

# storyBOOK

## Story 2 *New Member*



**Cyndi MacPhee**  
I moved two years ago to Burlington from my birth place of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

After marrying, I lived for eight years in Ottawa and Mississauga

I made a complete life change after my second daughter, Gill, moved to Toronto in 2014. Natalie, my older daughter, was already living with her husband in Burlington and blessed us 20 months ago with Will, our first grandchild. It was time for me to be closer to them all. Will is certainly the absolute joy in my life as only a grandchild can be.

I belonged to Rockingham United in Halifax. I really enjoyed being part of my church community.

cont...



## Story 1 *KANDY KANE KARNIVAL*



In 1952, the United Church Women of Port Nelson (UCW) arranged to hold a monster Kandy Kane Karnival in the Chapel on Guelph Line. Meetings were held with a frantic zeal, and circles were formed. Names of birds were chosen for each group – Bluebird, Cardinal, Oriole, Bluejay, Robin, Wren and Hummingbird. Sewing groups were set up in Irma Reid's garden.

Every pair of hands – even the children's – were kept busy with the hectic preparations for the first bazaar. Wednesday, November 25, 1952 arrived. The tiny Chapel was decorated for the occasion. The women of Port Nelson were ready. Burlington was not! The traffic was chaotic as friends came from as far as Hamilton and Toronto. For the 60 women, it was a nightmare trying to serve tea in the small room to thirsty mobs which spilled over onto the grounds. Everyone loved the excitement.

Late that night the weary women were elated to find that they had raised over \$5,000 – a great sum of money in 1952.

Ever since the first Kandy Kane Karnival, the bazaar, now known as our Mistletoe Mart, continues to be a vital part of the life and work of our church.

Contributions in time, talent and treasures have been measureless. The bazaar has been firmly established as a successful method of fundraising for Port Nelson, and promoting fellowship.

Over the years, each new executive and their volunteer teams tackle the challenge with the same enthusiasm and sense of purpose as those who have gone before.

This year is the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Kandy Kane Karnival – Mistletoe Mart. Congratulations!

From our Library archives.

## *A few thoughts...*

For generations stories have been shared in every culture as a means of entertainment, education and cultural preservation. The Port Nelson storyBOOK provides an opportunity to grow spiritually through sharing stories about our community and the lives of people close to us. If you have story ideas please contact Lorraine MacMaster [lormacmaster@sympatico.ca](mailto:lormacmaster@sympatico.ca)



## *Story 3 Port Nelson Youth Award*

When our adjudication committee met last May to consider applications for the annual Youth Award, they knew the job would be challenging. Young people in their final year of high school from every segment of Halton Region had applied for the \$1000 scholarship. The award honours leadership in promoting inclusion, with a special emphasis on the needs and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and queer individuals. Interviews were offered to five applicants, and finally it was decided that two of the students should be named co-recipients: Colleen Putzig and Tyler Wisner.

The Youth Award was established in 2012 when our minister, Michael Brooks, and his partner, Jay Poitras, decided to marry. They looked for a way to acknowledge their union. They inquired at local high schools about the need for an award to recognize the student who may not be the best athlete or scholar, but who has made a significant contribution in the area of being inclusive. Michael and Jay invited those who wished to celebrate their wedding to contribute to a new scholarship. Over \$10,000 was raised for the Port Nelson Youth Award.



Colleen Putzig, from Burlington Central High School in the Halton District School Board, has shown leadership in inclusion since grade nine. Colleen was head of the school's Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and the Mental Health Awareness Team. The GSA initiated a dance for LGBTQ youth that was so successful that the LGBTQ

Pride Dance is now a Halton-wide event. Colleen has made school and board presentations to teachers and administrators about gender identity and the use of proper pronouns. This fall, Colleen began studies at Carleton University, majoring in Human Rights.

Tyler Wisner, a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School in the Halton Catholic District School Board, started the Humans for Humanity group at the school. Tyler was also a member of Halton's Youth Action Committee in the Positive Space Network, a role that included planning the 2016 Halton Pride event. On top of these commitments, Tyler was vice-president of the Student Council and volunteered in the federal election campaign. Tyler is currently attending the University of Ottawa, majoring in Sociology.

Both Tyler and Colleen spoke to our congregation on June 5. Their speeches can be heard on our website Sermons & Services page.

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## *Story 2 New Member*

Cyndi MacPhee cont...

Some challenges in my life arose and honestly, I got lost a bit trying to sort out why and what and where God was through this.

I feel blessed to live in Burlington which is a beautiful city with lovely people. I'm enjoying this change in my life.

It had been on my mind to join a church here in Burlington and start again, but even with time and distance following my move, it was hard for me to step through the Christian door.

I don't drive anymore and I love to walk. Port Nelson was a close walk for me so I decided to try my first service in the church to get a feel for Port Nelson. I loved it the minute I walked in!

After meeting and talking with Michael, that sealed it for me. I made the decision to join Port Nelson this past May.

The church is welcoming and very friendly.

I have found the peaceful accepting feeling that I needed in my life.

Thank you.

