

OTHER REPORTS

The Diocesan Archivist

Please read diocesan Canon 2.6 on Archives. Do you know what is kept for your parish at the Mills Memorial Library at McMaster University in Hamilton? Let me know if you don't and want a copy.

Do you know where your parish copies (printed or digital) of completed registers for baptism, confirmation, marriage or burial are kept – safely?

Diocesan archives kept at the Cathedral include:

- All Synod Journals from 1875 to present
- All copies of Niagara Anglican from 1975 to present
- All clergy files of deceased or retired clergy
- All parish files now current or closed or amalgamated contain much history for a Parish History
- Some blue prints or drawings of past construction or additions

Copies of Diocesan archive policy of what to keep or not keep – ask for some copies.

- Do you have a parish archivist? Someone knowledgeable about the parish history
- Send me such names – very helpful.
- Bring any archival material to me at the Cathedral – list with 3 copies.

I am very grateful to Sister Marguerite Mae (now Mother Superior of the Community of the Sisters of the Church) for attending the annual Diocesan Archivists' conference in Huron College, London last October 26-27, 2018.

Very interesting reports from all dioceses present or reporting show the way Diocesan archives are done across Canada. Call me for any of these reports (I'll share). Mother Superior Marguerite Mae, who is also archivist of her Community world-wide, also gave very helpful recommendations for the future of archival work in the Diocese of Niagara.

Clergy are asked to PRINT all signatures and then sign so future copies can be read and made.

Many thanks to Murray Rathbone for assisting with Diocesan Archives.

Respectfully submitted,

The Venerable John Rathbone
Diocesan Archivist

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Greening Niagara Committee

Sing a new song unto the Lord.

Caring for creation is an important part of who we are as a faith community, *following the 5th Mark of Mission and the Baptismal vow: "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth"*

Goodbye to the Reverend Canon Bill Mous – with grateful thanks for his vision that enabled Greening Niagara to reach such heights.

Welcome to Deirdre Pike – our new Program, Social Justice and Outreach Consultant for the diocese, March 2019.

Green Parish Accreditation Program: congratulations to The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer, Stoney Creek; and the Church of Incarnation, Oakville who both attained their gold accreditations this year. Six parishes now have their Gold Accreditation.

Supported recycling: environmental efforts at Synod last year resulted in 90% diversion to Green Bins. Encouraged using local businesses for food.

Green Facilitators:

- Focus this year was on supporting their work in parishes around the diocese.
- Survey sent in June to discover needs, and how to enhance GFs work in their parishes.
- Small groups of Green Facilitators have started to meet, share ideas and collaborate.

Climate Crisis Response – Inside and Out – very successful event held September 21st at the Cathedral. Attended by 40 people from around the diocese with a heart for environmental justice. Together we prayed, participated in a climate ribbon ritual, and discussed ways that Greening Niagara can better impact effective change in regards to the Climate Crisis.

Future Directions:

- Implement ideas that arose from our event in September. Create a "New Green Song" for our diocese in acknowledgement of the Climate Crisis
- Encourage greater participation in Season of Creation and the Accreditation Process by Parishes. <http://niagaraanglican.ca/green/docs/accreditation/>

Thanks to my committee members for their continued inspiration and commitment:

Michael Edwards, The Rev. Leslie Gerlofs, Norm Newbery, Deirdre Pike, David Savage (new member), Jane Stephen and Anne Young.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Carson
Chair

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The Niagara Anglican Publication Board

The purpose of the Niagara Anglican Publication Board (NAPB) is to ensure that our diocesan newspaper, the *Niagara Anglican*, is published in line with the vision, mission, goals and aspirations of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara. Our mandate focuses on *Niagara Anglican* policy, planning and content. The Board also provides oversight and advice on the newspaper's advertisers, advertising rates and financial position, as well as on the diocesan communications strategy pertaining to print material, social media and other web-based media.

In the spirit of Psalm 96, NAPB highlights in the past year have included:

- Reporting on the historic seating of Bishop Susan Bell as the 12th diocesan bishop, and first female bishop, in Niagara. [*O sing to the Lord a new song!*]
- Reporting on the process and outcomes of the 144th Niagara Synod, held in early November 2018. [*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples!*]
- A special report on three university chaplaincies supported by Niagara Diocese. [*Say among the nations, the Lord reigns!*]
- A special three-part series on evangelism from a parish ministry perspective. [*Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.*]
- An interactive dialogue with readers on the relative merits of print and digital versions of the *Niagara Anglican*. [*Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the Lord...*]

The Board will continue to focus in the coming year on issues that directly affect the ability of the *Niagara Anglican* to remain effective and relevant for Niagara parishes and readers. The focus will include the diocesan communications strategy, the balance in content among news reports, stories, opinion pieces, art and advertising and the growing impact of technology in all aspects of communications.

In closing, we thankfully acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Hollis Hiscock as editor of *Niagara Anglican* and in particular, his contribution to excellence in communication within the diocese over the past eight years.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bradley
Chair, Niagara Anglican Publication Board

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The Diocesan Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

Our Diocese of Niagara is one of approximately 120 Sponsorship Agreement Holder organizations in Canada – organizations with a signed agreement with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to engage in the ongoing sponsorship to resettle refugees to Canada. Our diocesan refugee sponsorship initiative works with parishes of the Diocese and interested community groups to provide all of the settlement needs for refugees who we are sponsoring to resettle to Canada as newcomers.

In 2019 so far,

- we have submitted paperwork for 7 cases equaling 10 people, and are working on submissions of 4 more cases equaling 26 people before the end of this year.
- we have submitted applications adding dependent children to two applications already in process.
- we have welcomed 30 newcomers to Canadian 2019 representing 12 cases.
- we have seen the completion of 21 cases in the past year, and through the many challenges of resettlement, we are happy to say that they have all been successful.

Over the last year we have definitely seen a slowdown in the interest of sponsorship groups, compared to the surge of 2016 and 2017. With our diocesan Initiative, we have sought to maintain a workable balance of cases, and are pleased with our current caseload, in terms of being able to manage the work. This of course says nothing of the need of refugees in the world for resettlement. The need is greater than ever, and continues to grow. As we watch conflicts erupt all over the world, each new conflict produces more refugees. The current Geneva Convention does not include people displaced through natural disaster or economic disasters – so economic migrants and environmental or climate migrants are not eligible for refugee resettlement.

We continue to respond as we are able. As always, none of our resettlement work would be possible if it were not for the tireless dedication, generous and inspired compassion, time, talent and treasure of our communities that allow us to fulfil this very important ministry in our Diocese, that reaches to the other side of the world.

We continue to urge all parishes of the Diocese of Niagara to consider participating and supporting this ministry of refugee resettlement as a worthy ministry and outreach to some of God's most vulnerable and suffering children in the world. We also remind you that it is never a questions of either or, but both and – support the refugee ministry alongside Reconciliation work, local social justice and outreach work, and every other aspect of ministry. Through God's abundance of Grace, we are privileged to be able to accomplish all of this ministry, together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Scott McLeod
Coordinator, Diocesan Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

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Cathedral Place Property Management Committee

This committee oversees the annual budget for Cathedral Place, develops the short-term and long-range maintenance plans, and provides advice and support to the property manager. The committee is comprised of 12 members; 4 appointed by Cathedral Vestry or Corporation, 4 appointed by Synod Council, and 4 members from the diocesan staff.

So far in 2019, the following major work has been completed:

- retrofitting of the lighting in Myler Hall
- stripping and waxing of the Cathedral floor
- air conditioning repairs and upgrades to the boiler system.

Before the end of the year, we intend to make repairs to one of the stained glass windows. We also plan to replace the lift in the Cathedral to resolve ongoing issues of reliability.

At our next meeting in November, we plan to review the 2020 maintenance budget and short list priority items to cost out and implement throughout the year.

The committee would like to acknowledge the efforts and of our property manager, Derek Smith and thank him for his care and diligence in resolving the many issues that occur throughout the facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Terry Charters
Chair