

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

October 2024



Are you honest and truthful in all that you say and do? Do you maintain strict integrity in business transactions and in your dealings with individuals and organizations? Do you use money and information entrusted to you with discretion and responsibility? Taking oaths implies a double standard of truth; in choosing to affirm instead, be aware of the claim to integrity that you are making.

Advices and Queries #37

Upcoming Events and Announcements

A Thanksgiving potluck will be held at the Meeting House on Monday, October 14th at 1 p.m. Bring your leftovers (or something else!) and enjoy an afternoon with Friends. Everyone is welcome.

PSAC will meet online at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15. Please use the regular Meeting for Worship Zoom link.

The next Quaker Education Session will be on Sunday, October 20, beginning at noon. Participants are welcome to bring a lunch.

The next meeting of the Reading group will be on Sunday, October 27, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in our Zoom space. We are reading Thomas King's *The Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative*, from the [CBC 2003 Massey Lecture Series](#). This month, we will be discussing chapter / lecture five. Please contact Shirla (shirla766@gmail.com) to be added to the participant list.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be held in person at the Meeting House on Sunday, November 3 at 12:30 p.m. You can also join us online on our regular Meeting Zoom link.

From Carol Leigh: It is a joyful thing that the new (experimental) configuration for clerking the Yearly Meeting, called the Clerks' Table, includes Caileigh Morrison! I hope we can all support her in this demanding new role.



River Run Rally in Support of Grassy Narrows

by Carol Leigh Wehking

Four members of HMM, Siân Bowen-Cole, Jane MacKay-Wright, Glenna Janzen, and Carol Leigh Wehking, joined a Toronto-bound busload of other Hamiltonians (including Leanne Grieves, the partner of another HMM member) to participate with others in solidarity with Grassy Narrows First Nation, in a walk from Grange Park to Queens Park to bring the attention of the public to the decades long situation on their reserve lands, and to demand that the government make redress for the ongoing tragedy of Grassy Narrows. This horrific situation was brought to light over 55 years ago, and still their water is contaminated and is continuing to be actively contaminated even now. The promised cleanup and compensation and health facilities have still not been forthcoming, though the promises are old and tired by now!

Hamilton Friends joined with and walked behind the banner of Toronto Quakers, along with a KAMM Friend and a staff member of CFSC. The walk was peaceful and orderly, and included several blocks of Dundas Street and some of Bay Street and College Street, bringing it into



visibility on a weekday in downtown Toronto. There were speeches at Queens Park, and media coverage. We were glad to have showed up among the reported thousands. As Siân remarked, if this were a white community, it would have been dealt with decades ago.

Conscientious Objector Commemoration

by Glenna Janzen

On Thursday, September 26, 2024, Mennonites, Quakers, and others gathered to acknowledge and celebrate the alternative service of hundreds of Conscientious Objectors to World War II at Montreal River Camp northwest of Sault Ste. Marie and to unveil an Ontario Heritage plaque which was to be installed at the site of the Montreal River Camp on Saturday, September 28.

Montreal River was the first alternative service camp in Canada and provided a model for other camps, mainly in BC. The young men who stayed there felled logs and blasted rock for the continuation of the TransCanada highway, although in the end, this section did not become part of the highway.



The Executive Director of the Ontario Heritage Trust welcomed those present and introduced the speakers: Marcus Shantz (on the right in above photo), the president of Conrad Grebel University College; Sam Steiner (next to Marcus Shantz) retired archivist and librarian at Conrad Grebel College; Lauren

Harder-Gissing (next to Sam Steiner) President of the Board of Directors of the Mennonite Heritage Society; and John Ecker (to the left of the plaque) Chair of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Heritage Trust. The speakers spoke feelingly of the 10,000 Conscientious Objectors who served in camps and farms across Canada during WWII.

Siân Bowen-Cole, Alice Preston, Carol Leigh Wehking, and Glenna Janzen attended from Hamilton Meeting; Daniel Allen attended from Kitchener Area Meeting, Mark Abbott attended from Toronto Meeting, and Jeremy Vander Hoek attended from Canadian Friends Service Committee. Both Mark's father, Ed, and Glenna's father, John, spent time at the Montreal River Camp before going on to do alternative service work elsewhere.

I found the slide show of images from the CO Camp very interesting, and of course, looked for my dad in the pictures. The picture of the bunkhouse has stayed with me: a large building with bunks four layers high for 140 men. Although I don't expect any of the young men had ever had a private room at home, having 139 roommates is a few too many!

Two busloads of interested people planned to make the trip from Waterloo to Montreal River to view the installation of the plaque at the site of the CO Camp, now a tourist resort (twilightresort.ca). The plaque will be available for public viewing, and visitors are invited by the owners to walk the grounds of the CO Camp.

All in all, a good afternoon – and of interest to me – on the anniversary of my family's arrival in Quebec City 100 years ago.



A Voice Well Worth Our Listening

by Dick Preston

Every now and then, we are gifted with public intellectuals who are moved to share their considerable wisdom. Some of you may remember Sir Kenneth Clark's *Civilization: A Personal View* (1969) or Edward Said's BBC lectures, published as *Representations of the Intellectual* (1994). Now, since 2011, we have Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens* and, in 2015, *Homo Deus*, as well as 2018's *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*. Earlier this month, a *New Yorker* reviewer of his new book, *Nexus*, noted that his books have now sold 50 million copies. He may be watched on YouTube, with "The power of truth in the age of AI" coming on-line very recently.

Harari's writing has a gentle and caring tone. He is an historian who asserts that history is not the study of the past: it is the study of **change**. We are all participants, and he offers advice on how we may best understand our situation. I am now making my careful and excited way through *Nexus* and he has my rapt attention. I am underlining, making margin notes, and listing special page

numbers on the inside front cover. It is the second time in my life that I have engaged so intensely (60 years after the first time). So I am passionately inviting you to read Harari, and perhaps also watch his videos on YouTube.



About this Newsletter / Submission Guidelines

This Newsletter is a monthly publication of news and announcements relevant to Hamilton Quakers.

It is also a venue for members and attenders to share creative works or articles they have written on subjects that may be of interest to our Quaker community. As a general guideline we are looking for submissions that are inspirational and related to Quaker concerns, as well as announcements and news. Members and Attenders are encouraged to submit works for the newsletter.

Requests for newsletter items are announced after Meeting for Worship and/or via email during the week before Meeting for Worship for Business. They are due by the Friday before Business Meeting. Submission of materials implies permission to publish. Copyright for original material resides with the author.

If the person submitting the article is unknown to the editor or if there are questions as to whether the article will be appropriate for the Quaker newsletter, the editor will consult with the clerk(s) who will together discern what will be included. Written permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder if a submission is not the original work of the submitter, unless the works are in the public domain, or are covered under the creative commons license.

Hamilton Meeting reserves the right to edit submissions for length or content in consultation with the authors. Please limit submissions to a maximum of 750 words. When opinion pieces are included a line will be added indicating "Submissions reflect the opinions of their authors, and not necessarily of Hamilton Monthly Meeting".

Submissions should be directed to the current editor, Síân Reid, daywitch@gmail.com.

We acknowledge the land upon which Hamilton Friends Meeting House is located as the shared traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg, protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt covenant. This historic peace agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibwe, and allied nations represents a commitment to share and protect the land, water, plants, and animals, with respect. It is the privilege of Hamilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to share in the tradition of stewardship of this land, which has been the environment of human beings in this territory for thousands of years. We honour the original Peoples of this land and express a commitment to and gratitude for the opportunity to work together toward restorative justice and reconciliation.