



Dear Miriam,

This time last year I had just stepped into the position of Executive Director of IJC. Much have I learned these last twelve moons. Mostly empathy. Now I feel more acutely and accurately what parents and politicians do: the weight of responsibility for beings beyond themselves.

This emphasized empathy grows a quarter inch more every time I glance out my office window or step out the Loyola House door. My work happens to take place in what many would concede a paradise. My view is of white pines flanking the community orchard. At lunch I stroll down two minutes to greet Marden Creek. Administrators are predominantly an urban species, struggling to survive traffic, noise, the tension of hyper-stimulation, and, more recently, the social isolation of home-officing. Holding things together must become white-knuckled in competitive environments devoid of greenery.

That the source of my professional concern is at one and the same time the fount of my personal consolation I recognize as an immense blessing, one I pray for every worker. It's a variation on Robert Frost's goal to unite avocation with vocation. Many people find respite at IJC, discovering here respect for land, for others, and for themselves. While the peace alive at IJC cannot be replaced, it can be replanted. When people bring to their own home and work both the concern for neighbour (human and more-than-human) they learn here and the consolation of feeling loved jubilantly by their Creator, they begin uniting



*Greg Kennedy with Ashley Conrad, IJC's Conservation Technician*

### **Back-up Generator Update**

In response to our 2023 Advent Appeal, donors kindly accumulated for us over \$80,000 towards our procurement of a back-up generator to secure the safety of our operations. Our thanks for this generosity has only accumulated since then, along with some complexities, given the eccentricities of our multi-generational infrastructure. With the help of staff and experts, we now have a plan that is fiscally responsible and meets IJC's unique needs.

As noted in our Advent appeal, water is a major challenge when the power goes out due to our reliance on electric pumps. Without running water most of our activity here quickly dries up. A generator system for our water



their vocation with their avocation. IJC, with its fields, woods, chapels and contemplations, gives space and scope for this kind of union.

On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology, we give thanks for the innumerable gifts of the Earth and may our gratitude always remind us of our responsibility to cherish them.

Blessings,  
Greg Kennedy  
Executive Director

needs is now in sight. We hope to have key components in place, covered by last year's Advent Appeal, before the end of this Advent. This will allow life-giving water to flow through IJC pipes even when the power fails. Please continue to pray for the success of this important step for IJC's wellbeing. We thank our all our friends who care so much for the peace and health of this place.

[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! The Creative Path:** A One-Day Art Retreat - November 23
- **NEW! Enneagram Workshop** - December 7
- **NEW! Waiting for God in Advent:** God's Loving Gaze Upon the World - December 9

#### Multi-Day Retreats -

- **NEW! Living with Soul in the Second Half of Life** - Part A: October 31-November 3; Part B: January 23-26
- **NEW! Eating for Tomorrow:** the Ecology & Politics of Food Weekend Retreat - November 22-24
- **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!](#)



In a world of noise, confusion and conflict it is necessary that there be places of silence, inner discipline and peace. In such places love can blossom.

~ *Thomas Merton*



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

### AT THE FARM



*Farmer Jennica with peppers*



*Romanesco Broccoli*



*Farmer Jon with eggplants & peppers*

**The Farm team has been busy harvesting veggies in this glorious weather! Enjoy Fall!**

### Receiving my Pre-Pack

*By Raj Vijayakumar, SJ*

One highlight for me in working at the farm in the month of September was receiving my pre-pack of “veggies” at the end of the experience. I’ve never tasted napa cabbage before, and the different colours of carrots was “jaw dropping.” But what surprised me the most was the satisfaction I felt in knowing that I had a part to play in harvesting this food, taking it home, and preparing it for my Jesuit community. I saw the direct relationship between the food produced on the land and my dinner plate. Thanks to God for this awareness. Also, thanks to the farm



**[Read the latest Farm E-News here!](#)**



community who welcomed me and helped me to be content as I laboured with them. Indeed through the prepack, I felt like we “...shared in the victory, just as each has shared in the toil.”(Spiritual Exercises par. 94).

## ON THE LAND

For National Forest Week, we collaborated with Trout Unlimited Canada and Guelph Urban Forest Friends (GUFF) to host a public tree planting event: Repairing a Forest Community, where volunteers helped plant trees to support our restoration efforts aimed at managing invasive European Buckthorn within our Old-Growth Forest project initiative. Using manual methods to first remove the buckthorn, volunteers then planted a large diversity of native trees and shrubs which are fast growing and beneficial for the local wildlife. Together, we restored over 2500 square feet of forest by removing invasive species and enhancing biodiversity. Thank you to our collaborators and volunteers for making it all possible!



### Demonstration Event to Preserve Legacy Trees at IJC October 26 9:30am-12:30pm Free!

If you're interested in getting involved, on October 26, you will have the chance to join a demonstration event hosted by IJC and Guelph Tree Trust. Guelph tree trust is a charity foundation that works to preserve mature trees. They will have a professional arborist demonstrating how to properly prune in order to increase tree health and reduce risk as the tree matures. To register or get more information, [view this link here.](#)



## IGNATIUS LAND & FARM COMMUNITY

**Steve D'Alimonte** is the owner/operator of **Piccolo Farm Organics (PFO)**. After completing the Ignatius Farm internship program in 2021, Steve started PFO in 2022 on a third of an acre in his backyard (seen in photo). PFO primarily grows Italian varieties of vegetables or vegetables commonly used in Italian cuisine. PFO has since expanded into offering prepared food products that incorporate their crops (including vegetable-infused pastas, pestos, tomato sauces and focaccia). In 2024, PFO began leasing a plot of land at **Ignatius Farm** to allow them to grow

their operation including a new subscription program that includes a mix of fresh vegetables and prepared food, delivered to your door. To learn more about what PFO does and sells, visit [www.piccolofarmorganics.ca](http://www.piccolofarmorganics.ca)



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS - ENRICH YOUR LIFE!

### We are looking for an Experienced Cook!

**Could this be YOU?! Come work for us as we expand our Kitchen Team!** We're looking for hardworking, positive, reliable and fun people that are dedicated to great food. Our kitchen is a beautiful sun-lit space with an outstanding view of the land. This position offers the benefit of a regular salary and rarely working late.

This position is full-time permanent; salary \$19/hour based on experience; includes employer-paid benefits after 3 month + Employer RRSP Matching Program after 3 months.

[Find out more here!](#) Deadline: ASAP



Are you aligned with IJC's vision, mission, culture, & values?

**Join the Board & help Ignatius thrive**



### We're looking for YOU!

Are You Looking To....?

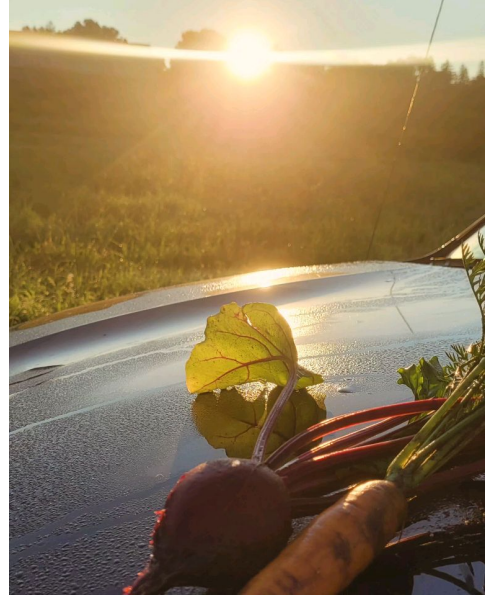
- Share your expertise, knowledge and learned experience
- Develop new skills while deepening existing ones
- Strengthen your leadership skills
- Expand your social and professional networks
- Support and strengthen your community
- Be part of taking IJC to the next level

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre is looking for Board members who are interested in rolling up their sleeves and getting involved to promote IJC's Mission and Vision. We aim for our Board members to encompass diverse voices, backgrounds and perspectives. [See this link for more information.](#)



# A Taste of Diversity

Local bounty on  
your plate!



**Enjoy the warmth of great food and better community this November!  
Sign up for the *Taste of Diversity* dinner today!**

Tickets are limited, so book early to save your seats

**November 13** - Service 5pm, Dinner 6pm

\$100 per dinner

Tickets: [register online here!](#)

or call 519-824-1250 ext 241

## **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!](#)

## **The Council of All Beings**

Sunday October 20, 2:30-6:30pm

Meet at St. Brigid's Villa

Borrowed from Joanna Macy's Work That Reconnects, The Council of All Beings brings humans together in meaningful way to think, feel and yearn beyond themselves for the benefit of other species. [Council of All Beings - Ignatius Jesuit Centre \(ignatiusguelph.ca\)](http://www.ignatiusguelph.ca). Donations welcome.



## Jeff Bird plays Hildegard von Bingen

Thursday November 14, 7pm  
Loyola House Chapel, Tickets \$25/ea

Canadian Music Hall of Fame inductee, Jeff Bird performs his luminous arrangements for harmonica of Hildegard's mystical, transcendent music.

[Find out more about this concert here!](#)



## LOYOLA HOUSE 60th ANNIVERSARY



Ignatius the Pilgrim by William McElcheran in 1966 (photo courtesy of Archives of Jesuits in Canada) and today (right).

**Loyola House celebrates 60 years in 2024.** If you have your own stories of transformation experienced here, please send them to [tpacker@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:tpacker@ignatiusguelph.ca).

## POETRY

### Starlings

by gregor Y kennedy



from the cornfield (beautiful intruder)  
sprinkle upwards starlings out of nothing  
but long green spears & nodding tassels  
into a fleeting act of dancers  
who only much amaze in company  
veering/swooping with a single mind  
the one & the many  
m o n o c r o p invasive  
uncomfortable beauty  
on a blazing day late September  
made perfect by climate illness—  
a prayer in waiting...  
to be answered.



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