



Davenport Perth Community Ministry

A Community Ministry of the Shining Waters Region of the
United Church of Canada

Thank you for listening to our stories!

We are grateful to the Gardiner Museum for giving us this space, the Community Arts Space, to tell our story, the story of Davenport Perth.

Davenport was known as the Shoreline, an ancient route that does not follow the typical Toronto grid pattern of north-south or east-west. It is a 17km route that meanders between the Humber and Don Rivers tracing a First Nations trail called Gete-Onigaming.

This summer, one of the students working with us remarked that at Davenport he saw people eating together, playing together, talking with each other, looking after each other and knowing about each other's children. Davenport is home. This neighbourhood is identified as a Neighbourhood Improvement area; a polite way of saying this is a poor neighbourhood. Davenport is home; home to people who seek not wealth, power or prestige; home for people who only want to make a human connection: to be seen, to be heard, to love and be loved. This is all that we long for. This is home.

As the second fastest developing neighbourhood in the city of Toronto we expect to see a 30% increase in population before the next census, a place where residents may be asked to leave or be dislocated, while their homes are to be renovated.

We want to tell stories about dislocation: dislocation from Turtle Island, dislocation due to resource extraction, dislocation due to forcible enslavement, and further dislocation due to development that excludes them. Yet what we long for is that there is no longer any them; that there is only us.

We looked to the Monarch Butterfly as our metaphor. The butterfly, in its beauty and delicateness has shown resilience in its annual migration from Mexico to Canada. Some make it and some do not. Predators, pesticides, climate changes have made their flight treacherous.

Migrant workers plant and harvest the food that we eat, stay here only to work and then return to their homes, sometimes with broken bodies. Migrants flee treacherous conditions to cross borders and find themselves caged. Dreamers are sent away. But in the path of the butterfly, looking down from the sky, the lines that we humans have drawn as borders are not there.

Butterflies seek not wealth, power or prestige but to be seen, to be heard, to love and be loved. This is all that we long for. This is home.

In the process of telling these stories we answered a call from the Gardiner Museum for proposals that asked what we longed for. And we were pleased to have been given this opportunity to share our stories. And so we began to respond to the Ancient Americas collection, to see the strength and resilience of the butterfly in all its delicate fragility, vulnerability and beauty. And as we were making butterflies, we mimicked the act of making tortillas, an act that has survived for more than 15,000 years to this day; and each time the hands pat together the mass of corn, a prayer is given for the nourishment and well-being of the person who is to eat this, a prayer of love; that when 1,000 hands touched the clay to make these butterflies, we repeat this prayer of love.

There are many people, organizations, too many to mention, but most of all, I wish to thank Lumy for her vision of the Monarch Butterfly and her determined efforts to bring 1,000 pairs of hands together in the making of the clay butterflies, working hard and long hours, spreading the stories to every group, every festival, every event going fast and fierce, and sometimes without food or sleep.

Thank you for listening to our stories.

speech given by Tina Conlon at the launch of The Sin Fronteras Butterfly Project - A Flight Path Without Borders, 21 August 2019

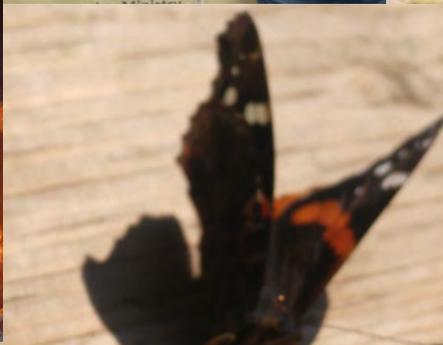
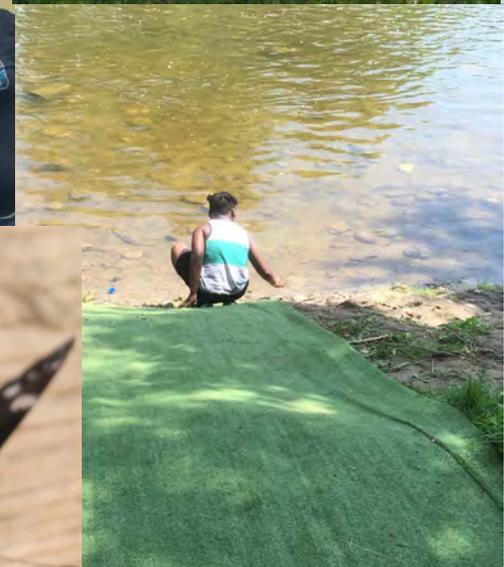
The Sin Fronteras Monarch Butterfly Project - A Flight Path Without Borders, August 22 - September 4, 2019

The Gardiner Museum awarded Davenport Perth Community Ministry "Artists in Residence" in their Community Arts Space project with community partners, *Canada Nos Une* and the Royal Ontario Museum. During this residency at Akin St. Clair, artist Lumy Fuentes and Community Minister and artist Tina Conlon, created opportunities for residents of the Davenport Perth community to heal, transform, and bloom. Working in particular with immigrant children, youth, and elders, Lumy and Tina held space at the Davenport Perth Community Ministry for community members to reimagine themselves as they make Toronto their new home. These butterflies, alongside the sculptures installed in the Ancient Americas Gallery, represent all the people that have been touched by Lumy and Tina's mindful creative expression of the monarch's fragile environmental circumstances and the current migrant crisis. Project Advisor was Catherine Tamaro and Akin Neighbourhood Hub Advisors were Rachel Butler, Janet Hinckle, Oliver Pauk and Jen Pilles.



DPCM 2019 Family Camp at Five Oaks on July 5-7 saw 62 campers, ages 2 to 87. At camp, we enjoyed hikes, campfires, cooked our own meals as headed by Stephanie Bailey and swimming.

Community members felt that the juncture of the river and the creek at Five Oaks induced spirituality. We were joined by Rev. Evan Smith and Jessica Swance from Toronto Urban Native Ministry who led us into traditional games and later into hand drumming songs and worship.

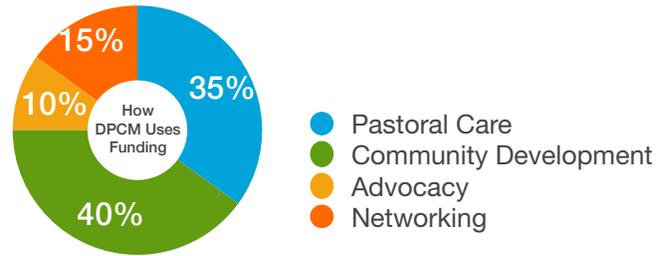
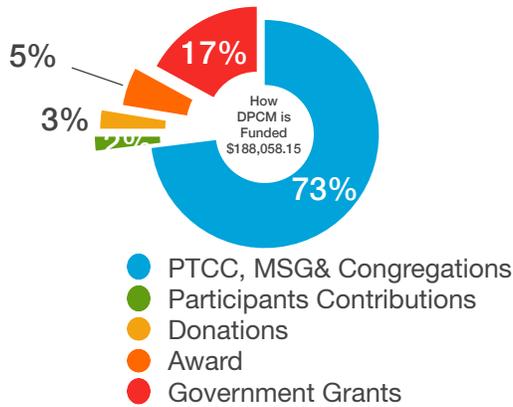


Tasting Davenport Routes 2019 Thanks to Canada Summer Jobs, young people staffed our third Tasting Davenport Routes. TDR III continues with the stories of the routes that the people of Davenport have taken to get there. DPCM's role has been to bear witness and to tell these stories with courage and love and to celebrate the Creator's gifts. Most of these stories are recorded in DPCM's [YouTube](#) channel.



DPCM's work in Community Development and Organizing, Pastoral Care, Networking and Advocacy in 2019 was enhanced by our involvement with the Gardiner Museum's Community Arts Space project. Communities of faith have extended invitations to DPCM to help animate their community ministries. We contributed to the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy, participated in the annual Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, participated in Homeless Memorials as well as the Annual Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans and Two Spirit people, mmiwg2s, held February 14 at Toronto Police Headquarters. Weekly meetings of Bread and Bricks Social Justice Group and monthly gatherings of the Pelham [Recovery] Rocks continued with peer leaders seeking to understand their own healing and agency. Our tax clinic with 10 volunteers completed 40 tax returns on two weekends where a weekend service was not generally available in the area. Our networks include Faith in the City, Davenport Community Coalition, Table 91, and others. Tina is also a member of UCC Community Ministry, Community Ministries Shining Waters Regional Council, the Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Region and represents the region at the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions.





We thank the many communities of faith, The Presbyteries of the Toronto Conference Corporation and Mission and Service Fund of the Shining Waters Region of the United Church of Canada that continued to support our work at Davenport Perth in 2019. We also thank the federal government for their support of Canada Summer Jobs and the City of Toronto for the Community Crisis Fund. We were privileged to have received the Community Arts Space Award from the Gardiner Museum and donations from the Royal Ontario Museum. We thank the growing support of our donors, community participants and their generous contributions.



DPCM 2019 Staff

DPCM thanks its exceptional staff, students, office and volunteer team: Dominique Brown, Jahdyah Adams, Travell Brown, Olivia de la Cruz, Nicole Francis, Mackenzie Hannan, Danielle Hollands, Gabriel Inlan, Giancarlo Lampitoc, Brooke Luff, Ayesha Meher, Calessandra Plunkett, Shanice Simpson-Whiteley and Tina Conlon.

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

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To Donate: On line donations can be made in support of DPCM at [Canada Helps](https://www.canadahelps.org).