

Aerial photo provided by Matt Goodale Photography



**L'Arche London celebrates 20th Anniversary
with Grand Opening of Gathering Place**

MESSAGE FROM MARIETTA, PAULINE & DAVID

“A NEW CHAPTER IN THE JOURNEY”

On July 14 Core Members and Assistants of the Day Program came to tour the Gathering Place for the first time. The building is no longer a construction site, is fully accessible, and we are planning to move the offices in August. What a joy to tour together this beautiful and multifunctional building – this new home for L'Arche London where we will welcome many people, and grow in new ways together with our greater London community.

Prior to walking through – we shared a picnic on the edge of the small woodland on the property. There is such a fecundity and profusion to the natural growth here, native grasses and flowers are blooming, black raspberries are ripening throughout the woods. I can't help but think that this present richness is a sign of the future life and work that will take root in the Gathering Place – we are hopeful, and

proceed in trust that this will be the case!

David McKane has just completed his term as Chair of the L'Arche London Board. We are very happy that David will remain on the Board, even as he passes the baton of leadership to Pauline Trudell. David shares these words; “some years ago we were captured by the dream of a Gathering Place, bought a piece of property in Lambeth and began a 5 year fund-raising programme under the leadership of Toinette Parisio, Ray Dilling and Garry Dodman. As Toinette engaged her new role as Regional Coordinator of L'Arche Ontario, Pauline and I were part of the Committee that hired Marietta as our new Community Leader. A year ago this past June the Board decided to begin the building of the Gathering Place. It has been a wonderful three years with a wonderful, supportive and committed Board members and an equally supportive

and committed community. We are in good shape as I hand the baton on to Pauline Trudell to see us take ownership of the Gathering Place and finish the Campaign. What a journey!”

While still fund-raising we thank you David and Pauline, and want to express our deep gratitude to the circle of friends and supporters of L'Arche London.



*Marietta Drost (L) - Executive Director
Pauline Trudell (M) - Board President
David McKane (R) - Past President*

As of **SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**
the new mailing address
for L'Arche London will be

4448 Colonel Talbot Road,
London, Ont
N6P 1B6

**It is anticipated that the move/relocation of staff to the
Gathering Place will be completed by SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

All other contact information will remain the same (Please see back page)

LAUREL MARTIN RECEIVES RBC COMMUNITY PROFESSOR AWARD FROM WESTERN UNIVERSITY

We are proud to share that on April 12, 2017, Laurel Martin received the RBC Community Professor Award given by the Community Engaged Learning Program at Western University. This award recognizes Laurel and the L'Arche London Music Club's involvement in the Music Education, and the Community Engaged Learning Program at Western.

“Awarded once per year, the RBC Community Professor Award valued at \$500 is given to a Community Partner of Western University to recognize the work of an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to Community Engaged Learning (CEL) / Experiential Learning and advancing the academic experience of students by guiding them through a community project. Funded by the RBC, this award recognizes an individual who has engaged students by teaching them about the social issue

for which they are working, providing examples of what it means to be a strong community leader, and actively engaging in Community Engaged Learning/Experiential Learning programs at Western” Lisa Boyko, Community Engaged Learning Coordinator, Western University.

We at L'Arche London are very happy that Laurel, and the Monday Morning Music Club have made such an impact on the experience of the Western students. It is wonderful to have Western Student volunteers as a regular presence in our Monday Morning Music Club.

Laurel is the Coordinator of our Monday Morning Music Club – a club that welcomes up to 120 people weekly – people who come to dance, sing and make music together.

To help celebrate L'Arche London's 20th Anniversary, and L'Arche Canada's up

coming 50th Anniversary, Laurel produced a CD with 'Song's of L'Arche' that Laurel has written, and we as a community have sung throughout our 20 year history. The CD is available for purchase for a \$10.00 donation. We will also be giving one CD to all 29 of our communities across Canada to celebrate L'Arche Canada' 50 year Anniversary in 2019.



Laurel Martin

SECOND ANNUAL L'ARCHE LONDON WALKATHON A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!



On June 10, 2017, the 2nd annual Walkathon was held at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School. Under beautiful skies, it was a tremendous day filled with fun and fellowship for close to 200 participants, volunteers, and several family supporters. Special thanks to the commitment of the event committee, the many volunteers, and the support of the event sponsors including Remark Fresh Markets, Metro Byron, and the Home County Music and Art Festival. And to top off a tremendous event, over \$16,000 was raised towards the Gathering Place campaign!

Our appreciation for making this event a success and we look forward to seeing you at the 3rd Annual Walkathon in 2018.

THE GIFT OF SILENCE



Louisa & Martha

Our talents are the gift that God gives to us... What we make of our talents is our gift back to God- Leo Buscaglia

When you visit Cana House you will often find Martha curled up on the couch, knees up, quietly taking in the world around her.

She is a woman who has no words to express herself. Many people may view this as barrier to communicating and building relationships. I choose to see her silence as a unique gift from God. This gift has allowed her to draw others into relationship and deepen their spirituality. A big smile, eye contact, holding hands are all ways that she creates

communion between herself and others. With these gestures she is able to build mutual relationship, healing, forgiveness, joy, peace, faith, prayer, and laughter. This begins a process of transformation in those who journey with her. It is also a sign of how God has worked through her to establish his purpose in our lives.

Through her quiet nature she is able to create deeply profound and spiritual moments. It is often during these times that Martha will grab your hand and call you to be still. Asking you for your restless heart and to enter into prayer with her. Then a beautiful silence ensues which blocks out the world that asks us to be constantly busy. Calling us to be in the present moment with her so that the door to our hearts can be opened. As if to say "Be still and know that I am God" It is during these times that many people have found the answers they have been searching for, myself included. I can't help but think how beautiful it is that God chose to create her differently. That in his plan he would use her as an instrument to change the world one heart at a time.

Article submitted by Louisa Fiorino
L'Arche London Assistant



PROFILE OF ANN RAMUNDO

In October of 2016 we were happy to announce that Ann Ramundo had accepted the new position of Director of Development for L'Arche London.

This new role is key to our community development and sustainability as we vision the work and mission of the Gathering Place, and Ann brings unique gifts to the role.

Ann first joined the day to day work at L'Arche London in November of 2008. Her heart for the mission of L'Arche, and her grounding in relationships throughout our immediate community, and beyond to our circle of friends and supporters is fundamental.

Ann has served in two leadership roles in our community: as Assistants Coordinator and as Assistant Community Leader. Ann's post-secondary education was in the field of Sociology and Business. Following completion of her studies, she joined Xerox as a Marketing Representative. Price Club opened in London in 1991 and joined the management team as Marketing Manager in London and later was promoted to Regional Marketing Manager of Ontario and Atlantic Canada in Toronto. Ann has also been a key person in the coordination of several of the key fundraising events in our community, as well as holding responsibility in the financial administration of L'Arche London, and as a member of our Finance Committee. Ann brings these skills, experiences and formation to this new role in our community.

Ann's family, her husband Nick, and their daughters Julianna and Gabrielle, are active members of our community too, sharing in the joy and volunteer work of our regular community events – like Potluck, Banquet, and the Walk-a-thon.

Thank you Ann for all the gifts you bring to L'Arche London!

CAMPAIGN CHAIR MESSAGE

Garry Dodman – Campaign Chair



The moment we've all worked so hard towards for many years is here. In the coming weeks, we will begin to move into the Gathering Place.

I need to say on behalf of the community Thank You! Thank you for getting us to this point where we can continue to grow and fulfill Jean Vanier's vision that inspires us to this work. Bringing people together – people with and without disabilities.

After 4 years of our capital campaign project, we are reaching the ultimate goal, to open a facility that brings new resources to the community. The construction is not 100% complete as we still need to raise funds to cover the cost of finishing certain interior areas. We have to date raised over 1.9 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 are planning the official opening for September 14th at 10:30 am, please come out and celebrate with us as we will have many dignitaries and the press



in attendance. On September 16th and 17th we will be part of Doors Open London where we will welcome the community to see the building and be introduced to us and our mission. These are great opportunities to share the values we hold dear. Please join us and this could be an opportunity for you to bring a neighbour or friend to introduce them to L'Arche.

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.



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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pauline Trudell
President

Jeff Bell
Vice President/Secretary

David McKane
Past President

Garry Dodman
Chair of Capital Campaign

Charles Spina

John Wells

Joe Naus

Melissa Knott

Murray Watson

Trevor Menear

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: _____

Country: _____

email: _____

Please mail this form to our office or contact us online at **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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