

# Crosstalk

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PHOTO: MARNI CROSSLEY



Cornerstone threw a fundraising party to celebrate the opening of its new supportive housing residence on Eccles Street on April 17. (Front row L to R) Board chair Mark Holzman; MBC co-owner Pat McDonald; MP Yasir Naqvi; Cornerstone interim executive director Kate Jackson; City councillor Ariel Troster; Martine Dore, Cornerstone program director; Daniel Hussey of Hussey Philanthropic; and Chantal Cadieux, Cornerstone program manager at Eccles. Back row: Bishop Shane Parker, Cahdco president Graeme Hussey

## Three housing projects open and welcome residents home

### Smiths Falls affordable housing project opened on May 2

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Parishioners and clergy from St. John the Evangelist celebrated the opening of a Smiths Falls affordable housing project that they played a key role in creating.

Many gathered for the opening ceremony with representatives of the other partners in this collaborative project—Carebridge Community Support, the federal government, Lanark County and the Town of Smiths Falls—and to tour the building that now offers 34 units of affordable housing at 44 Chambers Street in Smiths Falls.

PHOTO: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS



Twenty-eight of the units are rent-geared-to-income, and the rest are also affordable but at a different rate.

Rob Eves, CEO of Carebridge, a non-profit organization that led the project, told those gathered, “The story behind 44 Chambers is one of perseverance and partnership.... It took a lot of hard work from a lot of people to get this done. But you need to remember though that it’s not just about building a building today, it’s actually providing a home for those who most need it in our communities. And we’ve been lucky

**Tammy Mulrooney (left) represented St. John the Evangelist, which contributed a \$500,000 bequest to the project.**

to hear from a few of the people who have been moving in recently and to hear how happy they are to have 44 Chambers as their new home.”

Introducing Tammy Mulrooney as the representative of St. John’s parish, Eves said, “This all began... with a small, dedicated group that were determined to make a difference in the community by channeling bequeathed funds into affordable housing at Smiths Falls. This is a result of that small conversation that turned into a much larger one that brought many more partners to the table. But if it had never happened ... this building may never have happened.”

► **Smiths Falls project, p. 9**



FROM OUR BISHOP

The path of reconciliation continues to beckon us



BY THE RIGHT REVEREND SHANE PARKER

Our church has consciously chosen to walk the path of reconciliation, enabling Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to form relationships based on mutual respect. Reconciliation is a way of life and many efforts across our diocese to stay on the path and enliven it are commendable.

About 20 years ago, Inuit from Baffin Island were redirected to Ottawa (instead of Montreal) for advanced medical treatments. It is not uncommon to meet an Inuk or to see Inuit families in the city: some live here permanently, some come and go from the North, and others are here for extended periods of time for medical treatments for themselves or family members.

According to the 2021 Canadian census, there are about 46,565 Indigenous People living in Ottawa-Gatineau and approximately 1,730 are Inuit. Many local Inuit question the accuracy of this number—



PHOTO: PHILIPPE OWEN

Deborah Tagornak translates for Bishop Shane at St Margaret's.

suggesting it is 3,000 or as high as 6,000 (the reporting of urban Indigenous Populations in Canadian cities is notoriously unreliable). In any event, our diocese likely holds the largest population of Inuit outside the North. Many have a direct or indirect connection to the Anglican Church—and many know there is an Inuit congregation at Saint Margaret's Church in Vanier, served by the only Inuit Anglican priest in active ministry south of the Diocese of the Arctic.

St Margaret's operates as one parish with two distinct congregations. The Reverend Canon Aigah Attagutsiak serves as the Associate Incumbent at Saint Margaret's, alongside the Incumbent,

the Reverend Colin McFarland. The Inuit congregation functions in Inuktitut, and gathers weekly for Sunday Eucharist and, between September and June, hosts a Sunday Community Meal for parishioners, neighbours, and visitors—as well as large Inuit Community Feasts at Christmas, Easter and Nunavut Day.

Canon Aigah is an integral part of her large family (she is a great-grandmother) and is central to the administrative, liturgical, pastoral and educational ministries of the Inuit congregation at St Margaret's. Inuit parishioners take part in the governance of St Margaret's as a whole, and many are heavily involved in providing services and support to Inuit families and

neighbours in the regional Inuit community. Serving the wider Inuit community is also a major part of Canon Aigah's ministry, as she is a highly visible elder and community leader.

This work is extensive, involving pastoral care to hospital patients and their families residing temporarily in Ottawa, to seniors who have moved here for long term care, and to the loved ones of people who have died in shelters or on the streets. It also involves serving on many Inuit-related committees, boards, and working groups concerned with the well-being of Inuit in the national capital region as a whole.

Our diocese provides full funding for Canon Aigah's position, which makes it possible to have an Inuit congregation at St Margaret's. However, the demands of Inuit ministry in Ottawa are far greater than one person can meet, especially without any Inuktitut-language administrative support.

As we mark National Indigenous Peoples Day in June, I will be convening a consultation to review our approach to Inuit ministry, at St Margaret's and beyond, and to consider how we ought to respond to a clear call to serve a sizeable population who, because of our church's historic relationship with Inuit in the Arctic, look to us for pastoral care, community, and support. The path of reconciliation continues to beckon us, and I know we have a will to follow it in ever-changing ways.

Na'mat allah wa salamoh Ma'akom!

Bishop Shane sent a video greeting to Archbishop Hosam Naoum and Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem assuring them that they are being upheld by their brothers and sisters in the diocese of Ottawa as they prepared for their Majma (diocesan Synod) from May 13 to 16 in Amman, Jordan. His message was translated into Arabic by Petra Ghazleh (above), ADO human resources advisor.

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Welcoming the North American cathedral deans

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



Cathedral deans from across North America gathered in Ottawa April 18-22 for their annual conference. Watch for a reflection on the conference from host Dean Beth Bretzlaff, online in *Perspective*.



Wardens, treasurers and clergy turn out for Learning Commons workshops

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Saturday April 13, Christ Church Bells Corners: the Diocese's Learning Commons brought Finance Director Sanjay Grover and parish leaders together for a training session on governance, safe church and employment issues. Coming in May: books and budgets.

CLERGY NEWS

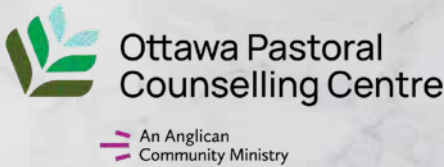


The Rev. Jonathan Askwith has been appointed as Interim Associate Incumbent of the parish of St. Helen's Orleans, effective May 29, 2024.



The Rev. John Holgate has been appointed Incumbent of the parish of St. James, Manotick, effective July 30, 2024.

The Rev. Christine Muise has been appointed as Associate Incumbent of the Parish of the Valley, effective September 1, 2024.



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# New emergency shelter will help Cornerstone meet demand

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Cornerstone Housing for Women’s emergency shelter has successfully moved from its unsatisfactory space on O’Connor Street to a purpose-equipped building on Carling Avenue.

The move immediately increased capacity by 145 per cent—from 61 to 150 beds—also vastly increasing its capacity for services such as case management, counselling, health care and laundry.

The process began in the last week of April. First, all 61 residents of O’Connor St moved. They were followed by 89 more referred from the city’s social distancing and overflow centres who were moved in small groups. Another 15 spaces have been reserved as overflow, to be used when other city shelters are full.

The city operated a family shelter at the location, 2980 Carling Ave., for 20 years. After the city leased a former retirement residence on Corkstown Road and transferred families, it offered the building on Carling Ave to Cornerstone. As it did at O’Connor St., Cornerstone will operate the shelter in a building owned by the city.

The city has seen an unprecedented demand for shelter services, Paul Lavigne, director of the city’s housing services says. “Cornerstone is a key community partner that is helping to ensure women experiencing homelessness are provided with the needed support to stabilize and obtain long-term housing.”

Kate Jackson, Cornerstone’s interim executive director, notes that shelter services have been at the heart of its mission, mandate and values for 40 years. A community ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, the shelter began in the church hall at All Saints Sandy Hill.



PHOTOS: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS



Kate Jackson is Cornerstone's interim director

Along with its many advantages, the new space presents new challenges to Cornerstone. Its community kitchen has gone from preparing 300 meals a day last fall to

1,000 daily at the end of May.

This when food insecurity has been like no other time, including the COVID period, Amber Bramer, Cornerstone director of communications and development says.

In addition to full meal service for 2980 at Carling Ave. the community kitchen supplies the supportive housing residents at the new Eccles St. location as well as Booth St. and some at Princeton Ave.

Even though the Princeton residents have cooking facilities, some can’t afford to buy the food. They can use the food bank only once a month, so they end up falling back on the community kitchen. Water damage to the kitchen at MacLaren Residence created the need for temporary service to another 20 residents.

Fundraising to support the expanded shelter as well as the supportive housing is a continuing challenge since the loss of about \$1 million in government funds last year.

The new building expands Cornerstone's shelter capacity from 61 to 150. An Anglican Community Ministry, Cornerstone began as a few cots in the hall of All Saints, Sandy Hill. It will mark its 40th anniversary on June 9.

There is a standing need to raise \$1.5 million every year in the private sector—\$1 million to support the shelter, the rest for supportive housing. There is about \$250,000 left to raise in the current campaign.

A 40th Anniversary “over the decades” garden party at the home of the Irish ambassador is scheduled for June 9. The fundraiser is an annual fixture on Cornerstone’s calendar.

Bramer says corporate sponsors have stepped up. The Taggart Parkes Foundation provided significant support for the garden at Eccles St. IKEA provided furnishings and bedding. Both are new supporters. The Home Depot, a past donor, returned to help with Eccles St. And the Tides Foundation contributed to the community kitchen.

Both individual donors and corporate partners are not able to be as generous today as they were during the campaign for the Princeton Ave. project in 2018, Bramer says. She thinks it has a lot to do with inflation, particularly the rising cost of food and gasoline.



## Crosstalk

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COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Centre 105 celebrates important renovation

PHOTOS: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Centre 105 hosted a celebration on April 12, thanking the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a \$106,000 capital grant, which has paid for the construction of two accessible washrooms and a shower facility at the drop-in Centre located at Trinity Anglican Church in Cornwall, Ont.

“This project will help improve the health, hygiene, self-esteem of the increasing number of vulnerable citizens in our city of Cornwall,” said Taylor Seguin, the executive director of Centre 105, an Anglican Community Ministry that provides a hot breakfast three days a week, a variety of other supports and a sense of community for hundreds of people who visit it every week.

Justin Towndale, mayor of Cornwall, and MPP Nolan Quinn attended the celebration and offered their congratulations. “Centre 105 is doing such amazing work for our community here and to be able to have the shower, I think that really makes a big difference for the lives of everyone that uses the services here at Centre 105,” Quinn said, adding that it will be a great complement to the washer and dryer that the centre already has and that the accessible washrooms are an extremely important addition.

The Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs, director general of the Anglican Community Ministries, thanked the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the elected officials for their support. “I really want to thank the parish of Trinity Church, Father Adam Brown, and the support and the collaboration that Centre 105 has enjoyed with the parish, and we look forward to that relationship just continuing to deepen.” He also thanked all the staff and volunteers at Centre 105 “who each day, day in and day out, make it all happen.”

Hobbs brought greetings and congratulations from Bishop Shane Parker of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, who wasn’t available to



Centre 105's Ashley Stang brings out celebratory cupcakes.



Renovating Centre 105 had special meaning for Eric Charlebois of Millennial.



The Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs and Taylor Seguin thanked the Rev. Adam Brown and Trinity Church members for collaborating with officials and the Trillium Foundation.

attend the event.

Seguin gave a special shout out to shout out to Matthew Daigle and Shawn Kyer and the whole Millennial Contracting team. “We just want to thank them for their dedication to this project. They've been so awesome to work with.”

Eric Charlebois of Millennial was working on finishing the shower room on the day of the celebration. He told Perspective that working on this project meant a lot to him because only a few years ago he went through a very hard time, became homeless and stayed at The Mission in Ottawa. During the pandemic when restaurants were closed, it was sometimes difficult to find a public washroom.

He talked about the importance of kindness people showed and how much it meant when he took shelter from a rainstorm in the entry of a store and a woman who also stepped in to escape the rain took the time to listen and talk with him. She gave him some money for coffee and food, which was wonderful, he recalled, but “that conversation, to have a stranger listen and to get empathy from the other person, that stuff is life-changing.”

That’s what he sees happening at Centre 105. “There might be 100 people here, but if there's one person in there who leaves thinking ‘That meal, that conversation I had with whoever, that made me last till tomorrow,’ all their efforts have paid off. “At the end of the day, it's kindness, right?,” he said, “to give them a shower, to give them a cot for five hours to sleep on, rather than the ground.”

Working on this project, “makes me feel so good,” Charlebois said. “To be able to help another person, because someone's going to walk in one day here, and they're going to take a shower in the shower that I built, and they're going to sit there and look at themselves in the mirror and think, I feel so much better.”



The Rev. Mark Lewis says parishioners from South Dundas love to volunteer at Centre 105.



Cornwall Mayor Justin Towndale; Millennial's Shawn Kyer and Matthew Daigle; MPP Nolan Quinn; the Rev. Canon PJ Hobbs; the Rev. Adam Brown; Centre 105 board chair Maria Crosby; George Christoff of the Trillium Foundation, and Centre 105 executive director Taylor Seguin.



# Archbishop Chris Harper brings news of the Indigenous Church

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Archbishop Chris Harper made his first visit to the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa since he was named National Indigenous Archbishop in 2022, and it was an action-packed few days. Invited as a guest speaker for the North American Cathedral Deans Conference, he also made time to talk with the All My Relations Circle (see story page 7) and to visit St. Margaret's Anglican Church, including a remarkable cultural exchange with the Inuit congregation.

life perspective or view. I've never, ever claimed to be the wisest or the best at anything and still God called and uses me to proclaim a message of love."

Along the way, he said he has learned "to see that it's not about me, but about what God could do through us, the broken, in the ministry of the church."

The archbishop said parishioners have ministries and callings that are "equally and maybe even more important....You go out back into your home communities. You ... are



The archbishop spoke to the deans about developments in the self-determining Indigenous Church. He explained that healing comes "when we start to walk together in respect, dignity, and understanding, but we need to know each other.... Listening, learning and opening of heart and mind are so important."

When he visited the parish of St. Margaret's, Vanier, he preached at both Sunday morning services. His homily for the English congregation was very personal and offered an opportunity for parishioners to get to know more about him.

He focused on how much God's love and power working in frail humans in the church and individual lives can do. "It's wide enough to reach out and embrace all of our doubts, our denials, and even our rejection," he said.

He spoke about his own experience of trying to avoid and run away from God's call earlier in his life. "God is patient, and ... God is love because God is willing to send out even the likes of me into the God service. A man who needed to experience much, to do much wrong and to be enabled to speak and preach about it again in a true-

the ones who talk to others, leaning over the fence and when you say those words, 'Hey Jim, how are you doing? Oh, really? Okay, well, we'll think about that, we'll pray about that. Well, hey, why don't you come to church with me?' You see how this works? A minister can't do that. You can."

The Inuit congregation of St. Margaret's welcomed Archbishop Harper with a Inuit song and drumming. The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak translated his words into Inuktitut.

The drummer Reuben Komangapik, translated some of the words into English: "I walk through this world, on this land, I step on a piece of rock, and I turn to you. You're stomping your feet. I walk through this land. I step on this rock. I turn to you, and you're understanding. I walk through this land, I step on this rock, now you're following."

The archbishop said he was incredibly honoured by the song, and he in turn, played a recording of a song from his own Plains Cree culture.

"My people are the tall ones with long hair," he said. "But one thing



PHOTOS: PHILIPPE OWEN



**The Parish of St. Margaret's Vanier on April 21 was pleased to worship and chat with Archbishop Harper, who preached at two services. Drummers Timothy Erkloo and Reuben Komangapik, along with clergy the Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak and the Rev. Colin McFarland gave him a special welcome.**

unites us as people of the land. We love to laugh. We love to smile and sing. And we understand what community is all about....We are one in the Creator's love...We are blessed to know the land intimately, so much so we can be called people of the land."

Then, he spoke of shared pain. "Our shared history with the church has been a complicated and broken relationship. For my people of the plains, we have been known as the people with the hair, and when they put our people into the schools, the residential schools, they cut our hair to remind us we are not connected to the land anymore. The symbols we use, whether it be a drum, or the songs we have as a people, the dances, the ceremonies, and even our own traditional food, [we] were told it was wrong."

And the archbishop spoke of new hope: "But the church, much the same as the song, dear brother, learns that it walks on a new land in a new way, where I stepped on a rock, and I look back, and now you follow. Now they have a chance to open their hearts, their minds, and their eyes and to see the songs, the ceremonies we offer back, which

builds the church as it should be, where we sing together and we celebrate together in our languages, in our way of song."

He shared a story of how much this change in the church and the new self-determining Indigenous church means to him. "When I was in school to study to be a priest, one of my best friends was going to be ordained as a priest. I went to his service, and for the first time I smelled the prayers of the land. I saw a feather of prayer being held up, and I heard a drum song of honour being sung. I cried ... because I did not think I would ever live long enough to see that in a church. I cried because I rejoiced, because the church was open enough to listen, to see, and to feel and know our people....

"All of us together. Know there are no limits now. The door has opened in the church to all of us. I see amazing preachers. I hear amazing songs in our languages. And I hear beautiful, beautiful hearts in what we offer together by lifting it up in prayer."

— with files from Jane Waterston



# Archbishop Chris Harper meets with All My Relations Circle

BY DEBBIE GRISDALE

“The Indigenous church has much to teach the wider Anglican church about community and relationship”, said Indigenous Archbishop Chris Harper during a gathering with the All My Relations (AMR) Circle in mid-April.

Members of the circle were graced with an afternoon of the archbishop’s time while he was in Ottawa for a meeting of North American deans. During conversation and prayer, words of welcome and introduction in the languages of Inuktituk, Plains Cree, Cree (from northern Quebec) and Cherokee were heard around the room.

When asked about the self-determining Indigenous Church, the archbishop explained that more hard work lies ahead. After presenting the guiding documents The Covenant and Our Way of Life at General Synod in 2023, the Indigenous leadership is moving on to the development of elements of governance, policies and procedures, liturgy and prayers. He asked for our prayers as this work goes forward.

He spoke about how Indigenous people are struggling for their own identity and often feel like transients in their own lands. Treaties, lands and territories are still not being honoured and efforts to diminish Indigenous peoples are ongoing.



PHOTOS: MARNI CROSSLEY

He described the many challenges the Indigenous church faces within the traditional colonial church. One of the purposes of the Indigenous ministry in the Anglican Church is to be a voice for Indigenous peoples. Challenges lie in the multitude of Indigenous languages and cultures and the vast geography of Canada.

He sees the self-determining Indigenous Church as ‘pivotal and paramount’ and added, ‘We are at a crossroad, and we need to decolonize the way things are done in the Church.’

As part of his many responsibilities Archbishop Chris is also connected internationally. Episcopal and Anglican bishops and clergy in other countries such as the US and Australia are contacting him to ask how the Indigenous Church got started in Canada and to ask that the Indigenous self-determining church share its experience. He will travel to Australia later this year.

The archbishop also described his involvement in the Anglican Indigenous Leadership Initiative (AILI) which is focusing on how current Indigenous leadership can raise up the next generation so that they are prepared to ‘take up the banner.’ The AILI uses a worldview to advance *Te Oranga Ake*, a term in Māori meaning flourishing for all peoples.

## Perth affordable housing project gets land transfer

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

The journey of St. James the Apostle to build affordable housing in Perth took a giant step forward when the town council voted to transfer surplus land for a 15-unit building, as proposed by Carebridge Community Support, the Saumure Group, and Community Housing Initiative Perth (CHIP).

St. James took the initiative two years ago to establish CHIP as representative of the wider Perth community. Since then, CHIP members have worked with the town and Lanark County, overcoming setbacks and obstacles keep the project alive.

The council’s vote to transfer the land allowed the CHIP group just enough time to meet a deadline for a proposal to Lanark County for capital funding of up to \$1.5 million for groups wishing to create new affordable housing.

The Rev. Canon Ken Davis, rector of St. James, says while 15 units are a ‘drop in the bucket’ compared to the number of people waiting for help, it’s a tremendous start for marginalized residents.

He says people don’t realize how desperate the situation is—like people without proper housing keeping warm overnight in ATM foyers at local banks or living in their cars in parking lots.

He also says it’s frustrating when rent subsidies are available from the county, but the funds can’t be used because of the lack of available housing.

“Our hope is to help town leaders see the needs in Perth for those who don’t have a safe and affordable place to live,” Davis says. “Once we succeed, with cooperation from the town, the county and the neighbourhood, we hope it can be a model for others.”

CHIP Co-Chair Dave Kroetsch of

St. James says the group is grateful for the town’s decision. “Mayor Judy Brown and Councillors Gary Waterfield and Isabel-Anne McRae have supported our cause for close to a year and a half. It’s another step towards providing safe and healthy housing for some of the hundreds of residents in need, including single seniors, those on disability pensions or single-parent families.”

Following the council’s decision, Carebridge Community Support technically became owner of the land at 63 Halton St, with the Saumure Group as builders and CHIP as advisors and fundraisers.

An extensive planning process has begun to address public concerns, drainage, traffic, the environment, and zoning to prepare a final site plane for town approval.

Robert Eves, CEO of Carebridge, says there has been community opposition to the size and type of

the project. “To ensure a successful outcome, it’s imperative we have robust public consultation and that we establish a strong partnership with the municipality.”

Eves explains that 15 units is the break-even point and the more units built, the less expensive each unit is. One contributing factor is that Perth council did not support CHIP’s original request for a 20-year suspension of taxes for the building. For the similar-purpose building on Chambers Street in Smiths Falls, supported by St. John the Evangelist, the Smiths Falls council approved a 20-year tax abatement to help with funding.

Lanark County’s 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan provided a set of recommendations on incentives including: full or partial waivers of development fees, expediting development reviews and waiving or reducing property taxes for a period of time. [chip-housing.ca](http://chip-housing.ca)

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# Hollyer House opens its doors in Bells Corners

PHOTOS: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Bells Corners is a better community today after the official opening of Hollyer House with its 35 units of affordable housing and a hub for food, health and social services.

The project is rooted in the outreach culture of Christ Church Bells Corners and parishioners were out in force, full of pride and joy, to see the realization of their vision.

After parishioner John Hollyer left a modest bequest that provided the seed money to get the project started the parish joined in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa (ADO), later partnering with the non-profit developer Cahdco and gaining funding from the City of Ottawa and CMHC.

Cathy Cohen, Mr. Hollyer's niece, did her uncle proud by cutting the ceremonial ribbon to declare the building open.

Speakers at the opening ceremony riffed on the theme that Hollyer is a shining example of what can be accomplished when people and organizations pull together in common cause.

Archdeacon Canon Monique Stone, rector of CCBC, said as many as 200 organizations and 2,000 people had been involved one way or another in the bringing a dream to reality.

Nepean MP Chandra Arya said it is a perfect example of what can be done when governments work together.

To Nepean MPP Lisa MacLeod it is a reminder of what makes a good community.

For Laine Johnson, councillor for College Ward, it is a precedent showing what faith-based efforts can produce – perhaps a new paradigm for affordable housing.

Leigh Couture, executive director of Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre (WOCRC), with prime space on the ground floor, said Hollyer represents a significant



Jeremy Leblanc, chair of the FAMSAC board, shows off well-stocked shelves.



PHOTO: DAVID HUMPHREYS

Cathy Cohen, John Hollyer's niece, cuts the ribbon.

milestone for the organization as it faces an ever-rising demand for accessible services.

Erin Coffin, a director of the FAMSAC Food Cupboard, also in its new ground floor location, was mindful that FAMSAC is 100 per cent volunteer-run. She noted that Hollyer is its sixth home in 10 years.

Bishop Shane Parker reminded those gathered that Christians are

called to love and compassion. It is a great privilege as Anglicans, he said, to open our resources to the benefit of the community.

Christ Church Bells Corners has been doing just that for decades. In 1984, the parish joined with three other local congregations to found a non-profit corporation that went on to develop Harmer House, a 60-unit residence for seniors that opened in 1986 and still has a waiting list today.

Victor Wehrle, one of several parishioners with long memories, recalls that in 2005 the parish voted to allocate 10 per cent of offerings to community outreach.

As a legacy of that decision today, treasurer Margaret Thomas reports that the parish has contributed more than \$240,000 to Hollyer House.

Wehrle and many others were at their stations on opening day to show visitors around. They were, he said, striving to live out their faith. "A big part of that is, What can we do to make our city a better place? Hollyer House will make a difference."

He already has an idea for a new



Archdeacon Monique Stone welcomes CCBC parishioners for a tour of Hollyer House.

project—working with residents to develop a community garden that will enhance the beauty of the location but, more important, it will provide social interaction to the benefit of residents and the community.

Immediately, Hollyer is providing a mix of studio, one, two and three bedroom units to meet the needs of priority groups including families, seniors, newcomers, refugees, and women and children transitioning from supportive housing.

One third of its residents will come from the City of Ottawa's Social Housing Registry waiting list. One third will come from Cornerstone Housing for Women and Chrysalis House women's organizations. And one third will come from a waiting list of people in the broader Ottawa community who have need of affordable housing.

The architect for the building is Hobin Architecture with construction by Warlyn Contruction Ltd. Website: [www.hollyerhouse.ca](http://www.hollyerhouse.ca)



(Left) Christ Church Bells Corners parishioners gather to check out a kitchen in one of the new units in Hollyer House.  
(Above) Bishop Peter Coffin with Christ Church parishioners admire the view from one of the units.



# Cornerstone celebrates the opening of Eccles Street residence

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

On April 17, Cornerstone Housing for Women officially opened a new supportive residence at 44 Eccles Street.

“Cornerstone is very proud to be opening our fifth residential housing building. This month we will be welcoming 46 women and gender diverse individuals into a permanent home,” interim executive director Kate Jackson said, welcoming a crowd of supporters to a festive ribbon-cutting and fundraising event at the building.

“It takes a community to make something like this happen,” she said, offering special thanks to the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation, the City of Ottawa, MacDonald Brothers Construction, CADCO, and CSB Architect.

The building has been converted from an office building into residential housing adapted specifically for Cornerstone’s supportive housing model with common space to gather and office space on the main floor.

Ann Chaplin, a member of the Cornerstone board of directors, told Crosstalk that she had memories of doing her bar exams in the basement of the building when it was used by the law society. She said she was happy to see what had seemed like a soulless place at that time transformed into supportive housing that will be vibrant and full of soul.

MP Yasir Naqvi also shared memories of writing his bar exams in the building. “I did not know



**Bishop Shane Parker congratulates Cornerstone at the opening of the Eccles Street residence.**

back then that one day this building which started as a girls’ elementary school would be repurposed to build 46 housing [units] for women.... This is a great shining example of conversion, of turning a commercial or educational use building into residential housing, something [City councillor Ariel Troster] and I are working to do more of in our downtown core, so we can create more housing, more affordable housing, more supportive housing for people in our community.”

Cornerstone is an Anglican Community Ministry, and Bishop Shane Parker of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa reflected on how it began 40 years ago as a few cots in a church basement “when a group of people in Sandy Hill, people of faith and goodwill, began to listen



**Former Cornerstone resident and now a volunteer Alaina praises Cornerstone's ability to change lives.**

and see what was happening in the community around them. And more importantly, they began to act to address it,” he said.

“There are many people who look with compassion and see what’s going on in our community and want to help. It was our great, great privilege to welcome everyone in to the work of compassion and care and justice and kindness. And that’s why we’re here today. Thank you all for sharing in this.”

More inspiration came from remarks made by Alaina, a former Cornerstone resident, who is now a member of the outreach program and “an advocate for all things Cornerstone because I think it’s a really important part of our community and has been a part of my life.”

She shared that after moving to Ottawa in 2019, “I didn’t have anywhere to go, I and a lot of the shelters were unsuitable. I called Cornerstone and they gave me a home.” She spoke of how Cornerstone accompanied her to the trial of her assault and supported her through the losses of two service dogs. She now lives independently and supports herself with a job at Loblaws.

Cornerstone helps “so many women like me live fulfilling lives. And I just want to thank each and every one of you for being here and for being a part of helping each and every woman that’s about to move in here live a life that has so much support and so many people rooting for them.”

## ► Smiths Falls project, from p. 1

The federal government contributed \$3.7 million from an Affordable Housing Fund (AHF); Lanark County contributed \$2.9 million, and another \$10,000 came from the Town of Smiths Falls, which is also providing a tax abatement for about 20 years to help the maintain these units as deeply affordable housing.

Mulrooney said that the church’s donation of \$500,000, which came from a generous bequest, was more than a financial contribution to the project. For the parish, it is a symbol of their dedication to creating a more inclusive and compassionate society. “Affordable housing is not merely about providing shelter, it’s about fostering communities, nurturing hope, and ensuring dignity for all. At St. John’s, we hold these values close to our hearts, and it’s a privilege to see them manifest in projects like this one.”

She thanked everyone involved “our parishioners past and present, the organizing committees,



**(Left) The Rev. Canon Catherine Ascah (centre) and parishioners of St. John the Evangelist enjoy a tour of the new affordable housing facility that they helped build. (Right) Smiths Falls Mayor Shawn Pankow and the Rev. Thomas Brauer of St. John the Evangelist discuss the challenge of housing.**



volunteers, local authorities, and all those who have supported us along the way. Your collective efforts have transformed dreams into bricks and mortar, and today we see the culmination of our shared aspiration.”

Addressing the residents of the building, Mulrooney said, “Know that you are not just occupants of a building. You are integral members of a vibrant and caring community. Your presence enriches our town,

and we welcome you with open arms.”

In closing, she added, “let us remember that our work does not end here. As stewards of compassion and agents of change, let us continue to strive for a society where housing is not a luxury, and but a fundamental right for all.”

The Rev. Thomas Brauer, Incumbent of St. John’s, said the parish hopes to continue to play a role in serving the residents and

building a sense of community. Although the church building is too far from 44 Chambers to serve as a gathering or social space for residents, particularly if they have mobility issues (eight of the units are fully accessible), Brauer said the parish is talking with a food hub, which is slated to open across the road from 44 Chambers this summer, about partnering and possibly using their facilities for programming.



PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas ACW supports the Stittsville Food Bank

BY MARY ANNE REINHARD

St. Thomas Stittsville members have been supporters of the local food bank through food and monetary donations for many years. The ACW (Anglican Church Women) invited Theresa Quadri, the manager of the Stittsville Food Bank, to be our guest speaker at our January 20024 meeting. The Stittsville Food Bank is seeing the same increase in need that many other organizations are experiencing. After her presentation, we asked if a clothing cupboard was needed, and she said yes right away.

This is how the Nearly New Clothing drive and sale began. Pam Hazen coordinates a small team of women who meet weekly to sort the clothes and package them to store until the sale. The community of Stittsville has been extremely generous supplying about 90 percent of the clothing, shoes, and accessories that we have available.

The day before the sale a larger team of ACW volunteers arrive to set out the merchandise and prepare for the sale. A nominal fee of \$1 or less is charged for these clothing items.

The food bank hands out small postcard sized advertisements to anyone who uses the food bank. The clients then present their advertisement as they enter the church hall or as they pay. It is a



“John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’”

— Luke 3:11 (NIV)

Left: Working on sorting clothes and at the sale are Mary Anne Reinhard, Pam Hazen, Arlene Simonovich and Diane Clement.



The ACW Nearly New Clothing sale took place April 8 & 9.

small core of women that work at the actual sale, and we maintain the dignity and confidentiality of those who enter our doors.

Our first sale was held March 12. That morning, Hazen read from a book of daily prayers and the entry for the day focused on Pope Gregory’s efforts to live a life that emphasized respect and dignity for others. The book’s thought for the day was “Support a local food ministry with your time and financial gifts.” As we prepared for the sale, it seemed that God was guiding their work.

More than 500 items of clothing went to those in need. This is being provided as a service and not as a fundraiser. Many members of the food bank have expressed their anticipation and thanks for this opportunity.

We are still receiving donations from the parish and community and have been overwhelmed by the generosity of donors, many of whom have told us that they are happy to support this worthy cause. As we fill up many nooks and crannies in the church hall area, we look forward to each monthly sale. We have expanded our opening hours to offer more opportunities for the food bank members to attend.

Another sale is planned for June.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Well done, thou good and faithful servant

Jim Beckett recently retired as the Rector’s Warden in the Parish of North Dundas. He had served in this capacity for over 20 years. Jim has demonstrated great leadership abilities as the congregation made the transition from having three churches, St. Peter’s in South Mountain, Holy Trinity in Chesterville and St. Matthias in Winchester, with the congregation currently worshipping at St. Clare’s located at 2530 Falcone Lane on the outskirts of Winchester.

Following the Easter service, Jim was presented with a token of appreciation from the congregation which he is holding in the photo.

Rector’s Warden Arlene Armstrong, People’s Warden Sandra Weagant, Jim Beckett and the Reverend Stephanie McWatt, incumbent of St. Clare’s Anglican Church.



Charity flows in Richmond

In recent months, St. John the Baptist Church, Richmond has made the first Sunday of every month Food Bank Sunday, when donations are gathered for the local food bank. Parishioners have been keen to donate and help out.

(L to R) The Rev. Alan Gallachan, Paul Langman, Wendy Brown, Christine Ormsby and Eunice Goodenough.



CLERGY REFLECTION

“Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be.”

BY THE VEN. PETER CROSBY

Some books read like a good visit with a trusted soul friend. *The Gift of Years, Growing Old Gracefully* by Joan Chittister is one of those books. Chittister shares spiritual wisdom, grounded in her own senior-hood, and in a life of Benedictine religious community, writing, broadcasting, public speaking, and activism. *The Gift of Years* is not a how-to book for older adults about their finances, wills or health. It is not “Senior-hood for Dummies.” It is less about information and more about our continued formation into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Chittister looks honestly and hopefully at issues and challenges of aging. She has a gift for seeing blessings and opportunities hidden in what we might label as our problems.

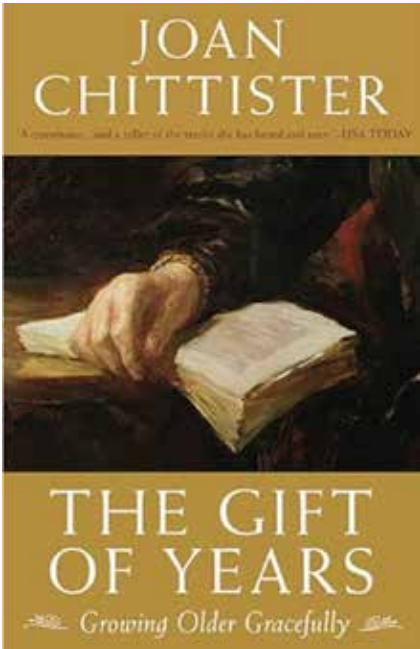
According to Chittister, the spiritual task of senior-hood is embracing the blessing of the years and overcoming their burden. The mental and spiritual attitudes we bring to the changes that come with advancing age will determine who we become as we grow older. Our senior years can grant a unique perspective on the whole of our lives, previously unavailable to us at earlier stages, providing opportunities for meaning, healing and deeper growth.

The book is organized into 40 short topical chapters, each of a length well suited for a time of quiet personal reflection, journaling and prayer, or perhaps shared in a small group with others. While the chapters can be read in any order, it seems fitting that Chittister begins with the topic of ‘Regret’



The Venerable Peter Crosby is a retired priest of the Diocese. The quotation above is from a poem by Robert Browning.

and concludes with ‘Legacy.’ Her book is full of memorable lines. She describes regret as “one of the ghosts of aging,” and “a sand trap for the soul.” The “should haves” (should have done this or that) is a “direct road to depression” and “damps the glow of what we did do.” We risk devaluing who we, in fact, are and by implication, doubt the One who made us and accompanies us. With an eye to hidden graces, Chittister invites us to see that even our regret for ways in which we have hurt, wronged or failed others, is an affirmation that we are not longer that person, we have grown and changed. Acceptance and honouring of the roads that have brought us to where we are now, gives us the possibility of seeing our new roads (changes) as “full of God-ness,” as were our past roads. Twinges of regret are a “step over point” in life, inviting a reconsideration of past ideals, motives, and relationships. For Chittister, the goal is always



seeking the fullness of life God wants for each of us. In the “Outreach” chapter, Chittister underscores the harmful isolation suffered by many seniors (especially some of our most elderly). However, she also affirms the importance of our choices: “We need to go out to the rest of the world, rather than wait for the world to come to us.” She describes “generativity” as “the act of giving ourselves to the rest of the world,” and declares that it is the most important function of old age. One might also call this giving back or paying it forward. She quotes studies which have shown that widening our social circles through involvement with others, and by serving and helping within our capacities is the key factor in successful aging (i.e. overall wellness, happiness, wholeness). As we look at our Church and society, we see many seniors, from the “young old” to the elderly

in key volunteer roles, serving as caregivers to both the young and the old, sharing gifts, talents, knowledge and wisdom. Our Christian Scriptures teach us that it is in giving that we receive. We are blessed in order to bless. Our local parish churches are uniquely placed to facilitate life-giving divine and human connections, as well as serving as portals for various forms of helping ministries (both giving and receiving). The chapters in *The Gift of Years* explore a wide range of topics from fear to newness; nostalgia, loneliness, appreciation and faith, along with many others. The introduction “The Purpose of Life” and the afterward “The Twilight Times” are both well worth reading. The shortest chapter is the last one, and arguably the most important. For Chittister, “Legacy” is not about money or possessions, but about how we have impacted others, and the world, through our actions and our attitudes. In our senior years, we have both the vision and the wisdom to see to it that our legacy is what we want it to be. Now is the time to do something about that. If you are young, it is never too early to start! There is nothing naïve or Pollyanna-like about Chittister’s understanding of the last portion of our lives. The grace needed to sustain us and keep us growing in Christ is to be found within our burdened and blessed human condition. Put the kettle on, pour yourself a cuppa, and spend some time with Joan Chittister as a soul friend and companion on the journey.

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SCAN ME



# Saying goodbye and thanks to the Youth Internship Program

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

In the fall, youth ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa will be taking a new direction that aims to engage a broad spectrum of youth throughout the diocese. More information about that plan will be coming in the months ahead, but part of this change in direction is also the ending of the Youth Internship Program (YIP). The program began in 2016 and was focused on providing quality internships to about 12 youth from across the diocese each year.

Bishop Shane Parker thanked Donna Rourke, youth animator for the diocese, for the wise and sensitive leadership and mentoring she gave to the young people in her care. “When I became Bishop, Donna quickly ensured that I was brought into the orbit of the interns, and I was struck by how she seemed to be both present and invisible—and always seemed to find the right balance of leadership, which set a very freeing tone for the interns and me as I answered their probing questions.”

He added that he was also struck by “the positive energy Donna exudes and by her firm belief in the ministry she was doing. That conviction contributed to the key successes of YIP and certainly touched the lives of interns over the years.”

Reflecting on her role, Rourke said, “The privilege has been mine to manage and coordinate this program, working with the 102 incredible young adults who applied, were interviewed and discerned their gifts for YIP.”

The program involved a tremendous amount of collaboration, and Rourke thanked all those who participated in the program in a multitude of capacities. “Thirty-two of our amazing clergy have participated either as part of the faith formation team, in a leadership session, or as a mentor, supervisor or member of the advisory committee. We have had some of the most gifted facilitators deliver leadership sessions and work placements have included: 18 parish placements across our diocese, Carleton University, UOttawa, KAIROS, PWRDF, Citizen for Public Justice, the All My Relations Circle, L’Arche, Ottawa Police Services, youth division, the national planning team for CLAY, Centre 454, food banks, the Royal Ottawa, Extencicare, and Habitat for Humanity.”

She extended her heartfelt thanks to “our funders, the dream team, the advisory committee, our faith formation team, leadership facilitators, incredible mentors, workplace supervisors. “Thank you for helping me to accompany these



PHOTO: THE VEN. CHRIS DUNN

## Donna Rourke

amazing young people. Thank you for caring for them and about them and for supporting this programme. We could not have done it without you.”

She had a special message to all of the interns. “Thank you for participating in YIP. Everyone one of you taught me something and has made me a better person. Remember, you are loved, you are needed and you have many

gifts to offer the world. You are so important in my eyes and more importantly in God’s eyes! You are, exactly the way you are, absolutely one of God’s masterpieces!”

As YIP co-ordinator, Rourke has poured her heart and countless hours and effort into making each intern’s experience a positive and transformative one. As a testament to that, *Crosstalk* has received many tributes to the program and to Donna. We only have space to quote from some of the messages from participants, but we hope these excerpts will convey the essence of the love expressed.

## Robert Woods

YIP helped me see how my faith can inform my engagement with my community through my work with All My Relations. I learned the valuable skills of responsibility, clear-communication, and an openness to others. I know that I now have a strong foundation to be able to embody my Christian spirituality in my future career(s). Donna is the reason for the beautiful and powerful character of YIP that has been witnessed in our church. She truly cares for the personal, spiritual, and career development of all the youth in the church.

## Olivia Pelling

I first came across YIP and met Donna Rourke, the amazing woman spearheading it in 2016. At the time, I was a new volunteer youth ministry leader at St. Helen’s Anglican Church in Orleans. Donna came to tell us about YIP....We immediately had youth interested. Every year following, we had youth sign up to participate in this transformative program. Seeing the immense growth in the five youth who ... participated,,, I knew that YIP was a deep fruit-bearing program. Two of the St. Helen’s youth who participated in YIP went on to become further involved in youth ministry and all hold dear their time spent with YIP and with Donna.

## Isabel Macfarlane

As an intern with the original YIP cohort back in 2016, it’s amazing to think of how many young people have received invaluable work and life experience through this program. My time as a YIP intern with KAIROS Canada was instrumental in helping me determine what to pursue in university and was a fantastic learning opportunity. Donna’s exemplary leadership made for an accessible, engaging experience, and her work will surely have a lasting impact on the lives of former YIP participants.

## Calum Douglas

Through YIP, I met friends and mentors with whom I still communicate today. And I learned and refined skills which have served me well in my continuing university career. I will fondly remember the YIP retreat in autumn 2019, hurriedly learning songs on the guitar to play around the campfire.

## Alexis Udechukwu

Donna’s dedication, passion, and mentorship have not only shaped the program but have also equipped us with invaluable life skills essential for adulthood. Through YIP, I’ve gained practical skills in communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership.... The connections I made as an intern three years ago have grown into friendships and professional networks that continue to improve my personal and professional life.

## Sydney Sharpe

YIP has given me opportunities and opened doors for me that wouldn’t be possible without it. It has given me a new perspective. YIP came to me when I was going through a hard time and gave me a community and a sense of belonging. Donna has been a pillar of the program and my life for the time that I’ve known her. She has given me the hope, support and strength to make the next step in my journey.





(Clockwise from top left) The Rev. Arran Thorpe and Colman Brown; Sydney Sharpe and Sidney Thompson; Lin Anjali; a faith formation group; Maritsa Odabashian and Lauren Paré; Allison Soler, Stephon Farrow and Julien Brunelle.

**Emily Walker**  
The Youth Internship Program (YIP) ... has been a meaningful, soul-nourishing, and educational opportunity for everyone involved.... The program's design including education sessions, the choice of a career or spiritual mentor, weekly check ins, supportive supervision, a dedicated prayer team to pray over concerns, and an eight-month work placement selected based on each individual intern's skills and interests was the foundation of the program's incredible success. However, the most impactful part of YIP was the

community created around it. I was a YIP intern at the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) where I worked with their youth council bringing the idea of a social justice podcast series to life.... As a first-year student at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law, my time at PWRDF still comes up on almost every job application. [It] allows me to prove demonstrated interest in social justice, crafting compelling narratives, and public speaking.... [Donna] is a fantastic listener, always has sage advice, and names

all of the good and beautiful things inside you making them burn even brighter.... Ultimately, she embodies the love of Christ in every virtual, physical, and in-between space she occupies.  
**Maritsa Odabashian**  
Donna's leadership style is remarkably personal and professional, deeply resonating with every participant. Her direct involvement with us, her genuine interest in our stories and her commitment to our individual growth have been nothing short of

inspirational. Professionally, Donna has a unique ability to unearth and cultivate each participant's strengths, encouraging us to step out of our comfort zones and seize new opportunities with confidence.... This program has been pivotal in shaping my aspirations, including my journey towards medical school, by instilling in me the confidence and skills needed to pursue my dreams.  
Stay updated on diocesan led youth activities here: <https://ottawa.anglican.ca/what-we-do/programs-partnerships/youth-activities-programs/>



## WARM UP AT AMICA THE GLEBE

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DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

St. John the Evangelist, Lancaster  
Deanery of East Ontario

Irony, History and  
Demography

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD

At first, we do not see that we are being watched. But sooner or later we notice the clergyman staring directly at us. He is sitting in the chancel of Saint John the Evangelist Church, Lancaster. Wearing a surplice and stole, he almost appears to be part of the furnishings in this remarkable and unexpectedly lavish Anglican house of worship. It is by no means the end of surprises connected with this unusual church.

It is one of the ironies of early settlement in the Diocese that in all of Glengarry County, next door to where the earliest Anglican mission was established at Cornwall, there was no Church of England mission or church during the first century of settlement. Ironic, yes. But hardly surprising for anyone who knows their history. When the United Empire Loyalists were being settled here in the 1780s, colonial officials were concerned to settle like settlers with one another, to prevent conflict breaking out among groups who were intended to form a bulwark against the expansionist designs of the new republic just across the Saint Lawrence.

Hence Charlottenburg Township, located closest to the border with Québec, filled with Scottish Roman Catholics, while next to it, Lancaster was filled with Scottish



DIOCESAN ARCHIVES 51 L5 3

Presbyterians. As a result, there were almost no Anglicans in Glengarry County until the railways began shunting local families out west and bringing other settlers in at the end of the nineteenth century.

In 1894, it was suggested a mission in Glengarry be formed, based either at Alexandria or Lancaster. By 1897, a Glengarry mission had been set apart. It was due to the initiative of (and the funds provided by) Charlotte McLennan that the frame Saint John the Evangelist Church was built near the village of Lancaster in 1898 in memory of her husband John who

died in 1893.

Saint John's Church, Lancaster was consecrated by Bishop Charles Hamilton on 29 January 1899. In 1906, a rectory at Lancaster was completed. From 1899 to 1928, Lancaster belonged to the Mission of Glengarry, with outstations at Alexandria and Bainsville.

The design of Saint John's must have been a shock for local Presbyterians in Lancaster Township, used to large houses of worship devoid of ornamentation. In contrast with the simple pointed windows on the exterior, the interior was lavishly decorated. Below the stage-like proscenium

arch of the chancel, we see a profusion of lilies and Easter flowers. We are blinded by the elaborate wall decoration, the sumptuous frontal with its contrasting rich superfrontal and very fine fabric inserts in the battlemented reredos showing Our Saviour, Saint John the Evangelist, Saint David, and attendant angels. What are we to make of the chancel window? Are the electric lights in the chancel responsible for the centre panel of the window appearing dim? Or, is this a doctored photograph, with a design penciled in in hopes of a memorial window being placed there? Who can say? We estimate the date to be circa 1950.

In 1928, Saint John's moved to the Parish of Iroquois which also contained Dixon's Corners, Haddo and Iroquois. In 1943, the parish was renamed Iroquois & Glengarry. In 1945, Lancaster was transferred to the Parish of Cornwall & Glengarry which included the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cornwall and Saint John's, Lancaster. Two years later its affiliation with Cornwall was recognized, as the parish was renamed Cornwall & Lancaster.

*The Diocesan Archives collects parish registers, vestry reports, service registers, minutes of groups and committees, financial documents, property records (including cemeteries and architectural plans), insurance policies, letters, pew bulletins, photographs and paintings, scrapbooks, parish newsletters, and unusual documents.*

Trinity church hosts Good Seed Sunday

PHOTO: DANIEL DESGROSEILLERS

BY NANDY HEULE

"We need to think about what we can personally do to protect the environment," says Max Le Moine, after attending Good Seed Sunday just a day prior to Earth Day on April 21 at Trinity Anglican Church in Ottawa.

Le Moine, an industrial design student at Carleton University, adds that worship focused on creation care can help Christians to start talking about the environment. For example, he asks, "How can I move industrial design to be more sustainable?" Le Moine regularly attends the Connect service on Sunday afternoons at Trinity on Cameron Ave. The service is led by Paul and Evelyn Mugarura with Archdeacon Mark Whittall, who invited A Rocha Canada to facilitate the Earth Day celebration.

Paul Heintzman, a volunteer leader with A Rocha Ontario, says Good Seed Sunday asks participants to reflect on creation and can reinforce the principles



**Volunteers work at the A Rocha garden on the uOttawa campus last summer. The veggies are donated to Innercity Ministries.**

**Left to right: Callum Barker, Amber Lammers, Talia Kennedy, Paul Heintzman, Tabea De Vries.**

of Biblical creation care. "We are asked to be stewards of creation all of our lives," he says. "I pray Christians will take stewardship of creation seriously."

Unlike Christian organizations focused mostly on political activism, A Rocha Canada asks its volunteers to be "hands-on," to get involved in conservation and stewardship activities, says Heintzman. A Rocha volunteers work as "citizen scientists," to monitor loons, Monarch butterflies and frogs in the Ottawa-Gatineau region. They also organize nature walks and maintain a garden at University of Ottawa which produces veggies for the Ottawa Innercity Ministry. A Rocha is an international Christian conservation organization with projects in the global South and North.

Daniel Godfrey, also a student at Carleton University who attended the worship service and potluck supper afterwards, says "There's no time too late to get started" when it comes to looking after the environment.



# CALENDAR

June 1

**Tailgate sale and used books!**  
9 am – 2 pm at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church (537 Quebec Rte 105, Chelsea, Quebec)  
30+ vendors selling treasures from their car trunks! Lots of great stuff! Huge used-books sale, home-baking, quail preserves, Gatineau Valley Gardeners' plant sale ... and more!  
Vendors must pre-register: \$25 until May 31, then \$30 cash on entry. For buyers, no entry fee. Email: [SMMtailgatesale@gmail.com](mailto:SMMtailgatesale@gmail.com) or phone (819) 827-0694  
More Info: <http://smmchelsea.com/>

**St. Helen's Fine Art Fair**  
10 am to 3 pm at St. Helen's Anglican Church, (1234 Prestone Dr., Orleans).

**Celebration!**  
10 am to 4 pm at St. James, Manotick (1138 Bridge Street, Manotick)  
Come explore and learn in our new Indigenous Minaadendamowin Healing Garden, created as one of our efforts toward truth and reconciliation in our community. Ottawa Doors Open and our church will have a self-guided map available to let you stroll and have a moment of reflection as you learn a little about our history which dates to 1876. We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers all afternoon, and



PHOTO: THE VEN. CHRIS DUNN

there will be delicious rhubarb crisps for sale. The Kiwanis of Manotick will also be celebrating the founding of Manotick — Dickinson Day—all day Saturday with craft and food vendors. For more information: [office@stjames-manotick.ca](mailto:office@stjames-manotick.ca)

**June 9**  
**Over the Decades: Celebrating 40 years of Cornerstone Housing for Women**  
2 pm to 5 pm (291 Park Road)

Celebrate Cornerstone's 40th anniversary at a garden party at the residence of the Irish ambassador. Dress your favorite decade!

**June 21**  
**National Indigenous Peoples Day**

**June 21-25**  
**Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival**  
Mādahòki Farm; (4420 West Hunt Club Road Ottawa)

Competition Pow Wow June 24-25. Drummers and dancers from across North America. Mādahòki Farm is the year-round home of an Indigenous marketplace selling products made by Indigenous artisans and the permanent home of a small but growing herd of endangered Ojibwe Spirit horses. <https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/>

## Living in the Age of the Spirit

BY PATRICIA BAYS AND  
CANON PAT JOHNSTON

St. Aidan's Church, Ottawa, was the setting April 26 and 27 of a Quiet Time led by Sister Elizabeth Ann of the Anglican Sisters of St. John the Divine. Her theme "Living in Age of the Spirit" encouraged us to reflect on images of the Holy Spirit and to listen for the leading of the Spirit in our lives. We were challenged to consider what we need to let go and what we need to keep in order to be the Church in today's world. How is the Spirit calling us to respond to the needs of the world, and where are the signs of hope? Participants had time for quiet reflection, for walking the labyrinth, for writing a prayer, and for conversations over lunch. We enjoyed learning more about the Sisterhood. About 30 participants came from several parishes in our diocese.  
Before she entered the convent, Sister Elizabeth Ann studied forestry and worked in horticulture. This background helped her bring alive the Sunday morning Gospel at St. John the Evangelist, Ottawa, where she was the guest preacher. Jesus' words "I am the vine, you are the branches" came alive for the congregation. After the Eucharist,

congregation members had the opportunity to visit with Sister Elizabeth Ann and learn a little more about life in the Anglican Sisterhood.  
The event was sponsored by the Ottawa group of Associates of the Sisterhood. The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, founded in Toronto in 1884, is a monastic community within the Anglican Church of Canada. It is a community shaped by a life of prayer, community and service. Over the 140 years, the Sisterhood has worked in variety of settings—hospitals, schools, spiritual direction—responsive to the needs of the world. The Convent in Toronto hosts retreats and quiet days, and the Sisters have an active ministry of prayer and service. Associates are men and women, lay and ordained, who are members of a parish community and who seek to deepen their life in Christ by following a Rule of Life in association with the Sisters. The Rule of Life is a framework of prayer, worship, study and service to help us live out the promises made at our baptism. There are Associates all across Canada, including here in Ottawa. Look for a display about the Sisterhood at Diocesan Synod.

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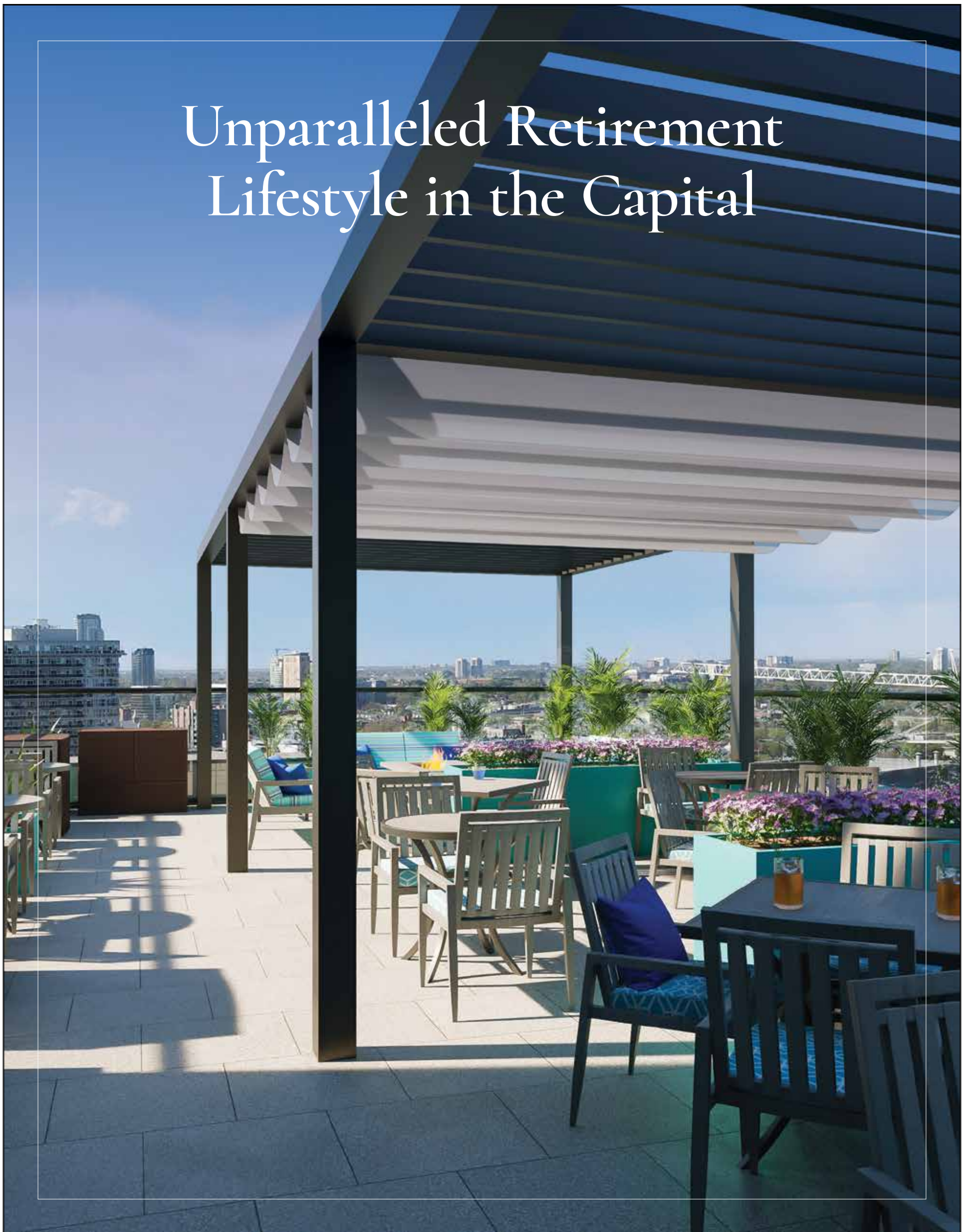
\*Research conducted by Willful and Arbor Memorial Inc. in a 2020 survey.



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