Fruits of the Spirit

By Joe Mancini

We all recognize when peach, pear and apple trees beautifully flower and produce fruit. That is when the fruits are the most important part of the tree. Our Tree of Life reflects on the fruits of the spirit, they are just as beautiful; the fruits of belonging, patience, goodness, caring, respect, joy, acceptance, gratitude, kindness, trust and compassion.

In our 30th year, the 25th Mayors’ Dinner became an opportunity to celebrate the Fruits of the Spirit. The Dinner was attended by over 950 people and as a celebration it integrated art, dance, poetry, laughter, music and conviviality. For The Working Centre, the core of the evening was the recognition of building relationships with the Mayors of Kitchener and Waterloo, with all 25 past and present Guests of Honour, and a growing list of patrons and friends who have generously supported our work over these many years.

Arriving at Global Community Centre on Queen Street they found folks who shared their values and they became very involved in many of its activities. They took the road to Queen Street and, to paraphrase Robert Frost, that has made all the difference. What they found as a model for community engagement at the Global Community Centre was the ethos of respecting gifts of volunteers and their capacity to be active agents for change.

Reflecting on our experiences of the needs of community together at the Global Community Centre brought us to a shared vision of how we wished to respond to social justice issues.

The responses that we engaged in together, whether it was paying attention to the war in Central America; the Mackenzie valley pipeline, the Ontario Food Commission or the debate around infant formula, had a process. We shared our experiences, we reflected together before we responded.

For Joe, an ex-seminarian, and Stephanie and others whose frame of reference was religious or spiritual we went to that place where we engaged in theological reflection on the social justice teachings of faith and tradition – the social imperative of the Gospel. As the community of IONA reminds us “Spirituality is the place where prayer and politics meet.”

We went to that core of possibility and hope. We recognized the richness of many faith stories and traditions. Together we began to formulate what it would look like if a community was open to explore what it would mean to move from abstract knowledge to concrete considerations of values, assumptions and commitments of how life ought to be lived.

The story started in the early 80’s when factories were closing and the economy in K-W was moving from its industrial base and had yet to find its new technological possibilities. Stories of layoffs of middle-aged workers and distress in families were the topic of many conversations.

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Twenty-Seventh Year
Issue 109  June 2012
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. Four issues of Good Work News constitutes our annual report. There is a circulation of 12,000 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

Editors: Joe Mancini, Stephanie Mancini, Jennifer Mains, John R. Smith
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Please join us for the
23rd Annual
Golf Tournament

In support of The Working Centre and St. John’s Kitchen

Wednesday, August 15th, 2012
at Rockway Golf Course

$120 per Golfer plus a $15 Golf Bonus Package
To reserve your spot,
call Kara at (519) 743-1151 x119
Visit our website for event flyer: www.theworkingcentre.org.
See the link in our ‘What’s New’ Section.

Fruits of the Spirit
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For The Working Centre, the core of the evening was the recognition of building relationships with the Mayor’s of Kitchener and Waterloo, with all 25 past and present Guests of Honour, and a growing list of patrons and friends who have generously supported our work over these years.

During the month of our 30th anniversary, the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden is offering us yet another example of integrated community. This was symbolized when Fr. Toby Collins C.R. offered his considerable landscaping and organizational skills to build an extensive and unifying 6000 square foot brick pathway. This community inspired project quickly defined the market gardening space even while Fr. Toby was leading the volunteers and Job Cafe workers. Together they completed the project in a week of dedicated labour that often went 14 hours a day. This is another example of the fruits of the spirit creating beauty and community all at once.

Andy Macpherson’s Tree of Life graphic on the front page celebrates 30 years of The Working Centre using the Fibonacci Series as presented below:

The Fibonacci series:
1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13,... is interesting because each term is the sum of the previous 2 terms.

30 Years at the Working Centre

After 30 years at The Working Centre, core values, principles, ideas, shared work, learning, programs, community, kindness, compassion... so much fruit has been born of such hearty trunk and roots, all in cooperation with the whole: service, life, joy, community, shared tools and skills, hospitality, creativity, love.

Leaves on plants find their place on their stem according to this ratio, the dimensions of our bodies adhere to these proportions, the artistic spirals of real fruits and vegetables (cauliflower, broccoli, pineapples, petals on flowers, and many more) contain these fibonacci numbers, and the discovery and applications of this mathematical phenomenon are all at once aesthetic, useful and bountiful.

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The ratio of consecutive terms 2/1, 3/2, 5/3, 8/5, 13/8,... approaches the beautiful, a naturally occurring number 1.6180339... known as the golden mean and usually represented by the Greek letter phi (ϕ).
talked about a moral framework for an economic system with firm foundations in values of inclusion and participation. We yearned for the community where the common good is a value and criterion as companies were established to live and work in K-W.

The conversations of those days continued as we sought to address what was possible when you articulate what a community might look like and how it might function if all were valued, where all could belong and participate. We needed a new paradigm—a new way of evaluating what a new, more just, economy might look like.

With the assurance of being listened to and encouraged, Stephanie and Joe, Patrice and Anna and others with the gift of time and good will sat around a table and with pots of tea began to dream the dream into reality.

Jim Wallis of Sojourners reminded us “You can’t start a movement, you can only prepare for one.” Our preparation for The Working Centre was a gracious space of relationships, of courage and of encouragement. We had the assurance of friendship, support of local organizations, and the leadership of churches (the $6,000 grant from FLURA was a profound act of faith in founding the centre).

Someone recently asked when the moment was that the name came about and if these chairs could only talk!! But I remember the conversation and it was decided that it would be The Working Centre front and centre with the tag line of Self Help Centre for the Unemployed. We wanted it to be a forcefully positive space.

It was a time when the spirit of change was moving over the face of the earth and was seen in many parts of the world.

The climate for social change was ripe for new beginnings including the founding of the Centre for Community Based Research; Extend-a-Family, and Independent Living Centres. Trudeau repatriated the constitution and we celebrated a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Base Christian communities in Latin America and the churches of South Africa spoke of God’s desire for the well-being of people. We held hope for that inclusive future.

We lived in hope and as if there was political space. It is a way of living that calls the future into being. To live imaginatively in the light of the hoped-for future is a prophetic choice. We chose community, we chose relationship, and we chose inclusion.

The stories were deeply steeped in values of hospitality, generosity of spirit, and the ability to reflect and to laugh. Yes, to laugh! To be able to hold hope for community and people’s capacity to live well is an act of deep faith. To have the ability to hold hope in the midst of despair marked the beginnings of The Working Centre.

Dorothea Day, an Anti-Poverty Activist in New York from the 30’s and an inspiration to The Working Centre stated “It is not easy always to be joyful, to keep in mind the duty of Delight” but we felt that faith called us to that place.

Daily walking with the realities of human need can steal the joy from the heart, but I encourage you, come to the Commons on Queen Street or St. John’s where you will encounter “delight” in warmth of conversation, good food, music and passionate relationship.

But tonight, this special night, it is easy to keep in mind the wisdom of Dorothea Day, who calls us to this duty of delight—it is a delightful occasion when our community gathers, – our mayors, our political leaders, those in business, education, social services and industry, healers and all who carry the well-being of our cities – to celebrate, to remember, to continue our journey.

Back to those young, long-haired, bearded and emboldened who often asked the WHY, why us, young, small in number, why now, why here, WHY NOT? Parker Palmer reminded us that our very being yearns for compassion for others, which in turn, is energized by the knowledge that we are all in this together, that the fate of other beings has implications for our fate.

We heard the answer that the community’s well-being was also ours and we began to move along a path of compassion to the place where the How would be realized.

In the normal circle of the experience of the unemployed, reflecting on the social environment, bringing all this to prayer, we engaged in action.

The talking, thinking and deep reflection over pots and pots of tea has stood The Working Centre in good standing. We had at heart a deep reflective practice. The centre of the reflection circle had at its very core human dignity and respect.

Joe and Stephanie will tell you stories of going to New York on a bus with many other students from church colleges at the University of Waterloo to the Second Special Session of the General Assembly. Walking the streets of New York with a million people of all faiths and traditions praying for peace and holding vesperals at the Catholic Worker House on the impoverished Lower East Side or participating in the community festivals on the streets with great ethnic foods and sensing the great good that was possible. Missa Gaia at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine was food for the body and the soul.

Our Good Friday liturgies with Oz Aronal and others took place on the side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations (Revelation 21). The leaves and the fruit of The Working Centre are for the well-being of this community.

But what of the future of The Working Centre? Where are the young ones with vision and energy to sit and share dreams and visions? Those who hear the call of service that Dorothea Day reminds us is a joining together to try to make things better in this world.

Tonight we acknowledge that they are among us and around us and we announce that in future Mayors’ Dinners we will be honouring a young person who demonstrates a life lived with Working Centre values.

Tonight as we move into our fourth decade we are reminded of these words from Oscar Romero, an inspiration from our beginning days. He said: “It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. This is what we are about; we plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seed already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities. We are prophets of a future not our own.”

We stand here representing the past and the present and believing in a rich future. We have been held together by cords of human kindness and bands of love (Hosea 11:8).

We stand here for our friends to thank YOU, this community, for gifts received in relationships and life and so on behalf of Joe and Stephanie, Jennifer, Leslie, Gretchen, Arleen, Andy, Don, Ashley, Mayor Cardillo, Martin Tarback and Bao Lu, for everyone who is at home in The Working Centre. We sang “All you need is love.” Dorothy reminded us that love comes with community. We are community for each other.

Thank you for your support of this vision, for your faithful friendship over the decades, for the dreaming of dreams and the community that springs from the Tree of Life that enriches us all.

-Margaret Nally

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**Community Building**

**continued from page 1**

**Thank You to the Ontario Trillium Foundation**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is a provincially funded organization that supports not-for-profit organizations and community groups in Ontario.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is also supporting a three-year development grant to the Multi-cultural Cinema Club that includes the purchase of a RED Digital Video Camera to rent to local filmmakers.

Thank you to Canadian General Tower

We would also like to thank Rick Chaplin and Canadian General Tower (CGT) for their donation of 5,000 sq. ft. of PVC roofing membrane.
A Beehive of Social Innovation
or a Celtic Weave?

By Bob Nally

Tonight, we have all been part of the learning and telling of The Working Centre story in games, art and song.

However, the story is in fact made up of the hundreds of stories each day, these past 30 years, of the many thousands of our fellow citizens whose lives have been touched by The Working Centre.

When we started out on this journey 30 years ago, we had no idea how many thousands would walk together on this mystery tour of our shared humanity as a complex, living, growing and unfolding entity.

How can we describe and celebrate what it is and is becoming? What metaphor, parable or analogy can we use to narrate and celebrate the story?

Maybe The Working Centre is like a beehive of social innovation; of highly motivated members, grounded in strong fiscal management and discipline that generates over 25% of its revenue from its various ventures such as; Recycle Cycles, Worth a Second Look and the Commons Café, with strict decision filters for all projects based on social utility with profit-and-loss and cash flow analysis. Of projects such as Computer Recycling, purchasing and renovating five buildings in the downtown core and leveraging $300,000 in grants into the development of 35 supportive housing units, to have a meaningful place to be, find themselves on their life’s journey.

Community, says a lot about who we are and the kind of community that we have and how we find ways to ensure that all of our fellow citizens, regardless of where they find themselves on their life’s journey, have a meaningful place to be, a community to be part of and access to the tools and resources they need, to help them on their journey.

The 25th Mayors’ Dinner was a wonderful community celebration attended by over 950 people. In this collage of pictures from the event (starting at the top) are Murray and Merle Haase who have been long-time generous donors to The Working Centre and Mayors’ Dinner. Mayor Zafr and Mayor Halloran present Lorna Van Mossel with her anniversary plaque as a past Guest of Honour from 1994. All 25 Guests of Honour or their representatives gathered for a pre-reception and group picture.

Christina Mancini along with Pete Oldridge and Nathan Stetch climbed ladders to sing All You Need is Love. Margaret and Bob Nally pose with Joe and Stephanie Mancini after the Dinner celebrating the project that grew from the Nally’s kitchen table. For 17 years, long-time Working Centre volunteer Larry Crawford has assembled the Centro de Trabajo jazz ensemble for The Mayors’ Dinner. Myra and Amelia O’Sceannain danced the Irish Dance of Life. Martha Crealock and Myles Kavanagh hang a leaf on the Tree of Life.

Bob and Margaret Nally with Michael Graham and Hulene Montgomery. All of the city; just as Jeremiah reminds us. Always, always coming home. And home was simple – in apartment buildings, playing music and laughing – being home for and with each other.

The streets and around the locked gates of factories in ours and others’ communities. Buses were our form of transportation and community building. We walked and talked, sang and prayed for ourselves, our planet and our communities. We always hopped back on the bus. We have stayed rooted in this community with the same concerns. We had families and worked for the welfare of the city, just as Jeremiah reminds us. Always, always coming home. And home was simple – in apartments in the downtown core, over store fronts, with good simple food at pot-luck suppers, weddings in backyards, playing music and laughing – being home for and with each other.

30 Years of Community Building

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Job Café
Keeping People Connected

By Cristina Doyle

I started my student placement at The Working Centre in January of this year. During my short time here working on the Job Café project, I have been able to truly understand the concept of community development, which cannot be fully explained in a classroom setting. I have also been able to better identify the significant barriers that many face in looking for employment, as well as witness the effects of under-funded and unjust social assistance programs.

Job Café is a project that connects individuals who do not fit in the mainstream labour market with odd jobs and casual work in order to earn a livelihood. Since Job Café recognizes that there are barriers that many are facing when seeking employment, and has created an environment where people can gain access to the labour market in ways where their skills and experience can be respected and utilized. This widespread need for an alternative approach to labour was highlighted for me when I reached out to community members and groups of people, often seeking odd jobs that needed completing. However, it was much more frequent for people to approach me looking for work, displaying this significant need in the community. This is a time when job cuts are common, and openings are scarce.

Workers with Job Café come from varied backgrounds, and are facing a wide range of obstacles. Some have recently lost their stable jobs, and are struggling to find work. Others have been living in poverty for some time, and may be struggling with maintaining stability in many areas, including employment. An example is one individual who has faced instability throughout his life, starting with his first foster home at a very young age. As a teenager, he was left to support himself, and looked for whatever work could support his immediate needs. It was often difficult for him to think in the long-term, and while often unable to maintain steady employment, he continues to actively look for work, and uses Job Café as a stepping stone during this transient time in his life. Other workers struggle with issues of mental health and addiction, and while often unable to maintain steady employment, they have the ability and the desire to work.

Many Job Café workers are social assistance recipients looking to supplement their meager earnings, which has opened my eyes to the unjust and punitive nature of these programs in Ontario. Current Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates force recipients to live below the poverty line. The recently released provincial budget has announced that there will be a freeze of these rates which, when considering increases in the cost of living, will actually represent cuts to people’s earnings. Recipients are required to report their monthly earnings, and are deducted 50% of this from their monthly cheque. For example, an individual who works at $11 an hour for 20 hours over the period of one month would be assumed to receive $220. However, this individual would be required to report their earnings Ontario Works, and give back 50%, or $110, of this money. Looked at in a different way, this could be described as working for $5.50 an hour, well below minimum wage. This punitive situation does not provide incentive for recipients to seek out part time labour. Participants of Job Café are skilled in a number of areas. Pick-ups and deliveries for Worth a Second Look couldn’t be accomplished without these individuals. Recently, Job Café workers were also heavily involved in renovations for The Working Centre’s new clothing store on Market Lane, as well as the new Winter Cycle loan. These individuals took pride in their work, and, as with all Working Centre projects, felt as they were an important piece of its development. We would often receive a number of people offering to help, or simply asking about how the work was going. Participants in Job Café truly want to work, and often volunteer in various Working Centre projects in between jobs. Workers are readily available and participate in a number of different tasks for community members - including gardening, moving, cleaning and painting.

I recently spoke to a worker who helped a woman with her snow shoveling one winter. A relationship was developed, and this worker would often be called to complete small jobs when ever needed. Soon, this became a trusted friendship, which continued until the woman passed away recently. The Job Café participant still remembers this with fondness, and describes feeling both a sense of belonging and accomplishment.

Job Café is a connecting service that not only gives people the opportunity to find employment and earn extra income, but also to participate meaningfully in their own community. Employers also become more involved in their community, and engage with individuals outside their regular social networks. It is common for relationships that started with Job Café to continue over a period of time. I spoke to a worker who helped a woman with her snow shoveling one winter. A relationship was developed, and this worker would often be called to complete small jobs whenever needed. Soon, this became a trusted friendship, which continued until the woman passed away recently. This relationship was developed, and this worker would often be called to complete small jobs whenever needed. Soon, this became a trusted friendship, which continued until the woman passed away recently. The Job Café participant still remembers this with fondness, and describes feeling both a sense of belonging and accomplishment.

Job Café is a project in which friends ships are developed, good work is accomplished and our community is strengthened.

Cristina Doyle is in the Master of Social Work program at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her 4-day/week placement this winter has been to assist in the development of the Job Café project.
Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support

Celebrating 25 Years of Welcome and Hope

Editor’s Note: The Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support (MCRS) has lived in The Working Centre as a separate organization for all of its 25 years. Starting small with financial support from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and K-W churches, this project has served non-sponsored refugees with legal, housing and settlement support. For the first 20 years MCRS space had in the basement of 58 Queen Street South. When it was renovated in 1998 it was much improved but moving to the mezzanine floor at Queen in 2007 finally meant getting out of the basement. With Recycle Cycles moving to Market Lane, MCRS was offered the 200 square foot space at 43 Queen South, above the Queen Street Commons Cafe. The Job Cafe crew did a great job painting and sanding the floor. Tama- rack Institute has a small office and MC- RS has a bright and open new space, although still windowless, that offers increased opportunities for supporting refugees.

By Eunice Valenzuela

From our nearly windowless office nestled within the walls of The Working Centre building, it is impossible to tell if the weather is sunny and warm or cold and stormy. However, we experience sunshine and storms of another sort.

Sunshine comes in the forms of the bright faces of the people we serve. For 25 years we have seen this light and joy develop in refugee claimants from all over the world: when a mother is reunited with her children after years of separation, upon hearing the exciting news of being accepted as a refugee, and after the birth of a child in Canada. Most inspiring for me are the families who overcome so many difficulties and tragedies, and who make their own sunshine regardless of their circumstances. They work, they learn English, they make friends, they volunteer, and they enrich our community.

Between these shining, joyful moments are periods when storms and clouds form, particularly when claims are rejected and when people we have come to know and love have to leave the safety they have found, and the new life they have worked to create, in Canada.

Regardless of sun or storm, it is the individual’s story that continues to fuel our drive to continue this advocacy.

Zahra, a young mother from Er-
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 mail (see order form below)

City Farmer Adventures in Urban Food Growing
Lorraine Johnson
City Farmer celebrates the new ways that urban dwellers are getting closer to their food. Not only are backyard vegetable plots popping up in places long reserved for lawns, but some are even planting their front yards with food. Woven through the book are the stories of guerrilla urban farmers in North America who are taping city trees for syrup, gleaming fruit from parks, foraging for greens in abandoned lots, planting heritage vegetables on the boulevard, and otherwise placing food production at the centre of the urban community.

Books for Sustainable Living Order Form
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Postage: $3 for the first book, $1 for each additional book. Free postage for orders over $200.

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Fight Global Warming Now
The Handbook for Taking Action in Your Community
Bill McKibben
With mounting evidence supporting man-made climate change, McKibben, warns that it’s no longer time to debate global warming, it’s time to fight it. Drawing on the experience of Step It Up, a national day of rallies held on April 14, he describes what must change to save the climate and shows how to join the fight in your community, church, or college. Learn to effectively launch online grassroots campaigns, generate persuasive political statements, and make high-profile endorsements. McKibben offers the blueprint for a new movement against the most urgent challenge facing us today.

What are People For?
Derek Bok
Derek Bok examines how governments could use happiness research in a variety of policy areas to increase well-being and improve the quality of life for all their citizens. Reconciling both the strengths and weaknesses of happiness research, Bok asks at which levels implications for economic growth, equality, retirement, unemployment, health care, mental illness, family programs, education, and government quality, among other subjects. Timely and incisive, The Politics of Happiness sheds light on what makes people happy and the vital role government policy could play in fostering satisfaction and well-being.

Dark Age Ahead
Jane Jacobs
A Dark Age is a culture’s dead end; a result of a society gone awry. Jacobs argues that our own culture may soon be facing a dark age as we move from an agrarian economy to an increasingly technological one. How do we make this shift without living ourselves in the process? Jacobs identifies several key aspects of society that are slowly degrading, and suggests that to reverse the decay, we must hold on to those key cultural values.

An Easy Essay
Walter Wink: Principalities & Powers
By Isaiah Boronka
I have always been curious to look at institutions from a spiritual and/or philosophical perspective. They play such a large role in our lives but there is often so little reflection about them specifically in a way that accounts for their moral reality. As a person of faith I turned to the writings of Walter Wink, a theologian, civil rights activist and non-violence advocate to explore these powers.

People know, there is something about institutions, something that is more than the sum of it’s parts, more than the individual actions of individual people

Walter Wink looked at the bible and saw that the bible calls these something principles and powers

he saw that the powers are good, the powers are fallen, and the powers can be redeemed

to most the powers are demons but people see they are also in institutions, structures and systems

these powers can be good, when like the institution of the city they can provide safety for its citizens, and things like buses, utilities and foodbanks

these powers, can be fallen like when a city’s police force abuses their authority and makes crooked deals with shady characters

these powers can be redeemed, when people protest corruption and through diverse strategies and actions hold the powers accountable to the reason for their existence

30 Years of Community Building
continued from page 4
And what are the signs of this homecoming? What is the outcome of deliberate, prayerful attention to the well-being of our cities by the Grand?
We see it in a community where the dream is at work in the daily lives of people. We see the signs of transformation and belonging in a community where diversity, equality, justice, responsibility, integrity, and hope reside and where people work together to foster imagination, participation, and joy.
We celebrate the communities of Kitchener-Waterloo as communities that are intelligent; world renowned institutions of education and innovation – CIGI; the FL are among the significant here. Tonight as we remember and celebrate the founding of The Working Centre 30 years ago we name and claim that we are at heart a compassionate community.

Wendell Berry
What are People For?
Wendell Berry identifies himself as both “a farmer and an artist of sorts,” which he deftly illustrates in the scope of these 22 essays. Ranging from America’s insatiable consumption and neglected household economies, to literary subjects and America’s attitude towards waste, Berry gracefully navigates from one topic to the next, discussing the ill-plaguing America and the growing gap between people and the land. Despite the somber nature of these essays, Berry’s voice provides an underlying sense of faith and hope in the power of humanity, not only to fix its past mistakes, but to build on earth a sustainable future for all.

224 pages $15.00 softcover

210 pages $15.95 softcover

272 pages $27.50 hardcover

256 pages $21.00 softcover

224 pages $18.00 softcover
Recycle Cycles on Market Lane

On Monday March 15th over 30 Recycle Cycles volunteers worked all day to completely move all the contents of the bike shop from the second floor at 43 Queen Street South to the new location at 37 Market Lane. Five cube van loads took bikes, bike parts, tools and equipment from the old shop while volunteers immediately took on the task of setting up the new shop. Jesse, Scott, and the volunteers had the move and new shop finely planned and within a week Recycle Cycles was open fixing and recycling bicycles. Since January Recycle Cycles volunteers have refurbished and sold 250 bikes. The community bike shop is a popular place to learn how to fix your bike. Our public bike stands have been used over 1300 times since the move.

Come and visit Recycle Cycles at our new location at 37 Market Lane. The main door is off King Street East just past the New City Supermarket and beside the Morning Glory Cafe. If you are dropping off bike donations there is lots of parking.

New Shop Hours:
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

The Commons Market CSA is a Community Supported Agriculture project. Sign up for a share and receive affordable, seasonal, local, organically grown produce and other goods from June to October.

Visit www.theworkingcentre.org/market for more information!

Hacienda Sarria Market Garden

The Market Garden at Hacienda Sarria is off to an excellent start this spring. A great deal of work is already turning the dry land into a productive urban garden. Kim and Adam with many volunteers have been laying out plots, rototilling each section, adding compost, and then planting seeds and seedlings. The first crop of spinach and baby lettuce is ready to harvest. Seeds and seedling are being planted every week.

The work of adding interlocking brick pathways has accentuated the beauty of the space. Come out and volunteer. It is a perfect opportunity to learn how to grow vegetables, meet lots of people and get plenty of exercise.

GROW Herbal Gardens and Greenhouse is located at 79 Lancaster Street East. There is lots of gardening and greenhouse work at this site as well. We are working at this location Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm. Come and join us!

This summer we are inviting students to participate in our youth internships that we are offering at the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden and GROW Gardens and Greenhouse. Contact Jen at 519-743-1151 x176 for more information.

Volunteers Welcome at the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden!
Come and join us during these times:
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8am-4pm
Wednesday & Friday: 8am-7pm

The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden is located at 1254 Union Street.
Call 519-743-1151 x113 or email adamk@theworkingcentre.org

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers

The Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TIOW) project continues at The Working Centre. Just before the program funding was set to end in March, we received word that an agreement was made between the Federal and Provincial governments that would allow the program to continue for another year. TIOW offers a creative package of job search, the chance to enjoy valuable work going forwards, and funding for training and living allowance. We host TIOW Information Sessions to help decide if this is the best option for people who are 50 years of age and older, are unemployed (or employed less than 20 hours per week), and looking for work.

For more information check out www.theworkingcentre.org - see the link on the What’s New section. Or call 519-743-1151 x30 to register for an information session.

Free Income Tax Clinics at The Working Centre

On Monday, April 30th as the deadline for tax season approached, The Working Centre’s 58 Queen resource centre was bustling. Through March and April we had been assisting low income earners to file their Income Tax returns. The deadline brought even more people to the centre.

The Working Centre has offered Free Income Tax Clinics in conjunction with Canada Revenue’s CVTIP (Community Volunteer Income Tax Program) for the past few years. This year, with help from the Region of Waterloo, we piloted a new model for these clinics. By posting a call for volunteers in Good Work News and spreading the word, we had 27 committed volunteers.

Previously, tax clinics were by appointment only. This year in addition to appointments, there were three drop-in clinics a week and a drop-off service.

Altogether we served 90% more people. In 2011 our Free Income Tax Clinics completed 115 returns, this year The Working Centre processed 1145 tax returns.

The success was due to our 27 volunteers who staffed each clinic. The volunteers at the resource centre wove themselves into the fabric of Working Centre life. Other volunteers worked in the evenings processing dropped off tax returns. In all cases the contributions made by these dedicated individuals was invaluable.

Welcome to the Market Garden!

The Green Door Clothing Shop

The Green Door Clothing Shop is now open. The Green Door is The Working Centre’s used clothing store which opened on May 22nd at 37 Market Lane in Downtown Kitchener. We are collecting and selling used clothing with care and enthusiasm. Enjoy our welcoming and attractive shop – items include women’s, men’s, children’s clothing, plus accessories, shoes, and more.

The new store is conveniently located on Market Lane just down from the Kitchener Market. Volunteers are invited to help us with the tasks of sorting & tagging items, providing customer service and restocking clothing & accessories. Help us to make the work of re-using clothing an enjoyable and creative activity. All are welcome!

Volunteers Welcome at the Green Door Clothing Store!
Come help out at the store or just come to shop:
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: 10am-6pm
Thursday: 10am-8pm • Saturday: 9am-4pm
Call 519-804-2466 x25 or email jodis@theworkingcentre.org

Yoga in the Park!

Sundays from Jul. 8 - Aug. 26, 4pm-5pm
Gather at Reni’s Studio, 79 Schneider Ave., in Victoria Park, Kitchener

By donation. Donations to go to The Working Centre for the revitalization of the May Place Community Garden. Playful all-levels classes with experienced teachers. Bring a yoga mat or a beach towel, and a water bottle.

See our website for more details: www.queensstreetyoga.com

Commons Market CSA Shares Still Available!

The Commons Market CSA is a Community Supported Agriculture project. Sign up for a share and receive affordable, seasonal, local, organically grown produce and other goods from June to October.

Visit www.theworkingcentre.org/market for more information!