



Community Living St. Marys and Area Annual Report 2009–2010

Our Vision: A community where everyone belongs.

Our Mission: To nurture the ability and willingness in our community to welcome and support all people as valued and contributing citizens.

Message from our President

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” This quote was used by Doug Cooper, a volunteer with Community Living Tillsonburg, to illustrate a core value that he holds. I was reconnecting with Doug, who grew up here in St Marys, at the recent annual meeting of Community Living Ontario where fellow board member Joe Lambert and I had the privilege of representing this association.

Many of our challenges during this past year have been thrust upon us by various external forces. Striking support workers in Lanark County and other places in Ontario actually picketed outside the homes of people they were meant to be serving. Following the lead of People First Ontario we petitioned the Ontario Government to pass a law that would prevent that sort of picketing. Some of us attended a day of protest at the Ministry of Labour in Toronto organized by People First. More than a year has passed since the closing of the last three regional centres in Ontario. But the damaged lives of many people who were abused in those institutions lives on as a legacy of their existence. A class action suit has been launched on behalf of people who were abused in Huronia Regional Centre. Joe Lambert will be reliving those horrible days because he has agreed to testify in the case. During the past several years the provincial government has been rewriting the rules about providing planning and services for people with disabilities. Some of the changes are



welcome, others, not so much. Waiting lists for services and planning are going to be accepted as normal. Needs assessments will determine levels of support. In other words some bureaucrat will list all the negatives associated with a person’s life instead of trying to imagine the positive contributions that the person is capable of making with proper supports.

One of the more significant decisions taken by your board this year has been to partner with Community Living Stratford, L’Arche Stratford, and Community Living North Perth to establish “Personal Planning Network, Creating Positive Futures in Perth County”. People First and Parents in Perth representatives have been meeting with people from our four agencies to develop a plan for independent facilitation that will serve all the people of Perth County. We believe that this facilitation group will provide people and families with the best possible opportunities to lead happy and productive lives. To get this plan on the road your board has provided financial and staff resources and agreed to act as the transfer agency through which money will flow to Personal Planning Network. We have been blessed with great community support for our annual Create a Smile walk. So your board has decided some accumulated funds from that source should be used to give something appropriate back to the community. With the help of funds from the Create a Smile walk the town will be installing new equipment at the Pyramid Centre that will make the pool, the hot tub and the family change room more accessible.

Current Board of Directors

President	Allan Slater
Vice President	Brenda Holland
2nd Vice President	Linda Howgego
Treasurer	Dwayne Hubbard
Executive Director	Marg McLean
Directors	Barbara Taylor
	Allan Bennett
	Sheila Greason
	Joe Lambert
	James Morrison
	Kara Hotchkiss
	Ted Fuller

Nominations to the Board

The following people are being presented for election to the Board for 2010–2011:

- Allan Slater
- Brenda Holland
- Linda Howgego
- Dwayne Hubbard
- Marg McLean
- Barbara Taylor
- Allan Bennett
- Sheila Greason
- Joe Lambert
- James Morrison
- Kara Hotchkiss
- Ted Fuller

More from our President

On March 11, 2010 our federal government signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which has been in effect since May 2008 when the required 20 countries had signed on. Here is a list of the guiding principles of the Convention taken from Wikipedia.

1. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy in including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons
2. Non-discrimination
3. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
4. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
5. Equality of opportunity
6. Accessibility
7. Equality between men and women
8. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities

Our Canadian Government has finally signed this Convention and is therefore obligated to follow its provisions. The Convention was first ready for signing on March 30, 2007. The very fact that our government waited another three years to sign should serve to remind us that we will need to remind governments often that we expect them to live up to the obligations they have agreed to meet.

Allan Slater



Current Members

Al Atchison
Brenda Atchison
Tracey Atchison
Ann Belyea
Al Bennett
Jill Bennett
Bill Chartrand
Diana Cook
Marion Fox
Ted Fuller
Sheila Greason
Brenda Holland
Harold Holland
Kara Hotchkiss
Linda Howgego
Jim Howgego
Lydia Laine
Joe Lambert
Lou Maloney
Therese Maloney
Shirley Maschke
Brenda Mitchell
Donna Mitchell
Jamie Morrison
Janice Mullock
David Palmer
Elizabeth Palmer

Loreen Palmer
Tony Plaus
Lynelle Purdy
Caroline Simons
Suzanne Simpson
Allan Slater
Beverley Slater
M. Smart-Wheaton
Marion Struss
Barb Taylor
Jack Taylor
Cheryl Tyndall
Scott Tyndall
Paul Williams

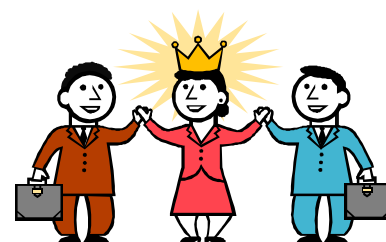
Our strength is in our membership. Please become a member for only \$5 per year. You will receive a newsletter four times annually and more.



Carol Ackersviller
 Darren Ackersviller
 Margaret Angus
 Kelly Armstrong
 Heather Armstrong
 Derek Atchison
 Rhonda Aubie
 Carrie Bailey
 Jane Bean
 Christina Bibby
 Kathrene Bibby
 Brian Blackman
 Edward Blagdon
 Alix Boersma
 Tracy Brant
 Dianne Brown
 Tausha Brown
 Laura Cannon
 Jenny Carter
 Greg Child
 Angela Clark
 Paul Cluff
 Seth Coddington
 Mary Connolly
 Jenn Costello
 Tamie Coward
 Anne Culligan
 Elizabeth Davidson
 Brenda Daykin
 Don Dingwall
 Sherry Drinkwalter
 Melody Elsey
 Dustie Fischer
 Maureen Flanagan

Marion Fox
 Angela Gallant
 Chet Greason
 Marilyn Haywood
 Rebecca Huffman
 Sharla Johnston
 Brenda Kaiser
 Ruth Lamond
 Jeromy Lee
 Jennifer Leslie
 Vickie Logan
 Nancy Marriott
 Jenine McCauley
 Linda McKay
 Michelle McKay
 Marg McLean
 Daniel Millar
 Donna Mitchell
 Abbey Moffatt
 Shannon Moir
 Cathy Molitor
 Kimberly Monden
 Peter Morgan
 Janice Mullock
 Linda Munro
 Elaine Primeau
 Rachel Reilly
 Tina Ritu
 Michele Rourke
 Sharon Rourke
 Connie Seaton
 Christine Sharp
 Katie Simons
 Luke Steinman

Madeline Sweetzир
 Barbara Thirkettle
 Rene Tigani-Bearдон
 Amy Trovarello
 Annette Van Til
 James Vanderloo
 Cathy VanOosterhout
 Paul Williams
 Helen Youlton



Service Milestones

Congratulations to the following employees observing service milestones during 2010:

- 5 Years** - Jenn Costello
- Marilyn Haywood
- Donna Mitchell

20 Years - Marg Angus

25 Years - Nancy Marriott

Way to go!

Many thanks...

Tracy Brant, with some help from the [newsletter committee](#) produces an association newsletter four times a year. It is great! Thanks so much, Tracy.

Special thanks to members of the [Joint Health and Safety Committee](#) and longtime chair Paul Williams.

Special thanks to members of the [Employee Management Relations Committee](#) and longtime chair, Marg Angus.

Both committees offer many opportunities for learning!



How do you capture a year in a few paragraphs? The answer is you don't. What we would need to do is sit down together and tell stories. Many stories would be about a person's private journey and others are about our community, new connections and ways to bring people together.

One story would be about Core Gifts and the many lessons it continues to teach us. An organizing group of about eight people from St. Marys, Stratford, London, Listowel and even Toronto brought Bruce Anderson to the St. Marys United Church in April. On the first day 100 people had an overview and then 28 people had two days of more intensive training on how to give a core gift interview. The beauty of this concept is that every person can explore their gift which gives them purpose and renewed belief but also collectively giving our gifts creates a truly welcoming community. Core gift interviews are still happening for people we support, employees of Community Living and the community. There is also a Core Gift Club that meets regularly. If you are interested in hearing more please give me a call!

Another story would be about the changing faces within the planning and facilitation department. We said good-bye to Facilitator Jan Gerrie in December and wish her well in new endeavours. We said hello to Don Dingwall in March as he steps into the role of Community Resource Coordinator. Another good-bye will come at the end of June as Marilyn Haywood retires. With her leaves a long history of leadership and innovation with the Association. There will be a retirement party for Marilyn on June 29 from 3 - 6pm with a presentation at 5 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Yet another story is about independent planning and facilitation in Perth County. It has long been a dream that people with disabilities and their

From Planning and Facilitation

A whole year of stories need to be told. Stories, about people's journeys, our community, connections we've made and ways to bring people together.

A group brought Bruce Anderson to St. Marys for 3 days to teach us about Core Gifts. 100 people came the first day to have an overview and 28 people on the second and third days had training on giving gift interviews. Every person has a core gift and it can help the community in many ways. Core Gift Club meets regularly and if you are welcome to join us.

We've had some changes. Jan Gerrie left us in December and Don Dingwall, joined us in March as the new Community Resource Coordinator. He has taken over for Marilyn Haywood who is retiring. Please join us for the retirement party on June 29 from 3-6 pm.

Coming this Fall... Personal Planning Network. People with disabilities and their families will be able to have planning and facilitation outside of an agency. Many people and agencies in Perth have given resources to this project.

We have been happy to have three students this year. Anne and Mark were with us from January-April from the Social Work program at Kings College. Janice is here for the summer and she is from the Career Development Practitioner Program from Conestoga College.

From Voices- Voices helps people with disabilities and their families to speak up, feel strong and feel connected to others. The main parts of Voices are the leadership training for young people in local high schools, information sessions and new community resources. three Voices Coordinators, one from Stratford, one

families would have the option of accessing planning and facilitation service outside of an agency and now it is very close to happening here.

A hardworking advisory committee has been meeting for a year to put a plan in place and several of the service agencies in Perth have contributed resources to this effort. The service will be available by the fall of this year.

We have been lucky enough to host three students over the course of the year and their stories would be full of what they have taught us and what we have taught them. Ann and Mark were with us from January to April doing a placement from the Social Work Program of Kings College and Janice is working two days a week over the summer as part of the Career Development Practitioner Program from Conestoga College.

Planning and Facilitation con'd

from Listowel and our own St. Marys representative, Connie Seaton.

Parents in Perth- Parents in Perth, is a network for families and those who care about people with disabilities. Their vision is to connect families in Perth and surrounding area by supporting and sharing knowledge, resources and life experiences. A facilitator is needed for a few hours each month to coordinate events, send out a newsletter and keep the network active. Parents In Perth will focus on building its membership, increasing awareness and will look at funding opportunities. For more information please contact Teresa DeJong at (519) 527-0202 or e-mail at hcf@tcc.on.ca



Community Development Work- From Voices

Voices, is a project in Perth that is a partnership between Community Living St. Marys, Community Living North Perth and Community Living Stratford with Foundations money held by Family Services Perth Huron. Voices helps people with disabilities and their families to speak up, feel strong and feel connected to others. The main parts of Voices are the leadership training for young people with developmental disabilities in local high schools, community information forums and the development of community resources such as the "Where to Find It" guide book. There are three Voices Coordinators, one from Stratford, one from Listowel and our own St. Marys representative, Connie Seaton.

From Parents in Perth

Parents in Perth, is a network for families and those who care about people with disabilities. Their vision is to connect families in Perth and surrounding area by supporting and sharing knowledge, resources and life experiences. This network is just over a year old and began as a project through Voices and funded by The Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation. Now, it is supported through Community Living St. Marys, Community Living Stratford, Community Living North Perth and L'Arche. The support is needed to hire a facilitator for a few hours each month who can coordinate events, send out a newsletter and keep the network active. Parents in Perth, has a new strategic plan and over the next year will focus on building its membership and increasing awareness as well as exploring funding opportunities. There are currently 62 people on the contact list and Parents in Perth has a Facebook "Fan Page" (<http://bit.ly/ParentsInPerth>). If you are interested in connecting with Parents In Perth please contact Teresa DeJong at (519) 527-0202 or e-mail at hcf@tcc.on.ca

Jennifer Leslie

Writing our annual report is a welcome opportunity to reflect on our many accomplishments, activities, changes and future directions. The 2009/10 year has been a busy one beginning last summer with the employ of four summer students. Last summer we had more young people asking for our help to support their involvement in summer camps, at home, in jobs and in other community places. The opportunity to get to know young people in our communities is very exciting and we believe is a welcome support for families. Special thanks to Abbey, Becky, Seth and Laura!

Redesigning our general orientation and training has been a time consuming but very worthwhile activity. Our “Compass” training has been extremely successful. We have designed two full days for all employees to better understand our vision, mission, values, principles and the way we support people. We will continue to provide this training at least twice a year.

Many employees participated in training from Doug Carton, a consultant with Community Living Ontario. “Examining the Purpose of our Work” was well received by about forty employees and volunteers. This value based training offers an opportunity to reflect and acknowledge the challenges of our work. Other opportunities included some ‘train-the trainer’ sessions which will be shared with employees. As well, we are preparing for a return visit from David Pitonyak this fall.

Many people we support have made changes in their homes and how they live. It’s very exciting to witness and in some circumstances be part of these changes.

Many employees have also had changes. Some folks have had babies, got new jobs, been married, moved to new homes, and experienced some illness and temporary injury. Caroline Simons left in February. We thank her for her positive contributions to support services. We said goodbye to Jenn Costello as

she is welcoming a new daughter and taking maternity leave. We welcomed Laura Cannon into the role of team leader for the year.

Our association supports approximately 55 people and employs approximately 77 people. To be successful, we must rely on each other to support and encourage our everyday activities. Special thanks to all of you for your continued support. Every person’s contribution is appreciated.

Team Leaders Marg Angus, Brenda Kaiser, Linda Munro, Jennifer Costello, Angie Gallant and Laura Cannon

We had 4 summer students last year. They worked with young people at camps, jobs, home and other places. Thanks Abbey, Becky, Seth and Laura!

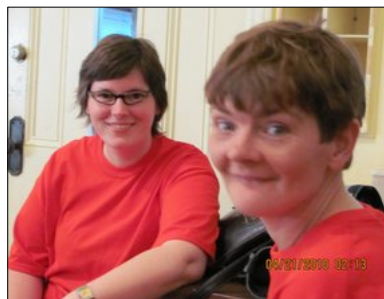
Our “Compass” training is 2 full days about what is most important about the way we support people.

Doug Carton from Community Living Ontario provided values based training in St.Marys. This fall David Pitonyak will give some training.

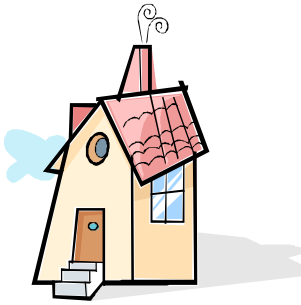
Many people have made changes in their lives. It is exciting.

Many staff have made changes too.

Our association supports 55 people and has 77 staff. We rely on each other. Thank you.



Share Your Home



It has again been a busy year, more people are requesting "Share Your Home" as an option and that means of course that many, many people have been approached and asked if they are interested or if they know someone who might be.

We have two new families from London who provide weekend and weekly opportunities for people. Having these short breaks does two important things. It gives people a change of scenery and a chance to meet a whole new group of people. It also gives people and their family time away from each other, always a healthy thing!

We continue to meet regularly with others doing the same work. This provides lots of names of potential families and a chance to think about doing this work in creative ways. You will see us every month meeting at the Sunset over breakfast!

A Short Story....

Ken moved away from our area two years ago and is happily settled in his new community. His SYH family lives nearly two hours away and was happy to see Ken living his dream. They did miss him and he sure missed them too!

They have stayed in touch mostly by phone but Ken visits at least twice a year and spends a great weekend with his friends. This summer, he will have a great holiday with them and also get to see other friends from Stratford. Jean visits Ken as well and has met his family and some of the people who assist him in his home. Forever Friends!

In March, we welcomed Don Dingwall to Community Living St. Marys as the new Community Resource Coordinator. Don brings lots of great things to this position as he was born and raised in this community and knows a lot of people. He is approachable, friendly and has had a long history of helping people find the supports that they need. Don is replacing Marilyn who will retire at the end of the month.

From Share Your Home

We are busy, more and more people are asking for Share Your Home Families. We have two new host families from London, they help people meet new friends and go new places. It takes a lot of time meeting people who want to share their home and life!

A Short Story...

Ken moved away two years ago, he is two hours away. The family he spent time with stayed in touch, he calls them often. This summer he will have a holiday with them, he still visits at least twice a year and they visit him too. Friendships are important and can last even when people move far away!

In March, Don Dingwall came to replace Marilyn Haywood as the Community Resource coordinator. Don was born and grew up in this area and knows a lot of people. He has done work like this before and is easy to talk to. Welcome Don!



What makes a welcoming community? How can we describe a desirable future for people with disabilities, their families and other members of their community? How can we use our resources to assist the people who rely on us to live better lives?

These are some of the questions we have been grappling with for the last few months. In truth, I'm sure these questions are ones that we have been considering for many years. The discussion must be about "our" lives and "our" communities. And although we can be sidetracked with the whirlwind of change in government policies and directions, we must return to these very fundamental and challenging discussions.

How can our association assist people to live a good life? We can look to disability leaders from the People First movement and others. Peter Park, the 'Godfather' of People First, talks about self determination and the importance of people speaking for themselves. John O'Brien suggests some key challenges for service organizations: community participation; supporting contribution; promoting choice; encourage valued social roles; and community presence. During the summer and fall, we will be engaging in conversations that we hope will provide direction and a plan to address these key questions.

People are at the heart of our association. I would like to thank the many people who have contributed in their own way to our community. Every day people and their families allow us to be part of their lives. The relationships we develop are not that of friends but they are friendly. Our ability to listen and support people to live good lives is dependent on them. Thank you.

The dedication and commitment of employees is so heartening. Recently a support worker accompanied a woman to church. At the end of the service someone came up to the worker and said her work was such a blessing. In response, she said no that she was blessed for having the opportunity to accompany the woman. Employees give generously of their time, energy and enthusiasm. Thank you.



I would like to give special recognition to our Board of Directors and employee team at JPC. We have had many changes throughout the year. Your work is valued and appreciated.

Marg McLean

What makes a welcoming community? What does a good future look like for people with disabilities? How can the association best use their resources?

These are important questions to talk about. It's easy to talk about other things.

We can learn from disability leaders and others such as Peter Park and John O'Brien. We will be talking during the summer and fall about these questions.

People are at the heart of our association. Thanks to people and their families for building relationships with us.

Staff are dedicated and committed. A support worker went to church with someone and felt blessed to do good work. Thank you.

Special thanks to our Board of Directors and staff at JPC. There have been many changes this year. Your work is valued.

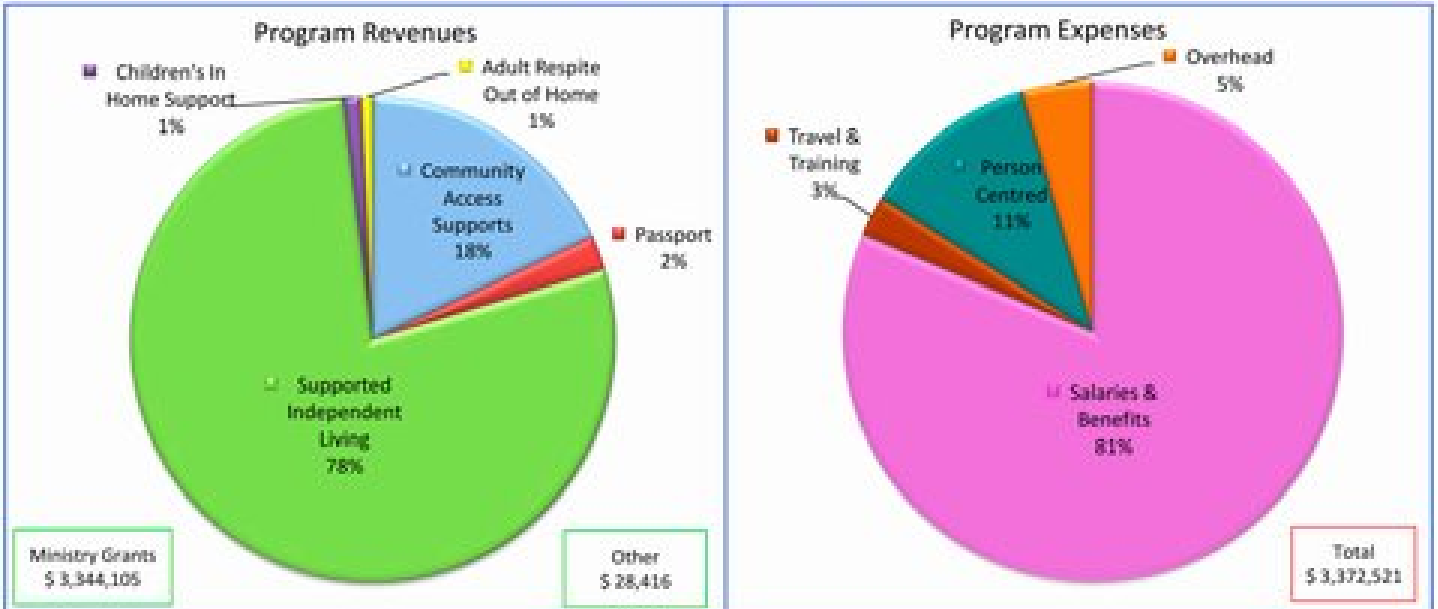
Community Living St. Marys and Area Statement of Operations

March 31	Operating Fund	Capital Asset Fund	Total 2010	Total 2009
Revenue				
Ministry of Community and Social Services grants	\$ 3,344,935	\$ -	\$ 3,344,935	\$ 3,119,077
Donations, campaign and membership fees	23,056	-	23,056	27,142
Investment income and building revenue	51,728	-	51,728	57,908
Secondment and other agencies	31,023	-	31,023	55,666
Other revenue	22,225	-	22,225	26,105
	<u>3,472,967</u>	-	<u>3,472,967</u>	<u>3,285,898</u>
Expenses				
Salaries, wages and benefits	2,781,413	-	2,781,413	2,664,845
Training and travel	90,144	-	90,144	109,803
Person-centred expenses	296,262	-	296,262	201,420
Legal, audit, consulting	35,350	-	35,350	36,109
Supplies	8,302	-	8,302	9,217
Telephone and postage	10,813	-	10,813	13,215
Utilities	20,402	-	20,402	19,326
Advertising and promotion	2,068	-	2,068	1,573
Repairs and maintenance	99,725	-	99,725	87,915
Rentals and leases	33,546	-	33,546	31,537
Insurance and taxes	16,117	-	16,117	12,218
Vehicle operation	8,252	-	8,252	10,593
Miscellaneous	30,349	-	30,349	23,414
Memberships	5,821	-	5,821	5,108
Expense recoveries	(4,974)	-	(4,974)	818
Amortization	-	29,142	29,142	23,366
	<u>3,433,590</u>	<u>29,142</u>	<u>3,462,732</u>	<u>3,250,477</u>
Net revenue	\$ 39,377	\$ (29,142)	\$ 10,235	\$ 35,421

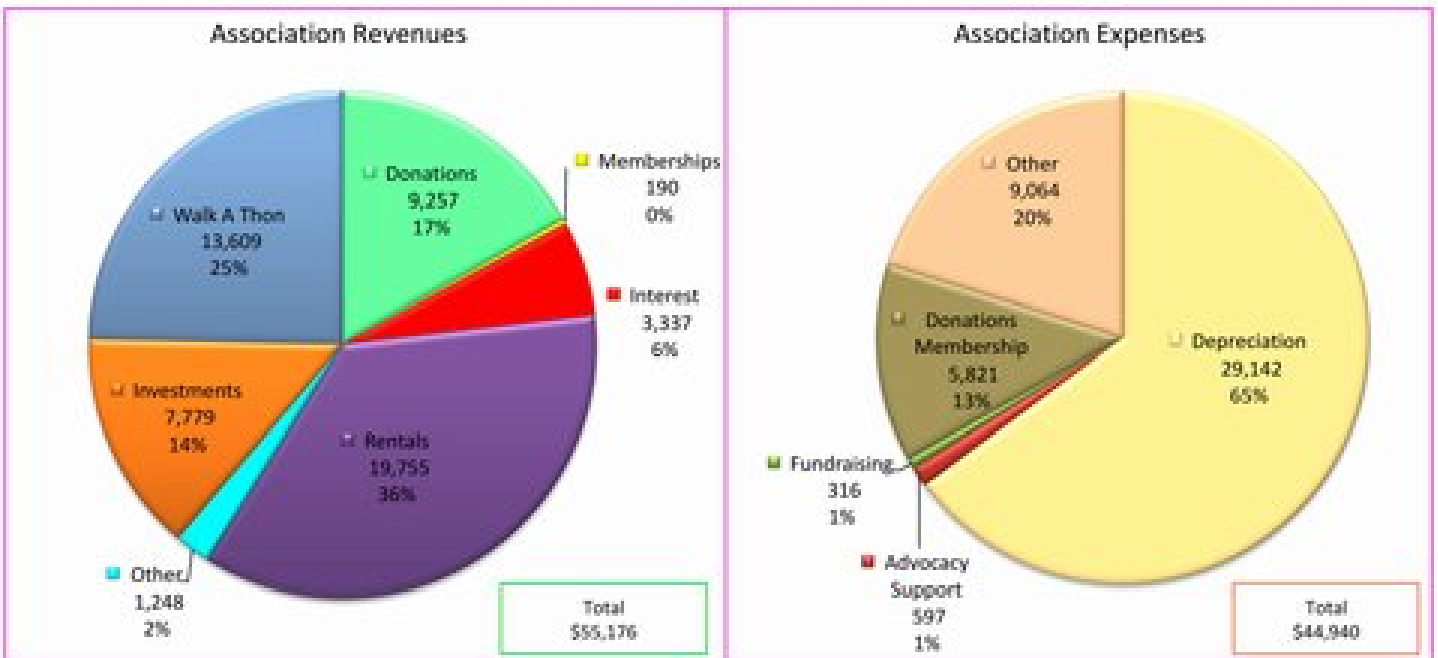
The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of these financial statements.


Fiscal Year: April 2009 to March 2010

***** Ministry Funded Programs *****



***** Activity outside of Ministry Programs = Association Efforts *****





Community Living St. Marys and Area
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
June 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Margaret Smart-Wheaton at 7pm. It was preceded by a social time and dinner with 78 people in attendance. *'Stories of Citizenship, Community and Hope'* featured storytellers - President Margaret Smart-Wheaton, Diane Hahn of Parents in Perth, and Board member Allan Slater. The poem *Citizenship* written by Barb Fowke, President of People First of Ontario, was read by Marilyn Haywood.

Honourary Life Membership was awarded to Barb Taylor for her outstanding contribution to the Association.

In compliance with our bylaws, all members were notified in writing of the AGM at least two weeks prior to the meeting and copies of all reports were made available in advance.

The agenda was approved in a motion made by Brenda Mitchell, seconded by Linda Howgego and carried.

Minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting were accepted as circulated in a motion made by Al Bennett, seconded by Margaret Levy and carried.

Years of Service Awards were presented.

The auditor's report was reviewed by Steve Landers of BDO Dunwoody. As in other years the auditors report was discussed in detail at the May board meeting. The report was accepted in a motion made by Joe Lambert, seconded by James Morrison and carried.

The auditors were reappointed in a motion made by Barb Taylor, seconded by Paul Williams and carried. BDO Dunwoody was appointed as our auditors for the 2008 - 2009 fiscal year. Steve Landers offered to give a seminar on Disability Tax Credits, allowable medical expenses, etc. Please contact Marg McLean if you would like to attend.

Reports were accepted as circulated: moved by Barb Taylor, seconded by Paul Williams and carried.

The nominating committee presented Allan Bennett, Ted Fuller, Sheila Greason, Brenda Holland, Kara Hotchkiss, Dwayne Hubbard, Joe Lambert, James Morrison, Allan Slater, Linda Howgego and Barbara Taylor for directorships.

Nominations from floor: None

Election of Directors: It was moved by Bev Slater and seconded by Jill Bennett that the slate of directors be accepted as presented. The motion was carried.

The Nominating Committee of Sheila Greason and Marilyn Richardson was formed. The Committee will seek additional members from the general membership of the Association.

Other Business:

Adjournment: It was moved by Paul Williams. Time was 8:07 pm.

