

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, June 9, 2008

Community Living Chatham-Kent

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007-2008

The Board of Directors had a very busy year and while there were some great challenges, there were also major successes.

We helped develop and approved the Strategic Plan for 2007-2011. The plan includes many exciting aspects including the further development of innovative supports, and the development of leadership skills with employees and people who receive service. We also included building communication systems across the agency.

The Board is pleased that this agency welcomed home twenty people from Southwestern Regional Centre - it is certainly an exciting time for those people and their families.

Our Executive Director, Lu-Ann Cowell, has been involved in many province-wide activities this year, including chairing the Provincial Executive Directors Coordinating Committee and being a member of the Provincial Network. These activities have given the Board of Directors up-to-date information on the Ministry of Community and Social Services Transformation process, as well as information on provincial strategies. It has also given our agency well-deserved exposure across the province.

Recently, our agency hosted an OASIS dinner. People we support prepared and served the dinner, and spoke about their lives. I was very proud to be a part of that evening. Not only was the agency recognized for its incredible work, the people we support confirmed that the work we do is invaluable in their lives.

Our Executive Director was honoured this year with an Alumni of Distinction Award from St. Clair College, for her unbelievable commitment to the work in this field.

I would like to personally thank Lu-Ann for the many hours she gave to this organization this year, and her leadership skills through turbulent and rewarding times.

Many thanks to the volunteer Board of Directors who give some much of their time and energy to the organization, and to Mary Lou Kuni for ensuring that we have the information necessary to do our jobs well.

It has been an honour to serve as President of the Board of Directors this year, and I look forward to another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin K. Ryan
President, Board of Directors

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2007-2008

It has been a very challenging year for Community Living Chatham-Kent, but in our usual style, we have put our adversities behind us and have seen wonderful successes for the people who choose to receive service from this organization.

In total we have welcomed home twenty people from Southwestern Regional Centre and have completed our portion of the closure. With that we built one accessible home and purchased another this year. With the wonderful support of our employees, people are experiencing so much of life, including two men going to Florida for a vacation. What an adventure they had!

The labour disruption of the summer had the agency facing incredible challenges, but with the incredible work of the non-bargaining unit, we were able to ensure that people receiving residential and community supports were safe and well-cared for. They were certainly the heroes of this event. I must add that when the employees returned to work, they did so keeping in mind the best interests of the people receiving service.

Our Sass Road project was delayed, but we are confident that it will be completed by September 2008.

As an agency, we continue to advocate for additional resources for people and to continuously monitor our current services, supports, and our accountability measures.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Chris Harvey this year. We were very fortunate to have Heather Rall take his place. Heather is very enthusiastic and has already launched new a website for Community Living Chatham-Kent.

This agency is successful because of our employees, and three of those who put in incredible hours this year, our Directors, Lee Ann Mallett, Ron Coristine, and Linda Karnas, are to be commended for ensuring that our goal, vision, and belief statements remain strong in our work. I would like to

extend my sincere thanks to them and the entire management team for their efforts this year. My Executive Assistant, Mary Lou Kuni, continues to ensure that my life is organized and I thank her.

Finally, Community Living Chatham-Kent has an extraordinary Board of Directors. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to them for their support, wisdom, and insights this past year. A special thank you goes to you for believing in me and the work of the organization. I am so proud to work with such a dedicated group.

To the people who receive service and their families, my heartfelt thanks for “hanging in there” this year. Your trust and confidence means the world to all of us.

I look forward to a successful and prosperous 2008-2009 year!

Respectfully submitted,

Lu-Ann Cowell
Executive Director

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2007-2008

The agency experienced another year of growth as people continued to move from institutions to the community. Four people moved into a newly constructed home, with another two to move in April 2008, and a second home was purchased for four people.

In addition, Community Living Chatham-Kent was the recipient of a number of Ministry of Community and Social Services funding initiatives during the 2007-08 year as noted below.

- \$178,219 annualized base funding increase to address overall cost pressures
- \$253,671 Wage Gap funds to enhance the salaries and staff working in community living agencies
- \$590,324 fiscal (\$847,912 annual) to support 8 people who have moved from SRC as noted above
- \$28,646 fiscal (\$68,030 annual) Innovative Residential Supports to support one individual

The Fund Raising/Community Development Program generated \$98,250 in fund raising, donations, appeals and foundation grants, and \$7,500 in municipal grants. These funds assist in covering the agency costs and secure agency viability. Also, as part of the Board of Directors' Financial Operating Plan, funding is earmarked specifically for the direct benefit of people we support in our programs. In the 2007-08 year, \$10,940 was earmarked for summer programs for teens, camp fees, and furniture and equipment. New vans for two home were purchased to replace aged vans that had become expensive to maintain and unreliable for use outside the city. Our thanks go to Heather Rall, our new Community Relations Manager, and Chris Harvey, now with North America Railway Hall of Fame, and their team for their hard work and dedication.

In addition, on behalf of the Finance Committee I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Linda Karnas and her team for ensuring that the committee is kept abreast of all financial activity, as well as ensuring the financial viability of the organization. My thanks also go to the members of the Finance Committee listed below who support me throughout the year, and to our community for their financial support and recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin K. Ryan
Chair, Finance Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Erin K. Ryan, Chair
Dorothy Cook
Angie Maryschak
Jann Parry Wickett
Brian Wright
Martha Parry, External Member
Steve Repuski, External Member
Lu-Ann Cowell
Linda Karnas

IV. PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2007-2008

Expansion of Community Living Chatham-Kent continued during the past year.

A house purchased on Fairview Line is a wonderful home for four people from Southwestern Regional Centre, and the home that was built on Stirling Lane is now happily occupied by six people. Since 2005, twenty families have selected Community Living Chatham-Kent as the agency to provide supports for their loved ones. Moves for all twenty people have been successfully planned and implemented, and we are finished with developing homes for people who returned to the community from Southwestern Regional Centre.

Construction of the building on Sass Road will be complete by September 2008. This much needed space for the Day Programs will ease the overcrowding of programs in operation at Park Avenue and Riverview Drive. The additional space will also allow for the versatility and diversity that is necessary to meet the needs of the 138 people who attend these programs, as well as adequate space for program expansion for up to another twenty-five people, pending future approval and funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Partnerships continue between Community Living Chatham-Kent and the Chatham-Kent Public Library Café, as well as with the Chatham Kent Children's Services Cafeteria. Both showcase the abilities of the people who work in these employment programs.

The Program Planning Committee met February 4, 2008 and reviewed the status of Ministry resources, current emerging needs as outlined by the Chatham-Kent Advisory Committee for Developmental Services, and the outcomes of agency restructuring.

I extend my thanks to the committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Jann Parry Wickett
Chair, Program Planning Committee



PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jann Parry Wickett, Chair

Dorothy Cook

Ron Coristine

Lu-Ann Cowell

Lee Ann Mallett

V. *RIGHTS & BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORTS POLICY COMMITTEE*

The Rights and Behavioural Supports Policy Committee met on May 21, 2008, and the following items were addressed.

- Reviewed Mandate and Terms of Reference for the Behavioural Supports/Rights Review Committee
- Reviewed Mandate and Terms of Reference for the Policy Committee for Rights and Behavioural Supports
- Reviewed Behavioural Support Policies and Procedures
- Review Rights Policies and Procedures

The committee will continue to remain updated on all policies and procedures, as well as being aware of any forthcoming alterations and/or amendments required.

I extend my thanks to the committee members for their dedication and expertise.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Tyrrell
Chair, Rights & Behavioural Supports Policy Committee

RIGHTS & BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORTS POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Malcolm Tyrrell, Chair
Dr. Tim Baker, Psychologist, Chatham-Kent Children's Services
Ron Coristine
Lee Ann Mallett
Betty Roberts
Kim Sanson
Janice McFadden, Support Resources Manager (Ad Hoc Member)

BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2007-2008

PRESIDENT*	Ms. Erin Ryan
PAST PRESIDENT*	Mrs. Dorothy Cook
VICE-PRESIDENTS*	Mr. Stephen Andari Mrs. Angie Maryschak Mr. Kenneth Walsh
ELECTED MEMBERS	Mr. Gordon Crompton Mr. Malcolm Tyrrell Mrs. Jann Parry Wickett Mr. Brian Wright
APPOINTED MEMBER	Mr. Robert Birnie
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*	Mrs. Lu-Ann Cowell

*Executive Committee