



ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

L'Arche Halifax sailed through an exciting and busy 50th anniversary of L'Arche International this past year with lots of blue skies and sunshine. However, there were stormy periods as well, stirred up by moments of intense grieving and sadness.

We met Prince Charles at the Public Gardens and were hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and his wife at a tea party in their home. We also welcomed three new Core Members and a number of new assistants.

Yet we also said a tearful farewell to Jackie, who passed away this year, and a heartbreaking goodbye to Beth and Mark whose care needs we were no longer able to meet.

Thanks to the strength of our community leader, homes coordinator, house leaders, assistants, volunteers and, of course, our Core Members, we navigated these rough waters and made it safely to port, a stronger and humbler community, more aware of our strengths and limitations.

As we chart a course for the 51st anniversary year of L'Arche International, we will be guided on our journey by our Regional Leader, Jenn Power, as we develop a new 4-year Mandate for L'Arche Halifax.

Along the way we look forward celebrating our accomplishments and milestones, but we will also be ready for whatever storms come our way.

If you are reading this, you were likely one of the "we" on our voyage. If so, thanks for being with the rest of us this past year. If not, welcome aboard!

Brian Hebert | Chair of the Board

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADER

When people of differing abilities spend time **WITH** one another, they create a better world. Despite a year full of challenges, our unique community has emerged stronger then ever. We continue to make lasting differences in the lives of everyone involved and look forward to continuing this positive impact for years to come. It remains my privilege to work **WITH** all members of this wonderful community. **Kelly Geddes | Community Leader**



makes all the difference





PILLAR COMMITTEES

Growth Pillar

The Growth Committee has had an exploratory and visioning year. Even though our energies were needed in other areas of the Community from time to time, we continued to stay the course and kept focused on three key areas.

NEW HOUSE A proposal for a new home has been submitted to the Department of Community Services. We have not received a positive answer to date, although in the government arena situations can change quickly and we need to be ready to react. We are regularly reviewing HRM real estate markets, constantly lobbying politicians and working on the pieces of an effective capital campaign.

REVENUE Financial stability allows L'Arche to provide a higher level of support and services for our core members and assistants. We are currently investigating a strategy to improve our ability to show our appreciation to current financial supporters and to seek new sources of funds.

Additional dedicated resources to manage this process are required. Potential government funding is available to employ a senior university student from a local Public Relations Program, providing the foundation for students to enter the "not for profit sector" as public relations and fund raiser specialists. These students could provide basic support that to allow development of a more sophisticated fund raising and awareness process.

RELATIONSHIP/PARTNERSHIPS We continuously work with partners who have the passion to assist us in our mission. Most recently, representatives of St. George's Anglican Church expressed an interest in how they could play a role. They bring some wonderful resources to the table but more importantly they bring a high level spirit and passion that is consistent with the L'Arche mission.

These projects are in conjunction with many day to day business as usual chores of the Growth Committee. We continue to "keep moving forward to make it better".

Barry Shea | Rev. Dianne Parker | Nancy Gilbert

Communications Pillar

The communications group had a busy year in 2014-2015 primarily centred around the creation of a new L'Arche Halifax website. Through this process all content was revised and revamped while working with a new web provider, immediaC. Happy to report www.larchehalifax.org is up and running.

Nabiha Atallah | Barb Campbell | Sarah Rhar

Volunteer Pillar

Through the Volunteer Pillar, the Board of Directors started the task of developing a Board Manual that is prescribed by L'Arche policy. Following a generic non-profit outline, the Board embarked on the task. We found very quickly that it was beyond the scope of our monthly meetings and our collective expertise. The Board agreed to engage the assistance of a consultant, Carol Gabanna (HR Atlantic). The Workshop was excellent, with practical information and the opportunity for good discussion. There is on-going work to be accomplished but everyone is committed to the Board Policy Manual. **Carol Evans | Brian Hebert | Andrew Howatt | Mike McCarther | John Yogis**



HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY EVENTS

6th Annual Golf Tournament

In 2014 we held our 6th Annual Golf Tournament at Sherwood Golf and Country Club. Thank you to Sean O'Regan, our Honourary Chair, and Scotiabank for their ongoing support. The golf committee, chaired by David Banks, worked tirelessly to make the day a resounding success; \$31,945 was raised. This event would not be possible without the generosity of our many sponsors and donors. We value the participation of all those who came to golf, many teams have been with us over the past six years. Our volunteers are second to none and put in many long hours the day of the tournament. Save the date September 3, 2015 and join us on the greens in support of L'Arche Halifax.

Lieutenant Governor Luncheon & Royal Visit

Gala Event at Government House for L'Arche Halifax and its supporters, and a meeting with Royalty, marked the 50th anniversary celebrations of L'Arche International.

To celebrate L'Arche International's 50th anniversary, the Board noted that Major-General Georges P. Vanier (Jean Vanier's father) had been appointed Canada's 19th Governor General by Queen Elizabeth II at Government House in Halifax in 1959.

Their Honours Lieutenant Governor J.J. Grant & Mrs. Joan Grant hosted an afternoon reception on Thursday, July 31, 2015. The band "Swingology" provided musical background. The event was a great success with 50 guests including core members, family, donors, and L'Arche representatives.

Nova Scotia's Chief of Protocol, Ms. Glennie Langille, enabled the L'Arche community to meet HRH Prince Charles on Monday, May 19, 2014 in the Halifax Public Gardens. Prince Charles spent time shaking hands with core members and speaking with organizers. The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, is a patron of L'Arche Edinburgh in Scotland.

CBC TV visited L'Arche Halifax prior the royal visit to interview core residents' to reactions to meeting Prince Charles. The news item received national coverage.

Friends of L'Arche Halifax

Our group continues to meet throughout the year in support of the community. Please join us for prayer, song, great food and lots of fun at St Agnes Church hall from September to June or at one of our summer BBQ's. Check out the details on our website.





5th Annual Art Show and Sale had 45 registered artists which included 1 potter. Team Possibles and L'Arche Wolfville were both represented. The Featured Artists were: Annabelle Caissie, Paul Hannon, J'anna Jacqueline, Lezlie Morgan and Marie Webb. One print was donated by Bill Rogers for a Silent Auction. 39 artists sold paintings and prints. L'Arche Wolfville sold 4 works and Team Possibles sold 19 pieces of work.



JACKIE PERRIN

March 12th, 1952 - August 17th, 2014

L'Arche Halifax was blessed to have been able to share the last few years of Jackie's life with her and her loving family.

Jackie lived her life to the fullest and took the rest of us along for the ride! Jackie had no problem expressing herself with phrases such as, "I love you-you are so beautiful, you are the best in the whole wide world of Halifax, pitter-patter" to name but a few. Jackie's favorite song was Beautiful: Beautiful, beautiful, Jesus is beautiful and Jesus makes beautiful things of my life..." And what a beautiful life Jackie had.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Operating Activities

Resident Revenues Resident Operating Expenses Resident Operating Net Income \$971,996 \$1,001,456 \$-29,460

L'Arche Activities

L'Arche Fundraising Revenues	\$69,057	
L'Arche Expenses	\$51,157	
L'Arche Activities Net Income	\$17,900	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Vice Chair: Secretary: Treasurer: Past Chair: Brian Hebert Carol Evans Sarah Rahr Andrew Howatt Nancy Gilbert Members: Rev. Dianne Parker Barry Shea Barb Campbell John Yogis

Nabiha Atallah Mike McCarther Kate Brown



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