



Spring 2016

Remembering Ron Evans

The following is an excerpt of the eulogy given by Tammi Kitching at Ron's memorial service. For the full story along with the thoughts added by Ron's family and Denise Haskett, please visit our blog <https://larchevancouver.wordpress.com/>

I first met Ron in September 1997 when I moved out to L'Arche Greater Vancouver from L'Arche Sudbury.

Ron and I spent many days together with our friends in the Emmaus Centre. He would often walk up from Emily House, with Bill Collins and Alfie McGuirk – and we could usually hear Ron coming long before we saw him – as he would be excitedly expressing himself and pointing out things of importance to Alfie, Bill, and whoever else he met along the way.

Ron helped to make the Emmaus day program a vibrant place with his **eagerness to participate** in anything that was going on. Ron was not a man who was going to be left out...whenever we asked who wanted to be a part of whatever was happening – he was the first to loudly declare “Ma!” and he would get up from where he was sitting and start moving to where he thought the action would be. In 1999 Ron, Bill and Arthur moved to Creation House where they were welcomed by Craig. I left the Emmaus Centre to be part of Creation House team. It was such a gift for me to be a part of this home. I'd been with “the guys” in the Emmaus Centre, and it was nice to get



to know each other in a new way. These were such life giving years for me and I ended up remaining in Creation House with this remarkably loving group of people until 2007. For these life shaping and love filled years, I am truly grateful!

This move to Creation House together also meant the gift of getting to know Ron's beautiful family – who loved and cared for Ron deeply and welcomed all of us in Creation House in to their lives with such generous warmth. As I got to know Ron's family over the years, it became more apparent to me why Ron **radiated so much love**...that he had been so blessed with such a **loving and caring family**.

Ron loved to walk and point things out. At a younger age Ron had lost his sight and then had his sight returned through corneal transplants, so with his renewed sight, he noticed everything! I wore dangly earrings because Ron liked them....he would reach out and gently touch my earrings and make them swing.

After supper, during prayer time he would let the full weight of his big soft hands down on his friends sitting beside him....only lifting his hands to point at each person around the table as **he prayed for them** – and to point heavenward as he prayed for his Mom and Dad. He would then wait patiently while we named his family members and would nod his head and say “Ba” for yes as we named each person who was in his heart....and only **after we'd named everyone he was thinking about, would he say his “Amen”**.



Continued Page 2

Our Mission is to:

Make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, while being faithful to the core values of our founding story.

Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.

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From Denise's Desk:



This spring L'Arche will celebrate our 42nd Anniversary! On occasion it's important to look back at where we've been – particularly as we plan for the future. In January we called a special meeting of the L'Arche community and talked about where our journey had taken us, who had been on that journey, and how L'Arche had changed and grown along the way since 1974.

We looked at pictures of the community history and added our photos to a 'journey map'. There was laughter, storytelling, and quiet moments. It was like a family reunion where everyone is part of the story.

Once that had settled in our hearts we got together again to talk about where God might be leading us now. What new expressions

of mission are we being called to? What opportunities are at our doorstep? What gifts do we have to bring to the wider community? Again, everyone took part and we dreamed of what might be possible, keeping at the center our mission and core values. There was much thoughtfulness, energy and imagination in the ideas that emerged. The next step is to gather these ideas and work together to move our dreams into reality. I look forward to sharing the results of our work later this year.

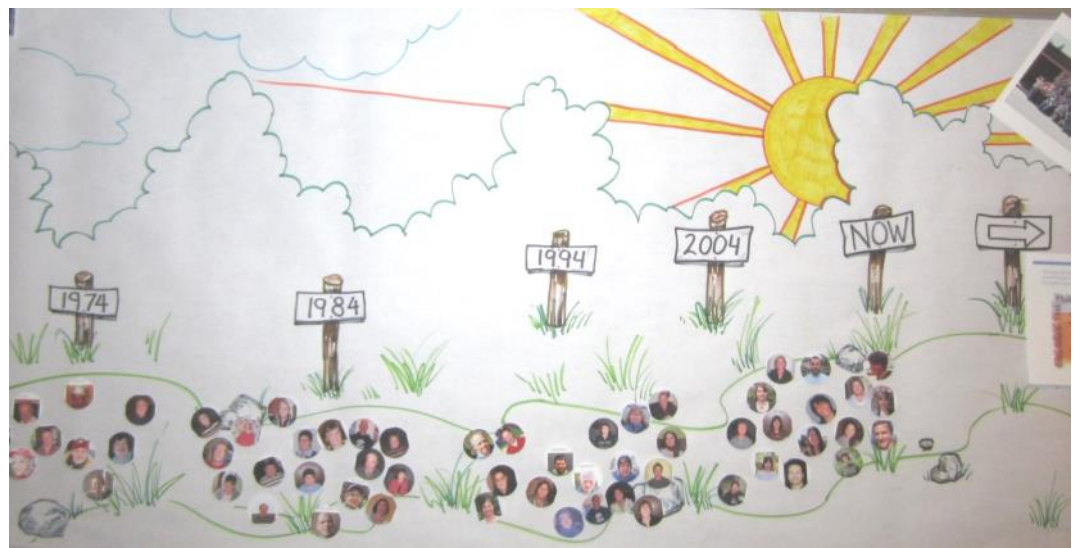
Even though there will continue to be change in our journey, the mission of L'Arche remains the same and the people who come to us will continue to add their best to our story. We are truly blessed to be on this journey together.

Denise Hookett

Community Leader / Executive Director

Our Journey Map

When did your journey with L'Arche begin?



Remembering Ron Continued

Ron expanded my musical horizons in a big way! He especially loved country music and gospel music and he loved to sing along while tapping his toes. We all learned the songs that Ron loved as he invited us into his enjoyable world of music. Sometimes we'd think Ron was sleeping and would look over and see his throat expanding as he was quietly singing with his eyes closed – letting the music wash over him.

Ron had an exuberant joy! He loved to laugh and to make others laugh with his outlandish collection of hats, sunglasses and Hawaiian shirts. He was a good man for a belly laugh.

As rowdy as Ron could be at times, he also had a very quiet, calming presence. I witnessed so many assistants whose hearts were transformed through their relationship with Ron. **He called others into relationships of simply being together.**

Even in these later years when life was much more difficult for Ron

and he wasn't as vibrant and active as he'd been in his younger years, he drew people to him. **Ron's life was a real presence of God's love in the world.**

After Christmas Ron moved into Palliative Care where he continued to be surrounded by the love of his family and friends. On January 3rd when we were with Ron and the signs became clearer that he was preparing to leave us, we surrounded his bed and sang to him. Scott picked up the guitar and we sang "You are My Sunshine" and then a quiet version of "Sweet Home Alabama". As we sang the closing lines of the song "Lord I'm Coming Home to You", Ron peacefully took his last breath.

I give thanks that, for his whole life, Ron knew how precious and loved he was. **His life was a gift for the world.** The world was a better place because of Richard James Ronald Evans' life and we are better people because we've been privileged to love Ron and to be loved by him.



2016 Business Lunch and Open House

On January 15 L'Arche Greater Vancouver was pleased to welcome friends from the business community to thank them for the support they have given L'Arche. The following businesses were named "Corporate Ark Builders" for their extraordinary assistance in keeping our ark afloat.

Canada Life: Over the last 4 years Canada Life has invited L'Arche to be one of the charities benefiting from their Annual Charity Softball tournament. It's because of their support that we have three new vehicles in our parking lot. A fourth is about to be purchased. We are grateful for the many opportunities we have been given as a result of this tournament.



Greater Vancouver Community Credit Union: When the GVCCU turned 75 they decided to celebrate by giving away \$75,000 to six local charities, one of which was L'Arche. We were invited to their anniversary celebration and learned more about his historic organization. Thank you for honouring us in this way.



Digitally Hip: Digitally Hip provides wonderful IT support here at L'Arche. They do so with equally wonderful generosity. Every invoice we pay comes back to us as a donation. We are grateful to Digitally Hip for keeping us "connected" with their expertise, friendship and support for the last 16 years!



Gateway Casinos and Entertainment Ltd: In mid 2014 we had a visit from Jeff Lee who wanted to do something more than writing a cheque for a non-profit. Over the next year Gateway's help resulted in a number of energy efficient projects that included lighting in our main building, a new hot water tank and landscaping. Then they also wrote a cheque and got some of their friends to do the same.



Vancity South Burnaby Community Branch: The people at this branch regularly help us share our message and gain new contacts. In late 2015 L'Arche was invited to a special event where we won a grant for our Neighbours Helping Neighbours program. They also introduced us to their colleagues at the Royal Oak Branch who have joined them in becoming corporate Ark Builders.



Vancity – Royal Oak Community Branch: When we were looking for volunteers for our 2015 Art Together Show our friends at Vancity's South Burnaby Branch introduced us to Paolo Canosa from the Royal Oak Branch. Not only did Vancity volunteer, they continue to promote our events to their customers and have offered their financial support.

Memorials and Tributes

L'Arche Greater Vancouver gratefully acknowledges gifts received in memory or in honour of loved ones and friends.

In Memory:

In Honour:

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Beeby Family | Fred Dunstan | Steve Phillips | Alicia | Marissa Woods |
| Canam | Madame Felixine Mailhot | Mrs. S. C Wong | Diane Bruce | Joel & Sarah Macht-Woods |
| Dr Craig Arnold | Peter Rastall | Teresa & Joe Hynes | Eleanor Duncan | Flora & Eric Lee |
| Craig Kelsch | Ron Evans | | Pat De Ath | |



Steelhead Announces L'Arche Partnership

Steelhead Business Products has wonderful products and people. L'Arche has been using their copiers for years and they have been generous in supporting our special events.

Now they've found a new way to support L'Arche. Purchase or lease a copier from Steelhead and Steelhead will donate 10% of the value to L'Arche.

You'll get state-of-the-art equipment with fabulous local service and L'Arche gets much needed funding.

When your company, school or organization are considering an copier or mfp (multi-function printer), call Steelhead and mention the "L'Arche connection".

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5589 Regent Street Burnaby BC V5B



Upcoming Events

The L'Arche artists have been busy preparing for our Art Together Show on April 22, 2016 at the Shadbolt Centre in Burnaby. This year the theme "To Build" is inspired by our Community theme "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything"
Hebrews 3:4

Art Together Show ~Burnaby Opening~

April 22 6—9 p.m.
Shadbolt Centre
6450 Deer Lake Road
Burnaby BC

Free Admission
Light Refreshments

~Downtown Show~

June 9th—23rd
Park Place
666 Burrard
Vancouver BC

Check our website for details
www.larchevancouver.org



Thank you for supporting the work of L'Arche locally

If you prefer to donate online go to: www.larchevancouver.org and click "Donate Now"

CONTACT:

DR. MR. MRS. MS. MISS MR. AND MRS.

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- I would like to become an Ark Builder by committing to a gift of \$500 or more a year.
- I would like to receive information about donating securities or leaving a gift in my will
- I wish to remain anonymous

HERE IS MY GIFT OF:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Make this a monthly gift !

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Visa MasterCard Cheque

NAME ON CARD _____

CARD NO. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

EXPIRY DATE ____ / ____

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Please make cheques payable to: L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver
Charitable Reg. #137648671-RR0001