

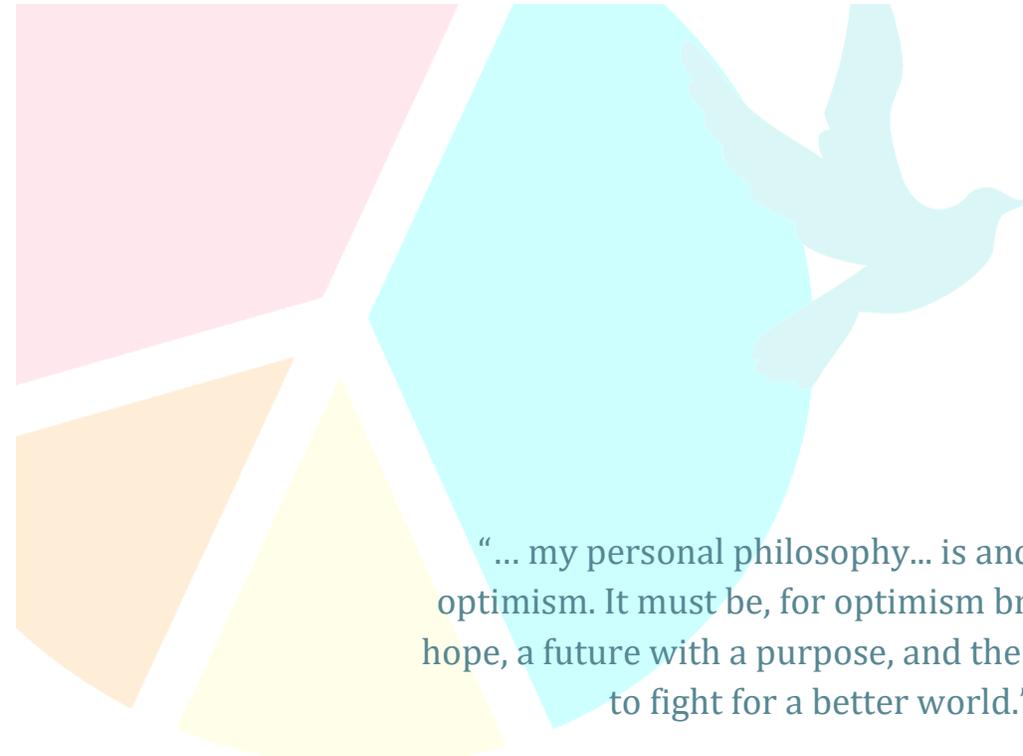
PEACE QUEST

Our 5 Year Journey:

An Invitation to Consider What's Next



Spring 2018
info@peacequest.ca



“... my personal philosophy... is anchored in optimism. It must be, for optimism brings with it hope, a future with a purpose, and therefore, a will to fight for a better world.”

Saul Alinsky,

***Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for
Realistic Radicals***



“I see a better society as a kind of pot luck supper. Everyone brings to the table something that they are good at. And then we all share it around. Equally.”

Dr. Ursula Franklin

**Canadian scientist and ardent nuclear
disarmament activist**





PeaceQuest Launch, Sept 21, 2013



It began...

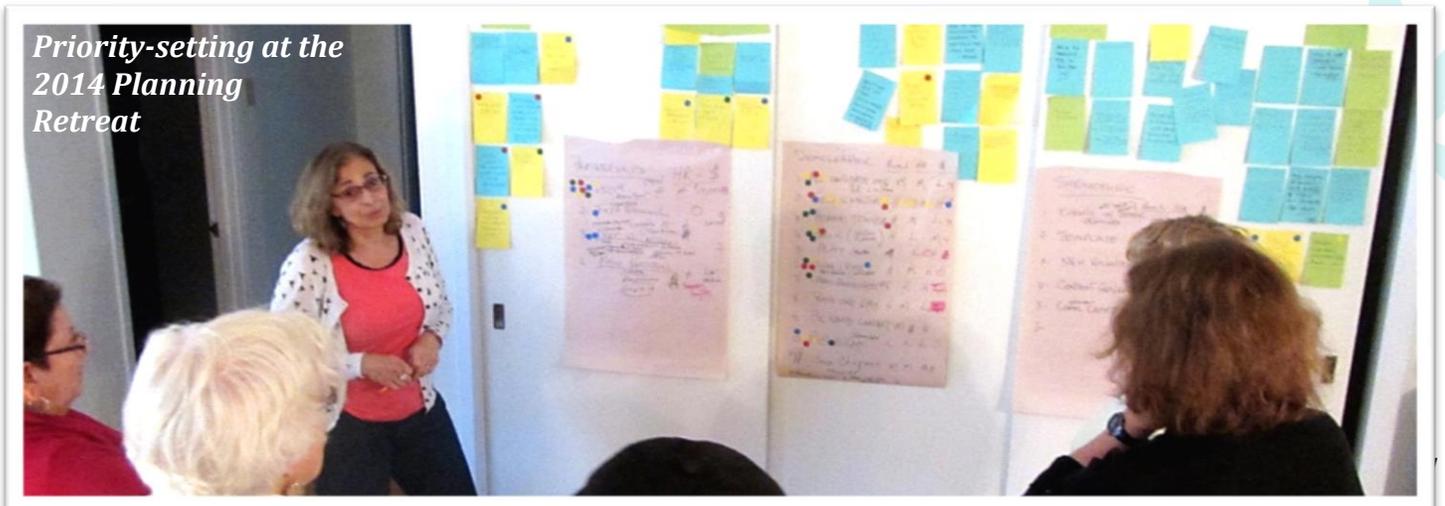
When a few people, some with deep roots in the peace movement and some with none, organized a Kingston pot luck supper in 2013, the food was great, the conversation lively. We were upset by the federal government's strenuous campaign to glorify the War of 1812 that included short television ads. We had noticed that the narrative about the country's participation in the counter-insurgency war in Afghanistan was portraying the ill-conceived and futile military efforts as a similarly patriotic cause.

We started PeaceQuest, a group that included an effort to change the ways Canada's wars are remembered, adding new stories of peace work while complementing other forms of peace activism. We hoped that an emphasis on culture could engage Canadians who seldom hear important peace movement messages.

We worried about Canada's emerging role as a warrior nation and wondered how the upcoming anniversaries of World War I battles would be presented to Canadians.

We decided that we needed to provoke conversations about war and the value of peace, agreeing on the following guidelines:

- Engage conversations through culture and education;
- Nurture imaginations and ways of remembering;
- Organize activities that are broad-based and inclusive;
- Use an operating model that is collaborative, volunteer-driven and virtual;
- Commit to a four-year timeframe.



Priority-setting at the 2014 Planning Retreat



Canada 150+ Interfaith Potluck, November 2017



International Day of Peace Picnic, 2017

Sparking conversations about peace

With a volunteer steering committee and many others interested in helping, we created and/or supported a wide range of program initiatives designed to engage ordinary citizens of different age groups and backgrounds – both locally and nationally.

We agreed on the following *description* of peace:

Peace is not just the absence of war. PeaceQuest supporters believe that “peace is an active way of living, resolving conflicts cooperatively, respecting the well-being of the earth and all peoples.”

We received financial assistance from the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and other religious orders across Canada, engaging a part-time administrative co-ordinator. The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area also lent support. We managed these small grants prudently, making it possible for dozens of

volunteers to contribute their efforts, giving life to a variety of meaningful projects.

We believe there are three key elements to our success

1. Partnering with existing organizations to integrate peace education and peace building activities into their programs, engaging their networks
2. Encouraging people to contribute to a project as their skills, interests, and time permitted – to bring what they wanted to share to the table. Everyone was keen to do something to speak up for peace
3. Committing to a specific beginning and end date for our work and tying those dates to key events in Canadian history including the beginning and end of WWI and the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

We organized our work around four streams - culture, education, faith, and policy. The next four pages provide highlights of what we did. Please visit PeaceQuest.ca for a more thorough inventory of activities and resources produced.



Hiroshima Day, 2016



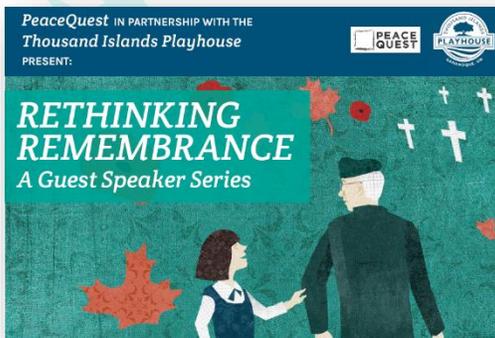
Armstrong's War, 2018



Martyn Joseph Concert, 2014

Culture Stream

- Discussions after plays and film screenings
- An anniversary celebration of the 1914 Christmas Truce
- A Remembrance Day discussion: *A Soldier and A Nun*
- *Kingston in WWI: A Walking Tour to Remember* & accompanying podcast
- *An Evening for Peace*, sold out 500-seat concert hall, Remembrance Day, 2016 and 2017
- *Peace Song*, a weekly gathering to sing together



WarandChildren.com

A free resource
for teachers

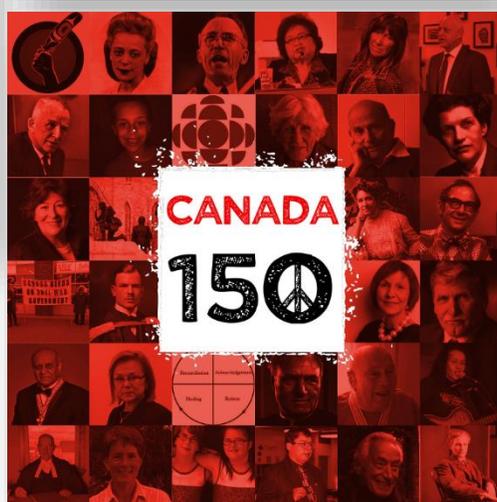
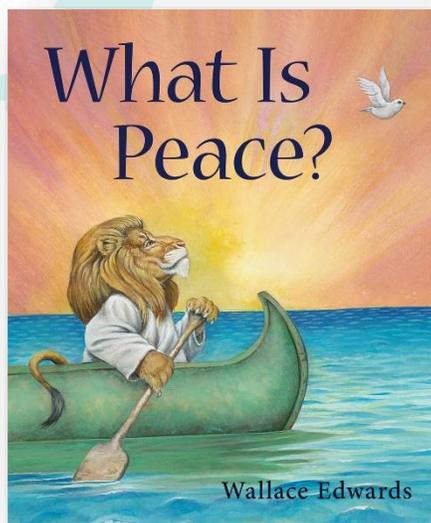
by PeaceQuest &
CAP International



A PeaceQuest classroom in 2015

Education Stream

- *War and Children*, a virtual museum and curriculum-based resource
- *What is Peace?* Illustrated book by Wallace Edwards, published by Scholastic
- PeaceQuest Schools: A K to 12 program and collection of resources
- Profiles of 150+ Canadians who contributed to peace
- Partnership with *The World Remembers* Project in Kingston



Old Turtle and the Broken Truth

A story of wholeness and healing for all of us



Story by Douglas Wood, accompanied by soundscape and songs of peace by the children of Chalmers United Church & Sydenham Public School. Also featuring the Chalmers Choir and Flute Choir. Donations gratefully accepted.

Friday April 29th - 5:30pm

at Chalmers United - Corner of Barrie and Clergy Streets





Kingston Meditates for Peace, 2016



Hiroshima Day Peace Pilgrimage, 2015

Faith Stream

- *Hands United for Peace*, a joint church and public school community project and resource
- *Kingston Meditates for Peace*, a weekly gathering
- Interfaith Peace Pilgrimages on Hiroshima Day 2014, 2015 and 2016
- Canada 150+ Interfaith Celebration and Potluck
- Partnership with Queen's University Muslim Student's Association to promote events which raise awareness of peace teachings in Islam
- Partnership with KAIROS to host a mass blanket exercise to raise awareness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

A Kingston 150+ **Interfaith** Celebration

Social Justice Actions: Then & Now
Sharing stories and getting to know each other better.

**Wednesday
December 6th**
7:00-9:00pm
Memorial Hall
Kingston City Hall
216 Ontario St.

Doors open at 6:30.
Light refreshments offered.

Please RSVP to guarantee a seat.
Online: 150plus.eventbrite.com
E-mail: bridget.doherty@providence.ca
Phone: 613.583.2569

Thank you to everyone who made this happen!

Mass Blanket Exercise
The Indigenous rights history we've never been taught

KINGSTON
JULY 7
5:30 to 8 PM
Douglas Fluhrer Park
(north end of Wellington St.)
Bring blanket/chair
COME RAIN OR SHINE
info@friendsofinnerharbour.com
613.544.1246

For all locations
www.kairoscanada.org/MBE

"The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is an UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE"

facilitate participate educate

Part of the KAIROS Winds of Change Campaign www.kairoscanada.org

you are formally invited to...

QUMSA CULTURE & SHOWCASE NIGHT

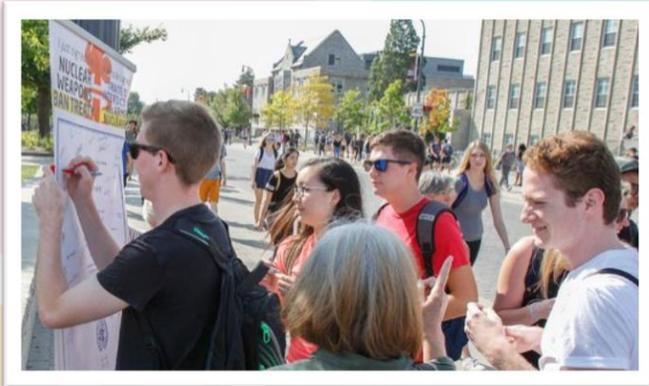
MAR 15
doors open 6:30PM
(Alumni Lounge) ARC

a unique night to discover & celebrate diverse muslim voices

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
PEACE QUEST

Kingston Meditates for Peace

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm
Feb. 10th - Apr. 13th
Providence Motherhouse
1200 Princess St. Front Entrance
Free Parking at rear of building



International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, 2017



Minutes to Midnight with Murray Thomson, 2016

Policy Stream

- Petition E-1402 pressing Canada to sign the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- White Square campaign for spur reflection and conversations about peace
- Resource support, including design & promotion for policy campaigns spearheaded by PeaceQuest Regina, now available as free online resources
- 2016 Submission by leading civil society organizations to the Defence Policy Review “A Shift to Sustainable Peace and Common Security”
- 2017 street level support for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

MAKING A KILLING
A LOOK at Canada's ROLE in the GLOBAL ARMS TRADE
THURS. NOV. 3RD, 2016 - 7PM
OnoWanada RESOURCE CENTRE - 191 PORTSMOUTH AVE.

Featuring: Peggy Mason, President, Rideau Institute, Former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament; Cesar Jaramillo, Executive Director, Project Ploughshares, Arms Control Specialist

PEACE QUEST Ceasefire.ca

Save the date!

PEACE QUEST

Open Plenary Session

Thursday September 4th, 7:00pm
Providence Motherhouse - 1200 Princess Street

Our plenaries are open to the public. You are encouraged to bring anyone whom you feel would benefit from learning about our work!

Presentation: Our very own Jamie Swift will be presenting on his recent trip to notable European commemorative sites and will be discussing differences between European and Canadian war commemoration.

Open Discussion: Of course, there will also be the usual time allotted for socializing and brain storming ideas for PeaceQuest to pursue over the coming four years.

Light snacks and beverages will be served

MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT
Why 865 Order of Canada Recipients Call for Nuclear Disarmament

Featuring: Murray Thomson
Coordinator, Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention
Co-Founder, Project Ploughshares

Tuesday March 29th - 6:30pm
KFPL Central Branch, 130 Johnson St.
Refreshments provided.

Support for this event generously provided by Kingston Quakers. Donations will be gratefully accepted for PEACE QUEST

We call on Justin Trudeau to work for

PEACE IN SYRIA & IRAQ

Write for Peace,
Peace is Right!

PEACE QUEST
in Regina at the Artful Dodger
Sunday Nov 27th 7-9:30pm



Digging Roots & Open Voices Choir at the 2017 Evening for Peace finale



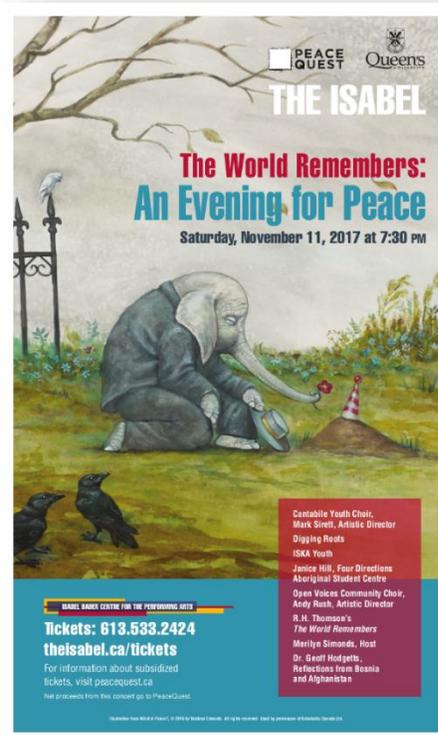
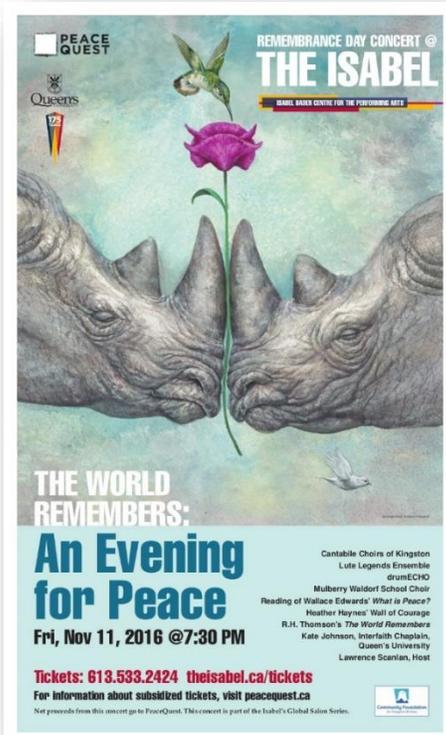
Ending on an inspiring sing-a-long, Artists Remember for Peace in 2015 set the trend for all our Remembrance Day events that followed

The Gathering

PeaceQuest will complete its four-year program with a national gathering in Kingston in November 2018. It will feature: 1) A youth peace summit hosted by students from Regiopolis Notre Dame High School. 2) A day-long conference at Kingston City Hall's Memorial Room, a space whose elaborate stained-glass windows feature stark images of World War, and 3) A special *Afternoon for Peace* Remembrance Day concert at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

Where does peace-making fit into our national identity and Canada's values?

Participants will include PeaceQuest activists from across Canada, representatives of our donors, and representatives from peace and justice groups from across Canada and concerned Kingston citizens. We've invited peace scholar Paul Rogers as our conference keynote speaker to set the tone for "kitchen table" style discussions throughout the day.





Imagining the future at the 2017 Planning Retreat

What's next?

PeaceQuest's goal is to inspire conversations to change the way Canada's wars are remembered and to add new stories of peace at work.

We've joined with many partners along the way. There are related PeaceQuest groups in Kitchener-Waterloo, Regina, Saskatoon, Sydney/Cape Breton and Victoria. We've made common cause with other peace organizations including the World Federalist Movement, the Group of 78, the Rideau Institute, Project Ploughshares, Ceasefire.ca, The World Remembers, the International Peace Bureau, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and Children/Youth as Peacebuilders.

The founders of PeaceQuest agreed at the start that our project had an end date in December 2018. We intend to keep that commitment. At the same time, we want to have a practical plan so that our approach to peace work, the activities we

generated and the resources we produced can continue to be used and to inspire new ideas, projects, and partnerships.

We want to talk with you. What do our partners and sisters in the peace and justice movement advise? Here are some questions we would like to explore with you:

1. How can we share our experience and resources most effectively?
2. Who might accept to be the steward of our resources and make best use of them?
3. What can we do to ensure a smooth transfer of our resources?
4. What other advice do you have for the PeaceQuest Steering Committee?

We invite you to sit down with us and consider these questions.

Appendix A - The PeaceQuest Steering Committee

Pauline Lally, SP – Co-Founder & Faith Stream Liaison



PeaceQuest evolved from Sr. Pauline's dream of holding a peace conference specifically in the Kingston/Katarokwi region, long known as Canada's first capitol, with its significant military presence and several correctional institutions all on traditional Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee Peacemaker Territory – making it a deeply relevant setting for such an event.

For more than 2 decades former, the teacher, consultant and chaplain, staged weekly protests at Kingston City Hall against cut-backs to Social Assistance Programs. She opened and operated a Group Home for Girls in the 1970s and over her life has held numerous roles at Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul including General Superior and Director of Justice and Peace.

Jamie Swift – Co-Founder & Policy Stream Liaison



Jamie is an award-winning Canadian journalist, author, and activist and co-founder of PeaceQuest with Sr. Pauline Lally. His body of work has focused largely on issues of social justice, economy, environment, globalization, and politics. Swift has been published in numerous journals and newspapers, including The Globe and Mail, The Montreal Gazette, The Kingston Whig Standard, and Toronto Star.

Throughout the 1990s, he was a regular contributor on CBC's radio series Ideas. Most recently, Swift co-wrote a book with noted Canadian historian Ian McKay entitled *Warrior Nation: Rebranding Canada in an Age of Anxiety*, released in May 2012. He currently

lectures at the Queen's School of Business.

Ann Boniferro – Co-Chair



Ann oversees educational resources and projects. After 32 years in education, she recently retired from her role as Coordinator of Religious and Family Life Education with the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. She continues to work as an adjunct instructor at Queen's University Faculty of education. Ann has been involved in a variety of peace, justice and equity activities, including The Poverty Challenge, Roots of Empathy, and of course supporting schools to qualify as PeaceQuest schools.

Bronek Korczynski – Co-Chair



Bronek is a retired Catholic educator, a former Coordinator of Religious Education for an Ontario Catholic school board and has served as an Adjunct and On-line Instructor in Catholic Education at Queen's University, Faculty of Education. He continues to serve as a consultant to Catholic educational organizations. He has been a social justice activist since a teenager, protesting above ground atomic testing and the war in Viet Nam. Over the years he has been active with the causes of refugees, the environmental movement, political action and public education. He has been the Co-Chair of PeaceQuest since 2015 and

continues to serve with a number of other social justice organizations.

Judi Wyatt – Education & Affiliates Liaison



Judi Wyatt is a retired high school teacher, employed in Odessa, Ontario and also in Lima, Peru. She now considers herself a full-time champion for social causes. She was the recipient of the Kingston YMCA's Peace Medallion in 2014. Judi is a creator of The Poverty Challenge. The project has taught her a lot about what it is like to live in poverty in Kingston. She is also currently working to make dental health part of Ontario's basic health benefits.

Barbara Linds – Culture Stream Liaison



Barbara is a retired union activist who worked for 30 years for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union in Toronto before relocating to Yarker, Ontario where she helped her husband Eric DePoe run the Waterfall Cafe. In addition to PeaceQuest cultural activities, she is involved with a number of Kingston area cultural organizations, including Theatre Kingston, the Thousand Islands Playhouse and Writers & Friends.

Michael Cooke - Treasurer



From 2013-2015, Michael served as the Coordinator for Keep The Promise, a national campaign designed to renew Canada's commitment to ending child poverty. He is a member of the Board of the Carol Institute, a national foundation devoted to advancing adult education, voluntary action and citizen engagement. He was a founding member of Project Ploughshares and former Director of the Christian Movement for Peace. Michael was the Vice-President Academic at George Brown College from 2000 to 2011 and the chief executive of the George Brown College Foundation, which raises funds for student aid and capital projects at the college. Prior to joining George Brown College, Michael worked for 15 years in the field of international development and adult education.

Elaine Berman – Administrative Advisor



Elaine was born, raised and educated in New York. During the 1960's, influenced by her parents' social justice values and academic foundations in history, she participated in many anti-war and women's rights marches. After moving to Kingston with her family in 1971, she worked with organizations which mirrored and expanded these interests, particularly CUSO in international development (1979-89) and the Queen's University Faculty Association (QUFA (1998-2014). Elaine was invited to join the Steering Committee just as she was retiring in 2014. She reports that she feels that she's learned more from her participation in PeaceQuest activities than she has given.

Laurie Davey-Quantick – Fundraising Committee Liaison



Laurie owns and operates Verde, an environmental alternatives general store in downtown Kingston. Her charitable organization, Omwaana Ono International provides ongoing funding for a sewing program for girls and young women in a small, rural, eastern Ugandan village. She has been involved in peace, environmental and social justice issues over the years, both in the local community and internationally. Her work with PeaceQuest is a natural extension of her belief that we can make a difference in the world.