

## News

### Annual Community Carnival

Our Annual Carnival was a huge success, with over 500 people in attendance. There was a display of classic cars, support from our local Fire Department and Police, BBQ, bouncy castles, games, live music, popcorn and cotton candy, and lots of prizes! An added feature this year was vendor booths, organized by business consultant, Embrace & Become. It was an amazing day!

### Wedding Congrats



Congratulations to Jason & Vanessa Otter who were married on Saturday, August 31st. The ceremony and reception was held in the backyard of their residence, a beautiful day and a beautiful setting. Pastor Courtney officiated the ceremony, surrounded by family & friends.



## News

### Special Missionary Guests

On Sunday, September 15th, Innisfil Community Church was privileged to have Kevin & Julia Garratt as their guests, sharing their incredible story of their prison experience in China. Kevin & Julia were missionaries in China for 30 years, doing great work. After living there without incident, they were arrested by Chinese security officials in 2014 and accused of spying and stealing military secrets. Interrogation sessions lasted for hours. In February 2015, Julia was released on bail and returned to their apartment. Kevin was charged with espionage and transferred to a prison medical ward, where he spent 19 months. He was released in 2016. The Garratts have documented their "survival story" of their detention in a book, "Two Tears on the Window."



### Benevolence

#### Innisfil Food Bank

The shelves at the Food Bank were practically bare. However, after a segment announcing the need was aired on CTV News and a plea on Social Media, we are so grateful for the amazing response from the community. The shelves have been restocked and food donations continue to pour in, allowing us to continue to serve our clients. Thank you Innisfil!

### Coming Next Month

#### Teen Challenge

#### Ontario Men's Ministry Team

On Sunday, September 13th, we are pleased to host a dynamic presentation by Teen Challenge, featuring students sharing their amazing stories of freedom from addiction. We invite you to join us!

**Blessings To All!**

## Innisfil Community Church Newsletter September, 2019

### September 7th & 8th! 40 Years of Ministry Celebration

#### Saturday Banquet

The evening featured testimonials and video clips from former staff and congregational members, South Simcoe Chief of Police, Town of Innisfil Mayor, Innisfil/Barrie MP, District Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and more! Another added feature was the music trio of Bonnie Pereira, Sherri Shakell and Monica Stewart who did an amazing job of presenting medleys of familiar songs, creating a beautiful atmosphere of worship.

Pastor Courtney shared stories and memories that transpired over the 40 years, coupled with a slideshow of the early beginnings of the church and the many events and activities that took place. He invited people to share some of their memories and experiences and it was very heartwarming to hear "what the Lord has done!"

We were delighted to have in attendance MP John Brassard and his wife Liane; Councillors Bill VanBerkel, Kevin Eisses, Donna Orsati & her husband Jim; PAOC Regional Director Tom Quinn & his wife Kathy; and Rev. Rob Sharpe & his wife Caroline. As well, Pastor Courtney was totally surprised to see his two brothers and sister and their spouses show up for the weekend celebration - all the way from Winnipeg, Listowel and Grimsby!

Special thanks to Cove Catering for the meal that was provided; to Jennifer Hay, Judith Rogers & Jacki Shepherd for decorating the tables (and much more); (cont'd next page)



## Events/Activities/News

### 40 Years Celebration (cont'd)

to Soul Sisters for the platform plants; for the set-up and take-down crews, and to all the Volunteers who helped make the evening a successful one! We love and appreciate you all!

Here are a few photos of the Banquet:  
**Sunday Morning Service**



We had a wonderful attendance at our morning celebration service and it was SO GOOD to see so many familiar faces!

Again, we were privileged to have distinguished guests with us: Rev. Lorrie Gibbons, District Superintendent; MP John Brassard; and Mayor Lynn Dollin who all shared greetings. As well, we were pleased to have Councillor Carolyn Payne with us for the service.

## Events/Activities/News

Special thanks to Pastor Eli for coordinating our Anniversary Choir. They did a super job in leading us into praise!

Thanks also to Richard James, Founder of Fly-Press Films for the memories shared in the video presentation.

Our Guest Speaker for the morning was Rev. Sam Sibley, accompanied by his wife, Sue, and their kids Megan & Cameron. Pastor Sam was on staff as an Associate/Youth Pastor from 1994 to 1999. His message to "the church" was to "be the church that God intended, to be prepared for battle, always putting on the spiritual armor, and being intentional about reaching the lost by means of our righteous and holy living."

Pastor Courtney capped off the service with a prayer, specifically for the town of Innisfil, that God would empower us to address the many culturally relevant challenges in our town.

All in all - we give glory to God for his faithfulness and unfailing help! **Happy 40th Anniversary Innisfil Community Church!**

Here are a few photos from Sunday's service:

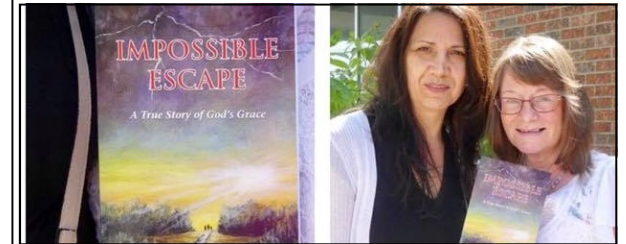


## Events/Activities/News

### Soul Sisters

The ladies kicked off their new season with a waffle breakfast on Saturday, September 7th. Grace Strangis was the guest speaker, who shared her story of how God saved her & her children from a life of horrendous abuse. Linda Smith, with God's help, wrote Grace's inspiring and captivating book called "Impossible Escape." The book is available for purchase.

### Men's Ministries



The Men's Ministries Breakfast was held on Saturday, September 21st, with Guest Speaker, Ron Brooks. Ron is the Founder and Owner of Pro-Signs. His topic for the morning was "Anointed For Business" - a call to men and women in the workplace to rise to their God-appointed positions.

### Family Ministries Emphasis

Pastor Andy & Pastor Sarah Hammond co-shared pulpit ministry on Sunday, September 22nd. Their theme for the morning was "Pass It On", taken from Psalm 78:4: "We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders." It is vitally important that our children are taught the truths of God's Word at an early age, both at home and at church, to help build a foundation that cannot be shaken.

