

# Take Five with Five Oaks

May 2011 Edition

## Work Camp

From washing windows to cleaning up our labyrinth and gardening; volunteers helped to spruce up Five Oaks. In the last week of April, a dozen people gathered for the annual work camp.

In the evening we enjoyed some time with John Buttars and had a chance to watch a movie. Richard, our host, was engaging and thoughtful throughout the week. He even created a work week song for us! Tom was encouraging as we went about our tasks, always with some laughs along the way.

It was lovely gathering with people from different places. As we always do at Five Oaks, we ate often and enjoyed lots of time for fellowship. Thanks to the staff for their wonderful hospitality!

Personally, it was a time to step back from everyday life and focus on other work. I always love being at this sacred space. One evening, a few of us went down to watch the water. While a friend explored nature, finding a beaver and other creatures, I watched the gentle flow of the river and the sunset sky. What a sacred place indeed!

- Miriam Spies

Work Camp



Our Jenny



Raccoon Family



## Celebrating Jenny

For many, Jenny Rypma is the face, or rather the voice, of Five Oaks. When you call, Jenny is often the person who answers the phone. Recently staff held a "Jenny Appreciation Day", honouring her Dutch heritage.

Jenny has been the registrar for over 13 years. If you'd told her all those years ago that she would still be here, she wouldn't have believed you. What has kept her in love with this work? "It has to be the people," she says. "I meet such an interesting array of people, each with a story to tell."

Jenny is an avid walker. Many lunch hours she can be seen, usually with Marilyn, trekking along Bethel Road out to the mailbox at the highway. She also enjoys biking and travelling – this winter she visited Southeast Asia. She is particularly proud of her "4 gorgeous grandchildren".

So that's a bit of Jenny's own story, the person attached to the friendly voice!

## Raccoon Family Invade Summer Centre

An innocent looking family took up residence inside the Summer Centre at Five Oaks during the winter. They made a deposit of several pounds of dung, but left before paying the full rent. Their skillful, and sharp teeth, chewed through electrical wire, wall boards and roof rafters. After being served an eviction notice by maintenance staff Tom and Greg, they scurried away in the dark of night. They provided no forwarding address.

The raccoon's illegal housing situation at Five Oaks, while providing an education for Tom and Greg in raccoon waste removal, nonetheless revealed they are pesky neighbours. They are not welcome to return and are banned from rental accommodations. Beware to all.

The family was last seen heading for the Grand River, all were wearing bandit masks. They have a penchant for stealing food and charming naive people. The raccoon children too are scoundrels and not to be trusted.

**Please give to the Summer Centre upgrade fund to fix up and restore it back from raccoon lodgings to human habitation.**

## Words to Ponder

"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end"

– Scott Adams

## Children, Youth and Family Program Update

With summer just around the corner the CYFM office is buzzing with excitement. We are getting ready for the 2011 Summer Day Camp season. The theme this year is "Turn the World Upside Down." We are looking forward to crafts, games, swimming, songs and more. Please visit the website for more information [www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)

## Adult Program Update

In anticipation of the programs that Lauren Artress will lead in October we are making preparations to create a canvas labyrinth. This indoor labyrinth will enable us to offer year-round and ongoing labyrinth retreats and workshops. The first step in making this little dream a reality is for us to raise enough funds by June to purchase the canvas and paint - approximately \$600. We hope to paint the labyrinth pattern onto the canvas on August 8-10, 2011. If you are interested in helping with this project then please contact Jenny ([registrar@fiveoaks.on.ca](mailto:registrar@fiveoaks.on.ca)) to be put on the list.

## Upcoming Programs

### Adult

- Day Away, June 1, July 6, August 3, Cost: \$45
- Moving Word, Written Word, June 6, 7-9:30pm, Cost: \$25
- Labyrinth Solstice Walk: The Way of Sound, June 21, 7-9:30, Cost: \$25

### Children, Youth, Families

- Down and Dirty Youth Forum, May 27-29, Cost: \$80
- Day Camp Launch, June 12, 5-7:30, Cost: \$5 per person, \$25 max per family