

# GOOD WORK NEWS

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

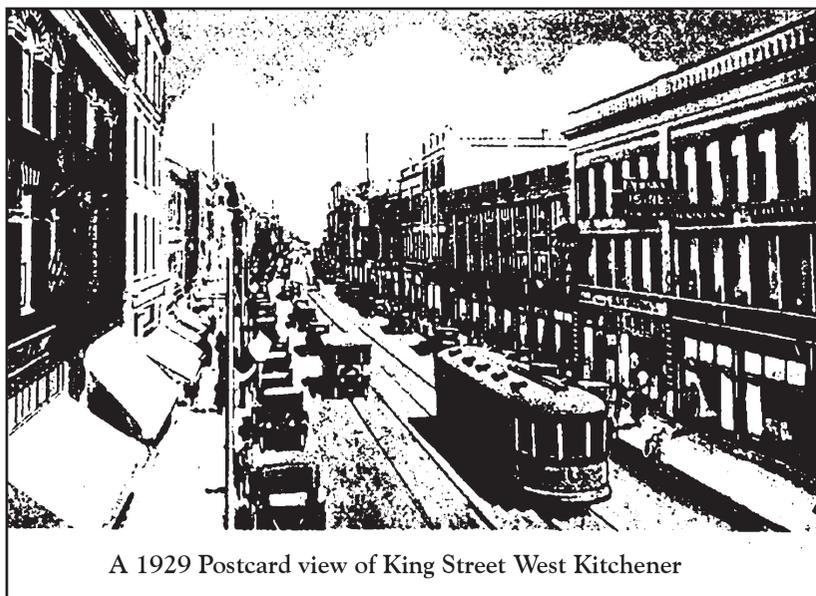
Issue 120

March 2015

Subscription: a donation towards our work

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A 1929 Postcard view of King Street West Kitchener



## Murray Haase Making Community Better

Guest of Honour at the 2015 Mayors' Dinner

By Dave Thomas

The Mayors' Dinner has recognized the substantial contributions of many prominent residents of Kitchener-Waterloo over the years, and Murray Haase is no exception to that tradition. Over the course of his life he has reached out to serve on countless community projects and good causes, touching many lives in the process, and building a much stronger community.

He'll be recognized at the 28th Annual Mayors' Dinner on April 11. It will add to the list of many honours he's received previously - such as being named KW Citizen of the Year in 1985, Waterloo Wellington Outstanding Volunteer Fund Raiser in 2003 and a Community Champion by CTV Kitchener in 2004, the Waterloo Award in 2007 and Murray received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award in 2012.

Murray is humble about the attention and praise. He just sees the work he does as something he should do. "There's no way the system can work if we all just take," he says. "We have to put back. I'm able, I'm healthy. I have to help those who are less fortunate."

He attributes part of that ethic to the modest beginning of his family, affected by the economic turmoil of the Great Depression. Murray was born in Kitchener in 1935 and grew up on David Street. With four brothers and two sisters, he was the fifth of seven kids in the family. His dad was a labourer (he worked at Rockway Golf Course when it was being established) and his mom a housewife.

His family didn't have much money, but Murray has lots of

happy memories from childhood. "Everything was close by. You could walk to school, sports, theatre, the movies. It was all right there." He spent a lot of time at Victoria Park, sneaking into Kitchener Panthers baseball games in the summer, and playing hockey on the iced-over lake in winter time. "People would come from all over to skate on the lake," he recalls.

There were also important life lessons, like the value of hard work at school and in employment. Murray's first job, at age 12, was at the Boathouse, renting out canoes - and occasionally retrieving them when customers didn't return them on time. After going to high school at KCI, he found his next job at a Supertest service station on Queen Street. Over the next few years in the early 1950s, he also worked in the parts department at Super Motor & Lighting and in logistics at Canadian Comstock.

While he had the necessary organizational aptitude and inclination in his day jobs, Murray also developed an early interest in business and community service by getting involved with the Jaycees, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, taking on many roles in the service club, with annual events such as the fall fair, Santa Claus parade and Citizen of the Year award.

In 1956, he started working at Four Wheel Drive Company, where he held positions in bookkeeping, production control and purchasing over the next 10 years. The company built industrial equipment such as tractors, trucks, mobile cranes and motor toboggans (a rear-engine type

## New Supportive, Affordable Housing Units

By Joe Mancini

During the first week of January we were pleased to learn that the Region of Waterloo had accepted our application under the Investment in Affordable Housing Program (IAH) funded through the Provincial and Federal governments. The Working Centre received an allocation of \$1.1 million towards the purchase and development of 16-18 housing units.

### How This Project Came Together

When we purchased 256 King, a 12,000 square foot building this past summer, our goal was to create up to eight units of affordable housing designed especially for those who have little choice but to use emergency or Out of the Cold shelters.

Our experience building apartment units on Queen Street gave us the confidence that converting the 2nd floor of 256 King into one bedroom units could be accomplished quickly.

We added to our proposal by extending offers on two 4-plex and 6-plex apartments to increase the scale of the application with the goal to use the increased rental income to provide supports for the people living in the units. These 16-18 units will be

combined with our other 35 housing units which will give us multiple means of supporting people.

### Our Small Housing Projects

The Working Centre has been providing housing since we purchased our first buildings in 1995. We slowly added shared units, bachelor units, shared houses and the Hospitality House. We have pieced together resources to create and support these 35 units. In total, over the years, we only accepted about \$320,000 in government housing grants to build these units while the housing supports were provided through rental income and donations.

### Why Now

This fall, with the Out of the Cold closings and the multiple community meetings coordinated by the Region of Waterloo (ROW), we recognized the importance of leveraging our experience and resources to develop this full plan that includes the 8 units at 256 King plus the 4-plex and 6-plex. This plan fit the ROW objectives for more than one reason, the terms of the call for proposals made new construction essentially impossible, as the building permit for any construction had to be issued before March 31, 2015. The ROW allocation had to be spent

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**Thirtieth Year**

Issue 119

March 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.

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Join our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project this spring and enjoy fresh, local, organically grown vegetables from June to October.

**Add to your vegetable share...**

- ♦ freshly picked flower bouquets
- ♦ freshly baked cookies and pies
- ♦ Ready to Enjoy dinners from Maurita's Kitchen
- ♦ fresh and locally roasted coffee from the Queen St. Commons Café



The Working Centre's Hacienda Sarría Market Garden is a vibrant urban garden that grows healthy, fresh produce using organic methods, 3 km from downtown Kitchener. It is a community-based project that demonstrates sustainable urban food production.

To buy a CSA share on-line visit [catalogue.theworkingcentre.org](http://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org)  
 For more information you will find our CSA sign up sheet on our website at: [www.theworkingcentre.org/CSA](http://www.theworkingcentre.org/CSA)  
**Email:** [hacienda@theworkingcentre.org](mailto:hacienda@theworkingcentre.org) • **Phone:** 519-743-1151, ext. 113



Mayors Barry Vrbanovic and Dave Jaworski invite you to celebrate...

**The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayors' Dinner**

in honour of  
**~ Murray Haase ~**

for his dedication to grassroots fundraising (benefitting organizations throughout Kitchener-Waterloo)

**Saturday April 11, 2015**

**Held at Marshall Hall, Bingemans, Kitchener**

Cocktails and Auction Preview: 5:30 pm  
 Dinner: 6:45 pm

The Mayors' Dinner is an evening that celebrates outstanding contributions to our community, and serves as an important fundraising event for The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen.

To purchase tickets and for more details

call (519) 743-1511x119

You can purchase tickets online at [www.theworkingcentre.org/dinner](http://www.theworkingcentre.org/dinner)

- ❑ **Individual Ticket:** \$100 (includes one tax receipt for \$55)
- ❑ **Contributor Sponsorship Package:** \$250 (includes 2 tickets, recognition in dinner program, and one tax receipt for \$160)
- ❑ **Community Group Package:** \$750 (includes 8 tickets and one tax receipt for \$390)



**Community Access Bikeshare**



Community Access Bikeshare is a social enterprise project based out of The Working Centre that provides access to bicycles for people in Waterloo Region, while also helping to build a culture of cycling.

Are you interested in joining CAB?

Would you like a CAB demonstration at your workplace?

Thinking about memberships for your employees?

For details about this program and more, please email [bikeshare@theworkingcentre.org](mailto:bikeshare@theworkingcentre.org) or call us at 519 743 1151 x. 172

Or visit us online at [theworkingcentre.org/CAB](http://theworkingcentre.org/CAB) or in person at

58 Queen Street South in Downtown Kitchener



**Would You Like to Advertise on CAB Bikes and Stations in Kitchener Waterloo?**



On-Bike Ads	Bike Rack Ads
*Per bike per month	*Per ad per month
61-90 \$15*	7-9 \$65*
31-60 \$20*	4-6 \$70*
1-30 \$25*	1-3 \$75*

# Murray Haase

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of snowmobile). Murray feels he really honed his business acumen during his years at the company.

His participation in Jaycees would have other benefits for Murray too. In the fall of 1963, one of the other members, Dave Buehlow, introduced Murray to his sister Merle. They soon became an item, and got married in 1964.

In 1966, Murray and Merle got their first opportunity to go into business on their own. They had an opportunity to buy a convenience store in Galt. With help from Merle's dad for the down payment and securing financing from a bank where a fellow Jaycee worked, the two were happy to be their own bosses - even if it meant working seven days a week; initially, they were the only two staff. They operated the store for 3½ years. Their plans to expand it couldn't materialize because of the zoning.

After selling the store, Murray managed a pharmacy, expanding its business and making it more profitable. He was also part of a group that bought Puslinch Lake Golf Course in 1969. "It was the finest golf course in Puslinch Township," he says. "It was the only one!"

In the 1970s, Murray and Merle's family expanded. Susan was born in 1973. Brian was born in 1975. Though he was busy with work and community activities, Murray always made sure that family came first.

His reputation for business know-how was growing. In 1971, he was hired by Kwikie Minit Markets, a struggling convenience store chain, to turn the stores around. Through his management, he was able to reduce the company's debt, make a profit and begin expanding. There were 10 stores when Murray came on board. In 1978, when he assumed ownership of the company, there were 20.

There were certainly risks in taking over the chain, including

incurring substantial debt. But his track record with the company had demonstrated a successful model. "The key was finding the right people to run the stores," Murray says. "We had a quasi-franchise arrangement. The managers were independent contractors. They had a real stake in the success of their stores." (Other chains tended to have corporate-owned stores.) Higher margins, discounts and rebates were also important factors in the chain's success.

A few underperforming locations had to close, but more opened. By the end of the 1980s, there were 32 stores in the chain, which was earning good profits. That's when Murray decided to sell. There were a number of reasons, but the major one was that Sunday shopping was on its way to Ontario, which would mean supermarkets would be open seven days a week. That would make the market much tougher for convenience stores. He sold the company to a Maritime-based chain, Green Gables, which unfortunately went out of business a couple years later.



Murray's success has transcended the business sector. For many people in Kitchener-Waterloo, it's his long-standing, energetic and tireless commitment to community service for which he is best known. Yet to the larger population, his name may



not necessarily strike a chord of recognition. That's because Murray does not do all that good work in order to seek the spotlight. In fact, he is happy to be in the background, to help organize, fundraise and bring people together to support good causes.

of those draws.

Selling large numbers of tickets to fundraising events seems to come naturally to Murray. For Rotary's Lobsterfest, a buffet held each June to support educational efforts, Murray has often sold more tickets than anyone else. He has a lot of connections in the business community, and he prefers to sell a whole table at a time. Murray is also a major player each year in Rotary's Turkey Drive, helping them exceed their goal in 2014 by over \$300,000.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Murray has helped behind the scenes on many sporting events in KW, including the Scott Tournament of Hearts, the Brier and LPGA Golf Tournament. On the arts scene, he helped Drayton Entertainment establish the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse. In education, he helped establish St. John's-Kilmarnock School. In health care, he's been active in fundraising campaigns for Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital.

For over 30 years, he was a director and officer of the Lutherwood Child and Family Foundation, the fundraising arm of Lutherwood. Though Murray is reluctant to take too much of the credit for the foundation's success, his colleagues beg to differ. There have been more than 10,000 donors over three decades - individuals, churches, corporations, service clubs - and many of those connections came about through Murray's efforts.

Murray also played a key role in the establishment of Luther Village on the Park, an integrated retirement community in uptown Waterloo. He helped to arrange the financing for this major undertaking, including extensive environmental cleanup of the lands and build 150+ atrium suites and 70+ garden villas, where residents can purchase a life lease.

He has also been a long-time supporter of The Working Centre, lending expertise, leading fundraising efforts and donating a substantial item (usually a week's stay at a timeshare) for the Mayors' Dinner live auction. It's fitting that he is the Guest of Honour at this year's dinner. But he's not one to pat himself on the back. As he says, "I just want to help."



The United Filipino-Canadian Society of Waterloo Region volunteered at St. John's Kitchen. On a Sunday afternoon they prepared over 1000 spring rolls which were served on Monday with Pancit (a traditional Filipino noodle and beef dish). This was their first time at St. John's Kitchen and we welcome all the work and community they offered. On March 10<sup>th</sup> the Muslim Social Services of KW will also be hosting a meal at St. John's

# Supportive, Affordable Housing Units

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by March 31, 2015, and this put us in a good position to bring 16-18 units immediately within our social housing portfolio.

## Our Contribution

This plan came together because The Working Centre had saved donations and surplus from projects over a number of years with the goal of using that money for the purpose of establishing housing for those most left out. The Hospitality House had taught us the importance of focusing on specialized housing for this group.

When The Working Centre purchased 256 King, it used that purchase as the leverage for purchasing the multiple-unit dwellings. The housing grant does not cover all costs and what made this allocation possible was that The Working Centre is using \$600,000 that it had already raised. In total the housing grant makes possible the renovations of the second floor of 256 King plus the purchase of the 4plex and 6-plex.

## 256 King Main Floor Projects

This project will result in increased housing opportunities and will result in another building that integrates housing with social enterprise projects. The main floor and basement at 256 King will develop and strengthen a cluster of social enterprises, all of which have been incubating on Queen Street for many years. These include:

- Small business development and training through WRAP (Waterloo Regional ASSETS Program) and our partnership with Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA).
- Projects like Local Exchange and Barterworks, a weekly Saturday market for budding entrepreneurs, and affordable desk rentals.
- We will be setting up a digital media training lab and exploring ways to expand this training.
- The Commons Studio will locate in this new space where it will continue to rent video equipment including digital camera kits,

lighting and grips, sound, etc. and provide public video editing labs.

- The Commons Studio is developing plans for a Sound and Production Studio in the basement that can also be used for workshops and youth film making and animation camps.

All these initiatives, combined with a Coffee Bar on the main floor, will create a collaborative space for enterprise development.

## What we Hope to Raise

In order to complete this affordable housing project The Working Centre is hoping to establish a fundraising campaign that will help us raise about \$500,000. These dollars will help us to complete the renovations and offer

Another important support was the coordination between St. John's Kitchen, Ray of Hope and the YWCA Transitional Shelter. This coordination resulted in St. John's Kitchen opening from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Ray of Hope now opens from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 pm when the YWCA Transitional Shelter opens, providing full 24 hour coverage during weekdays. The Region granted oneRoof resources to operate its drop-in services during the day.

Other supports included funding The Working Centre to increase the number of mobile street outreach workers, some with evening and weekend hours. Outreach workers play a key role in connecting guests at Transitional Shelter to daytime housing help. The Region also allocated 5 additional Streets to Housing Stability workers. This doubled the number of intensive supports that were previously available. These workers usually work with individuals who are chronically homeless. These resources this winter have created substantially more support on the ground to start the work of supporting more individuals towards finding stable housing.

Popular evening meals continue at churches on Wednesday (St. Mathews and St. Marks), Friday (First United, where the Out of the Cold stayed open), Saturday (Stirling Avenue) and Sunday (St. Louis which closed its Out of the Cold at the end of January). The Region has increased its Rent Fund resources to help those who fall behind on rent. The Region also allocated moving support and access to furniture/household goods through Worth A Second Look thrift store to help STEP Home (Steps to End Persistent Homelessness) participants with establishing their new homes. St. John's Lutheran also contributed funds (\$14,000) from its former Out of the Cold program to be used at Worth A Second Look to directly help individuals who are homeless towards furnishing a new apartment.

The biggest news was the announcement that there will be 40 new flexible rent assistance contributions that will help those prioritized as most vulnerable and persistently homeless. These housing subsidies will help people most at risk of homelessness to find housing that

support to people who live there.

## Positive Impact of Housing

This project was thought through while the Out of the Cold shelters were closing. For 12 years, churches have supported the homeless through night-time shelters for people who cannot find long-term housing. Our goal is to provide a range of new, stable housing opportunities that provide social supports to help people maintain their housing. The Working Centre, along with other groups in our Region, are making it possible for those experiencing homelessness, to have more options for finding long-term housing. Housing that comes with the kinds of supports that help people make a home.

is different than a rooming house environment.

This winter, the STEP Home program has documented that 37 people experiencing homelessness have found housing since November with four of those people receiving the new rent assistance. These are just some of the efforts being made to address homelessness in Waterloo Region. Between November 30 – December 2nd volunteers and outreach workers surveyed 339 individuals who were sleeping in a shelter or on the street, as well as other homeless people to better understand their health and housing needs.

The results identified 127 people as highly vulnerable. This gives us an idea of how wide the issue is and how much work needs to be done.

## Supports for Money Matters

March marks the start of our income tax season. At the Job Search Resource Centre, with the help of 45 volunteers, over 2,000 people are helped to complete their income tax returns for the 2014 tax season and to qualify for the tax benefits that require completing their income tax. We are grateful to the United Way of K-W that has invested in the Money Matters project, helping us to develop an on-going financial support and problem-solving service.

This fall we combined our Housing Desk, which problem solves the search for affordable housing and the often difficult relationships/situations of low-rent market housing, with our Money Matters Financial Inclusion project. We were very pleased by the generous contribution from the **Waterloo Region Legal Clinic** that helped support the integration of these practical resources, recognizing that Housing and Money issues are two sides of the same coin.



**United Way**



## Community Response to the Out of the Cold Closings

Since 1999, downtown churches in Kitchener and Waterloo extended their hospitality with meals and overnight beds through the Out of the Cold program. It started slowly with a few nights covered and soon churches were open all seven nights.

Each night, the Out of the Cold churches could expect between 25-60 overnight guests between November and April.

This past summer most of the churches that host the Out of the Cold decided that this model of overnight shelter was no longer viable. There was hope that other models of service needed to be put in place.

The churches had good timing. The Region of Waterloo's Housing Stability System has been developing programs to reduce homelessness and was prepared to step into this gap.

The first step was the addition of 73 new beds of extra capacity at House of Friendship, oneRoof, and the Cambridge Shelter. About half of this new capacity was the establishment of the temporary

*This winter, the STEP Home program has documented that 37 people experiencing homelessness have found housing since November with four of those people receiving the new rent assistance.*

YWCA Transitional Shelter which is open at 8:00 pm till 8:00 am with cots and no meals.

Since it opened in November, the YWCA Transitional Shelter has averaged between 20-30 guests each night. There has been 200 different individuals using the Transitional Shelter, 25% only once, and 75% less than 10 nights. 15 people or 7% stayed more than 30 nights. 133 people were assisted to find other housing or to use the existing shelters. In fact, this winter, each of the regular shelters like the House of Friendship have seen 40-50 more guests per night than the year before.

# Projects that Build Community

By Stephanie Mancini

In the midst of a February deep cold, we are constantly thinking of all the ways to build good spirit, offer hope and continue to act in thoughtfully intentional ways. We work to welcome people into the community of place, relationship and thoughtful engagement. The more people are tired, cold, and hunker down in these dark winter days, the more we at The Working Centre seek to hold the place where we can come together for rest and respect, and to open in a positive way to each request, each situation, and each moment.

These are almost daily conversations as we bring new people into the work, as we remind each other of how important deep respect is, as we support one another through colds and flu's and the length of the winter.

This requires that we think outside of ourselves, our own desire to hibernate or escape, and root ourselves in the commitment we have made in our work. Here are some examples of the work.

**Outreach workers** are engaged in constant hospitality as we venture through this year where Out-of-the-Cold is closing up, and many people are hopefully looking for affordable housing that is not yet readily available in our community.

Almost every second week there have been memorial services at St. John's Kitchen as we mark the passing of many friends in a cold and difficult winter season; and the more intensive and thoughtful supports that are needed as people approach death, as we serve in the role of

family with people in our community. This winter the Outreach workers modelled this very patiently and thoughtfully by supporting one man in particular through months of days, nights, weekends; precariously supporting him in hotel rooms as they searched for a place that would suit his needs; graciously ensuring he died as he wished, and then held the memorial service where the community remembered him and mourned his death.

The exciting **renovation projects** that are going on that are helping to create affordable housing and creative shared spaces include:

- The addition of a central dining/gathering area as we join the two Hospitality Houses into one;
- The renovation of our Louisa Street house as we prepare to share the house with Waterloo Regional Homes for Mental Health
- The renovation of 256 King Street – to add apartments on the top floor and to prepare the main floor for a centre that promotes an enterprising approach to self-employment and a livelihood strategy of work (more on this in the June issue of GWN)
- Preparing the house beside the Hospitality House as we learn and prepare to launch a Dental Clinic in early summer that harnesses the volunteer efforts of local dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants to assist those who do not have access to dental services (homeless/at risk of homelessness and refugees).

We have just **completed the details of purchasing 2 houses** that



will add to the affordable housing options in this community – this year we will add 18 units of affordable housing that will support people that we are working with in our outreach activities.

Preparations are in place to launch a capital campaign that will help us to pay off the balance of our commitment in creating these new units of affordable housing.

Employment counsellors in the Job Search Resource Centre work to creatively support each person coming in to search for work, to search for work alternatives, training ideas, self-employment options. **In March we start the Digital Media Project for youth**, in partnership with KwartzLab Maker Space, helping young people with a technical capacity to build on these skills and to use them creatively in a job.

**The Mayors' Dinner will be held on April 11** this year and will honour the ways that Murray Haase steadily and quietly contributes to community building.

We are also preparing for a new season of growing at the Hacienda Garden, getting ready for a new season of Community Access Bikeshare, refurbishing bikes and organizing the Recycle Cycles shop in preparation of spring busy-ness; sorting clothing and getting ready for spring clothing at the Green Door. The IT team is looking at ways that VOIP phones can be leveraged to help people living on a limited income.

We are working on the infrastructure details for a "Set Up Fund" that will help people supported through STEP Home workers to make their new apartments "home" (beds, dishes, curtains, couches, cleaning supplies, moving and delivery costs). This fund has been supported by St. John's Lutheran Church (they redirected some of their Out of the Cold funds to this purpose) and a further amount from the Region of Waterloo as part of their response to the closing of Out of the Cold.

The TRIP (Transit Reduced



Heart Bloom

Susan MacMurdy

Income Project) is in the middle of its quarterly renewal of reduced fare bus passes as we welcome 300 people per quarter to renew stickers, and then invite people from the waiting list of 1,000 to sign up for the spots that don't get renewed as people's life situations change.

There are many shifting and changing projects – the dynamism of our place is that we are agile and we change constantly in response to the needs of people before us. It is so much easier to make rules and structures so that ideas follow an understandable pathway. But we are committed to the edges – to the liminal spaces where creativity and conversation lead to new ideas.

This is exciting and alert work – and calls us to be fully present where we are, walking patiently and hopefully through the dark days of winter, as the days start again to get longer.

## hearts are heavy

*our collective heart weighs a ton, but it is still beating. beating, despite the lungs exhaling last breaths. beating, despite grey winter days and long dark nights. hearts pounding as we wonder what next? who else? the grief accumulating like a pile of bones not yet dusty but we carry on as so many have before us. after us. we carry on together in brokenness and the strength of a thousand drums beating as we cry. beating as we say 'no more.' beating as each breathe is an act of resistance. and so we mourn the loss of more beauty, the light of yet another life. our hearts are heavy. but the blood pumps thick through our veins in celebration and in protest. in honour of the many friends in our community who have passed away in recent days... by Ruthi Knight*

## Christmas Gift Bags for St. John's Kitchen

By Mark Hartburg

St. Nicholas Roman Catholic School is an elementary school located near the Laurelwood Conservation Area in Waterloo; a fair distance from downtown Kitchener. Yet, two years ago, the faculty and students asked to take part in our Christmas Gift Bag project at St. John's Kitchen. The bags include a number of toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant and a pair of socks.

In December 2013 the school requested that we participate in a presentation about the work of St. John's Kitchen. Accompanied with Diane Jones of the Social Justice Community of St. Michael parish, a series of assemblies were held with the 400 students. They were able to watch the video produced by Salt and Light TV for the Church Alive program about The Working Centre and to have some

thoughtful dialog about building caring and supportive community. As a result 115 bags were donated to the Kitchen along with a child's gift from each class geared toward the same age group.

The response was so enthusiastic that this past December we were asked to meet with twenty-four student representatives who then gave a presentation to their peers. Their goal was to gather material for 125 bags, but were thrilled to discover that there was enough to create 210 bags along with boxes of extra items which will provide additional support for their St. John Kitchen neighbours well into the new year.

All together, with support from other organizations, especially the Roberts On-Site company, 450 Christmas gift bags were handed out at St. John's Kitchen's annual Christmas dinner that was held on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

# Jim Lotz: 1926-2015

By Joe Mancini

*ED note: We were sad to learn that Jim Lotz died in early January. Despite a gloomy cancer prognosis he had continued to write and live a full life. Over the years, Jim was a regular visitor to The Working Centre engaging conferences, workshops and lectures where he would share his unique community development knowledge. We will miss Jim's ever cheerful and witty faith in humanity.*

*The Moral Equivalent of War*, a phrase Jim Lotz borrowed from William James, explained how Lotz lived his life. It was a journey that started at 12 years of age when young Jim fled his Liverpool working class house as bombs blew away the neighbourhood he called home.

"I still remember the sound of the bomb that hit three houses next to ours, demolishing them and setting them ablaze. Six neighbours died and were buried in a mass grave with other nameless dead," he wrote.

After spending two years in the Royal Air Force and graduating from Manchester University with an Honours Degree in Geography in 1949, he found himself in Kano in Northern Nigeria as a Special Constable, in the middle of a civil war where no one was safe from the looting and killing. Jim received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for his role in rescuing an African man from a murderous mob, during these riots in northern Nigeria in 1953.

His own father had miraculously survived when his regiment, the Liverpool Scottish charged the German lines at Hooge on the Western Front in 1915, while being shelled and machine gunned by their own. For Jim, war and militarism were inescapable realities.

Having grown up through the horrors of war, Jim liked to quote Ernie Pyle, a war correspondent who claimed he heard many soldiers lament that, "If only we could have created energy for something good." Jim kept searching for the possibility of a better world.

Jim wasn't interested in settling back in England and he boarded ship to Canada. It did not take long until he had completed his Master's Degree in Geography at McGill University. Raised on stories of Shackleton and Franklin, Jim signed up with Operation Hazen, a major part of Canada's International contribution to the Third International Geophysical Year,

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during which nations cooperated on studying Arctic natural phenomena. He worked in the Arctic on three summer expeditions, two as a glacier meteorologist exploring icecaps of Northern Ellesmere Island.

While preparing to leave, he walked into the library of the Arctic Institute, and asked about a line of poetry that was humming in his head. Pat Wicks, an expat Brit from Brighton who had come to Canada as a nanny for the British Trade Commissioner, completed the poem, and they became travelling partners, married in December 1959.

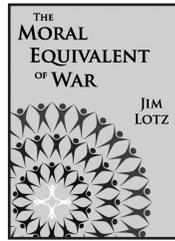
Jim joined the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources as a planner and research officer between 1960 and 1966, and then taught community development at St. Paul University, Ottawa until 1971. During that time he became director of the Canadian Research Centre for Anthropology where he directed studies on unemployed youth in Ottawa and squatting in Canada.

Working on Glen Gould's radio and film series, the Idea of the North, Jim found himself on an Expo 67 panel with Buckminster Fuller, futurist John McHale and Moshe Safdie, designer of Habitat. He kept expecting to be told, "Out, you don't belong here!"

Pat and Jim thought of settling in Nova Scotia and when Jim was offered a teaching position in Community Development at the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University, he took it.

Jim would spend the next 40 years helping Canadians decipher community development. Ironically, it was partly the lessons he learned confronting the university administration that focused his attention on how to teach about the complexity and simplicity of structures that enhance human cooperation. He set about demystifying theories that explained mutual aid and interdependence between humans. He wanted to lessen the gap between government and people.

For Jim, this meant teaching these ideas with less class structure, less reliance on class exams and more in-the-field practice. Unfortunately, the university did not condone the experiments and Jim often proudly described how he was shown the



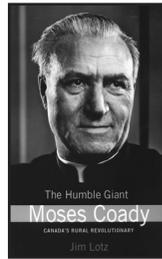
## The Moral Equivalent of War

The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Community Development

By Jim Lotz

How can clear sighted moral action improve communities. The most effective NGO's operate democratically, encourage self-management, blend traditional approaches with progressive thinking. Lotz argues that good social entrepreneurs know how to do this. He explores five communities that are doing development differently, by encouraging the best in human cooperation.

237 pages \$24.00 softcover



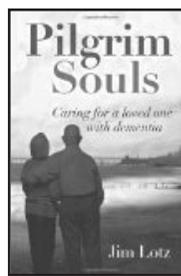
## The Humble Giant

Moses Coady, Canada's Rural Revolutionary

Jim Lotz

Jim Lotz is known for his interpretation of the life and works of Moses Coady and has worked closely with those who have inherited the Antigonish movement. In *The Humble Giant*, Lotz tells the story of "how Coady and his followers laid the foundations for the co-operative and credit union movements that now play a significant role in the social and economic life of people around the world."

141 pages \$19.95 softcover



## Pilgrim Souls

Caring for a Loved One with Dementia

By Jim Lotz

The past is often key to understanding the present for someone caring for a person with dementia. A caregiver who has shared a life is often able to understand what others could hardly guess at. Time and again in Jim's narrative, he is able to bring the perspective of his knowledge of Pat, her values, her loves, her fears, and her life experiences to shed a light that makes her words and actions more understandable.

217 pages \$22.95 softcover



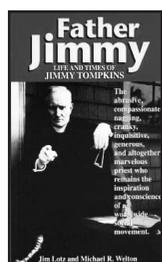
## The Lichen Factor

The Quest for Community Development in Canada

Jim Lotz

This book offers the collected wisdom of "a very wise man" describing how community development, governments, and individuals can work together to create better societies. He reviews the history of community development as he has seen it and explores its potential and limitations using practical experience combined with vision. Using the cooperation of algae and fungi in lichen as a model, he suggests how goals, rules and structures encouraging community can be identified, enhanced and strengthened.

288 pages \$22.95 softcover



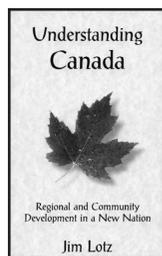
## Father Jimmy

Life and Times of Jimmy Tompkins

Jim Lotz and Michael R. Welton

Father Jimmy Tompkins was the spiritual leader of the co-op movement in Nova Scotia. When he insisted that the university should serve the average person, his bishop banished him to a parish among poor fishermen. Tompkins encouraged cooperation, self-reliance, and adult education - testing the roots of what became the Antigonish Movement. Angered by injustice, fortified by compassion and faith, Tompkins and his cousin Fr. Moses Coady helped people to make a difference in their own lives, an inspiration and a tool for those who want to make a difference today.

176 pages \$14.95 softcover



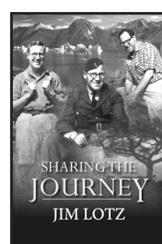
## Understanding Canada

Regional and Community Development in a New Nation

Jim Lotz

Learn about community development from its beginnings in colonial Africa to attempts at self help in Canada. Focusing especially on the Atlantic Provinces, the author looks at efforts to 'help' the poor from the top down and from the bottom up. He analyzes the successes of the approach of the Antigonish Movement which flourished in the Thirties. Jim Lotz's suggested models, goals and roles in community development indicate that we can meet rapid change in a positive and creative way.

197 pages \$20.00 softcover



## Sharing the Journey

Jim Lotz

Sharing the Journey tells of the author's life and adventures from the far reaches of Canada to Lesotho in Southern Africa and from Slovakia to Alaska. Always an independent and mindful thinker, prepared to take the road that best suited his skills and beliefs, Jim shares what he has learned during his years working at 25 different jobs from farmer to university professor.

224 pages \$21.95 softcover



continued on page 7

# Jim Lotz: Writer, Educator and Activist

continued from page 1

door.

It was at this point that Jim became a writer and independent researcher on subjects that range from the Canadian Arctic, Canadians at war, to Moses Coady, the Canadian Pacific and community development. Jim classified his books as Community and Regional Development, Canadian History and Murder Mysteries/Thrillers. His novels were another way to explore human nature.

NCPress in 1977 was the publisher for the first of a trilogy of Canadian community development books. *Understanding Canada, Regional and Community Development in a New Nation* was an attempt to trace the "concept of community development from its beginnings in colonial Africa to recent attempts at self-help in Canada." The highlight is Chapter 13 called *Doing It: Twenty Suggestions for Effective Community Action*.

*The Lichen Factor* came 20 years later and as its title suggests, Jim was teaching a lesson derived from the Arctic about how humans can learn the skills of cooperation by understanding the symbiotic relationship that lichen has with other organisms. Community development is not mysterious; there is common knowledge in all communities of the work that needs to be done. It is not dominating experts, but the subtle energy of multiple exchanges that increase meaningful participation. The ambitious subtitle, *The Quest for Community Development in Canada* is an attempt to make this book a comprehensive survey and a compendium of practical advice, while recognizing the underlying nature of Canada.

In 2012, *The Moral Equivalent of War, The New Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Community Development*, updated Lotz's ideas by offering a fresh understanding of the new fad of social entrepreneurship. His main point was to emphasize the importance of staying rooted in and enhancing the democratic culture of communities. He ends the book with a litany of recent failed development schemes and projects. He saw hope in grassroots social and community entrepreneurs who do development differently, serving as seed beds for

new ideas, demonstrating new ways of being and acting.

Lotz did a service to the Antigonish movement by updating the biographies of Moses Coady and Jimmy Tomkins, interpreting the spirit and drive behind the cooperative movement they founded in the 1930's. In every speech, Jim Lotz would remind people how Moses Coady helped people believe they could do ten times more than they thought they could. He was involved with international development, taking on volunteer consultation roles in Slovakia, Nain, Egypt and Lesotho.

Jim led a disciplined writer's life, which for him meant early to bed in order to be up at 5:00 am to exercise and then write for 4 hours; the rest of the day was spent on doing what needed to be done.

He was happy to let technology adapt around him. With no computer or cell phone the only way to reach Jim was by land line which he always answered with, "Lotz here." Each of his manuscripts was composed on a typewriter, a lost art. He hardly cared when scanners became powerful enough to convert his typing into digital characters.

A few years back on a visit to Kitchener, when Jim was almost 80 years of age, the airporter dropped him off at the wrong hotel, far from the Kitchener downtown. When I finally tracked down the hotel I found out he had already walked 7 km to the downtown. "I am a geographer, I just asked which way to the downtown and I enjoyed the walk."

Jim had a way of summarizing common sense actions into pithy phrases. If you want to change the music, you talk to the organ grinder, not the monkey. Government is not your enemy, it is your servant. It is the steady rain that soaks. You had better write your story or someone is going to write it for you. He had a storehouse of sayings and for many years contributed his *Axioms, Aphorisms & Anecdotes for Activists* to Good Work News.

His favourite quote by Blake was a motto to live by, "He who would do good to another must do it in minute particulars. General good is the plea of the scoundrel, hypocrite and flatterer."

One of Jim's final books, *Pilgrim*

*Souls, Caring for a Loved One with Dementia* documented how he took care of his wife Pat as she sunk into dementia.

In this book, Jim described what it is like to be a fulltime care giver. He was committed to helping Pat live in their house together as long as he could manage. As Pat's memory faded, he was determined to walk with her as he knew her values, her loves, her fears, her life experiences. The journey started at the turn of millennium until Pat passed away in February 2012.

Jim candidly described the Alzheimer journey as similar to the Monty Python dead parrot sketch as the sufferer denies what is obvious to you: "This is not my shoe!"

"Those with dementia have memories of old joys and good times that can be awakened. Scientists have dismissed learned practice in caring as subjective and ad hoc. As a caregiver you operate in a subjective, ad hoc world as you struggle to make sense of what the sufferer needs, what he or she is struggling to communicate. You discover what works for them, and for you, by trial and error, through love and compassion, not scientific analysis."

The reader is guided through

the human emotions of anger and joy that come from a commitment to journey with those suffering a debilitating illness.

As Pat drifted into a world where no one could reach her, Jim found solace watching Pat mark-up magazines and newspapers as if she were still an editor. Their journey that started together in a library at McGill came to an end with Pat still living at home.

For Jim, *The Moral Equivalent of War* was the personal and community practice of developing human relationships. On the day Pat died, he received a phone call from the President of St. Mary's University who wanted to personally tell Jim that the university was granting him an honorary Doctorate of Civil Law.

Jim was a wonderful letter writer. In a final letter, he was philosophical after noting that he had just completed his 30th book, *Sharing the Journey*.

"I came across John 3.18: "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions in truth." Another axiom as a guide, as the way to live what Coady called "the good and abundant life." And he never saw abundance in material terms."

Jim is survived by his daughter Fiona and his grandson Peter.

## Volunteers Welcome!

Come join a community of gardeners who work together to grow and harvest vegetables, herbs, and flowers.



Beginners and Experienced Gardeners Welcome!

To get involved, contact Kim or Adam at  
519 575-1118  
or [hacienda@theworkingcentre.org](mailto:hacienda@theworkingcentre.org)



The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden is a volunteer-driven urban farming project that demonstrates and shares knowledge about sustainable local food production.

## New Support for People with Developmental Disabilities

The Working Centre is pleased to be partnering with Extend-A-Family of Waterloo Region to promote inclusive employment and improve services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.

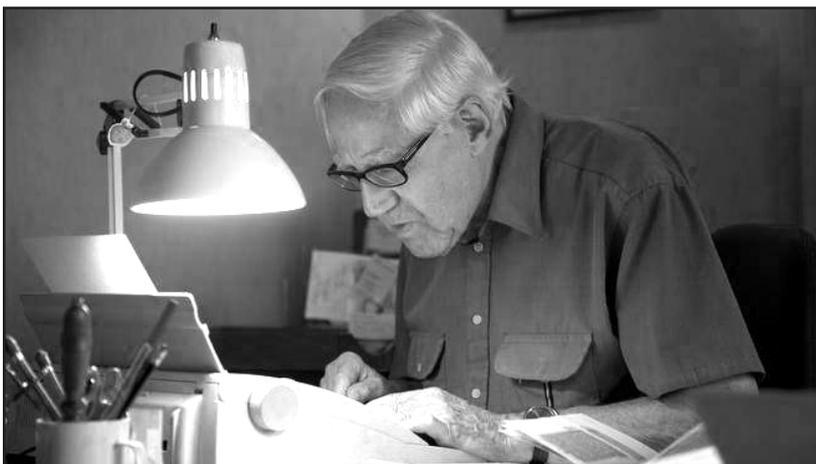
This one year grant given to Extend-A-Family is through the Employment and Modernization Fund of Community and Social Services and is an important component of the provincial government's \$810 million investment in developmental services.

The project will provide employment supports to Extend-A-Family and the service will be delivered at The Working Centre's Employment Resource Centre. The project will offer individuals with developmental disabilities access to employment training in an integrated community setting. This project will also promote the sharing of expertise

and best practices between the two organizations, resulting in better linkages between developmental services and employment services, and more opportunities to expand employer networks in the community.

"Our government is proud to support this partnership which will lead to employment opportunities and promote a higher quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in our community," added Daiene Vernile, MPP Kitchener Centre.

"Our community benefits from the many talents and contributions people with developmental disabilities make every day in the workplace. We are thrilled to be partnering with the Working Centre in this project and thankful for this employment funding," said Maria de Boer, Executive Director, Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region.



# Community Enterprise at The Working Centre

supporting creative community projects

## New Catalogue and Gift Cards

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



This winter, we created a series of new gift cards for The Working Centre's Community Enterprise Projects. Now you can give your loved ones unique and thoughtful gifts that support our creative community work.

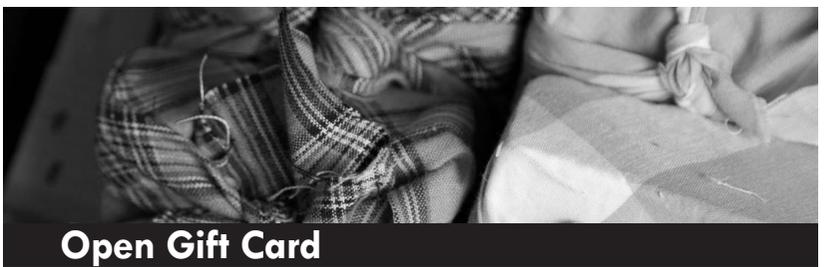
Do you have a friend who likes to get out and about in downtown Kitchener? With an Open Gift Card, you can give someone special the chance to explore and choose items from any or all of our 10 Community Enterprise Projects. This could turn into a fun day out, starting with coffee and a pumpkin chocolate chip muffin at the Queen Street Commons Café, then going to check out clothes and handcrafted items at The Green Door Clothing Store and Arts Space, before heading over to Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares to browse through books and hunt for antiques.

You can also choose a gift that will give abundantly over a whole season, bringing continuous joy to someone you love.

For someone who savours their morning coffee, use the Coffee Series Gift Card to give 8 installments of freshly roasted Fair Trade Organic or Single Origin beans from the Queen Street Commons Café.

Do you know someone who can't wait for summer? Let them celebrate its arrival with a Flower Share or CSA Share Gift Card, giving a whole season's worth of sustainably grown flowers or vegetables from the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden and GROW Greenhouse. Or help them to enjoy the outdoors with 7 months of bike riding with the Community Access Bikeshare Gift Card.

With these creative gifts, invite those you love to be a part of our lively projects.



Open Gift Card



Flower Share



CSA Share



Coffee Series



CAB Membership



*Giving someone a gift is a way of honouring the light that we see in them, and celebrating the things that bring them passion and joy. In choosing a gift for someone, we take time to meditate on that person. We think about who they are, what brings them meaning in life, and all of the ways we appreciate them. In this way, our tradition of gift-giving is a celebration of each person in our community and the relationships that hold us together.*



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