

## Things I learned at my first CanUUdle

**My experience at CanUUdle this year** is definitely one I will never forget. This was my first con ever, and I was a little hesitant at first. I had no idea what to expect but what I got out of this weekend did not disappoint me. I spent a lot of time getting to know new people from all over Canada. It felt like a very welcoming environment. We were divided into different groups to allow us to get to know each other. And the workshops and activities we attended were a lot of fun! I am also now much more aware of the things that go on with the

CUC. I never knew so many people were involved. This experience has really opened my eyes to how many Unitarian events and organizations there are. I would now like to take part more actively in my congregation, and really know what's going on. I can't wait until next year! **U**

*Zoe LeVay attends the youth program at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto*

PHOTO: SANFORD KOMÉ-POND



*Youth Business Meeting at CanUUdle included a primer on acronyms. Information on Youth Ministry including an acronym decoder can be found at <http://cuc.ca/youth>*

## Adventure in UUtopia

**Right at the door, the six Junior Youth** (12 - 14) were welcomed by special events coordinators, Tsuki Naka, Kelowna, and Kellina Dyer, Victoria, and told they would be judging the different visions of UUtopia created by the 78 youth at CanUUdle.

But first, everyone formed a huge, vibrant circle and stated their name and their action – maybe a dance step, a gesture, or a dramatic inflection of voice – and the whole group repeated it back. The energy was enough to keep a town humming.

After a loud, paddling circle “Viking” game, a few Handshake Murder games filled the air with blood-curdling screams and dramatic plunges to the floor.

Each of six teams delivered compelling arguments, extolling the virtues of flowers and waterfalls and palaces, of “loving hearts and caring hands” and banana phones needed for good communication.

The Junior Youth judges were hard-pressed to choose the Most UUtopian Of All. Yes, in the interest of diversity and acceptance, a tie was announced. **U**



*Junior Youth were welcomed into CanUUdle community. Rupert Gomery is supported by his canoe-paddlers on either side in the Viking Game, a youth conference classic.*

## Fools take to the streets

**Fourteen ACM participants went** out to witness a day of life in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, “the poorest postal



*Leslie Kemp explained the Faithful Fools Ministry as having two parts: witness and advocacy.*

code in Canada.” The retreat was led by Faithful Fools Vancouver, a street ministry affiliated with the Unitarian Church of Vancouver started by Unitarian minister, Laura Friedman.

After an orientation recognizing their own fears and anxieties, they ventured out onto the streets. A walk through this neighbourhood revealed the raw details of life being lived right before their eyes: on a street retreat, they were encouraged to bear witness to whatever the streets had to offer that day.

Laura Friedman sums up the time, “At the end of the day we regathered to reflect on our journeys and on what we saw and

how it touched us. The street retreat is a simple act, but it is powerful.”

More information from: [mirrorsofhope@yahoo.ca](mailto:mirrorsofhope@yahoo.ca) **U**

**\$3,115 was raised from congregations bringing full bowls to the Saturday Souper Supper. This will be divided between Faithful Fools Street Ministry and Canadian Harambee Educational Society. A further \$500 in meal vouchers has been donated by Potluck Catering for use by the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and Faithful Fools for an event on the Downtown Eastside.**