



L'ARCHE®  
Avalon

newsletter

volume 9  
number 3

## **Interconnected:** Building our Relationships with Intention, Creativity and Celebration



The primary, though unspoken, objective of our community weekend was to reaffirm our dedication to developing and sustaining our L'Arche community. Among the focal points, Celebration was prominent throughout the weekend. It became apparent that news of our impending home construction provided reassurance to the community, fostering an atmosphere where we could joyfully engage in our activities such as



games and music, revealing our excitement about this important milestone towards realising our shared vision.

Another significant aspect of our weekend was the intentional cultivation of relationships. I believe the bond that keeps L'Arche Avalon afloat is our mutual connection. Occasionally, bonds weaken and require renewal, but we are confident that our values will keep us on course and guide us towards our goals. Our willingness to share on

the personal significance of objects we brought to the weekend was a symbol of wanting others to get to know our persons, furthering connections among ourselves.

Our theme also emphasised interconnectivity, acknowledging that we are not alone in shaping our community. Support from L'Arche Canada and L'Arche International reinforces our efforts. Watching videos presented on the weekend reminded me that communities worldwide are united in caring for people both with and without intellectual disabilities—we are part of this global family.



Finally, creativity was also featured prominently; by crafting wreaths out of natural materials, we worked in groups toward shared artistic achievements. As a teacher, this activity represented something deeper to me: there are many possible paths to bringing our L'Arche to its destination. Building our homes is just one step—the real journey lies in using every bit of our creativity to lead each other in reaching our fullest potential. We must continue to envision an inclusive society where everyone's gifts are cherished, and every person feels valued.

~Michel G.



## Greetings from the Chair

Christmas is always such a special time of year. A time to celebrate and spend more time with family and friends. As we get closer to the day and are busy baking, cleaning, shopping, posting parcels, and doing all the things we do at this time of year, it gives me great pleasure to reach out to all of you.

In addition to the excitement of Christmas, these are exciting days for L'Arche Avalon. Our building Project is moving along as you will see from reading the report of our Project Lead, Lewis Andrews, which you'll find in this newsletter.



From my family to yours, my sister, Maureen, and I send very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and best wishes for good health and happiness in the year ahead.

Peace of the season,

Sheilah



# Out and About



## Building Project Update

These are exciting times for L'Arche Avalon. As most of you are aware, in August we received from NLHC a commitment of capital funding in relation to our housing project of \$2 million and in September we received a commitment for operational funding from the Department of Health.

Since then, we have been working to obtain grants for the additional capital funding we need to complete the project. With the help of a company by the name of Raising the Roof, we have applied to CMHC for monies under its Affordable Housing Fund and we have approached the Northpine Foundation to discuss a possible funding grant.

We are working with Raising the Roof to identify a new architectural firm as well as a new construction company to work with us to bring the project to a reality.

We are also working with Coryn Stehouwer and others at L'Arche Canada to start the process of hiring our first project leader, thanks to funding from the Department of Health in the amount of \$75,000.

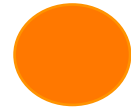
While a lot of work is still to be done, we are moving forward step by step. The Board will update community members of meaningful progress as it occurs. For more information, please see the [Government of NL press release](#).

~Lewis





# Christmas Party!!!



A great time was had by all!

Eric West and the Potluck Singers make a special effort to include all our members. The music was joyful; everyone seemed to be in the mood; and the Christmas snacks were delicious. It was Christmas magic. Any Mummies 'lowed in?



It's always a time with music and friends  
Our November Music Circle



**Join the excitement  
for the 6th Annual  
L'Arche Avalon**

***L'Arche Avalon***

***Online  
Auction***

happening the first week of March. Mark  
the calendar, get ready to bid, connect,  
and support the L'Arche Avalon  
community in this special online event!

More details coming soon!