



October 2018

Dear Friends of Five Oaks,

When we witness hate, division and destruction in our society, we wonder if there is anything we can do to help create a better world. There is. You can make a contribution to Five Oaks Centre.

You help make a better world by supporting a sacred place where people of many different backgrounds can safely live together and learn to respect their differences.

People of all ages, cultures and faiths come to Five Oaks to be together in nature – for a day, a weekend or longer. It sounds idyllic, and much of the time it is. But when we live and work together, we rub up against our differences. Setting dates for events involves respecting the religious holidays of several groups. Agendas are worked around prayer times. There are different styles of dress, ways of communicating, valuing time; varying food and drink requirements, ways of arranging accommodation, using the pool. Living with respect in creation requires careful attention to use of resources.

The Five Oaks Board recently “lived” at the Centre to continue its work towards fulfilling our vision and mission.

Listening attentively as we sort out the down-to-earth, everyday aspects of life together is a sacred act.



You help make a better world by providing opportunities for deepening understandings of our own faith and culture and others.

This summer Five Oaks hosted 71 events. Here are a few:



- **Six Nations camps** continued to fulfill their mission and ours through exciting activities on land and water.
- In this first year of the **School for Celtic Consciousness**, John Philip Newell impressed upon more than 70 participants the significance of the Celtic Christian conviction that goodness exists at the heart of all of life. If we look for the light and the good in each other and creation, the prospects for creating peaceful community becomes more hopeful.

- The **Canadian Council of Imams** met at Five Oaks, along with their families. They were inspired by the beauty of our natural and interfaith/intercultural setting.
- A **Hindu festival** gave participants an opportunity to celebrate their tradition and share it with other guests.
- Get to Know Our Neighbours Camp (Christian and Muslim), Wampum, GO and GROWE day camps offered much learning and excitement.
- **Skylight**, an interfaith festival sponsored by the United Church drew 180 people of all ages to “gather around the sky light to dream what is possible” for our world and creation through word, music, and art.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Featuring:

- This Fall, **Mary Jo Leddy**, along with Muslim Scholar, **Dr. Shabir Ally** and Elder **Renee Thomas-Hill** will be leading an event based on Mary Jo’s book, ***Why Are We Here? A Meditation on Canada*** on Nov. 12 to 14, 2018.
- **Avodah Time** – Work and Worship Experience for Youth November 9 - 11, 2018
- **NEOS** - Beyond Bowling Nov. 16 - 18, 2018
- **Men’s Spirituality Retreat 2019** February 4 - 7, 2019
- **GROWE P.A. Day Camps** November 16, 2018
January 21, 2019

To View the Full List and Details of Upcoming Programs, please go to www.fiveoaks.on.ca/RGProgram



You help make a better world by Increasing the Centre's capacity to do its faithful work. Good things are happening right now:

- The Board is pleased to announce that Michael Shewburg is now our **Managing Director**. He has done much to bring back our long time guests, invite new groups and join up with social enterprise partners.
- By the time you receive this, a new part-time **Partner/Program Animator** will be working alongside our Partners, attracting programs to Five Oaks that will support our mission and serve our constituencies.
- Guests have commented on all the small **improvements to the site**. Watch for bigger during the fall and winter to our Main Building.
- Donors of **faith bonds** made it possible for the Centre to upgrade its water delivery system. A basic and important contribution.
- Your financial support has made it possible for Five Oaks to **pay down all its debts**. Staff and Board can now move ahead without carrying that burden. Thank you!
- **And always remember! Volunteers** are essential to the operating of Five Oaks. People help with maintenance and grounds-keeping, house-keeping, office work, hosting and much more. The Centre is so grateful for such dedicated service. At the moment we are looking for volunteers with related skills for these working teams - Communications & Marketing, Fund-Raising & Donor Development and Human Resources. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to <http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca/Volunteer-With-Us>



Please help create a better world by giving to the mission of Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre. There is no more important time than now. With the support of our donors, Five Oaks has accomplished a great deal over this past year. We are so grateful and want to do more. Be assured that your donation goes towards fulfilling **our vision of being a sacred place where peoples of all faiths as well as spiritual seekers can gather in community to live, work, learn, pray, play, heal and act for justice.**

Whether you choose to match your previous gift, increase it, make a new gift or better yet, start a monthly gift, **please take the time to make your gift now.** You might also want to consider purchasing a faith bond on your own, with a group of friends or through your church or organization.

Five Oaks is always deeply grateful for your support and in this season of Thanksgiving we are especially so.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Stewart, Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors

*We invite you to support Five Oaks' vision and mission
in the way easiest for you.*

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

- I wish to be added to the Five Oaks Newsletter

DONATE ONLINE www.fiveoaks.on.ca/donations (immediately receive an e-receipt)

DONATE BY PHONE at 519-442-3212, Mon-Fri, 9am-4:30pm, VISA or MasterCard

MY SINGLE GIFT

I wish to make a single gift at the following level:

- \$50 \$300
 \$150 \$500
 \$200 Other: \$ _____

My cheque is enclosed (Payable to: *Five Oaks Centre*)

OR

Please charge my VISA MASTERCARD

Card #: _____

Expiry (mm/yyyy): _____ CSC # (3 digit code): _____

Signature: _____

MY MONTHLY GIFT

I wish to join the monthly giving plan,

OR increase the amount of my giving to the following level:

- \$10 per month \$250 per month
 \$50 per month Other: \$ _____
 \$100 per month

Please debit my account each month. My cheque marked VOID is enclosed.

Signature: _____

FAITH BONDS

- I want to know more about Faith Bonds

