



THE NIAGARA LIGHT

from the
GREATER NIAGARA BRANCH OF THE PRAYER
BOOK SOCIETY OF CANADA

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We Found It!

and an overt plug

The 'Wine Tour' of the Greater Niagara Branch was most successful in finding the 'Perfect Communion Wine or Anything Else We Think Drinkable'. Since our quest only began with the first sip at about 2:30 in the afternoon we made this find in a most sober state. (We actually don't imbibe very much but the very idea that staid relics who prefer the Book of Common Prayer go out boozing and having a roaring good time is part of the arsenal used to deflect the idea that we are staid relics. We sometimes think we leave another impression!)

It turns out that our quest's mandate gave us license to award the prize to the 2002 Riesling from the Birchwood Estates Winery of Beamsville. It actually comes under the escape clause of 'Anything Else We Think Drinkable'. No, not many will be drinking this wine from silver cups on Sunday mornings but it goes wonderfully well with roast pork during Sunday dinners. Enjoy.

As a final note **Birchwood Estate Winery*** is deserving a plug here as one of the best small wineries in Ontario we have chanced upon. Anyone doing the wine route is advised to seek out this little winery located at 4679 Cherry Ave, Beamsville.

** Members of the judging committee or any others concerned or with Greater Niagara PBSC Branch have no financial or other interest in any winery that we know of. We just love the place!*

An Amalgamation For the History Books



Walter Raybould, Laura Dobson, and Boris Nusko at Willowbank

It is done folks! The two branches of the Prayer Book Society of Canada formerly known as Niagara North and St. Catharines' / Niagara are one. The meeting of minds was held at the grand estate house of 'Willowbank' on the Niagara River. Our host was none other than Mrs. Laura Dobson C.M., now the new branch's Honorary Past President.

Dear readers, our Oct. 29th attempt to hold the meeting in a parking lot were manipulated by a greater Force than ourselves. Being shy and retiring (oh right!) we had planned for a simple place to meet. We ended up with a venue of magnificence and style beyond our wildest dreams. Now the history books will have to be updated as to the significance of 'Willowbank' as the place where this meeting of great religious import took place!

... cont'd on page 2

GREATER NIAGARA BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Cont'd . . . An Amalgamation For the History Books

So now the details. The new branch is called 'The Greater Niagara Branch of the Prayer Book Society of Canada'. The President is Mr. Walter Raybould, the Honorary Past President is Mrs. Laura Dobson and the Vice President is Mr. Boris Nusko. The remaining members of both executives are now amalgamated into one executive till the February Annual General Meeting where new votes will be taken.

The newsletter too came in for changes as one can see from our masthead. If you think the new name unsuitable, our other choices were something else. The most sensible was the 'Salamander' to denote the survival through fire. The others were 'The Niagara Anglican', 'The Loose Canon' and the 'The Niagara Fighting and Kicking'. Fine choices all but it was deemed prudent to have a name in keeping with our sobriety and decorum and so 'The Niagara Light' it is.

Finally on a serious note it is with determination that as a new branch we continue in our efforts with renewed vigour. There will be young people depending on us if they are to know what Anglicanism's great gift to the Christian world is. Seniors who need to hear the reassuring theology that makes Salvation clear in words they are familiar with. Then there are the rest of us. Archbishop Cranmer, no matter all his faults, was given the grace to pen words of faith that we need to hear and say and think about. May the Holy Spirit give the strength and patience to carry through and see to it that all of us, now and in the future, can avail from this great achievement called 'The Book of Common Prayer'.

Dunnville Evensong Delight

To have your twenty something sons gladly join you on an expedition to Evening Prayer is a testament to the good work done at the Saint Michael's Youth Conference. So your President and Vice President think anyway. To have an Evensong to go to and such an Evensong too, is a testament to the splendid parishioners who support Saint Paul's Dunnville and its rector Fr. Haynes Hubbard. So your President and Vice President think anyway. Actually we had a lot to think about that night. We had to think about the wonderful support that evening from members of our own branch and those valiant heroes who had come from the Grand Valley Branch. We had to think about the wonderful reception we received at Saint Paul's. We were asked to stay and enjoy the wine and cheese and lots of other goodies being served that night in honour of their warden's new Order of Niagara, and no thought went into our swift acceptance of the hospitality! (For all of it, the service, the hospitality, and the love and friendship extended to us we thank the Parish of Saint Paul's.)

Before we close we must comment on the service itself. It was done with decorum and grace and the beautiful church, the wonderful voices and the sheer wonder that such a service is being done today in a small town church left an ache in one's heart. This is what Anglicans of our parents and grandparents generations loved and what brought many into the Church. This is Anglicanism at its best. We thank St Paul's that it exists and exists so wonderfully in Dunnville.

Walter Raybould & Boris Nusko

Greater Niagara Branch AGM

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Greater Niagara Branch will be held on:

**February 12, 2006, 3:00 pm,
at Grace Church, Milton.**

Everyone is welcome to stay for the Evensong, starting at 5:00 pm, and there will be a pot luck supper following the service.

Other Events

Plainsong Evensong

Feast of the Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday Dec. 9, 7:30 pm
St John The Evangelist
Locke St., Hamilton

Annual Christmas Evensong

Sunday Dec. 11, 7:00 pm
St Columba's Oakville at
Grace Lutheran Church in Oakville,
(corner of Spruce and Reynolds Streets, just off of
Trafalgar Road, south of the QEW)

Greater Niagara Churches Respond to Students

Anglican Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer services in Greater Niagara's patch are coming to light as we ferret out information on their availability. This need for information has come from our youth challenge. Most main services seem to be communion services, which gained favour when the green liturgy came into our world. While our Anglo-Catholic brethren have always leaned towards Mass and Communion services since the Oxford Movement came through, our 'Broad' church lot have mostly chucked out their old Anglican mainstay services (along with a very wet baby) and are doing a new thing. The latest news is that Saint Elizabeth's Burlington has just dropped their Anglican Morning Prayer services and gone with the so called green alternative. All is not squandered out the door though. We have found some great churches still in the swing of things and all advertise a **Morning Prayer** Service some Sundays. In the '**Anglican**' **Church of Canada** we have:

<i>Saint Luke's in Burlington</i>	<i>Saint John's of Nassagaweya</i>
<i>Saint Jude's in Oakville</i>	<i>Saint Saviour in Queenston</i>
<i>Grace in Waterdown</i>	<i>Saint John's in Stewarttown</i>
<i>Saint Stephen's in Hornby</i>	<i>Saint Alban's in Beamsville</i>

Also there are the **Reformed Episcopalians** at Saint George's in West Hamilton with three services of Morning Prayer every month and the **Independent Anglicans** at Saint Georges in-the-Garden in Niagara Falls taking the gold star with Morning Prayer every Sunday at 9:30 am.

Evening Prayer is still going strong but with more variety.

Christ Church cathedral holds an Evensong once a month, though not always as advertised.

Saint John's Ancaster has grand choral Evensongs going four times a year (with an attached mini concert etc.).

Saint John's the Evangelist on Locke St. Hamilton holds a monthly Friday Evensong during the fall and winter with lots of Gregorian chants and plainsong.

St. Luke's Hamilton has varied Evensongs (in high church mode) throughout the year at major festivals.

St Paul's Dunville has BCP Evensongs – see our write up on the previous page.

Saint George's Reformed Episcopalian holds Evening Prayer the third Sunday of the month.

Saint Columba's of Oakville hold Evensong on the first and third Sunday of the month at their new digs at Grace Lutheran in Oakville.

Saint John's Elora also do some wonderful Morning Prayers and Evensongs through the year.

On a different note *Saint Philip the Apostle* in Burlington had advertised a **Compline** on All Hallow's Eve at 9:00PM. How wonderful!

Anglican non-communion services are getting rare and we have tried to tell you about the ones we know about. We probably have missed a lot of services and we do apologize. If you know of any we have missed or want to have us advertise them do write or email us and let us know.

A Merry Christmas from Our Treasurer

Over this last year our little band of merry BCP users have:

- produced and published newsletters
- mailed those newsletters to members and other interested people
- joined Niagara North with Niagara South/St. Catharines
- established, planned, promoted and put on Saint Michael's Preparatory
- produced and published PBSC Niagara promotional material
- produced and published Saint Michael's Youth Conference brochures
- supported Saint Michael's Youth Conference with registration, promotional materials, and organization

- numerous meetings for both fun and business
- went on a wine tour
- participated in inter regional activities
- produced Saint Michael's display
- promoted St. Michael's to Niagara area youth
- visited numerous BCP member churches
- produced and displayed the Niagara display

Members of Niagara have:

- | |
|--|
| - worked with Essentials Niagara |
| - maintained Niagara's web site |
| - maintained St. Michael's web site |
| - served on various PBSC committees both provincially and nationally |
| - served in their home churches promoting the use of the BCP |

... and now we are broke. So what else is new?

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Shannon Nusko

The New Anglican Planet Newspaper is Banned in Brandon

In a move sure to increase subscription sales, the Bishop of Brandon has banned The Anglican Planet from churches in his diocese. It is regretful that Jim Njegovan, has stooped to these kind of tactics. The conservative wing of the Anglican Church of Canada are now lining up to get subscriptions to The Anglican Planet (TAP) and are thankful to Bishop Njegovan for bringing this new publication to their attention. You can read an article from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News on this unfortunate event on the Diocese of Niagara's website. For those wishing to read articles by The Reverend Doctor James Packer, our own National President the Reverend David Harris, Canon Charlie Masters etc. and get a slant on world Anglican news not available from 'official' sources, we are supplying subscription information below.

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Oakville Evensong at St. Columba's Church

Saint Columba's of Oakville is one of the four Independent Anglican Churches in the branch's area. The other three are St. George's in Tapleystown, Annunciation in Hamilton and St. George's in the Garden, Niagara Falls.

The people of Saint Columba's had invited the members of the branch to an Evensong this summer and what with printing deadlines we did not get to post the date of the service. This meant that our turn out was very thin. Nevertheless some of us who were in the know made it. Good thing too as Saint Columba's put on a superb service of Evening Prayer and we thank them for having us. It was well attended with people from Oakville, Mississauga, Niagara Falls, Campbellville, Hamilton and points beyond. The highlight of the day for us and especially for the organist was his receiving of a doctorate from St. Matthew's Cathedral College which was conferred by Archbishop Goodrich. Afterwards we enjoyed a cosy reception where we met and made friends with many people.

One of the things we have to comment on is that the Independent Church has produced their own version of the Book of Common Prayer which is larger in size than that of the Anglican Church of Canada's pocket version we are so familiar with. It is very well done and is purposely well made so as to not fall apart, a sad failing of some newer BCP's available today.

With all the ruckus happening in the Anglican Church of Canada, it is interesting to visit the Independent Church Denomination and see how this group has fared since their inception seventy five years ago. One sees it has fared very well and is opening churches, which for most Anglicans these days, something we are not used to.

All in all if you want a good traditional Book of Common Prayer service, a warm friendly congregation and a sincere devotion to Christ, the Independents deliver.

**PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY - IT'S NOT ONLY CARS THAT CAN
BE RECALLED BY THEIR MAKER.**