

HONEY & LOCUST



St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church,
Bright's Grove

Church Services & Building

This Sunday February 20, The Reverend Amanda Longmoore will lead us in in-person worship in our church building, please come join us. Here are some highlights from Amanda on the return – this was also in the announcements from our February 6 service:

“The decision has been made for us to return to in-person worship next Sunday, February 20th. We know not everyone is ready or able to return in-person yet, and that's perfectly okay. Restrictions are the same as before Christmas: masks must be worn, distancing maintained, and please minimize your time in the building by not arriving too early. We will be celebrating Eucharist, bread only (no wine), and I'll bring it to you in your seat. As before, our



Photograph by Jane Primeau – February 3, 2022

services are limited to no more than 45 minutes, and we can sing. Because numbers are still limited, it is necessary to "book a spot" as we were doing before. **The invitation to RSVP will be sent out by email Friday morning at 9. For this week only as we adjust to being back we'll just be having people in the church proper, the following week we will go back to having seating available in the hall as well.** The service will be recorded and shared by email afterward, and as of right now I am

hoping to also be able to offer a live stream option on Sunday, February 27 (so you can watch online live), stay tuned for more info next week!"

Below Brenden Fraser offers the psalm while Peter Langille cohosts the "Zoom Bus" during the February 6 service.



In the picture taken below, at a break during our February 6th Zoom service, Ingrid Schmid looks on proudly as her mum Mavis shows a hooked rug piece of art she made, which a parishioner noticed in the background as she offered the Prayers of the People.



Ingrid loves her mum's hooked-rug-art and sent me the picture adjacent of Mavis with several of her pieces.



The piece we saw over Zoom during our service was a Christmas scene. Mavis has embraced the seasons in her work, as you can see, with a winter scene, a spring scene with a rabbit family, a fall Hallowe'en scene, and a stained-glass-spring-flower scene. She is currently working on a summer scene from a pattern called "Culley's Cottage". With her musical lilt Mavis indicated the cottage will be a classic stone Irish cottage. By coincidence she has a grandson named Culley who attended Sunday School at St. John in the Wilderness when I first started to teach Sunday School – she hopes Culley likes her cottage piece.

I asked Mavis how long she had hooked rugs. "About 20 years" she said, "I could not do it while working at Bright's Grove Library". She said her and Stella Wallace worked at the library together and she can

remember when my girls were perhaps 3 and 5 years old (27 years ago) and Dieny Bisschop would bring them in to read. Wow...there were librarians in Bright's Grove before Fiona Crossland! My oldest daughter MacKenzie has brought her son Fran in many a time to Bright's Grove Library to read and visit with Fiona!

The joys you learn at a church service!
Come join us in worship!

A Walk Along the Shore

February in Southwestern Ontario is a time where folk look to the midway point between the Winter solstice and Spring. We look to wonderful events like Groundhog Day and Valentines Day to help us through short days. Some of us start to tinker with our bicycles and others just keep riding them (really). Many of us, including me, go for walks along the Bright's Grove shoreline. Three locations of interest these days in the walks of folk include: the shoreline protection project between Pine Avenue and Penhuron Drive, the Terracotta Warrior carving west of Waterworks, and St. John in the Wilderness church building.

Our Church Building

We are blessed with having several excellent photographers in the area.

Jane Primeau captured our church building after a snowfall on February 3. She posted this on the Facebook page "The Beauty of Brights Grove, Camlachie, Errol and Blue Point Ontario".



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145868744248899/?ref=share>

Lou Springer came to our church in February and took many wonderful pictures you can see and have conversations over on Facebook: Lou posted on "You Gotta Love Sarnia" at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1016826321661817/?ref=share>



Amanda captured the delight of frost on our east window last week.

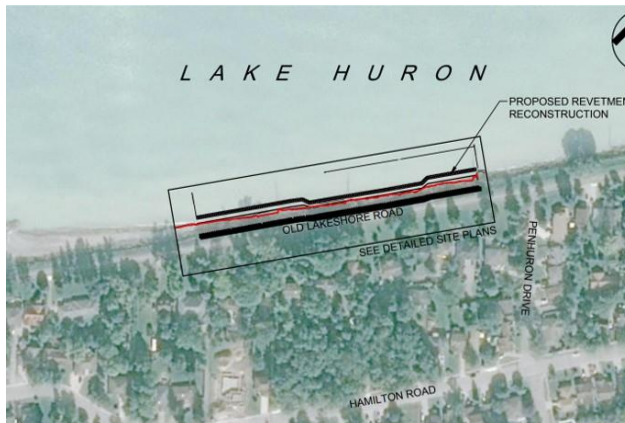
Shoreline Protection 2022

In January, the city started the rebuild of shoreline protection between Pine Avenue and Penhuron Drive along Old Lakeshore Road. My house looks out to this area, and I love to watch the big excavators, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and big fork-lift trucks at work. I know the names of these trucks as I am Nanny to toddler Francis.

I love to wake up to the sounds of trucks and to the great rumble of the house shaking as the big seawall stones are unloaded. I have spent some time looking and I believe there is a pause between when I can see the stone hit the ground and when I can feel the house shake.

Many of you love to walk along Old Lakeshore Road in The Grove and are interested in the success of the seawall build. I have been asked a few questions regarding this project by a number of folk. Here are some highlights.

Here is a picture of the approximately 250-meters of shoreline involved:

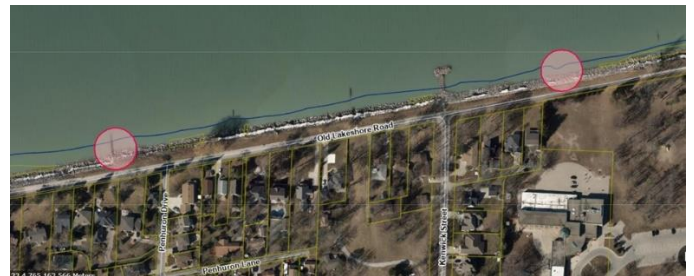


To those of you who like to see engineering type diagrams...[click here for a link to a](#)

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large file that Robert Williams, the City's Construction Manager, sent to me of the structure planned.

The building of two groins is not part of this project but will occur later in the year. A stone groin with staircase is planned for west of Penhuron at the red circle in the picture below. A hybrid metal-stone groin with staircase is planned for east of Kenwick at the red circle in the picture below.



I asked Rob Williams why these seawall projects tend to start in January in The Grove; it turns out for several reasons says Rob:

- “We are restricted from doing work between March 15 and July 15 to protect fish spawning.
- We do try to avoid summer months for recreational users, but this isn't always possible.
- Contractors like to do this kind of work in the winter months as there isn't usually a lot of road work going. This allows them to keep employees working during a time that they might otherwise be laid off.
- The ice can help with the build; an ice shield at the shore can help”.

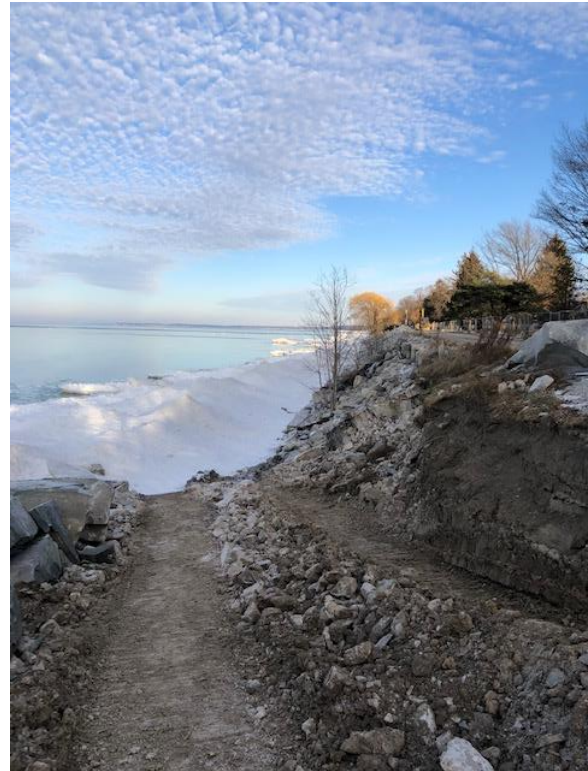
www.facebook.com/groups/524453119787144/
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A number of steel groins exist along the 250-meter section of seawall involved. Some of these will be removed, others will be “saved” for future consideration. Saving a seawall involves leaving the metal wall in place and reinforcing it with some stones. This is quite different than the two planned builds of groins described previously. The seawall that extends from the west side of our property will be saved. I sense the groin to the east of our property was removed as I can see a pile of bent scrap metal above the shoreline.

Here are pictures I have taken during weekend walks along the project. As many of you know, that lake changes everyday in the winter; enjoying the beauty of this build and the magnificence of a new lake each day brings much joy.



Pictured above is the start of the build in early January. Not much snow. How will they get those rocks in place by the shore? Well, in a few hours I peeked, and that excavator was disappearing, driving down the slope – built a road that went to the lake!



Above, is the road down to the lake, built in a few hours. I took the picture on Saturday, six days after it was built. These fellows worked from sunrise to sundown in January. They wasted no sunlight.



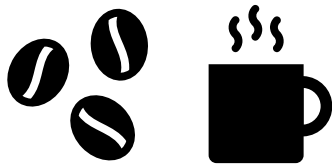
Above, you can see stone blocks out on the ice shielding the shore above.



Here, the seawall is starting to take shape just west of Penhuron Drive.



The view taken this morning from my kitchen as the snow melts and that ice begins to blow offshore (leaving just the ice-shield behind). Wonderful company for morning coffee.



Terracotta Warrior



As you walk from my place to our church building along Old Lakeshore Road, you will come across our neighbourhood's beloved Terracotta Warrior west of Waterworks.



Here, you can see the tree that the Terracotta Warrior is carved from and stands on. The plaque reads "Terracotta Warrior Qin Dynasty 221-206 BC China"

The artist, who lives in the house pictured, loves to share the joy of his work with the neighbourhood while remaining anonymously in the background.

He was out inspecting the finish on his Warrior early this month when I was walking by and struck up a conversation.

This is the first winter that the statue has been painted. He decided not to cover it as he has done previously and to assess if it can take the winter exposure. The beige and brown are stains. The blue and black are automotive paint. Several layers of varnish/polyurethane cover everything. He says the finish is standing up well and will only need minor touch-ups in the spring.



Terracotta Warrior overseeing Lake Huron in January.

I asked him how he came to decide on carving a Terracotta Warrior as opposed to something else. "My son is into Asian history" he said, "and why carve another bear or deer – I wanted to carve something different, and I had a model to work from already on my lawn". Sure enough I looked and he has a small cement Terracotta Warrior on his lawn – you can see him in the previous picture!

Our church building, the seawall project, and a Terracotta Warrior – a few of the many great sightings as you walk the Bright's Grove shoreline. May you be blessed to enjoy such walks.

Inn of the Good Shepherd - Thanks and Looking for Volunteers for March 5!

On February 5, you helped to feed 46 people at The Inn – Thank you! Pictured on the next couple of pages are some of you who cooked and served.

I am looking for 6 more servers and 2 more cooks for The Inn on Saturday, March 5 – please call, text, or email me to volunteer.

On February 5, Tara Fraser led her team of eight servers including Jim & Katie Curran, Tyler Gray, Kate Gillesby, Sean Rapaich, Janine Ross and Phil Fraser. Maggie Brownridge, Leslie Grieve, Sandra Fraser, Dianne Funnell, Brenda & Bob Clingersmith,

and Jane & Jim Gallie cooked. Thanks very much!

I received a brochure from The Inn outlining their history in Sarnia; [here is a link to it](#). The Inn began in 1981 with a foodbank and a soup kitchen. We began our Saturday evening meals at the soup kitchen in about 1993 and have cooked and served a meal on the first Saturday evening of every month since.

Feeding some of Sarnia's hungry on the first Saturday evening of each month is one of our primary outreach programs. Our parish people are an integral part in The Inn's mission to provide services with dignity to local people who need food, shelter, and other essentials.



Servers Janine, Sean, Katie, Jimmy, Kate, Tara, Philip, and Tyler in the back



Kate, Tara, Janine, and Katie



Sean and Philip

**THANKS
SERVERS!**



Cooks
Brenda
& Bob.

Cooks Leslie, Nicole, and Maggie.



Miscellaneous shopper me (Deb), and
cooks Dianne Funnell, and Jim & Jane Gallie

Tara Fraser saying hello to
brother-in-law Norm as he drops
off Sandra's cooking.

THANKS EVERYONE!

Prayer Shawls and Thanks

Church via Zoom brings different perspectives both for folks attending from home and for the few of us in the church. A few weeks ago, I was co-hosting Zoom when Sandra Fraser was the Lay Reader presiding. I looked to the back of the church – the south-west corner and queried Sandra: “Hmmm why do you think that prayer shawl is back there, I end up moving it when I clean, maybe I should hang it in the hall”?

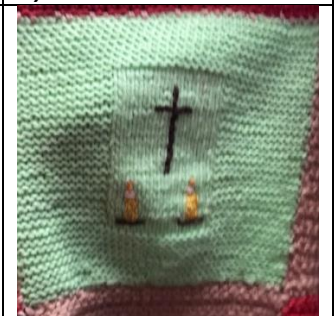


Sandra looked at me and then conveyed a much-loved story. “About 2008 when Jenny Sharp became Rector, she quickly engaged people in prayer shawls. Renee Burke made some special squares with designs and pictures and the prayer shawl group decided to make a special prayer shawl to keep in the back of the church for anyone to use if they were cold. Jean O’Neal sometimes uses it. Nancy Mann received

the first prayer shawl. My sister Carol and I crocheted the squares together, many ladies made the squares.”



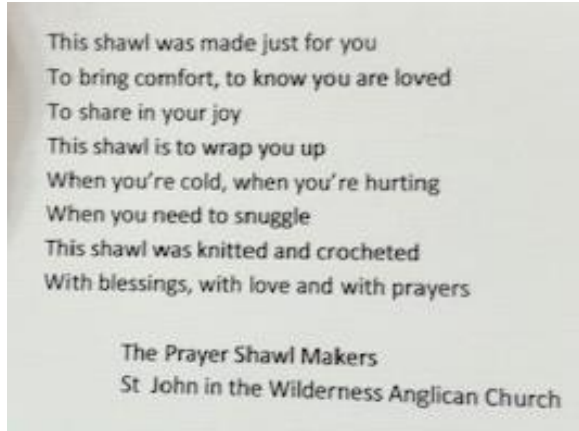
Crest from an original St. John in the Wilderness T-Shirt. We are on the third generation of red T-Shirt as of 2021. Other special squares made by Renee are below.



Here are the words in the card that accompanies a prayer shawl:

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Thanks very much to the parish folk who, with love, contribute materials to make these and to the ladies who create them with love.

I have a prayer shawl that the church gave to my mother, she passed away November 21, 2021. I sometimes wrap myself in that shawl and read or watch TV, or just sit and think. It brings me the comfort of loving friends. It took me several weeks to open cards around Christmas, there were many major life events going on and for reasons I do not understand, I could not bring myself to open my mail. I recently opened the cards...Thanks to many of you for your warm thoughts, and your contributions to the local library in some cases! Mum is smiling from heaven.

...Blessings and thanks, Deb



Share Your Joy/Story in the Honey & Locust

If you have a sentence or paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps a hello/profile of a parish member, an update for a church/community group you are part of, a favourite project or memory or prayer you would like to share, a family update ...whatever is on your mind that might be meaningful/ joyous for your congregation to hear...please craft the words and send them to debwalker@cogeco.ca

Sabbath: A Cabin on a Lake

...Amanda Longmoore



As some of you know, Steve and I took vacation time last month and went off to the small town of Calabogie, Ontario for a week. Calabogie is about an hour west of Ottawa, and has lots of stuff to do outdoors year-round. For us, Calabogie meant a week in a cabin right on the lake. We got a nice snowstorm while we were there (45 cms) and we sat inside and watched it fall. We

went for walks, read books, and watched a few movies. Steve watched sports, I knit. We made comfort food and napped. We didn't have anything planned, and we spent the time caring for our bodies, minds, and souls.

We all need times like this to recharge our batteries. Sabbath time, rest time, isn't just about what we do (or don't do) on Sunday. Sabbath is that time when we slow down, take a breath, and get rooted once again in ourselves and in God. It's a time of recreation and re-creation. It doesn't have to happen in a cabin by a lake, it doesn't have to last an entire week (or even an entire day).

While Sabbath time is about stopping, it's not the same as doing nothing. I can sit in front of the TV for hours and never feel rested. Over time I've learned the things that help me get and stay connected to myself as someone created and loved by God, and those same things also help me experience a deep sense of being able to rest in God.

As we enter into Lent next month, and over the next few months, I'll be sharing some of my own Sabbath experiences with you here in Honey and Locust. You may be able to relate to some of what I share, but what feeds us is different for everyone. I hope that by sharing these things, it might help you to think of your own Sabbath rest, the things that root you in yourself and help you connect deeply with God. If you're not quite sure what those things are for you, I

would encourage you to do some thinking and experimenting over the next few months and see what you can learn.

Grace and Peace,

Amanda

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Janice McAlpine,
and The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+
Wardens, Lay Reader, and Rector

"You will never look into the eyes of
someone God does not love."

Postscript:

Haley knit me
Advent socks; they
bring a spark to
February!
Thanks, Haley!
Love,
Ma
xo

