



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I'm happy to report that it was another quiet year for the L'Arche Halifax Board of Directors.

As a governance body, the role of Board is to make sure the community has what it needs to thrive and fulfill its mandate - a place to live, funds for food and other things, and the right people to make it all happen. So when things are going well the directors' job is a lot easier. Of course we continue to look to the future and do what we can to make sure things will continue in the right direction.

One of things we've been working on this year is the social enterprise that was identified as a priority by the community at last year's strategic planning session. One exciting development this year was the decision by the L'Arche Canada Foundation to develop a national fundraising campaign to support local L'Arche community projects throughout Canada.

This has given us the space to reimagine our social enterprise as part of a larger vision for a L'Arche community centre. The Board will continue to work with the L'Arche Canada Foundation on this project over the next couple of years. When we are ready to proceed it will be a busy and exciting time. In the meantime, let's hope for another quiet year for the Board.

Brian Hebert | Chair of the Board

with
makes all the difference



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADER

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone! We packed so much into this year. Here are some of the highlights:

In the Spring, we celebrated Holy Week with family and friends. Our foot washing service continues to be a sacred time of forgiveness and grace.

We welcomed Nathan, a former assistant and friend, to lead our community retreat. The theme was God is our brother and sister. The pot luck and music night we're definitely crowd pleasers.

Anna and Tricia represented L'Arche Halifax at the International Federation meetings in Belfast, Ireland. They visited with L'Arche Reims in France on the way and found time to sight see around Paris. We attended our Regional Assembly where we welcomed our Homes Coordinator, Tricia Scott, as the first ever part time Vice Regional Leader for L'Arche Atlantic! We had an Open House and welcomed old friends and new to come, visit, eat and spend some time learning about our life together. Another special event that happened in June was when two of our assistant, Ainsley and Chantal, got married! It was a beautiful time of celebrating love and one that our whole community attended.

Our summer started off with the Regional Picnic in Truro, then off to vacations in Cape Breton, the South Shore and Newfoundland. We had a community BBQ in our backyard, made the annual trip to Jane's for another BBQ(thank you, Jane) and generally took the opportunity to BBQ and hang out in the backyard as much as possible!

The fall brought meetings with the Sobeys School of Business as we continued our work towards the growth of L'Arche in Halifax. Brian and I attended the annual meeting for Community Leaders and Board Chairs in Montreal. A group travelled to Wolfville to celebrate the opening of their new gathering space. It's a beautiful, bright and accessible space-if you haven't seen it yet you really should go and visit.

In the winter, we had our annual Fun Day and it was just that! We spent some quiet time together, went bowling and enjoyed a meal out. It's important to take time to just be together and have fun. Our Christmas Angels were busy in the weeks before Christmas, leaving little notes and gifts leading up to an amazing Christmas dinner. In February we hosted our 2nd Assistant's Weekend at Sunshine House in New Germany. It was a time of learning more about L'Arche, learning and sharing more about ourselves, having time to rest and reflect and, of course, some time for fun together.

We were asked by L'Arche International if we could support an assistant from India to come for a year of leadership development to help prepare him to be a Community Leader in Kerala. We were happy to welcome Ajith and were sad when it came his time to go back to India. We wish him all the best. And in between all of these, we had our Sunday Gatherings, biweekly games and music nights, saying goodbye to some assistants and welcoming others, numerous birthday and anniversary celebrations and weekly prayer at Community Night. We are thankful for the life we live, for the mission that guides us and for our faith that strengthens us.

Kelly Geddes | Community Leader



Golf Tournament

The 9th Annual Golf Tournament & Auction was a huge success! L'Arche Halifax invited Prescott Group and Special Olympics Golf to partner in the event and it's true – Together We Are Better!

The net profits from the event were brought back to a level that we have not seen in a few years. Although we shared the proceeds with our new partner, Prescott Group, the positive exposure and alliance with our friends at Prescott will reap rewards for some time to come.

We have started preparing for the 10th Annual Event which will be held at Glen Arbour Golf Course on Monday, September 17th. The basic format will be the same and the theme continues to be "Building Communities where we Live, Work, and Play".

Having said that, there will be new and exciting changes that will provide more fun to the participants and give some additional appeal to support this event in the future and contribute to these great organizations in other ways. Please contact the office at 902-407-5512 if you would like to support this event.

The Art Show and Sale

The 2018 Art Show and Sale was a great success with feature artists: Bev Hubley, Ron Hazel, Louise Baker and Lemonade Stand Designs (LSD) featuring designs by Marie Webb.

Many people attended and L'Arche Halifax received 25 percent of the sales. We want to thank everyone who supported L'Arche Halifax by coming to the show, purchasing art work, and helping with this year's show, in particular:

- Barb Ross, Chair of the Art Show Committee,
- Jamie Munro and Sarah Gillis for all their hard work with the planning, set up, helping out the day of, etc.
- Joy Fraser for designing our beautiful poster.

A Special Thank You to artist Vance Hall who donated back 100% of his sales to L'Arche Halifax. In addition, Vance sold two paintings at separate auctions during the year valued at \$500.00 each, which he donated to L'Arche Halifax.

Our Annual Art Show and Sale helps to raise funds and also raises awareness of L'Arche in Halifax. Together, we are building a world where everyone belongs.

Please mark April 26th-28th, 2019 on your calendars for next year's Show and Sale.



Strategic Planning Committee

The strategic planning committee met periodically throughout the year. During the summer of 2017 the focus was on developing a concept for a Social Enterprise, an idea which was generated by the community during a facilitated brain storming session in January 2017. The committee, along with representation from core members, assistants and the broader community, worked with the St. Mary's University Business Development Centre to flesh out various options. The end result was a proposed retail outlet that would sell products generated by L'Arche communities across Canada as well as like-minded local organizations.

In the Fall of 2017, a team of MBA students conducted a feasibility study for this retail outlet and presented their results to the Board. At the Board meeting it was decided to put plans for a social enterprise in abeyance until such time as a funding study was completed by L'Arche Canada. The funding study would identify potential sources of financial support and give the Board a better sense of what was achievable.

In May of 2018, the committee met with representatives from the L'Arche Foundation to discuss further options for a growth project. At the meeting, growth projects from other L'Arche Communities were discussed.

Committee members are now in the process of consolidating feedback from the meeting in order to determine a way ahead. In summary, the committee along with community members examined the concept of a social enterprise in great detail this past year and are not revisiting other options for a growth project including a potential



gathering space. Although it seems that the process is taking a long time, given the level of commitment that will be required to bring any project to fruition it is very important to make sure that we select the best option and that the entire community is behind the endeavor. Much more to follow in the months ahead!



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