CIRCLE OF ELDERS REPORT, EASTER, 2021



The Circle of Elders (COE) is delighted with new growth, energy, connecting and collaborating, moving across CLC in Canada. At the same time, the signs of spring have awakened the COE. We discerned to invite all Elders-at-large for a week of prayer for our Elders and CLC in Canada, with a focus on the Ecological Examen followed by an invitation for a one-hour virtual prayer period for Elders on March 25.

During the Wave of Prayer, eleven Elders from PEI to BC met and prayed together for the first time. We prayed for all Elders especially those who are ill and were unable to join us. We remembered Mary's firm YES to be the mother of Jesus and we took the liberty of asking Mary to share her feast day of the Annunciation with St. Joseph, our patron saint of Canada. In a gospel contemplation, we prayed with Joseph's experiences through scripture. The fruit of our gospel contemplation brought us to a deeper understanding of Joseph…. the spouse and the father being obedient, courageous and truly a man choosing for his family the first kind of discernment; his response to God was to immediately act and protect Mary and the child Jesus. (*Sp. Ex.*, No. 175).

In the review of the Ecological Examen, the Elders shared in the cry of the Earth and the suffering of so many of God's people now in 2021. But with the hope that CLC in Canada will take action in caring for 'our home'.

The last grace asked for in the eco-examen was,
"I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation, and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. (How to repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation}."

Contemplating this grace created much consolation for our virtual community in two ways:

1. We were thankful that many of us are still active in ecological efforts, not only in Canada, but also with efforts for Haiti. We came to an awareness that although our age and health prevent us from being as active as we would like, our modest choices to live an ecologically sustainable life have resulted in our children and grandchildren adopting those habits also. We were grateful for our adult children who help us to continue to live this effort, as best we can.

2. There was a lot of energy around tree planting as something all CLCers in Canada could do. It is a small act that has big consequences. Local municipalities, conservation authorities and provincial parks in your area will have tree planting programs. Below you will find:

- a contact list of additional tree planting organizations which was included in a leaflet distributed by the Circle of Elders at our CLC National Assembly in 2019,
- a link to the eco-examen that we used in the Elders virtual meeting,
- a link to Wikipedia: the trillion-tree project.

Our next step/ hope/mission as the Circle of Elders is a commitment to care for our common home, and tender care for new growth across CLC Canada.

Can the communities of CLC Canada today respond courageously and immediately in protecting and caring for 'our home' just as St. Joseph did for his family so long ago? We can do this!

TREE PLANTING ORGANIZATIONS

Tree Canada, (excellent site for all Canada) https://treecanada.ca/about-us
Canadian Urban Forest Network Is also a part of Tree Canada, use the link above.

Nature Conservancy of Canada, https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/what-you-can-do/

goodwork.ca/volunteer http://www.goodworksinc.org/volunteer

Evergreen, evergreen.ca (volunteer opportunities across the country) https://www.evergreen.ca

onetreeplanted.org https://onetreeplanted.org *(Rockies region)*

Nature Calgary, https://naturecalgary.com

Manitoba Forestry Association, https://thinktrees.org

Fort Whyte Alive (Winnipeg), https://www.fortwhyte.org/support/volunteer

Forests Ontario, https://forestsontario.ca/en
and Ontario Conservation Authorities, https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/

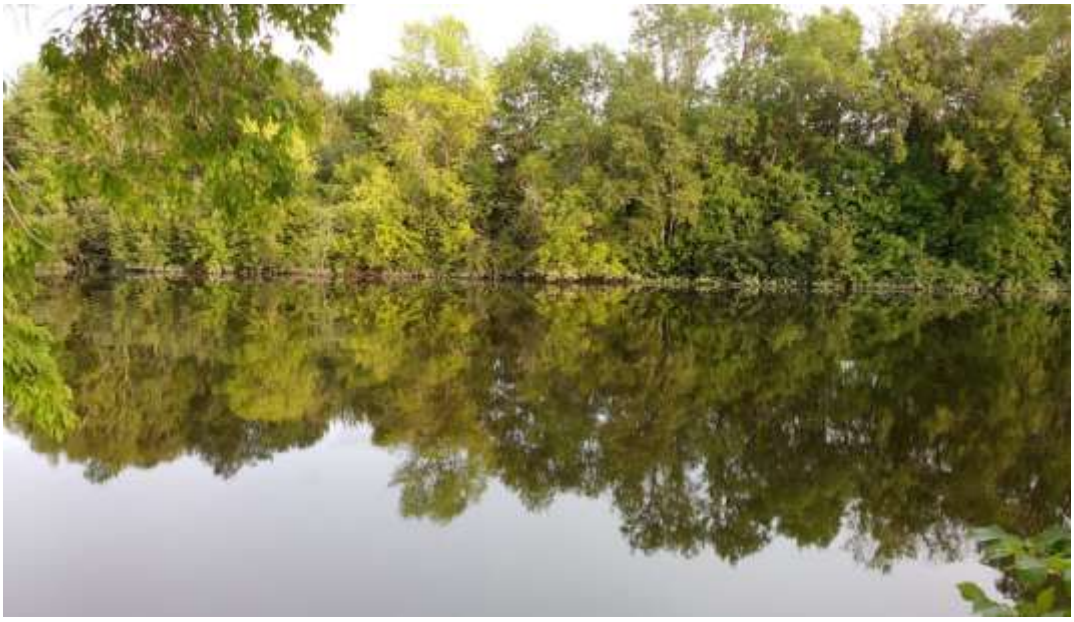
Greening Spaces Program Prince Edward Island,
https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/environment

Tree Canada and the Nature Conservancy are important providers of volunteer opportunities in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In addition to planting trees we can support the ***Old Growth Forest*** effort at Ignatius Jesuit Centre, Guelph. This is a wonderful 500 year rewilding program that needs financial and volunteer support: https://ignatiusguelph.ca/old-growth-forest/project

https://www.ecojesuit.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/EcoExamen-1page-v02.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trillion_Tree_Campaign



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary; to you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in our community of Elders. Obtain for CLC in Canada grace, mercy, and courage, and protect us as you protected Mary and Jesus. Amen.

Submitted by Elaine Regan Nightingale, Ruth Chipman, and Lois Zachariah