



BUILDING A WORLD
WHERE *Everyone*
Belongs



SPRING/SUMMER 2022

L'Arche Community News

Remembering Ken

March 12, 1955 - January 26, 2022

"I am the janitor at L'Arche, a member of the United Church of Canada, the AOTS Men's Club, my AA group and the Liberal Party of Canada"



That's how Ken Milne described himself when he was asked which community inclusion program he attended. (This was back when he was still a Liberal)

The day after Ken died, friends from around the world gathered via video chat to share their memories. This is how they described him:

Ken presented himself with dignity and taught others to do the same. He was a faithful friend to his housemates, current and former assistants, fellow AA members, and the people in his church. He had the amazing capacity to make people feel special. He had a big heart, and it was full of love.

"Family first" was a motto that Ken lived. He loved being a son, brother, uncle, and great uncle.

Ken loved Canada and took his responsibility as a Canadian seriously. He advocated for others and wrote letters to elected officials at every level of government. He knew them and they knew him. Ken was our statesman.

During Community Prayer, Ken brought a long list of people and causes to God. The most important of these were the needs of children and people with disabilities.

As a member of AA, Ken was proud of his 29 years of sobriety, often announcing "my drinking days are over!" He rarely missed his Friday night AA meetings where he made life-long friends.



His housemates appreciated Ken's helpfulness in their home. Also, when needed, Ken knew how to keep peace whenever there was a squabble at mealtimes. All he had to do is raise an eyebrow and say, "come on guys".

When he was born, Ken's family was told that he wouldn't live to adulthood and yet he lived decades longer. He came to L'Arche in 1974 and was proud of being a founding member of the community.



Ken had a rich and full life. And, because Ken was their friend, he made the lives of others fuller and richer as well.

Prayer for Ukraine

On behalf of L'Arche Greater Vancouver we offer "A Prayer for Ukraine"

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

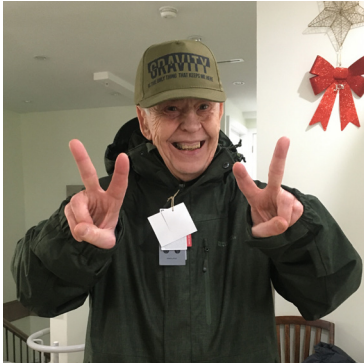
Above all, we pray for all
your precious children,
at risk and in fear, that you
hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of
Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.



Living Our Mission

Community News



Over the last two years, L'Arche has had to act quickly to comply with changing public health orders. During the changes, and now as restrictions are being lifted, we have many reasons to be grateful.

During lockdown, newly arrived assistants were able to use space at our Irmin Street location to quarantine. Since it wasn't possible to give new assistants the usual introduction to the community offered in non-COVID times, current assistants, and people with developmental disabilities in our homes welcomed and helped them adjust to their homes, routines, and the culture of L'Arche.

During the brief time that our Neighbours Helping Neighbours participants were not able to serve their elderly customers, they made phone calls to ensure people didn't feel abandoned. Because their work is done outside, they were soon able to get back to their customers, making sure that they kept their distance and did not go into customers' homes.



The Christmas cards created by participants of our new "L'Arche Gift Works" program proved to be popular. Now they have Easter and other special occasion cards for sale – available for purchase through the Emmaus Centre at our Conway address, by calling Peter at 236-455-0893 or by email at dayprograms@larchvancouver.org



As is the case everywhere, people at L'Arche look forward to summer and the freedom to socialize once again. Being together in person is so much better than waving at each other through a camera!

COVID Recovery



How does a community that is based on relationships recover from the isolation caused by COVID?

When the pandemic began Cynthia Richardson became curious about the impact COVID would have on people and organizations. With her B.A. in Psychology and M.A. in Human Development and Applied Psychology, she was well-positioned to study this unprecedented event.

When the L'Arche leadership realized it would take more than the easing of provincial health orders to recover they reached out to Cynthia. Her academic background and experience with the disability sector were exactly what was required.

Cynthia began the L'Arche COVID sessions in early 2022. Her primary goal was to create a safe, confidential, psychological container whereby people could share their lived experiences in the context of L'Arche. Equally important was that these sessions made it possible for people to hear each other and offer support.

Throughout each session she looked for themes to emerge such as the struggles, losses and things learned. At the same time, she looked for the "silver linings" to appear - new gratitude for the little things, for others, different perspectives on life, signs of resilience and fortitude.

Each session also included a time of reflection where participants expressed their thoughts and feelings in written or art form. Cynthia has been particularly impressed with the enthusiasm demonstrated by the people with developmental disabilities and the beautiful artwork they produced.

Tracey Brezovski, L'Arche's Community Leader/Executive Director remarks on the importance of these COVID recovery sessions:

"As L'Arche has resumed regular operations we knew it would be important to address what we lived during COVID. These sessions have helped articulate what we experienced as individuals and as a community. We look forward to receiving Cynthia's final report and recommendations as we plan our next steps together."

WE ALL **BELONG**

Building a Place to Live, Gather, and Grow

Living the L'Arche Community Mandate

This mandate will guide us for the next four years as we live our mission during this transition time in our community. Even though COVID has kept us apart we still are united in our mission and how we care for each other. This mandate belongs to all of us, it is a path that will help us reach our goals.

Key Goals of the Mandate:

To be ok with lots of challenges and changes

We will be strong together in front of all these changes. Together we will grieve, forgive and be open to new ways.



We will support and care for each other as we get older and welcome new people.

To live community well

We will keep building community, praying, and preparing to live in the new building. We will reach out and welcome more people to be a part of our community.

To listen to everyone's voices and ideas

We will live and work better together. We will listen to each other, participate more, understand better, make decisions together in healthy ways and feel valued.

To help each other learn and grow

We will learn and try new things. We will help everyone get the help they need to do their job well.

To share the vision of the new building

We will share our vision of how we live together and inspire new Community members to find ways to belong.

To let our light shine!

We will let our neighbours know about L'Arche. We will help and welcome new friends to our new building. It will become a Community Hub. People will experience belonging, connection and community.



Re-development Project Milestones



If you've driven past our Sussex Avenue property, you will have noticed that the site has been completely cleared and excavation has begun. Even though we have temporarily moved out of the neighbourhood we are aware that our old neighbours are aware of what's been happening on our property. For that reason, we hand-delivered notices of excavation work two weeks prior to this noisy stage of the project.

Other milestones include:

- Final Project Approval was achieved on December 15, 2021.
- The City of Burnaby approved our building permit on February 15, 2022.
- Government contributions have increased from \$6,100,000 to \$13,983,320.
- Government contributions are separate from the We All Belong Capital Campaign fundraising goal of \$6,000,000, to which we have raised just over \$4,000,000.

Due to the pandemic, increased material and labour costs, the total project cost has increased from \$29,057,668 to \$31,971,885, an increase of approximately \$3,000,000. However, between the increase from the government and our generous donors, we feel our project is very achievable.

Should you wish to learn more about our capital campaign or you are considering a gift, please contact Liz MacKeigan at 236-757-8921.



We are grateful to everyone who has helped us reach this point in our journey. We look forward to the Fall of 2024 when we expect to take occupancy of our new home.

Thank You!

Tribute

We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their financial support (November 2021 to February 2022)

Agape Catholic Charities Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation	Mt. Pleasant War Memorial Community Co-op Association
Andrew Mahon Foundation	Oliver Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
Anita Poon Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver
Ans Electrical Installations Ltd	Saint Mary's Health Foundation
B.E. Digitally Hip Corporation	SCWH Holdings Ltd.
Baiton Wilkinson Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation	Shortreed Community School
Catholic Womens' League	Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Catholic Womens League Council #3093 at St. Mary's	Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus
Columbia-Bowell Funeral Chapel	St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, S.F.O.
First Christian Reformed Church of New Westminster	St. Anthony of Padua Parish
Gerard Search	St. Joseph the Worker Parish
God With Us Inc	St. Peter's Catholic Womens League
Hawthorne Charitable Foundation	St. Thomas Anglican Church
Immaculate Conception Parish	The Giustra Foundation
J & G Servant Foundation	The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie
Kiwanis Vancouver Welfare Foundation	Tundra Sales Inc.
L'Arche Canada	Vancouver Rotary Club Foundation
	Virginia's Arc Private Foundation

The following people were honoured/remembered with a tribute gift to the L'Arche Foundation (November 2021 to February 2022)

In Memory

Betty Allen	Ken Milne
Bill & Olga Carter	Delinda Perry
Josef Deli	Georgette Roy
Stefan & Magdalen Dyakowski	Gerry Staudacher
Ruth Goessaert	Mrs. S.C. Wong
Grady Killam	

In Honour

Philip Beeby
Christina Bruce
Barbara Carter
Katryn Harris
Margaret Marquardt

A heartfelt thank you to the many individuals and families who wish to remain anonymous. We could not be L'Arche without your support!

WAYS TO SUPPORT L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER

Mail: Send your gift to the address below
Phone: 604.435.9544 ext 120
Online: www.larchevancouver.org/donate
Charitable Registration No. 1376468671-RR0001



L'ARCHE FOUNDATION OF GREATER VANCOUVER

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