

# Words from Wilmot



Volume 24 Issue 1

February, 2013

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## Lent and Easter Events

March 3, 10, 17 Worship Services 11:00 am. After worship services, Lenten study in the parlour. Come and join us, bring your sandwich. You can purchase the Lenten Study booklet: *A Moment of Truth*, \$8.00 for your personal meditation or for our group study.

March 24 Palm Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am

March 29 Good Friday Worship Service 11:00 am

March 31 Easter Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am



## Rainbow Brunch

A rainbow is a band of light which contains all the colours of the spectrum, each colour as beautiful as the next, and each with its own place in the order of things. To this end, the rainbow is an apt symbol for the diversity found within any community of people, a community which may contain people with a variety of ways of expressing family and caring, and most importantly a community that offers a sense of belonging and home.



**Tony Burnett with granddaughter Evey at the Rainbow Brunch**

The United Church of Canada recognizes the value of diversity and the sense of completeness that acceptance brings to individuals and communities of worship; communities made richer and more vibrant

through the practice of inclusion rather than exclusion. An inclusive community is a vital community, one that is expansive, that grows and flourishes through generosity of spirit.

Every second month on the second Saturday, Wilmot hosts a Rainbow Brunch, a tradition which began following an event hosted for The Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short upon his leaving Wilmot. Peter had been supportive of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community and the members wished to express their gratitude. Following this, the idea of getting together on a regular basis for fellowship and a meal was decided upon, and the Rainbow Brunch became a regular event.

I recently attended a Rainbow Brunch in the church parlour and was warmly greeted by hosts Tony Burnett and Maureen Toner who invited me to share in the many delicious dishes and desserts set up buffet style. On this particular occasion, Tony's daughter Rebecca and his eighteen month old granddaughter Evey were visiting from London, Ontario, making it a real family event, and everyone was delighted to meet little Evey.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Words from Wilmot

Volume 24, Issue 1  
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## Words from Wilmot

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represent the viewpoint of  
the congregation.

### Rainbow Brunch continued:

Following the meal, I took the opportunity to speak with Tony and Maureen about the importance of the Rainbow Brunch and what it means to them. Maureen notes that participation in the Rainbow Brunch by church members “speaks volumes” about the level of acceptance that the LGBT community experiences at Wilmot. Initially, individuals felt a need to support one another and have a place where they could be comfortable with family, friends and supporters, and now the invitation is extended by word of mouth beyond the doors of Wilmot to the larger community of Fredericton. “While it would be possible to host a brunch at a variety of locations in Fredericton,” she explains, “it is important to have a faith-based group, as spirituality is so important to the members.”

Tony Burnett tells me a bit about the history of the group and their awareness of the need to move forward toward acceptance in a gentle and compassionate manner. “People,” he notes, “come from many different backgrounds, beliefs and attitudes, and acceptance can be a difficult thing for a lot of people. There is a need to acknowledge the struggle to reach acceptance and the journey to get there. However, if a church is able to accept and affirm this community, it can serve as a light and example to the greater community at large.”

Tony talks about how important it was for him and his spouse Drake Phillips to have been married in the sanctuary at Wilmot in September 2009. “It was very important to Drake and me that we were able to celebrate the occasion and exchange our vows in a religious ceremony. We also wanted to be able to share the occasion with our church family.” It was an opportunity to expand the understanding of same sex marriage and to conquer fear of the unusual or unknown for some. Some churches that grant permission to their ministerial staff to perform same sex

marriages do not allow use of the sanctuary for the ceremony, which he believes, sends a mixed message of acceptance and exclusion.

In addition to his many activities at Wilmot, Tony is also a member-at-large of the national board for Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble. This organization was formed in 1982 to support and advocate for inclusion within the United Church. He also serves in the role of Communications Coordinator for Affirm United, a role which took him to Toronto February 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> for the winter meeting of the board, being held at General Council offices for the United Church of Canada. It is of interest, he notes, that at the 41<sup>st</sup> General Council held in Ottawa this past summer, a motion was passed for the national office and General Council to work towards becoming an Affirming Ministry. This trend is also being seen in other levels and courts of the church such as Conferences and Presbyteries. Maritime Conference will be considering a similar motion this coming May. At the present time, Saint John Centenary-Queen Square United Church is the only one in New Brunswick that has declared itself as affirming. (Go to [www.affirmunited.ca](http://www.affirmunited.ca) for more information).

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Wilmot United Church incorporated *International Day against Homophobia*, an annual world day of celebration into its liturgy. A colourful rainbow flag was hung in the sanctuary and the bulletin, sponsored by Tony and Drake honoured “those who have fought and continue to fight against homophobia.” Together, the congregation prayed to “forgive us for our participation in systems of oppression” and asked instead to “help offer the world life-giving reconciliation, wound healing, peace building and justice making”. One member of Wilmot’s LGBT community stated that this was a very significant event in her life; when she saw the bright rainbow flag hanging from the pillar in the sanctuary, an overwhelming feeling of being home, and at last a sense of belonging, welled up inside her.

**Rainbow Brunch continued:**

Watch the bulletin and web site for notice of the next potluck brunch and plan to attend. It is held in our cozy parlour and all are welcome.

*"The lord delights in all creation. We are made with care: each person, each gender and orientation."* Rev Wendy MacLean  
United Church minister and poet

© Kathie Goggin

**News from The UCW**

The UCW would like to thank everyone who has responded to our first fundraiser of 2013, our Foodless Food Sale. So far we have heard from over 47 women in our congregation and raised over \$1100.00.

**Thanks-A-Million!**



With Spring just around the corner it is time to start thinking about cleaning house! While de-cluttering, think of us and our **Rummage Sale** to take place on Friday, April 19th, 3:00-7:00 pm and Saturday, April 20th from 9 am-12 noon. Set-up is on Friday morning. Contact Linda Gough at 459-3706 or e-mail at [lgough@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lgough@nbnet.nb.ca) if you can spare a few hours either of these days to set-up, sell or pack-up. Donations of good, clean Spring & Summer clothing, house wares, linens, toys, games and small furniture can be left on the church stage on the weeks leading up to the sale. Please, no TVs or Computers.

**Book Sale**

Our **Book Sale** is back! It will take place on May 9th and 10th. Set-up is on May 8th. We are looking for volunteers to help set-up, sell and pack-up on any one of these dates. Please contact Linda Gough at 459-3706 or e-mail at [lgough@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lgough@nbnet.nb.ca). We are also looking for donations of books. They can be dropped off at the church any time between now and the set-up date. What a wonderful opportunity to stock up on a wide variety of titles for your summer reading! Stop by and browse on the 9th and 10th of May. See you there.



Lastly the UCW would like to let the congregation know that a **new dishwasher** has been purchased for the kitchen. It arrived just in time for the pancake supper and seems to have passed its initiation. Although it appears the same as the older version there are some changes in the operation. New instructions are being printed and laminated to guide users through the process. Stop by the kitchen sometime and check it out!

The UCW would like to thank everyone in the congregation who gives so freely of their time when called on. It would not be possible to do our projects without the help of many. We appreciate your support!

## **Billets, a Bus and a Balloon The 2013 Twinning Trip to Cuba**

Some call it ethical tourism, others educational tourism or eco-tourism. But the eleven “tourists” who returned to Fredericton on February 2<sup>nd</sup> after a week in sunny Cuba were bursting with enthusiasm from their travel experience, organized by Norman and Mecca Laverty and Wilmot’s Cuba Twinning Committee. (You can read the background and history of this committee in Wilmot’s 2012 Annual Report available in print or on our website.)

Since 2006, Wilmot United Church has had a reciprocal relationship with the Matanzas Seminary, an ecumenical institution that embraces thirteen denominations making up the Cuban Council of Evangelical Churches. The Seminary administers a program for supporting group travel experiences called “People-to-People Pilgrimages”. Their goal is to provide a venue for their ecumenical faith partners from other countries to immerse themselves in a different culture and to learn from one another, sharing common values and beliefs. It is an initiative for “hands-on” global faith connections, keeping the goals of each faith group in mind and preparing an itinerary to meet each group’s expectations.

Norman and Mecca Laverty have shared their time and experience to give Spanish lessons at Wilmot since 2006, and have worked hard organizing the many details for travel events from Fredericton to Matanzas with the International Coordinator there. From air travel times, coordination of individual participants’ scheduling availability, specific destination goals, to religious group visas and meal requirements, the Laverty’s diligence, Monica Coll’s connections and Greg Black’s perseverance tied this trip all together.

Five Wilmot members and six friends landed at Veradero airport on January 26, to be met

by Orestes and his famous 32-year-old Seminary bus, which was the main mode of transportation for the week. In Cuba you have a choice of transportation by foot, horse, bicycle or 1950s vintage vehicles. The group then travelled from the main hosting centre at Matanzas, situated on the north coast of the island, to visit a number of projects in five different localities, and the donations of items from our Wilmot congregation were appropriated by the group to community outreach groups for seniors, handicapped persons, and educational and entrepreneurial endeavours, with much appreciation expressed by the recipients.

Sharon van Abbema told me, “Cuban people came across as gentle, loving people. They taught us that you can make do when there is a shortage of something, whether it is food, material or equipment, that life continues even without hordes of stuff.” Mecca commented on the gardens and swept compounds and roadways. “Everything was so clean and every detail cared for.” (No Tim Hortons cups lying about!) The food was prepared for the group mostly outdoors on braziers with wood or coal as fuel, and served at tables under trees in the courtyard.



**Sharon van Abbema and her Bolivia, Cuban friend Yelennys in the patio of Yelennys’ grandmother.**

The trip to Bolivia, a small town on the northeast coast, took most of one day, and folks were billeted in the homes of the host congregation. Judy Coates received a beautiful knit vest as a gift from her hostess and newly-made Cuban friend, because she wanted Judy to be warm when she returned to Canada. The

**Billets, a Bus and a Balloon continued:**

Lavertys stayed with an 85 year old woman who tended her own gardens and lavished the fruits of her labours on them. Sharon made a fast friend with little Yelennys, age 11, who presented her with a pink balloon when she said goodbye with tears in her eyes. Sharon used it as a make-shift pillow on the bumpy bus ride back to the Seminary in Matanzas.

This trip was Greg Black's fifth twinning excursion to Cuba and each time he has felt an overwhelming refreshment of his faith in humankind, perhaps this trip more than ever. He said, "The culture is 'people-oriented'. It's human relationships that matter, not material assets. Connecting through music and dance, sharing food and helping others are their life values." John van Abbema wrote, "For those participants open to examining a way of life different from our own, the trip guided us to insights that caused us to reflect on our own way of living."

José Martí, a 19<sup>th</sup> century revolutionary philosopher and writer, is considered the Cuban national hero who is often quoted with veneration: "Happiness exists on earth, and it is won through prudent exercise of reason, knowledge of the harmony of the universe, and constant practise of generosity."

There was so much to learn and be marvelled at despite the language barrier for some group members. The Cuban hosts made every effort to meet the needs of their Canadian guests, even to the point of self-denial. Sharon's experience is echoed by the whole group when she said, "I learned that simple things, a song, a cup of tea, sitting under a palm tree, can bring you joy, if you take the time to do it."

© L. Caseley

## Stewardship and Finance Committee

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is recruiting **Chief Tellers and Teller Teams**. Please stop by the Stewards' Table during Coffee and Conversation and pick up a copy of an information sheet. If you are able to volunteer about 10-15 minutes after the service to be part of this team, there will be a sign up sheet.

**PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance) is a great way to continue your financial support in your church even when you are unable to attend. Advantages to those who use PAR: (1) regular support of your church in the amount that you choose; (2) continual support of your church when you are away; and (3) avoidance of "catch-up" periods. If you would like more information about PAR, please stop by the Stewards' Table during Coffee and Conversation or contact Marlene in the church office (458-1066).

☺ Maggie Clark

## Couplets for a Cruel Month

April snow banks surely know  
it is now the time to go.

Ugly, rotten, black and hollow  
defiant still they wait tomorrow.

Breezes blast the jagged seams  
puddles dribble into streams.

Potholes splash and coat each mound  
feet pack down a path around.

Each crystal snowflake's former glory  
will soon be last year's inventory.

Winter in its raging fight  
goes not gentle into that good night.

© L. Caseley

## A South African Adventure

SOUTH AFRICA! It seemed so far away and almost impossible to imagine having the opportunity to travel there... and yet... as you know, that is exactly what happened. For some time now, I have wanted to volunteer my time to a project in another part of the world. I wanted to reach out to strangers, learn from them, lend a helping hand and then bring their stories back to us so that we might have a better understanding of the world in which we live. I soon discovered that there were a great many organizations through which to do this. After much research, I contacted the International Volunteer HQ and asked questions about volunteering in South Africa. I learned that they work with an organization, "Dreams to Reality" (DTR), so as not to duplicate services, and it was with DTR that we worked.

Two of my nieces, Erica and Bethany, accompanied me. We arrived in Johannesburg on January 2 and then travelled to Cape Town on January 6 to begin our volunteering. DTR is a young organization only having been in operation for a couple of years. Their focus is on ChildCare, a surfing program as well as supporting a couple of schools.



As we arrived while the children were still on 'summer' vacation, Bethany and I began our work at the ChildCare Centre while Erica began with the surfing program, a program that enables children

from the 'Township' to experience this sport. Over the coming days, we began to discover the many challenges the children, their families, the schools and the community face. But what always amazed me, was the bright faces that welcomed me each morning.

As I began to write this, I looked over my pictures. So much happened in such a short time – South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Belgium – museums, safari, learning the stories of each country – but it was the people of all ages that was the highlight of our journey. We experienced such hospitality, wonderful open hands and hearts. There is so much to share and over the coming weeks, I will organize my pictures, put them together with our stories and then share them with you soon.

☺ Ellen Beirsto



### Living Your Spiritual Gifts

Do you ever get overwhelmed with all you have to do and wonder which of your voluntary tasks you should give up, which to keep? If you do, there is help at hand, a workshop entitled Living Your Spiritual Gifts. Wendy Topolski led the first LYSG seminar designed to help the participants discern their particular spiritual strengths.

On two Sundays for an hour after church, Wendy held a meeting for all those interested, explaining what the day-long workshop would be like. It would run on a Saturday from 10 until 2. Nine people decided to participate. On those Sundays too, Reverend Gaskin built the worship service around that theme.

(Continued on page 7)

**Living Your Spiritual Gifts continued:**

Through confidential discussions, teams of three helped each other discern their special gifts. After the Saturday workshop, the participants were urged to reflect on their own about what they had learned about themselves. Wendy distributed photocopied sheets spelling out 21 possible spiritual gifts to help further discernment. These gifts included Administration, Compassion, Creativity, Teaching, and Wisdom among others.

Later on, each participant had a one-on-one session with Rose-Hannah to discuss what they had learned about themselves and to receive her feedback as a practiced spiritual director. The group will meet again March 16.

Rose-Hannah's friend at Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver developed the workshop over a period of 15 years. In that church every new member participates in the workshop as part of the welcoming process. The object of this is not only to help the participants discover their own gifts, but ultimately their special ministry within their church's spiritual community.

An unexpected bonus to the workshop was that the participants became closer to the two others in their triad. Ted Colson and I remembered a similar program we attended, Pilgrim's Progress, intended to help our spiritual growth, but which had the added benefit of our becoming better acquainted with some of our fellow Wilmoters.

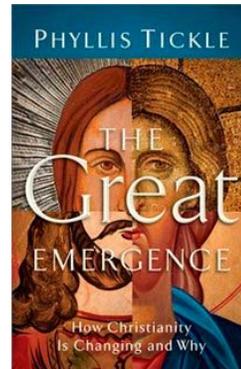
At the end of the Saturday session, Rose-Hannah thanked Wendy for her leadership, stressing her attention to detail. This attention impressed me as well with so many thoughtful features like homemade soup (made by Ed Topolski) served at noon, pens and photocopied sheets provided, music played.

The workshop will be conducted again next year. This will help Rose-Hannah realize her vision of our creating a gift-based ministry involving each member of the church.

© Nancy Bauer

## The Great Emergence How Christianity is Changing and Why

by Phyllis Tickle



The Wilmot Seekers Group has been studying the book "The Power of Parable" by John Dominic Crossan for the past year under the gentle and insightful leadership of Rev. Don MacDougall. This spring the group will be delving into the ideas found in Phyllis Tickle's both forward-thinking and backward-looking book, "The Great Emergence". This is an erudite analysis of what is happening in the global Christian church today, and why.

The United Church of Canada recognizes the pressure of declining membership, diminishing resources and changing priorities. "Many people express a deep spiritual hunger and do not feel nourished by the church," says Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Chairperson of the Comprehensive Review Task Group appointed by the 41<sup>st</sup> General Council which met in Ottawa in August 2012. In response, this spring the Task Group will launch broad consultations across the church with members and adherents, offering opportunities to comment through study groups, personal email and social media.

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**The Great Emergence continued:**

Phyllis Tickle says the trends in Western Christianity are all part of an enormous package of paradigm shift in society which includes everything we do culturally, intellectually, politically, economically and philosophically. If we look back over our history we see that every 500 years the Christian Church has had a “Giant Rummage Sale”, an apt metaphor for divesting ourselves of many cherished, but outworn, treasures to make room for the new. In this volume she draws a parallel between The Great Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and today’s reality within our Protestant and Roman Catholic churches. Each time monumental changes happened in the past there were benefits of renewed vitality, brand-new expressions of faith, plus global dispersion of the faith, so the prescription for such upheavals is not despair.



Phyllis Tickle is a lay eucharist minister of the Episcopal Church, a senior fellow of Cathedral College at the National Cathedral in Washington and author of more than two dozen books.

She notes that “by 1992, religion as a category of publishing was approaching triple-digit annual growth”. The Great Emergence was manifesting itself in the arena of the digital and printed word. “This is an exciting time to be alive; and yet, there are so many new things, so many paradigm-shattering discoveries, one cannot help but wake up some days with an intense desire to hide underneath the pillows....” Danielle Shroyer in her helpful Guide for Reading and Discussing The Great Emergence continues, “We live in tension between the two poles – excitement and anxiety....”

There will always be strong reaction and entrenchment against change and this is all part of the slow arrival of the “springtime” of our emergence. Our present situation has been slipping up on us for decades, from Charles Darwin and Michael Faraday to Einstein’s Theory of Relativity and Heisenberg’s Uncertainty Principle, all having an undeniable impact on religious thinking. Extreme political tensions arise over issues as quotidian as the inclusion of birth control in the U. S. Universal Health Care legislation debate.

In the introduction to the Guide for this book, Shroyer says, “If you have picked up this book, chances are you consider the role of religion an important one in the unfurling of the Great Emergence. What we will say about God in the coming years will very much affect how we will live, what kind of people we will become, what kind of world our children will inherit. These are not issues of dinner party debate. They are serious issues, calling us to a place of awe-full responsibility. Pure faith aside, sociologists will be the first to remind us that the spiritual components of a given society create and preserve cultural meaning. In simplest terms, religion makes sense of the world for the faithful and the irreligious alike.”

Wilmot Seekers Group looks forward to discussing the fears and hopes of being a part of this exciting time to be alive. The group welcomes anyone who wishes to join these conversations one Thursday afternoon a month at 4:00 pm. Check our church calendar, or our website, for dates.

© L Caseley

## WINTER WARM-UP

### Spaghetti Dinner



Members of the Wilmot Congregation are invited to meet for a spaghetti dinner and sleigh ride on March 1st at Oakland Farms, New Maryland beginning at 6:00. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** In light of the positive feedback from the progressive dinner, the Faith Formation Committee has decided a winter gathering of fun and fellowship would be welcomed. If



you choose to go on the sleigh ride, it will cost individuals \$7.00 and we are asking a contribution of \$5.00 per person and \$10.00 per family to offset the cost of the supplies for the dinner. Bill MacLeod will make his famous sauce which you will not want to miss. We will conclude the evening with a singsong so bring along any portable musical instruments and we will provide the spoons.

Please let us know by Feb. 24th. There will be a sign-up sheet at Coffee & Conversation or contact one of the following:  
 Steve MacKenzie @ 472-1299  
 Elaine Kenyon @ 455-7954  
 Ann Kennedy @ 453-9302

E-mails can also be used:  
 sjmackenzie@bellaliant.net,  
 ekenyon@nbnet.nb.ca, or  
 akennedy160@rogers.com.

Anyone wishing a drive or assistance, please contact one of us. We want everyone in the congregation to feel welcomed at this event.

© Bill & Sue MacLeod  
 Faith Formation Committee



**Happy Birthday** to our partners Big Brothers Big Sisters. In 2013 Big Brothers Big Sisters, our new tenants at Wilmot, will celebrate two birthdays: the one hundredth in Canada, and the 45th in Fredericton and Oromocto. They will celebrate with a fund-raiser, Bowl For Kids Sake on March 16 in Oromocto and at two locations in Fredericton March 23.

For more information contact Duncan Gallant at 451-5404 or [duncan.gallant@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:duncan.gallant@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca).



**Staff from Big Brothers Big Sisters with Pam Campbell and Lorraine Silliphant on behalf of Wilmot Church, cutting the welcome cake at Wilmot's coffee hour.**

## Jack Oudemans

Jack Oudemans joined Wilmot United Church on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. His Certificate of Membership is the first thing he shows me when he reaches into his file box labelled Wilmot Church. Jack lost his beloved wife Nel in 2002. “My whole life changed when that happened,” he says. He needed to find new meaning in his life and ways to fill his time. He recalls the first time he attended Wilmot Church. He met Chris Levan who invited him to join him for coffee at Second Cup. From then on Jack became involved at Wilmot. “Wilmot for me was just incredible, the atmosphere, the people. You could really be involved in things. There is so much going on. It has really made a difference in my life. I love the church involvement,” Jack says, “I’ve met so many wonderful people, there are so many talented, interesting people who give so freely of their gifts.” Very quickly Jack’s talents with photography were put to good use as he helped with putting together a photo collage of the 2007 church picnic, the Guide to Programs and People document, the 2011 Photo Directory and various other projects. He can be seen at just about every church event taking photographs.

Jack has always been a busy, multi-talented man, so it is no surprise that even at the age of 90 he still has many hobbies and projects. He shows me a beautiful oak table he is building when I spend an afternoon visiting in his comfortable home, filled with pictures of family, his son Michiel’s art work and his wife’s weaving. He bursts with enthusiasm as he gives me a tour of his home, and points out the various things that are special to him. “I am trying to find good homes for my things, but there are some I cannot part with.”

One example is a beautifully illustrated book of Netherland Flora published by his great grandfather. The pages have been carefully preserved on archival paper by his son. Jack has done extensive genealogical research on his family and is a member of the Central Bureau of Dutch Genealogy. He will be travelling to Holland this spring to provide updated information on the Oudemans (translated old man’s son) lineage.

(Continued on Page 11)



**Jack Oudemans with his six grandchildren on his 90th birthday  
(Left to right) Daniel Oudemans, Sara Hendriksen, Jack (W. J.) Oudemans,  
Jennifer Oudemans, Langley Oudemans, Joselin Oudemans, Katrien Mooney**

**Jack Oudemans continued:**

About his own personal history, Jack tells me he was born February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1923 in Holland. War erupted in 1940 when he was 17 and Holland was occupied for 5 years. Following the occupation Holland “was in a very bad way, it was a mess,” he says. Canada was welcoming people at that time to come and work in agriculture, so he emigrated to work in a Fredericton nursery. Then, he went into construction work for a time, and then on to study engineering at UNB. He married in 1947 and together he and Nel raised three children, Karin, Michiel and Peter. He now has six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Nel was a well-known weaver and was very much involved in the Fredericton College of Craft and Design and the Mactaquac Craft Fair. A special studio room was built upstairs for Nel’s four looms. It is a large, bright space and is now sometimes used by Photo Fredericton members for meetings, and as a place to show and discuss their work. They are currently preparing for an exhibit that will be held in the Playhouse galleries.

In addition to photography, genealogy and woodworking, Jack is also involved with the cemetery committee at Wilmot and has done extensive work with the Fredericton Rural Cemetery. This is a project dear to him as his wife is buried there. He tells me Wilmot has the only columbarium for urns in Fredericton. Jack did extensive work mapping out the cemetery and digitizing the records. He is now able to project aerial photos over the old plans and records of the plots. This project has provided Jack with hours

of fascinating historical research and the opportunity to meet many people.

Another project during his working career that was very dear to him was his role in charge of the overall design of the Westmorland Street Bridge. “It was a fantastic time,” he says, “there was so much going on, so many contracts to manage with the dredging, foundation, structure and superstructure.”

Jack attends the Bible Conversations Group on Sundays led by Don MacDougall. He very much enjoys delving into theology and biblical history. “It has opened my eyes,” he says, “to a new way of looking at the New Testament.” He finds this group interesting and stimulating. He also does a Sudoku puzzle every day, and attends the Y three times a week with the Dusty Sneakers group. Jack is certainly one of Wilmot’s greatest treasures and we all join in wishing him a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and many more good years to come.

© Kathie Goggin

**Haiku from Wilmot Writers Group**

sweet raspberry jam  
fresh as from the summer vine  
outside a blizzard

*Carolyn Atkinson*



green and grey lichens  
crawl up the lilac branches  
catching large snowflakes

*Carolyn Atkinson*



green and light beige thread  
tatted fine as spider web  
her bible’s bookmark

*Edie Colson*



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HAVE YOU CHECKED  
LATELY?

This newsletter can  
also be read online  
in colour  
on our web site

### Words from Wilmot

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available on a limited  
basis for each issue.

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edition, please ask a  
Sunday Morning  
Welcomer or pick up one  
at the church office.



## Peace in the Congo



Freddy Wangabo Mwenengabo spoke at Wilmot United Church on November 25th. A financial contribution was made to the East and Central African Association for Indigenous Rights (ECAAIR) by the Outreach Committee. Shown in the photo, left to right are Freddy, Elaine Kenyon, Gail Wylie, Freddy's friend Getachew Osoli from Ethiopia, Norman Laverty.

## Upcoming Soup Lunch Dates



March 17 and April 14

Lunches prepared by Wilmot Outreach Committee & helpers. Soup Lunch is an important fellowship time for the congregation – warming our soul as well as body! Get to know someone while eating together. All are welcome to soup, payment not necessary.

**Breaking the Silence** coffee, a fair-trade organic coffee, and a variety of other products including chocolate, are for sale during Coffee Hour following worship.

These products support a coffee co-op in Guatemala. Breagh MacDonald Rahn and Gayle MacDonald thank all of their customers for their support.

