

**PEACEQUEST MEETING NOTES
MONDAY JUNE 8 2015**

MANY THANKS

- Thanks for coming out to the meeting.
- As usual, a very special thanks to Bob for booking rooms for us for our meetings and events and to Knox Met for accommodating us.
- We are privileged to be gathering for this meeting on Treaty 4 territory.

A MINUTE FOR PEACE

Thanks to Bill for this idea. Starting our meetings with a Minute for Peace has become a tradition.

1. Ed brought an article from *Degrees Magazine*, the U of R alumni magazine, "Behind the Evil." Written by U of R faculty member Nilgun Ondor, it offers An insightful analysis of the origins of ISIS: <http://www.uregina.ca/external/communications/assets/docs/pdf/degrees-magazine/dm-ss2015.pdf#page=1>
2. Evelyn brought copies of the first page of the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928, a treaty between the US and many other countries, including Canada, "providing for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy." As Evelyn said, the document made her feel both hopeful and discouraged: hopeful because at one point in time the powerful nations of the world outlawed war; and discouraged because war rages on: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/imt/kbpact.htm>
3. Florence brought a few copies of *For What?* a painting by Frederick Varley, a member of Canada's famous Group of Seven. During the final months of World War I, Varley was commissioned by the Canadian government as a war artist. *For What?* in both its title and content tells of the pointlessness, the destructiveness, and the horror of war. PeaceQuest Kingston has an excellent video about this painting on its website: <http://peacequest.ca/> A photo of the painting is the 2nd attachment.

REPORTS

1. Peace Gardens: Bob

a) At Knox Met

Thanks to Bob, and the volunteers he organized, this garden is BEAUTIFUL, featuring many flowering trees, perennials, and annuals; the peace sign in Connaught School bricks on the corner; and the peace banner donated by Catherine Robertson, across the front.

Thanks to the Plant Ranch for donating the annuals.

Speaking of promoting a culture of peace, Florence had an email from a friend, saying she saw kids taking their picture with the peace sign late one Saturday evening.

The garden is a joint project of Knox Met Church and PeaceQuest Regina. The people who are working on it include: Marlene Hall and Joyce Wells from Knox Met; Bob

Ivanochko from both Knox Met and PeaceQuest Regina; Lorraine Rich, Catherine Robertson, Kelly Liberet, and Florence Stratton from PeaceQuest Regina; and Larry Bergmann, Hinata, Deb Karpa, and Ross Heitz, friends of peace and PeaceQuest Regina.

WANTED: MORE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Contact Bob: bob.ivanochko@sasktel.net

b) Queen Street Garden

Bob has done all the work on this garden himself. Included in it is the peace sign in flowers. Florence will visit the garden soon and take some photos.

2. No military training in Saskatchewan high schools--update and next steps

a) CBC Saskatchewan radio segment on the military training program, Monday June 1, called "Marching Through High School": What stood out?

- The program was referred to as "a controversial idea." (Through the petition, we made it controversial.)
- When the question was asked, What's in it for the military? the reporter answered: "It's a recruitment program. (Confirms what we already knew.)"
- One student dropped out, which left 9 students, out of a possible 40, in the program. (The students seem to be voting with their feet.)
- Apparently Manitoba is watching the program very carefully. If it is successful, Manitoba will consider adopting it.

The segment is available on the CBC Saskatchewan website as an article, not a podcast. Google "CBC Saskatchewan, marching through high school." The article is accompanied by an embarrassing little video taken of the students marching.

b) Next steps

Our long term goal is get the military training program out of Saskatchewan schools. It looks like it is going to run in Regina again in 2016.

- Since Manitoba has expressed interest in the program, we will contact friends of peace in Winnipeg, including Mennonite churches and PeaceQuest. Emilie and Florence will work on this.
- Since the petition campaign ended, the 2015 report on sexual misconduct and harassment in the Canadian Armed Forces has been published. In future work on this campaign, we will raise the question: Should students be encouraged to enter a profession that subjects women and LGTBQ members to a "hostile" environment conducive to serious incidents of sexual harassment and assault?
- An ongoing challenge is how to involve high school students in the campaign. One idea would be to sponsor an event for high schools students on International Peace Day, September 21. It falls on a Monday this year.

3. The Peace Movement in Regina: A History: Bob and Ed

Ed is already working on a history of the peace movement in Saskatchewan. It is a huge undertaking, as it includes individuals, groups, and movements.

He will start on a history of the peace movement in Regina. He would like it to be a group project. We could all write up parts of it and then it would be stitched together like a quilt.

We could start by writing up our own peace bios and sending them to Ed:

edrae1133@gmail.com These bios would then be posted on our facebook page.

4. PeaceQuest Regina Facebook Page: Emilie

There have been a few more “likes” and links.

Please send links, photos, etc having to do with peace to Emilie for posting:

2394909@gmail.com

We can also begin to compile a list of films and books that promote peace and post it on facebook. Please send titles you would recommend to Emilie.

5. Peace Walk Booklet: Florence

Thanks to Ed for doing the overview that provides an introduction to the Peace Walk booklet. Florence had printed up commercially 5 copies of the Peace Walk booklet, at a cost of about \$7.50 each.

We decided we would like to have more copies, both to distribute amongst ourselves and to have on hand for the public distribution.

Peter offered to print 20 copies on his own computer at a cost of about \$1.50 a page. Thanks, Peter!

We decided to delay printing until the Peace Fountain is turned on (likely soon) so we can get a high resolution photo of it for the cover.

6. Peace Sing-Along (July 11 or July 25): Florence for Jean, who is away

Jean’s latest email on the sing-along says that she’d “been talking to Hilary about the Singing in Park. We just need to pin down a date and send out a notice to other choirs etc. We have some songs just need to print copies.”

Florence had previously talked to the Singers of the Sacred Web and Cam and Cheryl about singing at the event.

We decided to wait until Jean is back in Regina to plan this event.

7. Walking Across Canada for Peace: Florence

This walk being undertaken by Jesse-Blue Forrest from Victoria to Ottawa, inviting people to sign a petition for the creation of a Department of Peace in Canada, has been “postponed to 2016 or 2017 to allow him to prepare better and to get the news out to the wider public.”

Thanks to Emilie and Jean for having volunteered to provide the Jesse and his companion(s) with accommodation.

8. Peace Table at North America Interfaith Network Conference: Restoring Spirit for Sacred Listening, July 19-22: Florence for Jean

This is a conference that is being held at Luther College.

Jean wonders if we would like to have a literature table at the event.

Perhaps all 3 peace groups in the city would like to work together on this.

Issues: a) Registration for the conference is expensive, running to 100s of dollars. b) We would not be able to have people at the table over the whole conference. Could we choose one of the days to be there?

Peter will ask if the Peace Council is interested in displaying its literature at the conference. Bob will find out about the cost and what other tables are going to be there.

9. Bell Ringing at Knox Met for International Peace Day, September 21: Bob

International Peace Day falls on a Monday this year. We decided that the preceding Sunday, September 20, would be a good day to inaugurate the Peace Garden. Bob will find out what Knox Met thinks of this idea.

We have some before and after photos we could use for the occasion.

10. National Peace Conference, 2018, sponsored by PeaceQuest: Florence

PeaceQuest is planning to hold a national peace conference in Kingston in 2018. We have been invited to attend and to suggest topics and themes and ideas for workshops.

Below is a list of the ideas we came up with at the meeting. If you have any other suggestions, please send them to Florence: florence.stratton@uregina.ca

- The corporatization of war
- The cost of war
- The lessons of war
- The relationship between peace and justice
- What is peace? How can we get there?
- The role of the UN in preventing war
- How to stop war through engaged citizens
- Screen *Why We Fight*, a documentary film about the military-industrial complex.
- Report on the progress of implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations
- Report on what the PeaceQuest groups have accomplished so we can learn from each other
- A rally for peace

NEW INITIATIVES

Regina Folk Festival, August 7-9

We decided to have a presence at the Folk Festival, as we did last year.

We might work in conjunction with Regina Peace Council and Making Peace Vigil.

Peter will check to see if we can have a table inside the park and display literature and hand out peace stickers.

Another possibility would be to have a table by Knox Met.

Or, as we did last year, we could circulate in the area handing out peace pamphlets.

The pamphlet this year might look at the link between folk festivals and peace. The pamphlet could cite some of the famous peace songs, such as "Give peace a chance."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bell ringing at St Paul's for missing and murdered Indigenous girls and women; The bell will ring 1181 times, once for each of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls:

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 & 17, 2 pm: 1122 BELLS @ ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL TO DECLARE THAT INDIGENOUS LIVES MATTER! ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MCINTYRE STREET AND 12TH AVENUE

NEXT PEACEQUEST REGINA MEETING MONDAY JULY 13, 7 pm, KNOX MET