



Bala United Church

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Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

MINISTER'S CHAT:

"I am exhausted!" for the last 17 days I have been coaching hockey, curling, speed skating, luge, bobsled, all the skiing sports, show boarding, figure skating and all from the couch. I have shouted until I have gone hoarse, I have cried and cheered and cried some more. I am so proud to be a Canadian! A survey announced that 75% of all Canadians have watched or supported the Olympics in some aspect. When your own country is hosting, it is almost magical the enthusiasm and pride one has. It is the conversation on most everyone's lips and those red mittens! Go Canada Go.

No one but the athlete's coaches/trainers and their families know how much goes into the training for an event such as the Olympics. We can be critical coaching from the couch but all of our athlete's desire praise and a BIG THANK YOU! During a month that many find difficult to get through - too much cold weather and snow, the Olympics were a wonderful way to be entertained and the shoveling became a little easier.

In the church year February and March fall into the season of Lent, 40 days of deep spiritual reflection. A special Lenten study at both Bala and Port Carling United are working on exploring our carbon footprint. Through study and asking questions we are seeing how we are doing at living with the carbon cycle balance. It is hard to find the balance of what is right and maybe what is not so right but quicker. One day an older person saw a horse galloping towards him. The rider, who was being bounced about in the saddle, was desperately trying to hang on. As the horse sped past, the old man called out, "Where are

you going in such a hurry?" The reply came back, "Ask the horse. I'm just hanging on." Some of us might feel like that unfortunate rider, trying to keep our balance while we ride a runaway horse. As we explore our Ecological footprint here are some questions:

- Do you compost?
- Do you recycle?
- How many garbage bags of waste do you set out for pick up?
- How much carbon dioxide emission would you save by shutting off your computer when not in use? (83%)
- How much energy do you save by using LED bulbs? (40%)



God gave us the concept of Sabbath to help us and make us healthy and whole. As athletes of the environment, what training can we do to honour the carbon Sabbath, and decrease the size of our ecological footprint?

Sabbath blessings
Rev. Sue

LENTEN STUDIES

"Live With Respect In Creation"
Continues Each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.
Jackson C.E. Wing

BALA-PORT CARLING PASTORAL CHARGE
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE At Port Carling
United Church - 10:00 A.M.

NOTES FROM COUNCIL

At last Council meeting, Council members prepared to move forward with the Dr. George Woodward Memory Garden. Marg Couture chairs this work group and she encourages all able members to "dig in" with her in May. Give her a call! 762-1144.

Rev Sue reminded Council that this year we mark the 130th birthday of Bala United Church and its predecessors. Congregants who want to take part in our celebrating this wonderful milestone may call Brian McDonald. 762-5178.

A simple breakfast will follow Easter

Sunrise Service. Leo Couture, Sandy Currie, Anne Snowdon, and Brian McDonald look forward to preparing a tasty meal. Bacon 'n eggs, anyone? Gerry Grassby and son, David, will install the new sound system in the sanctuary during the week of "March break." Because of the extraordinary generosity of Members, only \$750 remains to be raised to provide a complete sound system to meet the needs of our church.

Typically, Council meets on the first Thursday of each month. In March, however, we are having our own "March Break". Council will not meet.

Brian McDonald, Vice-chair

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Who are Margaret Bartlett and Sandy Currie?

Marg and Sandy have been cottaging year round on Moon River since August 1998. Oakville has been home base for 25 years.

Life with our playful, loving canine spirits is heavenly. Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers Emma (age 11), Madeleine (age 9) and Lilly (age 4) are simply pure joy. It is true that "all we ever needed to know we learned from our dogs"!

Sandy and Marg Volunteer at numerous organization.

Marg's education included BA (Math)-BPHE (Phys. Ed.) and MBA (Marketing) degrees from Queen's University. In 2006, she completed the post graduate diploma in "Expressive Arts" from Haliburton School of the Arts, Fleming College. Marg has thrived over the years developing/managing her own printing business, PMS (Print Management Solutions), starting in 1987.

Sandy's received BBA graduation (Business Administration) from Bishop's

University. He was the Executive Director of the Canadian Marine Manufacturers Association (CMMA). The CMMA served as an advocate, market promotion and research organization for Canadian manufacturers of recreational boats and boating products.

Sparky and Sandy celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary in February 2010. Time flies when you're having fun...spirit, love, respect, joy and creative play!

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER,
2010 - CAMEROON**
Knox Presbyterian Church, Port Carling
Friday, March 5th, 2010 at 2 p.m.



KNITTING GROUP

Every **Monday** 10 am - 12 noon
Jackson C.E. Wing - Everyone is welcome
Coffee is being served!

THE BALA UNITED CHURCH GIFT SHOP . . .
The shop is open Mondays from 10 am to 12 noon
or by appointment. Call Helen at 762-2625.

HOLD THIS DATE: **SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2010.**

What do Steeltoes, Sandals, and a Silent Auction have in common?

A Silent Auction To Benefit Habitat For Humanity, Bala and Bala United Church. It's time to start thinking about how can you contribute to this special event

PORT CARLING UNITED CHURCH PRESENTS GET YOUR IRISH UP! -MARCH 17

Port Carling Community Centre,
Doors Open 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m.
*For tickets call 765-5807 or tickets can be purchased at The Apothecary Shop, 86 Joseph St, Port Carling
(Reserved tables available for parties over 8)*



A Big Thank You to John Baird & Bill Niess for Painting Rev. Sue's Office at the Church. Great Job!!