

Greetings from Rideau Park: some important updates!

We celebrate the lives of these members of our Rideau Park family, holding their family and friends in prayer: George Tweedie (June 26) and Allan Hamilton (July 2).

Summer Reflection Series – Holy Interruptions: a series of one-sheet reflections that you can read on our website or print off and share. Posted on the website every Thursday.

The Province of Ontario has moved Ottawa into Stage 3: What does this mean for Rideau Park?

- **Livestreaming will continue** to be our primary way to deliver worship throughout re-entry, as we continue to include those who do not feel safe worshipping in a public gathering, or who may be worshipping from other locations.
- We are adhering to our earlier plan to keep the sanctuary closed for worship until the Sunday of Labour Day weekend (**September 6**). Late in August we will assess whether or not we are ready to have some people present in the sanctuary in September, while worship is being livestreamed.
- Council Executive, with the congregation's committees, has been developing a **plan** for returning to worship in the sanctuary.
- Phase 2 will include the presence of some people during the worship but will require **physical distancing in the sanctuary**, a maximum number of 50 participants, mandatory masking, seating assigned by ushers, no singing or coffee time.
- Phase 1 includes preliminary plans in place for holding **small memorial services (25 guests)** in the sanctuary, should the need arise.

We are doing a survey to assess how many members of Rideau Park are interested in returning to worship in the sanctuary during our second phase, given the restrictions. Please use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PLSHSNW> to fill out the Survey Monkey online survey, so we can assess the level of interest, given the restrictions above.

Preparing for re-opening: how can you help?

There are a number of tasks that need to be undertaken, and many hands needed. Some of you may have workplace experience creating guidelines or protocols OR have the skills we need to prepare the building for re-opening. If you have time or talents that would help us make Rideau Park a safe place to gather, we would love to hear from you. Please contact: Pat Whitridge council@rideaupark.ca.

Elizabeth Bryce

TREASURER'S NOTE (FOR CONGREGATIONAL E-MAIL, JULY, 2020)

As we reach the midway point in the year here is a brief status report on our Finances. As at the end of June, we had a deficit of approximately \$30,000 (\$49,000 deficit last year; budgeted deficit \$42,000 this year; both for the same period). The deficit has not changed significantly since the end of March (\$28,000). In part this is due to government support. To-date we have received approximately \$8,000 in government benefits and we have applied for an additional \$26,000 in support through the Government Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program. PAR continues play an important role in enabling us to provide

Sunday worship services, to continue assisting those in need and to pay all our staff, who are working very hard during this difficult time. We are also fulfilling our obligations to the National Church for both M&S and the National Assessment. While we do have utility, insurance and administrative expenses, our cash position is good. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have provided extra financial support through additional givings.

While our financial position is good at this point in time there are still some unknowns going forward. We have qualified to receive some CEWS revenue, however, it is not clear how much more we will qualify for. Currently we must show a 30% drop in revenue each period from the previous year to qualify. Given that a significant portion of our revenue comes through PAR this can be a challenge. Therefore, I expect that we will need to have a year-end appeal. If you wish to make a donation to the Church in the meantime you can do so by cheque made out to Rideau Park United Church either by mailing it to me or leaving it in the mail box by the Cunningham entrance at the Church. Also, you can use the "Canada Helps - Donate Now" button on our web-site. Some of you have asked about E-transfers to make a donation. You can now do so by sending your transfer to accounting@rideaupark.ca.

Thank you and I hope each one of you has a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Bob Roden
Treasurer