

# The Handshake



The Voice of the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

## President's Message



I was very pleased to be confirmed as your National President at the 25<sup>th</sup> - Biennial Convention in Peterborough Ontario on August 18, 2007.

Next year we celebrate 85 years of fellowship. The organization began in January 1923 in Kerrisdale Methodist Church in Vancouver and I invite you to visit our Web site at [www.aots.ca](http://www.aots.ca) to read up on our history. Our aims and objectives have not changed in that we are a service organization with Jesus Christ as our reason for being, with our defined aims to:

- ✍ Promote Christian Fellowship - with small groups of men meeting in United Churches from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland. Many meetings are on a Saturday morning for prayer and breakfast with speakers and singing, other groups have monthly dinners. These folk will plan events in their local church and beyond in Presbytery, participating in conferences and national events.
- ✍ Deepen the spiritual lives of men - by publishing devotional materials, such as appear elsewhere in the Handshake, and on our website, and by providing workshops and participating in worship at planned events.
- ✍ Develop an effective program of Christian Service - through your local Church and surrounding area as well as physical and financial support to United Church Camps and by sponsoring youth to attend. AOTS "Youth to Camp" project is only part of your local club outreach.

## Questions that are often asked of AOTS Members:

### What do you get for your \$15.00 annual membership dues?

- ✍ A look at our National's Statement of Income & Expenses will show active club dues amount to \$13,000 or 50% of National Income.
- ✍ Our expenses show we have only one paid position being National Secretary receiving an Honorarium of \$5,000 with no paid benefits. Jim Upright has filled this role for us for many years and I want to say "Well Done thou True & Faithful Servant of AOTS". I want to welcome Wally Macdonald who takes over in January 2008.
- ✍ Other expenses total \$22,000 with \$5,000 being an advance to our Regeneration Committee. Disbursements to the Harry Colnett Scholarship and to our National Hospital Fund are in excess of \$10,000.

All things considered I think Members get very good value for their \$15.00 dues.

### How does the National Executive of AOTS justify their existence?

- ✍ Your National members contribute many hours to their assigned tasks and participate in conference calls for 2 hours bimonthly to deal with our Aims & Objectives.
- ✍ Each member has specific responsibilities and gives reports. We also get together for face to face meetings on an annual basis.
- ✍ Many represent AOTS at Presbytery.
- ✍ Your Regeneration committee has a good working relationship with The National Church Head Office, and

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# Handshake

**AOTS, “As One That Serves”**, is a church-related movement of men initiated in 1923 and dedicated to promoting Christian fellowship and deepening the spiritual life of men and developing effective programs of Christian service.

The Handshake © is published by the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs which was established January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1923, at Kerrisdale Methodist Church, now known as Ryerson United Church, Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Handshake contains news and announcements of the AOTS Men's Clubs and other men's ministry groups as submitted. It is provided to AOTS members twice yearly, by the national AOTS office. The views and comments which are published in the Handshake are not necessarily those of the National AOTS Office.

Photo submissions: If you want your original photo returned, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope with your submission.

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## \* Executive Members

Honorary President	Ernie Orpin
*Past President	Garnet Thompson
*President	Bill Love
*President Elect	Jim McKibbin
*Western Vice President	Harvey Douglas
*Central Vice President	David Morris
*Eastern Vice President	Gary Ross
*Treasurer – Dec. 31/07	Ernie Orpin
*Treasurer – Jan. 1/08	Grant Harrison
Recording Secretary	Jim Upright
*National Secretary – Dec. 31/07	Jim Upright
*National Secretary – Jan. 1/08	Wallace Macdonald
Church & Community	Jim Lawrence
Fellowship & Membership	Richard Deitriche
Finance	Robert Lewis
Spiritual Life	George Bishop
Constitution & Bylaws	Howard Wills
Promotions	Tony Hodge
Archivist	Harry Wolfraim
Communications	Stephen Finch
Regeneration	George Bishop
Handshake Editor	Harold Lorenz
Members at large	Ken Lane
	Ernie Paddock
	Keith Elliott
	Doug Carter

The AOTS web page can be found at <<[www.aots.ca](http://www.aots.ca)>>  
Webmaster address: <<[mark@aots.ca](mailto:mark@aots.ca)>>

The deadline for submissions to the next edition of the **PRINTED Handshake** is **March 15, 2008**

**Something New!**  
**The High Teck Handshake**  
**In blazing Colour too!**

\*\*\*\* send in a lot of pictures for this one \*\*\*\*  
**Deadline for the “online Handshake” is**  
**February 5, 2008**

## From the Editor's Pen

A big “Thank You” to all of you for the help and support after producing my first edition.

I was grateful for the kind words from Rod Green. It was very encouraging to hear so early after the issue was sent out from a man who has “been there - done that!”.

The whole thing was “worthwhile” when I received a very large envelope from Edwin Henry from Moose Jaw. I was thrilled with his letter, reminiscing about my early childhood in Saskatchewan; Edwin sure knows where Maxstone is/was.

I would really be amiss if I did not thank my “proof readers”. My wife Jean and my good friend Jonathan Wardlaw laboured with me right to the end, correcting and re-correcting, suggesting revisions, and just giving me “good advice” with a “laugh or two” along the way. Hopefully they are both willing to continue on this journey with me.

Please note that we are trying something new – an online version of the Handshake. It will be put on the website as well as being sent out across the country by email, with the hope that those members receiving it will forward it to more members. You can be sure to get your copy **first** by sending your request by email to me.

Hopefully it will contain a lot of colour photos as well as written articles. The success of this venture is in **YOUR** hands.

Thanks

**Harold**

## AOTS 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations



Each Club is asked to plan a **birthday party** during the month of **January 2008**. It can be a special day or your regular meeting day. Ask some men from neighbouring churches to join you in the celebration of this great event. Use your imagination, make it **BIG**, make it **small**. Don't forget to take a lot of coloured pictures, write a short description of your festivities and send it to the Handshake Editor for the New “HiTeck” version of the Handshake to be issued over the internet and by email in full blazing colour. We have sixty clubs across Canada and it would be great to hear from each and everyone. **Deadline for this issue is February 5, 2008.**

## THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is the time of year  
We are grateful for the food that's here.  
For the farmers who grew the crops  
That we can eat and enjoy a lot.

To have our friends or family in  
And be thankful yes once again,  
To thank the Lord for what we have,  
The freedom of this land we're in.

Thanksgiving is the time of year  
To have a home or shelter here  
And the freedom of our loved ones near  
And the bountiful food to enjoy each year.

*An original poem by Richard Paul Deitriche*

**National Convention Report – Craig E. Watson - Chair**  
**Peterborough Ontario – August 17, 18 & 19, 2007**  
**Theme: “LIVING WATER”**

*Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday* morning dawned brightly, and I found myself very excited, scared, but inspired and looking forward to a very special weekend, not only in my life, but in the life of AOTS and all those attending.

When Betty and I arrived at 9:30 am we were greeted and welcomed warmly by members of the Council and Executive of AOTS, plus a group of men eager to help make the final preparations for a inspiring weekend.

The Registrars, Grant Harrison and John Babiak, were setting up a spot to handle and answer all questions from those arriving for billets and getting programs of the weekend events.

Thanks to the Peterborough George Street Church AOTS much was accomplished in a few hours to tidy up final preparations for all events.

Shortly after 1:00 pm, with a very good number of AOTS members, and a beautiful group of ladies in the auditorium, the flag bearers paraded in followed by distinguished guests and members of the National Executive.

“O Canada”, never sounded better to me than when we joined and raised our voices with members from across the country.

After the official welcome and opening ceremonies, Rev. Garry Magarrell, Convention Chaplain, led us in an inspiring prayer which seemed to set the tone for the weekend.

As has been the tradition, we opened with devotions, followed by a memorial service remembering those who have passed on.

Our “music men”, Ken Little (Elliott Lake) on the piano and our number 1 son Jim, got us all in a warm jovial mood by singing some old favourites and gospel hymns.

Our Theme Speaker, Rev. Dr. Wilbert “Wib” Cox was very capably introduced by Denton Meiklejohn, after which Wib led us in a very inspired talk. He left us with much to ponder and think about. He also shared many personal anecdotes of experiences through his life.

Following Wib’s address we formed small groups to answer a few questions that Wib had prepared.

A short business meeting, led by President Garnet Thompson, was attended by a goodly number of AOTS men. An outside BBQ had been planned, but due to inclement weather, we moved into the dining room and a good time was had by all.

A musical group from the Belleville area provided a very relaxing evening of gospel, popular and a few “oldies”, which proved to be acceptable by all. A short sing-a-long followed by a closing prayer brought a perfect day to a close. Those of us who were exhausted called it a day, but some continued the fellowship by playing cards and rekindling friendships.

***Congratulations to Betty & Craig Watson on celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, from all of us in AOTS.***



*Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday* started with a Sunrise Service, led by our Chaplain, followed by a super breakfast. We joined once again in a sing-a-long to get us all awake and inspired for the day.

Rev. Dr. Wib Cox delivered his second theme address, followed by the response of various groups with questions from the address.

At 9:00 am the ladies prepared to leave by bus for their events in the surrounding area of beautiful Peterborough. All had great expectations of the day and from many who told us, it was a great time and a lot of fun.

Groups were formed with different topics to discuss. Workshop leaders were Anne Martin – U.C. House, George Bishop – Past National President, Rev. Brian Bigelow – Elliot Lake, and long time member Ken Lane – Elliot Lake.

After lunch and a sing-a-long in the dining hall, groups were formed once again with great interest in all areas.

The National Executive met for a business meeting followed by elections for our next term 2007 – 2009.

A very special and enjoyable “sit down” Banquet Dinner was prepared for the 150+ in attendance. Following dinner, President Garnet Thompson gave his closing address, sharing his many experiences during his two year term. He stated that AOTS has been a strong force of strength in his day to day living, and he hoped he had left something for all in appreciation to the many that had supported him.

This was followed by a very special and entertaining guest speaker “Charlie Farquharson” – a.k.a. – our own Wib Cox.

Various National and regional awards were presented to some very deserving individuals and groups. (Itemized elsewhere.)

The Installation of the new Executive was handled by me, as Honourary President, assisted by our Chaplain, Rev. Gary Magarrell. That duty afforded me will last a lifetime by the spirit and from the “hugs” of all members.

President William “Bill” Love in his address as our new President, shared with us many ideas and intentions he hopes will happen during his two year term. He expressed his personal appreciation for having been elected to this high office.

*Continued on Page 4*

**President's Report Continued from Page 1**

The Men's Ministries Network in celebrating, strengthening and supporting Men's groups and Ministries.

- ✍ Members of your executive are ready willing and able to attend your meetings. To call upon them see a list elsewhere in this Handshake. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

**What are our goals for the next 2 years?**

- ✍ Free Memberships!! Your executive has approved an offering of individual memberships for our 85th Anniversary. The annual dues will be waived for 2008 for new individual members. All benefits will be available to the new members. These include copies of AOTS bulletins, publications, newsletters, invitations to upcoming men's events including Conventions, Rallies, Roundups, Conferences and Workshops. Our hope is to attract new individual members who are interested in Christian Service and we will pass on names to clubs so you can make them welcome.
- ✍ AOTS led project in a country in need of humanitarian Christian Service! We are just in the planning stages but your executive have given approval to explore the establishment of an AOTS led project to help in areas of accommodation, food, water, medical facilities or education. We plan to include all men of the United Church of Canada as part of this project, spearheaded by AOTS. We invite your input! Please pass along any feedback to George Bishop at [gandh.bishop@rogers.com](mailto:gandh.bishop@rogers.com); You will hear more about this soon.
- ✍ Help to bring facilities of United Church Camps across Canada to an acceptable level. There are nine camps in Alberta with only three active AOTS Clubs. The project will be extensive and expensive but with AOTS spearheading and working with affiliated and non affiliated clubs and individual men. With the camping task force of the United Church of Canada we can make a difference. Other United Church Children's Camp locations are: Yukon 1, British Columbia 9, Saskatchewan 6, Manitoba 1, Northern Ontario 2, Southwestern Ontario 8, Central Ontario 4, New Brunswick 3, Nova Scotia 4, Prince Edward Island 1 and Newfoundland/Labrador 3. If you are already involved in Camping or wish to be involved early in this project, please contact George Bishop [gandh.bishop@rogers.com](mailto:gandh.bishop@rogers.com)

**Kairos 2008!!**

Kairos represents a group that we need to be involved with. See [www.kairos2008.ca](http://www.kairos2008.ca). These young adults (18 to 30) are holding a conference at Five Oaks near Paris Ontario in August 2008. AOTS will provide some financial support out of our National Regeneration funds to augment the funds from the National Church. This is a 5 day event and is a great opportunity to expand our experience with young men and women who may have no idea of the work of AOTS. These people can be single or married, attending post secondary school or working full time and may or may not receive parental support and may be carrying student debt. Attendees will pay their own travel expenses and registration fees. Some of your National Executive members will be in attendance to demonstrate our support and serve as a testimony of AOTS. Your club is asked to consider making this part of your financial outreach.

As members of AOTS we are called to be Christ centered. We believe that Jesus Christ is someone we wish to worship and serve. Thank you for past service and keep doing the Lord's work.

Yours in Christ

**Bill Love, National President**

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**National Convention Report Continued from Page 3**

Jim Watson and Ken Little led us in a few songs to close this part of a very special day.

*Aug, 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday*, a nourishing breakfast awaited us to begin our Sunday Services. A sing-a-long was held which would be the final time with everyone singing their hearts out. On a personal note, it was a very emotional time for me, when Betty was asked by Jim if she would play one number to close this part of the programme. An added pleasure was when Jim, wife Sue and myself sang "Fly Away" and I thank you so much for the response of those special, precious moments.

With Rev. Dr. Wib's closing Theme Address, in preparation for our closing Worship Service, many words of appreciation to all who had helped in so many ways were extended.

Our closing Worship and Communion Church Service was arranged and led by our Chaplain, Rev. Garry Magarrell and proved to be very meaningful and inspiring to all attending.

In closing the Service, we sang "Go Now In Peace", and deep down, I never felt more Love, Thanks and Peace on earth than I did at that moment. Lunch together with everyone, brought our weekend to a close, and sad to say "many good-byes" to some very close and special friends.

*Epilogue by Craig – The memories of the Convention weekend have stayed with me most vividly. I guess as I am no longer on the Executive of National, there seems to be a great void in my life. AOTS has been a great source of strength to me for forty-five years. It has been difficult to sort of say good-bye. The friendships that were formed over the years will be with me forever. I feel I was very fortunate to have been a small part of this great association.*

*I will always feel a part of this very dedicated group of men who were willing to serve. Thanks so much to all who allowed me to be a part of such a group.*

**Craig E. Watson** – Convention Chair

*"As One Who Tried To Serve"*



Devotional  
"Men's Club Closures"

Hymn: # 371 V/U

**Open My Eyes, That I May See**

**MUST READ SCRIPTURE:** Mark 7: 31 - 37

**(Key Vs.36)**

"Then Jesus ordered the people not to speak of it to anyone; but the more He ordered them not to, the more they told it."

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Holy Spirit, seated here in each of us. Help us to find you and to remember you in all the activities of our lives.

Wake within us your presence so that we may be your presence in the world. Amen.

**LESSON:**

**ATTENTION GENTLEMEN:**

By decree of the church hierarchy, at the end of this fiscal year all Christian Men's Group within the United Church will be closed. They will not be allowed to gather together, raise funds, do visitation or hold functions of any kind. Why? The top brass have found that this group of radicals have interfered too much with the activities taking place within the wider church today. So, for the sake of the wider church's well being all men's activities are hereby ordered to cease as of December 31st, 2007.

And further to that, in order to increase church revenue any group of males taking part in such activities will be heavily fined by the governing church council. To further eradicate this menace in the church, Bloor Street has set up an [ephone@churchhouse.com](mailto:ephone@churchhouse.com) hotline so anyone seeing such male activity within the church can report it after December 31st, 2007, and maybe be eligible for a cash reward. The church brass would like to thank all congregations in advance, for their co-operation in this very serious matter. Church House is faithfully looking forward to the New Year.

So, "Get on with it! What is the lesson here?" Our scripture reading points out the fact that after Jesus healed many He told those around Him "not to tell anyone. But the more He did so, the more they kept talking about it." (Mark 7: 36)

Now there are many times in the Bible when Jesus tells people not to tell anyone about Him or the miracles that He did. And what did the people do? They went right out and told everyone they met. We can see same thing happening in other faiths today. Tell them they are not allowed to worship Jesus Christ and they will put their life on the line to do so. Faith in that area will increase. But let people do whatever they want and they will slowly stop telling the story. They will take the faith they have in their men's group for granted and they will slowly lose faith in the group altogether.

Maybe by now I have you angry as you read this. But, what do you think would happen if ALL men's groups were banned! Would you then care if the afore-told were true? So, think about your men's organizations - AOTS - its aims and objectives. Even if the church is not trying to take it away right now - by not telling others great things it offers and stands for - are YOU not throwing it away already?

I hope and pray that it doesn't take something as severe as the banning of all men's groups by the church brass before members will speak out and tell the rest of the church family what a great organization AOTS is within the church or otherwise. Remember, whenever it is going to happen - Christ will be there to welcome new growth so there will be no MEN'S CLUB CLOSURES. Amen.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** O God, as we go forth to tell the story of our organization, be at the heart of our speaking out.  
For those who are about to hear, be at the heart of their listening.  
For those who witness the good we create in our communities, be at the heart of their seeing.  
Have us go out in faith, and we ask you to be at the heart of our service.

Amen.

**(FORWARD)** Every Christian should be an expectant uplooker - not a sleepy onlooker!

*Gil Reashore*

**St. Paul's, Oakville, ON AOTS Men's Club**

One hundred and seven people attended the Fall Congregational Barbecue held on Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Bud Farris, Bill Sprung, Lloyd Wilson, George and Don Cooper, Doug Beatty, Doug MacDonald, Wally Macdonald, Bev Holmes and others who helped out in any way

Thirty golfers participated in the Annual Golf Day held Thursday, September 13 at Deerfield Golf Club (12 men from St. James Rosemount United Church in Kitchener, some ladies from St. Paul's and other invitees played). A great dinner followed back at the church at which 57 persons attended. Again thanks to all who set up, prepared and cooked the meal and cleaned up afterwards. There were fine prizes for all the golfers.

Howard Wills

**Holy Trinity U.C. AOTS Men's Club Elliot Lake Ontario**

Father's Day Service June 17, 2007 was conducted by The AOTS Club membership with Club President Richard Paul Deitriche delivering the sermon. Yes, it was a short one. I personally do not like long-winded ones. Various members read bible scripture, were ushers or greeters and yes helped with coffee hour after the service with home baked goodies. We also had a Father's Day cake, President Richard doesn't need glasses but put a pair on so not to cut his fingers instead of the delicious cake and ate none himself due to his diabetic condition. (at the



left Richard Deitriche cutting the cake)

We are delighted to have a good turn out at our various functions whether concerts or our yard sale. We sent 21 kids to camp this year and hope to top that during the summer 2008 with Ken Lane, our Kids To Camp coordinator, leading the way.

In October, 2008 we are to be have the Chaverim youth group band from Barrie, Ontario in concert and will billet them and 6 adults overnight. We're hoping to have a full house to enjoy their music and song concert at Holy Trinity United Church here in Elliot Lake Ontario

Club President Richard Paul Deitriche, *in his service*

**On the lighter side**

A young executive was leaving the office at 6 pm when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. "Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document and my secretary has left. Can you make this thing work?" "Certainly, Sir" said the young executive. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button. "Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."

MORAL OF THE STORY –

**Never, never assume that the BOSS knows everything.**

**Trinity AOTS – Newmarket, ON**

2006/2007 was an interesting and busy year under the able guidance of Jonathan Wardlaw and the culinary leadership and kitchen captain of member at large Harold Lorenz. Our active membership is about twenty, plus some adherents. A sad note was the loss of longtime members, Ken Stephens and Vernon Brown.

Perennial activities include ongoing building maintenance, such as painting, plumbing, carpentry and grounds keeping etc. We also prepare and serve meals several times a year to support various functions such as our annual bazaar, LAMP (*Lunch At My Place – feeding the needy*) and the Toronto Conference AOTS Fall Rally.

The Father's Day Church Service is entirely performed by our group, including the choir, while our minister, Robin Wardlaw relaxes in the pew.



We were pleased to have several of our members attend the 2007 Central Canada Spring Roundup at Jackson's Point and National Convention in Peterborough.

Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday, usually

with dinner, devotions, topical speaker and a short business meeting. A weekly meeting is also held at one of our favorite Tim Horton's (*shown above*). All men are welcome and visitors from other clubs and organizations are encouraged to attend.

Harold Dohn – President

**STAND UP AND BE COUNTED**

Stand up and be counted our membership is low  
The grave has taken so many we know  
With aches and pains and our hair falling out  
We'll shine in the dark when the moon light comes out.

Yes over the years our membership has dropped  
Like the fallen cake in the oven .....  
Lets all get out there talk till we drop  
AOTS is alive I kid you not.

Stand up and be counted our membership is low  
Let's get new members to help us grow  
Across this vast land like Disciples we'll go  
To spread the word we're alive, don't you know.

An original poem by Richard Paul Deitriche

**Ain't it the truth!**

A pastor asked a little boy if he said his prayers each night. "Yes, sir," the boy replied. "And do you always say them in the morning, too?" the pastor continued. "No, sir," replied the boy. "I ain't scared in the daytime."

### Notes from the Bay of Quinte

As President of Bay of Quinte Conference AOTS, 2007 has been a rewarding year and for me great personal growth. We were the host for the Biennial Convention in August, and many thanks go to Committee Chair Craig Watson and his team. It was a great event.

It has been enjoyable having National President Garnet Thompson in our midst for the past two years and we are now looking forward to working with National President Bill Love from Alberta.



Our 48<sup>th</sup> Fall Rally was held at our local church camp, Quin-Mo-Lac on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The day consisted of camp history presentation and camp tours to show off the great results of a four hundred thousand dollar up-grade expenditure over the past four years.

We believe Camp Quin-Mo-Lac is undisputedly the pride of the United Church for eastern Ontario, with over eleven hundred campers attending every summer. (The new swimming pool shown at the left.) It is fast becoming a year-round facility. It has been under the leadership of Wendell White, his wife Roseanne and family for the past 26 years. It is with great sadness that we will see Wendell retiring at the end of this year.

Bay of Quinte has been able to hold onto all 14 clubs and continues negotiations for possibly two additional clubs in the near future, so keep the faith and please continue serving.

*Yours in AOTS, Al Anthony*

### Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Report

This has been a very quiet summer for Manitoba AOTS clubs. Windsor Park continues to meet every month, as well as Westworth and Atlantic-Garden City getting together as independent men's clubs.

An exploratory meeting was held in September with Meadowood United Church men to assess the interest in forming a men's club there. Further discussions are ongoing as there is considerable interest shown by their membership.

We are pleased to report that Don MacKenzie is coming along fine after his surgery. Harry Burdon continues to shepherd the troops in keeping the Riverview Health Centre volunteers moving the patients down to the worship centre every Sunday morning.

Congratulations to the new National Executive members. May the Lord's Blessings be upon one and all.

*Charlie Klein*

### Notes from the Western VP

Two clubs are continuing to be active in promoting AOTS in Western Manitoba.

The Minnedosa United Church AOTS Men's club held their first meeting of the fall at Elgin Hall's cabin at Ditch Lake, Manitoba. Eleven men attended and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and Christian fellowship of an outdoor barbeque and discussion. The Minnedosa men have an active schedule planned for this fall. They will be hosting the Western Manitoba Youth Choir at Minnedosa on Oct. 13 and will provide supper for 70 plus choir members as well as looking after the evening program. Then on Oct. 26 they will hold a Fowl Supper for 150 to raise funds to help with the new church construction costs. The club plan on furnishing a small meeting room with funds they raise. They will then be holding the Annual Pancake Supper on Nov. 23 and are looking forward to hosting the ladies for the Annual Christmas Supper in December. The club is looking forward to spring when they hope the new church facilities will be completed and they don't have to look for places in the community to hold their functions.

The Brandon Central United Church men are meeting regularly on the second Thursday of the month at noon. Eleven to fourteen men enjoy a bag lunch and the Christian fellowship of eating together. Central men sponsored a very enjoyable musical presentation by Bri-anne Swan, from Toronto on Aug. 28 raising \$300 to help pay for an assisted hearing device they have purchased for the church. This equipment helps the hearing impaired hear the services and programs better. The Central men are also sponsoring a Sunday afternoon musical program with local entertainers on Oct. 21.

*As One That Serves, - Harvey Douglas, Western VP*

## *Discerning Moments*

### As One that Serves

### 2007 Central Canada Spring Round-up a Great Success

Read all about this great event held at the Salvation Army Conference Centre in Jackson's Point on the website at [www.aots.ca](http://www.aots.ca)

### St. Andrew's AOTS Men's Club – Chatham, ON

Executive members in 2007 are:

President – Gary Rieger                      Vice-President – Fred William  
Secretary – Leo Marentette              Treasurer – Dick Harwood  
Membership – Bob Hobbs                  Phone Person – Len Shortt

During the year, our members were involved in several activities that not only supported our church but also raised funds for outreach projects. Many of our members volunteer their time and expertise to help with maintaining the church building and property as well as the upkeep of Kenesserie camp. Some of our fundraising projects during the past year included sale of popcorn, sale of chocolate bars, two barbeques, a yard sale and a pancake supper. As a result of our fundraising projects, our club has been able to donate to the following: Kenesserie Camp- \$1000, Queen Elizabeth School Breakfast program- \$695.50, Canadian Food Grains Bank- \$600, Biggest Little Theatre Company - \$200, Fairfield Museum - \$100 and St. Andrew's United Church-\$1200.

One of our present community outreach projects (which had been carried out for several years by the previous Park St. AOTS Men's club) is helping with the Canadian Mental Health Association's Annual Christmas party held in December. Several of our members help with cooking the turkeys, setting and cleaning up, as well as preparing and serving the meal. Approximately 200 clients and staff are fed a full course turkey meal.

In June, the 4 County AOTS Golf Tournament was held at the Dominion Golf Course, Oldcastle. A total of 21 golfers (9 from St. Andrew's) took part in a great day of golf and an excellent meal. On July 14 and 21, our men's club held barbeques at the Superstore, North Maple Mall. A total of \$985 was realized from the two barbeques. During September & October, our club will once again be holding a Popcorn Sale project to raise funds for the Queen Elizabeth School Breakfast Program. In November & December, we will also be selling Chocolate Bars to raise funds for an outreach project which is yet to be decided.

**Breakfast Meetings:** Our morning breakfast meetings take place in Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of each month at 7:30 am. The program consists of a great breakfast (cooked by team members), a short business meeting, a devotion (led by a member) and a guest speaker. During 2007, our breakfast program has had the following speakers: Feb. - Susan Smith (Canadian Mental Health Association), March - Tom Gordon (Queen Elizabeth Student Breakfast Program), April - Barry Fraser (Video presentation on his trip to India), May- Colleen Wadsworth (Chatham-Kent Children's Services), Sept- Doug Carr (Presentation on Stephen Ministry). Future Speakers will be Nov. - Brenda LeClair (Outreach For Hunger) and Dec. – Kay Everitt, Parish Nurse (Presentation on her trip to Indonesia). Our meetings always close with the Mizpah Benediction.

Our current membership was thirty-four. However, during the past month two of our active members Fred Wilson and Dick Harwood passed away. They will be greatly missed.

*Respectfully Submitted, Gary Rieger, President*

### Oak Bay United AOTS – Victoria BC

The AOTS Men's Club of Oak Bay United Church held general meetings on the third Mondays of nine months. It also held ten executive meetings, typically on the first Tuesday of months.

The executive consisted of Ken Adsett; Daryl Anderson; Graham Howard; Bill Magee - Secretary; Don O'Coffey - President; John Reid - Treasurer; and George Stewardson.

At the general meetings:

- ✍ Dinners were catered by Clara Knight Associates, except in June, when we dined at the Purple Dragon Chinese Restaurant.
- ✍ Devotionals were offered by Mark Bedford, John Hurlburt (twice), Roy Jones (four times), Bruce Martin, and Arnold Ranneris.
- ✍ Talks were given by Don O'Coffey on his trip to China; Catherine Luke on Living Wills in British Columbia; John Braun on ALS disease; Eric Samuelson on Youth With a Mission; David Buckman on Faith Life Financial; Terri Hunter on Oak Bay History; Bill Cole on Island Pastoral Services Association; and Mark Bedford on his trip to Cuba.

The annual Spring Garage Sale was held in April. Despite a discouragingly rainy day, it produced a net profit of over \$11,300.00. The Fall Garage Sale was held in October in support of the Church Building Fund and netted some \$13,500.00

Besides the Church Building Fund, Church Library, and Children and Family Ministry, the Club has donated to the AOTS Second Mile Plan, the Observer on tape program, Camp Pringle, The Naramata Centre, and Malaspina College Nurses for medical supplies to take to Dominica.

A Bursary of \$500.00 was awarded to Colin Eadie to help him attend the University of Victoria.

For the June General Meeting, some two dozen members and guests toured the Interfaith Chapel and Finnerty Gardens at the University of Victoria.

The AOTS conducted the Sunday Church Service in August, and provided a men's chorus then and at Esquimalt United Church the following Sunday.

Ken Adsett scheduled members to man the Salvation Army kettle at the Fairfield Plaza for two days in December.

The annual Christmas dinner was held in December; it was catered by Clara Knight Associates, and the program was presented by Ray France. Wives of former members were guests of honour.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bill Magee, Secretary*





**The *Men's Ministries Network* supports and nurtures men who are followers of God's spirit, and inspired by Jesus' life and ministry by developing an ongoing source for support, ideas, resources, and information exchange so as to**

- ? encourage men's faith formation
- ? encourage nurture men's spiritual formation
- ? help discern and further the ministry and mission of the church through men's ministry

Do you have stories to tell about men's ministry in your congregation?

Do you have any questions, concerns or ideas about men's ministry?

If so, please contact:

**Lloyd Paul**, Congregational, Educational and Community Ministries  
416-231-7680 ext. 4046 or 1-800-268-3781  
[lpaul@united-church.ca](mailto:lpaul@united-church.ca)

or by mail at:

The United Church of Canada  
3250 Bloor Street W., Suite 300.  
Toronto, ON, M8X 2Y4

## Some Books for the Journey

Jack Balswick, *Men at the Crossroads: Beyond traditional roles & modern options*. I want to be a man but somebody stole the script. These are confusing times for men. The traditional male has been attacked as a chauvinist brute. Yet less traditional men are often dismissed as passive, soft, wimpish. So-called New Age sages have entered the vacuum and counselled men to recover the kind, warrior, magician and lover in each of them. Is this good and acceptable advice for Christian men? In this vastly helpful book, the author takes account of the bind contemporary Christian men find themselves in. He assesses the "men's movement". Boldly speaking from deep and sure faith, he points to a radical alternative beyond the traditional brute and the dewy-eyed New Age mystic - a maleness based on the fatherhood of God and the true masculinity modeled in Christ. This book is a critical but entirely practical book, a lifeline for generations of Christian men searching for new directions in these perplexing days.

Intervarsity Press, 1992 ISBN 0-8308-1385-3

Carol Becker, *Becoming Colleagues: Women and men serving together in faith*. Few mixed gender work teams in faith-based organizations are as successful as they could be - and the reasons for success or failure are always evident. Women often grapple with people whose practices and theological understandings do not welcome their leadership, and both men and women fall into counterproductive power struggles and traps of miscommunication. In these circumstances, even highly effective teams until now have found it hard to explain the magic formula behind their success. In the first book to address this issue, the author gives specific guidance for implementing change in the religious workplace, based on her extensive study of twenty-three different teams of men and women from congregations, denominations, and faith-based non-profit organizations. She uses stories from successful teams to outline nine criteria required for effective mixed-gender working relations and tells how to use these criteria to create and sustain an effective team. In practice, successful teams integrate elements of all nine criteria in order to build successful mixed gender work experiences. The stories from the teams in this book bring these criteria to life and demonstrate a common theme that is intangible: the great joy that men and women of faith experience when they are working together effectively. Jossey-Bass, [www.josseybass.com](http://www.josseybass.com) ISBN 0-7879-4709-1

Stephen Boyd, *The Men We Long to Be: Beyond lonely warriors and desperate lovers*.

The author unflinchingly plumbs the destructiveness of cultural masculinity for men themselves as well as for everyone and everything else. His grasp of the spiritually transformative process leading toward what we men long to be is extraordinarily insightful and practical. He writes with self-revelatory candor, theological acumen, and a passion for healing and justice. He has given us a charter of hope that can "fatten our souls" - James B. Nelson. Pilgrim Press 1997 ISBN 0-8298-1201-6

*Continued on page 11*

Stephan Boyd, Merle Longwood & Mark Muesse, editors, Redeeming Men: Religion and Masculinities. Contributions to this groundbreaking book include historians, biblical specialists, theologians, ethicists, and scholars of comparative religions. They examine, from a wide variety of perspectives, the relationship between religious tradition and manhood. The broad range of topics considered - dynamics of power in shaping masculine identity, the role religion plays in shaping masculine identity, the experience of myth, ritual, spiritual discipline and community - suggest enormous practical application in the daily lives of all men. Westminster John Knox Press, 1996

Jy Chipertzak, And So It Began: Chronic illness, soul loss: an initiation into the realm of spirit. This book is a psycho/spiritual novel about a man's successful and fulfilling journey, first succumbing to, then transcending a debilitating illness, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Rob, a man of his time trapped in the busyness of his life; farmer, Executive Director of a conservation society, "Trees For The Future", with wife and family, is consumed, wasted, by Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Becoming a disparate soul disconnected shell, Rob was dying from the inside out. From the pit of pain, confusion and despair Rob becomes embedded in the otherworld of the mythic, of the shaman. It is a realm of enchantment and magic where Nature speaks and time and space become one. Rob becomes Bran, Celtic for "Raven". Follow Rob as his old paradigm of the rational collapses into the enchanted realm of the sacred, of spirits, power animals and his shamanic teacher in human form, "the child of the mound born dead." Break through with him into a new understanding and experiencing of healing and empowerment. [www.Andsoitbegan.com](http://www.Andsoitbegan.com) or [jy@andsoitbegan.com](mailto:jy@andsoitbegan.com). Trafford Publishing, [www.trafford.com/robots/00-0029.html](http://www.trafford.com/robots/00-0029.html) or [sales@trafford.com](mailto:sales@trafford.com) or 888.232.4444 2000, ISBN 1552123650

Pema Chodron, When Things Fall Apart: Heart advice for difficult times. There is a fundamental happiness right within our reach, yet we usually miss it - ironically, while caught up in attempts to escape pain and suffering. The author's radical and compassionate advice for what to do when things fall apart in our lives goes against the grain of our usual habits and expectations and confronts us with traditional Buddhist wisdom. There is only one approach to suffering that is of lasting benefit, the author teaches, and that approach involves moving towards painful situations to the best of our ability with friendliness and curiosity, relaxing into the essential groundlessness of our entire situation. It is there, in the midst of chaos, that we can discover the truth and love that are indestructible. Shambhala 1997

## Study Groups as Spiritual and Faith Formation

There is something transformative about the experience of participating in a study group when honesty and integrity are encouraged, and when prayer and spiritual practices are incorporated into the group's meeting. Something happens that seems to suggest God's healing power through the group's activity. The group process allows participants to minister one to the other by being there for each other, by listening to each other, and by prayerfully challenging each other.

It is, therefore, not surprising to hear the stories people often recount of the transformative power of participating in study groups. One woman in her late 40s talks of finding a safe place to be able to explore her own spirituality and in doing so to find the strength to confront a dark side of herself which she had chosen to bury deep within for years. A 60-year-old man talks about reconnecting with something he would call "spiritual" within himself after having felt great despair for years because of his earlier church experience. Acceptance within a group where personal experience was highly valued helped one seventy-five year old man find a renewed sense of self-esteem. A young woman experiences a profound sense of connectedness to the other members of a study group thereby opening up her feelings of love and compassion.

Study groups provide the opportunity for the participants to learn something new. However, the study book often acts as a catalyst for personal spiritual and faith formation. Within a prayerful, open environment that promotes discussion in a challenging but affirming way, there is the opportunity for growth as participants become more attuned to their faith and spirituality, i.e., how they develop an intimate relationship with the divine, and how they understand their faith and spirituality within a Christian context. While discussing the text, the participants draw on their own experiences, have these experiences affirmed and challenged and are opened to new understandings of how they view and experience the world, their spirituality and their faith.

## Reading a Text

**Remember before critiquing the author you need to understand what she or he is trying to say.**

If time permits, it is advisable to read the material at least twice. Questions to ask yourself:

- ? What seems important in the text
- ? What has influenced the way the author has written the text, e.g., her or his gender, age, race, class, sexual orientation, etc.
- ? What are the text's strengths
- ? Did anything surprise you, excite you, anger or upset you
- ? Was any part unclear
- ? Does any part seem overstated or not productive
- ? Does anything seem left out
- ? What questions does the text raise in your mind
- ? In what ways does what the author is saying relate to your experience
- ? How does the text affirm your faith
- ? How does the text challenge your faith

*Men's Ministries Network: Celebrating, Strengthening, & Supporting Men's Groups and Men's Ministries*



**CHURCH & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT**

At the 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial National AOTS Conference, I gave a report which included many of the following items:

**1). HARRY COLNETT SCHOLARSHIP**

Application forms were emailed or mailed by post to thirteen colleges and universities and to two individuals who had specifically asked for them. I would like to have the completed applications returned by the stated deadline of November 8<sup>th</sup>, or as soon thereafter as possible.

**2). YOUTH MUSIC BURSARY PROGRAM**

Applications mailed to 36 Winnipeg United Churches in late spring of 2007 netted responses from eleven youth between the ages of six and eighteen years. Each was awarded a \$125.00 bursary to help them in the advancement of instrumental or voice music in their lives. This brought the fund to near-depletion. However, Manitoba AOTS District Council is again in the planning stage for holding a concert as a fundraiser to replenish the fund. As this endeavor is very regional, disbursement of monies will be limited to the area in which they are raised. It behooves other Clubs or Councils in AOTS-land to follow Manitoba Council's example!

**3). NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROJECT**

The National Hospital Project permits the dispensing of a \$2500.00 grant yearly to each of the three National Regions (Eastern, Central and Western), providing it is assigned by the fiscal year-end. In 2006, Keith Elliott made arrangements to present the Central Region cheque to purchase a special medical cart for use in the Prince Edward General Hospital in Picton, ON.

Gary Ross arranged to present the Eastern Region \$2500.00 towards the purchase of a Urology Laser by the Central West Health Foundation in Grand Falls-Windsor. The Laser being a costly piece of equipment, the Government of Newfoundland has provided matching contributions.

As this is being written, Al Goudie, Sask. Conference Rep. is making arrangements to provide a \$2500.00 cheque to Maidstone Hospital for one of three possible pieces of equipment. The Central and Eastern Regions have yet to locate recipients for the 2007 fiscal year.

The following refer to happenings that occurred at the Conference:

**4). D.R. POOLE MEMORIAL AWARD**

This trophy is awarded at the time of each Biennial Conference to a Club that files an application form with the Church & Community Services Committee. It is through the answers provided on the applications, that the Club showing itself as providing more support for youth programs than any other applying Club, is chosen as the recipient. This year, although only one Club applied before the June 23<sup>rd</sup> cut-off, our Committee decided to give the trophy to Trinity United Church AOTS Club in Botwood, Newfoundland. I presented the trophy to Eastern V.P. Gary Ross (who will have presented it to Trinity during the month of October), as there was no one from the Club at the Conference. I would however suggest that Honorable Mention goes to Trinity AOTS in Newmarket for their efforts in sending youth to camp, although their late application did not arrive until after the award had been allocated.

**5). YOUTH TO CAMP AWARDS**

In the absence of Mark Browning, a member of C&CS, and the person primarily responsible for the Youth to Camp Project, I made the following presentations to:

**Holy Trinity AOTS, Elliot Lake, ON** – First Place for sending The Most Youth to a U.C. Camp:

- Don Williams Trophy, plus a plaque and \$500.00 cheque for each of 2006 & 2007;

**St. Paul's AOTS, Sterling, ON** – Second Place for sponsoring The Highest Percentage of Youth to Camping in Comparison to the Number of Club Members:

- A plaque and a \$250.00 cheque for each of the years 2006 and 2007;

**Westminster AOTS, Whitby, ON** – Third Place in 2006 for The Most Improved Club in Sponsorship Compared to the Previous Year:

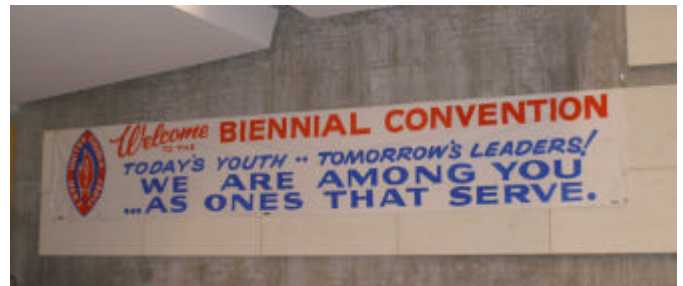
- A plaque and a \$150.00 cheque;

**Wellington AOTS, Wellington, ON** – Third Place in 2007 for The Most Improved Club in Sponsorship Compared to the Previous Year:

- A Plaque and a \$150.00 cheque.

It is my understanding that the plaques were all made by Keith Elliot in his workshop! Thanks Keith, (the cheques were made by Ernie Orpin, in case you wondered).

Submitted by Jim Lawrence, Chair C&CS



Banner – Aug. 17, 18 & 19, 2007 – Peterborough ON



Honourary Past President Craig Watson, Past President Garnet Thompson and newly elected President Bill Love

## Thought for today...

Based on a devotion from the book "Hours of Power" by Robert H. Schuller

### You need hope

*"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."* Romans 12:11-13

You need hope when ...you get a dream. Whether you are a child, a young person, or an older person, hope lifts that dream until drive and energy come into your personality, and you go for it and take a chance. You need hope when you're dreaming of your future.

You need hope when...these dreams run into despairing problems, obstacles, difficulties, and frustrations. You need hope to protect you from the assault of anger, fear, worry, or anxiety. You need hope when you're moving your dreaming into actions.

You need hope when...you're healthy. And you need it when you're in ill health.

You need hope when...you apply for college and after you're in university. Then when you choose a career, you will need hope to lift you and lead you onward and upward and forward.

You need hope when...you're young and are looking for a girlfriend or boyfriend. And then when you fall in love, you need it to propose marriage. When you get married, you need hope as much as, if not more than, ever. Hope is what you need when the baby comes and you hold that infant in your arms.

You need hope when...you're dying. And you need hope in all of your living.

There will be no love without it. Hope is what will keep your faith alive. That's why hope is right in the middle of the holy trinity of human emotions, "faith, hope, and love."

Let us pray –

God, I have a strong sensation  
that you brought me to this moment of prayer  
because you plan to share with me insights to solve my problems.  
So I will go out and face the sunlight of a new day  
and a new week crammed with undiscovered possibilities.  
I am encouraged! I am enthused!  
I am more hopeful than I have been in a long time!  
Amen.

From George Bishop – Spiritual Life and Leadership Chair



## **2008-2009 National AOTS Goals & Objectives**

### **Goal: To Increase Individual and Club Memberships in National AOTS**

#### **Specific objectives to achieve above:**

1. Expand the content and use of AOTS National Website for Promotional purposes.  
*Responsibility – Task Force & Web Master*
2. Declare a year Moratorium on dues for new clubs.  
*Responsibility – all members of National and Club Presidents*
3. One year Moratorium on new Individual members.  
*Responsibility – National Church Mail and everyone interested in a strong regeneration*
4. Develop and commence a new international project for all UC men and clubs, both affiliated and non affiliated clubs.  
*Responsibility – Task Force*
5. Set up an AOTS Table or Presence at all United Church Men's Meetings or Major Functions.
6. Place Road Signs at entry points in each town where an AOTS functions (emphasize Service Club Orientation).  
*Responsibility – Clubs*
7. Place AOTS Brochures in every Church in Canada.  
*Responsibility – use National Church Mailings and individual members and club*
8. Emphasize Media Participation at any event where AOTS Awards presented.  
*Responsibility – event organizer*

As One That Serves  
Bill Love

### **An Old Farmer's Advice**

**Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.**

Every path has a few puddles.

**You cannot unsay a cruel word.**

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

**Don't judge folks by their relatives.**

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

**If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is ... stop diggin'.**

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every morning.

**Always drink upstream from the herd.**

Good judgement comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

**Lettin' the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back.**

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

**Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.**



### AOTS Youth To Camp 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge

This is the Youth To Camp's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and I would like all clubs to show your support for our National project. We would like every AOTS club to commit to helping send at least one youth to a United Church camp. As little as \$25 can help a child experience the joy of Christian camping.

Here is all that your club has to do to show your commitment to the Youth To Camp (YTC) Competition.

- 1) Put the poster up on the church bulletin board;
- 2) Choose a YTC project contact (or the club secretary);
- 3) Send an email of support or get the church assistant to email me:

- the club name and City/town and a commitment to helping to send at least one youth to a United Church camp (at least \$25)
- the YTC contact name and phone number or email (preferred)
- a brief note telling me what your goal is (big or small).

I would like to thank every single club for helping in the Youth To Camp Challenge. For those of you that have been working with youth and Christian camping I appreciate all that you have done. If you have any questions or if your club needs help, please feel free to contact me.

[Email: youth@aots.ca](mailto:youth@aots.ca)

Address: Mark Browning – Youth To Camp  
8 Lewes Blvd.,  
Whitehorse Yukon  
Y1A 3J2  
867-667-2198

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF MEDICINE

*“I have a headache.”*

- 2000 B.C. – Here, eat this root.
- 1000 A.D. – That root is heathen,  
say this prayer.
- 1850 A.D. – That prayer is superstition,  
drink this potion.
- 1940 A.D. – That potion is snake oil,  
swallow this pill.
- 1985 A.D. – That pill is eneffective,  
take the antibiotic.
- 2000 A.D. – The antibiotic is artificial.  
**Here, eat this root.**

### Membership & Fellowship Report

Greeting in the name of Our Lord God. I was unable to attend the Biannual Convention but am still plugging away at trying to recruit new members. Yes we all have a selling job ahead of us. Just look around at your various club functions to see how many empty chairs we all have now.

Yes, shocking indeed the comradeship the co-operation on various fund raisers we try to have in our various clubs yes even the list of fallen members seems to get longer every year especially during our spring Roundup. Yes, those smiling faces we sat and enjoyed a meal with or played cards there or shared a room with a sad feeling indeed with less in our ranks at the various functions we do.

Yes, we are not getting any younger although I feel like a spring lamb at Roundup. Yes, ringing the bell very early indeed a pleasure I enjoy along with the various words of not praise. May God forgive them I say under my breath as I chuckle going along the corridors of the 3 floors.

Yes, fellows I hope we can be like the newspaper boy striving to make a new sale, but in our case trying to recruit new ideas and men into our shrinking ranks of spiritually filled members who are enjoying being. (AS ONE THAT SERVES) God Bless.

Submitted by **Richard Paul Deitriche**

### Smile Awhile!

*As with many funerals, it was a cloudy , rainy day. The deceased was a little old lady who had devoted her entire married life to nagging at her poor husband. When the graveside service had no more than terminated, there was a tremendous burst of thunder accompanied by a distant lightning bolt and more rumbling thunder. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, “Well, she’s there”.*



## Regeneration - As One That Serves

The United Church Camping website makes the following statement:

*“Camping is a vital and important ministry in the United Church of Canada. For over 75 years, people of all ages and stages of life have come to United Church Camps to live in community, develop leadership skills, experience the outdoors, have fun, and deepen their faith in God.. The United Church owns and operates 69 camps across Canada.”*

Paraphrasing the words of our former moderator, the Very Reverend Peter Short, *“First let me tell you the good news about our church, the United Church of Canada. The good news is that we have the resources we need. We are blessed in the United Church. We have \$3.6 billion in property. We have more franchises across Canada than Tim Horton’s and we have 50% brand recognition in the Canadian market. We have an income of \$350 million dollars each year. We have 2400 highly trained professionals. There are 600,000 people who have signed on with us for our work and 3 million who call us their spiritual home. We are blessed with resources on a scale that is literally beyond our imagining.*

*The bad news is we are starving. The income to the United Church of Canada from the Mission and Service Fund has remained constant at \$30 million for the last 20 years. During that time, inflation has reduced the church’s real income by 25%. So for 20 years we have been making cuts, reducing support to programs and partners, trying all the while to protect our people and their important work. If we had known 20 years ago what we know now we might have done things differently. But we had no crystal ball and we have experienced a long, slow, general starvation of our community and its work.”*

One area which has suffered because of the shortage of funds across Canada is our camping facilities. This is not true, of course, for every campground. Some have been maintained and upgraded by cores of dedicated groups and individuals. But in Toronto Conference for example, it is estimated that the 8 camps need approximately 10 million dollars in upgrades over the next few years to bring them up to an acceptable standard. This requirement has been generated in spite of considerable time and money donations by groups and individuals, including AOTS clubs, for many years. Toronto Conference AOTS have committed to raise \$1 million by 2010 for the purpose of camp upgrades. It is our intent to raise this money in conjunction with the men of every congregation in Toronto Conference, spearheaded by men of the 5 AOTS clubs.

At the AOTS National Council meeting in Peterborough in August, it was agreed that AOTS will establish a national “Camp for Youth” project to assist with the upgrade of all of the camps of the United Church. We have set up a committee with representatives from coast to coast. We have today a total of 60 AOTS clubs across Canada and 69 campgrounds. The challenge is great, but it does afford the opportunity to get together with the men of our neighbouring churches for the betterment of this *vital and important ministry.*

So, the purpose of this project is two-fold: 1) to ensure the continuation of availability of modern, comfortable United Church camping facilities; and 2) to enable the men of the United Church to work together enthusiastically on an essential common project led by AOTS.

In addition to this national project, four other initiatives were approved in August at the National Council meeting:

1 – Communications – firstly, the website ([www.aots.ca](http://www.aots.ca)) is being improved and expanded – a task group has been formed with the responsibility to devise more efficient ways to add information – please check out the website – watch it become more informative – ask your neighbour to check it also

- secondly, the Handshake will add a winter issue, in electronic form only, to be available from the website or by e-mail - details are included in this issue.

**Note that both the website and the Handshake require your input from individual members, local clubs, and conferences as well as National to present a website and newsletter that contain current information relating to upcoming events and activities for men as well as highlights from events which have taken place.**

2 – Dues – firstly a letter is going out from the General Council office to all congregations asking for one man from that congregation to be nominated as an individual member of AOTS with dues waived for 2008

- secondly any new AOTS club will have dues waived for the first two years, but will be eligible to make donations to second mile, hospital fund, etc.

3 – Task group – has been formed to study a possible project to “help people in need in another country”, possibly to do with water or food or education or medicine or child care. As for the “Camp for Youth” project, this project would be established to bring the men of all congregations together in a common cause. This is in the study stage and will not be announced as a project for at least 12 months.

4 – Kairos young adults event – every three years an event is planned to bring together 18 to 30 year olds from across the country for a week of learning and sharing together. In August 2008, this event takes place at 5 Oaks, near Paris, Ontario. The AOTS regeneration committee is sponsoring a “Sabbath day” with these future leaders of the church. This sponsorship is in the form of a cheque for \$7500.00 dated June 2008 and taken from the Regeneration Committee budget. An AOTS task group has been formed to participate, primarily in that one day, and acquaint the attendees with AOTS men’s work. Hopefully there will be representation from among the young adults of your congregations.

Remember Isaiah 43:18-19 where God says to the people of Israel: *“Forget the things that happened in the past. Do not keep on thinking about them. I am about to do something new. It is beginning to happen even now. Don’t you see it coming?”*

*From George Bishop – Regeneration Committee Chair*

## Spiritual Life and Leadership Column

Please continue to check the national AOTS website, [www.aots.ca](http://www.aots.ca), for regular updates of thoughts for the day, weekly Bible readings, and monthly devotional materials. Small group studies are also available in the Men's Ministries Network materials in the Handshake and on the United Church website, [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca). As well, this column in the Spring 2007 issue of the Handshake included many suggestions. You may also wish to subscribe to Ralph Milton's weekly newsletter called 'Rumours' at [ralphmilton@woodlake.com](mailto:ralphmilton@woodlake.com) or subscribe by sending a blank e-mail to [rumors-subscribe@joinhands.com](mailto:rumors-subscribe@joinhands.com). Ralph describes this newsletter "for people of faith with a sense of humour". It is ready on Sunday and deals with the lectionary readings for the following Sunday.

I have been asked for a sample Bible study which can be used as part of a regular men's club meeting or which may be the basis for a separate Bible study for men at a time and place which differs from the regular meeting time of the men's club. The following is based on my personal experiences in Bible study in many different settings with men, with men and women together, and with youth.

Your comments or suggestions are welcomed at [gandh.bishop@rogers.com](mailto:gandh.bishop@rogers.com)

### A short Bible study session for men

This sample Bible study is intended for small groups of 4 to 6. Each participant should be invited to share his thought(s) during each phase. There should be no criticism of the comments made by any person so that no one is intimidated and all feel empowered to speak about what they understand or feel from the Bible reading. A group covenant should be made at the beginning that what is heard within the small group will not be spoken outside the group.

A facilitator should be chosen from within each group to time the discussions and to ensure that each person should have the opportunity to speak and to ensure that no one person be allowed to dominate the conversation. The facilitator also may allow an individual to "pass" when it is his turn to speak. The requirement for each phase should be known by the group from the beginning of the study. It is a good idea to have this information on paper or a board for all to see.

On the assumption that this will become an ongoing part of the renewal of the spiritual life of each individual and of the men's group as a whole, the following scripture passages are suggested: For the first meeting I Corinthians 12: 1-11

For the second meeting Romans 12: 9-18

For the third meeting James 1: 22-27

Phase 1 – one person reads the passage and then all Bibles are closed.

The group takes a 1 minute quiet time. When the facilitator asks, each person is given the opportunity to speak one word or phrase which the passage has raised in his mind or heart. (Approximately 5 minutes)

Phase 2 – another person reads the passage, possibly from a different translation, and then all Bibles are closed

The group takes a 2 minute quiet time. When the facilitator asks, each person tells what this passage means for him today. (Approximately 10 minutes)

Phase 3 – one person reads the passage and then all Bibles are closed.

The group takes a 3 minute quiet time. When the facilitator asks, each person tells what change in his life or his family life, or in his club or his church congregation may come from the study of this passage. (Approximately 12 minutes)

Close with prayer within the group led by a member of the group.

Note: if you are time restricted within your regular meeting, you may leave phase 3 for each person to meditate on at home, after the meeting.

Alternatively this format may be used for a more in depth study at a separate Bible study meeting where groups may be 6 to 8 and more time can be allowed for each phase.

*George Bishop – Spiritual life and leadership chair*

### Get a Horse

*For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.*

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon.

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally, your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive – but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has preformed An Illegal Operation" warning light.
7. The air bag system would ask, "Are You Sure?" before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no good reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced, car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

*From the Mountain Wings*

## Harry Colnett Scholarship awarded in Newfoundland



L to R: Cyr Couturier, President of Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association, Garry Ross, Eastern Vice President of National AOTS, Anne Kellett, recipient of the Harry Colnett Scholarship, Leslie Dean, President of St. James United Church AOTS Men's Club and Glenn Blackwood, Executive Director & CEO of the Marine Institute in Newfoundland.

***To all AOTS members across Canada – Thank You,***

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the AOTS who take time each year to reward students with much needed funds through the Harry Colnett Scholarship. The scholarship you so kindly awarded me will assist with tuition expenses for my Master's of Science degree in Aquaculture. I completed an Advanced Diploma in Sustainable Aquaculture at Marine Institute in 2004 before I decided to continue my education through an MSc. I am currently in my last year of study at

Memorial University. My thesis work involves research needed by the aquaculture industry of Canada to assist in the viable development of Atlantic cod aquaculture. I have been studying the effect of continuous light on the maturation of cod reared in sea cages on the south coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

I have resided in Newfoundland for most of my life. When I was five, my family moved to Fogo Island from England. This was in the late seventies when the commercial cod fishery was in full swing. We moved to Grand Bank on the south coast of Newfoundland in the early 80s before relocating to Portugal Cove in 1987. I have spent all of my adult life in the St. John's area. I became interested in aquaculture after the cod moratorium in 1992. The culture and history of Newfoundland has been traditionally dependent on the fishery, and we are known worldwide for our codfish. This is the reason I feel that Newfoundlanders should be the backbone of the development of cod aquaculture. I am very pleased to be a small part of the process through scientific research. Aquaculture is an important contributor to world food resources and a vital part of the future economy of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely, *Anne Kellett*

## AOTS supports the purchase and installation of a Urology Laser Unit through the South and Central Health Foundation, to benefit a wide area in Newfoundland



L to R – Oliver Rose, President of Bishop Falls AOTS, Lisa Lindahl Fry, South and Central Health Foundation, Garry Ross, Eastern Vice President of National AOTS and Clarence Langdon, President of AOTS Botwood Club.

***Many "Thanks" to all AOTS men in Canada -***

Thank you for contacting me and offering this very generous donation from the AOTS. This contribution will make a difference to people in the regions reaching from Baie Verte to Lewisporte, Harbour Breton to Buchans and all points in between.

The South and Central Health Foundation are currently raising money for a piece of capital equipment called a Holmium Urology Laser. Currently, our region is one of the few who do not have access to this type of equipment and Dr. David Sutherland is the only Urologist in

the Central Region. The Holmium Urology Laser is state of the art equipment that will allow Dr. Sutherland to treat patients with less invasive techniques, therefore allowing many of these people to return home to family and friends sooner. Dr. Sutherland also plans to use this laser to help treat prostate disease. This would be very innovative and less painful than current procedures.

This piece of equipment is priced at \$250,000. We are thrilled to announce that the government has agreed to pay half of this!! Your donation of \$2,500 could be valued at \$5,000!! Our foundation has raised approximately \$103,000 to date, which leaves a balance of \$22,000 for our goal. We hope to be able to have this amount raised very shortly.

Sincerely, *Lisa Lindahl Fry*



## **101 celebrations – Don Morton, Duncan B.C.**

He survived two World Wars, the great depression, and five terms as the mayor of North Cowichan. On Saturday, another milestone will be added to the storied life of Don Morton when he turns 101 in the Duncan Manor. "He is an amazing man as far as I'm concerned," said longtime friend Ernie Stafford. "It's amazing. At his age, he's able to go downstairs with his walker for his meals."

Born in Staffordshire, England in 1906, Morton immigrated to Canada in 1922 and spent time farming in Manitoba with his brother before moving to B.C. in 1936. After serving overseas as a Canadian soldier in the Second World War, Morton returned to work at a dairy farm while working as a freelance reporter for the *Cowichan Leader*. Throughout the years, he has been a lay preacher, community volunteer, writer, soldier and politician. He was elected as a North Cowichan councilor in 1954 and remained one until 1959. The following year, he was elected mayor, a title Morton held until 1969. He was an alderman from 1970 until his retirement from council in 1973. "He kept himself active," Stafford said. "I suppose he can keep his brain active too. He used to do crosswords, read a lot, got involved in various things throughout the years." The political junkie was never afraid to question authority, Stafford said, and had high expectations of those in powerful positions. Conversely, he could also be soft-spoken. "Don can be one of the strongest crickets you can meet," Stafford said. "He always seemed to ask questions the ordinary person wouldn't." Having earned numerous

awards in his lifetime, North Cowichan council helped mark Morton's 99th birthday by naming a municipal road Morton Way. But he was never terribly fond of recognizing his birthday, Stafford said. "Don doesn't like a lot of celebrations for these birthdays," he said. "His son had an awful time getting him to agree to his 100th party last year." Despite his age, only child John Morton said his father is still relatively lucid. "He's very hard of hearing," John said. "Other than that, he's very competent. He understands what's going on, he makes his own decisions. He's always been a fiercely independent person." There's a history of longevity in the Morton family. Ancestors in the 1700s and 1800s lived to be in their 70s and 80s. That might not be, the only contributing factor to Morton's lengthy life, though. "He never drove," John said, laughing. "That eliminated a lot of potential problems."

**The above picture by Andrew Leong and article by Michelle Thompson appeared in "The Pictorial" Sunday, October 14, 2007**

Ernie Stafford still can't figure out why Don's many years of involvement with AOTS was not included, even though it was discussed. Ernie gives the following information – Don is a "Charter Member" of the Duncan AOTS. This Charter was granted in 1951. He is a past president of the Duncan Club, the Vancouver Island District Council as well as B.C. President, which gave him many opportunities to visit the many clubs throughout the province. To the best of everyone's knowledge Don is the oldest AOTS member in Canada.

**Editors Note: This article came in after I had completed the Handshake and was ready to "go to press", but it was too good to leave out. Please accept my apologies for the small printing.**



**Around and about at the 25<sup>th</sup> National Convention – Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario  
August 17, 18 & 19, 2007**



**Photos by Edwin Macdonald, Sudbury, Ontario**  
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