

# DPCM

Davenport Perth  
Community Ministry

## 2023 Annual Report



### Mission & Vision

Acting as a community of faith within Shining Waters Regional Council of The United Church of Canada, to provide community development and community organizing support, offer pastoral care and be engaged in advocacy through coalitions and networks in the Davenport Perth Community.

Community Minister's Reflection

## Community Land Trust & Colonization

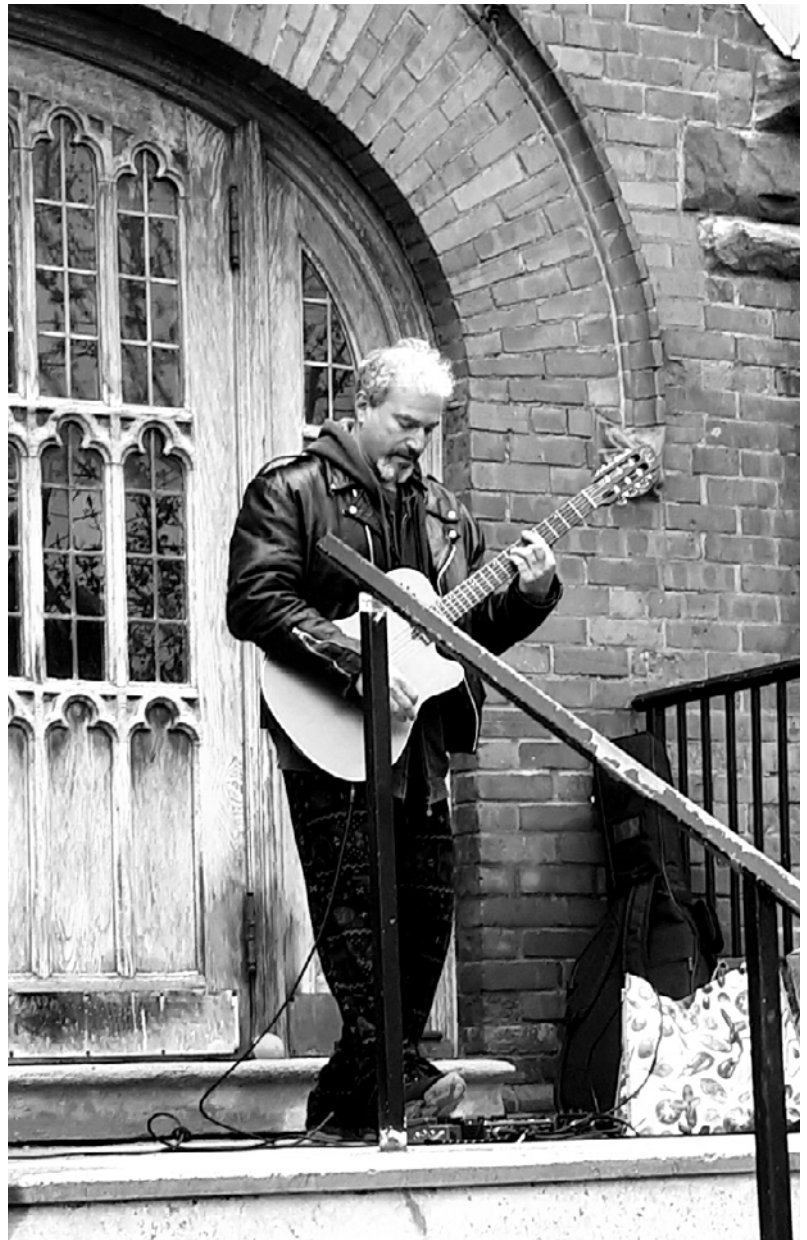
By Tina Conlon

As we discover the ancient route called Gete-Onigaming, now known as Davenport, we want to claim the “pre-discovery” nature of where we are and understand how we can enable community residents to have a land trust in the same way that Parkdale, Kensington and many others in the city are setting up land trusts. A land trust is an organizational structure where land is taken out of the market and is made available in perpetuity, keeping it permanently affordable for different users.

“A land trust is an organizational structure where land is taken out of the market and is made available in perpetuity, keeping it permanently affordable for different users.”

Arts4All gave a thought-provoking performance during the DPNCHC Spring Festival on May 30 where they portrayed an early community of settlers who were railroad workers in this area in what was known as “Shackville.” The community that lived with the indigenous community in the area had their own ecological system of growing their own food, furniture making, trading, until they were forced to amalgamate with the larger city of Toronto.

This whole idea of maps and map-making reminded me of the Ammassalik wooden maps that are carved, tactile maps of the Greenlandic coastlines. Before European contact, the Tunumiit (Eastern Greenlandic Inuit) practiced carving portable maps out of driftwood to be used while navigating coastal waters. These pieces, which are small enough to be carried in a mitten, represent coastlines in a continuous



*Photo of Josh Vogel by Anna Gutmanis*

line, up one side of the wood and down the other. The maps are compact, buoyant, and can be read in the dark. Reading Walter Brueggemann's January 26, 2023 article, “On Mapping” , he said that a map is an instance of power and control. In his reading of Jo Guldi's, *The Long Land War: The Global Struggle for Occupancy Rights* (2021), he stated, “...participatory mapping consists in the landless becoming active agents in the construction of their own future, along with a refusal to be passive recipients of the “paper” imposed on them by reigning power.”

In 2019, DPCM dealt with the issues of borders and displacement. In 2023, we began seeing the danger of erasure when communities are erased.

## Bread & Bricks Summer Course

# Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights to Housing

Andrew Costa offered a seven-week course on the latter hour and a half session of Bread and Bricks: “Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights to Housing”. Exploring how Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights to land and housing have been applied and implemented in Canada and other countries. A detailed look at how Social, Economic and Cultural Rights to Housing can support initiatives like Community Land Trusts and Guaranteed Minimum Income.

“It began with a look at how a right to housing was evident in legal judgments and government policies.”

The B&B 1000 (Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights to Housing) Course comprised seven sessions that took place between June and August of 2023. It began with a look at how a right to housing was evident in legal judgments and government policies. These earlier discussions showed that a limited right to housing was evident in legally mandated obligations that Municipal and Provincial governments were required to ensure that unhoused individuals could access housing to prevent them from occupying public space and being subject to police repression in turn.



Paul, Amber Lee and Rachel – t-shirts still available!



MP Julie Dzerowicz (center) checked in on our CSJ participants Treasure (left) and Travell (right)

The course then looked at whether Community Land Trusts (CLTs) could thus fill the housing need that had been recognized in prior legal judgments. To that effect, the course then explored what CLT's were, their organizational composition, their impact on community relations, etc. The course ended with participants attempting to put together a mock Canadian Charter on the Rights to Housing to respond in response to these earlier discussions. Twenty participants received certificates at the end of the sessions.

## 2023 Reflections from the DPCM Steering Committee

By Amber Lee

For many, 2023 was a challenging year. In many ways, though we can say the Pandemic is over, yet COVID is with us, and many are still impacted. Serving on this board, we see the growing needs, and work to help a little.

Prices on food have not returned to a norm, and many people are dealing with economic pressures, being asked to do more with less. Now more than in recent years before, hope, and understanding feel scarce, we are needed.

Hope, that I will be able to afford my groceries. That I will keep, or sadly for many, obtain, a safe roof to have over my head. Stress, conflict, war, and violence are more present; I am proud to serve alongside you, agents that seek to provide joy, hopefully offering those we can, peace.



## Community Crisis Response Fund (CCRF)

Beyond Table 91 meets every month with residents and service delivery providers to address issues in the neighbourhood. The table received Community Crisis Response Fund (CCRF) funds for a youth-led project, “Peace in Pelham” and an adult-led project, “Just Breathe”.

The CCRF provides one-time financial assistance to support communities impacted by traumatic incidents and community violence. The fund and the application have been updated to enhance access to financial resources for impacted communities to deliver projects that promote community healing and capacity building.

Beyond Table 91 was concerned that the CCRF is reactive in that it addresses specific violent crises, after they occur. Funding then becomes a “prize” for having a crisis. The table wanted something more proactive, funding that would prevent a crisis from happening in the future.



## Pelham Meals to Go and Student Placement

Ilina Sharma was a student placed from Fanshawe Toronto@ILAC (a public-private-partnership between Fanshawe College and International Language Academy of Canada - ILAC). They work exclusively with international students who have shown great dedication to their field of choice by relocating to Canada to further their studies and who wish to join the Canadian labor market and provide support and services to the local population. Ilina was in the Addictions and Mental Health program and worked with us from May 1 to August 18, 2023.

Ilina’s goal was to evaluate and assess the Pelham Meals-to-Go program that changed direction from a Wellness Recovery Action Plan program known as “Pelham Rocks!” before the pandemic. She was also interested in seeing how this project can return back to a WRAP program.

After conducting a survey, her findings were shared with TCHC staff. Courtney Quarrie, Community Services Coordinator, Safer Communities Community Safety & Support Operations Division – West Region Toronto Community Housing wrote, “Improved coordination among



“partners” involved will be a focus that should result in improved efficiency, reduced duplication and safety that will result in tenants’ overall satisfaction as it relates to food insecurity” and suggested a meeting with TCHC team prior to engaging any other existing or potential new partners. In the meanwhile, Pelham-Meals-to-Go is suspended as the kitchen is under construction.

# Summer Job Participants

Our 2023 Canada Summer Job participants were Nuzhat Ahsan, Treasure Lyons, Truzane Brown and Travell Brown. Their work was to reach out to the community to get some sense of what they would like to see in a Community Land Trust.

The following is a reflection written by Nuzhat on her time at DPCM.

“From the first day, I was unaware of what a community land trust and its benefits are. As time went on, I was able to become more aware of the importance of Community Land Trusts. During my time, I realized that my work was to create a bridging step towards attaining and/or developing a Community Land Trust in Davenport.

With this, as a team we created a survey, both physical and electronic. The survey highlights services and/or programs currently in place in contrast to services or programs desired in the community. After creating a simple multiple choice survey, we had handed them out in the neighbourhood to surrounding houses. Creating the electronic survey that was then posted on our Instagram and Facebook, allowing for outsider opinions who did not have a physical copy, giving the range that the physicals had been distributed.

Mid-way through the collecting of data, we had spoke about our findings at our Bread and Bricks Social Advocacy meeting. We created two flyers that were geared towards our work as Canada Summer Job Students. In doing so, this was done by a gathering held in the backyard of Davenport-Perth Community Centre. Here, we presented a verbal report that displayed our work and or data findings from the surveys. Throughout my time here I was able to explore a deeper view into advocacy and community work.

I had attended Bread and Bricks, Beyond the Table 91, and the Steering Committee. In attending these meetings, I was able to interact with people who had shared the same goals and opinions as I had. With having shared opinions we were able to have interesting and critical discussion of social justice, advocacy, and future projections as to creating a developing community. While attending Bread and Bricks we had lectures and or lessons that were held



Truzane Brown



Nuzhat Ahsan



Treasure Lyons



Travell Brown

by Professor Andrew about Community Land Trusts and the significance of Trust that is implicated in modern day complex developments.

To conclude, my time at Davenport-Perth Community Ministry was educational and beneficial towards understanding my future career choices and paths. As I am specializing in Socio-Cultural Anthropology at University of Toronto Scarborough, being able to participate and interact with community and social advocacy was heartwarming!”



# | 2023 Snapshots

## Guaranteed Livable Income Vigil



## Rally in support of Grassy Narrows



## Playing the Disruption Game, "A Battle for the Future of Food," to understand Food Sovereignty.



## Receiving sage as part of a talking circle



## Family Camp

On June 29 to July 2, DPCM held its annual family camp at Five Oaks. Community, spirituality, nature and family define DPCM family camp experience. This leads to stronger family bonds, confidence and self-reliance in the outdoors, and a greater sense of adaptability for participants.



## Elements of ceremony for a talking circle.



## Search the Landfill

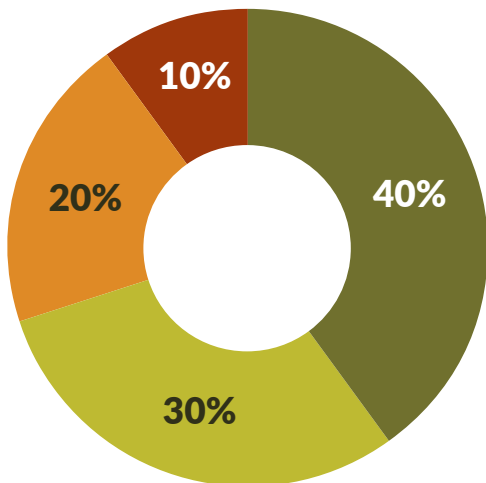
In August, Ashley Bomberry took pictures and made ceremony to take part in the campaign to find the bodies of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran to search the landfill.



# 2023 Financial Info

Revenue	2023	2022	Expenses	2023	2022
Employment & Social Development Canada – Canada Summer Jobs	\$22,144	\$16,288	Employment & Social Development Canada – Canada Summer Jobs	\$22,756	\$23,040
ED Lott Fund	\$2,579	\$2,161	ED Lott Fund	\$2,579	\$2,161
City of Toronto Community Crisis Fund	\$5,000	\$10,000	City of Toronto Community Crisis Fund	\$5,166	\$10,200
Seeds of Hope, The United Church of Canada Foundation	\$0	\$2,000	Seeds of Hope, The United Church of Canada Foundation	\$0	\$2,000
Mission & Service Grant	\$57,600	\$45,600	Salaries and Relief	\$131,169	\$122,193
Community Ministries Fund, Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation	\$54,850	\$54,850	Program General Expense	\$10,578	\$9,532
Shining Waters Regional Council	\$21,516	\$30,004	Office & Administration	\$5,392	\$5,960
Donations	\$1,825	\$734	Professional fees	\$5,357	\$4,490
Participant Contributions	\$911	\$1,105	Insurance	\$861	\$1,141
Congregations	\$850	\$500	Bank Charges	\$161	\$176
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$167,275</b>	<b>\$163,242</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$184,019</b>	<b>\$180,893</b>

## How DPCM Uses Funding



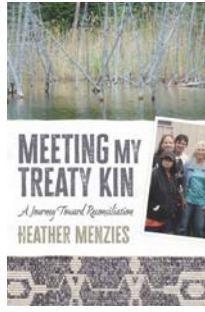
- Community Development
- Pastoral Care
- Networking
- Advocacy



## Book Launch of *Meeting My Treaty Kin*

November 9, 2023 at 4:00 pm  
to 6:00 pm at the Blackhurst  
Cultural Centre

Heather Menzies shared how her colonial and white superiority thinking was challenged when working with the Nishnaabeg of the Stony Point Reserve. Award-winning writer,



scholar and author, Heather Menzies was one of the keynote speakers at the 2022 Shining Waters Regional Council annual meeting. DPCM hosted this book launch at Blackhurst Cultural Centre, The People's Residence, a non-profit hub and destination that provides opportunities to experience the rich culture and history of Canadians of African and Caribbean ancestry. The Centre engages the public to learn about these proud stories using literature, music, drama, dance and visual arts.

## Steering Committee

We said goodbye to four of our Steering Committee members in 2023: Dan Gendron in September; Larry King and John Wong in November and Paul Rose in December. We grateful for the work they have given to DPCM.

Members of our Steering Committee now include:

**Sheena Alexander** – Chair and Representative to and member of the JF-DP Community Ministries Board

**Stephanie Bailey**

**Florrie Dalglish**

**Lumy Fuentes**

**Ferris Grant** – Signing Officer

**Amber Lee Rowe Lewis Grant** – and member of the JF-DP Community Ministries Board

**Corrigan Hammond** – Secretary, and member of the JF-DP Community Ministries Board

**Danielle Hollands**

**Courtney McFarlane**

**Michael Shi** – Treasurer

## DPCM 2023 Staff

DPCM thanks its exceptional staff, students, office and volunteer team:

**Nuzhat Ahsan**

**Ashley Bomberry**

**Dominique Brown**

**Travell Brown**

**Truzane Brown**

**Rachel Butler**

**Tina Conlon**

**Treasure Lyons**

**Ayesha Meher**

**Ilina Sharma**

## To Donate

Online donations can be made in support of DPCM at Canada Helps, [www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/davenport-perth-community-ministry](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/davenport-perth-community-ministry)

**Charity Number:**  
889555181RR0001

## Contact

**Tina Conlon, Community Minister**  
**Rev. Maria Christina Conlon**  
[dpccommunityministry@gmail.com](mailto:dpccommunityministry@gmail.com)

**Davenport Perth  
Community Ministry**

1900 Davenport Road  
Toronto, ON M6N 1B7  
416-654-3726  
[www.swpcommunityministry.com/davenport-perth](http://www.swpcommunityministry.com/davenport-perth)

**To Connect:**

**Facebook Group:** Davenport  
Perth Community Ministry

**Facebook Page:** Pelham  
Community Hub

**Instagram:** @dpcm1900

Annual report designed  
by Val Heimpel  
[www.valheimpel.com](http://www.valheimpel.com)

We are grateful for the support of:



SHINING WATERS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
The United Church of Canada

