

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**



ADVOCACY



PASTORAL CARE



NETWORKING

Davenport Perth Community Ministry

A Community Ministry of the United Church of Canada

A Monarch Fundraiser

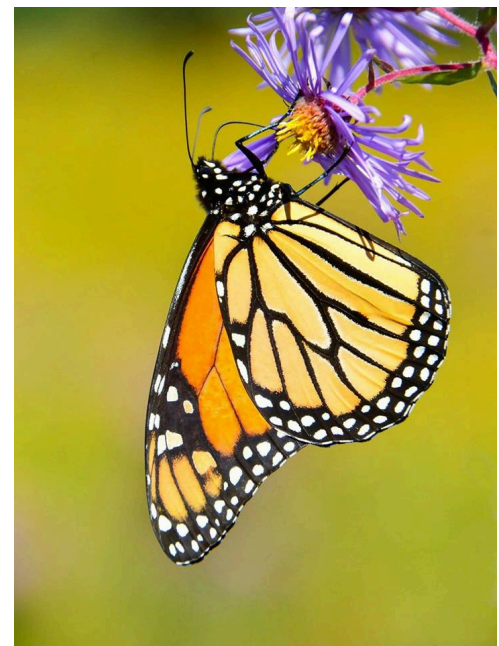
It all started with a butterfly. Nancy Barrett posted this picture on Facebook and many people from Davenport Perth loved it and identified with it. Like the Monarch butterfly, they are migrants and some have chosen to stay in this community. Their journey was not to find possessions, power or prestige. It was to join a loved one, to find a place to simply live, a safe place, away from the extractive mining industries that have driven them from their homes, an industry now implicated in environmental damage to the earth, as in Mount Polley, here in Canada.

When hurricanes struck and earthquakes shook, people responded with compassion. They gathered, prayed, shared stories, made art, grieved and comforted each other. They sold pieces of art, cooked and shared food, gathered coins, raised \$600, a gift sent to The United Church of Canada Philanthropy Unit – Emergency Response.

This hospitality of compassion was at the table when they shared in ideas and projects as in the Road Mural at Pelham Park Road. It was a story they shared when they distributed apples in "Chew on This!" bags to the lunch-time crowd at City Hall in support of a national anti-poverty strategy, the city's poverty reduction strategy then going on to Queen's Park to demand a raise in social assistance rates and the minimum wage.

As a community in a neighbourhood identified as a "Neighbourhood Improvement Area," a neighbourhood that is falling below the Neighbourhood Equity Score and requiring special attention, Davenport Perth Community Ministry accompanies residents at tables, whether they be the WPP Community Network, Community Dining, Bread and Bricks or RecoveryRocks.

It was that gift of hospitality that brought them to join the Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and later to walk through 500 years of history with the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. This willingness to hear the story of the ancient shoreline that is now Davenport, tracing the path from the Humber River to the Don River and an excitement to taste familiar and unfamiliar food routes, helped in our attempt to document their journey in the short film, "Tasting Davenport Routes." Read more on the hospitality I've enjoyed as their Community Minister, in my blog, <https://dpcommunityministry.wordpress.com/>



**"And let our people
learn to apply
themselves to good
deeds, so as to help
cases of urgent need,
and not to be
unfruitful," Titus 3:14**

Weston-Pelham Park Community Network

DPCM continued to sit at the WPP planning table that meets once a month to talk about the needs of the Weston Pelham catchment.

The table asked Dominique Brown to be the Resident Advisor for Pelham Park/Symington and she started attending the quarterly meetings at city hall.

At this year's planning table, Dominique, in her first grant proposal, successfully received a Micro Grant for \$1000.00 for eight community members to get Food Handlers Training and Certification on-site at Pelham Park Gardens.

A Food handlers certificate is useful in getting employment, or volunteer placement in many sectors where food is handled.

The Micro Grant also covered for a Community BBQ that served over 200 people (with the Police Community Partnership donating 150 hamburgers and 150 hot dogs) held in August when we took the opportunity to premiere the screening of the film, "Tasting Davenport Routes." This project was made possible by a special grant from PTCC, Canada Summer Jobs, and the help of TIFF Special Edition and Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto. The students, Tremar Brown, Jahson St. Louis, Ella Boode, Lara Powell and Giancarlo Lampitoc were joined by GBC placement student Keisha Malcolm in the making of the film. The students also helped cook and serve the food that included Three Sisters Tacos with the help of Lumy Fuentes, Lisa King and several other volunteers.

It was a joy to see the community members see themselves on the screen. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkhHd_7sp-k

The table includes resident-led initiatives such as the Friendly STOP Focus Group, Artists of Weston Pelham, Bread and Bricks Social Justice Group, Tech Savvy Soup, Options for Davenport as well as Arts4All, Urban Arts, DPNCHC, The Stop, Humber College, Toronto Drop-In Network, City of Toronto Public Library, Public Health, Social Development, Children's Services and many more as they identify with ways to work together as a community.

DPCM offered a free tax clinic with CVITP that helped to fill the gap from neighbouring agencies that offered tax clinics.



"What I took away from those meetings were ways to apply for funding and how to possibly start resident lead groups in your local areas. But I thought it would have been more of a place or setting to share what was being talked about at your own local planning table. But it allowed me to network and pick up new ideas or things that could apply for my own community."

-- Dominique Brown



DPCM's 3rd Family Camp at Sparrow Lake Camp

It is a Christmas Cheer that does not end in January. Davenport Perth Community Ministry went to Sparrow Lake Camp for the third time this year with 50 campers aged three to eighty-seven lined up to fill five cabins. As usual, at the last minute, we ended with 45 campers making the trip.

Three were in walkers yet glided happily to enjoy canoeing, kayaking, sailing, swimming, hiking, camp fires and making new and renewing friends. Worship came easily in the outdoors, when campers come face-to-face with the beauty of creation.

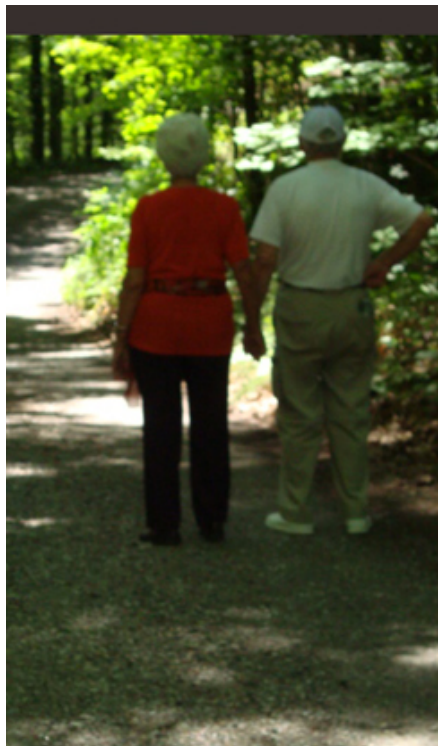
We heard read to us the book, *Old Turtle* by Douglas Wood, a fable about ecology, peace, and the interconnectedness of all beings. Many campers appreciated this interpretation of the story of creation.

Lara Powell, one of the five CSJ students for the Tasting Davenport Routes project, created a slide show to remember this event.

For many campers, this camp is the only chance to get out of the city in the summer. As we crossed the main highway and was bumper-to-bumper trudging back to the city, we can hear one of our friends wheezing. "Wow!" his friend remarked. "I did not hear that wheeze the whole time we were away at camp."

I wondered what it was in that corner of Davenport Perth that made it difficult for campers like him to breathe. "Its those factories," someone said. Yes. the factory that could not help him with a livelihood is now not affording him some fresh air to breathe.

Our thanks to the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation, Mission and Service, The United Church of Canada, The ED Lott Christmas Fund, and the staff at Sparrow Lake Camp!



An Acknowledgement

Toronto is home to a large indigenous population including residential school survivors and inter-generational family members who have been impacted by the history and legacy of the residential school system.

The sacred land on which we stand has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

These Indigenous peoples sought to walk gently upon this land, in communion with their Creator. Many offered assistance to the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in a hostile climate. In return, they have often been marginalized on their own traditional lands, subjected to cultural imperialism, and generally disenfranchised as a people.

In the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, we seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and respect.

Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

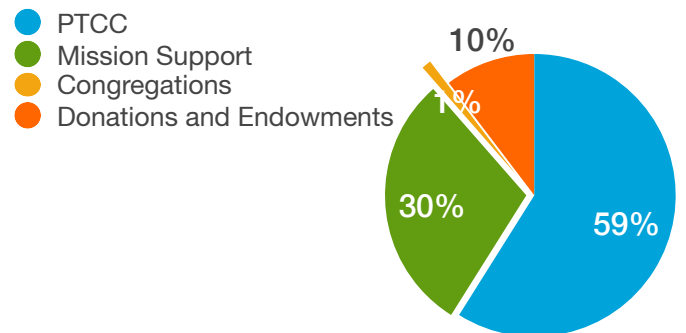


In Appreciation

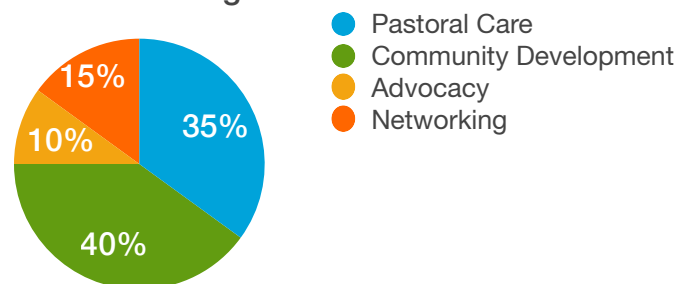
To all our donors and partners who together on behalf of Toronto Conference's South West Presbytery of the United Church of Canada we are grateful. Their generosity allows us to provide community development and community organizing support, offer pastoral care, and be engaged in advocacy through coalitions and networks in the Davenport Perth community.



How DPCM is Funded \$153,908



How DPCM Uses Funding



DPCM 2017 Staff

DPCM thanks its exceptional staff, students, office and volunteer team: Dominique Brown, Diane Fuller, Keisha Malcolm, Stephanie Bailey, Canada Summer Jobs students: Tremar Brown, Jahson St. Louis, Ella Boode, Giancarlo Lampitoc, Lara Powell.

To Connect

Join our Facebook Group, Davenport Perth Community Ministry and "like" our Facebook Page: Pelham Community Hub

To Donate On line donations can be made in support of DPCM at Canada Helps, <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/davenport-perth-community-ministry/>

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