This past winter, The Working Centre and St. John’s Kitchen were chosen as the recipient of this year’s Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club Dream Home Lottery. Our application was chosen for funding in recognition of the significant community effort that has gone into the revitalization of two old buildings - 97 Victoria, where St. John’s Kitchen and Worth a Second Look operate; and 66 Queen, where apartments, employment counseling, Maurita’s Kitchen, and Computer Recycling all find a home. Dream Home proceeds will be directed to cover expenses related to the renovation project that transformed these old, tired buildings into vital public space. Since 1985, the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club has been committed to assisting dozens of local charities and organizations in their fundraising efforts through the annual Dream Home Lottery. The work of creating and shaping a culture of justice requires the long view, the slow and steady, regular practice of intentional living, the habit of living artfully, creating designs and spaces that are meaningful. While the task is elephant in size, it is accomplished in community, slowly. Stay tuned through The Working Centre!
The Multicultural Cinema Club at The Working Centre Presents....

The Multicultural Cinema Club of Kitchener-Waterloo presents 10 award-winning, thought-provoking films from around the world. From October 4th to October 14th. Join us for this FREE event each day listed below at 7 PM in the Council Chamber at Kitchener City Hall.

Date       Film Title                 Length/Rating
Oct. 4     Hotel Rwanda              121 min / 14A
Oct. 5     Tsotsi                    94 min / 14A
Oct. 6     Children of Heaven        89 min / 10+
Oct. 7     After The Wedding          120 min / USA-R
Oct. 9     The Lives of Others        137 min / USA-R
Oct. 10    Water                    114 min / 14A
Oct. 11    Sabah                     86 min / USA-R
Oct. 12    The Magdalene Sisters     119 min / 14A
Oct. 13    The Syrian Bride          97 min / All
Oct. 14    Maria Full of Grace       101 min / 14A

18th Golf Tournament Raises Money ‘Fore’ The Working Centre and St. John’s Kitchen

By Dave Thomas

More than 200 golfers teed off August 22 to support The Working Centre and St. John’s Kitchen, raising over $30,000 in the 18th Annual Golf Tournament. Held again this year at Foxwood Golf Course near Baden, this year’s tourney provided a great day of play for the participants, who came from far and wide, including CAW Locals from Lear plants around southern Ontario. The turnout almost filled the course to capacity.

The top foursome trophies went to Dave Letich, Jamie Smith, Pete Derviter and Brad Livingston; and the top women’s team was made up of Janis Turenne, Susan Oberle, Kim Carter and Cheryl Medeiros. The mixed foursome of Lynn Cameron, Marty Rops, Kevin Morrison and Paul Arsenault also received trophies. At the end of the night, golfers received many generous door prizes and entered a raffle for items such as a 3 piece Luggage Set, compliments of TLC Travel & Terri Lynne Woods; an Obus Ultra Forme Backrest & Seating System, compliments of Pioneer Park Pharmacy; a 4 Piece Cordless Combo Tool Kit, compliments of Princess Auto; a Briggs and Stratton Quattro Lawnmower, compliments of MTD; a Deluxe BBQ Utenis Set, compliments of Exacta Precision Products; and two McCulloch Grass Trimmers, compliments of MTD.

It was through the great efforts of our organizing committee that the event was such a success. Special thanks to Tim Mitchell, Rob Pyne, Paul Roeder (CAW Local 1524); Tammy Heller and Jim Woods (CAW National Office); Steve Longeway and Vladimir Malizanovic (Bell); Frank Curnew and Sharon Lupton (Labour Program of Waterloo Region); John Germann (UA 527); Mike Tibboede and Fred Murovec (Lear Kitchener); and Fred Walker (Bingermans). We’re also grateful for the continuing support of sponsors Lear Corporation, CAW National Office and Bell, as well as patrons MTD Products Limited and Dennis Murphy Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd.

The Working Centre’s Computer Repair and Recycling Shop has expanded!

We have moved into the spacious basement of 66 Queen Street South and have extended our hours!

Can you help?

We are looking for donations of working Pentium III and Pentium IV computers, and computer related components such as hard drives, DDR memory sticks, motherboards, power supplies, and video cards. Donated computers will be refurbished and made available to low income individuals. Our recent Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher status helps us to load software onto these computers!

We are especially looking for volume donations from local companies – can you help to spread the word? Visit our website for more information:

www.theworkingcentre.org/cr

Call (519) 743-1151 ext. 225

The Working Centre’s Recycling Shop

We’re also grateful for the continuing support of sponsors Lear Corporation, CAW National Office and Bell, as well as patrons MTD Products Limited and Dennis Murphy Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd.
In June of 2007, in the midst of celebrating its 25th anniversary, The Working Centre added an important new dimension to its work of community development. The Council Chamber at Kitchener City Hall was the setting for the first-ever Multicultural Film Festival, hosted by The Working Centre with support from the Social Planning Council, Generation X Alternative Video, the City of Kitchener, the Waterloo Region Arts Council, and various local news media.

The screening and discussion of memorable, thought-provoking films from other countries formed part of this event, but the centerpiece was the premiere showing of “Northern Choice,” an hour-long documentary about immigrants to Waterloo Region.

In at least four ways, this film qualifies as a means of developing the Kitchener-Waterloo community. First is how it was made. Azam Fouk Aladeh, who brought rich experience and credentials in filmmaking with him when he moved from Syria to Canada, conceived of the film from the start as more than a personal project. It would involve collaborative learning for all concerned, a practical outcome of The Working Centre’s Diploma Program in Local Democracy that he completed in 2006.

With support from Margaret O’Sheo Bonner and others at The Working Centre, Azam organized a Multicultural Youth Cinema Club. It was this group of young people under Azam’s direction that did the actual production, gaining thereby

continued on page 8
Permaculture is an idea first introduced in the 1970s by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. It involves basing a design upon what is most natural and creating beneficial relationships, whether for gardens, buildings, or communities. What makes it unusual in today's world is that its conceptual core is an ethical one, rather than economical. Permaculture design includes precious care of the Earth by being thoughtful about how we garden, what we consume, and implies the care of people, where no one is excluded and the most basic needs of all are met.

The leading principles of St. John's Kitchen and The Working Centre have for years mirrored the Permaculture design with or without acknowledging it. Juxtaposed with the provision of food for all at St. John's Kitchen has always been the need to listen to people and to implement new interpersonal designs when the needs of the population served were clear.

Such was the case with the advent of the Psychiatric Outreach Project (POP) at St. John's Kitchen, with voices from different corners all addressing the need for a novel if not radical approach to the psychiatric difficulties of the homeless population and those at risk of homelessness.

The result is an early warning system that meets the needs of this community as well as having a ripple effect on the entire community... when just one person is listened to and supported. In many ways, it represents an answer forty-some years later to some of the problems that deinstitutionalization: 1) stigmatization of people with a history of mental health difficulties; 2) absence of basic living skills; 3) poor housing; 4) poverty; 5) difficulties getting a job; and 6) difficulties accessing after care programs. Eighteen years after this study The Working Centre's Psychiatric Outreach Project gives reason for hope.

The project presently operates with a physician, psychiatric nurse, social worker, office administrator, coordinator, two outreach workers (who link St. John's Kitchen with the Psychiatric Outreach Project) and a psychiatrist and nurse offering psychiatric and clinical consulting services.

As well we have had a fortunate working relationship with a pharmacist at King Pharmacy who has attended conferences to be specifically knowledgeable about psychiatric medication. But aside from this expertise we now have a connection with someone who understands both the financial circumstances and the logistical hardships for this clientele. We have gained more than a pharmacist; we have gained a kind hearted soul who is willing to go the extra mile for people, reducing barriers whenever possible. The compassionate pastors at the Waterloo Regional Dream Centre have also been instrumental in helping people maintain their medications as well as taking care of their spiritual needs.

Constant consideration is given to the needs of individuals, leading us sometimes to feel that we are tending a garden of ten thousand perennial plants with an entire team trying to determine how best to keep each person stable and healthy. And, as with a backyard garden, this setting allows us to watch the many seasons of people's lives, giving the team a much fuller perspective than could be ascertained in a ten minute consultation. Those in crisis are planted near, under a close eye; when behaviour affects the entire community, the team is only steps away, ready to deal with the person in a manner that's acceptable and safe for that individual.

The success of this program began with the simple but central consideration: people should be listened to. This open communication provides opportunities for outreach workers to assess when someone may need and want psychiatric care. People are then referred to the psychiatric nurse who determines whether or not the individual requires the assistance of the social worker, the doctor, the psychiatric nurse or perhaps more than one just combined, with the on-going support of the outreach workers on the floor.

Collectively, this is a team who came to the program for a variety of reasons, but with the same mind set. All share an affinity for working with this chronically underserved population... but they also came for a variety of reasons including a love of grassroots projects, the belief that a few people can make a difference, the appeal of a "Nightingale" non-hierarchical model, a program that lacks barriers for patients, the need to understand how people cope, and a willingness to let the necessary trust evolve in its own time. And sure enough, the program began slowly, enabling people to determine for themselves their comfort in this informal accessible project, but today has grown to include a file of 253 patients, 161 male and 92 female.

It became clear that the response was to move outside the limits of the "medical model". This unusual setting, bringing a variety of services, clearly benefits many. People don't have to venture to a doctor's office which often involves barriers and discomfort for this population, who respond better in an informal and familiar milieu. Staff too can offer effective support by seeing people in a natural setting, getting to know a person's life clearly.

The success of this program is evident in the richer, fuller lives of individuals. People now have more control over their lives and participate in more within their own community. People who were often in police custody and in and out of the hospital are now stable, the difference being a team of caregivers that is medicated and people lived and healed by them.

Phillip Chan, an MA student in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University is presently conducting a study of the Psychiatric Outreach Project. From the results of interviews with 33 participants of the clinic indicates people's positive perception of their own recovery and their quality of life after accessing the program. The self-reported changes that occurred for people included: "properly" medicated, waking up earlier, being outdoors often, better hygiene, hope and better outlook for the future, awareness of staff's respect, and reduced dependence on street drugs and alcohol.

On a recent visit to St. John's Kitchen, one hospital worker expressed surprise upon visiting POP by the wellness of people she had seen over and over again. Another hospital staff asked a patient why, after years of being unwell, he was now so stable with the support of POP. His response summed it all up, "They're where I'm at, they continued on page 5

### Psychiatric Outreach Project

**By Stephanie Mancini & Kara Peters Unrau**

The Psychiatric Outreach Project (POP) started as a creative response to the psychiatric needs faced by people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in downtown Kitchener. Originally, Barb Chrysler had a vision of psychiatric care rooted in a place where people are most comfortable, creating a bridge to traditional care. The Region of Waterloo supported this fledgling vision with a small grant to give it life. Based on the effectiveness of this small project, the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation joined in helping to flesh this project out – giving us the capacity to more fully staff and integrate this project within downtown Kitchener. At the same time, the new home for St. John's Kitchen, located at 97 Victoria, was built to include a medical clinic for the community as part of the plan. The success of this program is evident in the richer, fuller lives of individuals. People now have more control over their lives and participate in more within their own community. People who were often in police custody and in and out of the hospital are now stable, the difference being a team of caregivers that is medicated and people lived and healed by them.

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### St. John's Kitchen

**Caring for People in an Unconventional Clinic**

**By Leslie Morgenson**

Permaculture is an idea first introduced in the 1970s by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. It involves basing a design upon what is most natural and creating beneficial relationships, whether for gardens, buildings, or communities. What makes it unusual in today's world is that its conceptual core is an ethical one, rather than economical. Permaculture design includes precious care of the Earth by being thoughtful about how we garden, what we consume, and implies the care of people, where no one is excluded and the most basic needs of all are met.

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Such was the case with the advent of the Psychiatric Outreach Project (POP) at St. John's Kitchen, with voices from different corners all addressing the need for a novel if not radical approach to the psychiatric difficulties of the homeless population and those at risk of homelessness.

The result is an early warning system that meets the needs of this community as well as having a ripple effect on the entire community... when just one person is listened to and supported. In many ways, it represents an answer forty-some years later to some of the problems of deinstitutionalization... an ill-fated decision that at the time was thought to be a beneficent plan.

Beginning in the 1960s the mass discharge of patients from psychiatric hospitals and the discouraging of future admissions was meant to place people with mental health issues into the care of the community. Unfortunately, the 'care' portion of the plan was woefully insufficient, placing us sometimes to feel that we are tending a garden of ten thousand perennial plants with an entire team trying to determine how best to keep each person stable and healthy. And, as with a backyard garden, this setting allows us to watch the many seasons of people's lives, giving the team a much fuller perspective than could be ascertained in a ten minute consultation. Those in crisis are planted near, under a close eye; when behaviour affects the entire community, the team is only steps away, ready to deal with the person in a manner that's acceptable and safe for that individual.

The success of this program began with the simple but central consideration: people should be listened to. This open communication provides opportunities for outreach workers to assess when someone may need and want psychiatric care. People are then referred to the psychiatric nurse who determines whether or not the individual requires the assistance of the social worker, the doctor, the psychiatric nurse or perhaps more than just one, combined with the on-going support of the outreach workers on the floor.

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Outreach Project

continued from page 4

Staff can work together to create effective treatments with the self-determination of the individual as the primary approach. The POP is intended to be a resource available for both medical and community agencies to provide respectful, supportive and effective mental health care for those who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. We are currently planning to build this project in a sustainable way and advocate to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MoHLTC) to find a sustainable source of funding. This project has effectively bridged medical and community resources and is a concrete example of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's attempt to make the accessibility of health care a top priority during the Ministry's transition to a new model for public health care. For health care to be truly accessible it must push beyond the boundaries of the medical institution to include collaboration between medical specialties and between medical institutions and community agencies. In the context of the Psychiatric Outreach Project, this reduction in walls between medical and community resources means that individuals who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness can access mental health care in contexts where they are already accessing other community services. This approach enables individuals to address their mental health care needs as a part of a wider strategy to meet other needs such as housing, income, employment and community involvement.

The POP focused on building relationships. We provide a regular clinic on Thursday mornings at St. John's Kitchen, where individuals who can meet with a physician. We have also expanded to include other roles which allow us to build relationships and respond flexibly to individual scenarios and needs. This currently includes a psychiatric nurse, a counsellor, and a medical assistant who is responsible for record keeping, but also plays an important role in welcoming and creating relationships with people who come to the clinic. These roles are dependent on internal collaboration and are all embedded within the outreach work happening in downtown Kitchener and Uptown Waterloo.

We have seen some good links and relationship develop with some of the more formal services in our community. Local psychiatrists and family physicians are beginning to recognize that outreach workers and POP staff are acting as supports for people with complex challenges, allowing psychiatrists or family physicians to create treatment strategies with their patients which can then be facilitated beyond the medical office. There have been many scenarios in which medical professionals have been willing to provide treatment based on the fact that the patients are clearly being supported by community resources. Outreach workers are also finding the POP to be a useful resource as they support individuals who need to include medical treatment as a part of their strategy for dealing with their own complex issues. Other linkages have been formed with the local Court system, with Grand River Hospital, with London Psychiatric services, and more. Dr. Vorenganti, a psychiatrist, has established St. John's Kitchen as a satellite clinic, offering services, support and psychiatric services within this context. The People In Motion project is helping individuals who have diabetes as a side-effect of mental health medications, helping with access to healthy eating and exercise facilities.

The response to the Psychiatric Outreach Project has been overwhelmingly positive. Clearly there is a need for this intermediate role and support for the POP is significant and growing. The Psychiatric Outreach Clinic, psychiatric nurse and counsellor are working at capacity based on current funds available. One thing we could not have imagined was the high volume of people using the service effectively; considering our minimal resources. We hope to expand the project to be better equipped to handle the demand and move towards meeting the potential of this innovative project.

Caring for People

continued from page 4

replied. Both in a physical and philosophical sense, his reply indicated the hope that the development of this project was exactly what people needed.

Those of us at St. John's Kitchen are in the position of knowing a person well and for a lengthy period. We are the ones who have grown to know them as individuals and are able to work together to create treatment strategies for dealing with their own complex issues. Other linkages have been formed with the local Court system, with Grand River Hospital, with London Psychiatric services, and more. Dr. Vorenganti, a psychiatrist, has established St. John's Kitchen as a satellite clinic, offering services, support and psychiatric services within this context. The People In Motion project is helping individuals who have diabetes as a side-effect of mental health medications, helping with access to healthy eating and exercise facilities.

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Film Festival

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both technical skills and knowledge of their hometown.

The second way “Northern Choice” nourished community was in the respect shown in every scene for the people being filmed, the immigrants sharing their stories for fellow Canadians. In stark contrast to the sensationalism, exploitation and objectification of interviewees commonly seen on network TV, the Working Centre’s film-makers treated their subjects as human beings like themselves, entitled to speak in their own voices and listen with their own ears.

The interviewees reciprocated this respect by trusting Azam and his camera crew. Whethér from the Middle East or China, Europe, Africa, or Latin America, they spoke honestly, often with much vulnerability. They welcomed Azam and his camera crew into their own homes and workplaces, and let themselves be filmed amidst the cherished symbols of their respective ways of life.

More than anything else, it was the mutual respect and trust between makers and subjects of the film that defined it as a grass-roots community production. The wide variety of paths toward integration into Canadian society came through in a powerful way. Being professional and self-critical, Azam lamented the technical inadequacies that a bigger budget might have remedied. The inadequacies that bothered him utterly escaped me, and I think that is one of the real gifts of those who attended the opening at City Hall. The box-office success of Michael Moore’s films and the popularity of you-tube are compelling evidence that audiences these days prefer authenticity to slickness, plain truth to political correctness. Today’s audiences have grown weary of too much stage management. I told Azam I think he should forever be restricted to low budgets, lest his emphasis on democratic filmmaking be corrupted by money.

A third way The Working Centre’s debut production nourished community was by its visual depictions of Kitchener-Waterloo. Woody Allen’s films took on special meaning for me years ago when I was living in New York, because the most of them are set in that city. I could recognize the street or park where some scene was filmed. In a similar way, “Northern Choice” made me want to shout, “Hey, this is our town.” It is wonderfully indigenous to Kitchener-Waterloo. The viewer sees the cityscape as it looks to a new arrival wondering what the future holds in this specific place.

Fourth and finally, this film strengthened community by the way people gathered for its premiere showing. The members of the youth cinema club were there. So were most of those whose stories the film told. Those in attendance did more than watch and applaud. In the discussion period afterward, they commented, questioned, and argued. Margaret called the producers and subjects to the front and gave each one a Working Centre wildflower bouquet.

The first Multicultural Film Festival was a triumph. An October Movie Fest is already scheduled. Plans for more films are in the works. The cinematic dimension of The Working Centre is off to a promising start.

The Psychiatric Outreach Project (left to right): David Brunson, Dale Shanti, Dr. Neil Aron, Jennifer Mindy, Minno Mahmodu, Ellie Binner, Tracey Collins, with Hudene Montgomery of the Kyle S. Hallman Foundation
The Working Centre - UCRC Partnership

Women and Bikes Project Adds to Growing Exchange

By Rebecca Mancini

It was a fine June day and as the bicycles were lined up, the six women were eager to go. A determined group, these women were taking on the challenge of a race stretching about 10 km in total. Riding straight and hard for one hour over dirt roads filled with holes and mud puddles, the women arrived back tired but triumphant. It was the first time in Ugunja, Kenya that women had raced on the Uguna roads and highways. They were sure to have attracted attention as they were making history. Two days later, people of all ages gathered in Waterloo, Canada to join in a parallel friendly ride to Kitchener, celebrating the partnership between The Working Centre and The Ugunja Community Resource Centre (UCRC). It is a partnership that has grown through exchanges of people and ideas.

The connections between The Working Centre and UCRC were initiated in 2004 when UCRC director Aggrey Omondi approached The Working Centre. Both grassroots groups agreed to begin a partnership to support each other through staff, volunteer, and cultural exchanges. With the financial support of Canadian Crossroads International, staff exchanges would be the foundation of the partnership.

Three years later, there is a growing community of people in Kitchener-Waterloo who have ventured to Ugunja. Living on traditional family compounds in the villages surrounding Ugunja town, five of us have dedicated a total of twenty-one months to UCRC.

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By Katherine Bitzer

Nyasa Technical Institute (NYATI) grew out of local ideas for a community that provides accessible education and skills training opportunities.

First, some background. Kenya is divided into seven provinces; these are sub-divided into a total of 69 districts. Ugunja is located in the Siaya District of Nyasia Province, an area on the edge of Lake Victoria. According to 2002 data (Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya), Siaya has a population of 480,000 and a density of 316 people/km². The level of absolute poverty within this population is at 58%, generally defined as people with mixed-use space and projects where they can gather, bump up against one another, and build on ideas and momentum.

Over the years UCRC has grown to include not only the library, the farmers’ cooperative and the health centre, but also a high school, a technical institute, a primary child- hood development centre, a microfinance project, advocacy and networking groups and various IT related projects. At Nyasanda Technical Institute (NYATI) the Ma- sonry students practiced their book learning by building a new home for a local widow and a maternity ward at St Paul’s Health Centre. While a core group of women are learning bicycle mechanics in the Women and Bikes project, they also promote the concept of women and girls ac- cessing bikes by talking to people in the community, by riding their bikes and by teaching others the skills they are learning. These are the tools that allow people to engage society in creative and unique ways, which Ivan Illich would call conviv- ial tools. These tools are helping people to move beyond basic subsistence living, while at the same time people are able to contribute and participate in the community around them.

The philosophical similarities between UCRC and The Working Centre have been obvious to the four UCRC staff that spent a total of ten months in Kitchener. Living with host families and at The Working Centre’s hospitality house, Charles Ogada, Rose On’ech, Sylvia Wombare and Aggrey Omondi joined The Working Centre community where they participated in our projects, and worked at developing community support. From their initiative, a new group has sprung up in the Kitchener-Waterloo community — The Friends of Ugunja network; a dedicated group of people who have strong connections to UCRC, per- sonally or through family.

It is from these connections that the Women and Bikes project was developed to focus on providing women and girls in Ugunja with access to bikes, riding lessons and maintenance training. The bikes are essentially a tool for advocating women’s equality and the effects of this were obvious as the women arrived back at the finish line after the race in June. It was not only the competition of the race that excited them, but what it symbolized. On the other side of the world, people gathered after the ride from Water- loo to Kitchener and celebrated the women’s achievement. For UCRC and The Working Centre, our part- nership has succeeded in building bridges between two vastly different cultures. The spirit that was evi- dent on both sides demonstrates our most important connection, that of exchanging knowledge and sharing tools that give people the opportu- nity to build their community, their resources and, most importantly, their spirit.

Education for Living

By Katherine Bitzer

Nyasa Technical Institute (NYATI) grew out of local ideas to provide high school level training opportunities.

living on less than $1/day and/or unable to meet basic food and non- food requirements; the mean house- hold income is $30 per month. Many children die before their first birthday. The district records a high infant mortality rate of 135 per 1000 live births (compared to Canada’s rate of 5.3) and overall life expec- tancy is 43 years. These statistics give some idea of the challenges that people face in their day-to-day lives: health, education, em- ployment, food and personal security to name a few.

Siaya town enjoys a primary school enrolment rate of 81%. It is important to note that it was only after the 2002 elections that free primary education was granted to all Kenyans. There are still some fees attached to this “free” edu-

Education for Living

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The Nyasanda Technical Institu-
Harambee - Pulling Together

By Sarah Anderson

In February of 2006, when Julian and I were volunteers at the Ugunja Community Resource Centre in Western Kenya, our friend Betty invited us to a harambee fundraiser for her mother. In the morning we arrived to a small house full of women drinking tea and eating homemade donuts, looking smart in their boldly patterned uniforms.

This wasn’t your typical bake sale or car wash. It was a harambee. And harambees make me nervous.

Another foreign volunteer had warned Julian and me about the process. With pockets full of shillings, people use fines, counter-fines, darts, wit, bravado, dancing and singing to compel, embarrass, or harass others into giving up their money.

A harambee is a call to pull together - a call so strong that the concept was used as a nation-builder when Kenya gained independence. The UCRC encourages people to put the spirit of harambee into practice - pulling ideas, energy and resources together for community development.

The Twelve Friends Women’s Group is a typical example of this spirit, with neighbours gathering regularly to share farming strategies, resources and personal support. Today’s harambee, organized by the group, would help Betty’s mother cover funeral expenses.

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The Multicultural Cinema Club at The Working Centre, in association with The City of Kitchener, presents

So Long, Summer!

A FREE night of film and music on Victoria Park Island
Saturday, September 22nd
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Bring blankets, chairs, and a bag of popcorn!

Live Music (7:00pm-8:00pm):
★ Fernan Enriquez - South American Music (guitar & flute)
★ Tony tohid Ahdifard - Sufi singer

Documentary Film: Northern Choice (8:00pm-9:00pm):
In this first documentary production of the Multicultural Cinema Club, immigrants from Poland, Ethiopia, Guyana, Syria, Guatemala, Peru, Egypt, and China talk about their experiences, opinions, successes, disappointments, and how the journey of immigration affected their lives. Directed by Azam Fouk-Aladeh.

Simple Living Workshops

Are you feeling that life is full of stress - that it’s nothing more than a mad rush from one thing to the next? That you never seem to get everything done? That you have no time to just relax? Are you looking for some balance in your life? To find others with similar concerns?

This September, The Working Centre will offer an 11-week program on Simple Living. Participants will go through Live Simply: A Simplicity Circle Study Guide which asks individuals "to examine their lives and consider the consequences of their choices." Each week, the program presents another theme for discussion (eg. work, time, celebration, food, consumerism). Conversations are relaxed and informal. Ideas emerge from participants' own life experiences that make for interesting and, at times, lively and animated discussions.

Tips are shared; fresh insights presented. We learn from each other. Participation in the Simple Living program is a wonderful way to meet like-minded people and perhaps even be rewarded by a new friendship.

To register, please call The Working Centre at 743-1151 ext. 114.

Dream Home Lottery

25 Years on Queen St. S.

With the assistance of hundreds of businesses, workers, trades, and the essential support of thousands of loyal ticket purchasers, $4,576,000 has been raised for Waterloo Region Charities.

This year, everyone is excited by the outstanding organizational efforts of Eastforest Homes. Their management, staff, and suppliers have embraced the 2007 Dream Home project beyond the Rotary Club’s wildest dreams. Eastforest Homes set out to build the Dream Home at no cost to The Rotary Club through enlisting the voluntary efforts of their staff, trades, and suppliers. This beautiful home is now available for all to see.

We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Kitchener-Conestoga members who commit thousands of hours of personal time to the Dream Home to make available fundraised money that makes our community stronger.

All who were present had in some way played a role in shaping The Working Centre.

Greetings were brought from John Milloy MPP, Mayor Carl Zehr and Regional Councillor Jean Hallboom. Jim and Sue Hallman were invited to speak on behalf of their philanthropic efforts towards our work. Gord Crosby, President of The Working Centre Board spoke of how The Working Centre community had grown on Queen Street against all the odds.

Queen Street South had a special feeling that day after many years of being down. It was clear for all who spent some time wandering through the projects and buildings that culture and community are alive and flourishing on Queen Street South.

Simple Living Workshops

The Lichen Factor

The Quest for Community Development in Canada
Jim Lott

The collected wisdom of a “very wise man” describing how community development, governments and individuals can work together to create better societies. Reviews the history of community development as he has seen it and explores its potential and limitations using practical experience combined with vision.

288 pages WC04 $22.95 softcover

Allow the Water

Anger, fear, power, work, sexuality, community - and the spirituality and practice of nonviolence
Leonard Desroches

A principled advocate of nonviolence, Desroches imagines a world without armies, guns, or automobiles. Allow the Water provides its readers with a fantastic array of inspiring stories not found in mainstream media. He offers practical, peaceful alternatives for many modern practices that encourage or breed violence such as the penal system, and suggests alternatives for the world’s armies. This empowering message of peace offers hope for those suffering from the tragic consequences of war.

513 pages AW01 $24.00 softcover

The Great, Good Place

Cafés, Coffee Shops, Book Stores, Bars, Hair Salons and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community.
Ray Oldenburg

“Third places,” or “good, good places” are those public spaces where members of the community gather to put aside the concerns of daily life, enjoy the company of their peers, and engage in lively conversation. Oldenburg argues that these places are essential to a community’s wellbeing and are a basis for grassroots democracy. He portrays, analyzes, and promotes these places of informal discourse as crucial elements of any healthy community.

336 pages GG01 $27.50 softcover

Writings from Commonweal

Dorothy Day, Edited by Barbara Jordan
Dorothy Day, arguably the most influential person in the history of American Catholicism, was best known for her writings in the Catholic Worker, through many of her most insightful articles and letters appeared in the Catholic Journal ‘Commonweal.’ In this book you will find a collection of Day’s Commonweal writings, offering the reader an overview of her exceptional life, prophetic insights, spiritual depth, and memorable prose.

173 pages AB13 $18.50 softcover