



MUSINGS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

Gwen and I have known it personally over the years as we've spent time at Fairhaven. However, we've been deeply encouraged this first month by the daily voices of our guests and visiting friends who share that they have experienced God's presence in this place.

Whether it is ongoing maintenance, mowing grass, readying cottages, praying with or counselling guests, those of us who serve here understand we are involved in deeply spiritual work. We are caretakers of this beautiful facility; entrusted with creating "a place and a space" where God's Spirit is readily and tangibly experienced by those seeking rest and renewal.

We consider it a wonderful privilege to be serving here. The faith legacy of Dr. Shepson, the pioneering work of Len and Fay Frank, and those who have served alongside them over the years are an inspiration to us as we begin this new chapter.

On behalf of Gwen and myself, "Thank you for the gracious welcome we have personally experienced." Fairhaven is blessed to have such a wonderful group of life time supporters who faithfully pray for, generously give to, and passionately believe in the founding vision of encouraging the health and renewal of those in Christian leadership.

With any transition comes a time of reassessing, refocusing, and exploring new expressions of the core vision. During these early days at Fairhaven with all the rapt wonder of a young child, I've found myself repeatedly asking questions. Mostly they are questions of orientation and of curiosity nurturing my desire to listen, learn, and to understand. Mixed throughout are questions of assessment, specifically, "how and why" which reflect a desire for expanding and enhancing what Fairhaven has to offer to this seeking rest and renewal.

"LET US LEAVE A LITTLE ROOM FOR REFLECTION IN OUR LIVES, ROOM TOO FOR SILENCE. LET US LOOK WITHIN OURSELVES AND SEE WHETHER THERE IS SOME DELIGHTFUL HIDDEN PLACE INSIDE WHERE WE CAN BE FREE OF NOISE AND ARGUMENT. LET US HEAR THE WORD OF GOD IN STILLNESS AND PERHAPS WE WILL THEN COME TO UNDERSTAND IT."

—Augustine

These questions contribute also to refocusing. The vision for Fairhaven as a leadership retreat centre is clear and compelling. Many of you have fed my longing to learn the history with tellings and re-tellings of God's faithfulness in bringing this vision to where it is today. As I've listened, the heart felt concern for those in Christian leadership has been so evident. That Fairhaven would be a place of refreshing retreat and of renewal and restoration is indeed our *raison d'être*. As awareness of this place grows, so also does the number of requests for bookings. This is wonderful and reflects the growing awareness of the need for self-care among those serving today. With this growth comes the need however to refocus the utilization of our current resources for purposes of

“OUR ANNUAL WEEK AT FAIRHAVEN WITH ITS IDYLIC SETTING, BEAUTIFUL FACILITIES, AND THOUGHTFUL STAFF HAS COME TO BE A HIGHLIGHT OF OUR YEAR. THE WEEK REPRESENTS FOR US A COMBINATION OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL, MARRIAGE RETREAT, AND SABBATH REST— ALL CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR US AS WE SEEK TO MINISTER IN OUR CONTEXT.”

—Ken & Karen Esau, Faculty,
Columbia Bible College.

of the God-given beauty of this “place” and experience a sense of being valued by the attention to detail in the welcoming cottages and magnificent lodge. “Space,” I would suggest, is more the capacity to experience and be aware of ourselves, and the presence of a God who desires to be intimately involved in all that makes up our lives. Here is perhaps where guests will experience new expressions of the vision. Some examples: Guests are invited to join us in the Lodge for a time of reflection and prayer each morning. With the completion of the lodge patio and lawn opportunities for outdoor fellowship aimed at fostering a sense of relaxation, restorative fun, and relational connectedness will be part of new opportunities for ministry. Guided retreats, walks through the forest, counselling, coaching, consultation, spiritual direction, workshops are among the many offerings here at Fairhaven. Personally, one of my passions is to connect with area leaders in their ministry contexts to extend encouragement, care, and a listening ear. We will also be exploring how off site activities, readily accessible, here in the Okanagan can contribute to the retreat experience.

Here at Fairhaven we are excited about the future God is unfolding. Your continued and gracious support directly impacts those who come to Fairhaven. Thank you for the joy of being extensions of your care and concern for those serving in positions of Christian leadership.

spiritual retreat and rest. This is particularly important during otherwise peak vacation times. From prioritizing retreats bookings, to creating structured retreat experiences for individuals and ministry couples, to encouraging and supporting area pastors, to coordinating care services with denominational leaders, the desire is to bring the vision into sharper focus and clarity. There is little question, both anecdotally in the stories we hear and in the daily requests for time to rest, that the demands upon leaders continues to grow and with it the sustaining need for intentional care that a place like Fairhaven can extend. We would invite you to pray and to plan with us accordingly.

While the Fairhaven vision continues to inform the bigger picture it also finds expression in the day to day offerings on site. To use the earlier phrase, “place and space” are integrally connected here at Fairhaven. Guests are in awe

FAIRHAVEN LAUNCHES
NEW FACEBOOK PAGE



The Fairhaven facebook page is a place of connection . . . us with you and you as friends and supporters with us. Like us on Facebook and share the news!

www.facebook.com/fairhavenministries



TRANSITIONS

Len and Fay have transitioned into the role of Director of Operations and will continue to serve with us here at Fairhaven.

Gerry and Heather Wyman concluded 12 years of faithful service as of June 30th. They are relocating down the mountain in Vernon where they will remain close by.

Kent and Val Tower will join the team on site as the Director of Facilities beginning September 1. Val will also be assisting with retreat planning, guest care, and administratively where needed. They would welcome your prayer support through this transition time.

Doug and Adelle Carlaw have faithfully served on the board and in a variety of ways over these founding years. They are concluding their time on the board as of September 2015.

Aaron and Nancy Ruston from Moose Jaw, Sk. have accepted the invitation to join the Fairhaven Board.

Aaron is a financial consultant and brings with him

a wealth of knowledge and experience in areas of finance related to personal and corporate matters, including extensive involvement in the charitable sector. We are excited to welcome he and Nancy and to see how God will use them in the unfolding Fairhaven story.

FAIRHAVEN LAUNCHES NEW PAYMENT AND WEB-BASED DONATION OPTIONS

In addition to cash and cheque, guests will now be able to utilize debit and credit cards to pay for accommodations and services at Fairhaven.

As the technology increases, many banks and personal bank accounts offer the option of e-transfers as well. This can be utilized for both accommodations and services, as well as donations. Donations can be sent via e-mail transfer directly to info@fairhavenministries.org through your online banking.

In addition, a number of our supporters have been using www.canadahelps.org to facilitate donations to Fairhaven.

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Fairhaven is truly a place of retreat, where we are able to step away from our regular routines and responsibilities, as significant and fulfilling as they may be, and be renewed physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We have also appreciated Fairhaven's quietness; it is an ideal spot for reading and writing. The gracious staff members exude warm Christian hospitality. A sense of peace pervades the grounds, the cottages, and the lodge. The natural beauty of the surrounding region lifts the spirits, whether one is taking in the magnificent view of the North Okanagan Valley from this mountainside vantage point, or walking the forest trails, where the stillness is framed by birdsong and the splashing of a mountain brook, the scent of pine, and the delicate beauty of wildflowers. The accommodations are beautiful, comfortable, spotless, and very affordable. —Rob and Karen Hiebert, Faculty, Trinity Western University.



If you require assistance with either of these, please feel free to contact us and we can walk you through the process.

NEW RATE STRUCTURE

After many years without a change in fees, the Board has recently approved a rate increase effective for bookings after September 2015. Specific details are available on our website . . . www.fairhavencanada.com. While we continue to receive gracious comments about the quality of our facilities, we recognize that these serve the vision and the overall guest retreat experience. To that extent we remain committed to accessibility for those who can benefit from the Fairhaven vision. And, we recognize however that thinking only in terms of accommodation fees is but a narrow measure of what our guests have come to value about the Fairhaven experience.

Blessings,

Tony Schnare
Executive Director

PRAYER REQUESTS

In this transition would you pray for hearts that are soft and sensitive to the Lord's leading? There is a rich heritage here at Fairhaven and His faithfulness is evident daily. It is our desire to be responsive to His leading and His direction as this next chapter unfolds.

Second, as we continue to grow one of the immediate staffing needs that serves our vision is in the area of housekeeping. Fay has and will continue to graciously and diligently serve in this way. However there is a need to expand our personnel and the compensation for what has up to this point been largely volunteer in nature. I've invited the board to consider how through providing appropriate remuneration for this valuable guest service we might actually be honouring the Lord. Would you pray for God's leading in this and for those who might share specifically in this financial need.

Finally, plans for the third staff house are in place. To move the project forward, the need is twofold: The services of a qualified general contractor who shares the vision and who could take on the project in the coming months is central. Second, approximately \$100,000.00 is needed to bring the project to move in ready. We are excited to see how the support is coming in for this necessary resource.

FAIRHAVEN MINISTRIES

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