





Garry Dodman, David McKane



Musicians of L'Arche London

# THANK YOU

## For Joining The Journey



Nathan & Mike

### The Gathering Place FAQ's

**WHAT IS THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR THE GATHERING PLACE?**

Formal construction commenced in late June 2016 with work scheduled for the next 10 months. Construction is to be finished in late May 2017 with final items such as asphalt paving, curbs and walks, and landscaping completing the overall project.

**HOW DO I KEEP INFORMED OF THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS?**

There will be consistent photo updates available on both facebook and the L'Arche website throughout the duration of construction. Upcoming newsletters will also provide comprehensive updates. In addition, through the generous support of a local company, Shield Rock, aerial updates of construction will be provided.

**ARE NAMING OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE?**

A few opportunities remain both in the Gathering Place facility and on the site. For additional info check the website or contact us directly at the campaign phone number.

**WHEN THE GATHERING PLACE IS COMPLETED, WILL THE GENERAL COMMUNITY BE ABLE TO UTILIZE THE FACILITY?**

Yes, subject to scheduling and availability, there will be opportunities for facility rentals for groups such as service clubs, schools, religious organizations, and special family occasions. Planning is currently underway and additional information will be available as construction progresses.

**WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE SITE?**

A professional site plan was developed and approved in the early phase of project planning. Key features will include a nature trail, eco garden, L'Arche gardens, a grove, and community garden plots. As the site matures over time it will become a beautiful park like setting for the community to enjoy for years to come.

**HOW CAN I PROVIDE MY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE CAMPAIGN?**

Some options include cheque, MC, or Visa. In addition, some supporters have chosen the convenience of using a pre-authorized monthly plan. Please see website for additional information.

# Gathering Place Breaks Ground

**Marietta Drost - Community Leader & Executive Director**

**David McKane - Board Chair**

There are certain dates that mark passages in our lives. The day of our birth, a special Christmas, a wedding, a baptisms, our confirmation and first communion, the death of a beloved pet or of a grand-parent or perhaps of a parent, a Saint's day, our Saint's day, Jean Vanier's beginning of L'Arche. We mark such passages in celebratory ways, pausing to remember, sharing with family or friends, perhaps planting a tree or lighting a candle in thanksgiving. Such a date was June 29th, 2016, the ground-breaking for our Gathering Place. What a truly memorable day it was, a day to celebrate and remember, a day to give thanks and rejoice, a day to recognize all those who have journeyed with us to this place, who dreamed the dream and set the foundation upon which we build. It was also a day to join hands

and hearts with all those who will journey with us into the future, those who will carry the dream forward to that other memorable day, the opening day of our Gathering Place. There is still lots to be done. There are still funds to be raised. There are still meetings to attend and plans to set in motion. As a faith-based community, and in the spirit of the Rio Olympics of Summer 2016, "let us run the race that is set before us, with steadfastness, with patience, with commitment" and trust that great things are being accomplished through many here in our London community.



**Mary Bee, Joslyn, Joanna, Fabian**



**Jeff Yurek - MPP Elgin Middlesex London**

## L'Arche Day Programs

**Nathan Hill - Assistant in the L'Arche London Day Program**

For almost twenty years, the L'Arche London Day Program has served to provide meaningful activities for people with and without developmental disabilities. In that time we have constructed and strengthened a variety of activities that people who live in and out of the L'Arche community participate in. We bring people together from all over the city of London each Monday morning to sing and perform at the Music Club. The artists of our program create mosaic crafts, paintings and drawings that are exhibited at galleries, libraries, coffee shops and events throughout the year. We have fun writing plays and skits in our Drama Class, and discover joyful ways to exercise and promote healthy living with our Line Dancing, Walking Club, and Jazzercise programs. We are also community partners, with some core members volunteering in our local libraries, the Ministry of Social Services, and in our very own office.

These activities have been hosted over the years in many locations in our great city. Now, with the ground breaking and construction of the Gathering Place, L'Arche

London has an opportunity to give back the spirit of welcoming others as so many have welcomed us. We will be able to expand on the activities we are already engaged in, while developing new programs that will inspire the growth, independence and dignity of the people who choose to access them: a kitchen for adaptive cooking classes, a Snoezelen Room, a Wellness Centre, nature trails and gardening. We are excited for the opportunity the Gathering Place will give us to welcome so many new people who are seeking a meaningful Day Program, and a place of belonging. The L'Arche London Gathering Place will be a place that nurtures the educational, therapeutic, and social and spiritual needs of people in London. Our Gathering Place will also serve as an opportunity for people to discover their vocation so that they can build on the skills and confidence to venture out and work, contributing to the greater community. We are grateful that each of you has chosen to walk with us on this incredible journey, and hope to see you inside the Gathering Place in the near future.



**City of London Councillor Harold Usher, Marie Antoinette Parisio, David McKane**



**Mrs Irene Mall, Abi Cherian**

# Campaign Chair Message

## Garry Dodman – Campaign Chair



The construction has begun! After 3 years of fundraising our Gathering Place project is working towards the ultimate goal, to open a facility that brings new resources to the community. Bringing people together – people with and without disabilities.

I need to say on behalf of the community Thank You! Thank you for getting us to this point where we can begin the construction. We have to date raised over 1.6 million dollars towards our capital campaign of 2.5 million. So the work of raising funding is not complete. We need your help to finish the campaign.

We have a several ways for you participate; our first ever L'arch London Autumn Walk September 17th; a November event – stay tuned for more details; and of course our annual Banquet in February 2017. These events are great opportunities to invite people who may not know us, so think about bringing a friend. Does your employer or group fund projects like the Gathering Place? Some people give to L'Arche through their employer's United



Way campaigns. Does your group need a speaker? We regularly talk to organizations such as Rotary. A few of you have taken advantage of the Naming opportunities and there are still a few available. These are great ways to remember a loved one.

I hope this helps to convey the importance of the task at hand. We need to continue to raise the balance of the campaign to complete this project. We want to hear from you!

Please feel free to contact me or any other member of the community should you have any questions or ideas.

Thank you for bring us to this point of the journey! The objective is in sight but the work is not done!



## As a founding family of L'Arche London, Jim Blair and Janet Blair spoke at the Groundbreaking Ceremony:

"I would like to say something about the people of the L'Arche London community. What a wonderful group of people! They share daily work and life together in the community, just as Jean Vanier envisioned. I would like to say thank you to all of them. I may not say much, but I notice things.

And now today we stand on the next big project. You've seen the plans. All I can say is, "Get it done!"

- Jim Blair

## Upcoming Events

- 1) **Autumn Walk** (See Insert)
- 2) **"The Downs"** Theatre Production Forest City Community Church
- 3) **L'Arche London Annual Banquet** - February 24th / 2017 Doubletree by Hilton

### L'Arche London Needs YOU!

I would like to help the L'Arche London Community build a stronger future by making a tax-deductible gift. Charitable registration #89183 5241 RR0001

My personal cheque is enclosed for

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

or donate online using MasterCard or Visa.

#### Please direct my funds to:

- L'Arche Gathering Place Campaign  L'Arche London Operations

Please make the receipt to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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email: \_\_\_\_\_



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L'Arche London extends it's sincere appreciation to our friends at Capital Colour for the overall production of this newsletter.

Please mail this form to our office or contact us online at [www.larchelondon.org](http://www.larchelondon.org)

#### Please send information on:

- Becoming a volunteer
- Attending a service
- Donating goods or services
- Becoming an assistant
- L'Arche Gathering Place

4056 Meadowbrook Drive  
Unit 121, London, ON N6L 1E3

phone: 519-652-9778

fax: 519-652-4038

email: [office@larchelondon.org](mailto:office@larchelondon.org)

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**Thank you for your generosity**