

# LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

## Christmas in July

I never really understood the notion of Christmas in July. A quick internet search informs me that it originates from the fact that the peak of wintertime is experienced in the southern hemisphere in July. During the coldest of months, Christmas is honoured and celebrated in various southern regions.

While we are currently experiencing the opposite of winter weather (temperatures have been slightly higher than seasonal norms for summer), it is a bit like Christmas season at Deer Lake United.

In May, the congregation voted to renovate our building with new carpet and paint, construct a new receptionist desk for our office assistant, and replace our pews with chairs in the sanctuary. After weeks of preparing, construction is set to officially begin on July 5. Just like Christmas, this renovation is not a one-day affair. So many members of our church have been working hard (COVID-safe) in packing things up, tearing things down, and letting go of long-held items that have lasted beyond their need. It has been so wonderful to enter into the church to see the progress slowly over time. We are nearly ready for that July 5 day when the crews will come and begin their work.

Work started on July 5 but of course that was only the start. The building was closed the entire month of July. Pam is away for her summer hours, and I am working solely from home. We are so lucky to be in this season of streaming so that worship on Sunday mornings won't be negatively affected nor will any meetings be unable to take place because of the gift of Zoom.

Construction is to conclude the week of August 9. Until then, it very much is a season of waiting; a season like Advent. We know that a gift is on its way and soon we will all delight in the fresh appearance of our beloved church. This is a time to celebrate that we took a leap of faith and invested in ourselves. What will the outcome be? We do not fully know. We cannot fully know. Yet in the midst of questions and uncertainty, what we have done is taken a step forward in creating a bright future for our beloved church. I hope that you will take time to celebrate that step. To

## Vision Statement

Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages that explores and expresses spirituality through:

- worship and music
- fun and fellowship
- caring and outreach
- involvement and growth

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give praise and glory for the richness of God's blessings as we ensure God's house is beautifully adorned and maintained.

But for now, we wait. For now, we hold in our hearts a special meaning of Christmas in July.

*Joseph*

## Sign of the Times

Things are changing at Deer Lake. Rumor has it that WHEN we return to the church building in September things will be a bit different. How different? Well, you'll have to wait and see. More information is coming soon. Keep an eye on *What's Up*.



Bob with just *one* of his contributions to the new building.

## Hate Has No Home Here

In response to hearing that Communities of Faith and friends have had their Pride signs stolen and some defaced, the Pacific Mountain Region has created a sign to help congregations around the region proclaim “Hate Has No Home Here”.

The sign supports a wide range of marginalised communities by displaying identifying icons along the bottom. Deer Lake is proudly displaying this sign both at the front and the back of the building as a statement of faith and advocacy.

Rev. Dave Moore of Shaughnessy Heights United was on CBC’s The Early Addition on June 15<sup>th</sup> talking about vandalism that occurred at their church. Here is the link:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/church-vandalized-pride-1.6066146>



## Governance Task Force

The Governance Task Force (GTF) has been meeting almost weekly since September to develop a new governance structure for Deer Lake United Church. To get to where we are today, we have researched, studied, consulted, discussed, debated, prayed, and laughed a lot. A preliminary concept was presented to the Board in April. The Board gave us ‘thumbs up’ to build this concept into a proposal. It is now time to share the picture with you.

So... *We are making a movie!*! Actually, it is just a video, but that is still a big deal for us. It uses a script written by all of us. Joseph is the producer and editor. We are planning a special role for Steve. Filming is in progress. Release date September. You will see it in a Town Hall meeting, and it will be posted to our YouTube site. Opportunities to join Zoom discussion groups will follow. Please watch “What’s Up” for the big announcement.

We of the GTF are excited with the way this work is coming together. We have felt God’s input and guidance. Joseph has been a big help, too! Remember that we are always keen to discuss these ideas with you.

Hoping everyone is enjoying the summer.

Ellen J. Sharon H, Trish S. Steve M, Kathy R, Linda P and Joseph



Serious GTF filming in progress

## The History of Dixon House

By Claire S

I wonder how many new members of our congregation are aware of the contribution Deer Lake United Church has made in support of the previous Life Line Society. It was later to become the Marguerite Dixon House and since then has been renamed Dixon Transitional Society.

In 1972 there was very little support for single mothers, women in crisis and the elderly living alone. Many groups such as Social Services, churches and housing workers and concerned citizens felt the need to assist in this crisis. Wenda Erickson, a psych nurse and member of the church began holding meetings in her home. The first board of Life Line began raising funds by paper drives and strawberry teas. They learned how to write and request grants. Soon this group grew, and they needed to find a new venue. Deer Lake United Church (Central) stepped in with the use of the basement for offices and at one point became a place of refuge for women in domestic violence. Wenda Erickson also housed many of these women. Mary Pinto worked with Wenda in administration.

The church also helped in a financial way. At that time the church was making changes. Three churches amalgamated into one. A difficult time but they and the congregation continued to support the Life Line Society. They managed to find a home on the south slope to rent until Marguerite Dixon and others were able to begin building a new shelter in the late 70's.

Marguerite worked for United Way in the early 80's and was able to access many resources to provide funds for building. Together with Wenda Erickson they requested grants and funds to build a safe haven for battered women and through their effort soon found they could have a house built. Many members of our church helped to contribute to this worthwhile endeavor including Harold Starnes, Margaret and Morrie Malory, Don Ross, Mary Hilliard, Bill Shanks, Dave Roberts and many others. Many in the community and church contributed furniture and household items to make this a cozy haven for those leaving domestic violence. Marguerite died before she saw the fruition of her dedicated work. The shelter named it the Marguerite Dixon House in honour of her.

After many years of providing excellent service they rebranded with a new logo, look and name calling it the Dixon Transition Society. Now it includes the Transition House, Second and Third Stage Housing, Family Counselling, Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling and the Housing Outreach program. With a dedicated team of staff and Board of Directors, Dixon Transition Society continues to give the best support for the needs of women and children and survivors of domestic violence and work toward eliminating violence against women and children.

For further information please go to the Dixon Transition House website. <https://dixonsociety.ca>

## Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

♥ DONATIONS NEEDED ♥

We are in need of donations at our Drop-in Centre (302 Columbia St, Vancouver, BC, V6A 4J1):

- Socks (we are in dire need of new socks for women!)
- Women's clothing and shoes (new or gently used, must be laundered and ready to wear)
- Toiletries: Travel size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, bars of soap, deodorant and shaving products
- Blankets

Donations can be accepted Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun between 10AM-12PM and 2PM-4PM. For more details on drop off, and our complete wishlist, visit: [www.dewc.ca/donation-faq](http://www.dewc.ca/donation-faq)

Please contact dropinsuper@dewc.ca with inquiries relating to these items. We are grateful for your support!



*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you NOT to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't feel unsure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. As we let our own Light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others." Marianne Williamson*



## Birthday Boy

In May a young lad we know celebrated a birthday. Don W turned 96! The special occasion was recognized by a parade of decorated cars circling the block



## 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: October 2021**

Submission Deadline Sunday, Sept 26, 2021

## 215

*By Sonia A*

Found in an unmarked grave  
Canada's tragic genocide  
Those beautiful children were so brave

How can we get over this and be on their side?

Flags at half-mast  
Schools a sea of orange blur  
Trying to fathom the past  
And we can all concur

This atrocity, this national blight  
While we live in freedom of choice  
They lost their language and their right

We have to strive to give them their voice.



## Christmas in July?

*By Glenn L*

Early in July of 2021 a new being became a defining character in our evolution as a progressive, must-have-everything society. It quickly changed the way we do things at our house. It has a self, a life of its own. We had heard about it before, but we didn't think it would ever become part of us. Not like indoor plumbing or central heating or electric lights, but for us it was one small leap for mankind. Our daughter, Heather, told us about it in one of our frequent Skype calls. Claudio gives her everything. Not to be outdone, I went on-line. Amazon has everything you ever dreamed of, and this was no exception. A quick decision and a few clicks on my Mac and it was delivered to my door with amazing speed.

"Randi" is a robotic vacuum cleaner which also can damp mop. I haven't had so much fun with a toy since I got my Meccano set eighty years ago! Heather can talk to hers, named "Sadi", but I believe that a guy should learn to drive with a stick-shift. Mine uses a remote control to activate it. It even has a button to send it home to recharge when you are finished. It's a good idea to remove small things from the floor or they might disappear for a few days - like slippers pushed under a dresser and left there by Randi. For a better job, it is good to move chairs, stools, boxes and rugs out of the way until Randi has finished with that area. He is very good at cleaning under beds and other furniture with legs. We affectionately call him "Handi Randi."