



Dear Miriam,

In the gloaming of Loyola House's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 75 people feasted on this warm autumn's bounty from Ignatius Farm at our latest Taste of Diversity dinner. The happy occasion included the conferral of the IJC Award, an honour bestowed upon remarkable members of our community living out IJC's values of love and responsibility.



*Greg Kennedy with Robin & Jean Fishburn,  
2024 recipients of the IJC Award*

This year Robin and Jean Fishburn graciously accepted the IJC Award. These longstanding (and walking!) friends of the Jesuits have contributed abundantly to the health of IJC and Guelph at large. Dr. Fishburn cared for novices, juniorates, priests and brothers in St. Stanislaus Novitiate. For decades he and Jean poured their hearts and energy into the Drop-In Centre for Guelph's unhoused population. Jean and Robin also founded the Guelph Walking Pilgrimage that has seen pilgrims foot the 150 km between here and the Martyrs Shrine annually for over 20 years. Figuratively and very literally, the Fishburns walk the Christian talk.

Next year, the aforementioned bounty of the Farm is bound to look different. As stated in more detail below, we have had to make the hard decision to let the CSA lie fallow for a year as we dig up other, economically sustainable ways to grow and distribute our fresh, wholesome food. Dear to my

and many other hearts, Ignatius Farm relies on the community it serves. Community support will be what keeps its bounty flourishing into the future.

Finally, as Christmas approaches, I can't refrain from appealing to the sanity and sanctity of our readers. Giving is a spiritual practice. We incarnate our love through presents we joyfully give to friends and family. In an era of crammed basements, attics, closets and storage lockers, the real gift might be to spare a loved one the stress and strain of trying to stash one more item. For many stuff-saturated people, giving presence might be the greatest present. IJC specializes in presence. Consider giving a soothing retreat that reduces material anxiety rather than raises it. Nearly all of our 2025 offerings are now online. A donation offered to us on behalf of a precious person is another way to make the world just a little more sane and saintly.

A joyous Christmas to you,  
Greg Kennedy  
Executive Director

[DONATE ONLINE NOW](#)

Your generosity so far this season in the face of the Canada Post service disruption has been deeply felt. However, the Ignatius Jesuit Centre is still at risk of a funding shortfall due to this situation.

You can make an immediate impact with your donation online [here](#).  
Donations made online are processed and receipted immediately.  
We are grateful for the online support that we have already received.

Donations made in person or over the phone are also gratefully accepted. We value our supporters who mail in donations; please know that the ongoing service disruption delays our receiving, thanking, and receipting these gifts. Thank you for your patience.



## Ignatius Jesuit Centre's Advent OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, December 1**  
**3-5pm**

**at Loyola House**

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre welcomes ALL to our OPEN HOUSE!

A celebration of Advent leading to Christmas (or anything else you want to celebrate)!

There will be light snacks & beverages with *Welcome & Salutations* at 3:45pm. We hope to see you there!

## Loyola House - Retreats & Ignatian Training

**Looking to go on retreat?**  
**Check these out:**

### One-Day Retreats -

- **NEW! Waiting for God in Advent:** God's Loving Gaze Upon the World - December 9
- **NEW! Finding Oneself through the Myers-**



Do check out our retreats & training programs for 2025 with lots of new opportunities! Find out more here: [retreats & training](#).

- **Briggs Type Inventory** - January 13
- **NEW! Film & Spirituality** - February 12

#### Multi-Day Retreats -

- **Advent Taize** - December 6-8
- **NEW! The Enneagram & Your Transformation**:- January 17-19
- **NEW! Praying with Hope Weekend Retreat** - January 31-February 2
- **Contemplative Activism Retreat** - January 31-February 2
- **Directed Prayer Weekend** - February 7-9
- **Finding Your Way: Weekend of Discernment** - February 7-9
- **8-Day Directed Silent Retreat** - February 18-26 (1/2 price for new retreatants!!)

[Apply for a retreat today!](#)

#### Training Opportunities -

- **NEW! Spiritual Direction & the Enneagram**- February 6
- **NEW! Seeds of Rest & Renewal - A Retreat for Spiritual Directors** - March 11-13

[Apply today!](#)

Be the peace...



**Ignatius Farm, Land & Old-Growth Forest Project Community**

**AT THE FARM**



*Holiday Gift Basket*



*Holiday Veggie Share*

Check out the latest [Farm E-news here](#) to stay up to date with what's happening at the Farm.

Check out our Holiday Gift Baskets and Holiday Veggie Share [here](#). Limited quantities available.

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## Ignatius Farm CSA Community Gathering

Sunday, November 24 saw a gathering of 70+ CSA friends at Loyola House. The gathering discussed the Farm taking a fallow year from the CSA as it looks at new ways of growing and selling food. You can find out more about the decision [here](#).

We are heartened by the support and love the community shares for the CSA and Ignatius Farm. Please note that Ignatius Farm Community Gardens and Small Plot Agriculture tenancies will continue while we identify what food-growing might be possible with a different scale, sales structures, and new collaborations.

Your ongoing help is needed during this time. Keep an eye out for a survey coming soon for the community about future food growing and purchasing options.



## IJC's Busy Beavers

The land department has gladly been monitoring heavy beaver activity over the recent autumn months. Since the Summer, beavers have been working to construct a dam located in Marden Creek along one of our most popular trails, the Chardin, SJ Trail. They have been chewing away at the surrounding trees to acquire some of their favorite snacks and building materials. Popular choices include willow, birch, and most sought after: the poplar trees. Evidence can be found when walking along the Chardin, SJ Trail, where beavers have removed roughly 25 poplar trees and left a cleared out canopy. We have decided to replant this area with species that are less appealing to beavers, that way they have a stronger chance at survival.



Although the beavers have created big change within the local trees, they have also successfully dammed Marden creek, leading to a drastic water level increase, which creates a new and unique wetland habitat that humans could only dream of mimicking. Beavers have front paws with 5 fingers, allowing for incredible dexterity when constructing dams. Using these paws and their teeth, they are capable of easily grabbing branches, rocks and mud to solidify their work. Beavers are known to be a **keystone species** because they are ecosystem engineers. They naturally thin out trees and build dams which creates a variety of habitats that support a huge list of other species. As a result, we continue to monitor the water levels, our infrastructure and surrounding trees but most of all, we are very proud to cohabit the lands of IJC with our busy friends.



**Keystone Species:** a species on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend, such that if it were removed the ecosystem would change drastically.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS - ENRICH YOUR LIFE!

### Cedar Circle Sunday Afternoons

Sunday December 15 2:30-4pm

Loyola House

Marilyn Clarke (RP, DTATI) will guide us through the meditative practice of RAIN, created by Tara Brach. RAIN stands for Recognize, Allow, Investigate and Nurture. RAIN is a simple tool for mindfulness practice designed to open the heart to self-compassion. As we explore the beautiful Ignatius property, we

will join together in practicing how to integrate RAIN into our everyday lives. More info: [Cedar Circle Sunday Afternoons - Ignatius Jesuit Centre](#)

## CEDAR CIRCLE SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

AT IGNATIUS JESUIT CENTRE



CONTEMPLATIVE GATHERINGS  
TO LISTEN TO YOUR SOUL  
AND THE SOUL OF THE LAND.

### A "Longest Night" Christmas Service

Thursday December 19 7pm

Loyola House

For many of us, Christmas can be a painful time of the year. It may be a first Christmas without a loved one or it may be that Christmas has been difficult for a long time.

Join Rev. Monika Wiesner and Jesuit Fr. Dirk Dunfee for an evening of prayer, connection and comfort as we welcome you to Loyola House's first-ever Longest Night of the Year Christmas Service.

For more information [press here](#).



## LOYOLA HOUSE 60th ANNIVERSARY

Loyola House lounge in 1974, courtesy of the Archives of Jesuits in Canada.

Note the number of ashtrays!



LOUNGE — Spacious, cosy, overlooks quiet countryside

## POETRY

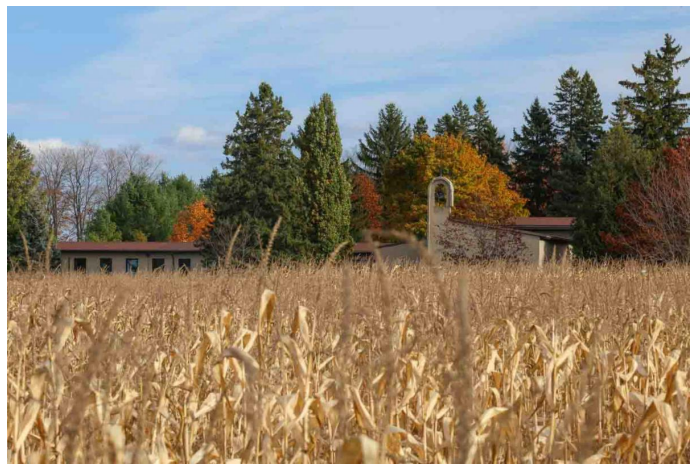
### Kingdom

*by gregor Y kennedy*

what we're after  
(although we come before)  
is like a farmer  
(perhaps you've heard of such a person)  
endowed with mystery  
encapsulated in seed  
who entrusts this single wealth  
to the unselfish Earth

moon cycles sun cycles  
sleep and waking  
the farmer works the farmer waits

all the while growth  
of its own accord  
moves into the world  
where the farmer presides surely  
sickle in hand  
over a celebration of harvest.



*Photo by Daryl Willson*

*The photos that we use in our publications, website, social media, on greeting cards and e-newsletters have been gifted to us to use for these purposes by retreatants, volunteers, walkers on the land, folks who visit the Farm or spend time at Orchard Park, as well as tenants & staff. We are so grateful for the treasure trove of pictures that have come our way!*

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Website





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