



# Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

## Newsletter

September 2013



225 - 50<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lachine, QC H8T 2T7  
514-634-2651

Email: [summerlea\\_united@videotron.ca](mailto:summerlea_united@videotron.ca)  
Website: [www.summerlea.ca](http://www.summerlea.ca)

### OCTOBER CALENDAR

6	10:30am	Worldwide Communion
13	10:30am	Thanksgiving Sunday
15	7:30pm	Executive Bd. Mtg.
20	10:30am	Food Sunday
24-26		Meat Pie Production
27	10:30am	Stewardship Sunday

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

3	10:30am	Sunday Worship (daylight saving time ends)
10	10:30am	Remembrance Sunday
14-15		Bazaar set up
16	9-2pm	B A Z A A R
17	10:30am	Food Sunday
24	10:30am	Sunday Worship

*Elders' Corner:*

World Communion Sunday is October 6<sup>th</sup>

### A WORD FROM THE EDITORS:

I remember sitting in church, with tears in my eyes, twenty six years ago this Fall, with a little Stéphanie by my side and hearing Reverend Tom Miles announce that he would be leaving Lachine and moving to a church in Montreal West. As he was also a City Councillor for the City of Lachine, he was obliged not only to give up his pulpit at Summerlea but also his seat at Lachine City Council. God works in mysterious ways. Little did I realize at the time, that Tom's decision would impact the rest of my life in such a big way!

After more than a quarter century of service in the public arena, I am hanging up my skates and moving on. The last few years of public life have been difficult, to say the least. Knowing I have conducted myself in a manner beyond reproach, it has been hard to deal with constituents who, understandably, are more and more suspicious and cynical. Recently, I was stopped at the lights at 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Sherbrooke Street. A particularly crusty senior citizen, with whom I have had dozens of conversations over the years, was standing at the bus stop. I opened my window to say hello. "Don't talk to me", she said "I'm surprised you are not in jail yet". While I thought my daughter Gabrielle, who was with me, was going to faint with shock, for me, this was yet one more interaction that served to confirm that I was doing the right thing in retiring!

Being an elected official is a little bit like being a parent. As parents, we can all look back with a bit of remorse; wishing that on some occasions, we had reacted differently or that we had made different decisions regarding our children. But we did the best we could with the knowledge and experience we had at the time. No one is perfect and very few of us are candidates for sainthood! So while I have absolutely no misgivings about my professional ethics, I must confess there are a few decisions I wish I could revisit! For while I did my best with the information I

had available, in hindsight, I wish I had done some things differently...

Although Spring is symbolic of rebirth, it is often in the Fall that we pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off and plunge ourselves into activities after a lazy summer. Such is the case for me!

I have returned to school full-time at John Abbott College to finish my diploma in Information and Library Technologies which has been on hold since 2001. I have always wanted to work in a library and I believe that at 60 years old, it is not too late to study or to dream! Although I am most likely the oldest student on campus, I am thoroughly enjoying my classes (and even my homework!) and sitting in class on the first day of school, I felt as if I had come home! However, until the first week of October when the election campaign gets underway, I am working full-time in addition to my studies so time is at a premium!!

While your activities may not be as frenetic as mine are at the moment, I wish you all a happy and healthy autumn doing things you love.

**Jane Cowell-Poitras**

**THE EDITORS:** *Jane Cowell-Poitras, Susan Hawke, Lynn Closs*

### **A Word from the Minister**

As much as it pains me to say it, September is here and the summer is over. Not that there is anything wrong with September, it's just that I'm not quite ready to give up summer. I still sit out on my outdoor patio furniture at home, even though I now have to put on a sweater or a jacket, but soon it will be too cool even for a sweater, and it always seems such a short time after this that I am putting the outdoor furniture away for the winter season. But this always seems to put me in a "double bind" – I don't like to see the summer fading away, and yet, autumn is my favourite season. All of this is on my mind due to the recent arrival of the fall edition of the "L.L. Bean" catalogue (for those who may be unfamiliar with L.L. Bean, it is a retail outlet in Freeport, Maine that does most of its business through catalogue sales). Even though I strive to follow the ABC rule ("always buy Canadian"), I have a real soft spot for L.L. Bean clothing and treat myself to a purchase every once in a while. What caught my attention, though, was the two-word

phrase on the front cover, "Welcome Autumn". And this really DID catch my attention, to the point of changing my whole attitude about the coming fall season.

No matter how much I may not be ready to give up summer, its passing is something I can either accept with grace, or I can continue to lament it. I always like to err on the side of grace, so when I saw that "welcome autumn", it helped me to see that welcoming the autumn season is like welcoming an old friend. I really want to be the kind of person who gives thanks for all that the summer has been, and who lets that go enough to truly welcome the coming of the new season and all the blessings it will hold.

This got me thinking about the theme of welcoming, since that is something we are involved in at the church these days, as people return from the summer break and take their places once again within our congregational family. On September 15, following the morning worship service, we had our "Welcome Back Barbeque", and to begin the worship service, we sang together the first hymn in *More Voices*, titled "Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)", the chorus of which contains the words, "All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place." There is a certain graciousness in offering this kind of welcome, and it is through this that we are reminded that we extend this welcome because God welcomes each of us. All of us truly are welcome in God's loving presence, and to offer this kind of welcome to someone is a little sign of God's loving presence among us.

To be welcomed in this way is a sign of belonging, and it lets the one who is welcomed know that their presence is valued, and that they have a place in our midst. This is the very reason that I have been so distressed to see some elements of the "Charter of Quebec Values" recently introduced by Pauline Marois, with the goal of "secularizing" Quebec society. First of all, I do not agree that there should even be a separation between politics and religion, except when a particular religious group tries to use its power and influence inappropriately for political gain. It would be my hope that any politician or public servant would bring the best and highest principles of their religious faith to bear on their work and their political life. Many people from various places around the world have chosen to make Quebec their new home, and we have had the

opportunity to welcome them into our midst, even as we have benefitted in many ways from the contributions they make to our society. The proposed Charter of Quebec Values seems only to be sending the message that "you are welcome as long as you don't look or act differently from us."

What we should, in my opinion, be striving for is to build a society that is truly welcoming, and that finds strength in our diversity, rather than fearing it and trying to eradicate it. As we welcome this fall season into our midst, and as we welcome each other in our return from summer break time, may we re-commit ourselves to the principle of being welcoming, letting others know that we are striving to build a society where all are welcome, all are valued, and all are free to be who they truly are.

*Scott A. Patton*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Summerlea's Annual Bazaar,  
November 16<sup>th</sup>,  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



### Request for baskets, ribbon, bows

If you have any straw baskets you no longer have a need for, or bows and ribbons, please pass them on to the church bazaar. These items will be very useful to prepare the gift baskets that are very popular at the bazaar.

**The Craft Group** is in need of any type of craft supplies. Please label any donations to the attention of Elizabeth Wightman or Barbara Costello." Thanks.



*These are a few of my favourite things.*



**Julie Andrews just turned 69.**

*She recently made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things" from the legendary movie "The Sound of Music." Below are the actual lyrics she used:*

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillac's and cataracts, and hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favourite things..

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favourite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no need for sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
And we won't mention our short, shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores. Please share Ms. Andrews' clever wit and humour with others who would appreciate it.

### Request for Email Addresses for Newsletters

Some of you who are on our mailing list for "Spirited Summerlea"

Newsletters may already receive your copy electronically if you agreed to it, or if you live outside Lachine. However, in an effort to reduce



paper and mailing costs, we are trying to reach out to more folks who have email. If you are receiving your newsletter by regular mail and would like to receive it via email, please send your email address to Susan Ippersiel at [summerlea\\_united@videotron.ca](mailto:summerlea_united@videotron.ca). We would love to hear from you.

### Food Bank

Please remember to bring in your Food Bank contributions every third week of each month. Canned goods and other non-perishable foods are very much needed and appreciated. The dates of the next Food Sundays are October 20 and November 17.



### Pies

Ah....you know the Fall season is just around the corner when you hear the laughter in the Summerlea kitchen, flour-coated footprints back and forth on the floors, and many helping hands busily preparing yet another batch of pastry, measuring out spices, and/or cooking up meat for our ever-popular tourtieres. 2,434 mini tourtieres have been prepared this year. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped on the production line. Minis are available to purchase any morning, Monday to Friday between 9 & 1pm. Pies are \$8 box (4 minis). Call 514-634-2651.



Volunteers are charging up their energy for **October 24, 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>** when the process begins again to prepare large toutieres. Look for the sign-up sheets early in October.

### Music Notes

Choir practise began again with a breakfast on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> of bagels and cream cheese. We welcome back all returning members and I would like to issue an invitation to anyone in the congregation (or wider community) who would like to try their hand at singing with us, to give me a call at 514-634-6362. We'd love to have you with us. No experience is necessary just the love of singing!"

*Connie Osborne, Music Director*



### Meals on Wheels Annual Meeting

A light lunch and annual meeting for all M.O.W. volunteers and past volunteers will take place in St Andrew's Hall, at Summerlea on **Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** at Noon. Please R.S.V.P. Susan Ippersiel, 514-634-2651 or Pierrette Gregoire, 514-637-6805.



### The Book Nook

#### Paris: The Novel by Edward Rutherford



This book should be on everyone's list of books to read. It is a sweeping, multigenerational saga about love, war, art and intrigue set against the vivid backdrop of the City of Light.

As it moves back and forth in time across the centuries, the story unfolds through intimate tales of self-discovery, divided loyalties, passion, and long-kept secrets of characters both fictional and real. From the building of Notre Dame to the dangerous maneuvers of Cardinal Richelieu; from the glittering court of Versailles to the violence of the French Revolution and the Paris Commune; from the hedonism of the Belle Époque, the era of the impressionists, to the tragedy of the First World War; from the 1920s when the writers of the Lost Generation could be found drinking at Les Deux Magots to the Nazi occupation, the heroic efforts of the French Resistance, and the 1968 student revolt.

I warn you - it very long – but it is such a page-turner that you will not even notice!

#### Confessions of a Fairy's Daughter: A Memoir by Alison Wearing

Alison Wearing had a happy and carefree childhood growing up in the 1970's in sleepy Peterborough, Ontario. Her father was a professor of Political Science and her mother was an accomplished concert pianist and she and her siblings grew up in a very cultured environment. She realized at a young age that her father was different from other dads in the neighborhood, but she was very accepting of his quirks. Yes, he loved to bake, to skip down the street

singing Gilbert and Sullivan and to lounge in silk pajamas, but he was a great Dad.

But when Alison turned twelve, her world as she knew it, turned up side down. Her father came out of the closet and moved to Toronto. Almost unheard of at the time, her father was determined to be a devoted father while coming to terms with his sexual orientation. While her father was “coming out”, Alison “stayed in” for many years, unable to share with her friends what her father was really doing in Toronto. But her father persevered and showered Alison and her siblings with love and attention and eventually she opened up and realized once again that she had a great father and nothing to hide.

Using her father’s journals and letters from this period, we are made aware of the fledgling Gay Rights movement in Toronto and how Canadian society has evolved since that time.

But ultimately, this is a family story. As in most families, there are periods of sadness and happiness and all the emotions in-between. As one reviewer wrote: “With great skill and tenderness and a gorgeously wicked sense of humor, Wearing tells her family’s story from every angle, allowing all to speak with their own voices. This is an important historical document -- a portrait of gay life in the 1980s with its bravely-fought battles for equality -- that doesn’t flinch from showing the collateral damage of homophobia, which still today affects and afflicts the families of so many who are struggling to come out. But it’s also a timeless memoir written by a loving daughter who is finding her own way in the world and learning about the need we all have not just for acceptance, but for true understanding.”

## RECIPE CORNER

### Hearty Chicken Pumpkin Soup

*As the days get shorter and cooler, our bodies seem to need something more substantial than salad! Here is a quick easy soup using leftover chicken but also works well with leftover Thanksgiving turkey!*

#### Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 cup diced celery



- 1 cup diced carrots
- 3 tablespoons minced garlic
- 3 cups cooked shredded chicken breast
- 32 ounces reduced sodium chicken broth
- 15 ounce can pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup 10% cream
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

#### Directions

Heat olive oil in large Dutch oven or pot over medium heat. Add onion, celery and carrots, stirring and cooking for about 15 minutes, until softened. Stir in garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add chicken, chicken broth, pumpkin, cream, salt, pepper, garlic salt and cilantro. Stir to combine. When hot, stir in cheese to melt. Taste and season accordingly with additional seasonings if desired.

Makes 8 Servings

## Ink Cartridge & Battery Recycling

In an effort to contribute to a greener planet, the church has recycling bins situated just outside the church offices. All kinds of cartridges (ink jet, laser, photocopier) can be recycled. We are also recycling old batteries.



## Mile of pennies

We have completed our 24th mile of pennies. As pennies are drying up, we are encouraging everyone to begin collecting nickels towards the next mile. Special thanks to Barbara Davidson who has rolled yet another mile of pennies throughout the year.



Thanks everyone for your support!

## NEWS AND NOTES



Congratulations to **Betty Smith** who celebrated a very special birthday in July...her 95<sup>th</sup>! We wish you a joyful and healthy year Betty!

Congratulations to **Judy Golden and Gerke Ykema** who were married at Summerlea Church on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Barb and Brad Moffat met up with some former Summerlea members while on vacation this summer. **Jeff and Roslyn Griffiths** moved to Scarborough ON nearly 20 years ago. They are both retired, and send their greetings to their old friends at Summerlea. Their two sons are now married, and they have a new grandson and 5 grand-dogs.

During the summer, a new movie screen was installed in St. Andrew's Hall. This was a gift from St. Paul's Anglican Church and we are very grateful to Suzanne Taylor (former People's Warden at St. Paul's) and Ardeth Williams (secretary and equipment person for the diocese) who made all the necessary arrangements for Summerlea to receive the screen as a gift. Their kindness in assisting Summerlea is very much appreciated.

Sadly, during the summer **Archie MacDonald**, formerly of Lachine and most recently Hamilton, Ontario, passed away on July 3<sup>rd</sup> after poor health. He will be remembered by his Summerlea friends as a longtime resident of 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He is survived by his wife Wendy and daughters Fiona and Kathy.

**Ross Clark**, formerly of Lachine, and an adherent of Summerlea Church passed away on July 9<sup>th</sup> in London, On. Ross is survived by his wife Pearl.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Brian Maklan's mother, Lily Maklan** succumbed to her battle with cancer. *Our sympathy extended to their families and their friends.*

**Euan Crabb's mother** died peacefully on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Perth Hospital surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Crabb was 102. The funeral was held in Perth, On. Our condolences to Euan & Ruth and their family.

Please keep those listed in our prayer circle as well as our shut-ins and those in hospital in your thoughts and prayers.

Until the next time,

*Susan Ippersiel*



### Happy Turkey Day!

A biologist called a leading genetics journal to announce his great news: "After years of research, I've found a way to end every argument over who gets the drumstick at Thanksgiving dinner! I'm thinking Nobel Prize! I've bred a turkey with six legs!"

The editor was skeptical. "But how does it taste?"

"I don't know. I can't catch the thing!"

The third-grade teacher asked her class to write a short essay on what they were grateful for on Thanksgiving. Her favorite paper came from a little boy named Timmy, who wrote, "On Thanksgiving, I am glad I am not a turkey."