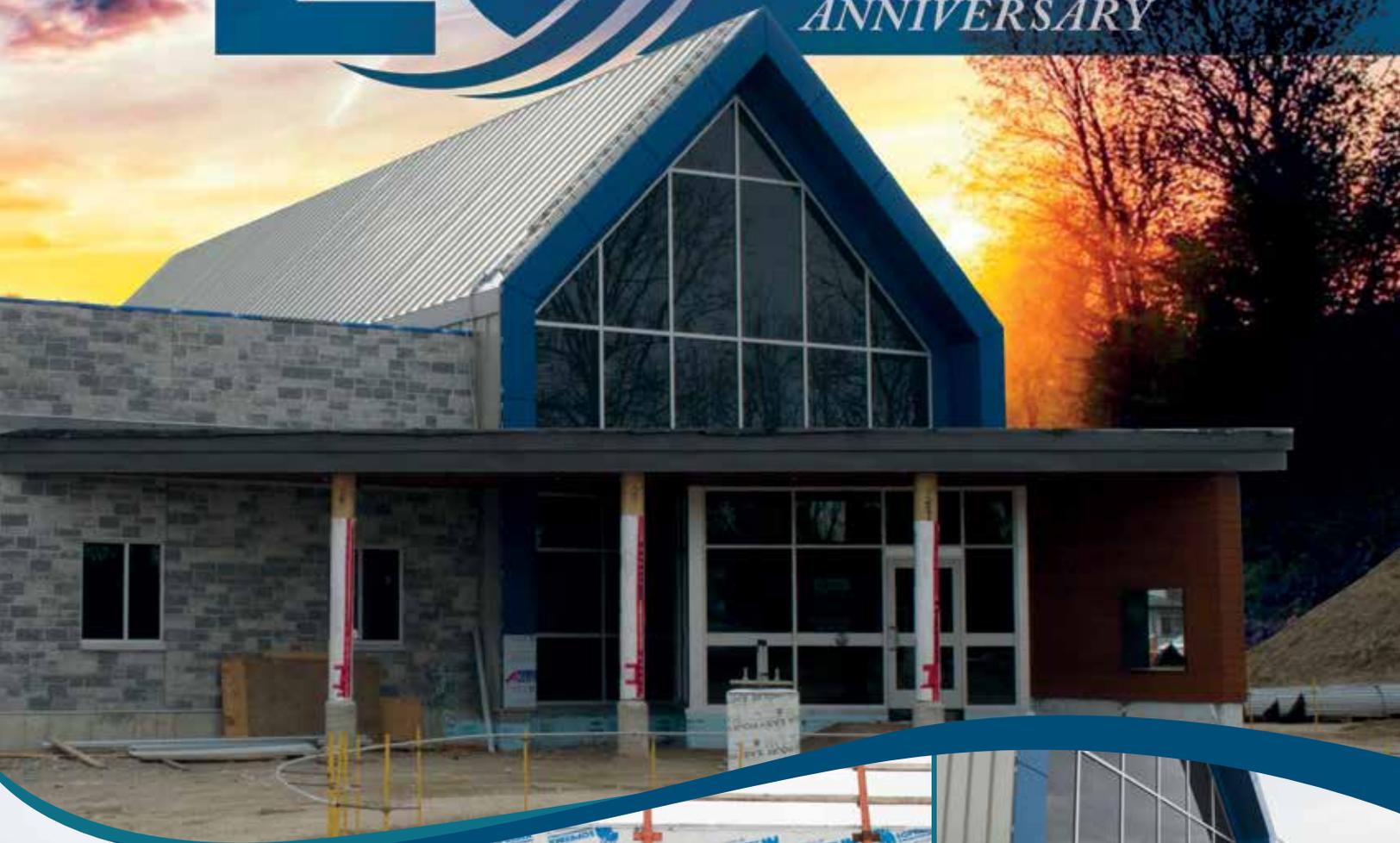


# 20<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY





## A PROFILE OF CORE MEMBER JIM MCGEOUGH

Jim was born in London at St. Joseph's hospital in 1966 to Vince and Carole McGeough. At the time of his birth his family was living in Goderich but soon moved to Scarborough where Jim lived until his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Jim has five other siblings who have been very supportive throughout the years. In Scarborough Jim attended the local Catholic High School where he took part in a reading program in a kindergarten class. Jim was also involved in a co-op program in the school board mailroom. After Jim graduated he received a recommendation from the head of the mailroom that stated "Before Jim came to the mailroom, everyone in the office kept to themselves but when Jim arrived he changed the atmosphere in the mailroom and everyone became part of a team." This high recommendation helped Jim gain employment in the mailroom of the Municipal Offices of North York.

After L'Arche London's community began, and our second home was purchased, Jim moved into Jubilee in 2003 along with Winnie, Kate and Leah. In 2008, our third home Bethany was purchased and Jim moved into that home with David, Peter and Paul. Over the years Jim has been the co-leader with Laurel in our Monday morning Music Club which hosts up to 150 participants a week. Jim is seen as a leader of Music in our community and is always present with his guitar at community events. Two years ago Jim had the opportunity to meet Princess Anne in Ottawa and discuss the Music Program in our community. Jim has hosted many events in the past where he performs and also encourages his friends to show their talents.

Articles by: Carole McGeough  
Ann Ramundo - Director of Development

## THE EARLY HISTORY OF L'ARCHE LONDON COMMEMORATING 20 YEARS

The story of L'Arche London began when Jim McGeough was a teenager. Carole McGeough his mother and Jim visited L'Arche Daybreak and were very impressed with the community. Carole's hope and dream was to start a community in London. After the family moved to London in 1989, Carole contacted the Stratford community and was invited for a visit. After receiving a tour of the community in Stratford, Mary Bastedo gave Carole some names of individuals to contact that would be interested in starting a community. Carole contacted the list of individuals but there didn't seem to be much interest. The next year, Carole persevered and once again contacted Mary Bastedo in Stratford and this time a new list was generated. Carole contacted everyone on the new list and to her delight, much excitement and interest was generated; so much so that a meeting was held at Carole and Vince's home immediately. Carole and Vince provided the meeting place and refreshments and the Parisio's, McMorrow's, Vogel's, Pickersgill's and Mary Bastedo attended. After many meetings, the group contacted Kathy Baroody at L'Arche Daybreak and discussed with her the possibility of starting a new community in London. Kathy, as part of the Region, took this information to L'Arche Canada and our community began in 1997.



## A MESSAGE FROM MARIETTA AND DAVID

Marietta Drost - Community Leader & Executive Director  
David McKane - Board Chair

It's Spring, and along with nature, L'Arche London is on the cusp of new growth. The Gathering Place construction in Lambeth is very close to completion. The Gathering Place will be a community hub, a place of learning, creativity, personal and vocational growth and belonging in our City of London. It is a beautiful building (with thanks to A+Link Architecture and Graceview Enterprises!) and what we are really excited about is the life that will be lived there, and the bridges to be built with many people who would like to join us.

It is our 20th Anniversary year. L'Arche London is a community of people with and without intellectual disabilities sharing our lives together. We know that all of us, with our disabilities and with our abilities, have profound gifts to share. Many people have shared their gifts to lead us to where we are today, and we share a few stories here: Jim and Carol have walked the whole journey, since the beginning; the 20th Anniversary Banquet was a grand celebration of the faithfulness of so many friends, past and present; and, as we journey on, please join us for our 2nd Annual Walkathon, "Walking With Each Other!" at St. Thomas Aquinas High school on June 10th.

The celebration of the opening of the Gathering Place will be on Thursday, September 14 at 10:30 am. In addition, we are honoured that the Gathering Place will be one of the featured sites in this year's "Doors Open" celebration (see calendar of events). We would love to welcome you for these special moments in the life of L'Arche London.

With gratitude for our richly blessed community, and in this our 20th year, the faithfulness of so many friends who join us on the journey.

## THANK YOU TO ST. GEORGE PARISH

L'Arche London extends its sincere appreciation to St. George Parish for the support provided through the recent Cabaret Musical. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be dedicated to the L'Arche London Gathering Place campaign. Special thanks to Fr. John, the volunteers of the Knights of Columbus who sponsored the event, and the many parishioners who demonstrated their generous support through donations and the purchase of event tickets.



# 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

## A TRUE CELEBRATION

This years Annual Banquet was a tremendous success from every perspective. Close to 600 guests shared an evening of friendship and community while celebrating the 20th Anniversary of L'Arche London. Guests enjoyed music, auctions, special presentations and the gracious hospitality of the DoubleTree by Hilton throughout the evening. In addition, a special virtual tour "sneak preview" of the Gathering Place under construction was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Special thanks to John Winston of Tourism London in the role of MC, Nick Paparella of CTV as the keynote presenter, the event sponsors as highlighted, the event organizing committee, and the countless hours dedicated by the volunteers.

And especially a special thank you to all the friends of the L'Arche London for your attendance and making this a true celebration. Through your generous support over \$31,000 will be directed to the L'Arche London Gathering place. Again our appreciation and we look forward to seeing you once again next year!

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

#### PARTNER OF L'ARCHE



MOREL BENEFITS



#### FRIENDS OF L'ARCHE



A moment in time  
Photography by Joselyn  
joselyn\_photos@hotmail.ca



Click 360 Photography Inc.  
www.click360photos.com



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2ND ANNUAL L'ARCHE LONDON WALKATHON

Saturday June 10th, 2017 - The 2nd annual Walkathon will once again be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School. For complete details, please see the insert.

### GATHERING PLACE GRAND OPENING AND MEDIA EVENT

Thursday September 14th, 2017 (10:30am) - This long anticipated special day in the history of L'Arche London will celebrate the grand opening of the Gathering Place. The event will feature special guests, announcements, and other festivities. All members of the community are cordially invited. Additional details will be forthcoming.

### 2017 DOORS OPEN CELEBRATION

September 16th & 17th, 2017 - The L'Arche London Gathering Place is honoured to have been chosen as one of the selected sites for this years Doors Open Celebration. The 2017 event marks a special year with the Canada 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Tours, music, programs and light refreshments will be provided on Saturday between 9am-2pm and Sunday between 1pm- 5pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

## COWAN FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

In the photo below is Michael Lough visiting the Gathering Place and presenting a cheque on behalf of the Cowan Foundation. In recognition of their generous support the Market area in the Gathering Place has been dedicated in their name.



Pictured left to right is JC Korten - Graceview Enterprises Inc., Marietta Drost - Executive Director, David McKane - Board President, Ray Dilling - Campaign Manager, Garry Dodman - Campaign Chair, and Michael Lough - Vice President Cowan Insurance Group.



# CAMPAIGN CHAIR MESSAGE

Garry Dodman – Campaign Chair



The construction on the Gathering Place continues with the end in sight as we expect to be substantially complete in June 2017. These are exciting and challenging times as we plan to open and establish our programs in the new facility later this year. We ask for your continued support and prayer through this transition.

I need to say on behalf of the community Thank You! Thank you for getting us to this point where we can begin the work of expanding our programming to support people with intellectual disabilities. We have to date raised over 1.85 million dollars towards our capital campaign of 2.5 million. As you can see by campaign achievement chart, the work of raising funds is far from complete. We need your help to finish the campaign. We have several ways for you to participate such as our L'Arche London Walk June 10th, or the Doors Open September 16 & 17th. 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?



Does your group need a speaker? We regularly talk to organizations such as Rotary and Churches.

A few of you have taken advantage of the Naming opportunities and there are still a few available. These are great ways to remember and provide a legacy gift for 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 funds to complete this project. We want to hear from you!

Please feel free to contact me by email at [gddodman@larchelondon.org](mailto:gddodman@larchelondon.org) or any other member of the community should you have any questions or ideas.

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

# SPRING FASHION

FROM GLORIA LYNN



In Spring, jeans go below the waist and below the belly button. These will look nice with a one button black jacket and a striped t-shirt. You can accessorize this outfit with gold, long dangling earrings and a gold double necklace. You can also wear a gold bracelet. A black and gold purse with a full body strap will also go well. Complete your look flat black and gold shoes.

Another nice look is a red and black spring dress with a black belt. You can wear the same black and gold shoes that you wore with the last outfit. Accessorize with the same jewelry and bag.

When you are all dressed up it's nice to go to work.

On the weekend, you can dress down your jeans by wearing a jean jacket and any casual shirt with purple runners. You will be comfortable wearing this when you go to the mall. I also like to go out for breakfast on the weekend with Sandy and Tara. You could go with your friends or join us.



capital colour

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

## 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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Please mail this form to our office or contact us online at [office@larchelondon.org](mailto:office@larchelondon.org)

### Please send information on:

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

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**Thank you for your generosity**