

Maritime  
**MESSENGER**

Vol. 54 No. 3 - Summer 2016



# From the President

by Ben Foreman

We are in a season of transition here at Maritime Christian College (MCC). My transition from the Admissions Office to the President's Office is just one of the many changes that have taken place. Other changes include personnel, delivery management and new and old partnerships, just to name a few. What, then, is driving these changes? Well, unfortunately some of the factors are unpleasant. Our financial situation is at a critical juncture - you will read more about that on pages 6-7. Our pool from which to recruit students is shrinking because parents fear their child is 'wasting' their foundational year for Biblical studies, slowing down their child's path to making a living; and also some of our Churches are declining in numbers or closing. We at MCC must respond to this ever changing climate.

We are not merely reacting to stormy seas. With an awareness of educational systems and globalization and the use of technology, we are pursuing the delivery of our education products in a broader way. I am in contact with key partners throughout North America who support our mission in the Maritimes and desire to engage our students. We are pursuing a broader approach to our education delivery, in house, by moving to several adjunct professors rather than a full-time professor. For this to occur, Professor Eileen Tanner has moved from a full-time faculty position to an adjunct role. I wish to thank Eileen for how she has served and continues to serve at MCC. Obviously, adjusting positions in this way is not our first choice, however, while the decision was made for financial reasons, opportunities arose from it.

At this point, I urge you not to perceive a state of panic or instability at the College. We have reason for celebration and hope for the future. If you were blessed to attend graduation in May, you witnessed a class of ten grads. You witnessed three students receiving their Master of Arts (Religion) in Pastoral Leadership, a first of its kind for us. Yes, there are obstacles that we face as we strive to "Develop Christian Leaders Who Transform Their World," but as I stated at graduation, the Apostle Paul equated obstacles with opportunities. We will do the same.

Taking advantage of these obstacles/opportunities is our present focus. With much prayer, planning, collaborating and seeking wise counsel, MCC stands to look very different by Fall 2017. As we approach bold and new ideas with our partners, I implore you to become a partner with us. Share our vision. Pray without ceasing. Give generously. Be encouraged. Yes, the numbers tell us one thing but at our information meeting preceding graduation one person suggested our financial state would be remedied with 100 people giving an extra \$1,000 per year. We have had one individual already respond to this challenge by increasing their yearly donation by \$1,000. I plan to increase my "FRIENDS" donation as well. Are the challenges before us great? Yes; but we serve a greater God!

Shortly after graduation I read an old edition of the Maritime Messenger where I found something interesting. Ten years ago I gave a short address at graduation as a student stating, "The question was never how big the obstacle is, but rather how big is God?" We serve a mighty God who can do immeasurably more than we can ask for or imagine. Come, join us, serve with us. Let us work effectively to advance His Kingdom in the Maritimes. Let us do it together.





**C**orie Persall delights family and supporters during his valedictorian address at graduation May 7, 2016. He is one of three students who received their Bachelor of Arts (Bible) degree, Megan Davies and Stephen Vessey also received their degrees. Megan and Stephen plan on continuing their education at the graduate level. Samara Midgett earned an Associate of Arts diploma. Peter Doiron, Samuel St. Coeur

*significant however, is their character and investment in MCC students.*

*It was an absolute pleasure to learn under men and women who are accomplished academically. I attained new insights into scripture, theology and especially practical ministry that I would have never considered. The material was presented so effectively. Dr. Johnson's assignments were practical to my ministry context. Dr. Estep provided us with many resources to use in our home congregations. Dr. Jackson taught Early Church History as a narrative making it a surprisingly popular class. Each professor made the intensive week of class one to look forward to. It was easy to get up each morning for a full day of class.*



and Emily Varley all received their Biblical Studies Certificate. \$3,110 in awards were presented during the service and Alex Doiron was awarded the Full-Tuition Scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year valued at \$5,760.

Dr. Jerran Jackson, Clarksburg Christian Church, IN, hooded Dan Foreman, Jim Midgett and James Stevenson who all received their Master of Arts (Religion) in Pastoral Leadership degrees (MAR). Dan, Jim and James are the first students to complete a Master's program at Maritime Christian College (MCC).

*The professors of this program had an obvious love for Jesus and the advancement of His Kingdom. For any of them to take the time to prepare a class, travel and spend a week in another country and grade assignments for students well outside their ministry context is a testament to their character. They did not just become our professors but partners in ministry making themselves available well after classes and even when the program had finished. They have blessed the students of MCC and in so doing have blessed our congregations as well. They are of the highest caliber and I feel blessed to know them.*



**Dan Foreman**

*The professors for the MAR are of the highest quality in every sense. Academically, they are very intelligent. In teaching, they are each excellent communicators. Most*



# 2016 GRADUATION



### James Stevenson

*Our time in the classroom will always be one of the most memorable things about earning my Masters. I eagerly anticipated what would happen each time we gathered as students with the professor. The content and material that we were exposed to through the course readings was amazing, but the time together was*

*just as beneficial, if not more so.*

*We were challenged to think in different ways about things we'd been doing for years. In our Theology of Worship course those who participated walked away with a deeper understanding and appreciation for planning worship. In Foundations of Church Management we learned the importance of policies and procedures. In Early Church History we appreciated how we got where we are today so that we don't repeat the errors of the past.*

*During class times there were great discussions amongst the students and professors. We were able to learn from one another's successes and failures but also to encourage one another in our various ministry contexts.*

*The material and discussion were never limited to the classroom but would continue in the car as we drove to lunch and around the table. One of my fondest memories, and something that I will miss, will be gathering with ministry colleagues to learn how to better lead God's Church.*



### Jim Midgett

*Ministry is hard and unpredictable. I thought I was well equipped being that I had a bachelor's degree from a Bible college and had spent my life in and around church leadership. I was wrong. I needed help.*

*The Masters program changed everything for me. It is a practical degree that largely focused on the problems that I face daily in my ministry. At the very least it humbled me in my own knowledge. It turns out that I am not blazing new trails in organizational management or evangelism. Instead I am running into every problem that has been common to every church since Christ left the earth. It also turns out that there are real answers to all of these problems.*

*The MAR enabled me to read books that I would never have considered reading before. It showed me areas of my ministry that I had great strength in, and areas that required great help. But the most incredible thing about the program is that it actually equipped me to deal with the problem areas, and to find new resources and training in my strengths. Additionally it has better prepared me for the unpredictable nature of ministry. This program has made me a better pastor. Indeed, this program has made me a better Christian.*

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# A Living Lesson

by Eileen Tanner



Justine Richardson, Stephen Vessey, and I embarked on our intensive week in Turkey to study the Revelation 2 and 3 Churches, which formed an oval in the eastern part of Turkey: Ephesus, Smyrna (Izmir), Pergamum (Bergama), Thyatira (Akhisar), Sardis (Sart), Philadelphia (Aleshir), and Laodicea. As we sat among the ruins of the early cities, and listened to the letters written by John the apostle, each letter seemed to focus on how they had lost their first love, embraced the culture rather than Christ, and believed that they were 'self'-sufficient, rather than Christ-sufficient; it seems that they could

have been written today. Only Smyrna and Philadelphia receive commendation for their faith and the Christian witness they bear. How would we fare today?

We were each so impressed with the friendliness, and helpful attitudes of everyone we met, going so far as a man at a service station making coffee for Stephen and Justine, bringing chairs out for them, and serving it in china. As we could not speak their language, we became creative in communication techniques. So our nine days in Turkey conjures up many memories.

## PARTNERING in Service



Restoration House Ministries hosted the MCC team



Megan Davies and Bob Miller, Restoration House Ministries

Five Maritime Christian College (MCC) students partnered with BridgePointe Christian Church in preparation for their Community Easter Egg Hunt, a community outreach event, located at two parks in Providence, Rhode Island. 1,700 enthusiastic children participated in the church sponsored event while MCC students either popped popcorn, painted faces, or in the case of Megan Davies dressed as an enthusiastic Easter bunny.

Megan Davies commented, *"It was really cool to see how God is working in and through that community. Being able to see them at a different stage every time we've traveled there over the past few years has allowed me to witness the amount of work that goes into a church plant and to see how God can grow and bless a community that is committed to making Him known."*

The College partners with Restoration House Ministries as a means for our students to experience new church plants. *"It's exciting to have service opportunities like BridgePointe,"* said Tom Marshall, Academic Dean. *"Restoration House Ministries planted the church three years ago, and it is now averaging 400 people in attendance. The students did a great job helping the BridgePointe team. They experienced first hand what it means to be a servant leader."*



Emily Varley and Megan Davies with their host Kim



Sam St. Coeur displaying a door hanger

*"The hospitality was above and beyond! The community at BridgePointe Christian Church really knows how to make you feel welcome and loved,"* said Megan.

# A Critical Point



There has been some amazing prayer and financial support for Maritime Christian College (MCC) during the 56 years of her existence. Under the Presidency of Kenneth Norris (1960–1980) MCC was graciously allowed to share the facilities of Central Christian Church. Then 13 years into the Presidency of Stewart Lewis (1980–1996) a bold move was made to purchase the Monastery of the Precious Blood directly across the street from the University of Prince Edward Island. The total purchase price for the building and adjoining 3.42 acres was \$1.2 million. This was paid for with investment money, the sale of a student residence on Kent Street, and the generous donations of the FRIENDS of MCC. The giving toward this capital project was incredible and the mortgage was paid off by 1998 during the Presidency of Merle Zimmerman (1996-2000).

will notice that our income has risen by close to \$100,000 during that same time period, to \$394,060 in 2015. This increase in giving is a great accomplishment, considering we have fewer supporting congregations, fewer individual supporters, and student enrolment is down thus affecting tuition and residence income.

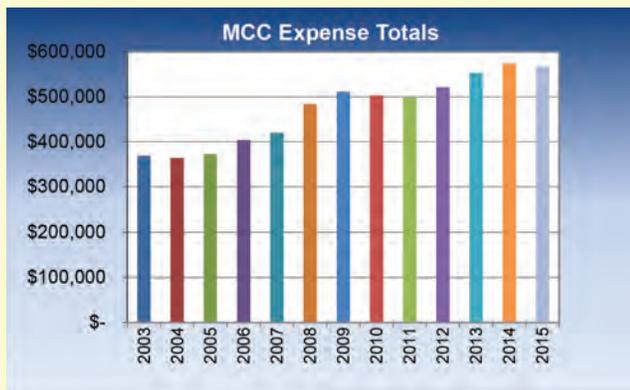
So how have we survived during the past number of years? The answer is tremendous return on investments. Since 2009 we have withdrawn \$850,000 from investments to pay our operating expenses and yet our total amount of investments has only gone down by around \$73,000. The last two years have been our biggest draws and that unfortunately coincided with a downturn in the investment market so we are now at a critical point. The majority of our investment money is tied up until 2031 as part of a special gift given to the College.

We invited our supporters to an open meeting at MCC on May 7 where we shared some plans for the future of the school as well as made people aware of the financial situation. We want to move MCC toward a balanced budget and in order to do that costs need to go down and support needs to increase. For example, another generous five-year corporate donation allowed us to hire another full-time faculty member in 2008. That funding ended during the second year of Jared Johnson's (2012 -2016) term as president. We have tried to maintain that position but have been forced into another tough stewardship decision and had to recently cut that full-time position.

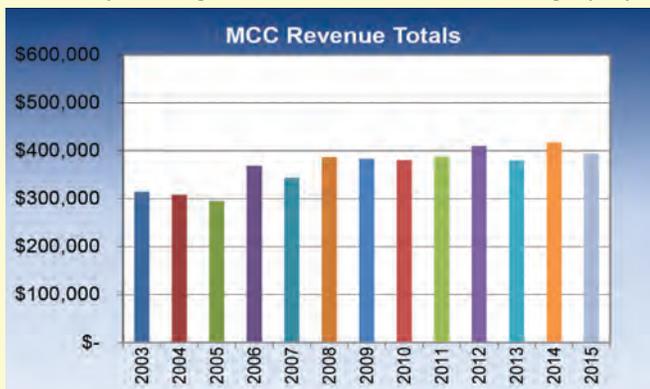
We have now reduced our full-time faculty by two people and we need your help with the increased support part. You can see our realistic budget of expected giving for 2016 in the "Revenue 2016" pie graph. This amount of \$422,300 includes \$70,585 of investment income which we have already used. The "Expenses 2016" pie graph shows a total of \$537,403. At the May meeting, one of the 40+ people in attendance made a suggestion that we find 100 people who would give \$1,000 per year. That is as simple as joining the FRIENDS Program and having \$83 automatically deducted from your bank account each month. Would you prayerfully consider that and consider who else you could encourage to match your efforts?



Greg Nicholson  
Treasurer MCC

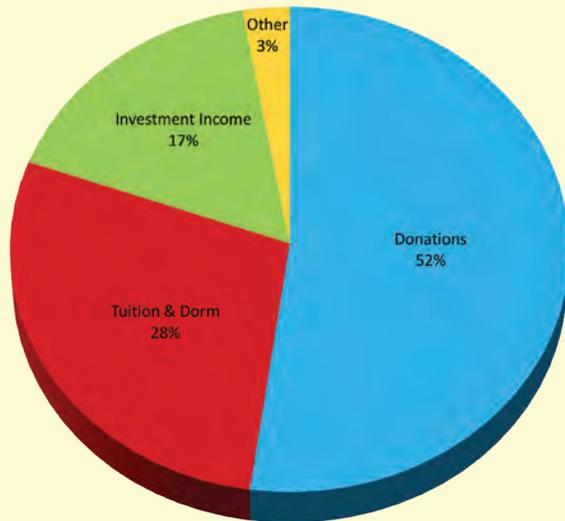


The move to our own campus brought new possibilities but it also brought new expenses in order to run a building of this size. Shortly after MCC moved to its present campus, a large five-year corporate donation allowed MCC to add programs, but when that funding was used up, the board had to make a tough stewardship decision and eliminate one full-time faculty position. In the early years of Fred Osborne's (2000-2012) Presidency he commented on how it cost \$1,000 a day to run MCC. Since 2007, however, that number has been climbing and you will notice in the "MCC Expense Totals" graph that in 2015 it cost \$567,315 to operate. By looking at the "MCC Revenue Totals" graph you



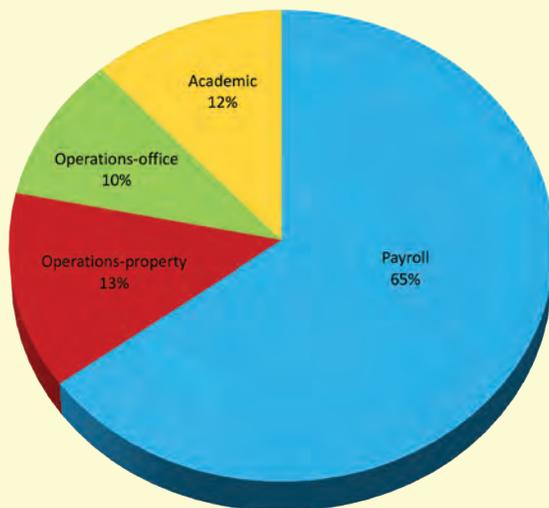
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Revenue 2016



Revenue		% of Total
Donations	\$220,540	52%
Tuition & Dorm	\$119,425	28%
Investment Income	\$70,585	17%
Other	\$11,750	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$422,300</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Expenses 2016



Expenses		% of Total
Payroll	\$348,281	65%
Operations-property	\$72,150	13%
Operations-office	\$53,647	10%
Academic	\$63,325	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$537,403</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Financial Highlights

### Current Position

- 3.42 acre site
  - Mortgage free
  - Property assessment of \$1,750,000
- Scholarships
  - \$14,905 interest awarded in 2015-2016 from money invested for scholarships
  - \$15,195 donated and awarded for 2015-2016
- \$100,000 available for general fund from investments
- \$115,103 projected budget deficit for 2016
- \$61,175 overdraft from 2015

### Future Position

- Transitioning from 2 full-time positions to part-time staff and adjunct – yearly savings of \$72,314
- \$1,051,365 invested that is restricted until 2031
- 100 people giving \$1,000 above current giving
- Future endowments by donors
- Sustainable financial position

# GRADUATES IMPACT their WORLD

## Katie Stevenson ('15)

**M**y husband and I have joined lead planters Joel and Kia Bridges in their exciting endeavour with Christ to plant The River Christian Church in the Greater Moncton Area, focusing on Dieppe NB specifically. My husband, Josh, will be the Associate Pastor at the church and I will be the Worship Director. Before I went to college, I had already developed an interest in Worship Ministry and was given opportunities in my own churches to be part of the praise teams. I also had a desire to learn more about the faith that I claimed. Maritime Christian College (MCC) has prepared me for my role in Dieppe in a number of ways.

Each year students are expected to attend and serve in a church. I was fortunate enough to work with other local worship leaders during my College years, and I can't express enough how beneficial it was to learn from them directly. So my first tip is:

Finding Mentors in Ministry; it is very important to have mentors for your personal life, and it's also important to find specific Ministry Mentors. *Iron sharpens iron*, as they say (Proverbs 27:17)!

The College also arranged an outstanding class on the Theology of Worship taught by Dinelle Frankland of Lincoln Christian University. The course served to remove all previous connotations of worship and transform our thinking to reflect what scripture teaches us Biblical worship should be. We studied examples of strong worshipers and developed practical ways to wrangle our own poor habits into stronger ones. Worship is not about genre, or volume, about your least or most favourite songs, or even talent (yes, that's right, I said it!). It's about who you worship (Psalm 96:9), and about the condition of your heart when you do so. And so my second tip is: Continue Learning about Your Ministry. Being a continual learner creates a humble spirit, and helps to prevent stagnation.

Summer internships are also a part of your life at MCC, and I was graciously accepted at several churches during my time where I was given responsibilities typically in worship and media areas. These helped to develop my practical skills of music and coordinating worship services. It's one thing to have a musical skill, and another to be able to arrange worship services alongside messages and themes, to arrange music, and to direct the other musicians into working as a cohesive team. So this tip is: Practice Your Craft.



With all these official experiences, I was also blessed to lead groups of other students as worship teams at several events. Having your professors and leaders validate or correct you, give you honest feedback, and personal coaching is one of the most valuable things you can receive, they're on your team, they're in your corner, believe it or not they'll be

rooting for you!

So, all this said, what do I believe Worship Ministry looks like? Here's a little sample of my Worship Initiatives for The River Christian Church:

1. Pray on your own, and pray with your team. (Psalm 46:10)
2. Make sure you have a support team, mentors and prayer warriors. (Hebrews 13:18-19)
3. Be creative, don't settle for four songs. Include scripture, dynamic readings, art, praise, etc! (Proverbs 22:29)
4. Get others involved



and give them the tools they need. (Titus 2:7-8)

5. Above everything, give glory to the Creator of all, to the Almighty, to the one God! Take this very seriously, because He really does know our hearts.

And finally, the verse that haunts me whenever I pick up an instrument: Psalm 115:1 says *“Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.”*

## David Marshall ('06)

**D**avid Marshall sat down over lunch at Ta-Ke Sushi restaurant on Queen Street in Charlottetown and answered a few questions about Maritime Christian College's (MCC) role in preparing him to influence and transform his world.

### **How do you pull off worship ministry while working a full-time job elsewhere?**

I'm organized. I put a lot of hours into creating song sheets, scheduling, pairing people together, a lot of background work needs to be done. You cannot expect to throw something together and expect it will go well.

### **Did Maritime Christian College have a role to play in your work now?**

Honestly by your fourth year, if you don't learn how to become organized, hone in your administrative skills, you suffer majorly. That was one big take away how to be organized in order to get results. Another big take away factor, the College puts a lot of emphasis on volunteering, being out in the community and having those opportunities. It's the purpose of the school. It throws you right into the mix. You can take a look at the landscape of some of these churches. You learn a lot by doing that. It's not always the best experience, or the experience you were looking for, but it steers you in a direction for the future. It helps you learn. The more opportunities I had the more I learned. I made it my own thing.

### **What is the greatest challenge you face in your ministry?**

The biggest challenge is getting people to buy in and commit to it. People's time today is so filled up. It's a challenge to do something well and donate your time to it. That is the big challenge. Just trying to balance expectations and reality and get people to accept the idea

of excellence. If we are going to do it, then I want to do it well. I don't want to just show up. It's worth so much more than that. My biggest challenge is getting people to understand this. People's time is precious to them.

### **Were any worship courses helpful to you in your preparation for ministry?**

Honestly, just having a general knowledge about God, Jesus, and drawing closer to him, what that looks like, what that means were the biggest help. My job is to bring people closer to God into that moment, passion, or just honest fellowship with God. That is not an easily accomplished thing. So many people think it's just picking songs. You've already missed it. It's gone. I've been part of teams where the only concern has been if songs have been picked or not. You already missed it. Because you need to take all the organization and preparation you've done and translate that into something actually meaningful and worshipful. That is the challenge: learning to be Christ-like.

### **What about personal challenges?**

The last few years it started to feel more like a ritual and it became a stale job. This was unacceptable because it was my passion and I wanted it to be real. So I made some personal changes. First and foremost I make it real and meaningful for myself. I find when I do that, people sense that and they come with me and join in. I know it can get repetitive but we've seen the change in Cornwall Christian Church. It's happening and that blows my mind, to have that genuine experience with God with other people, it's amazing.

When I'm in those moments it is like I'm the only one present. What it has changed in my life is I can get people to really make a 'God connection' and sing their hearts out. It's freeing. I don't feel held in a box like I once felt. I can actually accomplish things, getting in tune with

God and the Word. Until you allow the worshipers to feel that comfort, that connection, even with new people, forget it. You've just missed the point. It's become just a show and it never happens. I'm preparing myself weekly for those moments. I grew up in a small town, in a small church, with a great family but what is this really all about? How can I find out if this is real? How can I be genuine in actually experiencing anything just because I know that I should be? As I've grown and expanded my wisdom, not my wisdom but God's, I find that true, authentic worship comes out in my life and in the lives of those I lead.



# FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



In order to maintain fiscal responsibility the College Board has eliminated two positions:

**Eileen Tanner** transitioned from full-time faculty to adjunct. She will be given the opportunity to teach four classes in an adjunct capacity during the academic year 2016-2017. Other adjunct positions will be filled on a semester basis as needs arise at the College.

*"I sincerely thank Eileen for her many years of service,"* President Ben Foreman said, *"and her commitment to Christian higher education, of which I personally am a benefactor. Ideally, I would love to*

*maintain Eileen's position because of the high quality of teaching she provides, as well as, the many tangible and intangible benefits we had when she was full-time. I'm pleased that Eileen will be teaching in an adjunct role and enthusiastic for the diverse experiences others will bring."*

**Ben Foreman** took on the role of President in April. The Board of Directors is not hiring a new Director of Admissions at this time. The President and Board are exploring alternatives for student recruitment. Ben will continue to oversee the duties and responsibilities for the Director of Admissions position.

# ALUMNI NEWS



**Katelyn (Richardson) ('12)**  
& Donald MacLean  
*Baby Boy*  
Eliyah Mark MacLean  
April 24, 2016  
18.75 inches long  
4lbs 11oz

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# In Loving Memory

February 1, 2016 ~ May 31, 2016

**In Memory of:**

**By:**

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Burt's Corner, NB

Garnet & Mary Jones  
Heather Jones

**GAVIN BELL**  
Murray Harbour, PE

David & Sheila MacLeod

**RICK BLACQUIER**  
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Garnet & Mary Jones  
Heather Jones

**DAVID ESTEY**  
Duncan, BC

Garnet & Mary Jones  
Heather Jones

**RAYMOND HAINES**  
Douglas, NB

Margaret MacCabe

**HARRY F. HERRING**  
Truro, NS

Melanie Melanson

**LOUIS & CARRIE HERRING**  
Murray Harbour, PE

Friend Herring

**DONALD JOHNSON**  
Fredericton, NB

Gordon Weatherby

**SARAH JEANNE (HADDON) MACDONALD**  
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Donald & Mary Hickox

**LUCY MACNEILL**  
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**CLAYTON "NICK" NICOLLE**  
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**CLARENCE WHITE**  
Burt's Corner, NB

Hollis & Donna Grant  
Gordon Weatherby

**MURRAY WHITE**  
Charlottetown, PE

Shirley White

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**In Honor of donations** will be recognized with a card sent to the honoree if the name and address are included with your donation.



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