



# under the sun

NEWS FROM THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

AGRICULTURE



Gary and Ron Weir

## Growing in faith

### Canadian Foodgrains Bank connects farmers with churches, to provide food for people in need

BY JANICE BIEHN  
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

IT IS MID-NOVEMBER and Gary Weir is waiting for the right day to harvest his grain corn. It has been a particularly wet season and the crop needs to dry more before it can be harvested. He also has to wait for the combine that he hires to be available.

Squares of farmland spread across the Ottawa Valley like a quilt, including Fitzroy Harbour where Gary and his wife Pat live. The village sits on the Ottawa River about 41 km northwest of Parliament Hill as the crow flies. Here Gary farms 200 acres of corn, soybeans and hay.

Just 40 minutes east of Fitzroy Harbour is Bells Corners, a suburban community of the City of Ottawa. If you popped into Christ Church Bells Corners (CCBC) for a Sunday morning service, you'd see a bustling suburban church where annual offerings are tithed, yielding approximately \$30,000

#### THE AGRICULTURE ISSUE

*As the saying goes, farming is an act of faith. Read how agriculture plays a key role across many of PWRDF's programs, from Canadian engagement and climate change to gender equality and poverty reduction.*

for mission and outreach.

For the past three years, CCBC has allocated \$2,000 to the Weirs to farm 14 acres of their 200 acres. This money is used for fertilizer or other input costs. The Weirs in turn donate the earnings to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's account in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. It is a circle of giving that grows the gift.

Weir and his brother, Ron, had always been dairy farmers, but in 2009, they decided to also plant soybeans as a cash crop. "We wanted to give a bit to the Foodgrains Bank so we just sent in a donation from our earnings." In 2012 the Weirs' own congregation, St. George's in West Carleton, got involved. The year after it became a parish outreach project when St. Thomas', Woodlawn began participating as well. Since then the parish has helped with field cultivation, promotion and advocating for the Foodgrains Bank, fundraising and monetary donations.

By 2014, the project became the West Carleton Foodgrains Bank Growing Project and CCBC began sending their donation to help cover some of the field input costs. "This project is very empowering for the Parish," says the Reverend Kathryn Otley, CCBC's incumbent. "It gives a way to get involved in addition to just

giving money, as important as that is. CCBC's parishioners built a sign for the growing project and the project creates opportunities for the parish and also the Diocese of Ottawa's PWRDF committee to increase relationships and understanding between city and rural parishes."

"We're very pleased with the amount that CCBC gives us," says Weir. "The project wouldn't be possible without it." Weir notes costs are further contained through the donation of seeds from Bit-A-Luk Farms and weed control by SynAgri.

Weir plants the seeds and tends the crops over the growing season. Sometimes he pays for "custom work" for harvesting and/or planting. Sometimes he "works up" the soil for corn crops himself, and also subscribes to a no-till method of seeding for soybeans, which prevents soil erosion.

By late fall the crops are ready for harvest; corn is often sold for ethanol and soybeans for industrial use. That

\$2,000 investment from CCBC, plus donations of approximately \$1,000 from St. George's and St. Thomas', will result in a \$9,000 donation to PWRDF's Foodgrains Bank account.

#### Putting the money to use

Even though the crops from the growing project don't usually turn into food, the earnings will help feed people around the world. PWRDF withdraws funds from this account to participate in emergency food distribution programs in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Haiti where the Foodgrains Bank is working. It allows PWRDF to get relief to desperate parts of the world quickly and efficiently. And even better, these programs receive a 4:1 match from the Canadian government, so the growing project's \$9,000 is effectively \$45,000. That's quite a return on the original \$3,000 church donations!

See *Room to Grow*, p. 2





# Thanks to you

ANGLICAN PARISHES ACROSS CANADA ARE GETTING INVOLVED WITH PWRDF – AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



### Rohingya relief

Folks at **St. Anselm's, Vancouver** dedicated their annual PWRDF Day to learning more about Rohingya refugees. Shirin Theophilus prepared prayers and a skit in place of the sermon. Parishioners brought to life the Rohingya Muslim's plight in Myanmar, depicting a family and their grandparents running from their burnt down village. The freewill offering of \$1,250 was donated in time to take advantage of the government's Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund matching program.



### It's pie time

Volunteers at **St. John the Evangelist in Corner Brook, N.L.** rolled out the dough and then the dough rolled in. To honour late parishioner Eileen Churchill, bakers made 700 pies from Churchill's apple tree for the second year in a row (last year was 500), then sold them to raise money for PWRDF and a local food bank.



### Party on!

Once the PWRDF learnin' at **St. John the Evangelist in Middle Sackville, N.B.** was out of the way, revellers got down to business at the church's second annual variety show in benefit of PWRDF this past May, organized by Sue Heenan. Barbershop Quartet music from Octopi, and music from Cape Breton and Newfoundland brought the house down, while \$1,000 was raised for PWRDF!

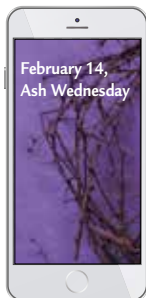
### Kids care

Sunday School children in the Diocese of Ottawa's Parish of Huntley had the job of spending \$645 in PWRDF's World of Gifts guide. "Are you sure you adults should trust us kids with spending that much money?" asked one student. The congregation gave them a whole-hearted yes and the kids set to work with Monopoly money and a copy of the guide. "Many of us adults expected them to buy a ton of cute ducks and goats," says the Rev'd Monique Stone, "but their spending was thoughtfully discerned." Their purchase included emergency food relief, medical kits, seeds, food supplements for 200 children, suicide prevention for Indigenous youth, and yes, 15 ducks and a goat.



### Right to Water

Mike MacKenzie of the PWRDF Youth Council offered a workshop on PWRDF's ministry at the **Anglican Parish of Liscomb and Port Bickerton, N.S.** After watching a powerpoint presentation, each group did an activity to learn how the Pikangikum water project is improving access to clean water in this fly-in Indigenous community in Northern Ontario.



## RESOURCES

### NEW DEVOTIONALS TO DOWNLOAD

PWRDF's free Lenten Resource provides a wonderful opportunity to pray during Lent while deepening

your understanding of the work of PWRDF. Download the PDF or subscribe to receive a devotion every day in your inbox at [pwrdf.org/resources](http://pwrdf.org/resources).

PWRDF Youth Council has created a Devotional resource that will look at development and relief issues around the world and how PWRDF, guided by Christian faith, is working to support people in need. It also has plenty of information on how YOU CAN HELP! Available for download at [justgeneration.ca](http://justgeneration.ca) and [pwrdf.org](http://pwrdf.org).

## YES! I want to support PWRDF

**YOUR GIFT CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU!**

Donations can be made online at [pwrdf.org/donate](http://pwrdf.org/donate) or by filling out this form and mailing to the address below.

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I have enclosed a gift of

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Please make cheque payable to PWRDF or provide credit card information.

Please circle credit card type:



OR I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by credit card (as above)

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1st of month  16th of month

Please enclose a personal cheque marked "Void."

To donate by phone, please call Jennifer Brown at 416-924-9192, ext. 355 or toll-free at 1-866-308-7973



### The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

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