

PART III

"LIKE A TREE PLANTED
BY THE WATERSIDE"

Jeremiah 17:8

After a long, fruitful ministry as Director, Jim Cruickshank resigned in 1973 to join the Faculty of the Vancouver School of Theology, and a successor was sought and found in the person of the Rev. Fred James. The Rev. Derek Salter was acting director for the summer of 1973 for the two months between the leaving of Jim Cruickshank and the arrival of Mr. James.

During Mr. James' tenure the primary focus of the non-summer program was an attempt to meet the personal growth needs of guests, many of whom were in emotional crisis and distress. Although this was not, by any means, an entirely unsuccessful program thrust, it never became financially viable and many questions were raised as to the purpose and direction of the Centre.

The uncertainty of the period was reflected financially. Fred James left the Centre in the fall of 1975. During that fall and winter, the Centre was without a director and it became necessary to close for several months. A heavy operating debt mounted during this period. The burden of "acting director" was assumed by Bishop Snowden. Two persons need mentioning here whose presence at Sorrento Centre was vital during those months.

The first is Doug Moore. Doug Moore had served as Treasurer of the Provincial Council of the AYP. When he volunteered to give some time to the Centre, he could not have realized what he was getting into. He handled the office and the business end of the operation from 1973 to 1975, staying on at the Centre to oversee it during some of those months.

The other person is Vera Blake; businesswoman and lay reader from Armstrong and long-time friend of the Centre. Vera came on very short notice to take over accounting and bookkeeping, but found herself at times being the only person on staff.

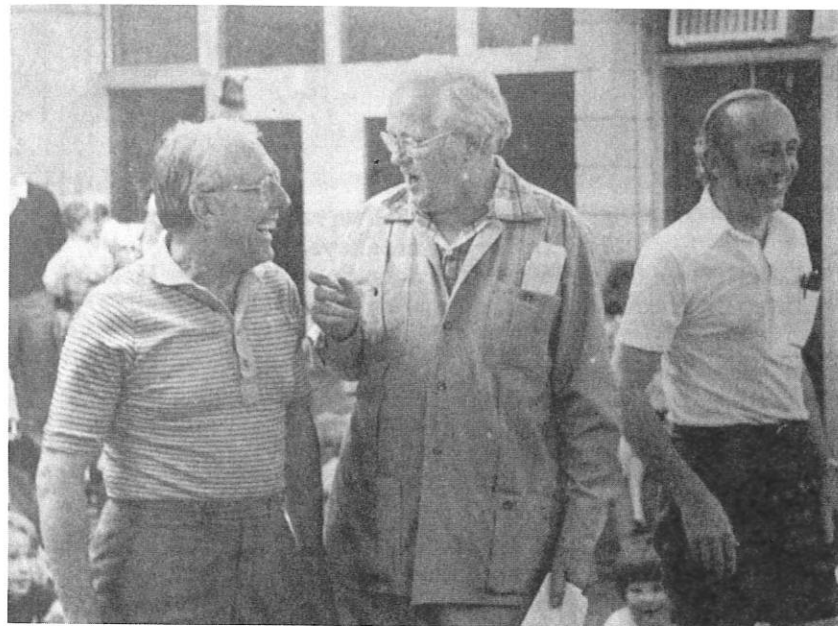
The Board's response to the crisis was two-fold. First, an Advisory Committee was established to begin an in-depth study regarding the purpose, goals, standards and nature of the program for the Centre. This Committee worked for 18 months and its report, on its adoption by the Board, became the basis for all further policy to date.

Second, the Board sought and found, in the person of the Rev. Charles Griggs (affectionately known as "Skipper") an interim director for a period of two years. His long experience of running Anglican Island, the summer camp of his home Diocese of Rupertsland was invaluable, and with his sincerity, good fellowship and enthusiasm it was enough to do the job. Also, during the crucial summers of 1976 and 1977, Russ and Shirley Harding of Vancouver stepped forward to provide able support and leadership as summer directors.

The "800 Club", instituted in 1977, was an effort to respond to the large debt, the bulk of which was operating. The original goal was to find 800 persons who would contribute \$100 each. The response to this appeal was gratifying.

It was during this period that the then maintenance man, the Rev.

Al Maier, Howard Wood, Rick Barr and Dale Jukes, together with the '77 summer staff made a silk purse out of a sow's ear by turning the former chicken house/program centre building into the present Kantakaye. Other projects completed during Skipper's directorship were the construction of two altars, the wooden one by Al Maier and the outside stone altar by the cook, Frank Baker. The one-time kitchen in Spes Bona which had been used as a nursery, now became a small Chapel and the little log building opposite the Panabode was painted and fenced to become the "Tot Lot".



"Skipper" with Primate Ted Scott



**From Chicken Coop to Program Centre
Dedication of Kantakaye, 1978**

**L to R: Alex Chisholm, Bishop John Snowden, Mary Hosking,
Erin O'Driscoll, Mike Harding, James Minshall, Melanie Dyke**

In June of 1978 a new director arrived in the person of the Rev. Dirk Rinehart, with his wife, Karen, and three children. The Rineharts came from the Diocese of Eastern Oregon, where Dirk had been a parish priest for 12 years.

In the spring of 1979, Bishop John Snowden retired as Chairman of the Board of Directors and its first lay chairman, Mr. Alex Chisholm was elected. Under his and Dirk's very dedicated leadership several significant goals have been realized.

In the fall of 1980, Fran Haberlin came to the Centre as Associate Director, bringing her many years of experience with and commitment to the Centre's life. Fran's appointment was made possible through a generous grant from the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf in England.

From 1978 to the present, the Centre has become financially stable with more revenue than expenditures realized. Since the summer of 1978 considerable upgrading of facilities has taken place. The cabanas have been completely remodelled and a new domed fire pit pavilion, "Kekuli", has been constructed, and dedicated in thanksgiving for the ministry of Jim Cruickshank. Both of these projects largely have been the work and creation of Mr. Howard Wood, whose volunteer services, together with those of his wife Nancy, over many years, has been generously and freely given. Katimavik has been extended and a porch added to provide necessary space for summer staff and residential winter programs and Kantakaye is winterized to supply necessary winter program space.

As the Long Range Planning Committee of the Board considered the future of the Centre in the fall of 1979, it became apparent that to maintain our purpose and function it would be necessary not only to update the report of the 1975-76 Advisory Committee, but to deal with the remains of our operating debt that was costing a considerable amount in interest, and to think about long term planning for the future. The Board of Directors agreed and action was taken in two ways. The first was a campaign to raise \$50,000 to clear the debt. "Sorrento is Alive and Well" was the rallying cry. The successful culmination of this campaign, thanks to all the generous associates and friends of the Centre, was enthusiastically celebrated at Pentecost, 1980. By the end of August, 1980, Sorrento Centre was debt free in its operating budget.

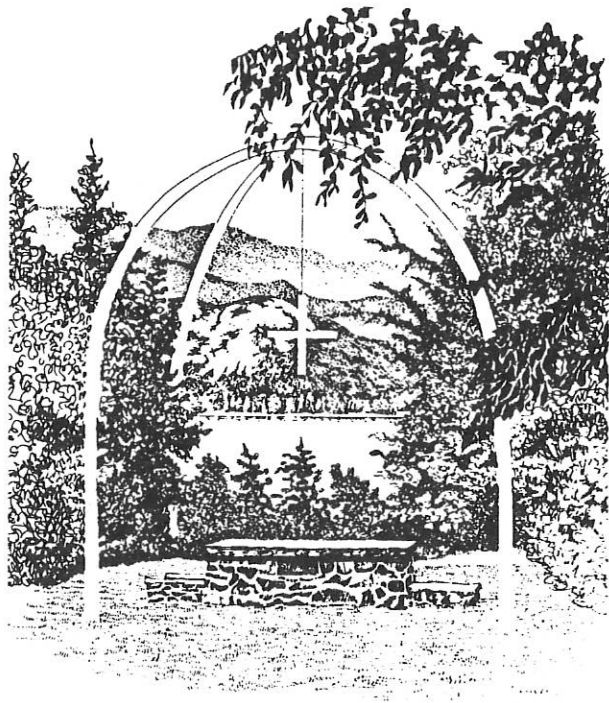
The second form of action by the Board was to set up a Development Task Force whose function was to think through a comprehensive development plan to include program, facilities, finances, staff, etc. This Task Force was ably chaired by the Rev. Jim McCullum of Vancouver and its report to the Board was adopted in the spring of 1981.

All the aforementioned activity, upgrading, building, adding to facilities, committees, meetings and more meetings, were and are directed to one end. That end is stated in the purpose of Sorrento Centre:

"The purpose of the Centre is to provide an ongoing Christian community to the Glory of God in which people may discover, enrich and fulfill their vocation as members of the body of Christ in the world, and be open and responsive to the needs of that world."

Sorrento Centre began with a vision - the vision of a place where lay people could be trained to better function in the world and in the church. The understanding of the ministry of the laity has radically broadened and deepened since the late 1950s. Sorrento Centre has been a place that has enabled that development of understanding. It has been many things to many people of all ages; a place for a holiday; retreat and growth; a place of learning; a vital means of experiencing what Christian community can be. It has been a place for mutual ministry, where people not only have been nourished, healed, stimulated and awakened, but have provided that ministry to each other in the process.

The heart of the Centre is its life of worship - particularly in the Eucharist. It is in this act that all the activity, planning, working, comes together, is offered and transformed into ministry. Here we do not think of lay ministry or ordained ministry or the ministry of this or that particular group. As we break the bread of life together we are reminded that there is but one ministry - that of the crucified and risen Lord, in which we, in our separate ways, but bound together in Him, participate.



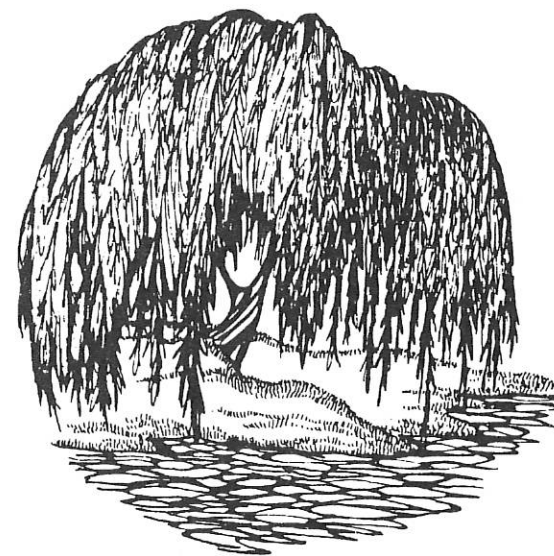
Chapel of St. Francis, Sorrento Centre, Anglican Church of Canada
sketch by Mary Jane Muir

The prophet Joel has said, "If there is no vision, the people perish." Sorrento Centre began with a vision. With the implementation of the Five Year Development Plan and its proposals, Sorrento Centre can look forward to a healthy future as it responds to the needs of God's world and God's church in the years ahead. As this history goes to press, the vision we share is that expressed in the launching of the Development Plan:

Sorrento shall be...

"Like a tree planted by the waterside,
That stretches its roots along the stream...
It has nothing to fear...
Its foliage stays green...
In a year of drought it feels no care
And it does not cease to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:8



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PART II AND PART III

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and several unidentified photographers

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