and 23 / 6 – 8 p.m. Newberry Park (227 Bernard Ave.,) Ozark park (70 Old Colony Rd.) Help mulch new trees and pull invasive plants! Youth can gain volunteer hours.

For more information or to register, visit [trca.ca/get-involved/events](http://trca.ca/get-involved/events) or call 416-661-6611 ext. 5203.

### HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

#### Climate Change!

**CLIMATE CHANGE** Feature in RHUC-On-Line, is intended to be a regular sharing for at least the balance of the Summer and through to the Federal Election.

**Overall Plan...During July** we will be focusing on introductions to groups that are already engaged and you may wish to look at the sites to learn new info and perhaps wish to join. We will also be including vignettes of things that are happening around the world.

**During August** we will be focusing on the Federal Election. All Parties have issued a Climate Change Platform/Policy. There are clearly a number of revisions that will take place in the next couple of months...so we will try to give you an update of each party in August...perhaps through the eyes of a local candidate. I hope that we will also be able to host an **all-party meeting with candidates, in September.**

**An Invitation...If you would like to provide a paragraph or two on a Climate Change topic...please contact me at [terry.t.davies@gmail.com](mailto:terry.t.davies@gmail.com).**

I know that you are probably aware of **RHUC Net Zero Team** and **our recent award for becoming even greener as a church and Community.**

**Did you know that we are also part of "Targeting Climate Change", sponsored by most of the churches in RH as well as many other groups in the area.** We held seminars through the Winter ending with June 8th. It is a great place to meet people...ask questions and hear from experts...**the next one is on October 5th.** More info in a later week.

**Did you know that RH has a very detailed web page on Climate Change?** Here are some highlights...

**RICHMOND HILL...CLIMATE CHANGE....** <https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/Climate-Change.aspx>

[Home/Find or Learn About/Environment/Climate Change](#)

Let's create a Resilient Richmond Hill – together

Richmond Hill is taking steps to become more resilient to climate change – and you can help! Our Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) will bring together staff, key stakeholders and the public to find ways to increase energy efficiency and decrease greenhouse gas emissions throughout Richmond Hill.

Subscribe to this webpage below (“Receive Email Updates”) to receive news about how you can participate in these consultations, planned for fall 2019.

**RESILIENT CLIMATE CHANGE IN RICHMOND HILL..City initiatives..**<https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/Climate-Change.aspx>

**Richmond Hill is already feeling, and will continue to experience, the effects of climate change: heat waves, ice storms, increased rainfall, high wind speeds and more freeze-thaw cycles.** These weather extremes threaten the health of natural and built environments, and the viability of municipal services and operations.

Climate change refers to long-term changes in weather patterns. **Global warming is a measure of climate change and describes increases in the earth's average temperature over time.** Human activities in the last 100 years, such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation, have increased greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the air, which contributes to global warming and changing weather patterns.

**Our community contributes to climate change in two main ways:**

- **Heating and cooling buildings with natural gas or other fossil fuels**
- **Transportation of people and goods using petroleum**

**What is Resilience?**

To be resilient means to be able to prepare for, resist and recover from damage or negative impacts. **A resilient community plans ahead and maintains a balance of strength and flexibility.**

- **For example, a healthy tree with strong roots can withstand heavy winds and drought. Trees also gain resilience (i.e. to pests, disease and extreme weather) when they exist in a diverse community – a forest.**

**How can we cope with climate change?**

By building up our resilience, Richmond Hill can deal with the negative impacts of climate change while helping to address its root causes. **Our natural environment already contains resilient features, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine, rivers and streams, forests, wetlands, and wildlife.** Our built environment contains resilient features as well: parks and open spaces, walking and cycling options, community gardens, and stormwater management.

**Resilience in the face of climate change involves two broad responses:**

- **Mitigation** – lowering greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. For example, walking and cycling instead of using a gas-powered vehicle can decrease emissions and traffic congestion, while improving physical and mental health.
- **Adaptation** – preparing for and dealing with the impacts of climate change. For example, stormwater controls can decrease the risk of flooding by managing increased amounts of water from large storms and quickly melting snow.

**What is Resilient Richmond Hill?**

Resilient Richmond Hill (or Resilient RH) is a project aimed at mitigating climate change (**by lowering our GHG emissions**) and adapting to climate change (**by planning for weather extremes**). Taking action now will help strengthen our community and maintain – and even improve – our quality of life.

**Resilient RH will build on existing actions, programs, partnerships, and plans to develop a more comprehensive and strategic response to climate change.** While this initiative is specific to our community, its underlying goals align with many other towns and cities around the world.

One of the main projects under Resilient RH, the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2019-2021), **will explore mitigation options that not only reduce our emissions but also save energy costs for residents and businesses.** You can share your ideas through our **upcoming consultations (fall 2019)!**

**Net Zero Update****Greening Sacred Spaces Award and Deep Green Certification:**

It was wonderful to actually receive the award from Greening Sacred Spaces (and the \$1000 check!). It was also a wonderful feeling to give that check and award to Jane Wedlock during the service last Sunday. We look forward to spending this money on further greening initiatives in the church. Greening Sacred Spaces has developed a certification system to encourage sacred spaces that are working hard on environmental things - often with little or no human appreciation (the life on the planet always sings back its happiness - in beauty and diversity). There are three levels of achievement to work toward: light, medium, and dark green. We have now reached Dark Green status. You can read about the process here, and download the certification checklist: <https://www.faithcommongood.org/certification>

We need only 10 actions in the Deep Green category to achieve the level, but there are so many more things we need to do - this doesn't mean we will rest on our laurels. The planet we rely on doesn't work that way, and our motivation is not to achieve awards. You can help: keep lights off unless you need them, try turning only a few on to get the light you need, join those of us who take transit or walk or bike or carpool to church, eat less meat or become vegan or vegetarian (we need a vegan party so we can see how delicious vegan food can be!), and post the climate logo in your house window and your car and put it on your letterhead - so everyone around you asks about it and learns that you care about the climate crisis and are doing your part. Remember, there are several of us who would happily come to a meeting of 10 or more people to explain what the crisis is and the way forward. We need you to organize these meetings and help mobilize the community.

**Canada Becomes the SECOND Country to Declare a Climate Emergency**

The climate crisis is becoming as important as it should be in our lives. On Monday the House of Commons passed a motion to declare a national climate emergency in Canada. The motion declares that "Canada is in a national climate emergency which requires, as a response, that Canada commit to meeting its national emission target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions in line with the agreement's objective of holding global warming below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees

Celsius." [https://globalnews.ca/news/5401586/canada-national-climate-emergency/?fbclid=IwAR26asllennwF\\_Wy1ozCKi\\_q-n1dNfwOm7cBV2letC-DFM7yJdUD6\\_i0gt\\_w](https://globalnews.ca/news/5401586/canada-national-climate-emergency/?fbclid=IwAR26asllennwF_Wy1ozCKi_q-n1dNfwOm7cBV2letC-DFM7yJdUD6_i0gt_w)

**RHUC and the Climate Crisis**

At RHUC we are beginning to recognize that this level of crisis, one that threatens the existence of life on the planet, one that already costs Canada upwards of 10 BILLION dollars a year (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/it-s-a-problem-for-society-climate-change-is-making-some-homes-uninsurable-1.5173697>), deserves our attention during all of our actions. Please join us in making it a part of our worship and work and play.

Also, we are working hard towards planning to use geothermal energy to heat AND COOL the sanctuary. Peter DeVita and his team have already visited many Geo-Exchange (GX) installations across the GTA and looked into costs and funding. We are looking forward to a general meeting with the congregation to begin the process of getting committed funding and getting an engineering team in to confirm the feasibility of this project.

**Richmond Hill and the Climate Crisis**

Richmond Hill, despite delaying a vote to declare a climate emergency in Richmond Hill, has a Sustainability Team which has begun a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). Part of this plan has been to create an External Advisory Committee and Esther Collier has been asked to bring two members of the Targeting Climate Change initiative to sit on that committee. The first meeting was held last Tuesday and it was comforting to see a fantastic group of stakeholders, all bending their minds towards resolving this crisis. There is definitely hope going forward and Esther will be sharing insights from that meeting regularly with the RHUC community.

**Food Bank Donations**

Collection for the Food Bank continues at RHUC. Please put your non-perishable donations in either of the two boxes - one outside the church office and the other in the Narthex. Donna McErlain collects the food from the two bins and brings it to the Food bank. Thank you!

**WANT TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT  
AFRICA?**

Hands and Hearts for Africa urge you to mark your calendar and experience one or both of the following events coming soon:

1-- ZIMSCULPT (June 28 to early Sept) is a world-class outdoor art show at Edwards Gardens (corner of Leslie St and St Lawrence Ave East). Featured are hundreds of Zimbabwean stone sculptures set in the beautiful grounds of Toronto's Botanical Gardens. This exhibit is back by popular demand and is free with lots of free parking. Open daily. As a few of us experienced last year, you will be blown away by the beauty, creativity and playfulness expressed in this art form.

Peg Hiscoke and Donna Harrison will be going on Weds July 10th and invite others to join them. Carpooling can be arranged from the church at 10am. Please let us know if you are interested in going on the 10th at [handsandhearts@live.ca](mailto:handsandhearts@live.ca)

2-The 2019 REGIONAL GRANDMOTHER AND FRIENDS GATHERING will be held on Sept 14 at St Bonaventures church on Leslie Street, just south of Edwards Gardens. This event brings together all the Grandmother Groups in the GTA area for a day of renewal and is very open to interested friends and supporters. We will meet the new Interim Executive Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and hear news from a frontline worker in Africa.

If interested in joining us, please ask Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison for a Registration Form. Early registration by June 30 is \$30 and the later fee is \$35 for the day event including lunch. Parking at the church is described as ample. Please contact us for info at [handsandhearts@live.ca](mailto:handsandhearts@live.ca)

**Minutes for Mission**

Summer can be a wonderful time of year filled with holidays and meals on the patio, but please remember that summer is no vacation for those living in poverty. Children who rely on hot breakfast and lunch programs through schools are faced with two months of poor nutrition. Families with tight budgets are forced to find money for summer child care, or often take unpaid time off from work to stay home to look after little ones. This leaves precious little left over in terms of money and energy. Those who live outdoors or are between homes seem less visible in the summer. Because the weather is above freezing, people think that shelter is not needed. We forget about the need for showers, storage, and safety that a home provides. We forget about sunburns, bug bites, and unbearable heat radiating from city sidewalks. So while we are out and enjoying a great summer, let's take a moment to remember those for whom summer is not a vacation. Together we can make sure summer is fun (or at least bearable) for everyone. We give thanks for places like West Broadway Outreach Ministry in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba, that provide much-needed support throughout the summer.

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