

THE Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ELORA & FERGUS UNITARIAN CHURCH
MAY – JUNE 2007

THERE IS A TIME TO...

For a change I am quoting from the Bible one of my favourite passages in this collection of stories: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

"A Time for Everything... There is an appointed time for everything.

A time to give birth, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted.

A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to tear down, and a time to build up.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing.

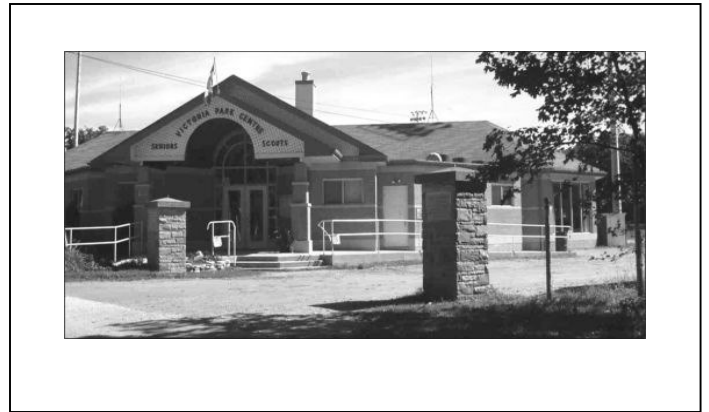
A time to search, and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep, and a time to throw away.

A time to tear apart, and a time to sew together; A time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate; A time for war, and a time for peace."

What great wisdom.

Our group has been through many, if not all, of these "times"....



For me it is now time to say goodbye as president, however I will still be around and involved either in committees, in the POD or as part of a new adventure – lay chaplaincy. I like this group in its struggles, but also in its great achievements. I want to be part of it, as it is a group of people with dreams, good intentions and hope.

My thanks to all of you, for giving me the opportunity to be part of leadership, to grow and learn so much. I feel so enriched by getting to know you all. I can ensure you that Elora-Fergus is a name on the horizon of the Canadian Unitarian Council and other congregations admire our resilience, spunk and spark.

The potential is great and dare to realize the dreams that seem impossible.

-- Ellen Papenburg



A BRIEF HISTORY OF POD

I've been giving some thought lately about how our pod system has come into existence and "evolved" to where it is today. Back in the day Sandy Hale was charged with the task of organising volunteers on a weekly basis to provide services necessary to the next week's service.

I remember well the clipboard with pen attached by string. I was unaware of how difficult it may or may not have been for him to secure volunteers that way. Eventually Sandy asked me to assume that role in his stead. I agreed and was provided with the clipboard and a diskette of info for the computer that I didn't have.

I remember coursing through the coffee hour, clipboard in hand, fishing for volunteers, and parting the crowd like Moses parting the Red Sea. It was a system that kinda worked.....sorta.

It was Marnie, who then brought to our attention a system that had been working well in Waterloo. Called the "pod" system, and bringing to mind images of whale families working together, it promised a seamless flow of willing helping hands. A definite improvement.

All members participate with the exception of those who inform me that they wish to be excluded, and "friends" are also well represented. As a result each pod member is "on pod" only once each five weeks of our church year.

Do you remember when we did the dishes downstairs? When we had to haul our gear from the building down the street? We certainly have enjoyed improvements. There came a time when Chris saw no point in us hauling more boxes than necessary up and down the stairs and took it upon herself to organise in a more efficient way our supplies into fewer boxes and less weight. Another improvement realised.

Problematic at one time was the handling of the keys. Prior to a great suggestion by Ellen, the location of the keys was often a mystery. Occasionally they would be very difficult to locate, sometimes the topic of frenzied early Sunday morning phone calls. Ellen's brilliantly simple solution was to have one person specifically be charged with monitoring the whereabouts of the often errant keys. Another improvement realised.

What is ahead in the evolution of the pod system? I sense that with the implementation of each new great idea it is inching toward greater efficiency. Involvement in our pod system, contributing toward a laudable goal heightens my sense of being in community. One day I shall be displaced as pod organiser.

Until then, my statement of faith....."I believe in Pod."

-- Dave Steuernol



OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY PULLS TOGETHER

Isn't it great to see Louisa Kuitert out and about again and the colour back in her cheeks. After serious surgery in late January and a long recovery, Louisa is back on her feet -- but not without the help of the whole Unitarian congregation.

From the day of Louisa's surgery we all pitched in, doing what each of us could – looking after the kids, preparing meals, doing house chores and getting the kids to all their activities. Louisa and Nardo have expressed their gratitude for all the support they have received.

We can all be proud for helping them in their time of need. Thanks to everyone!

-- Anna Contini and Kelsye Coulter





LAY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE REPORT

A Lay Chaplaincy Committee was established to study the implications, responsibilities and procedures for the establishment of chaplaincy services in our church.

With the agreement of the members, Christine Nye and Leigh Brownhill of the committee will send in an application to the Canadian Unitarian Council requesting that Ellen Papenburg's name be submitted as a lay chaplain of the Elora Fergus Unitarian Church. This position is tenable for a period of six years, at which time the position can be reviewed and renewed as needed.

Christine and Leigh have agreed to serve as the church's representatives on a permanent lay chaplaincy committee to evaluate the lay chaplain's service and report annually to the church members.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

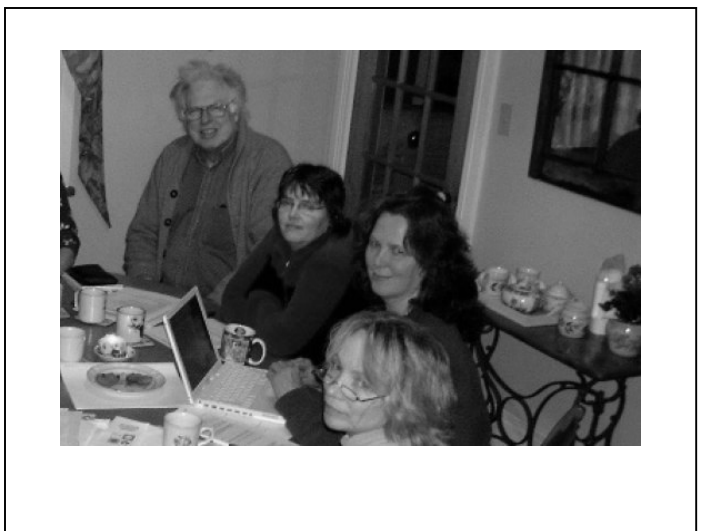
I would like to remind members who pledged for 2007 that regular payments of pledges are very necessary for the smooth operations of the church (post dated cheques work very well)

With several members moving away attendances have been down recently and this is reflected in the monthly donations, which are markedly down.

At this point in time I predict a deficit budget for 2007 unless we attract some new members/friends. I urge you to invite your friends, work colleagues and/or neighbours to one of our services.

We have so much to offer and all are welcome.

-- *Chris Nye*



AGM WELL ATTENDED

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on April 22, 2007 after a short service where Ellen shared with us the importance of Rites of Passage. A discussion about Croning and Saging followed the short service where the importance of these changes in our lives was examined.

Perhaps the prolific turnout was due to the ice cream that was brought as promised by Ineke Booy. Many thanks Ineke!

During the service a candle was lit in celebration of Earth Day and while the children collected garbage on the grounds of the Victoria Park Seniors' Centre the adults held a very interesting and productive meeting.

It was decided that we would have at least one lay chaplain and a possibility of more to follow as some members expressed interest in the program. There is much support in other congregations in the area for lay chaplains but it would be nice for us to have help right here in our community as well.

Since Ellen Papenburg has finished the Lay Chaplaincy training basics training, the membership voted that her name be put forward to the CUC as our Lay Chaplain. Congratulations Ellen!

Having a Lay Chaplain in our congregation means that we are now able to hold our own Rites of Passage instead of sending requests on to other congregations that have lay chaplains or ministers. It will also allow us to reach out to the community and attract more members to our small group.

--Catharina Walhout



CUC SNIPITS

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

018-1179A King Street West, Toronto ON M6K 3C5

Toll-free: 1-888-568-5723 email: info@cuc.ca www.cuc.ca

CUC VIDEOS ON THE WEB

Our two CUC videos - excellent for newcomers - can now be found through links at: <http://www.cuc.ca/newcomers/>

JOIN TEAM CUC

There are several Volunteer Opportunities available including Poetry Editor for the Canadian Unitarian newsletter and Regional Librarian for Central & Eastern http://cuc.ca/whos_who/volunteer_opportunities.htm

HISTORICAL DATES

2008 will mark the 200th anniversary of the death of Theophilus Lindsay. Lindsey's chief work is An Historical View of the State of the Unitarian Doctrine and Worship from the Reformation to our own Times (1783).

PHOTO HUNT

We searching for photographs for a variety of pamphlets, publications and website. If you have high-resolution photos (1MB or larger) illustrating congregational life, please do share with us. Send to mary@cuc.ca.

We are especially looking for photos of lay chaplaincy services and images that symbolize rites of passages including wedding, child dedications and memorial services.





Art Brewer

WELCOMING CONGREGATION PROGRAM and why it is important

Art Brewer has been a member of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto since 1993. He is an adult educator by profession and has led workshops for dozens of UU congregations and with the CUC Board and staff on topics as varied as leadership, fundraising, member integration, governance models and mission statements. He has also served as a facilitator at the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership School (CUUL School) in 2004 and 2006.

As Chair of the CUC's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group, Art describes his work to promote the Welcoming Congregation program as his "personal ministry" and is proud to point out that 88% of Canadian UUs belong to congregations, which have been (or are in process to be) certified as Welcoming Congregations.

Art will be speaking to us on June 3, 2007 on the topic of the Welcoming Congregation program. His sermon tells his personal story as a gay man who lived in the closet until age 50 and addresses reasons for and benefits of doing the Welcoming Congregation program

DINNERS FOR EIGHT

The Dinners for 8 will be held on Sat. May 26th. We haven't arrived at a theme yet, but we would like to try bringing the vegetarians and omnivores together this time, just for the change.

I think we have enough hosts now but it depends on the turnout of course, so let me know as soon as you can if you'd like to participate.

For those of you who have never attended, they're a lot of fun and a great way to get to know the other church members better. If you're concerned about what to do with the kids, not to worry; kids are welcome at Diane's (who is hosting) and we might even be able to get one of the older kids to babysit, just let me know.

Also, there is nothing magical about the number 8; if you would like to come by yourself, that is never a problem, there's always room for one more (or one less).

So mark your calendars and either contact me at derbcanada@yahoo.ca, or by phone at 846-9079 or sign the sheet at church. Hope to see you.

-- Deborah Forman

SPINACH BALLS

This seemed like a real Unitarian type recipe; it makes a great snack. I like to dip them in salsa but they're good on their own as well.

2 boxes frozen spinach
1/2 lb. feta cheese, crumbled
(I used 200 g. bag of grated and it was fine)
1/2 med. onion, minced
2 - 3 cloves garlic
white pepper (black will do)
lots of basil (dried is fine)
1 1/2 Tb. olive oil
1 large carrot, grated (optional)
2 eggs
1/3 cup seasoned bread crumbs (unseasoned is fine too)*

Preheat oven to 350. cook spinach according to pkg.; drain well and put in bowl.

Add everything else. Mix well using your hands. Shape into balls the size of a golf ball or larger. Put on a lightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 30 mins. (they don't spread, so you can get them all on). Let cool on pan 10 mins. before serving.

*For gluten free diets, you could probably substitute the bread crumbs with crushed rice krispies.

-- Deborah Forman

UNICAMP THIS SUMMER

HIKING AT UNICAMP

Friday, June 22nd to Sunday, June 24th

Choose from two hikes of different lengths or choose the less-strenuous nature walk. Packed lunches available. Janice Canning offers expert insight into Unicamp's nature.

Bring: hiking boots, bug stuff, sunscreen, water bottle, backpack and rain gear (just in case!)

Info: Orval White 416-438-4272 or owhite@pathcom.com.

ADULT PLAY

Friday, June 22nd to Sunday, June 24th

Melanie Knapp, University of Waterloo graduate invites you to enjoy an adult play weekend with games, drama and paint. We will follow the song of our hearts as we let loose the imagination in positive directions.

UU CONGREGATIONAL PICNICS

Saturday, June 23rd

Come and enjoy the wild flowers, birds and trees. Swim in the pond. Hot and cold drinks are provided. Camp tours. The office is open for questions and registrations. Day passes are free to groups this weekend.

FUN AND FREE TIME WEEK 1

Sunday, June 24th to Friday, June 29th

A great time to get your whole family out to Unicamp and have fun. Relax, play, swim, hike, enjoy campfires, explore the caves or walk the Labyrinth. Whatever you do, it's going to be a grand old time so bring your kids, Dad, Mom, Grandpa, Grandma, Grandkids, brothers, sisters, other Family and Friends for a wonderful time for all.

UU CHURCH SCHOOL GROUPS

Sunday, June 24th to Friday, June 29th

This is an opportunity for RE leaders to bring their kids to camp for a special outdoor experience in a safe environment. You plan the program we provide the wonderful site! Meals can be booked. Note: Minimal staff support available until July 8th. Special Group Rates for RE groups of 6 or more.

SACRED SOUND WEEKEND

Friday, June 29th to Sunday, July 1st

Join sound healer, author and musician Dennis Gaumont for a weekend of toning and chanting with singing crystal bowls and drumming (drums provided or bring your own). Learn the ancient art of 'overtone singing'. Experience the transformational power of sound. Allow it to heal, to open up your heart and to attract abundance into your life. Learn about Divine Energy, the Law of Attraction and the changes that are currently affecting life on earth.

OPEN HOUSE DAY

Saturday, June 30th

Day passes are free today. Bring a picnic and enjoy a great day. Free camp tours and refreshments.

GREEN ENERGY AND NATURE WEEKEND

Friday, June 29th to Monday, July 2nd

Get a head start on the ways of the future with long time Unicamper, David Nixon who is the Renewable Energy Educator at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. Various technologies will be covered with their impact on you and the environment, with examples of how these technologies could be used especially around Unicamp. You will also be able to participate in the installation of a solar water heating system for Unicamp. There will be time to enjoy all aspects of Unicamp.

<http://www.unicampofontario.ca/>

RADICAL GRATITUDE

Friday, June 29th to Monday, July 2nd

This long-weekend program will explore what author Mary Jo Letty describes as the 'inbetween space where the inner and outer worlds meet and touch and encompass each other'. Our tools of exploration will include yoga, Yoga Meets Dance(tm), art and meditation. Tap into the creative energy of the universe by practicing deep awareness and radical gratitude. Jill Davey is returning for her 5th year. She is a certified yoga and Yoga Meets Dance(tm) instructor and a member of the Fergus/Elora UU.

THE LABYRINTH AS A JOURNEY

Friday, June 29th to Monday, July 2nd

Walking a labyrinth has been compared to walking our path in life and to the archetypal quest found in myth and folklore the world over. What do we find? Do we ever 'arrive'? What do we return home with? In this experiential workshop we'll share our reflections, bringing UU interpretations and perspectives to the topic. The content will be different from 2006 and open to all including those who have experience with labyrinths and those who don't.

COFFEE HOUSE AND TALENT SHOW

Sunday, July 1st

Join us Sunday July 1st at 7:30 p.m. for a Talent Show and Coffee House, featuring Dennis Gaumont, musician, lecturer and author, who is facilitating the Sacred Sound workshop this weekend. Come and share your talents or join us for light refreshments and support others while they entertain you. Contact Esther Gieringer at UnicampofOntario@hotmail.com if you have a talent you would like to share.

RELAX IN GOOD COMPANY

Sunday, July 1st to Friday, July 6th

Be ye old or new, come, and enjoy Unicamp in July, joining others in easy walks, talks, and side trips, ie. the theatre. Plan your week together and do everything or nothing in time-honoured Unicamp fashion. Bring games, cards, stories, poems and favourite videos. Contact Nancy if you have an idea or activity to share 416-778-1685 or nyoung68@sympatico.ca.

MORE UNICAMP THIS SUMMER...

FUN AND FREE TIME WEEK 2

Sunday, July 1st to Friday, July 6th

Come to Unicamp in the lazy days of July. Experience a week of fun and free time hiking, swimming, campfires, etc. A great time to visit Unicamp before Children's camps start.

SINGLES WEEK

Sunday, July 1st to Friday, July 6th

Come to Unicamp for quiet introspection, walk the labyrinth, hike the trails and enjoy the solitude of Unicamp. No organized program. No program fee.

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND 1

Friday, July 6th to Sunday, July 8th

Come for a weekend of Family Fun: campfires, hikes, cave tours, Saturday night dance, and more. We will provide 2.5 hours of children's activities from 9:30 to noon on Saturday for 3 - 12 year olds while parents relax. Join our Friday evening drum circle around the campfire.

THEME WEEKEND: PORTRAIT SKETCHING

Friday, July 6th to Sunday, July 8th

Avril Siddle will be on hand to help facilitate this weekend and to provide some instruction on portraiture. Bring your sketchpads. Program Fee: \$10 per child

THEME WEEKEND: THE NIA TECHNIQUE

Friday, July 6th to Sunday, July 8th

A Dance Weekend. Move the body, clear the mind, ignite the spirit! This workshop will explore the joy of movement and the language of the body through Nia. Combining movements and concepts from yoga, tai chi, the martial arts, various dance forms and integrative body therapies, Nia encourages inner exploration and creativity. Discover self-healing through mindfulness, movement and meditation. No experience is necessary. Just come ready to move, groove and rejuvenate. Wendy Roman is a certified Nia blue belt instructor who brings warmth and energy to her classes and workshops. Program fee: \$50.00 Info: 519-793-4687, www.nianow.com rhythmwood@amtelecom.net

EXPRESSIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Friday, July 6th to Sunday, July 8th

Suzanne Borduas returns for a 4th year at Unicamp with a new program focused on writing and poetry. Suzanne is a UU and art therapist. Info: 905-727-4908. Program fee: \$50. Minimum 6 participants.

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Sunday, July 8th to Saturday, July 28th

The CIT Leadership Program a 3 week program by application only (must be age 14, entering Grade 9 or older). CIT's can observe and participate in activities with experienced counsellors. Emphasis is on learning to be a responsible leader, which involves hard work as well as fun. Program Fee: \$600 + 3 percent tax.

KIDS CAMP

The Children's Camp theme this year will be 'Adventures Through Time'. The children will explore the world of the past through ancient culture week, medieval times week and pioneer week. Children will learn about the crafts, games and traditions of the past as well as enjoying traditional Unicamp favourites.

These three weeks are for children ages 7 to 13 and include a variety of fun activities geared just for them, including dress up, nature, music, crafts, sports and make believe. Enjoy tie dying, capture the flag, talent shows, campfires, dances, swimming, cave tours and many other exciting activities.

Lifeguards and a trained health care professional will be on staff each week. The ratio of counsellors to campers is 5 to 1. For those registered, an information package will be mailed early in May.

Cost \$400 per child per week plus 3 percent tax. 10 percent discount if payment is received by March 15th, 2007. 5 percent discount for those registering for a second and/or third week and a 10 percent discount for the 3rd and subsequent child from the same family.

Dates:

Camp 1: Sunday, July 8 to Saturday, July 14 (traditionally the week for younger campers to come to Unicamp)

Camp 2: Sunday, July 15 to Saturday, July 21

Camp 3: Sunday, July 22 to Saturday, July 28

We hold a talent show after lunch on Saturday at the end of each camp. Parents won't want to miss this so come early and enjoy the show. Bring your bathing suit and enjoy a swim.

For those children staying for more than one week we will provide free childcare on Saturday night. Parents may camp Saturday night at the usual Unicamp rates. Children not staying for the next week may stay Saturday night with their parents.

Please note: During children's camps access to camp is limited to children in program, their parents on Saturday evening and Sunday morning and Seasonal Campers. Meals are available to program participants only.

Swimwear is required on both beaches at all times during the 3 weeks of children's camp and there will be no Saturday night dance.

Camperships: Financial assistance is available. Please contact Unicamp's Administrative Manager for information.

For information contact Unicamp at 519-822-6353 (Oct to June) or 519-925-6432 (June to October)



WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN MAY & JUNE 2007

All services begin at 10:00 a.m.

May 6 OUR HETEROSEXUAL SOCIETY

"Is true Equality possible in a Heterosexual Society?" Examining the assumptions on which our society's written and unwritten rules are based. Are problems such as "the continuous war between the sexes" and "heterosexism" avoidable? Can mind-sets be changed in order for our society to become truly inclusive?

Speaker: Ineke Booy

Service Leader: Catharina Walhout

May 13 SMALL TOWN BOYS ABROAD Reflections on the Canada World Youth Experience

David Fischer and Josh Taylor talk about and compare their exchange experiences in South Africa and Honduras. Josh worked at an agricultural AGO and Dave worked with street kids in South Africa.

Speakers: David Fischer and Josh Taylor

Service Leaders: Toni Ellis and Nancy Fischer

May 20 SO I'M OLD, SO WHAT!

A friend of mine, who is 76 and still full blast volunteering for all kinds of activities, told me: "Nowadays 50 is like the new 30". Is that true or is it just a matter of appearances and perception? Perhaps it's wishful thinking? Should we celebrate becoming older or hide under a rock and let it all go by? Ignore or stand still at the moment and commemorate?

Becoming 40, 50 or any milestone after, is a mark of gained experience, perhaps wisdom, and the freedom to allow silliness into our lives as well. Looking back on past years and peeking ahead at what lies in front of us, expectations included, some members of this congregation will receive and partake in a congregational "Saging and Croning" ceremony. If you just recently turned 50, 60, or even 40 and you would like to be included please contact Ellen. It will be a morning full of memories, fun, and meaning.

Speakers: Ellen and the Crones and Sages

Service Leader: Ellen Papenburg.

May 27 DREAM INTERPRETATION, OUR WAY OF THINKING

Del Ashkewe, a Spirit Man from the Pottawatomi tribe of the Three Fires Confederacy is our speaker. He is also a member of the Bear Clan, who are medicine and warrior teachers and defenders and protectors of the people. Del is also from the Cape Croker Indian Reserve - Neyaashiinigmiing. Del will talk about Dream Interpretation, which is based on the Creation of the Universe.

Del will explain the native spiritual way of thinking about our existence. We will be sitting in a circle and if the weather permits we will be outside partaking in smudging and sweetgrass ceremony

Speaker: Del Ashkewe

Service Leader: Ellen Papenburg

Jun 3 WELCOMING CONGREGATION PROGRAM and why it is important

My sermon tells my personal story as a gay man who lived in the closet until age 50, addresses reasons for and benefits of doing the Welcoming Congregation program, and addresses the three most common questions about the program:

* Aren't we already welcoming?

* Don't we welcome everyone?

* Why single out BGLT persons?

Speaker: Art Brewer

Service Leader: Dwight Pile

Jun 10 FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND WHY WE SERVE IT

Alternative trade goes far beyond charity. Instead of making one-time donations that provide temporary assistance consumers create a stream of economic assistance by buying alternative-trade products when they shop. They use their dollars to vote for fair trade. Rather than making a donation to charity after the company's costs are covered after the sale is made and after profits are secured. ATO's give up-front in the form of premium prices for farmers' crops. Over time, the premiums pay farmers up to twice what they would have received in the open market. And that's the difference alternative trade makes.

Speaker: Bill Barrett

Service Leader: Jim Sannes

Jun 17 DEATH, LIFE AND OUR ATTITUDE TO CHANGE

(Father's Day Service and Sunday Pot Luck Picnic) Understanding and facing our own mortality has an effect on the quality and balance with which we live our lives. Personal resiliency and our attitude to change are also important factors. Using examples from her own experience June will give her personal perspectives.

Speaker: June Gilbertson

NOTE:

The service, picnic/potluck lunch will be held in the backyard of Kerry Boyle and Kevin Harrigan, 19th Line, #140, Fergus. Phone: 519 843-3130 Directions: Go North from Fergus on Hwy 6 (toward Arthur) and at the Ultramar Gas Station take a left on 19. Kerry and Kevin's house is on the right (North) side of the road.