

# GOOD WORK NEWS

The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S. Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6

Issue 122

December 2015

Subscription: a donation towards our work

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*Love is a consciousness of belonging to another, of being part of the whole. To love is to be on the way toward integral wholeness, to live with an openness of mind and heart, to encounter the other - not as stranger - but as part of oneself.*

*This is the consciousness we need today, an integral wholeness of love that is open to new life; a being-at-home in love that can evolve.*

Ilia Delio, *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being, God Evolution and the Power of Love*, Orbis Books, New York, 2013

## Building Social Space

By Stephanie Mancini

The Working Centre's community development model embraces some key concepts:

- Each project (and there are about 30 active projects) functions in a distributive model where ideas and innovation flourish at the core.
- Active listening and compassion means we are using this creativity to respond to gaps in services or real needs of the people we serve.
- Our frugal approach, our commitment to right action, our openness to diverse partnerships, and our willingness to stand with people in complex situations allows us to take risks and encourage initiative.

This has been a year of diverse and exciting projects, many of which you will see in the pages of Good Work News. Here is a review of some of this work:

### Affordable Housing

One major area of focus this year has been adding to the pool of affordable housing options for people have been more persistently homeless. With the Out of the Cold closings, The Working Centre started last Spring to design a new housing initiative to create 18 units of housing for those who are most persistently homeless in K-W. We are a strong partner in the Region of Waterloo collaborative called

STEP Home, a collaborative of 12 interrelated programs designed to end/prevent persistent homelessness and foster respect, hope, home and community.

We started by talking to the people who might be interested in the housing, and then went looking for properties that might suit this need. We purchased one building and two houses. Then we submitted a proposal for capital support to the New Affordable Housing Initiative (Regional/Provincial/Federal funding) and were awarded \$1.1 million. We also initiated a Capital Housing Campaign to raise a further \$1 million (to date we have raised over \$850,000) in collaboration with a diverse group of about 25 community members. We have renovated and upgraded the new properties, with the two houses



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## A New Openness for Creative Action

By Joe Mancini

It seems as if the world is calling, in clearer and clearer language, on the need to build peaceful neighbourhoods, to welcome the stranger and to reduce the intensity of our carbon economy.

It doesn't take much to read the signs of the times these days as they intensely flash on every media outlet.

"No more delays, no more denials. We need to act," stated Catherine McKenna, the new Environment and Climate Change Minister for the federal Liberal government, emphatically calling for cooperative action to reduce greenhouse gases that result in global warming.

In the early 1980's, scientists had clear evidence that the growing accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere was causing a cycle of warming that if not curtailed would lead to a significantly warmer planet. People talked about changes, but our carbon economy kept growing.

Stéphane Dion, Canada's new Foreign minister is clear about the importance of the Paris climate talks.

"We know already what the large emitters have committed to do and the assessment of the United Nations is 2.7 [degrees] of warming, instead of two," he said, "But if we have no agreement, we may go to three or four."

It is well documented that 4°-6°C of a warming planet will create deathly tropical temperatures, substantially reduced food production and sea-level rise devastation.

Paul Hawken once called the unsustainable use of fossil fuels a "once in a billion year carbon blow out sale." But now there looks to be some hope on several fronts that some of this carbon will stay in the ground.

This September it was announced that a remarkable \$2.6 Trillion dollars in investments in fossil fuels are in the process of being pulled from

*The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: "As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life".*

Laudato Si

fossil fuel companies. The Divest Waterloo group has been educating locally on this issue.

Tom Rand, speaking at St. Jerome's University in early November, described the hundreds of billions of dollars that are pouring into clean energy projects around the world. Some of his examples included Toronto based Morgan Solar gearing up to produce solar energy for less than 5c/kwh, how energy storage and battery technology will change how we use electricity and the slow, but inevitable phasing out of the gasoline engine.

Progress at this high level needs to be complimented by grassroots action. A starting point is to consciously commit to look after the place we call home. Common work, the effort we make each day to contribute to the common good can teach us a new appreciation of interconnectedness. The virtue ethics of ecological thinking provide the opportunity to direct one's actions towards helping the natural world flourish. How can we ensure that our daily actions contribute positively to sustaining the web of

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## Thirty-First Year

Issue 122

December 2015

## Good Work News

Good Work News was first produced in September 1984. It is published four times a year by The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen as a forum of opinions and ideas on work and unemployment. There is a circulation of 11,000 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

**Editors:** Joe Mancini, Stephanie Mancini, Jennifer Mains.

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The Working Centre is pleased to announce that

## Ari Ariaratnam & Jassy Narayan

will be the Guests of Honour at the  
29<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayors' Dinner  
Saturday April 2<sup>th</sup>, 2016

It is a special pleasure to announce that Ari Ariaratnam and Jassy Narayan have been chosen as Guests of Honour for the Twenty-Ninth Mayors' Dinner in support of The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen.

Ari and Jassy are two exemplary women who have dedicated over 40 years working to support the experience of new Canadian women settling into Canada.

Ari Ariaratnam became an active immigrant settlement worker in K-W. She researched and developed what became Focus for Ethnic Women. Ari became its long-time Executive Director helping the organization become a place that welcomes and shares new cultures while offering skills training, supports and mentorship to women settling in Waterloo Region. Ari's work with new Canadian women has been recognized by a Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, a Citizenship and Culture Volunteer Service Award, and the KW Oktoberfest Women of the Year.

When Jassy arrived in Canada in the mid 1960's she learned what it felt like to be out of place in a new culture. She found work, upgraded her education by attending part-time schooling for many years, eventually graduating with a MSW degree from WLU. By then she had established herself as a strong voice in the new Canadian community and for those economically challenged. As Executive Director of Onward Willow Better Beginnings in Guelph she demonstrated practical inclusive neighbourhood building. In her paid and volunteered work, Jassy is known as a tireless advocate for the marginalized and is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.

We are celebrating Ari's and Jassy's commitment to supporting immigrant women and refugees in Kitchener-Waterloo by celebrating these stories of early beginnings, immigration, integration, and inclusion.

We invite you to become involved by purchasing tickets, sponsorships, a community table for your group, company or church, or contributing an auction item.

For more details, please call Kara at (519) 743-1151 x119 or [mayorsdinner@theworkingcentre.org](mailto:mayorsdinner@theworkingcentre.org)

## Local Fresh Urban Community

## Winter CSA Shares Available!

Enjoy eating fresh and local greens over the winter months with a Winter Community-Supported-Agriculture share from the Working Centre's GROW Greenhouse.

Options include:

• **Peashoots** • **Microgreens** • **Living Greens**

• **A Juicer's Wheatgrass Special**

Supplement your greens by adding shares of:

• **Baked Goods and Wholesome Meals from Maurita's Kitchen**

• **Freshly Roasted Coffee from the Queen Street Street Commons**



For more information:  
call 519-575-1118.

Pickups run from  
mid-January  
until spring.

Visit <https://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org/csa> to order!

## Building Social Space

continued from page 1

now filled, and the building still under renovation. We have worked extensively to educate our community throughout this process about the growing gentrification that leaves people without safe housing, the increasing mental health and substance use issues that require a new approach to housing, and the importance of affordable housing as a community issue.

Rather than select tenants ourselves, we have gathered together STEP Home partners to collectively select those who are most in need of the housing and who are most suited to the housing. In this way we have moved beyond an agency-based response and are responding most directly to the wider community need.

### Bunkies

Bunkies will form part of responsive housing initiatives this winter. By January we will have in place two Bunkies – 8'x10' rooms, where people will stay for a limited time, ideal for people who are unable/not suited to staying in shelters. We think there is a lot to learn from the idea of small houses, finding safe and accessible housing options for people who are unable to access regular market housing options. These units will be heated and supported through our Hospitality House and our Outreach workers. Stay tuned for more updates as this idea develops. We have been excited to work with U-Can Inc. who helped us to build a working prototype.

### Youth Projects

This year we have expanded and modeled an approach to youth employment through a Youth Entrepreneurship Project (with 13 youth starting small enterprises), a Digital Media for Youth project, and through a Career Focus project supporting graduates with a 6 month paid internship.



The two bunkies are shown after they were insulated and as they were being painted at Double R Steel in Kitchener where they are being manufactured. These units have been made out of old sea containers.

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# St. John's Kitchen

## Reflections on Community

By Francesca Handy

The bright sunlit orange and yellow walls of St. John's Kitchen closer resemble a yoga studio than a 'soup kitchen', a title the community's members don't identify with. Soup rarely appears on the menu at the Kitchen and the antiquated connotations of the term misrepresent the collective benefits of the community.

Upon starting a summer student position, I was impressed by the far reaching services offered by The Working Centre, and was surprised to discover that they include far more than a hot meal with dessert. However, I've been even further affected by the ways the space gives beyond those services.

The organization depends heavily on the dedication of volunteers and many of these inspiring community members find structure, responsibility, and gratification in giving their time.

Community members appear to find a sense of comfort and belonging in the space as it strives to be welcoming to everyone, often by accommodating individuals' unique needs.

In my own experience, the most remarkable resource has been the strong community present at St. John's Kitchen. The social boundaries and reservedness that can make it feel inappropriate to engage in conversation with other community members in public spaces don't seem apply in this gathering place. As companies like Starbucks try to capitalize on this community effect by scribbling your name on a cup, St. John's Kitchen has come by it authentically.

There's a high energy of openness that seems to buzz through the space. I've made it through very few lunch line-ups without conversing with the person beside me. It's the colourful personalities and the relationships I've made that make mundane tasks fun and uplifting. I've come to associate clearing plates with knock-knock jokes, wiping down chairs with trivia about Canadian history, and mopping the floor with singing along to someone playing guitar.

Like the newly donated guitar, the Kitchen has a poetry board and regularly offers craft supplies. These resources are wonderful artistic platforms for community members to explore and share.

I suspect it's this sense of community that motivates patrons to stick around long after meal times and volunteers to continue to return after reaching community service requirements.

It's difficult to explain the unique character of St. John's Kitchen and I feel that I'm continually discovering

*In my own experience, the most remarkable resource has been the strong community present at St. John's Kitchen. The social boundaries and reservedness that can make it feel inappropriate to engage in conversation with other community members in public spaces don't seem apply in this gathering place.*

it. Even so, there are several incidents that have come to shape the way I think about the space and communication in general.

While handing out cookies in the serving line during my first week of work, a patron pointed out a piece of carrot on his tray. Carrots had not been served that day and it was likely that the food residue had been left from the day before. I'd been warned that because the community is large and welcoming to all people, there are occasional outbursts of anger. I'd been preparing for this reaction when the woman serving beside me, a regular volunteer, began to respond to him.

I'd expected her to defend the kitchen against the patron's accusation. Instead she explained that despite the great effort of volunteers to wash dishes perfectly, sometimes mistakes are made. The man accepted this answer with understanding.

Although I've never seen another dirty dish, since this incident I've come to see it as a microcosm for the spirit of the St. John's Kitchen. In the great community that fills the space, everyone experiences good and bad days. Still, as the energy

of each individual fluctuates, the community continues to support each other and contribute to making the services of St. John's Kitchen possible everyday.

Throughout my time at St. John's Kitchen, I've come to see the great beauty of community. Admittedly, I too don't always have the energy to connect with others or contribute my best. Though, when I do, I find that these interactions stay with me. It's often these moments of connectedness that strengthen my mood, allowing me to continue sharing my energy in the interrelated interactions of the community.

As friends and family asked me about my summer job, I struggled to find an accurate term to describe the singular space. Yet, despite the lack

*Thank you to Hilltop Poultry for donating turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners each year at St. John's Kitchen.*



of publicizing done by the Working Centre, many people are already familiar with the organization. Perhaps it's suitable that such a unique community is marked by its own title.

*This past summer, Francesca Handy was a hard working summer student at St. John's Kitchen*

## Doing the Dishes at St. John's Kitchen

By Eli Winterfeld

*"Everyone wants a revolution...but no one wants to do the dishes"*

This quote, made popular by writer/activist Shane Claiborne, rings all too true in our current society. It is a beautiful metaphor and holds literal truth as well.

I know I often get caught up in grandiose ideas of how I fit in "the revolution" and forget the small acts of generosity, love, patience (and hard work) that truly are the foundation of leading a life focused on strengthening our community.

Doing the dishes, literally, is a very important part of the good work of St. John's Kitchen. It can sometimes be a difficult role to fill because it is fast paced, dirty, wet and tucked away from sight. This role often receives much less thanks than it deserves. You would think I am trying to talk folks out of taking this role. Quite the opposite, I am simply conveying what a generous gift and a crucial part of the community this

role is.

There are many more ways to participate at St. John's Kitchen than washing dishes. Helping at St. John's is being a part of a community. Francesca's article above describes the spirit of the space.

Volunteering here is organic and fluid. We do not have a formal application process or a particular schedule that volunteers must maintain. We want people to be able to participate in the community in a way that is comfortable and many people find the loose structure freeing.

The group of folks that help here is very diverse: Among this community are retired people, students completing hours, patrons who notice that something needs doing or do a certain task as part of their daily routine, young people wanting to learn about the community and the work, people who work part-time or are unwaged, folks completing community service hours and some individuals even come for an hour a week during their lunch break from work. Every person's participation is a wonderful gift and we are deeply grateful for every person's time here.

Another mini revolution is with the new dialogue and conversation we are hosting with volunteers at The Kitchen to talk about roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes. We want volunteering at St. John's to be more than the tasks that keep it operating. It also means participating in open, equal conversations about how we, as a community, want to see the space continue to develop.

St. John's Kitchen is a mix of beautiful, wild and real. Calling one and all that wish to live "the revolution" by doing dishes, cooking, serving, cleaning and building relationships.

*If you are interested in learning more please visit, call or email us at: 97 Victoria St. N., (519) 745-8928, gretchenj@theworkingcentre.org*



On Friday evening September 18th, 160 volunteers from Working Centre projects gathered at St. John's Kitchen for a BBQ in celebration of their commitment. It was a fun evening with lots of food and conversation. Working Centre Board member Carol Taylor of Acoustic Steel, her granddaughter Karen Asumang, and Wendell Claxton added lively Caribbean music. A big thank you to John Villemare of M&M Meat Shops at 102 Weber St. N. for providing all the hamburgers and vegiburgers for the celebration.





Construction continues at 256 King



# Income Tax Clinic

## Volunteers Welcome

The Working Centre will be assisting low income individuals to complete their Income Tax returns between March and April 2016. We are looking for volunteers who are familiar with income tax forms and who will attend a training session with the Canada Revenue Agency. Income tax returns will be completed using on-line software.

Last year over 2400 people were assisted with the help of over 40 core volunteers. The project ensures that low-income individuals access their tax credits. We are planning to offer drop-in or drop-off services. To sign up as an Income Tax volunteer, please contact Jen Smerdon at (519) 743-1151 x 176 or jens@theworkingcentre.org.

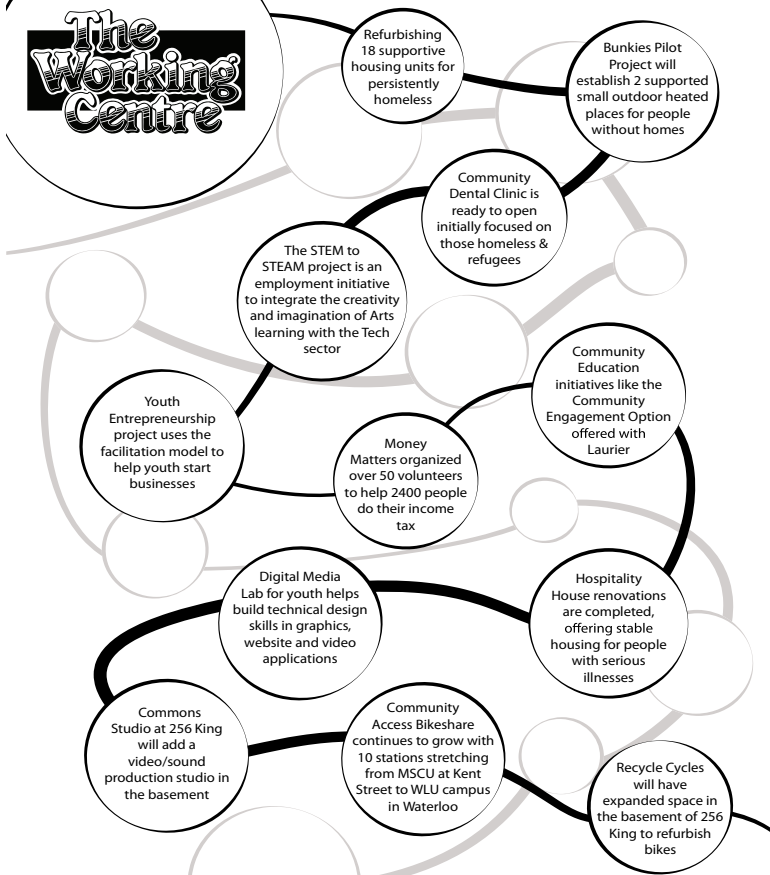
# A New Openness for Creative Action

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life around us? There is a realization that our present ways are harming the home where we live. The problem will not be solved with more growth in consumption. We need to continually rethink how we produce, how we consume, how we trade, how we grow food. Simply put, the way we have been acting has contributed to a warming planet and we have to find simple ways, around our house, around our neighbourhoods to find meaningful pathways of change. Happiness is not a factor of how much our economy grows. Happiness is more likely the outcome of recognizing how we can join together with others to contribute to the greater good. Happiness comes from how we treat each other and how we treat our home. This is why it is so important to welcome refugees to our neighbourhoods. There is always room at the table. Every week at Worth A Second Look thrift store, over 3,000 items are taken

in, sorted, and sold at affordable prices. Our abundance can easily be shared if we put our minds and hearts to it. When we welcome the stranger we start a chain reaction of relationships that put in motion new ways of intentionally building our community. We can nurture the interconnection between society and economics by asking deeper questions. How can we reduce wastefulness and find better ways of providing necessities? Can we devise sustainable ways of getting around? Can our neighbourhoods become places of community building? All around us the signs of the times are leading to new answers. This thinking is being stimulated by Francis's *Laudato Si*, the Climate Change Conference in Paris or the world wide refugee crisis. These realities are a question of ethics, of how we treat each other and how we look after our common home. It is about how we live together and what kind of a world will we bequeath to those who come after us.

# New Projects and Ideas Emerging at The Working Centre



Donate to Support The Working Centre Community!

# Diploma in Local Democracy



On November 18th, the eighth class in Local Democracy celebrated their graduation. This year the commencement address by Trish Van Katwyk, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work at Renison University College focused on the model of accessible learning that Renison has supported through the Humanities 101 course. This year's class had eleven graduates and each had the opportunity to describe some of their experiences from the 14 week course.

The Diploma in Local Democracy is designed to engage people from all walks of life to expand their democratic knowledge. It teaches the skills of identifying the best and worse of democratic relations in community groups, workplaces and where ever humans cooperate.

**The Next Class Starts**  
**Wednesday**  
**January 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 7:00pm**

*Come and see our inventory of affordable, quality used goods this holiday season!*



Monday-Friday: 9am - 5pm  
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- Christmas Decorations • Toys & Games • Sofas • Chairs • Dishes & Utensils • Art & Crafts • Books • Small Appliances • Cassettes, CDs & LPs • Jewellery • Silent Auction • and Much More



# Building Social Space

continued from page 2

## 256 King Street

Besides the housing on the top floor (8 x 1-bedroom apartments), stay tuned to hear more about the development of the King Street Coffee Bar, entrepreneurial supports and enterprise facilitation including hot-desks and pop-up markets, digital media training and supports, the new location for the Commons Studio film-making project, with the addition of a video/sound studio in the basement, and additional bike repair and maintenance space.

## Dental Clinic

All the equipment is in place in our Dental Clinic (see photo below with Don Gingerich and Henry Schein technician installing dental chair). Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants are working closely with us to finalize the clinic set-up and procedures. We expect to start seeing patients in January. This clinic will provide free dental services for people who are homeless/at risk of homelessness, or who are refugees. Dental professionals will volunteer to make this clinic possible.

## Hacienda Market Garden

Two projects have complemented the ongoing work of the Hacienda Market Garden, which is constantly

learning about ways to generate learning opportunities and revenue from our 2 acre market garden. With help from the K-W Community Foundation we are working to develop "The Cultivation Project" which nurtures well-being, skills and belonging by growing and harvesting vegetables, herbs and flowers, helping people to connect with the healing nature of working in the garden. As well, we are experimenting with growing mushrooms as a viable winter crop grown indoors in containers. You may have also seen the notices about rosemary trees and wreaths.

## Community Enterprise

Each of our Community Enterprise projects seeks revenue streams that complement the building of community, but also supports our goals to build community. Here are some examples – link to our website catalogue site for more info: [catalogue.theworkingcentre.org](http://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org).

## Green Door Arts

We have developed a consistent line of soap and body products, made by volunteers in our Green Door Arts space. Products are available at the Green Door, at the Queen Street Commons Café, and online on our Catalogue site.

This year we are more formally making our many gift ideas available through gift certificates, gift baskets, and more.

These ideas and more continue to percolate. We continue to learn and explore the roots and practices of this work – through the writing and printing of *Transition to Common Work*, through the Laurier partnership

where we welcome Arts students into our spaces to learn actively, through helping non-traditional students to

access University through Humanities 101 or the Access program, and through the Local Democracy course.

## Handcrafted Soaps

## The Green Door Art Space

*Celebrate and share the gifts of locally made soaps and herbal body products. Our products are made in small batches by volunteers*

Soaps come in 6 varieties, **mint, lavender, pear bergamot, oatmeal, woodland and citrus star**, plus holiday a seasonal specialty soap.

Our line of herbal body products includes **Sugar Scrubs, Scented Body Oils and Foot Butter**, which use nourishing ingredients like cocoa butter, sweet almond oil, vitamin E and essential oils.



*For the holidays we are offering 4 unique gift packs, ranging from \$6 to \$15 you will find something for everyone on your list.*

Available at The Green Door, the Queen Street Commons Cafe and online through [catalogue.theworkingcentre.org](http://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org)

## Herbal Body Products



## Local Fresh Urban Community

## Rosemary Christmas Trees & Holiday Wreaths



*Bring the garden indoors this winter with a festive potted rosemary tree and holiday wreath!*



Here is how to purchase or order one:

- The Green Door, 37 Market Lane
- Online: [catalogue.theworkingcentre.org/csa](http://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org/csa)
- Email: [hacienda@theworkingcentre.org](mailto:hacienda@theworkingcentre.org)
- Call 519-575-1118

## It was a season of firsts



167 Members...

Thanks to funding from Libro Credit Union - CAB hosted 4 interns in 2015 who helped to enrich and carry the program further

1621 Rides...

7243 km Travelled...





## Books for Sustainable Living

### Books for Sustainable Living



Books for Sustainable Living at Queen Street Commons Café offers a wide selection of books on such topics as the environment, education, poverty, social alternatives, the philosophy of work, simple living, and more!

You can place orders by fax (519-743-3840), phone (519-743-1151 x111), or by [catalogue.theworkingcentre.org](http://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org)

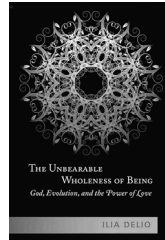


#### Transition to Common Work Building Community at The Working Centre

Joe and Stephanie Mancini

The Working Centre in downtown Kitchener, Ontario, is a widely recognized and successful model for community development. Begun from scratch in 1982, it is now a vast network of practical supports for the unemployed, the underemployed, the temporarily employed, and the homeless, populations that collectively constitute up to 30 percent of the labour market both locally and across North America. This essential text about The Working Centre—its beginnings thirty years ago, the lessons learned, and the myriad ways in which its strategies and innovations can be adapted by those who share its goals.

212 pages \$20.00 softcover

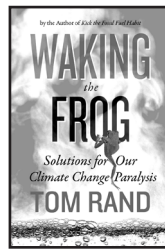


#### Unbearable Wholeness of Being God, Evolution, and the Power of Love

Ilia Delio

A quantum leap in our understanding of the universe one that reveals the whole consciousness that is active in every part and how every part participates in the whole. The award-winning author of *Christ in Evolution* and *The Emergent Christ* breaks new ground with this capstone in a trilogy that opens our eyes to the everywhere active, all powerful, all intelligent Love that guides and directs our new awareness of interrelatedness and interbeing.

230 pages \$22.95 softcover



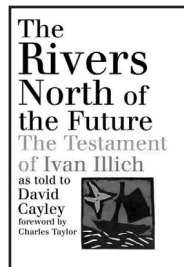
#### Waking the Frog

##### Solutions for Our Climate Change Paralysis

Tom Rand

Venture capitalist, entrepreneur, engineer, and philosopher Tom Rand explains why climate disruption might just be our very own pot of hot water. Are we the frog paralyzed in our inaction? In a highly readable account, Rand looks to contemporary psychology, economics, business, and finance to explain our stasis in the face of one of the most fundamental problems of our time. Rand's account doesn't just point fingers at the bad guys, but goes deeper - to our motivations, institutional lethargy, and deeply buried assumptions about market economics.

235 pages \$22.45 softcover



#### The Rivers North of the Future

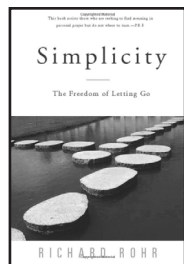
##### The Testament of Ivan Illich

as told to David Cayley

"Ivan Illich was an iconoclast who urged a fundamental rethinking of modern institutions. He believed that Western civilization can only be understood properly as a corruption of the New Testament ... ." This book is based on a series of interviews during which Illich explores how 'the corruption of the best is the worst.' As Charles Taylor notes in his foreword, 'from within [Illich's] perspective, the significance of the Good Samaritan story appears obvious: it is a stage on the road to a universal morality of rules.' Illich's analysis of contemporary society is both a bold

historical hypothesis and an invitation to believers to revise and renew their understanding of Christian faith."

256 pages, \$24.95 softcover



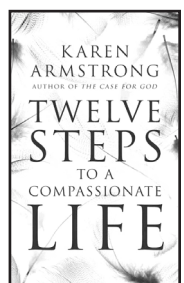
#### Simplicity

##### The Freedom of Letting Go

Richard Rohr

One of Fr. Rohr's bestselling books, this revised and updated edition explores St. Francis's ancient call to the simple life, where joy, not dry theology, helps us build relationships and find peace in ourselves.

186 pages, \$21.95 softcover

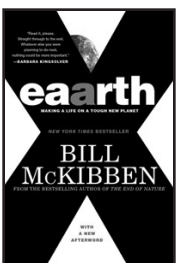


#### Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

Karen Armstrong

Drawing on a wide range of material - ranging from the spiritual character of the world religions to the findings of contemporary neuroscience - Karen Armstrong argues that compassion is hardwired into our brains, yet is constantly pushed back by our more primitive instincts for selfishness and survival. Since time immemorial religion has enhanced our altruistic tendencies: all faiths insist that the Golden Rule is the test of true spirituality - 'Always treat others as you wish to be treated yourself'.

192 pages, \$26.95 softcover

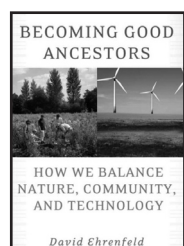


#### Eaarth

Bill McKibben

Twenty years ago, with *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben offered one of the earliest warnings about global warming. Those warnings went mostly unheeded; now, he insists, we need to acknowledge that we've waited too long, and that massive change is not only unavoidable but already under way. Our old familiar globe is suddenly melting, drying, acidifying, flooding, and burning in ways that no human has ever seen. We've created, in very short order, a new planet, still recognizable but fundamentally different. We may as well call it Eaarth.

192 pages, \$26.95 softcover



#### Becoming Good Ancestors

##### How We Balance Nature, Community and Technology

David Ehrenfeld

The book focuses on our present-day retreat from reality, our alienation from nature, attitudes towards technology, the denial of non-economic values, and the decline of local communities. Through down-to-earth examples, ranging from a family canoe trip in the wilderness to the novels of Jane Austen, Ehrenfeld shows how we can move ourselves and our society towards a more stable, less frantic, and far more satisfying life, a life in which we are no longer compelled to damage ourselves and our environment, in which our children have a future, and in which fewer species are endangered and more rivers run clean.

320 pages \$21.95 softcover

## Laudato Si:

### On the Care for our Common Home

*Editors Note: This excerpt from Laudato Si: On the Care of our Common Home by Pope Francis focuses on the ecological/social challenge ahead of us.*

208. We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society.

#### Educating for the covenant between Humanity and the Environment

209. An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them. In those countries which should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment. At the same time, they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes it difficult to develop other habits. We are faced with an educational challenge.

210. Environmental education has broadened its goals. Whereas in the beginning it was mainly centred on scientific information, consciousness-raising and the prevention of environmental risks, it tends now to include a critique of the "myths" of a modernity grounded in a utilitarian mindset (individualism, unlimited progress, competition, consumerism, the unregulated market). It seeks also to restore the various levels of ecological equilibrium, establishing harmony

within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God. Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning. It needs educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care.

211. Yet this education, aimed at creating an "ecological citizenship", is at times limited to providing information, and fails to instill good habits. The existence of laws and regulations is insufficient in the long run to curb bad conduct, even when effective means of enforcement are present. If the laws are to bring about significant, long-lasting effects, the majority of the members of society must be adequately motivated to accept them, and personally transformed to respond. Only by cultivating sound virtues will people be able to make a selfless ecological commitment. A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment. There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity.

212. We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile.



## Community Enterprise at The Working Centre

supporting creative  
community projects

## New Catalogue and Gift Cards

[catalogue.theworkingcentre.org](http://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org)



The Working Centre is building on the idea of **Community Enterprise** – building creative **enterprise ideas** that are focused on **building community**.

By supporting these enterprises, you support our work in building community. These gifts are also environmentally smart – locally grown food and flowers, a bikeshare membership, a gift certificate to repurpose used housewares and clothing. We also have fair trade coffee, that we freshly roast daily.

Consider giving a Gift Card: Gift Cards can be “open” (i.e. used anywhere in Working Centre enterprise projects). Gift Cards can be specific – a Flower Share for the summer months, a CSA share of delicious vegetables

during the growing season, for a Coffee series of fresh roasted coffee weekly, or a Community Access Bike-share membership.

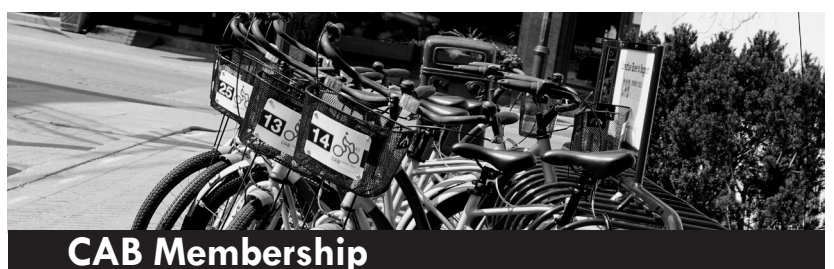
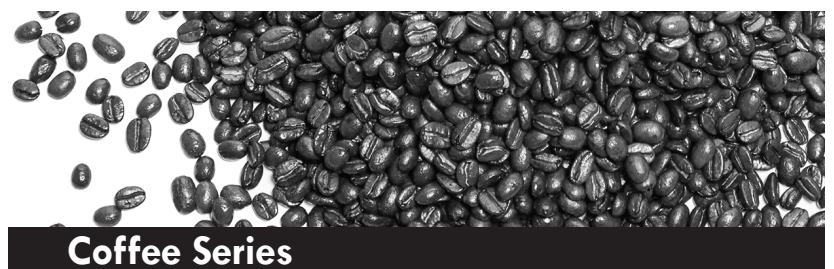
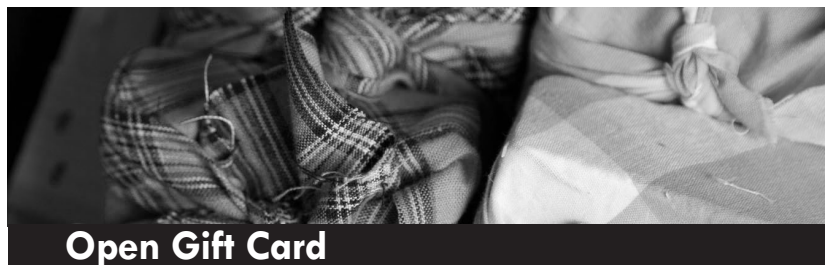
You can give the gift of your time too – give someone an “open” gift certificate and promise to meet them for lunch at the Queen Street Commons Café.

If you want to give more than a gift certificate, there are lots of ideas:

- A thoughtful book from our **Books for Sustainable Living** either online or at the **Queen Street Commons Café**;
- Pick up a pound or half-pound of **fresh roasted coffee** as a gift, or a host gift;
- Purchase **soaps and body products** for sale at the Green Door, at the Queen Street Commons Café or online through our catalogue;
- Purchase a **rosemary Christmas tree** or a **seasonal wreath** grown and prepared by the **Hacienda Sarria Market Garden**;

• Share a copy of **Transition to Common Work**, a book that describes the 30+ year history of The Working Centre.

These are gifts that give in many ways – pick up a copy of Good Work News to slip into your gift – as we keep the conversation going about ways to live intentionally and thoughtfully.



Buy gift cards at the Queen Street Commons Cafe at 43 Queen St. South, or visit [catalogue.theworkingcentre.org](http://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org)





For 33 years, The Working Centre has responded to the needs of those experiencing poverty and unemployment in Kitchener-Waterloo, developing collaborative, innovative, and practical projects.

Dear Friends,


The foundation of The Working Centre is the building of community through services that involve hundreds of volunteers. Our core services help over 3000 job searchers each year gain access to employment resources to aid their job search. This year marks the 30th year that St. John’s Kitchen has served a daily weekday meal in downtown Kitchener.

New projects grow from our commitment to service. St. John’s Kitchen is a hub of supports for the homeless where medical and psychiatric help is available, showers and laundry, and outreach workers who walk with people through their issues. The Job Search Resource Centre is a creative space helping job searchers ranging from youth to older workers to find their way into the work force.

Our Housing initiatives and Community Tools projects have grown from this foundation. 50 units of housing have been developed through revitalizing old spaces. Now these units provide crucial housing. Community Tools projects like Recycle Cycles, Worth A Second Look Furniture and Housewares, The Green Door, Computer Recycling, Hacienda Sarria Market Garden and the Queen Street Commons Café all demonstrate practical action through community service.

With 500 volunteers helping out in 30 different projects, our community is constantly providing useful, important and direct services. The Working Centre combines government support with revenue from our social enterprises along with donations to help us accomplish this work.

This work is only possible through your generosity. Donations help us to build agile, creative responses. Supporters of The Working Centre, year after year, see how their donations make our community better. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,  
  
Joe Mancini,  
Director

P.S. We share our quarterly newspaper Good Work News with our contributors. Learn more about our community-based initiatives by visiting our website at [www.theworkingcentre.org](http://www.theworkingcentre.org)

## Ideas for Creative Gift Giving!

Your donation to The Working Centre can be turned into a creative gift giving idea. Each donation card details the work supported through your donation. The cards have a variety of activities and donation amounts – you can select the one that best suits the person you are gifting. **As the donor, you will receive a tax receipt, plus the card to give as a recognition of your gift. Also available through our on-line catalogue.**

### Public Access Computers

Each month our 25 public access computers are used 1000 different times. A \$50 donation will go towards costs such as paper, repair and computer licenses.

### Lunch for 300 at St. John’s Kitchen

300 people eat at St. John’s Kitchen each week day. A \$65 donation will cover food costs not donated by the community.

### Lunch, Shower, Clean Shirt

Each day, 5 to 10 people do their laundry, take a shower, and access clean clothing if needed. A donation of \$50 will go towards laundry costs per month.

### A Free Bicycle for a Child

At Recycle Cycles volunteers throughout the year refurbish childrens bikes and then they are offered for free. A donation of \$25 will go towards the cost of parts and tools to provide free bikes for a child.

### Refurbished Computer

Computer Recycling receives donations of used computers and refurbishes them for people living on a limited income. Your donation of \$80 will go towards costs such as providing a fully licensed refurbished computer for someone living on a limited income.

## An Alternative Christmas Gift Idea

For donations made in the name of family and friends, we will gladly send a Christmas card acknowledging your gift. Please fill out the form carefully.

Please direct my gift to:

☐ St. John’s Kitchen                      ☐ The Working Centre

Please send a Christmas card to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name, email, and address:  
(So we can send you an Income Tax receipt).



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Donate to Support The Working Centre Community

### TOTAL GIFT AMOUNT

☐ \$500      ☐ \$250      ☐ \$100      ☐ \$50  
Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Please direct my donation to:

☐ The Working Centre                      ☐ St. John's Kitchen  
☐ Where it is needed most

### Payment Method:

☐ Visa   ☐ MC   ☐ Cheque (payable to The Working Centre)

### Credit Card Information:

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Charitable Registration No. 13092 9607 RR0001



<https://donate.theworkingcentre.org>