



Comments and Interview by Ron Long

INTRODUCTION: Harold King has initiated this electronic newsletter. Last year when he contacted a number of past presidents to consider making a donation to Canadian Foundation of Spiritual Care (CFSC), he discovered that a number of them have lost touch with their colleagues as well as with the work of CASC and CFSC. As a result, he informed the Board of the CFSC that he would put together a brief electronic newsletter as a way to keep in touch with former retired colleagues. This present newsletter is put together with the help of Glen Horst, Ron Long and Harry Ritchie. Kathy Greig has compiled an email list of retired members of CASC and if you do not want to be on the email list please notify Kathy Greig. I (Ron Long) grew up in a rural community near Snowden, Sask.

and I remember Mrs. Holiday a near-by neighbour who gathered the local news and once a month she would publish a three to four-page local news paper that could be picked up from the local post office. It reported on significant birthday, anniversary celebrations, family gatherings, farm accidents, deaths or people confined to hospital. At this time our community did not have telephone services and so the local newspaper was an important communication tool for the community almost as important as the weekly "Western Producer" farm paper. I view this electronic newsletter as a way to keep in touch with former colleagues that provided leadership to a professional spiritual care organization.



Ron Long

BRIEF UPDATE OF SOME RETIRED MEMBERS IN MANITOBA:

The following is a brief interview with Harold King:

Ron: What is your current health situation?

"When the CASC convention met in Winnipeg in April of 2014 I was on home dialysis treatment. I encountered a rare kidney auto-immune disease during the summer of 2013 which resulted in kidney dialysis treatment that fall. My quality of life was certainly affected and I had little energy to do anything. However I searched for ways to continue with some enjoyable associations and so in the spring of 2014 I invested in a motor home that enabled me to visit local camp grounds and visit some of my adult children cottages for family gatherings. I called the vehicle my Mobile Dialysis Unit because I could take my medical supplies and equipment with me. However in the fall of 2015 the auto-immune disease has affected my digestive system in such a way that my body is not able to receive nourishment from the food that I eat and as a result I have lost a considerable amount of physical strength. I was hospitalized again for a while and put on an additional



Harold king

medication which has helped the digestive system. Consequently I am regaining some strength. For example during the months of Jan. and Feb. of 2016 I was limited to four walks around the kitchen and living room of my house. During March I have gained some strength so that I can manage some family gatherings and attend my monthly Doctors appointment. I realized that the amount of strength that I will regain is limited. My wish is to be able to celebrate our family events. I am also aware that this chronic illness will eventually lead to my death. I have instructed friends as well as family members not to deny my death or give me false hope.”

Ron: “As you face your current health situation what are important issues that you have addressed?”

“In the past three or four months I have put my financial affairs in order. For example rental real estate property that Doreen and I owned has been sold and we have reinvested the money so that Doreen’s financial needs are met when I die. We also made charitable contributions to a number of institutions – including CFSC. I regard estate planning a very important part of getting my affairs in order. We also have made plans for funeral and burial wishes.”

Ron: “How would you describe the spiritual issues that you encounter as you live with a chronic terminal disease?”

“In the midst of all the losses I experience God’s love and care for me in many ways. For example, when my grand children stop in to visit or have lunch with me those are truly “Holy Moments” as we reflect on the various activities that they are in as well their educational plans. My five adult children express their care and support in many different ways and I feel richly blessed that they all live within the vicinity of Winnipeg and enjoy special family gatherings. Doreen my wife, who with the care and support that she provides makes it possible for me to manage my care at home. Then there are colleagues that visit either in person or on the phone. For example, Gordon Toombs who is in his nineties called and took a cab to visit me one night in February, and as I experience such moments I sense the presence of God and the care of the spiritual community. I must also say that there are times when I feel depressed, discouraged and angry with the limitations of life. I am also involved with a monthly spiritual care support group that consists of four other colleagues. I started the group four years ago when a friend of mine was diagnosed with inoperable cancer of the lung and I suggested to him that we form a group to reflect on the challenges of life when facing death. In the meantime, this friend has died and the group has continued on as various members in the group have experienced major losses. I have always believed in the support and wisdom of a group and I feel blessed to have a community where you can share openly about the struggles and challenges of life.”



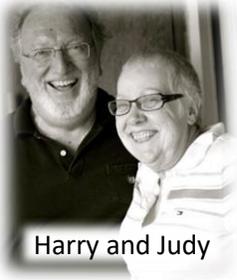
Harold, Doreen and grandkids



Gordon Toombs

Ron: “Harold, thank you for your openness.”

The following is an update on retired members of CASC:



Harry and Judy

Harry Ritchie experienced the death of his wife Judy in 2014.

Since his retirement Glen Horst has been a spiritual care advisor on the Canadian Virtual Hospice team. Recently he has co-led the CVH LivingMyCulture.ca project. Last summer Glen Horst and Ron Long did a major research project for the Interfaith Health Care Association of

Manitoba in regards to the spiritual needs of people confined to Health Care facilities in Mb. and an assessment of spiritual care resources. Currently the report is not released to the public.



Glen Horst



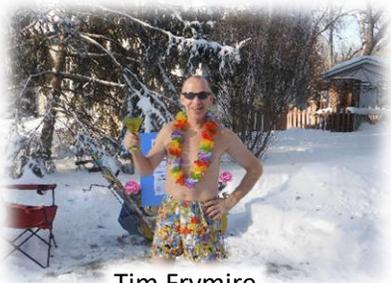
George Neufeld

George Neufeld is still regaining his strength from major surgery of the past two years and he coordinates a monthly luncheon for retired clergy and spiritual care providers where various topics are discussed.

Mary Holman retired in 2015 and her husband John died in the fall of 2015.



Mary Holman



Tim Frymire

Tim Frymire retired in Dec. 2015. He and Debbie his wife hosted a retirement party with over a hundred guests attending.

In May 2015 Orton and Jessie Anderson extended a coffee invitation to Judy and Ron Long while we were visiting in Brandon. We reflected on the various CPE programs that Orton supervised when he was Coordinator of Spiritual Care at the Brandon Mental Health Center where I did my second unit of CPE. I expressed appreciation to Orton on how CPE was an important part in my professional development as a spiritual care provider.



Orton Anderson

## CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR SPIRITUAL CARE REPORT BY BUFFY HARPER

The evolution of the Canadian Foundation for Spiritual Care/Fondation canadienne de soins spirituels (CFSC/FCSS) has been remarkable and has become a source of pride for the members of the spiritual care community.



Archie MacLachlan

Archie MacLachlan, our president, donated \$100,000 thirteen years ago, which provided the initial capital that became the Foundation. In a very short time our assets have grown to more than double that amount, \$231,000. We received another generous gift of \$50,000 this year from Harold and Doreen King, inaugurating The Harold and Doreen King Student Education Fund.



Buffy Harper



Harold and Doreen King

Archie was clear that preference would be given to applicants experiencing financial need. During the last ten years, we have disbursed funds for research projects and student bursaries totalling \$59,000. We have letters and testimonials from past recipients stating how important that money was in their professional development and how grateful they were for the support of their peers.

Up to this point the CFSC/FCSS has grown through the donations and fundraising activities of its members, The Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC). These spiritual care providers believe in the future of our profession and the need to support those who are doing research in the field and those who are learning the skills to become professionals through CPE training. More than ever the work we do is so important to Canadians living in a time of uncertainty and change.

The CFSC/FCSS is administrated by a Board of dedicated individuals representing all regions from across Canada. We continue to be closely connected to the leadership of CASC/FCSC and share mutual values, objectives and goals.

We are blessed to have Kathy Greig, Foundation Manager, as our champion, mentor and tireless supporter. If you have questions about the foundation, please contact [Kathy@spiritualcare.ca](mailto:Kathy@spiritualcare.ca) or call her at 866-442-2773.



Kathy Greig

## REPORT BY MARC DOUCET - PRESIDENT OF CASC/ACSS 2014-2016



Marc Doucet

The following is a brief report by Marc Doucet from his March 2016 newsletter:

“A book that has significant impact on me is “Getting to Maybe” by Westley, Zimmerman and Patton. The authors claim that “maybe” describes our fundamental relationship to the world. As President, my focus has not been on particular decisions made or specific changes, because in a few years all these will change again. My goal as President has been to move our Association to live into this concept of “maybe”- to discover, to realize, to claim, the possibilities and potentialities that are before us. Rather than hold on to what was, to make that bold claim that it is indeed possible—there is potential—we can do this, grow into this and become that. We are an Association whose foundation is the unwillingness to accept the status quo and our fore parents were defiant enough to leave the comfort and familiarity of their churches and move out to meet the

spiritual needs of people in institutions and community. Maybe -Just maybe, CASC/ACSS can be, and continue to be, the preeminent Spiritual Care organization in Canada, providing exemplary care, education and research.” Vancouver is hosting the CASC/ACSS Convention from April 13 – 16.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A FOLLOW UP NEWSLETTER

We are recommending that another region of CASC would consider putting together a working group of retired CASC members to work on a Newsletter for the fall of 2016. This provides the various regions of CASC an opportunity to share stories of retired members in their regions.

Ron Long