



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

FEBRUARY 2021

Volume 17, Issue 1
February 2021



*Welcome to the Church of St. James', Orillia
Whether you are a follower of Christ, or on a spiritual journey, all
are welcome to this Holy and Sacred place.*



FROM THE DESK OF CANON JOHN

Dear Friends in Christ,

It seems that I have been spending a lot of my time responding to the continual changes to the pandemic protocols and restrictions. Every time there is a provincial government announcement, I have to comb through the new protocols and then review those with the Diocesan guidelines in hand!

I think it is fair to say that we have to settle in with the expectation that the current lockdown will continue beyond February 10th, 2021. The Covid Safety Committee and I have planned our worship services to continue in their present format until the end of February.

We have gone back to the summer protocols with Phyllis and Jen acting as our essential employees. The clergy ostensibly are working from home and periodically coming into the office. If you need to come to the office please call ahead! We continue to provide important feeding ministries like Loonie Lunch and the Sharing Place using our kitchens to make meals. Phil and I are available by phone or email. Call the church office for our contact information. Presently, in accordance with the stay-at-home order, there can be no clergy visits. I also encourage you to participate in the Wednesday morning 10:00 am Scripture Study or the book study Phil is leading in Lent (please see his article for more information).

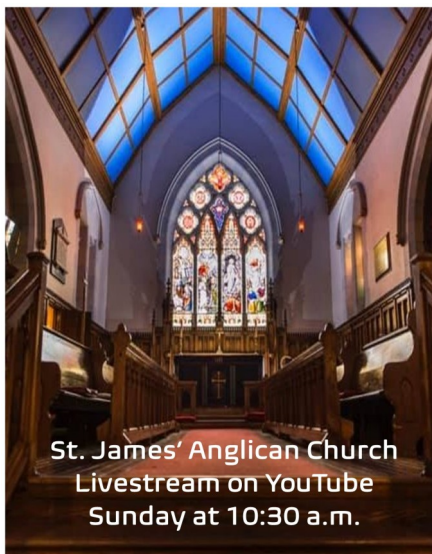
Worship Services

I know many of you have emailed Jeff and me to tell us that you are very happy with the worship services. Thank you for your kind remarks. We have also tried to act on your helpful comments to improve our services. In the past we would film the liturgy and music separately. However, this requires Chris Lewis to spend a lot of time to edit each service. We are now filming the service on Sunday mornings and as one continual service. This is being done so we can prepare ourselves to live-stream the service. It allows Chris to make fewer edits. I also find it to be a worshipful experience as there are no interruptions and no having to do a new 'take'!

I should note that under the guidelines we can have ten people or less when we film. However, we are trying to live out the spirit of the lockdown measures and we are trying to keep our numbers lower. This is why we cannot use more of the laity to help in the service. We are trying to find ways to have another person to act as a reader or intercessor.

I also want to remind you that every two weeks, I film a little video blog called from the Rector's Desk. You will find it on the website. It is mostly unscripted and are my thoughts on church development and life in the parish. If you have questions, suggestions, or comments please let me know.

Continue on next page.....



St. James' Anglican Church
Livestream on YouTube
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Our Vision - A strong faith community, reflecting God's Love to those around us.
Our Mission - To serve and share Jesus Christ
Our Values - Faith, Compassion, Integrity, Respect

Vestry

Due to the new protocols, it is necessary for us to come up with new virtual ways to undertake Vestry. Originally, it was our intention to hold a hybrid vestry: in-person with fifty people or less and using Zoom. However, under the current guidelines we have to prepare a Vestry that will be entirely by Zoom.

Vestry is set for Sunday, February 28th. This is the last possible date that we can do a vestry and comply with the canons. I encourage you, if you have not done so, to get the Zoom app so you can participate. Zoom does allow for telephone conferencing and more details will follow. Some have asked if we can help set up zoom or teach members. This is difficult as we are limited in our resources but still call us and we can see if we can help with set up. Once we set a procedure, we will try to call each member with Vestry details and/or reach you by email blast. A Vestry List will be provided upon request.

Zoom does permit us to make a record of who attended the meeting and a video recording can also be made. Voting at vestry and the taking of questions will be difficult so we are working on a format. It may make sense to vote in the negative (those opposed to a motion). It will not be possible to take confidential votes. A Zoom gate-keeper will help us take questions which can be done orally or through the Zoom chat line. We will have a power point presentation setting out the financials and the motions.

I am now working with our audio-visual team to work on a Vestry plan! Of course, if the restrictions are lifted we may be able to resort to a hybrid method.

Final Note

I have stated a number of times to people that I am continually amazed how we have all found ways to respond to this pandemic. I think that through our faithfulness and our call to Christ's ministry, it has allowed each one of us to find a new way to connect to our St. James' community. I give thanks for each of you and your continual prayers.

Yours in Christ,
John



2021 SOCIAL JUSTICE VESTRY MOTION

Committing Ourselves to Anti-Racism:

The vision of God's Kingdom is one where all races, tribes and nations are welcomed and made one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28), where barriers are broken down and all are full citizens of the household of God (Ephesians 2:17-21) and where all are invited to contribute the gifts and glory of their heritage (Revelation 21:26). Yet, as racialized members of our communities can attest, and as has been made painfully visible in the events of this past year, our society and even our Church fall far short of this goal.

Canadians, particularly those of European descent, may be tempted to look at racial tensions in the U.S. and congratulate ourselves that we live in a comparably diverse and tolerant society, but the experiences of racialized people in Canada do not bear out this assumption. A recent study by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has found that, although Black people make up less than 9% of the population of Toronto, they are "grossly overrepresented" in cases of discretionary arrests for low-level offences, as well as in police use of force, including fatal shootings. Another report from the OHRC found that between 2013 and 2017, a Black person was nearly 20 times more likely than a white person to be fatally shot by police in Toronto. Indigenous people make up only 5% of Canada's population, but more than 30% of incarcerated individuals in Canada. Several school boards in the GTA have faced inquiries into their systemic inequitable treatment of racialized students. These are all present realities within the most racially-diverse region of Canada.

Nor can we claim that our Church is free of racist attitudes and the systems that entrench and perpetuate them. Black clergy in our Diocese can attest not only to being racially profiled in shops but to encountering surprise and discomfort when people realize they are the senior cleric in charge. Nor does our leadership fully represent the ethnic and racial diversity of our Church. The first bishop of African descent in the Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop Peter Fenty, was only elected in 2013 – less than a decade ago. Nearly 30 years have elapsed since the Rev. Dr. Romney Moseley's report "No Longer Strangers" was presented to General Synod, and many of its recommendations have yet to be implemented. We have a long way to go before we fulfil God's vision of a people "from every language, tribe and nation" (Revelation 7:9) where all are fully welcome.

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However, there are signs of positive change. In our Diocese, ethnic and linguistic-based congregations are centres of growth and vitality. Our recent ordinands and postulants represent a wider range of ethnic and racial backgrounds. Indigenous Anglicans in Canada are taking steady steps toward self-determination, while this past year has seen the formation of the group Black Anglicans of Canada, whose mission is to improve the participation, representation, empowerment and inclusion of Black people in lay and ordained leadership roles within the Anglican Church of Canada. **Our Diocese will be implementing anti-racism and anti-bias training for Diocesan staff and clergy starting in early 2021. An Anti-Racism/Anti-Bias Pod will be created to carry this work forward among volunteers and lay leaders and over the long term.**

In his letter to the Diocese of July 17, 2020, Bishop Andrew wrote: “It is time to challenge and to question how structures shape our attitudes, beliefs, assumptions and bias. We must understand and confront white privilege, institutional and systemic racism that so many of us have been blind to for too long. And we must not be afraid to become agents of transformation. To dismantle racism in all of its forms takes commitment, community and faith in order to realize progress and change. It means becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable. It means taking a very long look in the mirror and understanding the part that we each play.”

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/08/10/black-people-more-likely-to-be-arrested-charged-shot-and-killed-by-toronto-police-ontario-human-rights-commission-report-finds.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/indigenous-people-in-federal-custody-surpasses-30-correctional-investigator-issues-statement-and-challenge.html>

Some of this work has already begun.

Just as many Anglicans in our Diocese and beyond have committed themselves to education and action as part of the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Anglicans in our Diocese have started to examine their own attitudes, beliefs, assumptions, and bias. Virtual study groups have sprung up around books such as Robin di Angelo's *White Fragility*, Desmond Cole's *The Skin We're In*, or the late Rev. Dr. James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Many signed up for the Black Anglicans of Canada's summer roundtable series (still available on YouTube) and workshops on anti-racism at the Diocesan Outreach Conference.

In the September 2020 issue of *The Anglican*, the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields wrote: “The compassionate Church cannot be an observer on the sidelines, reluctant to judge the values by which racism is allowed to take root. It must be disposed to listening, open to being transformed by reality, and accountable for being contributory to the situation, where that is the case.” In the second part of his column, published in October 2020, Canon Fields discussed the parts we must all play – from the institutional to the individual level - to grapple with systemic racism and make our Church and our society a place of mutual healing. Let each member of our Church take up this work with intention and goodwill.

The Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2021 is offered by the Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry with the full support of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee:

“The parish of St. James' Orillia acknowledges that Anti-Black racism exists in our society and in our Church, and that it and all forms of racism against Black, Indigenous and other racialized people are a sin against God and against our neighbour. We commit ourselves to the recognition, dismantling, and elimination of Anti-Black and other forms of racism in our secular institutions, in our Church, and in ourselves, and to work for the full inclusion, participation and belongingness of Black, Indigenous and other racialized people in all sectors of our common life.

In light of this acknowledgment, and in keeping with this commitment, our parish undertakes to do the following: start an anti-racism study series in our parish to begin in the spring of 2021.

The plan is for St. James' to focus on racism as it impacts on indigenous peoples because that is the more obvious population in our geographic area “

“God never tires of forgiving us; w are the one who tire of seeking his mercy.”
Pope Francis

NOTES FROM THE OUTREACH MINISTRY



Faithworks Campaign

The Faithworks donations for 2020 have risen to \$15,600. This is a wonderful tribute to the generosity of our parishioners especially in this very difficult year of restrictions and job losses. We thank you so much for this support and we helped the Diocese reach much closer to raising enough funds to acquire matching funds from an anonymous donor.



Merle Haggard's
Rainbow Stew

Sunday night Dinners for Shelter residents

A small team of volunteers (Joyce Hird, Rosemarie Freeman, Bill Manley, Ellie McPhail and Bruce MacMillan) continue to concoct a Sunday dinner each week for shelter residents – numbering now 50 people. We enjoy being involved in this small service and also appreciate financial and food contributions of parishioners.

Coldest Night of the Year

You would look great on my team! For the next few weeks, I am investing some of my time fundraising for an event I am involved with - the Coldest Night of the Year. I am emailing to ask you to consider joining our team - St James' Anglican Church Walkers and walk with us on Saturday, February 20.

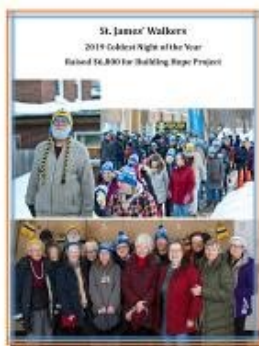
The Coldest Night of the Year is a walk that raises money for folks in our community who need our help. Some of them hungry, more than a few hurting and regrettably, some who are homeless too. Adults, moms and kids, seniors, and youth as well. And as you know, The Lighthouse in town is completing their Building Hope project to add a substantial facility to aid these folks. Now this year we cannot do the walk the same as we have done but we certainly can ask our supporters to support the project financially. Be creative. Come up with another fun thing you are going to do. Number of times going upstairs. Number of times going downstairs. Number of meals cooked. Number of meals eaten. But please ask folks to support this worthwhile project.

CNOY is a lot of fun and so valuable - would you join me? Just click our team page link below to begin to join the team or just to DONATE!

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=934180&langPref=en-CA>

Thanks! William (Mr. Bill)

P.S. Last year, over 26,000 walkers across Canada joined this event raising just under \$6.5 million dollars - it is Canada's National Walk for Homelessness.



LENTEN BOOK STUDY


THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST

HOW A FORGOTTEN REALITY
CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING
WE SEE, HOPE FOR, AND BELIEVE

A New Book by Richard Rohr

**Six Online Sessions led by
the Rev. Phil Gearing**
Monday's at 10 a.m. through Lent
February 22 to March 29

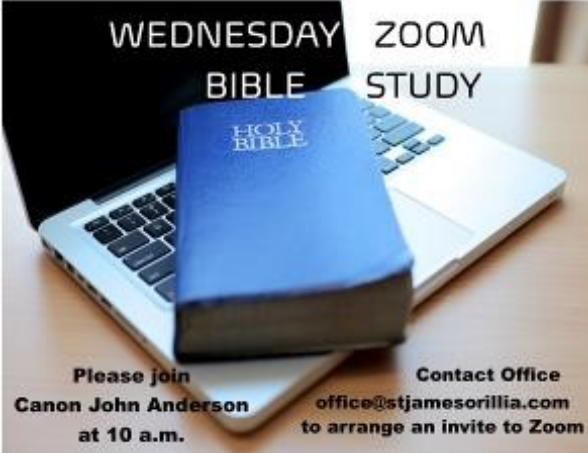
To register: office@stjamesorillia.com



**WEDNESDAY ZOOM
BIBLE STUDY**

Please join
Canon John Anderson
at 10 a.m.

Contact Office
office@stjamesorillia.com
to arrange an invite to Zoom



TEA AT THREE ON THURSDAYS



Tea at Three on Thursdays at 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. This will be a Zoom meeting with no agenda other than to connect with Church friends face to face for a casual time. Anyone wishing to join should contact Christine Blair at: office@stjamesorillia.com for an invitation.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PEOPLE'S WARDEN

It is with very mixed feelings that I tell you I will be stepping down from my Role as your People's Warden. It has been an immense honour to have served in this role the past three years and two years prior as Deputy Rector's Warden and I have enjoyed it greatly. There have been stressful times, most notably during Canon John's illness, but also this past year dealing with issues around COVID19 and the Rectory. Your support has been my lifeline and I cannot thank you enough. This experience has allowed me to grow personally and spiritually. As you may remember I was too nervous to say more than a few words at the microphone three years ago, but with your support my confidence has grown and I now feel quite confident to speak to you. This confidence has also allowed me to voice my opinions during meetings even when they were different from those of others. I have developed technical skills I would never have acquired and got to know people I may never have said more than hello to. Prior to this I had been comfortable in my life role. Often, however, in this role I have felt the need to pray for guidance as I was confronted with issues which in turn has taught me how much I need His help. It is only by taking on new things that we grow. I urge you to consider what new roles you may be able to take on. You will gain more than you give.

I trust you will give your new Wardens and deputies the same support you have given me. Please include them in your prayers.

I will continue to serve wherever I can and urge you to consider stepping forward. Volunteering will enrich your life in unexpected ways. Our Church needs many hands to complete the work we wish to do.

Christine Blair

THANKS TO THE PARISH FAMILY FROM A.C.W.

Even during a pandemic - or perhaps because of it - the generosity of St. James' Parish Family to the Christmas Hamper Project was amazing! When the ACW decided to go ahead this year by giving gift cards and grocery cards to families chosen by Catulpa and New Path social workers, and to help individual teens from the Orillia Youth Centre, we estimated we could help perhaps 50 people. Thanks to your generosity, we ended up helping double that number, for a total of 98 people, also including 2 families associated with Couchiching Jubilee House! Forty years of helping various families and teens in Orillia through this project underwritten by the ACW - and Covid couldn't stop us: Praise the Lord!

Mae Cox



FUNDSCRIP 2020

Despite a year of non-communication, the faithful team of supporters ordered their gift cards each month. We sent no order for the month of April as we attempted a safe routine for the deposit of the orders and cheque and an equally safe pick up of the cards.

So, on the first Sunday of each month a large-sealed bin is placed out on the Gardy deck with access by stairs and a ramp. The orders are deposited within. We organize and submit the orders to Fundscrip via computer. The cheques deposit is taken to a Warden, who checks and banks it.

The following Friday (most of the time) the cards are received via courier and sorted. The clients are notified that their cards are ready for pick up. All is done safely.

This year we received \$2,333.46 from this project. We need a minimum of \$5,000 each month to eliminate the delivery fee of \$20.00. Fortunately, we have combined monthly orders from St. Athanasius (as they are a small church, and the delivery fee was sometimes more than their earnings). We have a gracious liaison lady who does the orders and pick-ups.

So, you see, this is a safe project that benefits both our budgets and our church. Please consider joining our faithful team with a monthly order. Forms are available at the church office. The variety of shops available is growing and cards make a great gift that can be mailed now that we are more limited in our lives.

Joan Gardy

FundScrip
powered by Fundstream Inc.
Where shopping
is fundraising!



REV. PHIL GEARING



Phil was ordained a deacon at St. James Cathedral on May 5th of 2019 and was priested at Church of the Ascension, Port Perry on February 9th, 2019. He joins the staff at St. James', Orillia serving as an Assistant Curate. This is a bit of an old-fashioned term which effectively means Assistant Priest. In this capacity Phil is able to assist in all priestly ministries while completing his formal training under the guidance of Canon John.

This is Reverend Phil's third stint as a member of the St. James' family. In 2013, while at seminary, he completed a 12-week placement here and in 2018 he was a postulant for ordination and spent about a year with us. Father Phil speaks fondly of this new placement at St. James' as "coming home".

Prior to ordination Phil worked as an elementary school teacher for thirteen years. He also ran a small service business in Muskoka for about ten years.

Phil loves stories. He devotes considerable time to the study of our "holy stories" found in the Bible. He also delights in listening to people's lived stories. So, if you get the chance to sit down with him, he'd love to hear yours. Phil is a keen reader with an interest in British fiction. He enjoys walking and is an avid fan of Toronto's sports teams. Go Leafs Go!



Father Phil – True or False

I have just written a formal "Bio" and you are welcome to read it on the St. James' website. To make this more interesting I have listed a bunch of unrelated facts about myself; *two of these are false*. Send your guesses on which two are untrue to gearingphil@gmail.com

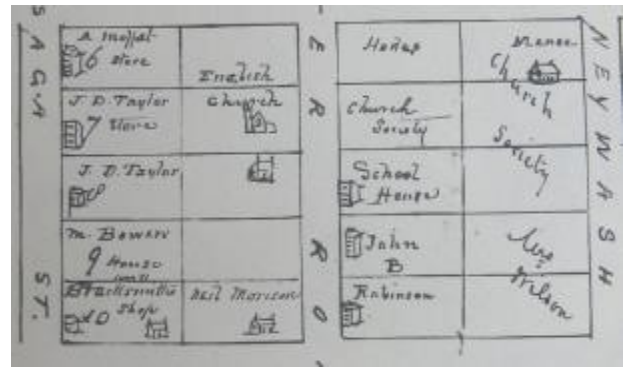
- I am one of seven children (6 boys, 1 girl)
- My birth weight was 13 lbs. 6 oz.
- I have known one of our current parishioners since I was 2 yrs. old
- I have broken an arm, a leg and had stitches several times but never had surgery
- I have been in over forty U.S. states
- My father was an Anglican priest
- I attended the first Blue Jay game ever played
- Bruce Springsteen is my favourite musical entertainer
- I once ran for municipal council
- I learned to ice skate when I was four
- I have participated in ten charity "Polar Plunges"
- My mother attended school with Julie Andrews
- I have been to the cottage of Catherine O'Hare and played golf with Eugene Levy
- I read every word of the Bible every year of my life
- I saw Garth Brooks in Central Park with over a million people
- I walked 1000 km this summer

Pick up "Loonie Lunch" with Rev. Phil and Jen Hill!. Brrrrrrrr!



HERITAGE PROJECT

In 1839, the people of Orillia filed a petition to have Chief Yellow-head's "abandoned village" north of Mississauga Street and east of West Street surveyed into half acre lots that could be sold to the public. In 1841, St. James' was established in the meeting house on one acre of land on the corner of Peter Street and Coldwater Road. However, The Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto did not receive the patent (deed) from the Crown until 1847.



On the other side of Coldwater Road, the Church Society owned another 2 acres. Who were the neighbours?

The image here was copied from the 1840 survey map. Peter Street is at the top of the map. Note that the English Church land would have included the land of St. James' Court. The church later had a carriage barn in that area. Andrew Moffat owned the store on Mississauga Street, with J.D. Taylor's store on Lots 7 and 8. Michael Bower's blacksmith shop was on an acre of land on the corner and included a paddock which he used as the town pound keeper.

On the south side of Coldwater Road was the church, an acre of land owned by William Lloyd, and the Morrison family home on the corner. On the north side, there was a public school in the middle of the block.

How accurate was the map? If it is compared with the Land Book Abstract of first patents (deeds) on this land some of the names were different. Note that St. James' was on the land in 1841 but did not receive the patent until 1847. Some neighbours were the first settlers on the land but not the first to own the deed.

Fred Blair

Patio Dining Only in Canada by Meg Casebow



THE BOTTOM LINE — TREASURER'S REPORT

I have reviewed the first pass of our year-end 2020 and wish to communicate the results to you in this newsletter.

Year-end Revenues, as expected, fell short of plan by \$50,349. But in spite of this result, the offerings / donations line continues to be strong. In fact, in a COVID year, we had an increase of \$ 4,344 over 2019. A tribute to the level of support for St James in difficult times.

Year-end Expenses came in under plan at \$ 51,958. All ministries continue to demonstrate excellent cost control with only one slightly over budget.

Investment income fell short of plan by \$1,278.

The Bottom Line is that we finished the year with a deficit of \$ 21,769. Realizing that last February Vestry approved a deficit budget of \$ 22,100 prior to COVID and it's resulting impact on operations, to finish the year basically on plan is an incredible achievement. We were blessed with monies from CERB and the Diocese which contributed to this outcome but the result is still significant. However we were required to draw down our investments to finance this deficit.

I am confident that the audited results will not materially change from those reported above.

Dave Simpson—Treasurer

February Calendar

We are not able to provide a calendar of meeting times, events, or programs, due to COVID-19. Please join us by watching the Sunday webcast service on our website or Facebook.

Your Ministry Council

Anyone interested in reading the current Ministry Council minutes may contact the Church office for a copy.

Are you ill? In the Hospital? Now in a nursing home?

If you or someone you know from our congregation is ill, in the hospital or moved to a nursing home, please let us know by calling the church office. We have no other way of knowing as the hospital and nursing homes are no longer permitted to give this information out due to the privacy act.

Newsletter Sponsorship

Each month we ask for a sponsor to support the publication of our parish newsletter. Many of our family receive it via the internet but many still enjoy receiving the paper copy and/or, they might not have access to a computer. The donation of \$100.00 each month pays to produce our internet copies, the paper copies and their mailing. Please contact Phyllis in the office 325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month.

Fundscrip

The Fundscrip order date is **Sunday February 7th**. Please deposit your order form (and cheque payable to St James') in the plastic bin on our deck. If you need directions, please call Phyllis in the office 325-2742. The order will go in the first Sunday in February 7 pickup (again in the bin) will be **Friday February 12th** Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile project.

A CALL TO ALL WOULD BE GARDENERS

Just as you are all staying home and minding your own business (for the most part) we are issuing you a challenge that you might participate in at home. We need a crop of vegetable plants for our spring garden planting.

Would you consider starting some vegetable plants in the comfort of your home that might be transplanted in the spring? We need plants such as tomatoes, cucumber, beans, eggplant, squash etc. All you need are some plant seed pods and good quality seeds and an area in your home which gets enough sunshine and water to encourage plant growth. All supplies can be ordered from Home Hardware and other seed or garden sources. Some of you are good at this. The rest of us could rise to the challenge! Thanks for thinking of this endeavour.

Social Justice Committee



January Birthdays

Maggie Astrauskas, Ruth Bark, Shirley Bromley,
Wendy Caston, Karen Hart, Jen Hill, Vic Howarth,
Jo Levasseur, Ellie MacPhail,
Helen Perry, Sylvia Smith

February Birthdays

Heather Crate, Wayne Gardy, Sue Glowa,
Mary Johnson, Melda Marson, Hugh Rowlinson

February Anniversaries

Jen & Andrew Hill

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