LAKESHORE LINES

Another Virtual Easter!

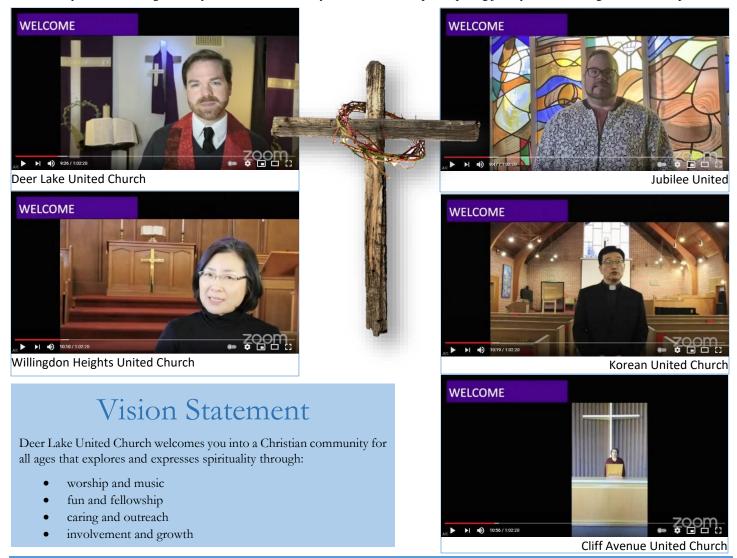


Free – and worth every cent!

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Good Friday went virtual again this year, with five Burnaby United Churches participating jointly in the moving online worship service.



Deer Lake United Church, 5135 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5E 2T2 •• Phone 604-299-4211 •• www.deerlakeunited.ca

She Dreamt of Chocolates but She Got the Chair

By Ellen J

Well, the ACM occurred on Feb 14^{th} and I received the Board Chair position instead of a box of Valentine chocolates. The story of my life. . .

I am being cheeky of course because in all truth I am thrilled to have been elected to this important position. For those who don't know me well I have been attending Deer Lake for thirty years. As I raised my two sons at the church I had a good variety of leadership roles to keep me busy. I have been co-Chair of the Board with Kathy R, have been Secretary on several occasions, have sat on the Worship, Outreach, Christian Education and Communication committees, and was even the church custodian for seven years. I resumed my role as Secretary three years ago with Dana as chair and am now on the Worship committee and the Governance Task Force as well as the Board.

I am thrilled to be working with the effervescent Joseph and all of the Board members as we look ahead and envision what God has in store for us. It is an extremely exciting time for Deer Lake! At our (what is to be annual) Board orientation I spent a few moments talking about my vision for our Board. I'll share a few points here.

• Our Board will be forward thinking. We will try to always look at the big picture and will spend some time at each meeting focusing on our future goals and identity. Together we will continue to define our future as a vibrant, meaningful Christian community.

- Our Board will be a learning Board that shares articles, podcasts and other resources with each other in order to grow and remain current and questioning.
- Our Board meetings will reflect the values of collaboration and respect for differing voices within our group.
- This will be a transitional year in some respects as the Governance Task Force comes to us with possible recommendations and proposals for change. It will be vital that we all keep an open mind and think about the impact our decisions have beyond the table or zoom meeting into our beloved church community and beyond.

As Chair I am committed to maintaining an environment that allows for healthy discussion and meaningful questions. I am determined to have us all lift our heads from the "administration" of the church and spend equal or greater time "looking down from the balcony" to gain perspective, to remind ourselves of our impact on the world, and to allow God's wisdom to enrich our time together.

Thank you to everyone for trusting me with this role and please know, this is YOUR Board. Please do not hesitate to reach out, ask questions, make suggestions. Your interest, involvement and support are essential to the long-term success and health of our Deer Lake United Church!



The new Deer Lake United Board. Can you spot the Chairperson?

Fear...

- ...Fear of losing your identity, power, and control
- ...Fear of wasting and not having enough resources
- ...Fear of making mistakes and failing
- ...Fear of not knowing where we are going
- ...Fear of dying and DLUC closing
- ...Fear of being vulnerable

This Lenten season has been one of engaging and exploring our fears. Which one from the list above hits home for you? Perhaps only one or two. Perhaps all of them. In a society that nurtures and fosters fear, it is easy to fall into the trap of despair and hopelessness. Barry Glassner, a professor of sociology, wrote a book entitled, *The Culture of Fear*. While it is targeted to US audiences, much of what he addresses in the book still applies to us in Canada. Fear triggers our most primal and basic instincts as mammals living in a chaotic world. A world filled with dangers that could cost one their life. Most of us have heard of "fight or flight." We have heard of denial and putting one's head in the sand. So the question is, what are we to do with this fear that can leave us feeling powerless?

As Christians, we are called to overcome this fear. Our hope is not placed in the belief that bad things won't happen. Of course, bad things will happen. Our hope doesn't come from a false sense of safety, security, or protection. It comes from trusting in our Creator, that in the midst of bad things happening, God is with us and holds the possibility of redeeming any situation for the good. This may not mean we get the reality we want (perhaps you would prefer that I had not talked about fear for all of Lent), but what it does mean is that we can experience abundant life in the midst of any storm that may be happening. So how do we overcome this fear?

Over the course of Lent, I have attempted to model how to engage with our fears. We might wish to reframe the fear to something more positive. We may also ask questions so that we understand more deeply what we are exactly afraid of and then think about whether those things are really worth our fear. We can bring the fear to God through our spiritual practices such as prayer or studying scripture. And for those prepared for the spiritual journey, we can embrace the fear, befriend it so that it does not have power over us. Lastly, we can share our fears with each other as a community to deepen our relationship with God and each other.

As we prepare for that Easter morning, the invitation this season is to not let fear have the power to control us as we envision what the future of Deer Lake United shall be; what I have been calling DLUC 2.0. Let us dream of impossible possibilities, ask wild questions, take adventurous risks, and allow God's own breath to initiate a true resurrection for our beloved community!

Hallelujah!

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Kyser

Accept change and it will be OK!

By Tony W

"I was always spoiled!"

Mary Pinto was "the accident at the end of her family", with two brothers and a sister older by at least ten years. Her Dad was the customs collector in the small port of Trenton, Ontario, but he died when she was just 15. Mary completed high school and had a bad case of the travel bug. Her mother was a WW1 bride from Scotland, and so Mary took advantage of having cousins in Edinburgh and emigrated there in her early twenties, working in the office at North British Rubber. Afterwards she found out that her mother and grandmother had worked in the same factory!

After a few years, she moved back to Trenton. On her travel destination list were BC and Australia, so logically she started by moving to Vancouver's west end. Guys had come and gone throughout her life, but soon she found herself in a longer relationship with a local boy called Ron. Their 60+ year marriage started in 1961.

Ron was in the choir at a church called Deer Lake United, and so began Mary's long service at our church. Mary recalls the merger with St Matthews and Douglas Road as being quite unpopular and forced by Presbytery – even changing the name to Central Burnaby! Soon after came the enlargement of the church to the design we enjoy today.

Apart from mothering her twin boys, the biggest event in Mary's life started in 1975, working with Wenda Erickson as they birthed the Lifeline project, in the church basement. Mary took care of administration. This focussed on helping struggling mothers – "you can't help the kids until the mother becomes proficient". This program took off, hiring social workers and expanding to meet many needs. The program is still strong today with the work of Marguerite Dixon House and Wenda's Place.

"I like the simple things in life, and I enjoy people. I'm an optimist. Life moves along. Go with the flow and things tend to work out if you give them a chance – although not always how you expect. Do your best and do what's best for other people. I'm not worried about the future."

Deer Lake has been important throughout Mary's life. "It's a fascinating place with lots of different people and interests. It has been a privilege to be a member!"

Maybe Mary has always been spoiled because she has cared deeply for so many others in her life. If you spoil enough people, you end up being spoiled yourself.



Governance Task Force Update

Our Board established the Governance Task Force in September 2020 to study and recommend a better governance structure for Deer Lake United Church. We detailed the history of this work in an article in the January Lakeshore Lines. https://deerlakeunited.ca/wp-

content/uploads/2021/03/Lakeshore-Lines-2021-01.pdf. A book called *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss was recommended to us by other United Church leaders. Together, the GTF have just completed a weekly study of this book. We all agree that it is an exceptional resource. We have learned so much, and now we are taking some time to prayerfully discern our next steps.

Our first exercise upon completing the book was for each of us to independently list our top learnings from the book. We were excited to find that there is much agreement amongst us. Now we can begin to craft possibilities to take to the Board. We anticipate that we will be recommending significant changes. The Board will make decisions based on our recommendations and then take their decisions to the congregation for approval. *Be clear that at this time, nothing has been decided.*

Because the timing of this newsletter leaves us with nothing definite to report, we decided to share a few of the points from the book that resonated with us. We offer this list as food for thought. If you would like to read the book, please contact our church administrator, Pam Athey <u>office@deerlakeunited.ca</u>. Here is a taste of how the book spoke to us – all are quotations or paraphrases from the book.

The book described the congregation we strive to be:

- The challenge of organized religion is to find ways to encourage people to encounter God in potentially soulshaking ways while also helping them to channel spiritual energy in paths that will be healthy for them, the congregation, and the world beyond.
- A congregation's mission is its unique answer to the question "Whose lives do we intend to change, in what way and WHY"
- The congregation has an open, creative, and accountable atmosphere for ministry.
- It has a Board that asks open questions: "Who are we? What has God called us to do and be? Who is our neighbour?"

It describes new ways to organize our ministry in today's world

- The Board makes its most important contributions to the mission in three ways: by being a good partner to ministry leaders, by hosting an ongoing conversation about the future, and by creating a sound structure of policy to regulate decision making. Creating a good partnership is not a technical or legal project but a relational one.
- It makes a clear distinction between Governance and Ministry: Ministry is described as the congregation's practical work of changing lives in ways that fit its mission, acting out its values and achieving its goals. He boils it

down to one over-simplified statement: "governance produces words on paper and ministry produces action." He goes further to make a distinction between Committees and Teams. Committees help the board to govern, and Teams achieve practical results.

- This requires the creation of firm boundaries set by policies which define the roles.
- The spiritual emphasis, while essential, needs the protection that only a clear sense of institutional roles and boundaries can provide; otherwise, under pressure, boards revert to more familiar style of operation.
- Governance in congregations is not a science but an art. Leadership must continually balance the conserving function of an institution with the expectation of disruptive, change-inducing creativity that comes when individuals peek past the temple veil and catch fresh visions of the Holy.

It reminds us what we do not want:

- A congregation easily becomes an end in its own mindrecruiting people to an empty discipleship of committee service, finance, and building maintenance. Institutional maintenance is a necessary, but ultimately a secondary function of a congregation. If souls are not transformed and the world not healed, the congregation fails no matter what the treasurer reports.
- A congregation that lacks confidence in the value of the gift it offers to the world, clings to customary ways of doing things and resists the changes that would convey its benefits to the wider public.

And it reflects:

• Holy conversations include elements of prayer, worship and striving to discern God's will by reading the 'sign of the times' and pondering the congregation's history.

We on the GTF began this work not realizing it would morph into weekly meetings and extend for more than a year. Yet our commitment to the project and belief in it has grown. Joseph keeps the focus on God's work and the mission of the Deer Lake congregation. No one misses meetings (even if they had cataract surgery that morning!) *Please* share your ideas, suggestions, and questions with us as we move forward. Most importantly, keep this work in your prayers as we discern God's will for Deer Lake.

Submitted by Trish and Linda on behalf of the members of the Governance Task Force:

- Ellen J
- Kathy R
- Larry J
- Linda P
- Sharon H
- Steve McL
- Trish S

Our minister, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Kyser is facilitating this work.

The Agony of Separation

By Garry F

The past year has been a struggle. We have missed our normal routines: church on Sunday morning, lunch with friends, family gatherings, hugs. Now imagine what it is like to have been uprooted from your home and separated from your family by war. Imagine the blessing of being accepted as a refugee to Canada but having to deal with the agony of leaving your brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends behind to an uncertain future. That is the situation in which our friends from Syria and thousands of other refugee families find themselves.

As mentioned in past articles (see <u>Lakeshore Lines March 2016</u> and <u>Lakeshore Lines March 2017</u>), Gloria and I mentored the Alissa family for a year after they arrived in Canada in December 2015. Five years later we are still close friends with them. Despite having to learn English from scratch, they have adapted well to Canadian life. Five of the eleven are now Canadian citizens and the rest of them are keen to get their citizenship.

The family comprises the grandparents (Hamid and Harbah), the parents (Khaled and Zakia), four adult children (Doaa, Asmaa, Mohamad and Abed Alhamid) and three younger children (Alaa age 16, Israa age 13 and Abed Alrahman age 11). Grandmother Harbah is blind and grandfather Hamid recently suffered a stroke and is in declining health at age 97. His condition has added another layer of worry and an additional burden of care to the busy family.

Everyone but the grandparents is attending school either full- or part-time. Khaled and his wife Zakia take ESL classes. Doaa, Asmaa and Abed Alhamid are finishing their last few high school courses. Mohamad has completed Civil Engineering Level 1 at BCIT and is looking forward to completing the program when inschool classes resume, hopefully in September. Alaa, Israa and



Harbah, Abed Alrahman, Hamid, Khaled, Israa, Abed Alhamid Zakia, Mohamad, Alaa, Asmaa, Doaa (Picture taken last May, before Muhamad arrived in Canada)

Abed Alrahman attend school full-time. They are all keen and excellent students.

Between classes, Khaled, Mohamad and Abed Alhamid work part-time as tilers and Doaa and Asmaa work part-time teaching at Arabic schools. Zakia does the housework and most of the cooking. She also cares for Khaled's parents when he isn't home. Khaled does the shopping, cares for his elderly parents and helps with anything else that needs doing.

The family longs to be reunited with the loved ones they left behind when they came to Canada. Through hard work and incredible determination Asmaa managed to save enough money and navigate the bureaucracy to sponsor her husband Muhamad to join her here from Lebanon. He arrived last September and is now working as a tiler. He speaks some English and has registered for ESL classes.

Asmaa struggled so long to bring Muhamad to Canada. It is good to see her so happy with him at her side. But there is a constant cloud of worry over the adults in the family. They have relatives in Germany, Lebanon and Syria. Those in Germany are making a new life for themselves, but the others are in precarious situations.

Zakia's brother Abdul Kafi is married to Khaled's sister Najma. (The two families are very close!) They fled Syria in 2013 and have been in Lebanon with their six children aged two to nineteen ever since. Abed Alkafly supports the family as best he can repairing shoes. The fifteen-, seventeen- and nineteen-year-old children work to supplement the family income. The eight- and eleven-year-olds attend school when they can, which is not often. The family was in touch with the UN regarding coming to Canada over a year ago but haven't heard anything since. Shutdowns due to COVID-19 haven't helped, but they desperately hope to emigrate to Canada to be reunited with their brother and sister and to give their children a proper education and the chance for a decent future.

Zakia's brother Mohmad Kamel and his wife Anama live in bombed-out Aleppo with their six children ages nine to twenty. Their house in Aleppo was destroyed by a missile ten years ago when they were fortunately staying in a nearby village for refuge. Over the intervening years they have moved from town to town to avoid the worst of the fighting until two years ago when they moved back to Aleppo to live in Anama's brother's house. The younger children do well in school but only go when it is safe. The oldest son is doing his mandatory military service, while the next two oldest work to supplement their father's income as a driver. Life is very hard.

Even at her happiest, Zakia's smile can't hide her underlying concern. She misses her brothers and worries about them and their families. Our struggles with COVID-19 pale in comparison with what our friends have had to deal with. And their struggles pale in comparison with those they left behind in Syria and Lebanon. Their most fervent wish is to bring them to Canada, but it is little more than a dream at this time.

Books in Review

21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality by Bob Joseph (2018)

A Lenten Book Study (Jubilee United Church)

Review and rating by Dana J



Such a long name for a relatively short book that touches on such deep issues. Bob Joseph is a blogger and Indigenous relations trainer who wrote an article in 2015 about the Indian Act which he highlighted in 21 statutes/policies that he believed most Canadians would not know about. The questions and responses to the article made it very clear that there was a significant lack of knowledge of the Indian Act, so he wrote this book in the hope that providing this information could be the beginning of

understanding the legacy of such an "...aggressive, destructive, and frequently contradictory..." piece of legislation, and its continued impact on Indigenous Peoples. In Bob Joseph's words, "This book is for people who want to walk with informed minds and hearts along the path to reconciliation."

The author begins with an introduction of some historical background leading to the consolidation of policy into the *Indian Act, 1876*, and follows the amendments and changes, both in attitudes and policy, over the ensuing years. The book is written in two parts: Part 1 Dark Chapter, where he presents the 21 Things in five chapters. Much centres around the Indian Residential Schools and the legacy of pain and loss they have left – "cultural genocide" is the only way to describe the destruction of family, history, language and way of life that resulted; and Part 2 Dismantling the *Indian Act*, where he looks at what could be if there was no *Indian Act* and what looking forward might look like for a better Canada.

"Safe in Starry Arms" by Christie Lea (2020)

Review and rating by Kathryn S:



I first heard of the book "Safe in Starry Arms" by Christie Lea in the Bowen Island newspaper "The Undercurrent" (Jan. 14, 2021). I was so struck by this article (see link below) that I purchased a copy of the book. Although it is a children's picture book (written in rhyming couplets, and dealing with childhood anxiety) the book came out of the author's own struggles with anxiety Having read Thomas King's The Inconvenient Indian, a Curious Account of Native People in North America, I wasn't particularly surprised by any of the 21 Things Bob Joseph highlights and discusses. But that doesn't make it any less tragic or disturbing. The information is presented in an objective and non-judgmental way that is easy to read regardless of the fact that this is a very difficult issue with such far-ranging ramifications. I didn't find a lot of hope in Part 1 - but Bob Joseph does a good job of presenting the information and providing opportunities for gathering more information. Until I read this book, I did not know what UNDRIP was - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (adopted by the General Assembly on September 13, 2007), and I have now read the document. Part 2 is more hopeful and looks at self-government, which Bob Joseph considers one of the most important steps. He says, "In addition to self-government, other important objectives that Indigenous Peoples will pursue in the absence of the Indian Act are a return to self-determination and self-reliance." I share his belief that knowledge is the foundation for action and change. This book is a great way to start and/or continue the conversation.

There are five appendices, all of which provide further information and insight, including terminology, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action, additional reading (for both children and adults), a chronology of Indian Residential Schools (the last one closed in 1996!), and **21 Things You Can Do to Help Change the World**. I appreciated that the suggestions were doable although some, like "11. Buy food from an Indigenous food truck; eat in an Indigenous-owned restaurant.", or "15. Attend an Indigenous music festival." will have to wait for a post-COVID-19 world. Right now I can "6. Read books by Indigenous authors." and "19. Speak up when you hear someone making derogatory remarks about Indigenous Peoples."

Bob Joseph ended his Introduction with ``I hope you will join me in this quest to change the world one person at a time. I know that this book can contribute to that goal.`` Well it has for me – reconciliation cannot happen without understanding and compassion, and I invite you to read the book and join in the quest.

and panic attacks. In the article the author states "I began to understand that I was a part of everything, that we are all part of the same thing ...you can call it whatever you want --- God, universal creative force, whatever it is." ..."We all are this spirit, if you want to call it that. Like a universal spirit."

The illustrations by "Di" are delightfully detailed and feature a West Coast setting. The book could be read by any child who can read, and I am sure adults will find it equally delightful and inspiring to read - to a child or just for their own enjoyment.

A hardcover copy of the book is now in the DLUC library.

You can read the article from "The Undercurrent" here: https://www.bowenislandundercurrent.com/local-news/bowenislanders-new-kids-book-chases-away-the-monsters-of-childhoodanxiety-3265595

It's What You Scatter that Matters

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes... I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me:

"Hello Barry, how are you today?"

"H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good."

"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?"

"Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time."

"Good. Anything I can help you with?"

"No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas."

"Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr. Miller.

"No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."

"Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?"

"All I got's my prize marble here."

"Is that right? Let me see it," said Miller.

"Here 'tis. She's a dandy."

"I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?" the store owner asked.

"Not zackley but almost."

"Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble," Mr. Miller told the boy.

"Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store."

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one; each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes. Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

"Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size....they came to pay their debt. We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.

With loving gentleness, she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

The Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath. It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived!



Sharon, Ellen and Jean scatter a little kindness while getting up to a bit of mischief in the garden.

From What's Up

Ministry beyond our walls

An Easter story from Mission and Service -<u>Missionandservicestory</u> You may include your contribution to M&S with your regular financial contribution to Deer Lake United Church by clearly indicating the amount that is to be forwarded to M&S.

Moderator's Easter Message - A unique take on the Easter story after Mary Magdalene's visit to the tomb. Eavesdrop on a conversation between Mary and the disciple Peter on what she saw or didn't see. (Written by Moderator Richard Bott—and thank you to Alydia Smith for her participation. <u>Moderator's message</u>

A Sacred Pause, this Holy Week – A Pastoral Letter from Rev. S. Blair, President of Pacific Mountain Region. https://pacificmountain.ca/a-sacred-pause-this-holyweek-a-pastoral-letter-from-president-rev-s-blairodney/

News from the Dixon Transition Society (formerly called Dixon House) - Again this year they are participating in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge. All funds raised will go to support children affected by violence. For more information go to

https://mailchi.mp/2f8394c2b861/silent-auctionbidding-now-open-4701052?e=045764f583.



The Magic Bank Account

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest:

Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has Rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.

2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.

3. You may only spend It.

4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.

5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

Actually, this game is real.

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it. The *PRIZE* is *TIME*. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost. Yesterday is forever gone. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time without warning.

So, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds? They are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

Take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life – start spending!

Don't complain about growing old. Some people don't get that privilege!

Submissions

Lakeshore Lines is published four times each year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communications Committee members (preferably by email):

newsletter@dluc.ca

Next Issue: June, 2021

Submission Deadline Sunday, June 20, 2021