



L'ARCHE LETHBRIDGE

240 - 12th Street 'C' North • Lethbridge, AB T1H 2M7
403-328-3735 • Fax 403-320-6737 • Email: larche@telusplanet.net
www.larchelethbridge.org

CONGRATULATIONS VIRGINIA!

24 Years a Core Member of L'Arche



Twenty-four years ago, Virginia moved into Chinook House and was greeted by Jayne - who took her by the hand and invited her for a walk - and by Doug - who soon took her to a hockey game. She felt comfortable and at home right from the start. Then, six years ago, when Amani House opened Virginia decided to move to the new house. As an experienced core member, she knew that she could help the new people settle in, help teach them the daily routine, and talk about traditions and values that are important in a L'Arche community. These days, Virginia volunteers three mornings a week with Green Acres, is scheduled two days a week at Peak, takes an aqua-fit class, and visits the library weekly. These commitments plus L'Arche activities make a very full week for Virginia.

Nevertheless, she manages to find time for her interests. From her bright and cozy studio on the main floor of Amani house, Virginia has turned out art and Christmas cards, and a wonderful collection of colourful, lively paintings, many of which decorate the walls of Amani House and the Riacho Office. Virginia takes great pleasure in her three-year-old Guinea Pig, "Bobby." As she tenderly brushes and talks to him, he calms her down. So, it really is a mutual friendship.

Virginia sums up the best thing about L'Arche with one simple statement: It is a good place to live and the people are nice!

Pictured above left: Virginia holds her painting, "Winter."



L'Arche Lethbridge Fundraiser

January 26, 2019 ■ German Canadian Club ■ 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.

A L'Arche Lethbridge Friend, Fred Nowicki offered to our Community Leader, Tim Wiebe, to organize a fundraiser for L'Arche Lethridge in January. Thus began many meetings, contact with possible sponsors and donors, ticket productions, music arrangements and of course food needs. We thank Fred for his many hours of work and connections in the community. Our fundraiser would not have succeeded without Fred's dedication to this project and we sincerely thank him for all his work.

Musaeus, a Lethbridge string quartet, played mostly classical pre & post dinner music which was enjoyed by all. The audience loudly expressed their appreciation.

Close to 200 diners enjoyed the roast beef dinner which was very tender & tasty. Some diners had their sinuses cleared by the "hot" horseradish. The red cabbage (German Rote Kohl) was new to some and enjoyed by many.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Michael McDonald, the creator of the "As I Am" series. For those unfamiliar with this series, it is a collection of videos highlighting the unique gifts of individual L'Arche Core members from around the world. This presentation



was very thought provoking and we would love to be able to invite Michael back to Lethbridge some day. Michael also did a more intimate story telling session with L'Arche Lethbridge community on Sunday. This session was also very engaging.



This event was a success because of all the L'Arche supporters who attended, helped in any way (Assistants & Core Members included) and again with special thanks to our Community Leader, Tim Wiebe and our organizer Fred Nowicki. Our hope is to make this an annual event. Something to look forward to next year.

~ Submitted by Jen Culler & Mary Shillington



Special thanks go to the generous sponsors:- Subaru Lethbridge, KFC, RBC, Wealth Management Dominion Securities, Spring River Ranch, McDonald Nissan, Hass Wealth Advisory Group, A&W, B933, Country 95.5, & Norbridge Pharmacy. Thanks also go to the many Silent Auction Donors who helped us raise \$3,710.00 towards our final fund raiser goal of \$16,379.49. There was some stiff competition for a number of the silent auction items as friends tried to outbid other friends – some items brought in more than their actual value so this helped L'Arche even more.

Set-up was done by 4 Criminal Justice volunteer students from the Lethbridge College:- Kendon Gregus, Jacob Hall, Landon Malinowski & Tim Verhoef. A big thank you to them!



Article from the Community Leader: **Wilderness of Lent**

"As people of faith, could we begin to look on this seeming wilderness or desert (that is no doubt our current dwelling place), not as exile or a place of aimless wanderings, but as somewhere to which we have been sent by God?" Ruth Patterson, *The Gaze of Love*, p10.

Lent is a time to go into the wilderness and to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. It is hard for me to enter into the vulnerability and uncertainty of the wilderness. I would prefer that life would always be calm and easy, full of the energy and new growth of spring.

But the fact is that it is not always spring. It cannot be spring without first entering into and moving through the cold rest of winter. As it is in the world, so it is in life. We cannot have just joy and celebration without end, we must also live through times of sorrow and mourning.

This is the Easter story. We cannot have the joy of Easter without the wilderness of Lent.

I feel these days that our community is living a time in the wilderness; we have a new National Mandate and a new

National Leader, after a year of trying we continue to work to fill a vacancy for a person with a disability at one of our homes, it is a challenge to find the resources we need to live our Mission. I appreciate the call in the quote from Ruth to think of the wilderness as a place where we have been sent; to trust that this is a time of new learning and of growth. That this time in the wilderness has a purpose and is not simply aimless wanderings.

I hope and trust that we will all travel with hope and intention through the wilderness of Lent and into the celebration of Easter.

"The message God brings is that the winter is past, the winter of dashed hopes, broken dreams and lost vision, the winter of fears, disillusionment, aimlessness and inability or refusal to forgive. New beginnings are within reach." Ruth Patterson, *Gaze of Love*, p11.

~ Submitted by Tim Wiebe, Community Leader

Profile of Board Member

I grew up in small town Saskatchewan in the 1950s, the youngest of four daughters. I am a first generation Canadian, my mother immigrated from Northern Ireland and my father from England. I began a university education when I was 43 and earned a Masters in Education (MEd) and a Masters in Divinity (MDiv). As you can see, my "call" to United Church ministry occurred relatively late in my life. I have been married to Will Scott for 28 years, and we have a blended family of five adult children and twelve grandchildren. We moved to Southern Alberta in 2009 when I was called to serve at Knox United Church in Taber, from which I retired in 2013.

I became a member of the L'Arche Lethbridge Board in February 2017. My husband, Will, and I were part of the L'Arche Saskatoon community when we were living there. So, it was easy for me to say yes when Mary Shillington asked me to consider Board work in Lethbridge. I have always been aware of some of the gifts and challenges people on the margins experience having grown up with my sister Sheila who lived with intellectual and physical disabilities.

L'Arche Lethbridge has given me an opportunity to meet some pretty wonderful people – caring and thoughtful Board members, delightful Core Members, amazing Assistants from around the world, a wise and committed leadership team, and a wider community of faithful supporters. L'Arche truly is a model of radical inclusivity and hospitality.

In September, 2018, I had the privilege of representing our Board at the General Assembly in Halifax. The Assembly was a big learning experience as well as a lot of fun. Representatives from all the L'Arche communities across Canada gather once every four years to approve the national mandate and elect the national leader among other things. The Assembly provides a forum for Board Chairs, Community leaders, Assistants, and Core members to meet with their peers and exchange ideas and stories both in a formal and informal way. That experience, including the knowledge I gained, has strengthened my commitment to L'Arche. Currently, I serve as Vice Chair of the Board, and I am a member of the Public Relations and Recruitment committees. L'Arche asks us to imagine the world differently, to imagine a world where everyone belongs. I am grateful to be part of that journey.



~ Submitted by Sandra Riddell



Board Members



*Back row (L to R): Tim Wiebe, Cliff Lobe, Lew Dennis
Front row (L to R): Sharon Yanicki, Michaela Toews, Carole Perry,
Sandra Riddell **Missing:** Francis Rankin*

Your Way to Help L'Arche Lethbridge Transform Lives

I'd like to provide a special gift to support L'Arche Lethbridge's work:

\$500.00 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 Other _____

Please find my cheque enclosed.

Please charge my credit card. Visa MasterCard American Express

My gift is to go to:

Area of greatest need

A specific need

Card No. _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____ CSV No. _____

**L'Arche Lethbridge Office at
403.328.3735**

or

Email larche@telusplanet.net

Email Address _____

Telephone No. _____

L'Arche Lethbridge needs to raise \$50,000 externally annually. The value of salaries and materials devoted to this fundraising is about \$5,000. All funds are used to provide homes and support for adults with developmental disabilities. Thank you to The Warwick Printing Co. Ltd., and Haul-All, for excellent service and prices.

