



Dear Miriam,

In the warm glory of this past September, I ran a retreat that had participants walking slowly together amidst goldenrod and asters. The day was magnificent, the walk silent. After a half hour soundtracked by crickets, I invited observations. One of several university students there, a voice major, had the courage to confess that she couldn't recall when last she went more than fifteen minutes in silence. Podcasts or Spotify habitually occupy her inner airspace. At first she found the lack of input uncomfortable. Then a higher order disturbance hit her. What have I become, she asked, that even a short silence unsettles me so? With this, her discomfort moved to inquiry. She concluded very grateful to have been upended in this way.



*Greg Kennedy with Andrea Scapinello & Wendy Fraser,
IJC's Directors of Operations*

Silence. A gift...and an endangered species. I need not recite the litany of causes stealing our silence these days. We all can fill in the blank after traffic, cell phones, airplanes, _____. More quietly, and more sinisterly, anxiety, stress and shame thief our tranquility. Masters have always prescribed silence for spiritual health. Doctors now recognize its importance for mental health. Meanwhile, biologists tell of the damage noise wrecks on ecosystems.

Ignatius Jesuit Centre, a place of peace, is a custodian of silence.
We treasure it as our greatest wealth.
In it, people find themselves, their innate goodness, their Source.
Silence opens us, challenges us, consoles us.
Likes seeds in the soundless Earth, we grow in the hush of inner and outer calm.

Much of our work at IJC is to save the silence. We can't, alas, mute the roar of Highway 6, but silence is more than the absence of sound. It's a contemplative way of attending to what is. The beauty of our land quiets. The depth of our retreats quiets. Our care of fields and forests quiets. Without IJC the world would be a much louder, more lost place.

Silence is a covenant, a very fragile one. Where there's stillness, everyone present has the power to

break it. All must keep the peace together. By donating to IJC, you enter this silent covenant that helps maintain a gentle space for new dreams and discovery. Our monthly donors strengthen the covenant yet more, providing stability to our tranquility. As the clamor of the world increases, so does our need for places like IJC, so does the need of IJC for other custodians of quietude. Please help us save the silence. You have our jubilant thanks.

Blessings to you this Advent,
Greg Kennedy
Executive Director

[DONATE ONLINE NOW](#)

Loyola House - Retreats & Ignatian Training



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

One-Day Retreats -

- **NEW! The Treasure With-in Us All: A One-Day Retreat** - November 20
- **NEW! The Ignatian Examen of Consciousness** - November 21
- **NEW! Waiting for God in Advent: God's Loving Gaze Upon the World** - December 9
- **NEW! Finding Oneself through the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory** - January 13

Multi-Day Retreats -

- **Advent 2024 Weekend Retreat** - November 29-December 1
- **Advent Taize** - December 6-8
- **NEW! The Enneagram & Your Transformation:-** January 17-19
- **5-Day Directed Silent Retreat** - January 21-26
- **NEW! Praying with Hope Weekend Retreat** - January 31-February 2
- **Contemplative Activism Retreat** - January 31-February 2

[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!](#)

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



dimensions of life can say anything that has not already been said better by the wind in the pine trees...or the silence and peace that is "heard" when the rain wanders freely among the hills and forests. But what can the wind say where there is no hearer?

~ *Thomas Merton*



Ignatius Farm, Land & Old-Growth Forest Project Community

AT THE FARM



Freshly harvested root vegetables waiting to be washed for the CSA members



Squash and gourds for CSA Members

What an October! Glorious colours and bountiful, beautiful and delicious harvests have nourished us daily.

Check out the latest [Farm E-News here](#).

ON THE LAND

Legacy Tree Care at IJC

We had the honor of collaborating with the organizations named Guelph Tree Trust and Full Circle Tree Care. Volunteers from these organizations helped host an event where members of the public could watch an exciting demonstration on the pruning of two elder Sugar Maple trees located on the land. The efforts provided from Guelph Tree Trust will allow the two legacy trees to stand strong through their mature years and maximize the quantity of carbon that the tree will store.

IJC has about 640 acres of land and therefore we often focus our energy on the big picture and rarely have the capacity to look so closely into the health of each individual tree. Organizations such as Guelph Tree Trust allow us to focus energy towards individual mature trees, drastically improving the

level of care that we are capable of offering. Thank you to Guelph Tree Trust, their volunteers and those who joined us during the event! We couldn't have done it without you!



You may have also noticed the absence of some other dead trees on the grounds. Safety is always a major concern, and ensuring paths are free from dangerous trees is a very real challenge. Recently, our land crew, under direction of Ashley, our Conservation Technician, removed a few dangerous trees from populated areas.

To ensure safety, often this work happens in the wee hours of the morning or on weekends to reduce the risk to our friends who walk the trails or tend to their community gardens. We are graced with a skilled and able land department, a small crew who diligently mow, plant, trim and maintain. This is just a glimpse of the costly care that goes on “behind the scenes”. Donations from those who love the land help us keep the land safe for everyone.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS - ENRICH YOUR LIFE!

PEACE joy love hope PEACE joy love hope PEACE joy

Ignatius Jesuit Centre's Advent OPEN HOUSE

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

at Loyola House

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre welcomes ALL to their 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!

Cedar Circle Sunday Afternoons

Sunday November 24, 2:30-4pm
Loyola House

Spend an afternoon connecting with the natural world through creative exploration. Guelph-based artist Jennifer Storey will guide us in drawing exercises inspired by what we see and feel in the beautiful surroundings of Loyola House. 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.

Introducing John Moriarty: Eco-Visionary and Celtic Mystic

A Public Talk by Michael W. Higgins
Thursday November 21 @ 7:30pm
Loyola House; Tickets \$10

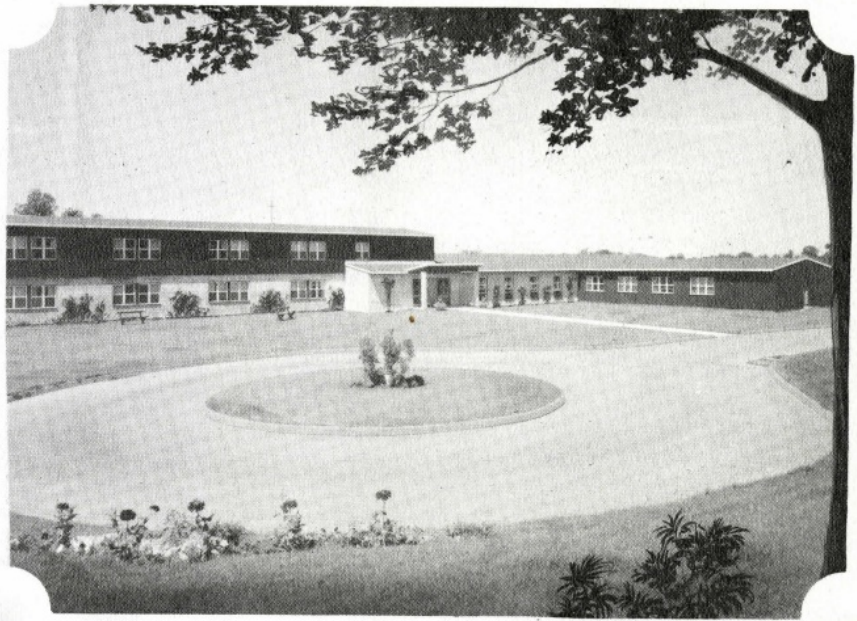
The Irish poet and essayist John Moriarty's ecological thinking is intricately connected to a sacramental vision of the whole of creation. As the Canadian political philosopher Charles Taylor says: "it is through story that we find or devise ways of living bearably in time." Moriarty knew that "only a great story can shelter us" and by the time he died in 2007 he had provided a new and provocative vision that incorporates the wisdom tradition of all faiths.



John Moriarty: courtesy of Don MacMonagle

Co-sponsored with the Guelph Seminar.

[Find out more & sign-up here!](#)



Above, a picture of the cover of the 1974 Loyola Retreat House pamphlet; courtesy of Jesuit Archives of Canada.

To the right, this is Loyola House today in 2024.

Loyola House celebrates 60 years in 2024. If you have your own stories of transformation experienced here, please send them to tpacker@ignatiusguelph.ca.



POETRY

Peace

by gregor Y kennedy

all the animals i've ever eaten
all the trees cut and rolled
into my private hygiene
all the seas gone sour
at the jolt of sparkplugs
that move my body and my body's things
convened in dreams around me
declaring one by one and then in unison
"we forgive you"
now i won't wake until i witness
gathered into this same assembly
all the humans somehow aggrieved
who've stood long outside
these gates of peace.



Visit our
Website



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