

News from Vancouver Island



*By Claire Donovan
Vancouver Island*

We are excited. Last year, after over 40 years, we did not have a summer retreat. Our leadership team was busy with family reunions, weddings... and could not make a retreat happen. However, a group of us did meet for a social afternoon at the lake where our retreat usually happens and had a good fellowship time. As well as some expected folks, we were also thrilled that Bishop Remi de Roo, who was instrumental in starting our Faith and Sharing group in the 70s, dropped in unexpectedly. And a former animator, Michael Hyruniuk, who lives over 4000km away in Toronto, happened to be in the area and also made a stop with us.



Now back to why we're excited... With some new young blood, we are planning a 2018 retreat. Naomi Hoffart attended retreats as a teen and later led our teen program for a few years. She then moved to Ireland and has worked at L'Arche Belfast for the last several years. She attended our retreat in 2016 and it reignited her love of our community. She will be moving back to Vancouver Island and has said a loud enthusiastic "yes" to helping to lead on our next retreat. And a new teen, Isaac Caissie, has also committed to helping plan our retreat. We feel so blessed that God is continuing to guide us and inspire new young people to enter in to hold and nurture the treasure that Faith and Sharing is. We are also excited to have Maria Garvey, whom Naomi brought to our 2016 retreat, come back and animate our 2018 retreat. She founded L'Arche Belfast and has worked for many years in retreat leadership. Please consider joining us for our retreat, from Eastern Canada or the USA. We are an international group and welcome all warmly. 💜