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## Message from the Board Chair: Fall, 2017

It is amazing how quickly time passes! 2017 is soon going to be a memory as we anticipate what 2018 will bring. L'Arche Lethbridge has had another successful year. Our community continues to flourish as we live out our mandate. I would like to thank everyone involved in our community for their commitment and dedication to making our community welcoming and inclusive.

Years ago, Jean Vanier emphasized the great discovery of his life was: "that we are healed by the poor and the weak, that we are transformed by them as we enter into relationship with them, that the weak and the vulnerable have a gift to give our world. They call us together, in unity and peace, to build a community." I believe our community is accomplishing this daily and that we must never lose sight of why we exist.

Every year we rely on your generosity to help us accomplish our mandate and we are again asking you to remember us during this

season of giving. Your donations help us to deal with the unexpected costs that arise each year and to participate in activities not funded by our grants.

This will be my last message as the Chair of the L'Arche Lethbridge Board. I will be stepping down from the board at the end of the year. I have been on the board for nine years, the maximum amount of time allowed under L'Arche policy. It has been a great honour for me to be involved with this wonderful organization. I have been richly blessed during my time on the board and hope to have continued involvement in the community in some capacity.

I wish each and everyone one of you all the best in the future. Continue to work to build communities of peace, compassion and inclusion.

Merry Christmas and health and happiness in 2018!

Bob Campbell  
*L'Arche Lethbridge Board Chair*



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*Bob Campbell, Board Chair of L'Arche Lethbridge*

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## Amani House and Jen Culler's First Get-away Together to William Watson Lodge, in Kananaski Country



For many years I have visited William Watson Lodge in Kananaskis Country. This destination is a fully accessible facility for the disabled regardless of the disability. This August, I decided to invite L'Arche Lethbridge Amani House to share this holiday with me. What a unique experience for me to make the arrangements to holiday with such a large group with a variety of interests and needs. Everyone was excited and agreed to this trip — a rare occurrence for such a diverse group. It actually worked quite nicely and you'll see some pictures to that effect.



In the five days of our holidays, we were able to do many things together. We ate all our meals outside on the deck, went on some nature hikes, as well as visits to the Interpretive Centre as some people needed their WiFi fix. All this was very relaxing, calm and peaceful which was the main theme for this kind of vacation.

During this time we also went on a day trip to Canmore which included a pizza supper together. One assistant ate a LOT of pizza! My dog, Solomon came along but didn't get to come in to eat pizza - he was sad. Having my puppy along however was very enjoyable



for everybody. TG was particularly thrilled by Solomon's presence; their bond created memories for me that I won't soon forget.

This was a wonderful experience that I would really love to repeat. I hope others would agree but next time I would book 3 bedroom cabins instead of cabins with 2 bedroom because space was very tight at times. Some people even had to resort to sleeping on air mattresses on the floor — however for some that turned out to be one of the most enjoyable parts — just ask them.



*Submitted by Jen Culler*



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## November, 2017: Community Leader Christmas Greetings

This past June I had the opportunity to go to the L'Arche International Assembly in Belfast as the delegate for our community. Delegates, with and without disabilities from L'Arche communities around the world gathered at Queen's University in Belfast to celebrate, build relationships and do the work of the Federation-like vote for our new International Mandate and our International Leaders.

Before I went I didn't know much about Belfast or Northern Ireland and I felt privileged to learn more while I was there. Belfast is a beautiful and welcoming place but I learned that tensions can still simmer beneath the surface. In one of the workshops I attended led by one of the members of the Corrymeela community he talked of leading a workshop for people in "mixed marriages". I immediately thought that this was for people like me who are in interfaith and intercultural marriages – not so! In Northern Ireland mixed marriages are between a Catholic and a Protestant.

During the course of the Assembly I learned that Belfast isn't just about Belfast. The tensions that exist

in Belfast are connected to tensions I live in my own life. My choice is in how I respond. Will I choose to work for unity and peace or conflict and division? To be at the Assembly with people from L'Arche all over the world, to feel the reality that we are all united by the same Mission and a desire to work for peace and unity, touched me deeply.

I am grateful for the opportunity to experience the international reality of L'Arche and for all of the people who make our community life possible. For the Members whose daily commitment to life in the homes and community, for Board Members who carry the legal and financial responsibility and for our donors whose generous financial contributions keep our community afloat.

During this Christmas season I am especially thankful to all of our donors who so generously choose to support us with financial contributions.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas season.

Tim Wiebe

*Community Leader/Executive Director*

## Cliff Lobe, Board Member: Gifts of L'Arche

I have been a member of the L'Arche, Lethbridge Board since 2013. It might seem a rather trite cliché, but my earliest impression of L'Arche and of the Board was that it was truly a privilege, an honour, and a delight to be able to serve the L'Arche community as a Board member and, in my own limited way, to begin to contribute to what one senior member of our community once described, very aptly, as the "worthwhile work" of L'Arche. That impression has remained constant through my years of service on the Board; indeed, it is confirmed, again and again, in countless ways, by the generous and compassionate people I have the good fortune to meet and work with at L'Arche, Lethbridge each year.

Perhaps the most interesting, and inspiring, experience I have had in L'Arche was my involvement (as a relatively "recent" addition to the Board at the time) in the 2014 Mandate and Selection Processes, a role that was as inspiring as it was daunting. Not only was I fortunate to be able to learn more about L'Arche —



locally, nationally, and internationally — as we worked through the twinned processes of drafting a new Mandate and selecting a new Community Leader, but I was also fortunate to meet with, in various contexts, all the members of our community and to learn from them as they articulated and demonstrated their own visions of L'Arche, of the community's identity and mission, of what they hoped L'Arche Lethbridge might become in the future. I am grateful I had the opportunity to be a part of the Mandate and Selection Committees, to participate in those pivotal and transformative processes. I remain

in awe of my remarkable fellow committee members: Pat Favaro, Serena Visser, and Marie Sochorova. Their individual and collective wisdom, talents, patience, kindness, and mirthfulness made those numerous and lengthy meetings from January to June in 2014 a pleasure—meetings I looked forward to attending! I regularly reflect upon the work we did together as some of the most "worthwhile" work I have done in my life.



## Volunteers at L'Arche Lethbridge

Did you know some people in our L'Arche Community have volunteered in unique ways?

Donated and delivered a load of topsoil to Amani House, helped spread it and then took away a load of recyclable items.

Purchased and donated a set of new pots and pans to one of the houses

Bought and delivered a new barbeque to one of our houses

Donated plants/flowers for the Amani Garden

Others have volunteered to . . .

. . . be on the L'Arche Board of Directors

. . . be on a committee of the Board

. . . fold and stuff newsletter envelopes for several newsletters

...make their stamp machine available for the newsletters

### 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

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is to go to:

Area of greatest need

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

A specific need

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CSV No. \_\_\_\_\_

L'Arche Lethbridge Office at  
403.328.3735

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

or

Email [larche@telusplanet.net](mailto:larche@telusplanet.net)

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.*

