

## Kingston Community Chaplaincy Newsletter

Fall-Winter 2013



### Introducing Kara Braun our new KCC Community Chaplain:



*"I come to the work of professional chaplaincy with a passion for thinking about the ways in which we share ourselves in the world - considering the ways in which communities are built upon relationships of understanding and what it means to support ourselves and each other in the journey of becoming. A lifelong student, I am presently interested in the everyday role of empathy and the work of being our most authentic and vulnerable selves.*

*I consider myself an educator at heart and have worked for over 15 years with children, youth and adults in a variety of contexts throughout Kingston, including schools, hospitals and other community based organizations.*

*My academic preparation for chaplaincy has included a Master of Theological Studies with a specialty in multifaith spiritual and religious care; I have completed three, 400-hour units of Clinical Pastoral Education with the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care and will do one more unit to become certified and registered with the new Ontario College of Registered Psychotherapists.*

*Spiritually, my practice is strongly rooted in mindfulness and a deep regard for the ways in which we as humans seek to connect with each other, with ourselves and with the divine - all in different ways and at different times, often in conjunction with the unexpectedness of life unfolding.*

*It is my pleasure to be serving as the Chaplain for*

*Kingston Community Chaplaincy at this time. The men that I have had the opportunity to work with thus far are an ever-inspiring example of our capacity for self-understanding, compassion, resilience, love and hope - I am truly honoured and grateful for the courage and trust they share with me."*

### A Sad Good Bye to David Hale



It is with loving regret that the board of Kingston Community Chaplaincy announces the retirement of our chaplain David Hale. David has served Kingston Community Chaplaincy skillfully and faithfully for the last 3 years. David came to the ministry with a deep understanding of what ex-offenders face in their bid to reintegrate to society. He had been the Roman Catholic chaplain to Kingston Penitentiary, Frontenac and Bath Institutions. He had served for several years as the assistant to regional chaplain Hugh Kierkegaard. We were so grateful when he agreed to minister through Kingston Community Chaplaincy. He has a huge heart for prisoners and ex-offenders. His institutional memory for all things Canadian prison is unparalleled. Above all is his long-standing commitment to journeying to safety with prisoners, ex-offenders and their families.

David and his partner Randy Jack have decided to retire to their home community of Arnprior Ontario where they will be closer to their families and cottage. We will miss them very much and hold them in our prayers as they start this new leg of their earthly journey.

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## **A Message from our Chairperson:**

The last six months have been a time of challenges and opportunities for the Board of Kingston Community Chaplaincy. Last April we started our financial year without any support from CSC. In June several Board members- John Rives, John Flindall, Mary Howes, and Ron Cumming decided to end their service with the KCC Board. This meant the loss of over a 100 years of experience serving KCC and its predecessor in Kingston. During the summer our chaplain, David Hale, made the difficult decision to retire and move out of the Kingston area. The loss of his experience and insight into the work of KCC has been deeply felt by the Board.

However, the work of Kingston Community Chaplaincy has continued to grow through the effort of our Board members. The returning Board members - Patrick Callaghan, Carol Groten, Kate Johnson and Wayne Soble have provided guidance and wisdom through a period that has involved some difficult decisions. Our three new Board members - Brian Hetherington, Madelyn Iler, and Bev Hummitzsch with a steep learning curve, have taken on extra responsibilities. Brian is our Treasurer and Bev, Madelyn are developing our new website. Now, we have hired Kara Braun as our chaplain and we hope that she will have the opportunity to meet and work with many of you. With challenges come opportunities; the KCC Board hopes to recognize these opportunities and develop them to benefit the Kingston community.

Gordon Darrall -Chair, Kingston Community Board

## **Poets Corner**

A thought From the Interview Room  
By John Rives.

The quality of suffering  
Is not transformed  
By the perfection of guilt.

## **Editorial.**

As I read Gordon's message to us two things strike me. The first is the sad note of losing David Hale as our Community Chaplain and the loss of the great

wisdom and experience of board members who have retired. We will miss each and everyone of them. However, we need not wallow in our loss. Bev, Madilyn and Brian, have jumped into the breach and have so much to offer us.

Kara Braun comes to us with so much experience to offer and will, in her own wonderful way, continue to offer the same caring and support that KCC has always offered our clients.

The second thing that struck me was Gordon's remark that along with the challenges comes new opportunities. Over the past years, financially we have been operating on a month by month basis. At the moment financially we are secure until February of next year. However, the challenge is to continue to raise funds to keep us going beyond next year. As a member of our fund raising committee, I am optimistic that we can meet that challenge.

We are working on a new web page, thanks to Bev and Madelyn. Hopefully, that will generate new and needed funds.

What is important is that we face the challenges ahead of us with hope and faith.

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## **For your Calendars:**

Our monthly Welcome Weekend and Pot luck resumed on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have them on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. Our Welcome Weekend Pot Luck event is held at Vinnie's, 85A Stephen St. Between Division and Montreal Streets. 3:00 P.M – 8:00 P.M. Please feel free to join and celebrate time with us.

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Over the past year, you, our benefactors and volunteers have been so generous to the work of Kingston Community Chaplaincy and the people we work with. There are no words that express our gratitude for your continued support and generosity except "Thank You"

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