

NEWS

# Very high marks for Community Living C-K

By Mary Beth Corcoran  
mary@chathamvoice.com

In 2015, Community Living Chatham-Kent began the process of achieving a voluntary accreditation through FOCUS, and last week, was awarded a four-year accreditation with an overall score of 96.45 per cent.

Brian Dunne, a board member with FOCUS Accreditation, was in Chatham recently to officially present Community Living executive director Ron Coristine with the organization's accreditation plaque.

In his remarks, Dunne explained the process, which starts with months of preparation, "which includes extensively review, assessing, creating and fine-tuning policies

and procedures." That is followed with onsite validation by a team from FOCUS over four days with a host of interviews.

"We don't interview an organization as a sum of its program, but as an entity of intertwined services that must perform well together for the benefit of people using services," Dunne said. "Looking at 183 standards applicable to Community Living, I am happy to report that the organization met 170 standards with a yes and received 13 partials. Community Living received an overall score of 96.45 per cent."

Good feedback came from clients and staff about Coristine, and staff was described as "caring and capable."



Mary Beth Corcoran/The Chatham Voice

Ron Coristine, executive director of Community Living Chatham-Kent, accepts a four-year accreditation from FOCUS Accreditation board member Brian Dunne at a luncheon last week.

Dunne said achieving accreditation speaks to the accountability, transparency and the desire for organizations to elevate best practices beyond their funder's expectations. He also thanked Community Living for "being a leader in your community and in the sector. Thank you for allowing FOCUS to be a part of your journey, for teaching us, for being an organization that is welcoming, compassionate and invested in the wellbeing of those you serve and for being an organization of excellence in the work of accreditation."

When presented the accreditation plaque, Coristine joked that it was the first time in his life he received a grade that high and thanked Dunne and staff for their work during the process.

FOCUS was established in 2004 in response to a need for an innovative and robust quality improvement and accreditation program that reflected current successful practices and trends in community-based human services – with a mind to our Canadian culture and expectations.

Using an inclusive process, FOCUS sought input from indi-

viduals and their families who use different types of community-based human services, as well as board members, staff, community stakeholders – and a wide range of sector experts in accreditation and standards.

The result was an accreditation program with standards and processes that reflected sector best practices as well as Canadian expectations and values. The FOCUS Quality Improvement and Accreditation Program provides organizations with a comprehensive system that helps improve organizational culture and practices in meaningful ways, with a focus on:

- Results for people who use community-based human services
- Achieving organizational excellence through a culture of learning
- Community development and meaningful stakeholder engagement

**goodwill** **COUNTDOWN TO**

# super saver saturday November 25

**one day only**

# 50% OFF STOREWIDE

Join us on Saturday November 25, 9am-6pm,  
for our **SUPER SAVER SATURDAY SALE.**

Goodwill Retail Store  
255 Grand Ave. W., Chatham

**FOUNDATION OF CHATHAM-KENT Health Alliance**

**FUTURE IN FOCUS**  
CKHA DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EQUIPMENT RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

**DID YOU KNOW? SCREENING SAVES LIVES**

**50% OF CANCERS CAN BE PREVENTED IF DETECTED EARLY**

**1 IN 9 WOMEN WILL GET BREAST CANCER IN HER LIFETIME**

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS WISH TREE DONATIONS WILL HELP PURCHASE A **NEW MAMMOGRAPHY MACHINE** FOR CKHA

**Christmas WISH TREE**

Please Join Us...  
**28th Annual Christmas Wish Tree Lighting and Ribbon Ceremony**  
Chatham-Kent Health Alliance  
December 14th, 2017 | 6:30 p.m.  
(Chatham & Wallaceburg Campus)

[www.foundationckha.com](http://www.foundationckha.com) | 519.436.2538

**WE NEED A CONCRETE BARRIER IN CARNAGE ALLEY**

TOWN HALL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 30, 2017  
7:00PM  
ACTIVE LIFESTYLE CENTRE  
40 MERRITT AVE., CHATHAM, ON

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND!**

- Guest Speakers
- Refreshments
- Open Discussion

**RSVP:**  
1 800 265 3993

**RICK NICHOLLS, MPP**  
CHATHAM-KENT-ESSEX