

# Muskoka Mosaic: Introducing Jeremy McClung

By Paula Boon

Jeremy McClung always wanted to live in Huntsville. He just didn't think it would happen so soon.

The pastor of the Muskoka Community Church, who grew up in Fort Erie, Ontario, was introduced to this area during high school camping trips. "My heart was up north," he says. "Someday I hoped to end up living here, maybe when I retired."

But in 2005, while attending a show at the Algonquin Theatre, McClung had the sudden, intense feeling that God was calling him to move here and start a church for people who were spiritually hungry but had not found a church where they felt comfortable.

At the time, McClung was living and working in Virginia. He was happy and fulfilled, having worked his way up to the position of associate pastor at Grace Community Church. "It was a great place, full of people new to church, excited and full of energy," he says. "Everyone was accepted for where they were, even the pastor."

Not wanting to make the wrong move, McClung prayed for a sign that he was really meant to come to Huntsville. When nothing happened, he carried on with his life. Then, the next spring, he was in the Blue Ridge Mountains for a day of solitude when a couple who had noticed his "4Canada" licence plates struck up a conversation. It was Jenny Cressman and Gord Baker from Huntsville. "They were my sign from God," he says. "That's what solidified it." It took McClung a year to make the transition. He garnered support from other churches, sold his home, and in July 2007 he, his wife April, and their two children Aidan, then 6, and Kara, then 1, moved north. McClung spent the first year getting connected and building relationships, looking for others who might want to be a part of the new church. "It's a bit presumptuous to start a church without knowing the community," he explains.

The first Muskoka Community Church service was on Oct. 19, 2008 at Riverside Public School, where the group still congregates. Since then, McClung has worked hard to create an atmosphere where people feel safe to come and explore. "I



READY FOR WINTER: Jeremy McClung, pastor of the Muskoka Community Church, has wholeheartedly thrown himself into life in Muskoka since coming to the area two years ago.

and August, his congregation has had Church on the Trail for the past two summers, meeting at the Arrowhead Park amphitheatre for some music and then going on a hike and pausing for lessons based on the natural surroundings. Between church-related activities and other aspects of his life, McClung is busy. His family has grown with the addition of Ella, now four months old, and together they enjoy camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing and kayaking. McClung is also a photographer, painter, and has volunteered at the Table Soup Kitchen.

When asked when he does in his spare time, McClung laughs and says, "Get wood ready for winter." Then he adds, "It's different to come here as a tourist than to move here. There's a lot of work involved in winter. I love playing in the snow, but there's a lot of work and the cold weather lasts a long time." Nevertheless, McClung loves the area and plans to stay for life.

In the future, he would like to see the Muskoka Community Church expand and address practical issues such as poverty in the region. "A church ought to be doing good in the community," he says. "I have the conviction if a church went away the community should miss it because it's doing good. I want that to be more of a focus."

Thanks to Ruby Truax for suggesting that Jeremy McClung be profiled. To explore the complete collection of Muskoka Mosaic profiles, go to [www.thelifecollector.com](http://www.thelifecollector.com).

try to make our morning service open to people who are curious," he says. "I take people as they are, whether they are skeptical, confused, or even antagonistic. I don't feel it's my job to legislate morality. My job is to lead people to God."

A musician who has played the guitar since age 13, McClung also leads the musical aspects of the services. "I never would have expected that to happen, but I enjoy it now that I'm comfortable with the idea of singing in front of people," he says.

While he is on the conservative side in terms of his beliefs, McClung is unorthodox in his methods. For example, instead of holding services inside during July

## Great kids – there's one in every crowd

The hustle and bustle of the fall season is well underway. Drive by any schoolyard or playing field and you will see kids of all ages having fun, and making the most of opportunities to be outdoors and with friends.

Sometimes it is easy to pick out the leaders in a group of kids; other times we have to look a little harder, because their leadership involves working quietly to improve the lives of their peers and their community.

Many of the youth of this generation give of their time and energy to make this a great place to live and work. These young people intuitively understand what the word 'community' is really about and give of themselves by volunteering with different local groups and clubs,

at school, at churches, with sports, and more.

This newspaper strongly supports youth in the community of Huntsville and Lake of Bays by not only initiating its own Youth Achievement Awards, but by supporting the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Award, which is co-ordinated by the Ontario Community Newspaper Association and sponsored by TD Canada Trust and Direct Energy.

Any area resident aged 6 to 17 is eligible to receive an Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Award. Please help us by nominating an individual in one of four areas:

- A person involved in worthwhile community services.
- A special young person contributing to their community while living with a physi-

cal or psychological limitation.

• An individual who has performed an act of heroism in the past year.

• Good kids who show a commitment to make life better for others and do more than is normally expected of someone their age.

Each nominee will receive a certificate of recognition. Up to 12 of the nominees will be chosen as the final recipients of the provincial award and invited to a special

ceremony held in Toronto in spring, 2010.

Nominate an outstanding young person today, and we will personally present them with a certificate of recognition and showcase their contributions in this newspaper. Help us to pay tribute to our leaders of today and tomorrow.

Nomination deadline is Nov. 30. Nomination forms are available at the Huntsville Forester office or at [www.ocna.org](http://www.ocna.org).

## COURTESY AUTO SALES

MEMBER SINCE 1988 UCDA ASSOCIATION OF DEALERS  
Chris Williamson  
705-787-1034  
"Muskoka's Largest Independent Used Vehicle Dealer!"

**2005 DODGE DAKOTA**  
Ext cab, 4 door, 6 cyl., auto, air, 62,000 km  
\$10,995<sup>00</sup>

**2000 FORD EXPLORER**  
4 door, 4WD, 230,000 km  
\$3,999<sup>00</sup>

**2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4**  
Clean.  
\$5,995<sup>00</sup>

**2003 CHEV LS 4X4**  
V8, auto. Nice clean truck. 92,000 km  
\$11,995<sup>00</sup>

**2000 FORD F150 EXT. CAB**  
4-door, 150,000 km  
\$7,995<sup>00</sup>

**2000 FORD WINDSTAR**  
7 pass., very clean, 184,000 km  
\$3,995<sup>00</sup>

**2000 FORD TAURUS**  
4 door, fully loaded, 140,000 km  
\$4,495<sup>00</sup>

**2001 CHEVY MALIBU**  
V6, auto., 119,000 km  
\$4,495<sup>00</sup>

**2002 CHRYSLER INTREPID**  
4 door, auto., fully loaded, 140,000 km  
\$4,495<sup>00</sup>

**2002 CHRYSLER NEON**  
4-door, auto., fully loaded. 105,000 km  
\$5,495<sup>00</sup>

**2000 GMC JIMMY**  
Fully loaded, 4 wheel drive, 160,000 km  
\$5,995<sup>00</sup>

**2004 DODGE CARAVAN ANNIVERSARY EDITION**  
4-door, fully loaded, quad seating, DVD player, 166,000 km  
\$6,995<sup>00</sup>

**MANY MORE IN STOCK!**  
572 Muskoka Rd. #3  
North of Hwy. #60, Huntsville  
(Just past the hospital)

**The Second Coming Of Christ OLD TESTAMENT SURPRISES**

"Jerusalem" said Jesus "shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, UNTIL..." You are invited to share how your faith is impacted by the more than 1,000 direct and indirect references in the Old Testament to the "Second Coming", 300 of which directly bear on this "bad news - good news" quotation from Luke 21:24

**non-denominational • non-confrontational**  
Sponsored by lay Bible students

**3:00 & 7:00 p.m. Sundays**  
Chaffey Hall  
24 Chaffey Township Road, Huntsville  
(Off Muskoka Road 3 North)  
For information call 789-4121

**NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO KEEP YOUR FUTURE ON TRACK.**

Lots of times, changes in life also affect your investments. That's why there's never been a better time to schedule your free portfolio review. We'll talk about the changes in your life, and help you decide whether it makes sense to revise your investments because of them.

A portfolio review will help ensure your investments are keeping pace with your goals. Call or visit your local Edward Jones advisor today.

**Todd A Croxall**  
Financial Advisor  
100 Golf Club Road, Unit 1A  
Muskoka, North Bay & Surrounding Area  
North Bay, ON P1B 9T8  
1-866-276-3132

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) Member CIPF

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

DIX MILLE VILLAGES TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES  
**PRESENTS**  
**THE SALE OF**  
Fairly Traded Handcrafted Items From Around the World  
at All Saints' Parish Hall, High Street, Huntsville  
Friday, November 27 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Saturday, November 28 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
1-877-289-3247 / 1-877-BUY-FAIR  
[www.TenThousandVillages.ca](http://www.TenThousandVillages.ca)  
Fair trade since 1946. Commerce équitable depuis 1976.

**Gone Quilting!**  
FOR THE QUILTING & SEWING ENTHUSIAST

**"HIP-HIP HOORAY SALE!"**

In celebration of Joanne's new hip, we have decided to celebrate with this fantastic sale!!!

Christmas Fabrics... **40% OFF**  
Flannels... **25% OFF**  
Batiks... **20% OFF**  
Blenders... **20% OFF**  
Kits... **20% OFF**  
Notions & Threads... **15% OFF**

Fat 1/4's  
**Buy 4 - Get 1 FREE!!!**  
**3 DAYS ONLY! THURS., FRI., SAT. NOVEMBER 12 - 13 - 14**  
1-14 Main St. E., Downtown Huntsville  
t: 788.9982 f: 788-2379  
[www.gonequilting.ca](http://www.gonequilting.ca)