



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

October 2025

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray & Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Emmy Verdun
Communications & Newsletter Editors: Mary Mussell & Lorna Kingston
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Ottawa Quaker Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Theresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all denominations through joint participation in social projects and prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
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Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5
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Another Successful Walkathon

The Centretown Churches Social Action Committee held a joy filled Walkathon in support of the Centretown Community Food Centre on a very warm and sunny Sunday, October 5. Approximately \$45,000 was raised.



Carl Toole (banjo & lead singer), with Fred Gloade, Rosanne Lalande, Terry McDonald, and Frank Scott provided the music.



The silent auction was a new addition to the Walkathon this year and attracted a lot of interest.



Photo by Heather Duggan

The walk began at Canadian Martyrs Church on Main Street and continued over the Pretoria Bridge to the Queen Elizabeth Driveway.



The Sons of Scotland Piper Band led participants from Canadian Martyrs Church to the Queen Elizabeth Driveway.

Walkathon Champion

Elizabeth Kent has spearheaded Walk for the Centre for the past 10 years. Each year Elizabeth organized a team that met once a month from April to November to plan the Walk for the Centre. Elizabeth wrote to the different churches in the catchment area to let them know about a Walk for the Centre, prepared bulletin announcements for church representatives to distribute, liaised with a poster designer and organized the printing and distribution of same, prepared agendas for the team meetings, wrote thank you letters after the walk as well as soliciting business sponsors. If there was a job that needed doing and no one able to do it, Elizabeth took it on.

Even as the Centretown Community Food Centre has been reconfigured, relocated, and renamed with a new shopping model, Elizabeth has been its faithful supporter. Her vision was inspired by the financial burden on the Food Centre as the number of clients increased year over year. With this in mind, the Walkathon goals increased each year, even during the pandemic, from \$15,000 in the first year to \$50,000 this year.

The Food Centre manager, Dennis Hansen, leads 40 – 50 volunteers who work tirelessly to reach beyond their doors into the community to our marginalized citizens, that single mother, that new Canadian, the rooming house borders, the father who lost his job! They are open four days a week and have four to five bags of groceries for each client. That is amazing!



Elizabeth Kent

Patricia Marsden-Dole



Patricia Marsden-Dole

A long time member of Centretown Churches Social Action Committee, Patricia Marsden-Dole, better known as Paddy, died on August 26, 2025. She was the representative for St. Theresa's Parish on CCSAC. Paddy's husband, Paul Dole (deceased 2015), was also involved with CCSAC as its long-serving chairperson.

Paddy had an accomplished career: she was the first female Trade Commissioner with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Canada's Deputy High Commissioner to India, High Commissioner to Tanzania, Ambassador to Portugal, Director General of the International Markets Bureau of Agriculture Canada and Director General of the South and South East Asia Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Even in her retirement she was a busy lady. She completed a Masters and Doctorate at St. Paul's University and founded the Centre for Aging and Community at the University. As the Coordinator of Social Justice for the Ottawa Archdiocese, she focused her efforts on making a difference in the Ottawa community. A very down-to-earth person, Paddy was a mother and grandmother and a joy to both friends and family.