

The New Northland

The Diocese Makes a Bold Change

By George Cribbs
EDITOR

EVEN before you read the first word in this edition of *The Northland*, you noticed that its appearance is radically different from any previous edition of *The Northland* or any other publication of the Diocese of Moosonee. Moreover, *The Northland* arrived at your home by a different method. Our diocesan publication is now in a dynamic relationship with the *Anglican Journal*. We are availing ourselves of the excellent printing and publishing expertise and facilities which the *Anglican Journal* enjoys.

In entering into a partnership with the *Anglican Journal* our diocesan publication has more than tripled its production to approximately 750 papers per issue. This is heartening news to those persons who take their time and energy to write articles about their parish's endeavours for our Moose Notes or feature articles for our publication. The phrase, 'our publication' is a meaningful one; *The Northland* will now feature a 'Letters to the Editor' section where readers may express their opinions and concerns. Our new style of publication limits us to four rather large pages so space is not limitless but every effort will be made to accommodate submissions whether as articles or letters.

Bishop Tom Corston left an audio message to be played at the annual meetings which were held at parishes throughout the



The Right Reverend Tom Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

diocese. Economic realities and concerns were brought to the attention of clergy and laity. *The Northland* is, perhaps, an example of doing things differently and economically in the diocese. Despite the fact that we have tripled our readership, *The Northland* actually costs less to produce than ever before.

Although *The Northland* has the appearance of a newspaper, its task is not the same as a community newspaper. The articles which you may wish to write do not have to be breaking news – we are after all a quarterly publication. There are without doubt many things happening in the life of your parish which could be of benefit to others in the diocese. Good ideas and experiences should be shared with others. Most parishes and parishioners face similar

difficulties and challenges. Your ways of dealing with the realities which confront your parish could stir others to action in theirs. In helping others, we strengthen our diocese and all of us may derive benefit from such improvements.

Please write an article and take a photograph and send it to *The Northland!* Your material may be sent to the editor. The email address is as follows: georgcribbs@yahoo.ca or mail it to: 701 Bristol Road, Porcupine, ON P0N 1C0. If you prefer, you may of course send your material to the diocesan office for forwarding to the editor. You may contact the diocese at: www.moosoneeanglian.ca or mail material to P.O. Box 841 Schumacher, ON, P0N 1G0. *The Northland* will be a stronger and better publication with your input.

Timmins Hosts the 45th Synod

By Susanne Mavor
RECTOR'S WARDEN,
ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL, TIMMINS

AS EACH parish in the diocese was electing their delegates to Synod at their annual meeting, the Synod planning committee was hard at work with their preparations. The email from Bishop Tom mid November 2010 seemed simple enough... Executive council passed a motion as a cost saving measure that a Synod Planning Group of 3 persons be formed to help with the Synod planning and would I consider being part of this group along with Patricia Lake from St. Matthew's Timmins and the Rev CJ Adams from Holy Trinity Cochrane. It really wasn't a request you could say no to. With staff cut backs and financial constraints at the Diocesan Office and 60+ delegates expected to converge on Timmins June 2-5, 2011, Ruth Cluley and Julie Thibault certainly could use the extra help.

The Planning Committee has been tasked with making arrangements for delegates' transportation and accommodations, worship services, meals (3 lunches, 2 suppers) and coffee breaks, the hiring of a translator and the renting of translation equipment, sound system, and set up and clean up. Building on a spirit of cooperation established at Bishop Tom's Consecration, the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Anthony has most generously agreed to the use of their parish hall for Synod. Holy Eucharist services are planned

See Cooperation, p. 4

Bishop's Message

FOR the first 10 days of February I was fortunate to participate in an international conference for new Bishops of the Anglican Communion hosted by the staff of Canterbury Cathedral, England. It was a truly marvellous experience to join the other thirty new Bishops upon whom their Dioceses have pinned their hopes and aspirations. We came from Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, Mexico, India, The USA, Ireland, various parts of Africa and Canada. We studied the Scriptures together, listened to numerous lectures, shared our experiences and hopes, ate and worshipped together in the great Cathedral twice daily. In some respects it was just like the other numerous courses I have attended in my career, but in so many other respects, it was well worth the expense to be there.

One of the themes that became evident during the course was "change". Some participants came from countries and cultures experiencing tremendous change, in some cases horrendous changes in governments not sympathetic to the Christian Gospel making their new leadership roles very difficult and even dangerous. In all participants, mine included, this change has manifested itself



Canadian bishops: Bob Bennett (Huron), Tom Corston, (Moosonee), David Irving (Saskatoon), and Michael Hawkins (Saskatchewan) surround the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams.

in our very acceptance of the role of Bishop. I was heartened to hear that the same adjustments that I have to make in my own life and ministry as a new Bishop are also experienced by others in the same new ministry. It was comforting. Our final session was with Jane Williams, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who reminded us that through all the changes in our lives and in the role we have, it is vital that we remain "human". Moosonee Diocese certainly has no concerns of their Bishop in that category!

Change has always been a "buzz word" of the local Church. It seems that the Church has always been working through change in order to be relevant and to proclaim Christ's message to "those who would hear". Sometimes that change is small and we adjust easily. At other times the change

is huge and we struggle with it for years and, sadly, waste valuable time and gifts even fighting over it. Then, sometimes, the changes we work through are those brought about by necessity. Moosonee is going through those particular moments now. This first edition of *The Northland* is one of those. The old format, as wonderful as it was, created by Mrs. Renison during the 1940's, is no longer affordable. I hope this new newspaper format will not only be affordable but will increase our readership. But, other changes are coming upon us in the Diocese. Some of those are with our physical presence as we need to examine realistically our use of church buildings, especially when congregations have all but disappeared in some communities. Financial constraints are also forcing us to examine our stewardship in the Diocese and make changes where it is necessary to be effec-

tive as a Christian community. We now have a new Task Force to help us to prepare for the changes that are to come. It's called "Vision Quest 2015" charged with the task of helping us to see what our ministry can and will be by 2015. Our pastoral care, evangelism and outreach might be smaller, but hopefully, as we all catch the vision, it can be stronger.

When I was a high school graduate I delivered the valedictory address. It was about "change". I can't remember much of what I said but I do remember saying "when we grow, we change". I suppose that still stands, but in our case, I can also reverse it and say, "when we change, we grow". I pray it is so. And it is vital to remember, that in spite of the changes that come upon us, while the structure of much of which we have known might change, the message stays the same, for "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever".

Yours, in this ministry we share,

—Thomas A. Corston

Bishopstope to be Sold

THE Diocesan Bishop's residence is being sold. It was a very hard decision but considering the costs of maintenance and the heavy financial costs of necessary renovations, the Diocesan Executive committee voted to place the house on the market.

"Bishopstope" was built in 1945-46 and the fifth Bishop, Robert Renison and his wife moved into the new house at Easter, 1946. The house was provided by the financial gifts of friends of the Diocese and the management of the mine who gave the Diocese the five acres of land upon which

the house sits. It came complete with accommodations for a maid, including a bell for the maid to be called to various ends of the house where she was needed! It was given the rather interesting name of "Bishopstope" to honour the mining industry and the miners of the area. Through the years it has been the home for the past five Bishops. It was once the location of receptions, especially Diocesan Synods meeting in Timmins, and open houses, mainly on New Year's Day, when people once travelled many miles to ring in the new year with the Bishop and his family. The house has

hosted numerous guests through the years, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, in 1966. The house was built to include the Synod office for the diocese. The large room once had a separate entrance and the bishop and his 'Secretary-Treasurer' worked together, until the maid brought the tea!

The time has come, however, for the Diocese to bid farewell to the grand old house, which sits on a very busy highway outside Schumacher. The present Bishop will be provided a housing allowance from the sale of the house.



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Moose Notes

ST. PAUL'S Anglican Church in South Porcupine decided to support the community's annual Winter Carnival this year as it has in the past. This support took two forms. The first was a chili lunch prepared in the kitchen of Canon Gibson Hall by members and friends of the congregation. The public was served a fine, hot meal and the proceeds generated by this meal went to support the parish's foster child in Ethiopia. The meal was followed by a games' afternoon which was offered to persons 55 years of age or better. Dominoes, cards, and board games were available to one and all. A particularly popular domino game called 'chickenfoot' engaged many from the



The work crew at St. Paul's enjoyed their own chili and then went on to host a games afternoon.

congregation and community (the rules for the game are available from the editor of *The Northland*). St. Paul's takes it success with games afternoons on the road; from time to

time the games are played in a local seniors' residence and people from St. Paul's and the wider community match their skills with the residents.

Article by George Cribbs



The Right Reverend Eddie Marsh and Emma Marsh attended services at a Roman Catholic Cathedral during the week of Christian unity.

THEY abandoned their home on the Rock with the ocean view, not once, but twice to heed the distress signal from the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Timmins. The Parish was foundering off the rugged coast of Having No Incumbent for a second year, when Bishop Eddie and Emma arrived in time for another Christmas with us. It felt like distant family members had come home to celebrate the Christmas festivities.

The reappearance of Bishop Eddie and Emma has made our church community feel more whole again. It's not that we were left stranded without spiritual direction. We appreciated the leadership of the Rev. Lyn Fisher from Sudbury until she left for another position. Also The Rev. Deirdre Roach ministered to us for some months. Other services were taken by visiting clergy and lay readers. We were grateful for all this ministry to us. Bishop Eddie and Emma fitted back into both parish and community life like they'd never left. It was good

to have them again in our rectory and available to those with needs. We all know the demands of Parish Life 101. There's visiting, counselling, teaching, preaching and prayers. All these plus more have continued unabated along with Youth Group, children's talks and ACW events.

We are so blessed to have their loving leadership and involvement. They have entered enthusiastically into both our fun events such as Friendly Times and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner as well as our ponderings over financial difficulties and future direction and sustainability of parish ministry. They have also enjoyed actively the life of the wider church community and cultural events in the city. A personal life-changing experience has been the guidance of Bishop Eddie in sitting quietly during private devotions and letting God love us. The ministry of Bishop Eddie and Emma has set the bar high for the next incumbent.

Dreams & Visions, the Steady Stuff of Love

By **The Rev. Deborah Lonergan-Freake**

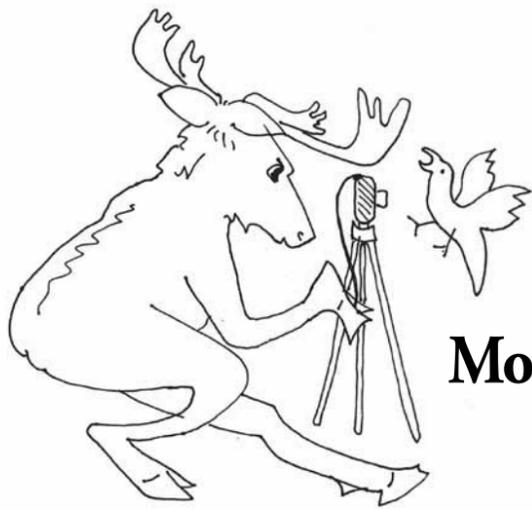
AT THE November 2010 Diocesan Executive Council Meeting it was decided that Bishop Tom would appoint members to serve on a *Vision Quest 2015 Task Group*, to report to Diocesan Synod in June, 2011 in regard to the following: a review of the viability of church properties; shared ministries; maintaining Anglican presence and mission across the Diocese; and raising up and training of local lay leaders. Bishop Corston also called the whole Diocese to prayer on January 9, 2011 seeking God's guidance and wisdom in regard to the financial situation faced by our Diocese, and our future.

In order to consult as widely as possible with Anglicans across the Diocese, allowing

time for people to absorb the true nature of the challenges which lie ahead, and time to pray for a new vision to emerge with God's guidance, those serving on the Vision Quest 2015 Task Group felt it advisable to offer a Lenten Study for use throughout the Diocese of Moosonee during Lent 2011. There will also be presentations and questions for discussion at each of the three Deanery Great Chapter Meetings which will be held prior to Diocesan Synod.

It was my pleasure to prepare, our five week Diocesan Lenten Study which is entitled: ***Dreams & Visions, Dreams & Visionsthe Steady Stuff of Love.*** It has been provided to all parishes and is also available on the Diocesan website (www.moosoneeanglican.ca).

The content of the Study is meant to assist participants through the process of naming, acknowledging and letting go of the losses which will be associated with our changed Diocesan reality, and moving forward, embracing change with renewed hope and vision. The Lenten Study is an opportunity to explore Bishop Tom's question: "*What does God have in mind for us?*" Instead of focusing on the negatives of change, we hope to encourage Anglicans throughout the Diocese to give thanks for our graced history, and begin to dream a new dream that is *God's dream for us*. What amazing things does the future hold for the members of the Diocese of Moosonee, if we, God's people living out our baptismal covenant, follow God's vision!?



Moose Gallery



The work crew at St. Paul's served chili and then played chickenfoot to their hearts' content.



Bishopstope, the residence of the Bishop of Moosonee, is to be sold.



The Kids' Club singing at St. Luke's on Christmas Eve.



Moose Letters

Dear Editor:

I've come to realize over the span of recent years, that there seems to be a disconnect between the people 'running' the Anglican Church and the people 'living' the Anglican Church. I don't think the average Anglican knows much about what goes on at higher levels of the church. I know that, until recently, I had no idea where my money went, or for what it was used, after it went to the diocesan office – there are projects and committees and commissions that I never knew existed. I also didn't know that the 1990's had been declared a Decade of Evangelism by the Lambeth Conference. I'm almost embarrassed to admit

that I had no awareness of the symbol of the Anglican Communion – the compass rose with the inscription, "The truth shall make you free." I'm quite sure that I can't be the only Anglican church-goer who feels 'in the dark' about what the Anglican Church is doing at its upper levels. I felt quite excited as I discovered more and more about my church and the good things that were happening around the world. I think that many more Anglicans would feel the same excitement and pride in the positive projects, etc. that the Anglican Church orchestrates and I also think this excitement would bubble over into our lives outside of the church – positively influencing the people our lives touch and possibly even getting more bodies into the church pews on Sunday. The head can't survive without the body and neither the head nor the body can function properly without knowledge of what the other is doing. I think the people 'higher up' in the Anglican Church should be putting a plan into place for ensuring that this disconnect doesn't continue.

Letter by Susan Villeneuve

Cooperation

Continued from p. 1

at St. Matthew's Anglican Cathedral Friday night and Sunday morning with services of Morning Prayer and Noon Day Prayers to be held in St. Anthony's parish hall. It is hoped that a prayer room can be provided for a place of quiet reflection and that a prayer vigil can be held during Synod. A team of volunteers from St. Matthew's Timmins and St. Paul's South Porcupine will be providing nutritious lunches, suppers and coffee break snacks. Negotiations are underway for affordable accommodations and transportation to and from meetings and worship services.

Synod would not be complete without special guests from outside the Diocese

in attendance. We are looking forward to hosting Archbishop Colin Johnson, our Metropolitan of Ontario as well as Synod Preacher Bishop Dennis Drainville of Quebec. His wife Cynthia Patterson will be making a presentation on Suicide Prevention education on behalf of the Council of the North. Michele George, the National Church Treasurer, will also be making a presentation at Synod. We are fortunate to have such presentations at Synod that are relevant to issues that most parishes are currently facing.

Please keep the planning committee and Synod delegates in your daily prayers as we prepare to meet in June where new friendships will be made and old ones renewed and decisions made for the future of ministry in the Diocese of Moosonee.