



Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve, Supply Minister



Humber Valley is indeed fortunate to have Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve as our Supply Minister. Welcome to Humber Valley United!

Ted is a social ethicist, educator, and minister in The United Church of Canada. His vocational life includes: teaching ethics as part of the Faculty of Theology and being Director of Continuing Education, TST, at the University of Toronto. He was the executive director of Faith & the Common Good, an interfaith/intercultural network seeking the common good in Canada.

Ted was also the Program Minister for Education and Leadership at the General Council of

The United Church of Canada, and most recently, the coordinating minister at the St. Paul's Centre in Orillia.

He is married to Audrey Bayens and together they have six adult children plus significant others, and now four grandchildren. He enjoys many outdoor activities like running, skiing, kayaking and riding his motorcycle.

We look forward to getting to know him better in the coming months!

Colleen Isherwood

The Way Forward: Message from the Chair of the Board



Happy Fall! I have to say that this past week has felt more like summer — a nice treat.

A few updates for you. Sadly for Humber Valley, Kelly, our church administrator, has decided to retire. Please see the story on page 15.

A big welcome to Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve who started at Humber Valley as a short-term minister on Sept. 2.

Please note that if you have any feedback or issues you would like to be discussed by the board please contact Brian Thomson, our congregational life team leader.

*Erin Billowitz,
Chair of the Board*

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Ladies' Night Out
WE ARE BACK TO MUSIC MEMORY LANE
Wed. October 22
6:00pm

- glass of wine
- light bites
- silent auction
- vendors • bake sale
- music duo Trish O'Brien & Paul Noonan

\$35
 Ticket Line
 416-231-2263 x39

Tap your toes, do a dance, sing along!

Humber Valley
 UNITED CHURCH
 76 Anglesey Blvd, Etobicoke

www.hvuc.ca
 Proceeds benefit UCC supported charities.



Generous and loving God,

Thank you for this September day, that we are together, gathered as one in Christ. We settle our busy minds, put aside our worries and allow our troubled hearts to breathe in your love. We are one in Christ.

We pray for this church as we find our way forward in the weeks and months ahead. We are grateful for our congregation and staff in this centenary of the United Church of Canada, as the congregational search committee seeks a new full-time minister.

In this morning stillness, dear Lord, we hold in our hearts those suffering mental or physical illness, or grieving through personal loss, or other torment. In this quiet, we thank you, O God, for the selfless among us who, reflecting your love and grace, are called to serve the afflicted in whatever way they can.

With our many blessings, help us Lord, to see that your

divine grace is present even – and especially -- in the most troubled souls in our community and countrywide: your divine grace in the addicted, the unhoused, the hungry, the cold. They are us, we are one, in your kingdom.

We pray for justice in a world of famine, war, hate and ignorance. We grieve as the cries of your children grow. Help us to not be silenced, or to turn away, as we are confronted with injustice and conflict.

We pray for peace – not just the cessation of conflict, but the peace of Christ, as it is born and as it lives in our hearts. In this roiling world, help us, O God, to draw courage from that still, small voice, which defiantly assures us: Christ loves us, lives in us, and through us.

Thanks be to God. Amen

*Brian Thomson
Congregational
Life Team Leader*



55+ in Central Etobicoke
Connected, Caring, Creative

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

yoga • fitness • dance • cooking • speakers
writing • games • book club • computers
current events • walking • crafts • day trips + more

VIEW HERE



Seeking Your Stories!

Editor Colleen Isherwood would love to hear from you. Contact her at 416-844-1519 or colleen.isherwood26@gmail.com.

Welcome Back BBQ a Great Start to the Year

The weather was perfect on Sunday, Sept. 21, as Humber Valley welcomed everyone back after the summer. Drew and his band performed; our new Supply Minister, Ted Reeve, brought his dog, Nellie; and everyone enjoyed the hot dogs, cold drinks, games and camaraderie.

Photos by Shelley Scarrow





Sunday July 13 was a notable day in the history of Humber Valley United. We arrived at church and JOY spilled out of the sanctuary to greet us.

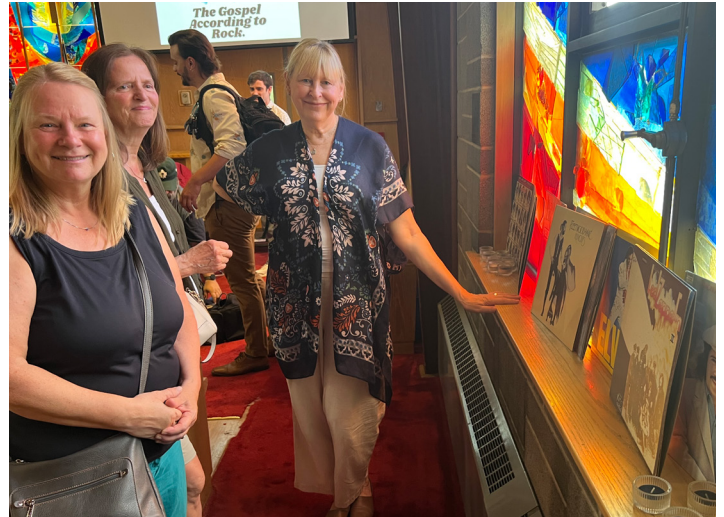
Kate Brown and Kevin Curnock had pulled out all the stops to bring us a summer of “Art Church”. There was beautiful artwork adorning the window ledges, all Kate’s favourite pieces from her personal collection. There was a rainbow quilt on the altar. There was a signed guitar on the stage. We had church bulletins again and they were ABSOLUTELY beautiful – gorgeous artwork for the Fruits of the Spirit, created by Kate and Kevin with help from Chat GPT.

Kate had arranged a host of musicians for us that covered a wide range of musical genres ... no matter what your taste in music, there were songs that you would enjoy. God was clearly pleased, as he punctuated each of Kate’s sentences with a thunderbolt or lightening strike the first week.



Andrew Prasad — a singing tap dancer with a guitar!

Our beloved church was back, but in a youthful rejuvenated state: people were smiling; people were happy; people were looking forward to a joyous future for our church. The TRANSFORMATION that we have been seeking for the past eight or nine years had happened in just 7 days since Kate took charge.



Chris Uleryk, Virginia Vatri and Rev. Anne Hines admiring Kate's window sill artwork.

As the summer wore on, the social media engine ramped up with themed versions of the “Art Church” branding each week. We arrived to new and notable decorations in the sanctuary. We laughed when Kate said, “My Dad may be surprised to see his entire record collection adorning the church today”. The minister’s office was warm and inviting after Kate and Kevin redecorated it with beautiful artwork.

Kate continued to find interesting guests for us to enjoy and learn from each Sunday: A dancer who works with people with Parkinson's. A painter. A quilter. A poet. A singing tap dancer with a guitar. Notable guest speakers included Danielle Strickland, a highly revered Canadian spiritual leader from BC with tens of thousands of followers on social media.

And lots of musicians: 20 different musicians playing seven different instruments including the carillon and the organ, plus the Valley Voices choir. The performers included 50 different songs over the course of the summer, 16 of which were hymns.

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Several artists donated their artwork to the church. Three impromptu outings cropped up for smaller groups:

Soulpepper Theatre, an outdoor concert in Burlington and a Blue Jays game. People rushed to read KIT to find out what was coming up on Sunday. The sanctuary filled well beyond usual summertime levels: more than double the in-person attendance and 30 per cent more on-line viewers than we had last summer. And all this was done under budget, freeing up almost \$1,000 to be used for future services.

So where did this idea come from? Shelley Scarrow was the inspiration when she wondered if we could extend the



We had many wonderful speakers this summer including Rev Anne Hines.

beautiful community created at the Valley Voices choir on Wednesday nights and enjoy it on Sundays too. Art Church would let people connect to the divine through the creative arts – singing, dancing, painting, knitting, storytelling, and creating music. This would

be perfect for our music-loving congregation but also enticing for artists who have been reluctant to attend regular church services.

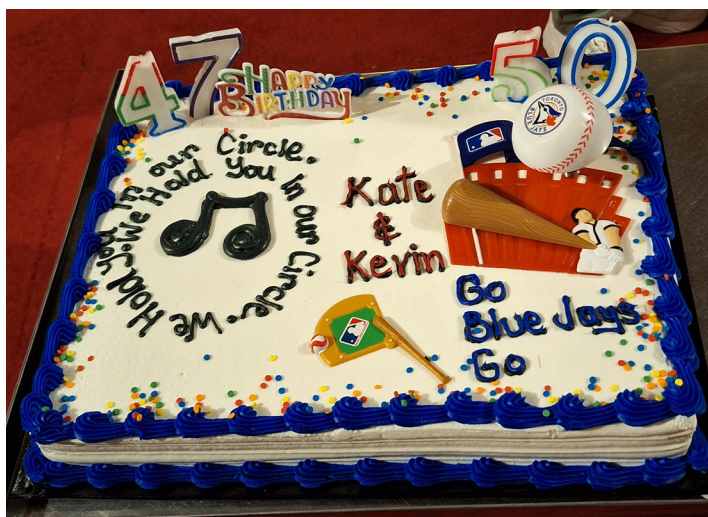
Kate jumped on board and brilliantly made it happen, thanks to her wide range of talents, her Rolodex of contacts in the theatre world and her dedication to our church. Jeff Kahl, one of our accompanists in Valley Voices, was happy to collaborate.

When you see Kate and Kevin, please thank them for putting their summer plans on hold and working SO HARD to create Art Church for us. Kate and Kevin put Art Church together in just a few weeks after they finished running the “BELONG” concert, and they juggled large numbers of guest performers and lots of new music each week. Kevin managed to do his career job during the day and then gave his evenings and weekends to strategize with Kate, design and print the bulletins, manage the budget and do the AV work on Sundays to cover for the regular staff who were unavailable this summer.

Kate and Kevin have shown us what our transformed church could look like and people are excited, invigorated and hopeful for the future.

Note: The Board of Directors is currently deciding where Art Church will fit going forward; watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Nancy Roper



Kevin Curnock, our faithful A/V producer, turned 50, and our leader Kate Brown, turned 47, for a total of 97 years. The beautiful cake was courtesy of Josie Mullins.

Our fourth season of Valley Voices began on Sept. 17 with a song list consisting of Canadian artists ranging from the Tragically Hip to Neil Young. We welcomed several new members, and enjoyed seeing old friends we'd missed during the summer.

The photo below shows the cast of BELONG: A Sing-A-



Valley Voices celebrated all the September birthdays, but especially Kate and Kevin's, at our first practice on Sept. 17. From left: Kevin, Josie, Kate, Renate, Gary and Gemma.

Long, our Spring Concert. Valley Voices members practised long and hard in the weeks leading up to the June 22 concert. It was so hot! We rented industrial fans to cool the Sanctuary and gave out paper fans to the attendees.

BELONG was "hot" in a good way too — as we entertained more than 200 people and raised \$7,000 for the church.



What's on at HVUC

October 4: Shredding day - volunteers wanted to help with this fundraiser

October 23: UCW Ladies Night Out: Dance Party. This is a big fundraiser for UCW's community and church projects.

November 7: Remembrance Day concert with Rob and Anton featuring the Governor General's Guard and the Scottish Clans of Canada— free will offering.

November 30: Fair Trade Craft Show. 11am to 1:30pm, Steed Hall, HVUC. Featuring African crafts and CASA Relief.

December 13: The Messiah concert with the Great Lakes Philharmonic, Rob and Anton's orchestra. Tickets to be sold.

March 1, 2026: The Welshmen's Choir fundraiser for the church. Tickets to be sold

Early May 2026: Valley Voices Choir concert and Silent Auction



Ladies' Night Out
WE ARE BACK TO MUSIC MEMORY LANE
Wed, October 22
6:00pm

- glass of wine
- light bites
- silent auction
- vendors • bake sale
- music duo Trish O'Brien & Paul Noonan

\$35
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Tap your toes, do a dance, sing along!

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 76 Anglesey Blvd, Etobicoke

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 Proceeds benefit UCW supported charities.

If anyone has any ideas for fundraisers, please contact [Deb Turnbull](#), as she is chair of this team.



AN ORCHESTRAL ACT OF REMEMBRANCE
Friday, Nov. 7, 7:00 pm

INSPIRING SYMPHONIC MUSIC, MAJESTIC ORGAN, AND ROUSING TRUMPET FANFARE!

- The Great Lakes Philharmonic
- The regimental trumpets of the Governor General's Horse Guards
- The clans and societies of the Scottish Clans in Canada
- Robert Hennig - Organ
- Dr. Anton Yeretsey - Conductor

A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted to cover the cost of the instrumentalists. Refreshments at the intermission will include some sparkling beverages!

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 76 Anglesey Blvd, Etobicoke





Come, Sing.
Valley Voices
 COMMUNITY CHOIR
 Wednesdays 7:00-9:00pm
 Beginning Sept. 17, 2025
Fun, Uplifting Music

Do you love to sing?
 Everyone is welcome to join Valley Voices Community Choir! No audition is required. Just show up and you will be warmly welcomed. We have loads of fun performing locally under the professional direction of Kate Brown.
 Contact Colleen.Isherwood26@gmail.com
 Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke hvuc.ca

Sanderson Centre's
the Celtic Tenors
A Celtic Christmas
 Tuesday, Dec. 11, 9:00am-6:30pm



World-Class Artists Performing Holiday Classics with Uplifting Harmonies!

- A full-day outing with convenient departure by private coach from Humber Valley United Church.
- A scrumptious buffet is included in the ticket price of \$155.00 per person.

Humber Valley
 UNITED CHURCH
hvuc.ca

Please purchase tickets directly from Mary Morton Tours at 416-488-2674. Questions?... jenny@hvuc.ca 416-231-2263 X31.

Come to Square Dancing!
Wednesdays on
Nov. 5 & Dec. 3
1:00-2:00pm
EVERYONE WELCOME!
 We will learn a simple square dance together.
 Please Register at www.hvuc.ca



Humber Valley
 UNITED CHURCH
www.hvuc.ca

27 SEPTEMBER
RHYTHMS OF THE SEASON
 Martin Grove United Church
 \$25 2pm
 A BLEND OF BLUES, JAZZ, R&B, AND GOSPEL
 EILEEN JOYCE
 BILL HARVEY
 DAVID MACMILLAN
 JACKIE SMITH
 75 Pergola Road, Etobicoke, ON
 416-745-6252 admin@mguc.ca
MGUC.CA

Beginners Tap for Seniors
 Have you ever wanted to learn to tap dance? Now is your chance!
REGISTER HERE
Fridays 5:00-5:30pm
ALL WELCOME
 55+ in Central Etobicoke
 Connects, Caring, Creative
Humber Valley
 UNITED CHURCH






Big News: No Tariffs on Shredding!

This may be the only service in town that has not been hit by inflation. HVUC Shredding Day is back on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 9-12am at the same prices as 2024. The process is easy. You gather up your documents and throw them in your trunk. You can use bankers' boxes, bags, bundles, or any kind of container. You do not have to remove file folders, paper clips, or staples. We can even shred pictures.

When you are ready, you drive in to the church parking lot by the Hartfield entrance, you pop your trunk, and our volunteers pick up your material and put it in large bins. From there it is wheeled to the Papersavers professional shredd-

ding truck, where it is fed into the hopper and shredded on the spot. If you want, you can even park and watch it all happen.

After your material is taken from your vehicle, a volunteer puts a sticker on your windshield saying how many boxes or box equivalents you had, and you drive forward to the payment station. You can pay by cash, credit card, cheque or e-transfer. Prices are as follows:

1-2 Boxes:	\$15.00 each
3-5 Boxes:	\$12.00 each
6+ Boxes:	\$10.00

This is an opportunity to dispose of important confidential documents safely and securely, at excellent rates. You will be decluttering and supporting your church all at the same time. Start now to gather up your tax returns (older than seven years), your credit card receipts, out-of-date health records, and anything else that might include your identifying information.

Help us advertise. Tell your friends and neighbours, and any small businesses that you patronize. If you belong to a neighbourhood internet group, please post the flyer. This is not like trying to sell raffle tickets. If people have paper to get rid of, they are usually very happy to know about this service. Most of our customers smile when they pay for their shredding, and tell us they feel so much lighter once they are rid of all that extra paper.

Questions? Call 416-231-2263, extension 39. Your message will be returned.

Ladies Night Out: A Dance Party

Back by popular demand are the talented musical duo of Trish O'Brien and Paul Noonan. Grab your gal pals, put on your dancing shoes and come out on Wednesday, October 22nd for a fun evening.

Start with a Wine Reception (complimentary glass of wine or punch), bid for great bargains at the Silent Auction, source home made treats at the Bake Sale and score a unique jewellery piece at vendor Joanne Furtado's display.

Then enjoy a tasty light meal, plus tea or coffee while tapping your toes, dancing, swaying, or singing along to old favourites while Trish and Paul take us on a trip 'Down Musical Memory Lane'! Tickets are \$35 and are on sale NOW at church on Sundays or by calling 416-231-2263 x39.



Seating is at tables of eight. Book a whole table and fill it with friends, or come solo or in any other number.

Carolyn Whiteside

Two New Musical Programs Starting this Fall



Handbells For Fun and Rhythmic Exploration at 2pm Wednesdays in the Sanctuary

Did you know that the basis of our sense of rhythm all begins with what we learned from our mother's heart beat in the womb? Join Rob in exploring and amplifying what you already know from the fundamentals of rhythm using the delicious sounds of hand bell ringing. He uses a system that supports playing from memory at first — you will be amazed with how the concepts of patterns make bell ringing easy and enjoyable!

Rob Hennig, B. Mus., has been leading award winning handbell choirs for 20 years, studied classes in bell ringing in Oberlin Ohio, and is a member of the Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

To register for handbells, please email Rob at robertbhennig@gmail.com or just come.

Deb Turnbull

Finding Your Voice Class Wednesdays at 3pm

Hey fellow singers, I have an opportunity for you. Recently, I attended the first session of the new 55+ program "Finding Your Voice." It is taught by Rob Hennig, who is an eminent organist and choral conductor, and good friend to Humber Valley. I went to Paris and then Rome as a member of his choirs several years ago, so I was curious about this new course he was offering. I have been having trouble

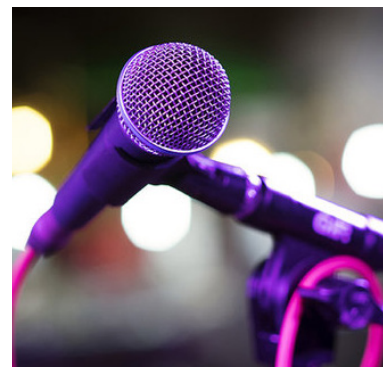
with my voice, which gets hoarse quickly and does not have the range it used to. Well, I was very impressed.

Rob came in and taught for a solid hour, with a lesson plan that was clear but fun and engaging. I learned a lot, including the fact that, although it is important to stay hydrated, I had been doing it wrong by drinking gallons of very cold water. Rob taught me that I have been washing away the protective coating on my vocal chords. He has recommended switching to lukewarm herbal tea instead. Who knew?

Over the next few weeks, Rob will be teaching vocal techniques such as breath production and breath support, that will help both your speaking voice and your singing voice. Classes are Wednesdays from 3-4 PM in Steed Hall. A donation of \$5-\$10 is requested, but not required.

Check it out. I am certainly going back for more.

Joan Belford



Humber Valley Hoedown!

You probably have a fuzzy memory of grabbing a partner for a “do si do” in middle school gym class dance lessons. Maybe it was awkward, perhaps it was enjoyable, possibly it was both.

Fast forward to July 3 in Steed Hall at Humber Valley United Church. The 55+ In Central Etobicoke Canada Day Square Dance was whole lot of good old-fashioned fun!

Before you could say “swing your partner”, we had learned the steps to a basic dance under the expert direction of George Turnbull, who was the official Caller. George guided us through steps and formations, ensuring all dancers, regardless of their experience level, had a great time.

Turns out, square dancing offers numerous physical and mental benefits. It’s a good cardio-vascular exercise, without being overly strenuous. Coordination and balance can be improved moving in sync with the music and other dancers. Square dancing is great for stress relief, social interaction and provides a place for people to meet new

friends while having fun! Mastering new moves and learning a dance is a boost to confidence and self esteem. There were high fives all around after we accomplished our first completed promenade!



This event was so well received, it’s now part of the 55+ Program lineup for the Fall. Join the fun on November 5 and December 3 from 1 to 2pm! Contact Jenny Terwoord at jenny@hvuc.ca for more information.



Campfire Singalong — With a Real Campfire!

Beverley Conner and friends have been hosting a Campfire Singalong for the past five years. This year the venue moved to Colleen Isherwood's backyard, and we had a real campfire! Bev played ukulele, while Jeff Kahl and Joanne Stenerson played guitar. This was Joanne's debut playing for a group! The marshmallows were popular, with one attendee roasting a marshmallow for the first time. A good time was had by all, and the singing sounded good too!





What better way than singing together, side by side?

Our friends at Mayflower House with the Stars and Stripes (autographed on the back) we gave them.

We set up in a shady space under a tree

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon the Canadian Friends of Chautauqua, a group from Humber Valley United Church in Toronto, led a singalong of favourite Canadian and American songs in Bestor Plaza on July 6, 2025. We did this as a gesture of solidarity with our American friends.

— with flags and chairs and percussion instruments for everyone to play. The group of about twelve started with “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing” and within half an hour the group became 40 strong. Our leader, Bev, introduced the songs, played the ukulele, and encouraged passers-by to join in. Many people walking by sang along as they walked and some found a seat and stayed.

(Chautauqua Institution is a not-for-profit, 750-acre community on Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York State. Approximately 7,500 people reside there on any day during the nine-week summer season. More than 100,000 attend scheduled public events each year, and even more engage online via the streaming channel CHQ Assembly. (<https://www.chq.org/about/>)

Aaron and Boaz, The Mecham Duo, two violinists busking on the other side of Bestor Plaza joined the group. They really added to the ukulele accompaniment. And when someone in the singing audience asked them to play, their Bach duet earned them a big round of applause.

We’ve loved coming to this amazing place for the last three or four years and have been longing to reach out to our American friends in this time of uncertainty and transition.

Singing together is a wonderful way to bring love and understanding. Thank-you Chautauqua for all you do for so many people.



Many of the Canadian contingent with some American friends

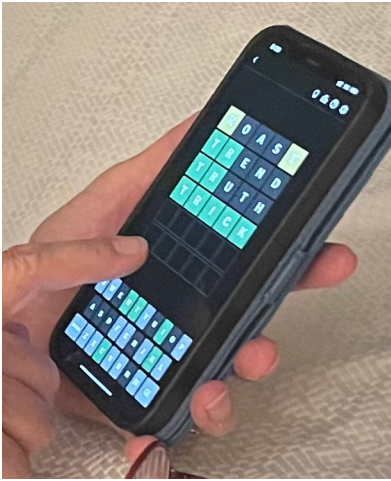
*"We don't know what's coming tomorrow
Maybe it's trouble and sorrow
But we'll travel the road, sharing our load
Side by side."*

*When they've all had their quarrels and parted
We'll be the same as we started
Just to travel along, singing a song
Side by side."*

*Susanne Hynes
For the
Canadian
Friends of
Chautauqua*



Wordle: Exercising My Aging Brain



Having washed my face and slathered it with a rich nighttime cream to ward off the wrinkles, I get into my favourite nightie and climb into my soft warm bed. I pull the covers over my shoulder and turn onto my left side, the pillow plumped under my head. What time is it? Oh, quarter to midnight. Fifteen minutes to wait. So I scroll the

Google news on my iPhone and watch a bit of *Jimmy Kimmel* or *Stephen Colbert* or even a bit of *Family Feud*.

On the stroke of midnight, or maybe five seconds later I open Wordle. I always start with “roast”. I picked that opening word because of what I learned from *Wheel of Fortune*: the most common letters in the English language are r-s-t-l-n-e. Roast is not a popular starter word but it really works for me because it has three of those letters in it. If none of them are in the word, my next try is lined. That gets the l-n-e into the mix.

I have played every single Wordle ever published. Before the *New York Times* bought the puzzle from its creator there was an archive (free) on the internet and I played them all. Since the NYT has sponsored the puzzle I have played it every day whether I am in Tokyo, on the Atlantic, at a friend’s cottage or in my nice warm bed. You can only play one Wordle a day now: they keep the addiction going by rationing the game. I haven’t lost one in over six months of play.

Playing Wordle is like the opening to a drug addiction. You start with weed and graduate to more potent drugs. You start with Wordle and before you know it you are also playing Quordle, Spelling Bee, Connections, Waffle, Strands, The Mini (NYT crossword), etc. etc. But you actually don’t need a cure for this addiction. It is good for aging brains and very fine for making the worries of the day fade into the background, inducing sleep. I admit I often fall asleep on one of those puzzles and finish them in the early dawn. Sometimes I even break my concentration and glance up at the window to see the sunrise.

Wordle has been played billions of times by millions of people all over the world. So what is it that draws so many to this game? It is not one aspect; many things have led to its success. The game itself is easy enough so that just about anybody can play it. It can be solved in anywhere from two minutes to an hour. Chances are you will have an 80 per cent or greater success rate. So there is a beautiful little challenge that doesn’t take too much of a time investment and there is the sweet reward of solving it. The game keeps a record of your plays so you can see how well you play and you can aim for winning streaks. I have only lost about six times, most of those back in the early archive when I wasn’t all that careful.

But the best reward is connecting to other people. I love the fact that millions of other people are playing it too. The world is united in this one game.

The game has a SHARE button so you can share success and compare your result with anyone in your contacts. I routinely share with three people. The share screen lets you add a message so I often text my friends with a bit of news or a good night. We congratulate each other on how well we solved the puzzle and commiserate about tough ones. One of my friends has had the luck of solving on the first word TWICE. That hasn’t ever happened to me; roast hasn’t ever been the solution. But its time is coming. Of course, solving on the first word is just purest good luck. But who is going to argue with purest good luck? I also share with a few other people on occasion, but if they don’t share back I drop it for a while and only share again when I have something to tell them.

Many other internet games also allow sharing. So, as I go through my nighttime puzzle routine I also share them if people I know are playing them. One of my friends has her phone by her bedside and she looks forward to its ping shortly after midnight, knowing I have solved Wordle.

Sometimes I have worried that the game will end because they will run out of words. I googled it and am reassured that I will be able to play for many more years yet. There are between 100,000 and 120,000 five-letter words in the English language. That comes to 275 more years of Wordle. Phew!

I am exercising my aging brain and staying connected with friends.

Susanne Hynes
June 10, 2025



Marjie riding a camel in the 1990s.

Marjie Horner is one of our longest standing church members. She doesn't look like it, but she is almost 93 years old and has been at the church for almost 63 years.

Marjie and her twin sister, Marg, were born on their mother's birthday in December 1932. The family lived on a large, busy dairy farm in a Scottish village called Howick in Quebec. Marjie and Marg had two brothers, one older and one younger. The children worked on the farm in the summer when they were teenagers, driving tractors and raking hay etc.

The school bus picked the children up each morning to go to the local school that included one class of each grade from primary to high school. Marjie loved sports. The school parents built a hockey rink behind the school each winter for the kids to learn to skate and play hockey.

Marjie was the goalie on the girls' school team starting in Grade 7 and switched to the forward line in Grade 9. They competed against the teams from three nearby towns and shared dinners of baked beans or spaghetti after the game. Marjie also played catcher on the school baseball team. After graduation, Marjie continued to play on the town teams.

Marjie did her teacher training at Macdonald College

which is affiliated with McGill University.

Over the next 9 years, Marjie taught Grade 1 for three years in each of three towns along the St Lawrence River in Quebec: Beauharnois, Shawinigan Falls and Hudson.

Marjie then moved to Ontario and taught special education in two North York schools: Cameron Ave and Wilming-ton. She had small classes of approximately seven children with autism and other conditions. She LOVED her job.

While in Toronto, Marjie met and married her husband, George, who had lost his wife to illness. George was an engineer trained at U of T. George had two sons, Peter and David, who were 9 and 16 at the time of the wedding. Shortly after getting married, Marjie and George welcomed a daughter named Anne. Marjie was a homemaker until Anne started school and then continued her career as a teacher. They lived on Ridgevalley Crescent when they were raising their family.

Interestingly, Anne's in-laws, Norm and Mona Currie, were members of Humber Valley for many years.

Marjie is a member of Unit 9. She taught Sunday School for several years when Anne was young and she helped on the Greeting Team for a year. Recently, she did a great job

(Continued on next page)



Marjie on the golf course.



Marjie and friends following an HVUC service last Spring.

(Continued from previous page)

welcoming a young visitor to the church and making him feel at home. Marjie comes to church most Sundays. She loves the music in the second service – she says it feels like she’s at a concert downtown every Sunday.

Marjie is still very active, making people think she is much younger than her years. She golfs twice a week in the ladies’ group at Weston Golf Club and lawn bowls two or three times a week at the Etobicoke Lawn Bowling Club, in the valley between the Shipp Centre and Memorial Pool.

Marjie is proud of our church and looks forward to what the future holds for us.



The “Getting to Know Our Church Friends” series of articles are written by Nancy Roper in memory of her Dad, Norm Roper, who died in June 2020. Norm loved visiting with people and hearing their stories. He never forgot the things that people told him, always remembering to ask how a special event had gone or checking in on people’s children and grandchildren, etc.

Kelly Wells is Retiring

Kelly Wells, who has been our Church Administrator since 2019, has decided to retire on Oct. 2.

We will miss her amazing organizational skills, creativity and energy, and in particular the vibrant posters she has created for our many church programs.



There will be a reception for her on Thursday, October 2 at 3:00pm in the Hearth Room. If you would like to contribute to a gift please connect with [Deb Turnbull](#).

Pie Making with Sally Roper

The Friends and Faith (FF) UCW Group had a pie making event back in May. The session stemmed from a DELICIOUS apple pie that Sally Roper made for the FF Potluck in February 2024. Lucia asked if Sally could visit her home to give a private lesson and others jumped on the bandwagon requesting a group event.

Each attendee then made a batch of pastry and rolled a pie shell which they filled and finished at home. We had a mixture of apple pies and rhubarb pies. It was a really fun event.

If you are interested in attending a similar pie making event in November, please contact Nancy Roper at nancy.roper@sympatico.ca



Sandra Lawrason has been a member of Humber Valley United Church since she was a little girl. She belongs to Unit 7 UCW and sings with the Valley Voices Community Choir. This summer, Sandra worked with the Red Cross to help the many people who were evacuated due to forest fires. Here is what she had to say about that experience.

1. How did you get involved in your work helping the Canadian Red Cross to find accommodation for people displaced by the forest fires?

Sandra: I often will do contract work and if my experience and skills are a good match to the tasks involved then I will apply. So, when I saw the Travel Services project for the Red Cross, I knew I'd be a good fit because I'm a travel consultant and I also have excellent communication and interpersonal skills as well as a good knowledge of Microsoft Office Excel.

2. Did you need any special training to get involved?

Sandra: Yes, this role was completely remote and there were two days of intense training by the Canadian Red Cross. I downloaded their system and database on my computer and was able to use the Red Cross telephone system to call hotels.

3. What did your work involve? And did you work from home or at a central office?

Sandra: My role involved identifying and contacting hotels in specific areas to secure lodging for evacuees. I was responsible for tracking available room capacity, managing evacuee names, and noting their length of stay. Evacuees had already received instructions to register with the Red Cross for financial assistance.

4. What was your favourite part of this job?

Sandra: It was rewarding to know that I was helping and being a valuable assistant to my fellow Canadians at a difficult time. I enjoyed communicating with the hotel managers and discussing with them how they could help.

5. Are there parts of the job that you find difficult?

Sandra: The role demanded meticulous attention to detail, as it frequently involved navigating multiple comprehensive spreadsheets and toggling between various applications. This proved challenging due to the sheer volume and complexity of hotel and evacuee data on each sheet.

6. Are there any personal stories regarding the evacuees that stand out?

Sandra: There are many stories that paint a vivid picture of the human cost of the 2025 Canadian wildfires, emphasizing the loss, uncertainty, and resilience of those forced to flee their homes.

My team worked with mainly Manitoba and Saskatchewan and there was one story from Pimicikamak Cree Nation, located approximately 520 km north of Winnipeg. Here there are 10,000 evacuees who are indigenous and had to leave their territory very quickly.

One Cree person said there was smoke for days before the evacuation order and the fires moved in rapidly getting "very close" to their community. Being housed in a Niagara Falls hotel, he expressed gratitude for the evacuation efforts by the Canadian Armed Forces, but the uncertainty of when they could return home weighed heavily.

So, one story was that there was some distress at the hotel accommodations provided, and there was a fight that broke out amongst the evacuees. This was highly due to

(Continued on next page)

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the fact that they've been displaced for months, noting the stress of hotel living and the uncertainty of return.

For some there's no "home" to return to in the traditional sense, only a long and arduous path to rebuilding. There is destruction of entire communities causing significant damage, including the destruction of villages and critical infrastructure like water treatment facilities, senior centres and health centres.

Many evacuees voiced deep anxiety about whether their homes and communities would still be standing when they were allowed to return. The distress was also because their lives were being disrupted by the extended time away from home, which meant disrupted schooling for children, loss of routine, and significant mental health challenges for all affected.

7. What are the different types of accommodation you found? I heard people from Manitoba were being housed in Niagara Falls hotels.

Sandra: Yes, I also heard this on the news; however the furthest that the evacuees that I was involved with had to travel was from northern Manitoba to Regina, Saskatchewan. Niagara Falls took in an influx of thousands of wildfire evacuees. This put a strain on the city, which was already housing asylum seekers. This has created challenges for local authorities in providing adequate accommodation and support.

*** Winnipeg's Overwhelmed Hotels:** Early in the season, Winnipeg's hotels quickly filled, forcing officials to use community and sport centres, and even turning to other cities for shelter. This stretched resources thin and underscored the scale of the emergency

8. How long did the job last?

Sandra: There were a few of us hired and the project lasted six weeks.

9. How does this forest fire season compare to other years?

Sandra: The 2025 Canadian forest fire season is proving to be one of the worst on record,

with a significantly higher area burned compared to the average of previous years.

Here's a breakdown of how it compares:

*** Area Burned:** As of mid-July 2025, over 5.5 million hectares have been burned across Canada. This is more than double the 10-year average of 2.12 million hectares, and also more than quadruple the 10-year average (as of June 18, 2025) of 930,000 hectares. It's on track to be the second-worst on record in terms of carbon emissions and area burned, only surpassed by the unprecedented 2023 wildfire season.

*** Early and Intense Start:** The season began earlier and with more intensity than usual, with significant fires in provinces like Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia even before the boreal summer.

*** Contributing Factors:** The severity is attributed to a combination of hot temperatures, persistent drought conditions across much of Canada (especially in western Canada, the northern Prairies, and northwestern Ontario), and dry forest fuels.

*** Carbon Emissions:** By the beginning of June, Canada's total estimated wildfire carbon emissions reached 56 megatonnes, by the end of June, this total was estimated to be 108 megatonnes.

In essence, the 2025 season is characterized by its early start, widespread and intense activity, and a burned area that far exceeds historical averages, placing it firmly among Canada's most challenging wildfire seasons.



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Goodness in Goderich

Terry Scott recently moved from Delmanor in Etobicoke to a new retirement home in Goderich to be closer to family following the death of her husband, Dr. Philip Scott.

Pat and Ted Evanetz, Terry's sister and brother-in-law who reside in Goderich, were instrumental in arranging this major transition, with key support from Terry's friends Wilma and Ron Crago.

Terry and Dr. Phil were cherished members of the HVUC community. Ruth Rae and I were blessed to share some laughter with Terry during our recent visit. Terry has weathered a tumultuous year with her usual grace and gentle fortitude.

Brian Thomson, Terry's Elder



Top: One-time neighbours, long-time friends: Ruth Rae and Terry Scott on Terry's balcony.

Murray to the Rescue!

Murray Smith comes to the rescue. A little chipmunk fell into the Smith's pool. Murray got it out of the water and warmed it up gently stroking it.

Kathy Kitchen and Judy Smith

A guest from England

HVUC Memoir Group enjoyed a glorious end-of-summer gathering to meet their long distance member, Judith Dallimore's English sister, Pauline

Carolyn Whiteside



Terry Scott (second from right) hosts Brian Thomson, Pat and Ted Evanetz, and Ruth Rae for lunch at Terry's new retirement home in Goderich. After lunch, Ted treated Terry and her guests to a driving tour of Goderich's historic square and bustling summer waterfront.

Bernadette Mary Hutchins **May 28, 1946 - June 10, 2025**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Bernadette (Bernie) on June 10, 2025, at the age of 79.

Bernie was a cherished friend to many, known for her warm spirit, infectious laughter, and love of good company. She brought joy to those around her and created memories that will be treasured forever. She was a well-loved member of Unit 7 UCW for many years.



Bernie now reunites with her beloved husband, Merv, who passed away in July 2016. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Dr. Ron Groshaw **July 21, 2025**

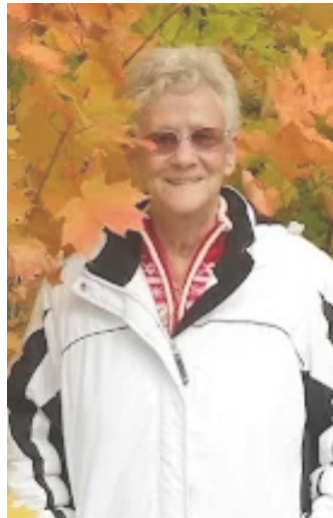
We are sorry to inform you that Dr. Groshaw passed away on July 21, 2025 at Etobicoke General Hospital at the age of 95.

He is predeceased by his son George Bain (2003). Beloved husband to Barbara Jean for 65 years. Father to Eric (Tracie), grandfather to Christopher (Hilary), grandfather to Philip (Kaitlin) and great grandfather to Samuel.

Ron served in the Korean war, and he had a long career as an Ophthalmologist. Ron joined the Masonic community in 1959. He enjoyed cottage life with his family. His hobbies included sailing, golf and skiing. In his later years Ron enjoyed being a "tree surgeon" at the lake, and he was voracious reader of all types of literature.



Rose McLean



Rose McLean was a beautiful soul. She loved her family with her whole heart, and they loved her just as deeply in return.

She had the sharpest wit, the warmest heart, and a laugh that filled the room.

She was the best grandmother, and best great gramma.

She shared a special bond — quick remarks, playful teasing, and a whole lot of love.

Rose was the heart of a mother and the soul of a nurturer — radiant, wise, gentle, and endlessly loving. Rest peacefully, Rose.

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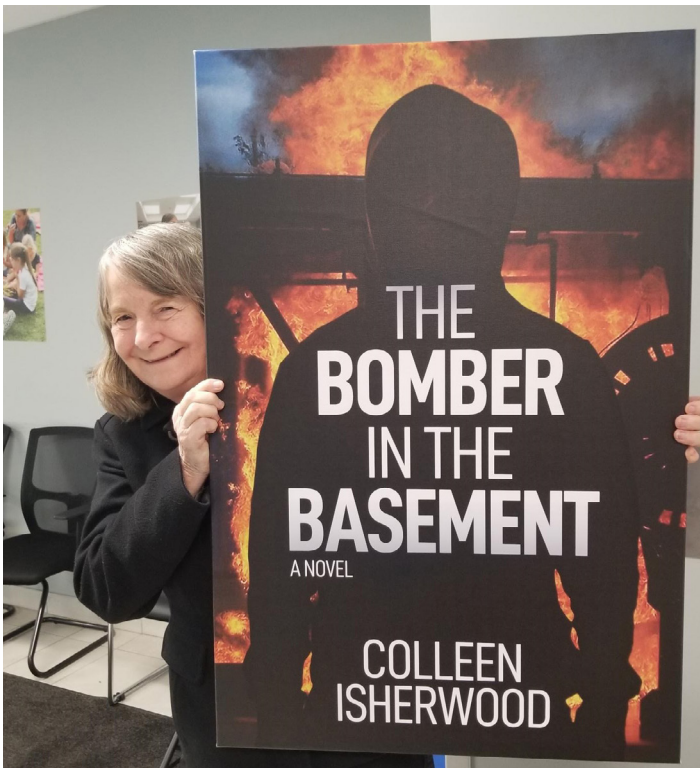
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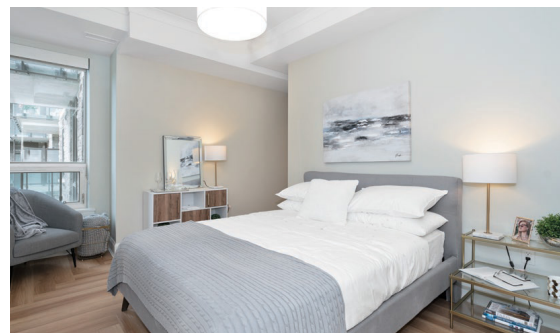
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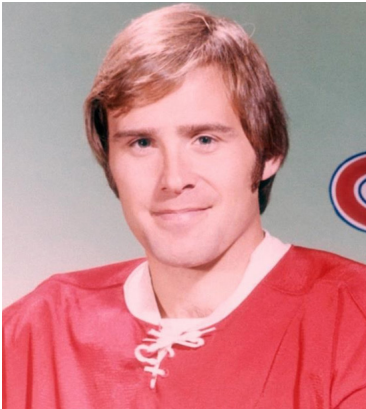
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Ken Dryden's HVUC Connection



Ken Dryden

Ken Dryden, famed hockey goalie, lawyer, member of federal parliament and author, died recently at the age of 78. Tributes highlighted his many accomplishments but one item was missed in the media. Ken attended Sunday School at Humber Valley United Church as a young boy in the 1950's.

Ken's family have connections both to the church and to Sleeping Children Around the WORLD. The Dryden family lived just a block from the church so they regularly attended services. Mom sang in the choir and dad Murray was a key member of the Kiwanis Club that met at the church. With very strong faith and the inspiration to make a difference, Murray and Margaret founded the charity, Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW) in 1970 with a dona-

tion of money for 50 children in India to receive a slumber kit.

55 years later SCAW has helped close to two million children in developing countries to enjoy "the comfort of a good night's sleep". Thank you Ken for your contributions to Canadian society. And thank you SCAW for continuing to make a difference in the lives of so many children and their families.

Sally Jo Martin



55 YEARS

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