

# ANNUAL REPORT

**Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

**Presented June 18, 2013**

**Annual General Meeting**

**650 River Drive, Chatham, Ontario**

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**COMMUNITY LIVING**  
Chatham-Kent

The logo for Community Living Chatham-Kent features a stylized sunburst or fan shape composed of multiple triangular segments in shades of blue and green, positioned to the right of the text.



## Our Goal

That all people live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively.

## Vision

Community Living . . .  
Discovering Dreams,  
Connecting Lives

## Mission

Community Living Chatham-Kent provides support and services for people who have an intellectual disability.

## Belief Statements

- Everyone is valued, respected, and treated with dignity;
- Employees are a significant part of our success and future;
- Lives are enriched with the support and involvement of family, friends, volunteers and the community;
- Barriers are eliminated through awareness, public education and partnerships;
- Communities benefit when people have the opportunity to develop into contributing citizens;
- Everyone is enriched by embracing and understanding diversity;
- Discovering and building on people's dreams and goals, is a priority;
- Successes are recognized and celebrated;
- Open and honest communication builds trust and commitment;
- Growth and development occur best in safe, respectful, caring and supportive environments;
- People have the right to be fully informed and make choices;
- Together, we strive for excellence in all that we do.



***2012-2013 BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS***

**PRESIDENT\***

Mr. Stephen J. Andari

**PAST PRESIDENT\***

Mr. Gordon Crompton

**VICE-PRESIDENTS\***

Mrs. Dorothy Cook  
Mrs. Linda Goldsmith  
Mr. Brian Wright

**ELECTED MEMBERS**

Mr. Jack Barei  
Mr. Derek Robertson  
Ms. Darlene Clarke  
Dr. Derek Jane  
Ms. Cheryl Prince  
Ms. Erin Ryan

**APPOINTED MEMBER**

Mr. Robert Birnie

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR\***

Mrs. Lu-Ann Cowell

\*Executive Committee

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been an honour to again serve as President of Community Living Chatham-Kent during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

I have had the privilege of working with a dedicated group of volunteers, our Board of Directors, whose enthusiasm and experience have contributed directly to the success of the organization over the last year.

The 2012/13 Board year has been gratifying in a number of areas, not the least of which has been the opportunity of this organization to provide exemplary service and leadership in the Chatham-Kent community, and Ontario at large.

A key component to that success has been the “lead by example” approach of our senior staff and employees resulting in the number of community connections that have developed.

Our Executive Director, Lu-Ann Cowell, is involved in a number of local and regional planning committees as well as sitting as a Board Member of OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs), where she sat on the Executive as Treasurer. In addition, she is a member of the Regional Support Associates Advisory Committee, and has been involved in a number of provincial government committees.

Our Director of Corporate Services, Linda Karnas, Chairs the Ontario Business Resource Committee and is involved in the Provincial Developmental Service Finance Group.

Community Living Chatham-Kent received an award this year from the Provincial Human Resource Strategy Group thanks to Lesa Jansen’s work on the Core Competency Pilot Project that was piloted in our organization.

Our organization, in partnership with Community Living Windsor, Christian Horizons, and Community Living Essex, developed and implemented an Advocates Against Abuse Program. Three people who are supported through Community Living Chatham-Kent have become certified trainers and are doing training with respect to identifying and preventing abuse.

Other community involvement by a number of employees include the OPTIONS Steering Committee, Chatham-Kent Employment Group, Chatham-Kent Accessibility Committee, KIDS Team, RespiteServices.com, Dual Diagnosis Committee, Tri-County Staff Training and Development Committee, Southwest Human Resource Committee, Kiwanis Golden K Club, AKTION Club (Chatham and Ridgetown), Special Olympics, Southwest Employment Group, Dementia Network, Canadian Association of Gift Planners (Chatham-Kent Chapter), and Association of Fundraising Professionals (South Chapter).

All of these efforts clearly demonstrate that Community Living Chatham-Kent makes Living in the Community of Chatham Kent a priority for the people we serve. This organization is on the cutting edge of new developments in the Developmental Services Sector, paving the way for additional opportunities for the people we support, and drawing attention and respect for the work of the organization

I am pleased to report that we have here with us tonight the new CEO for Community Living Ontario, Mr. Chris Beesley. This board has, during the last year, opened a renewed dialogue with CLO; we have asked hard questions of CLO and its representatives and they have provided answers and assurances to us which we believe we can rely on as CLO moves forward. I wish to thank Mr. Beesley for coming this evening.

*Continued . . .*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *(continued)*

In an atmosphere of shifting economic and policy priorities of the government this agency, from the top down continues to provide excellent service to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

As we embark on a renewal of our accreditation status this fiscal year, I am confident that 2013-2014 will be another successful year!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Andari, President

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As always, it has been another great year having the privilege to work with so many wonderful people.

During the year, I had an extended medical leave and I have a debt of gratitude to Ron Coristine and Linda Karnas who stepped up and did my job and their own. It was comforting to know that the organization was in great hands during that time!

It was a huge pleasure to have the Speakers' Bureau become a reality this year. The Community Relations and Development Department and their three front-line employees were instrumental in training ten people who receive support from the organization to succeed and graduate from the Leaders Within Program, and become a part of the Speakers' Bureau. Speaking engagements have followed for a number of community groups in Chatham-Kent.

One of the biggest goals of Community Living Chatham-Kent is to connect people to their community and encourage "giving back" as contributing citizens. The AKTION Clubs in Chatham and Ridgetown did just that, raising funds for many worthwhile endeavours such as mosquito netting for villages in Africa. In addition, people supported by Community Living Chatham-Kent were involved in "Pitch In" (Environmental Cleanup), volunteering with local organizations such as the OSPCA, assisting with events in Tecumseh Park, and assisting the elderly with yard work – a true sense of belonging in one's community.

Also during this year, we expanded our JOBWORX program to include all people who are receiving ODSP and who have employment barriers. Having a job creates financial opportunities for people and increases self-esteem.

Our very committed Board of Directors has celebrated its successes. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the Board for their support, guidance, wisdom, and incredible senses of humour. You have made a huge difference in many lives.

Thanks to the Manager of Community Relations and Development, Jodi Maroney, Community Living Chatham-Kent is a "household name." She has ensured that we have a huge presence in the community.

All of the 260 employees of Community Living Chatham-Kent are to be commended for providing excellent supports and upholding our vision "Discovering Dreams . . . Connecting Lives." My thanks for all the extras that you do each and every day.

The Senior Management Team of Lee Ann Mallett, Ron Coristine, and Linda Karnas is to be recognized for their unparalleled dedication and commitment to the organization, and more importantly, to the people who receive support.

It is with very mixed emotions that we are saying goodbye to a lady who has been a key figure in our successes, Mary Lou Kuni. She will be retiring in July and while we wish her joy in her retirement, we will very selfishly miss her presence not only daily in the office, but also at Board and committee meetings. Her organizational skills and work ethics are phenomenal and she has been a dedicated employee for 16 years.

As we look forward to another year, I would like to thank the people we support and their families for allowing me to be a part of their lives – it is truly an honour.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu-Ann Cowell, Executive Director

Gord Crompton read a note from Dave Van Kesteren, expressing his regrets but thanking us for the invitation to attend the AGM.

Gord Crompton thanked Diann Van Basselaere and Lois Bachynski for serving as registrars for the AGM this year and many previous years.

### 3.0 Review of Annual Report

Gord Crompton then introduced Lu-Ann Cowell to review the Annual Report for 2011-2012.

Lu-Ann indicated that it was her pleasure to welcome everyone to the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. She then briefly reviewed the written report, noting it was a successful yet busy year. We implemented the Ministry's Quality Assurance Measures, brought our budget in on target, and provided supports needed to people and families served by the agency. The employees continue to provide excellent supports for people receiving service. They are innovative and break down barriers every day so that inclusion will become the norm in our community.

The Senior Management team is the best in the land. She introduced Ron Coristine, Program Director; Linda Karnas, Director of Corporate Services, whose position ensures all finances stay in line with budget; her staff and responsibilities includes Administration, IT Manager, and Property Manager; Lee Ann Mallett, Program Director, was not able to attend this evening; Jodi Maroney, Community Relations and Development Manager, was also unable to attend this evening. She expressed her thanks to Mary Lou Kuni, Executive Assistant. Lu-Ann thanked all of them for their unparalleled support.

Lu-Ann thanked Gord Crompton, President, and all the members of the Board of Directors, for their support, wisdom, commitment, and laughter.

Many changes have and are occurring with the ministry's transformation agenda and we are well positioned to move forward.

At this point, Jane Joris, President of OASIS, entered the meeting, and was welcomed by Lu-Ann Cowell.

On behalf of OASIS, Jane congratulated Community Living for another successful year, despite limited funding and huge legislative requirements.

She thanked Lu-Ann Cowell, for her work as Treasurer of OASIS. OASIS works to maintain stability in the developmental service sector; the Business Resources Committee's main focus is facilitating networking and information sharing, and acting as a resource to agencies and the ministry; and OASIS continues to work with the Ministry of Community and Social Services on current issues affecting the sector.

Jane expressed her thanks for the invitation to attend and speak on behalf of OASIS.



**4.0 Acceptance of Minutes of 2011 AGM**

Gord Crompton asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes of the June 16, 2011 Annual General Meeting. There being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

**Stephen Andari (Derek Robertson) moved that the minutes of the June 16, 2011 Annual General Meeting of Community Living Chatham-Kent be approved as presented.**

Carried

**Diann Van Basselaere (Derek Robertson) moved that the 2011-2012 Annual Report be approved as presented.**

Carried

**Linda Goldsmith (Derek Jane) moved the actions of the Board of Directors for the fiscal year 2011-2012 be approved as enacted.**

Carried

**5.0 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements**

Gord Crompton welcomed Cynthia Swift of KPMG and asked her to come forward to present the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

Cynthia Swift drew attention to the first page of the Independent Auditor's Report, where Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and the Auditor's Responsibility are defined. In summary, "In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Community Living Chatham-Kent as of March 31, 2012, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles."

She then reviewed the various financial statements. Cynthia then stated that there were no significant or unusual transactions noted in the audit, and referred to the Notes to Financial Statements for explanations. The audit team received full cooperation from management and she commended Linda Karnas and her team for the great shape the records were in.

**Robert Birnie (Brian Wright) moved that the Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 2011-2012 be approved as presented.**

Carried

**Derek Robertson (Dorothy Cook) moved that the firm of KPMG be reappointed as Auditors for Community Living Chatham-Kent for fiscal year 2012-2013.**

Carried

## 6.0 Special Presentations

Lu-Ann Cowell came forward to acknowledge the contributions of two members of the Board.

Jann Parry Wickett has served for six years on our Board of Directors. Jann has served on our Program Planning Committee and Finance Committee, as well as the Lambton Kent District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, she could not be here this evening to accept a gift of appreciation, as she is welcoming a new grandchild to her family.

Jann has graciously agreed to serve as an external member of the Finance Committee for the coming year.

Gord Crompton was first elected in June 2006, serving on the Building Committee, Behavioural Supports/Rights Committee, and as a Vice-President on the Executive Committee. He also serves on the Chatham-Kent Developmental Services Planning Committee (and the former CADS committee).

For the past year, Gord served as President of our Board of Directors, and has guided the Board with his wisdom, humour and support. He has agreed to stay on the Board as Past President in the coming year.

Lu-Ann then presented Gord with a gift of appreciation. Gord thanked the Board for the gift and for the pleasant experience of serving with the Board.

## 7.0 Introduction of Candidates and Election of Board Members

Robert Birnie came forward and stated he was pleased to present a full slate for the Board of Directors.

Darlene Clarke, Derek Robertson, Brian Wright, and Erin Ryan have one year of their term remaining and have agreed to continue on the Board

Dorothy Cook, Linda Goldsmith, and Derek Jane have completed their term and are eligible for re-election. Stephen Andari has agreed to let his name stand for election, having served the past year as Past President.

Bob then introduced two new candidates for the Board, Jack Barei and Cheryl Prince and provided a brief biography on both.

Jack Barei is a graduate of Conestoga College with a diploma in broadcasting. He holds three degrees from the University of Windsor (History, International Relations, and Education), and an MA of International Relations from the University of Toronto. Jack and his wife, Louise, moved to Chatham in 1992. with their children, Andrew, born in 1986, Matt in 1988, and Chloe in 1992. Sadly, Andrew passed away in 2003. During his short life, Andrew and his family received supports from

Community Living. Jack teaches economics, history, and politics for the Lambton Kent District School Board. He loves to cook, golf, and spend time with his family.

Cheryl Prince is a graduate of the University of Windsor with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, which introduced her to a fulfilling 36-year career in both front-line and managerial positions with four Children's Aid Societies, and a final thirteen years as CEO of the Chatham-Kent Alzheimer Society. She retired in 2008, and now spends time with family and friends, traveling, reading, cooking, and occasional teaching for Children's Services. She has served on numerous volunteer boards and committees including Chatham Rotary, Tilbury and District Family Health Team, C-K Consumer and Family Network, and Buxton National Historic Site and Museum. She and her husband, Andy, live in North Buxton and are the proud parents of four grown children and five grandchildren.

Robert Birnie then asked three times whether there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he asked for a motion that the nominations be accepted as presented.

**Derek Robertson (Jane Wright) moved that the nominations be closed and accepted as presented.**

**Carried**

#### **8.0 Installation of Board Members**

Robert Birnie asked the newly nominated members to come forward.

Linda Goldsmith, Stephen Andari, Dorothy Cook, Derek Jane, Jack Barei, and Cheryl Prince came forward, and Robert Birnie completed the installation ceremony.

Gord Crompton welcomed the new and existing Board members, and thanked Robert Birnie for his work on the Nominating Committee.

#### **10.0 Adjournment**

Gord asked the Board of Directors to stay for a short Organizational Meeting.

**On motion by Dorothy Cook (Stephen Andari), the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.**



## BUSINESS & INDIVIDUAL DONOR GIFTS

With our gratitude to everyone who supported the work of Community Living Chatham-Kent in 2012 – whether you gave a lot or a little, the lives of those we support are changed forever because of you.

Here is a list of businesses and individuals who gave gifts of \$500 or more. For a complete list of donors visit our website [www.clc-k.ca](http://www.clc-k.ca), and from the menu on the left choose Donate/Volunteer → Recognition → Donor Honour Role.

BDO Canada  
The Belanger Family  
Blackburn Foundation, Walter J.  
Joyce Carr  
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Chatham Kent Community Foundation  
Chatham Radio Cabs  
CIBC Head Office  
John Conway and Cathy MacNeil  
Lu-Ann Cowell  
Dowler-Karn  
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