



Thank You For Your Support

*I rejoice in this celebration and congratulations to you all.
It will be wonderful for all people in the community.
So thank you for all you have done to make it possible.*

Peace and love to you all.

Jean Vanier
(October 2018)

L'ARCHE LONDON PRESENTS

*Bonjour
Café*

LONDON'S FIRST CAFE RUN BY PEOPLE
WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES
EVERY THURSDAY 9AM-12PM

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE FOUNDATION



*(L)Garry Dodman, Campaign Chair, accepting
a generous donation from Dr. Singh, President,
Westminster College Foundation.*

In August we received a call from the Westminster College Foundation inquiring around the details of the Matching Program with Arthur and Sonia Labatt (Campaign Honorary Chairs). We had recently received their support and funding for our new Coffee House and we were thrilled that they were interested in the Matching Program as well. To our delight, Dr. Roderick Singh, President of the Westminster College Foundation, presented us with a \$15,000 cheque towards our Capital Campaign the following week. We are tremendously grateful for all of the support that the Westminster College Foundation has given our community over the years. They truly are community builders in our city.



NEW PROGRAMS

It has been an extraordinary year serving from the Gathering Place. What began as a dream in a small room at Elmwood Church ultimately resulted as a multi functional social hub. We are greeting more and more people who are curious about who and what L'Arche is all about, as well as what we have to offer.

We are introducing new programs for folks choosing to spend their days with us. Monetary grants are giving the Day Program opportunities to introduce new programs and activities. Working with ceramics, candle making, venturing into social enterprises with our Bonjour Cafe and evening open stage Coffee House, the Snoezelen room, dog therapy, drama and movie making. The Gathering Place opens onto a small forest, with accessible trails for people to explore. We have begun tilling the soil of our upraised gardens, growing herbs and vegetables. Our programs offer something different for everyone, be it learning something new or having a space to relax. The Gathering Place is serving the greater community as a venue people may use for events and celebrations of their own.

This year has seen an abundance of collaboration between L'Arche and our neighbours. It has been a year full of life and learning. We are still discovering what the Gathering Place has to offer as it continues bringing people together from all over southwestern Ontario. It's in that spirit of togetherness we foster a vibrant and joyful community.



COFFEE HOUSE

The L'Arche London Coffee House became a reality this summer. With the help of the funding that came from the Westminster College Foundation, we have been able to open our doors every other Wednesday evening; inviting friends and neighbours to sample the delicious baking from our Bonjour Café as well as enjoy the entertainment provided by our 'open mic' musicians. Over the past several months, it has grown to the point where we have a full two hours of entertainment, and a room full of people to enjoy it. We are happy to announce that thanks to a new Trillium Grant we recently received, the Coffee House will now run EVERY Wednesday evening from 7-9pm starting November 28. In the meantime, it's good to check our website to confirm the dates, especially for any dates in December. We invite you all to come enjoy an evening out with great coffee and home baking. Musicians of all abilities are welcome to share 2-3 songs at the acoustic open mic.

L'Arche London Coffee House

COFFEE and BAKED GOODS **OPEN MIC**

Every Wednesday 7-9pm
4448 Colonel Talbot Rd.
www.larchelondon.ca

All ages and abilities are welcome.

Funded by Westminster College Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation

DRUMMING CIRCLE

The Seniors Drum Circle launched this spring. Thanks to generous funding from the Government of Canada's "New Horizons for Seniors" grant we were able to purchase lots of beautiful hand drums and invite Seniors of all abilities to the Gathering Place to share the joy of making rhythm together. We have had over 30 people try it out so far, many who come weekly now. The drum circle is a place of sharing – We all have something to contribute and it's lots of fun too. It has been both inspiring and beautiful to witness what is revealed during this weekly hour of drumming. We invite you to come and give it a try Thursdays 2:30-3:30 at the Gathering Place. (Thanks to Tim, and the funding we received, we also have two beautiful portable storage units which protect our drums when they are not being used!)



Cloth for the Cradle is a treasured quiet 'spot' in the midst of the December rush, to stop at the manger and pray. There is a time of symbolic action where our prayers literally form a cloth for the cradle (manger) anticipating Jesus birth. We use flannelette strips that are then sewn into a baby blanket for an unsupported mother and her child!

seniors Drum Circle

Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm
L'Arche London
4448 Colonel Talbot Road

Come join the circle!

- Drums provided
- No experience needed
- It's fun and it's free

larchel@larchelondon.org for details



CAMPAIGN CHAIR MESSAGE

THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY

Garry Dodman – Campaign Chair

As we celebrated the anniversary of the opening and the welcoming of Arthur & Sonia Labatt to the Gathering Place in October, we announced an important milestone for the capital campaign in reaching our fundraising objective of \$2.5M. I only have deep gratitude for the generosity that you have demonstrated. Your faith and commitment to seeing the Gathering Place become a reality touches me deeply, Thank You!

As we expected, the opening of the Gathering Place has given us new opportunities to serve and welcome people, people with and without disabilities. The building is alive with activities! There are still a few items we need to complete, but we are doing the work that we intended, and we know that there are future opportunities because of our Gathering Place. Our presence in the community has been a blessing as we have been welcomed and encouraged by all.

The Capital campaign target set in 2013 was \$2.5M and the building and associated costs was just over \$3.1M (does not include the land which was purchased in 2011). The balance is covered by a mortgage and is serviced through operations. This was as we planned in 2013.

In addition, I extend my personal thanks to the many volunteers who came forth throughout the campaign journey and demonstrated their support in so many ways. Again I can only express my gratitude for your support and encourage you to continue to be engaged with L'Arche London as we enter a new and exciting chapter. There are a number of new initiatives that the community is working on to meet the growing need for support for so many individuals and their families. Your on-going and generous support is appreciated by each and everyone of them.

I conclude my final campaign message by wishing you and your families a safe and memorable Christmas season. All the best throughout 2019!



RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT THE GATHERING PLACE

The Gathering Place is now available to accommodate your specific rental needs. From large groups to small, the Gathering Place provides kitchen facilities, meeting rooms, and a large community hall suitable for that special large function. For additional information or to set up a time for a facility tour, please contact.

rentals@larchelondon.org
519-652-9778 x225



capital colour

L'Arche London extends it's 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 donating online at www.larchelondon.ca with a credit card.

Please direct my funds to:

Gathering Place Operations/Homes Day Programming

Please make the receipt to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your generosity

Please mail this form to our office or contact us online at office@larchelondon.org

Please send information on:

- Becoming a Volunteer
- Becoming a Monthly Donor
- Attending a worship service

New Address:
4448 Colonel Talbot Rd.
London, ON N6P 1B6

phone: 519-652-9778
email: office@larchelondon.org

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