



# Port Carling United Church

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## Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

### Minister's Chat

This is another month of change, digging through our closets for our favourite warm sweater. "Where are those gloves that we bought last winter to replace the ones we lost" and "where is the snow shovel!" Colder days, going to work in the dark and coming home in the dark, yes winter is right around the corner! It is November, a month where many of us take a moment to reflect on these words; "at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them." In the past 3100 years of recorded history, only 286 years have been free of war. Some people believe that war is the normal human condition. If that is so, what a great and revolutionary message was brought to us by the one called the "Prince of Peace.

How do we bring about peace? There is a story about a devout rabbi who learned to come to terms with his own nature. When he was young, he was sure that he could and would convert the whole world to ways of peace. Soon he learned that it would be enough to convert the people in his village. As time passed, he tried to bring peace to all those in his synagogue, then his whole family, and finally just his own household. At last he realized that he could change only himself into a peace-loving and peace-making person.

Each of us is responsible for our own acts of peace. Our lives need to be filled with acts of loving kindness and thoughts of how to be a person of peace. It is a fascinating twist of history the way in which the significance of the two-fingered V has changed. Sir Winston Churchill made it famous to one generation as a sign of victory. A generation later we have turned it into a universal sign of peace.

*We come, O God of peace, to ask for your holy presence in this place. Give us a gentle spirit. Give us the soft answer that turns anger aside. Give us the courage to be a light of hope and peace in the darkness of fear. We ask in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen*

Blessings, Rev. Sue

### THE LAST VETERAN

The date July 18, 2009 marked the passing of the last living veteran in our congregation. He was Harvey H. Mason who served his country in World War II.

Freedom was won by the thousands, like Harvey, who enlisted to help save all countries under threat of German occupation and keep them free. Regardless of the consequences, he saw it as his civic duty to enlist.

Harvey's story is similar to many in his time. He was a Private in the Royal Canadian Artillery, 25<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, and away from home for over 5 years, from 1939 to 1945. Back here on Beatrice Town Line (near Ufford) where Harvey's parents lived, they suffered a different kind of hardship having no eldest son to help tend to the farm chores and keep the family going. Harvey's brother Wilf signed up at the same time, so the parents had a double loss.

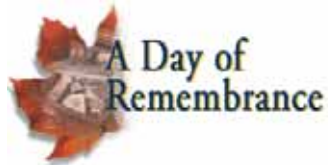
Harvey saw Britain, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy and even Germany. He told his son Wayne about the welcoming spirit of the Dutch when he and his comrades liberated that country from German occupation. He was later decorated with a commemorative medal in 2002 on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Holland.

Harvey, like so many others, did not talk too much about the horrors he saw and the terror they felt at times as they fought their way through Europe. They were often trapped in trenches with bombs going off overhead, wondering if they would ever see home again. Most of Harvey's friends made it back, but a few did not. More than 47,000 Canadians lost their lives in WWII.



On this 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we mark our 90<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day. Each of us is asked to pause and remember the thousands of men and women who sacrificed their lives fighting for freedom and democracy during WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Afghanistan conflict and during “Lest We Forget”

Kathryn McFarlane



November 11, 2009

The community is invited to participate and gather at the

Royal Canadian Legion on Bailey Street at 10.55 a.m. We will then march to The Cenotaph for the Remembrance Day Service led by Rev. Sue Woods. Following the service, you are invited to join the legion members for lunch at the legion.

### THE “UNSINKABLE” ALMEDA BROWN REACHES SAFE HARBOUR

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, our community lost a woman of spirit, determination and vitality. Up until the end, Almeda was 96 years young.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie in 1913, her railroader father transferred the family to MacTier. When she married Roy Brown, she moved to Port Carling. They had nine children; most of who still live in Muskoka and Ontario. Almeda’s family was very important to her. She was the proud grandmother of 17 and great-grandmother of 24. She lost her husband over thirty years ago.

Life was never easy for her especially during the thirties. Almeda suffered many hardships including the loss of her home and possessions in a fire. Her attitude was that her family was safe and together. That was all that was important.

She was extremely generous, giving time to many volunteer organizations and supporting financially many community activities, especially her Church and the Legion. Almeda embodied the joy of life. She celebrated just being alive. For her, any holiday or observance was worth commemorating with appropriate clothes, hats, jewellery and décor.

Her smile, laugh and warmth will be very much missed.

Susan Daglish



### New this year!

Our Chicken dinner is offering *prepaid* reserved tables of 8, 10 or 12 for your convenience. What an excellent time to make up a party and be assured that you will all be seated together. Call Catherine at 765-0536 to reserve your table.



“Light an Ice Candle” on Christmas Eve remembering those who are a part of our heritage.

We would like the candles to be preordered by December 7 although a limited supply will be available for purchase at the Christmas Eve service.

The candle will be made of ice with a lighted candle glowing inside. These candles will be placed outside the church at a location of choice and lit by individual donors.

Candles cost \$10 each. Call Patti Irving (765-6666) to order or if you have further questions.

### Holidays for Rev. Sue/New email address

Rev. Sue will be on vacation for November 1 and 8. We welcome Tina Bax as our guest speaker for the November 1<sup>st</sup> service and Rev. Paul Dempsey on November 8th. Please note: Rev. Sue’s new email address is [revsue@bell.net](mailto:revsue@bell.net) and the church’s new email address is [bpcunited@bell.net](mailto:bpcunited@bell.net)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – 7:00 p.m.**

Port Carling United Church  
Council Meeting in Hanna Hall

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

### **Kid's Club Advent Party**

at Port Carling United  
Games, Christmas Crafts, and more!  
and later that evening → →

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### **Family Christmas Celebration at 6:00 p.m.**

Everyone welcome!  
A casual and informal dinner  
will be served.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - 9:30 a.m.**

Port Carling United Church  
First Sunday of Advent Service

### **Coffee for Christmas Gifts!**

Once again we are offering a fundraising opportunity for our church just in time for Christmas. Muskoka Roastery Coffee is a local premium coffee, available for us to sell in twelve flavours. You can also choose to have your coffee “whole bean” or “ground” so be sure to indicate this on your order form.

Along with the coffee there will be Christmas Gift Baskets available to order.

Order forms are available in Hanna Hall and the completed order forms must be received back by November 29. Coffee and/or gift packages will be available for pick-up on December 13. For further information call Dawn Stephens at 765-3936.

### **Save those Campbell Soup labels/ Pop Tops**

Ruth Veitch advises that we need to continue to save Campbell Soup labels (with the UPS code) for the schools who save them towards the purchase of equipment. The Pop Tops go to the Legion who in turn save them towards the purchase of wheelchairs.

Please drop them off at the Church and Ruth will make sure that they are delivered to the two organizations listed. Thank you for your support.

### **Women's Retreat:**

We would be remiss if we did not thank Dawn Stephen for hosting the very successful “Women's Retreat” at her cottage on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a wonderful atmosphere where we sang, laughed, ate, discovered and enjoyed the fellowship of fourteen other women from our church. Our appreciation to Erika Harris for teaching and providing the materials for such a unique craft of punched wool book marks. We must also acknowledge Rev. Sue's enthusiasm in setting up the program and for her friendly leadership that day.

### **Assisting for November:**

**Ushers:** Herwig and Lynne Schroth

### **Kitchen Helpers:**

November 1st Dawn Stephen 8<sup>th</sup> Joan Wallace

15<sup>th</sup> Kathryn Hazlewood 22<sup>nd</sup> Bette Clark

29<sup>th</sup> Karen Bowker

### **Newsletter:**

We welcome Mike Ingram to our committee and Mike has the last word:

### ***A Layperson's View***

*The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell when the hands will stop. At late or early hour, now is the time you own. Live, love toil with a will, place no faith in time, for the clock may soon be still.*  
Author unknown.

*How many times, (there's that word again) has Rev. Sue reminded us that there is only so much time and that we should use it wisely. We are all moving much to fast and the speed of the world isn't helping. Do we ever stop to smell the roses, talk to a stranger, or just sit on a rock or log and look at all that has been given to us, or do we run through the middle, never looking at the good things we have .*

*We in Muskoka have been blessed with much more than many. We have a beautiful place to live; we have fresh air, and clean water. Let us all take the TIME to stop and enjoy it before those hands on the clock stop forever!*  
..... Mike Ingram

**Don't forget to change your clocks on November 1st**

*Spring forward, Fall back*