



Réseau des  
**Églises vertes**

# Annual Report 2018-2019



[www.GreenChurches.ca](http://www.GreenChurches.ca)

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## Contact us

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2018-2019 year was a joyful one for the Green Churches Network. It was a year of stability at our national headquarters, of growth and of increased communication. Moreover, we witnessed mounting concern for the environment shown in the media, in churches and in the streets.

### Stability

After a year (2017-2018) that saw the transfer of our national office to a new location and the arrival of a new executive director, we concentrated on strengthening our connections with the network churches and with the broader Christian community. We worked on increasing the services offered by the local green committees and by the national office. We saw the rebirth of quite a few green committees in our network churches as well as a surge of ecological activity throughout our network. It's up to us to keep it going!

### Growth

Given a solidly motivated network, our shared faith and the growing concern for the environment, the time is ripe to reach out to encourage new churches to join us in caring for this precious creation. Our growing team will be happy to respond to all your questions and to guide you through the process of forming a green committee and registering as a 'green church'. This year, we will try to have news from all our network churches and to strengthen the bonds between them. If you have not yet heard from our office, call us!

### Communication

With social and mass media, our website and direct communication with our churches, this has been a busy year for us. We hope you see us mentioned in your news outlets, newspapers, magazines and in your inbox. We know that the goal of taking care of creation demands high quality communication and sharing of information. You can count on hearing more from us in the coming year.

Society needs the Church as an ally in taking care of the environment and the Church needs to work in tandem with the eco-spirituality movement if it wants to be relevant. The more we provide the Green Churches Network with the means to be present and active, the more we will see positive results in its ability to bring about change in Church culture and in culture in general with regard to our common home, the earth.



**Gregory Lynch**  
Executive Director



## OUR MISSION

**The Green Churches Network supports Christian communities that improve their environmental practices. It offers practical tools geared to action, education and spirituality which enable them to successfully integrate the ministry of Creation care into the regular activities of their church.**

Our ecumenical organization welcomes Christian communities from all denominations.

We invite church communities to make the biblical theme of our role as stewards of Creation part of their prayers and teachings and to adopt better environmental practices such as recycling, energy efficiency and water conservation. Churches in our Network also organize educational and community service activities which foster a healthy and sustainable environment. Their 'green' initiatives are shared through our website and our newsletters.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

M. Benoit Lacroix Vachon, (president) engineer

M. Michel Pilon, (Vice-President) Coordonator at RATTMAQ

Mme Valérie St-Onge, (Treasurer) Certified Professional Accountant

Ms. Louise Cormier, Retired Pastoral Worker

Mr. Norman Lévesque, Founder of the Green Churches Network

Rev. Neil Whitehouse, Pastor at Westmount Park United Church

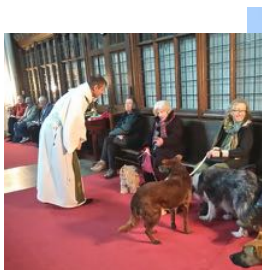




## REGISTERED CHURCHES IN THE GREEN CHURCHES NETWORK

### New Green Churches (2018-2019)

- Sainte-Victoire Parish, Victoriaville, Quebec
- St. Felicien Church, St. Felicien, Quebec
- St. Pierre Parish, Sorel-Tracy, Quebec
- Rideau Park United Church, Ottawa, Ontario
- Westmount Park United Church, Montreal, Quebec

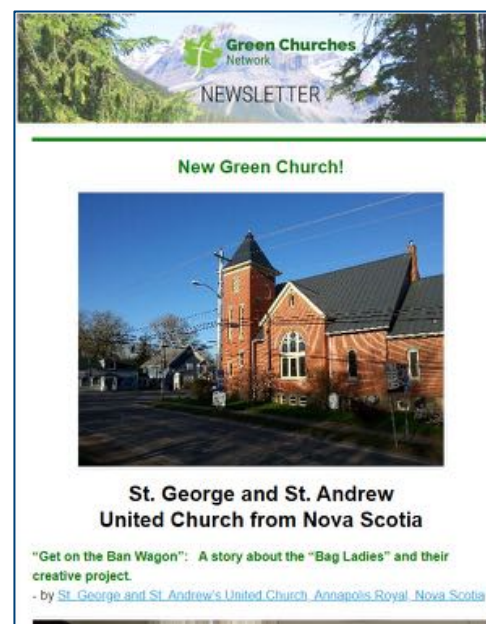


\* Thanks to these new entries we now have a total of 82 registered churches in our network.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

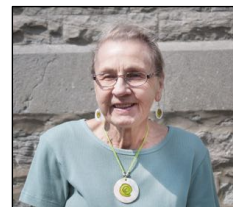
We keep our electronic monthly newsletter short, clear and concise. A total of 2239 individuals receive our newsletter; 1351 in French and 888 in English. Parts of it are reproduced in various church media and it also increases traffic on our website.

People can subscribe to the newsletter through our website, or at our kiosk tables and conferences.



## A CHARISMATIC TEAM

**Bernice Baranowski**, has over 30 years experience in research and now works 3 days a week researching useful material and responding to telephone calls and visitors. She also does proofreading and handles the translation of texts from French to English. We are blessed to have her “encyclopedic” input in the office!



**Angelina Ferreira**, meets the challenges of her duties as Administrative Assistant with imagination, serenity and professionalism. Her artistic talents and organizational skills are clearly visible in the production and editing of our monthly newsletter. She is also responsible for communicating with our registered green churches and for guiding interested Christian communities through the process of finding their place in the network. She is always ready to answer your questions and respond to your requests.



### **Georgette Souaid**

Georgette joined the team in June 2019 and works on education project and support for registered churches. Georgette has experience in programs focused on the energy transition, the circular economy and sustainable development. If you'd like to plan an event or training session, she'd be thrilled to help you out.



### **Gregory Lynch**

Gregory joined the Green Churches Network in September 2018 as the new director. For more than ten years Gregory has worked in the field of environmental education and renewable energy. He holds a masters in sustainable development from the University of Luxembourg and has experience working in Europe, Central America and Canada.



## PRECIOUS VOLUNTEERS

**Alexis Legault**, studying for his MA in translation at the University of Montreal, was happy to translate and revise texts in French and English for us because the values promoted by the Green Churches Network correspond to his world vision.

**Louise Lévesque**, nature photographer, poet, writer and member of the St. Francis of Assisi green team, contributed precious help in the proof reading and revision of our monthly newsletter in French.

Toward the goal of an extraordinary 2019 Green Churches Forum in Trois-Rivières, we have built an equally extraordinary local committee

*Joan Hamel*, retired from a career in the health system, is the standard-bearer for the protection of the Mauricie Region water system. She is president of the Board of Directors of the Association of the Residents of Lac des Piles and secretary of the Network of Associations for Lakes and Streams of Shawinigan. Tenacious and passionate, Mrs. Hamel has won many battles to advance the cause of healthy water for the Mauricie Region.



*Bernard Ménard* has been a priest in the congregation of the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (OMI) for 60 years and serves at the Our Lady of the Cape Shrine. Already in 2008, Fr. Ménard published a guide, "This Grand and Beautiful World", to help Christian communities take an active part in caring for the environment.



Marcel tells us, "My career concerned administration in the health system and I taught management principles for 30 years. I have been active in various Catholic movements such as the Knights of Columbus, marriage preparation, parish councils, Cursillo and others."



*Carmen* says, "I am blessed to have two daughters and four grandchildren. I have been involved in teaching young children, Confirmation classes and care of a handicapped person. Now, retirement means volunteering, dancing and volunteering. What happiness!"

*Kim Desrosiers Côté* did her studies at Our Lady of the Assumption College in Nicolet and travelled to Germany for the 2005 World Youth Days with Pope Benedict XXVI. A Cursillista since November 2017, she is also the director of the Zero Waste for the Mauricie/Quebec Centre group. Kim organized a Today's Green Waste collection in 2018 and the first Alternative Shopping event in March 2019. She works as a laboratory technician at the first eco-responsible pharmacy (Green Link) in Trois-Rivières.



*Jonathan Lacasse* is a social worker and father of a family who works in the field of mental health in the Mauricie/Quebec Centre region. He has worked for three years to create a base community at Our Lady of the Cape Shrine.



*Joyce Renaud* is heavily involved in the fight against climate change in the Mauricie Region. She is president of Trois-Rivières Climate Mobilization which brings together and mobilizes citizens of all horizons to make sure an informed citizen's perspective on climate and ecological issues has a place in the public square.





## Green Churches Forum

The next Green Churches Forum will be held the 19th and 20th of October 2019 at [Our Lady of the Cape Shrine](#). Approximately 200 people are expected to attend for two days of presentations, workshops and prayer to celebrate ‘The Gift of Water’.

Christians of all denominations will be able to exchange ideas and best environmental practices while rediscovering a Christian spirituality closer to God’s creation.

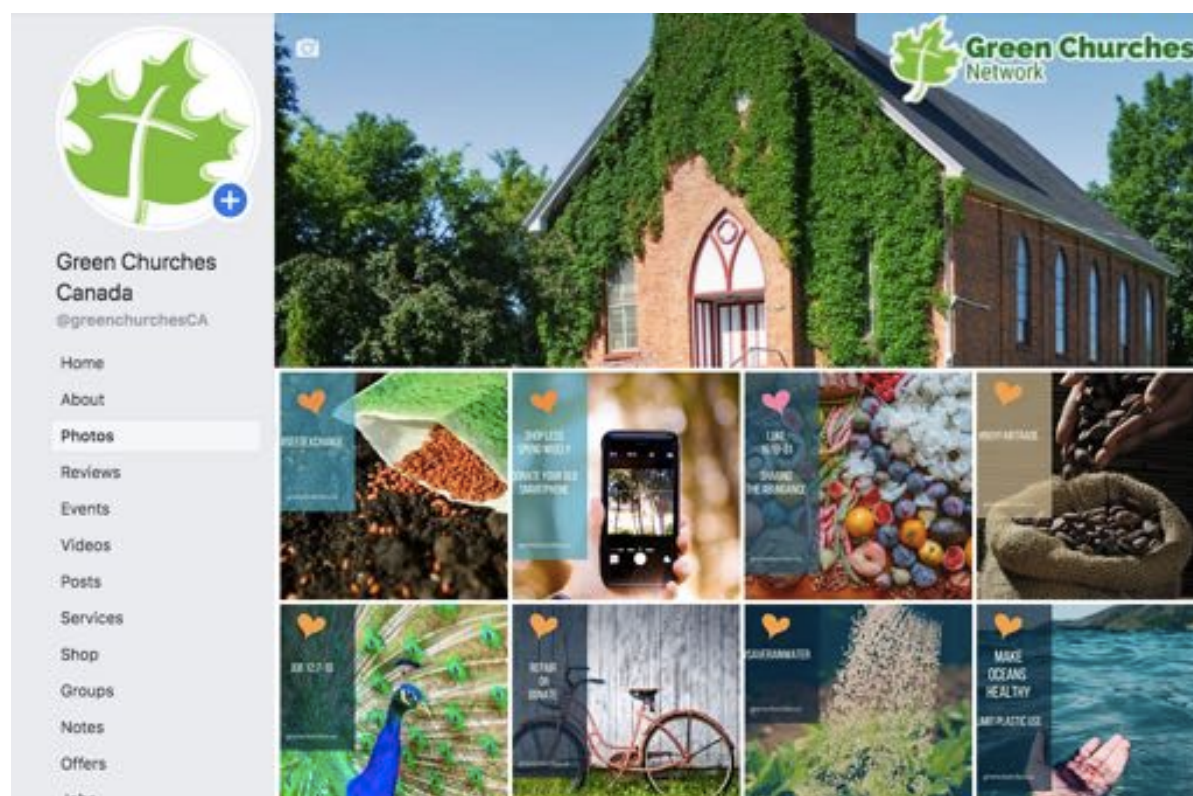


<https://greenchurches.ca/green-churches-forum03riv/>

## SOCIAL MEDIA



The number of those who ‘like’ our Facebook @GreenChurches page has grown by 9% in one year. Now, 1,322 followers read what we publish.





## SEASON OF CREATION 2019

<https://greenchurches.ca/season-of-creation/>



### Tools to download:

- Calendar of Daily Actions
- Poster
- Prayer Guide
- Fundraising Guide
- Spirituality Activity
- Education Activity
- Action Activity

In August 2017, the Green Churches Network launched the first Season of Creation Toolbox. We are the only organization in Canada to offer such a resource, and its free of charge!

### What is the "Season of Creation"?

Every year, from September 1st to October 4th, churches around the world observe the "Season of Creation". Since 2008, the World Council of Churches has been promoting church participation in this special period of the year. Its popularity is growing in Europe and the United Church of Canada was the first in this country to celebrate it. The downloadable resources provided by the Green Churches Network make it possible for all of Canada's Christian communities to join in the annual celebration and reenergize their commitment as responsible stewards of God's Creation.

### Why the dates from September 1st to October 4th?

In 1989, Dimitrios I, Patriarch of Constantinople, dedicated the first day of the Orthodox liturgical year (September 1st) to the protection of the environment. He then invited the whole Christian world to "offer together every year on this day, prayers and supplications to the Maker of all, both in thanksgiving for the great gift of Creation and in petition for its protection and salvation". In 2015, Pope Francis named September 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. October 4 is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology in the Catholic tradition. He is a model of integral ecology, where love for the poor, the sick and for all creatures flows from the same source.

## THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT US !

- <https://www.catholicregister.org/faith/item/27943-season-of-creation-an-invitation-to-pray>
- <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/monks-go-modern-in-state-of-the-art-monastery-1.4290256>
- <https://www.catholicregister.org/item/28875-halfway-through-three-year-plan-green-churches-network-aims-to-expand-its-national-footprint>
- <http://presence-info.ca/article/environnement/auto-un-diocese-innove-avec-ses-bornes-electriques>
- <https://www.united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/creation-time-2>
- <https://cep.anglican.ca/season-of-creation-september-1-to-october-4-resources/>
- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/social-justice-and-advocacy/environmental-issues/>
- <https://www.crc-canada.org/en/september-2018/>
- <https://u.osu.edu/religionandenvironment/2018/09/25/green-church-network-laudato-si-discussion-questions/>
- <https://www.scarboromissions.ca/justice-peace-and-integrity-of-creation/resources>
- <http://www.mnwo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-September-Generosity-Giving-Gratitude-Ideas.pdf>
- <http://www.officedecatechese.qc.ca/sens/saisons/JourTerre.html>
- <https://rqge.qc.ca/la-boite-a-outil-pour-2019-du-reseau-des-eglises-vertes-est-maintenant-disponible/>
- <https://seasonofcreation.org/events/>



## To Watch For

We have a lot planned for the coming year! Keep up with all the developments through our website, our Facebook page and our newsletter. Upcoming projects include:

### Improving Energy Efficiency

We will be hiring an expert in the field of building energy efficiency. For years, the churches registered in our network have expressed their need for pertinent information on finding ways to better maintain and improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. In the coming year we intend to develop the resources to respond to this need. Further information will be available in our newsletter.



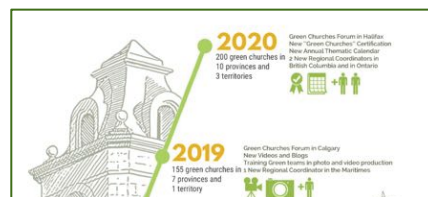
### Season of Creation 2020

Our annual toolkit of downloadable resources for the worldwide celebration of the Season of Creation (1<sup>st</sup> Sept.- 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.) will be available to churches, schools, religious communities and interested persons across Canada. In response to your comments, we will make these materials available at the end of spring so you will have sufficient time to organize your activities and make the best use of these resources before 1<sup>st</sup> September.



### Three-Year Plan

Our first 3-Year Plan ends in 2020 and we will begin to work out our following 2021-2024 plan. We need your input in determining our goals for the next three years!



### Green Initiatives in Our Churches

We would like to work more closely with you to develop ecological activities suitable to your community. Share your ideas with us and let us know what you need so that we can create resources and materials you can put to good use for the members of your community.



### Mass Wine

Having locally available organic mass wine has been a request of some of our churches over the last few years. We hope to have a product available in partnership with Vignoble VerteFeuille this coming year.

## Financial Statements 2018-2019

As of the 30th of June 2019

### REVENUS

Donations from Religious Communities	67 552
Foundation Donations	155
Government Grants	1141
Individual Donations	2161
Contributions from Registered Churches	675
Activity Revenues	1637
Other	34

<b>Total</b>	<b>73 355</b>
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### Expenses

Salaries	40 985
Activity Fees	896
Office Supplies	1615
Insurance	-
Travel	492
Representation Fees	661
Publicity	-
Rent	1753
Maintenance and Repairs	-
Professional Fees	2419
Communications	438
Subscriptions	170
Website	1041
Interest and Bank Fees	110
Other	797

<b>Total</b>	<b>51 411</b>
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