

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Once again it is time for our annual report and a quick look back at the past year. In this case it has only been 8 months, as our 2022 AGM was not held until November as a result of delays with our audit. The shadow over the past several years has been the threat posed by COVID and the impact on the community. Although COVID still very much exists and we must remain careful, the community is in a much better place as things have for the most part returned to what was considered normal prior to the pandemic. With that, L'Arche Halifax begins to look more outward into our north end neighborhood and is looking forward to such things as open house BBQs and other opportunities to live a more connected life.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of two departing Board members. Kyekue Mweemba and Andrew Howatt have moved on to exciting new chapters in their lives. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank them both for their dedication and hard work in support of L'Arche. Joining the Board will be David Davison and Joe Malek. The Board roster for this year will be as follows:

Board Chair – Wayne DiPersio

Past Chair – Brian Hebert

Vice-Chair – Emilie Martens

Treasurer – David Davidson

Secretary – Joy Fraser

Member – Steve Estey

Member – Barb Ross

Member – Joe Malek

In order to make L'Arche Halifax work, we rely heavily on the kindness and generosity of our many volunteers. We are always looking for people who are willing to share some of their time and talent with us, whether it be as a member of the Board of Directors, participating on one of our several committees (art show, golf, finance, etc.) or simply helping with some routine work around the homes. If you would like to volunteer please send a note to Kelly at office@larchehalifax.org.

As always, the spirit of the community is embodied by the core members and assistants who live the L'Arche mission every day. I remain in awe of the way you live your lives.

Warm regards,
Wayne



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADER

Dear friends,

Happy Spring! Just as we are seeing signs of new life all around us with the green grass and flowers, we are also seeing new life here at L'Arche Halifax. Covid remains a present concern and at the same time, our lives are returning to this new normal. We are traveling again, going out to restaurants and many other things that we have missed over the past few years. Many of our newer assistants are just now experiencing life outside our homes as they came during the Covid years.

In addition to the regular travel and life activities that we are happy to be doing again, November saw our members May Banting and Sherry Kavumkal head to L'Arche DayBreak in Richmond Hill, Ontario to wrap up their L'Arche Canada Youth Leadership program. Most of the program took place virtually so it was really great for that group who worked so hard to be able to have some fun together in person.

The fall/winter brought some arrivals and some departures, as are usual for L'Arche communities. One sad departure was for Ian who left us in November to find a home that better suits his needs. It is very difficult when a core member leaves for any reason and we hold a special place for Ian in our hearts and prayers. We also said goodbye to Sarah who had come from the United States to be our Assistant Coordinator. We wish them all the best on their journeys. As we know in L'Arche, each goodbye gives us an opportunity to say hello to someone new. We were happy to welcome a new core member to Journey House-welcome Michelle, we are so glad you are here! We have also welcomed our first ever Finance Manager, Jackie Bong. Jackie was with us before in a part-time capacity and we are so happy to be able to have her full-time now.

We said goodbye to some of our assistants and welcomed new ones. It's been difficult finding assistants to complete our teams, so we are still depending on Parkwood Homecare to help us support the homes. This is happening less and less, which is good.

One of the things that stands out the most from last year was Shawn's journey with cancer. Thankfully, he is now cancer free. This was a difficult time for Shawn and for all who love and care for him. L'Arche and Shawn's family worked closely together to support Shawn and one another over the several months of his treatment, surgery and recovery. Journey House was not the same when Shawn was in hospital, and we were so glad to have him home again.

I'll end on that positive note. We are looking forward to seeing how our community grows and deepens in the mission of L'Arche. We are building the community that we want to be a part of and it's beautiful to witness both the individual transformations as well as how the community is growing as a whole.

In gratitude,
Kelly Geddes | Community Leader



L'ARCHE HALIFAX COMMUNITY SPACE AND HOUSING PROJECT

Over the past year, our growth project has continued to develop. "Bringing Home & Community Together" aims to meet the needs of L'Arche Halifax and extend its connections to the broader community. It focuses on providing affordable and accessible housing that supports independent living, as well as community spaces and services that promote friendships, learning, and a sense of belonging for people with and without intellectual disabilities.

With the help of OSO Planning and Design we have been able to more clearly articulate our vision and have started consulting with various stakeholders in the local disabilities community and all three levels of government. In the near future the details of our proposal will be publically available on our website.



THE SEAN O'REGAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Sean O'Regan L'Arche Halifax Volunteer of the Year award was established in 2022 in recognition of his many contributions to L'Arche Halifax. As the Chair of the Capital Campaign which founded L'Arche Halifax and a long-time volunteer with the community for years afterward Sean's hard work and unwavering support helped make L'Arche Halifax what it is today. The Sean O'Regan Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually to the volunteer who most embodies the spirit of servant leadership and the values of L'Arche.

This year's recipient is Serge Lavigne. Serge is our resident handyman. He does much of the maintenance and minor repair that the community needs to keep going. Serge comes over whenever we need him and always has a smile. He is an integral part of the L'Arche Halifax family. Thank you Serge for everything that you do and for the wonderful person that you are!



5512 Sullivan Street
Halifax, NS
Tel: 902.407.5512
www.larchehalifax.org