

## Jan's Journal



Welcome back!

It was good to have a bit of a break, but it is also good to be back!

Welcome to Creation Time in the church!

This fall promises to be a very busy time at East Plains! There is a lot of “Creation” happening here! There is also a lot to look forward to!

We will continue with “Sharing Our Memories” in many worship services between now and the beginning of Advent. This will conclude the marking of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada at East Plains.

Preparations are already underway for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts and Crafts Sale on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Of course, there were rummage sales and Christmas Bazaars prior to 1975, but this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sale in its current format. Artisans are already booking their space and Gayle Burnison is setting the pie-making schedule. As you transition your wardrobe from summer to fall, and as you transition your home and put away the outdoor furniture, perhaps you will find some items that you could donate to the Silent Auction, the Book Room, or Granny’s Cupboard.

As you come to church on Sunday, you will notice the huge hole at the back of the Sanctuary and the piles of dirt still in place. It may look as though nothing is happening, but, in actual fact, a lot has happened during the past month.

The Board of Trustees, with the approval of the Official Board, signed a contract with Archaeological Research Associates Ltd, to begin the Burial Site Assessment, which is required by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario. The deposit was paid and the first stage of the Assessment has begun. This Stage involves background research through archives and historical documents, which is done in the ARA office. We expect to receive the Report on this Stage in the very near future. Stage 2 of the Burial Site Assessment involves digging and sifting the soil in the area where the human remains were found. This on-site work is scheduled to begin very soon. The law requires that the Indigenous Nations which have inhabited this region throughout history be invited to have a representative on site during the excavation. Invitations have been sent to the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, the Mississaugas of the Credit Nation, and the Six Nations of the Grand River Confederacy. All have responded that they will send a representative.

Once the archaeological excavation has reached a certain point, authorization will be given for the removal of the oil tank. The Burial Site Assessment will then continue with exploration of the areas on the south side, back, and underneath the tank “nest”, areas which were not accessible before the tank removal. It will be fascinating to see what is discovered! When Stage 2 has been completed, we will be informed as to whether Stage 3 is necessary or not.

Also, when the oil tank has been removed, the soil around the tank “nest” must be tested for contamination from possible oil leakage. If contamination is found, the soil must be removed to below the level of the contamination. If this is necessary, it will be an additional cost. Let’s all pray that no contamination will be discovered!!

Since early July, your church leadership team has been investigating sources of financial assistance through grants. Unfortunately, none has been found. I have been in contact with the United Church of Canada and Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive to request financial assistance. Due to summer holidays, the appropriate Committees have not met. We hope to have answers following the September meetings.

The Community Hub Ad Hoc Team has been meeting weekly over the summer to explore the possibility of East Plains becoming a Community Hub in Aldershot. What does that mean exactly? How might it come about? The Team has met with a representative of Community Development Halton and with two representatives of the TUCC Property Development and Resources for Ministry department. The TUCC representatives have come for a visit to the church. We expect a Report on their recommendations for East Plains within a few weeks. In the meantime, the Team has begun to use a document for reflection titled: **The Theology of Place**. This is a nine-part series of reflections and questions for discussion. Beginning next week, a reflection and its associated questions will be printed in the Bulletin. You are invited to read, reflect and discuss with family, friends, and perhaps within groups and ministry teams to which you belong. We are considering the possibility of gathering for group discussion following worship sometime this fall. Let’s be creative in ways in which we might make use of this material!

Whew!!

As I said, it will be a busy fall!

As always, I am available to discuss any of the information written in this “Journal.”

You can reach me at: [revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Pastor Jan