

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In looking back over the past year one thing stands out and captures who we are as L'Arche Halifax - the strategic planning meeting of November 20, 2016! The entire L'Arche Halifax community came together on a Sunday afternoon to talk about the best way to work together towards the lofty goals set out in our community mandate. The Sunday session was organized by our "strat plan planning" committee: Shawn Moulton, Chantal Lavigne, Kelly Geddes, Mike McCarther, Andrew Howatt and Wayne Dipersio. Our core members, assistants, house leaders, homes coordinator, community leader, family and board members gathered at Vanier House for a brief introduction by professional facilitator Carla Anglehart. Then the fun began.

We broke into small groups and each group took up a room in either Vanier or Cana House and for the next several minutes had an enthusiastic discussion about how to put one aspect of the mandate into practice. It is always inspiring when people work together to achieve great things - the energy, the optimism, the ideas, the sincere desire to make this world a better place. After discussing a topic, the groups spit up and new groups were formed and moved to another room. It was chaotic and fun during the changes with people moving about in all directions. But we soon settled in to discuss another topic with a new set of friends. People had a chance to tackle each topic and share ideas with everyone. We got to know more about each other too. Afterwards we came back together at Vanier House to report on the discussions and to look for common themes and priorities.

I'd like to thank Anna, Shawn, Andrea, Keith, May, Gordie, Allister and Deb who gave up the peace and quiet of their home on a Sunday afternoon and embraced the commotion. As you will read elsewhere the results of the meeting will chart our course over the next couple of years. The meeting reinforced for me our shared love and commitment to the mission of L'Arche and to changing the world and the value of each person's knowledge and experience. And so this year I don't have to report that things are going well at L'Arche Halifax because we all know it. We were all there at the strat planning meeting. Don't you love it when a plan comes together.

**Brian Hebert | Chair of the Board**



## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADER

It was such a joy to look through the photos of the past year, searching for ones to include in this Annual Report. We have been working hard and having fun fulfilling the responsibilities of our current mandate and living the mission of L'Arche.

We have welcomed groups to visit including students from NSCC and the School of Occupational Therapy. We have sent members out for presentations to churches, schools and elsewhere. Tricia presented at the 100 Women Who Care Halifax and we were chosen as their charity to support. We are in the process of designing a fully accessible Snoezelen Room at Vanier House. Our hope is to share this resource with family and friends.

We have been finding ways to live the Servant Leadership model in our homes and our lives in a more natural way. We have had parties, attended leadership training sessions, regional, national and international L'Arche events, learning about the wider family of L'Arche and introducing them to L'Arche Halifax.

It was a year full of blessings and for that we are so grateful. Thank you for helping to build a world where everyone belongs.

**Kelly Geddes | Community Leader**

## Growth Pillar Updates

The Growth Pillar continues to make excellent progress on several fronts. The fundamental growth objective is to grow L'Arche by securing a better financial position and increasing its visible presence and awareness in the HRM. Both of our signature fund raising events, the Golf Tournament & Auction and the Art Show & Sale had another successful year.



### Golf Tournament

Although our 8<sup>th</sup> annual golf event was successful, it was also in need of refreshing as the popularity has been declining over the last few years.

After an extensive review, the committee decided to make a significant change to this event, which has resulted in the following:

- *Moving the event to a more upscale venue and closer proximity to HRM. We will also deliver a product that is not as "traditional" as other similar events.*
- *Partnering with Prescott Group who also focuses on providing community support to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. The Special Olympic Golf Program will also be participating in the event.*
- *Focus as much on community exposure and visibility as with the financial benefit. We are very excited about these changes and look forward to a very successful event.*



## The Art Show and Sale

Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show and Sale included 60 artists as well as 1 potter and a jewelry maker. L'Arche Halifax and Team Possibles both had tables.

Featured Artists were Renee Forrestall, Zehava Power, Mohammed Ahmed and Inana Jewels.

The Friday Night Wine and Cheese Reception, which was open to the public for the first time this year, was very well attended, with piano music by Greg Doyle. Board Chair, Brian Hebert, welcomed and thanked those attending.

This was a successful event proving to be a good avenue for L'Arche to increase its visibility in the community while also raising funds. There are several new artists interested in participating next year. L'Arche Halifax's presence was quite visible with community members at the Welcome table throughout the show, the addition of a slide show and our banners.

**Mark April 20, 21 & 22, 2018 on your calendars for next year!**



## Strategic Planning Committee

Our call to create more homes is on hold until funding becomes available so, in the meantime, we are looking at others ways to grow.

We are working with Saint Mary's Sobey's School of Business to investigate the possibility of starting a Social Enterprise which would create employment for some of our members, offer another avenue for outreach and help make L'Arche more known in the HRM. Our plan is to work with this group and have a feasibility study and business plan completed by winter 2017/18.

L'Arche Canada is asking the communities to be creative and think outside of the box in non-traditional ways for growth. These are exciting times and we are thankful to all who are helping to further the mission of L'Arche in Halifax.







## VACATIONS!



## BIRTHDAYS!



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair:** Brian Hebert

**Vice-Chair:** Mike McCarther

**Secretary:** Gayle Salsman

**Treasurer:** Andrew Howatt

**Director:** Barry Shea

**Director:** Barb Campbell

**Director:** Joy Fraser

**Director:** Wayne Dipersio



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