



Annual Report

2017/2018

Message from the President

by [Ross Davidson, President]

An Excellent Year! It is a delight to report to the membership this year in that it has been an excellent one by all accounts – People we serve, Board Management, and Staff seem by both observation and report feeling buoyed by changes that have been coming to life this year. Those changes have been an animation of a focus on person's needs rather than program need. That focus began with our last Strategic Plan.

The people we serve are being served better. Community activation of programs have come into effect. Activity and learning options are being offered to all of whom we serve and to many who we do not. Please have a look to our reinvigorated website or our 'Facebook' page to see some of the current options on offer. The old idea of 'folks come to a place' has been replaced with a 'what activities meet your interests and dreams?' focus.

The structures that we have adopted are working. Members can be assured that the quality assurance measures demanded by our funders have risen dramatically in the past few years. We need to give evidence on being in 'Compliance' with literally hundreds of measures. We, this year, were found

wanting only one item. That was corrected within 24 hours. Amazing!

The Board has had significant accomplishments. Perhaps the most significant is the imminent completion of our new apartment building on Mary Street in Wiarton. We are expecting it to flexibly be able to serve the varying needs of up to eight individuals. We have also begun a Steering Process toward a new Strategic Planning exercise. Stay tuned as we will be soliciting input from families, loved ones, community members and people we serve this fall.

The management team is working well together. Our management team has really been streamlined under Michele Bell's leadership. It is obvious that the Management group is working as a supportive and creative team one with each other. This bodes well for all aspects of our operations.

Our AGM will again highlight meaningful changes in peoples' lives. Welcome to our 54th AGM and please continue your support for Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living.

Board of Directors 2017/2018

President
Ross Davidson

Vice President
Dave Waddington

Treasurer
Pat Lenson

Diane Chavarie

Kelly Day

Dave Diebel

Ed Laksmanis

Judy Larkin

The Year in Review

by [Michele Bell, Executive Director]

Once again, BPACL has continued to transform our supports and services throughout the 2017/18 year. Last June Community Participation had just moved out of our Gould St location and was embarking on a journey from a one location "day program" to community based approach to activities. We began the journey with a visit from the Minister of Community and Social Services, Dr. Helena Jaczek. Minister Jaczek got to hear firsthand about our plans to transform our Community Participation program with the additional resources provided by the Employment and Modernization Funding (EMF) grant we received. And what a transformation! The team at Community Participation have done a fantastic job creating exciting opportunities for people supported to participate in activities in the community. Throughout this past year we have significantly improved the quality and variety of programs as well

as met the interests of more individuals in our community, we look forward to the second year of the EMF grant as we continue to focus on a community based approach to activities.

This past year has been spent overseeing the construction of a new building at 339 Mary Street. Last June 339 Mary Street was an empty bungalow with big plans. In this past year countless hours have been spent overseeing the construction of the new building. The teams, led by a dedicated group of Board members and an amazing group of local contractors and trades people, have built a beautiful stylish new residential option for people supported to live more independent lives while still being offered the supports they need to live full and active lives. We are looking forward to supporting people to move into their new apartments.

We once again demonstrated improvement in our 2018 compliance review. Our team of Senior Support Workers has been working hard to support individuals to live full rewarding lives, focusing on the achievement of goals. We have managed to quickly

adapt to our aging population of people and the health and mobility challenges that come with aging. We participated in the development of a resource guide on bereavement for individuals with intellectual disabilities and Laura Balint, Manager of our Residential Programs will be presenting it at the next Community Living conference in Richmond Hill, Ontario in September. We have supported people to make their dreams come true whether it was a dream vacation or seeing their favourite sports team play.

We are looking forward to continuing the journey. With the support of our amazing staff team, BPACL will continue to support people to live full and rewarding lives, and to live more inclusive and more active, engaged lives. Our 2018/19 year promises to be as exciting as 2017/18.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living promotes a holistic approach where all individuals can participate as equal citizens in community life.

Warton Willie Self Advocates (WWSA)

by [Michele Bell, Executive Director]

For the last few months a group of dedicated individuals have been gathering in various locations around town chatting about matters that are important to people with an intellectual disability. It is so exciting that people supported by BPACL have resurrected the Self Advocate group that became inactive a few years ago.

With so many changes happening in the sector and so many changes happening here at BPACL, it is so good to have a group of self advocates who are beginning to look at the big pictures and think about matters that affect them and who want to become part of the discussion.

The group of self advocates includes Diane Chavarie, Cheryl Craig, Valarie Tigert, Jason Tout, and Missy Hunt. The Self Advocate group is supported by a volunteer and coordinated through our Community Participation program. The group has been meeting every Monday at 5pm at 550 Berford Street in the updated meeting space. New members are welcome to join at anytime – please contact any of the members of the group or just connect with Christi Ronholm (cronholm@bpacl.ca) and she can assist you to connect with the group.

The first piece of work that the group has taken on is the implementation of a peer led Anti Abuse Training module.

The group is working on the implementation plan of an amazing resource that was developed by (Community Living Essex County). BPACL has purchased the training resources and the WWSA group have been reviewing the information and making plans for the implementation. What an exciting opportunity to have people supported providing the annual Anti Abuse Training for other supported people at BPACL.

Stay tuned for more exciting news from the Warton Willie Self Advocate Group!

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

5 Year

- Tess Ayles-Hutt
- Tiffany Greig
- Cassandra Stark

10 Year

- Deb Smith
- Doug Leis

15 Year

- Jeanie Finger

20 Year

- Cathy Irving
- Sheila Thomas

25 Year

- Carol McCauley

FAST FACTS – Bruce Grey Shores
Employment Services

85

People participated in the program

19

New jobs developed

15

People worked successfully for at least
13 weeks in a newly created job

12

People finished our program after 3
years still successfully employed

1

Person started a self employment career



*Ang and Vicki while on a
Thousand Islands Bus
Tour.*

Residential

by [Laura Balint, Manager]

"Start by doing what's necessary, and then do what's possible, and suddenly...you are doing the impossible." Francis of Assisi

In the last year, with the anticipated changes and moves of 9 people supported through our residential supports we started doing what is necessary: looking at every person and developing their Individual Support Plans. During this process we engaged person centred thinking tools, completed and re-completed assessments through the Developmental Services Ontario assessor; reached out to different professionals in the community to develop healthy eating plans, physiotherapy plans or specialized medical supports. During the whole process we have strived to involve families, relatives and friends to enhance the natural support network for the person.

For every person we support what is possible is different. It is shaped by each person's circumstances, dreams and health needs which change dramatically sometimes dramatically with age. What is possible then? How do supports change when what is necessary is looked at on an individual level, rather than grouped together? Today it's possible that people we support at Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living can schedule their own time,

activities, work and leisure based on their own interests.

Using technology to start a movie, turn a light on and off independently is an achievement that once was thought impossible for a person with a physical disability. Today with just the right amount of technology and staff support it's a reality. What was once impossible, has turned into possible, and even necessary. In the near future some of the people supported in our residential program will have one roommate; they will live in their own apartment that opens with their own key. The empowerment and self-determination that will inherently sprout from this will open doors to new goals that once were considered impossible. We are witnessing amazing times and amazing changes in how we support people with developmental disabilities.

Supported Independent Living

by [Jeanie Finger, Manager]

“Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Our focus of our Supported Independent Living supports this year, has been trying to help people lead richer, fuller more active lives. The best way to do this is to encourage natural supports to try and ensure people have natural relationships, in lieu of only having paid supports in their lives. It is particularly difficult for people who have no family involvement. Friends don't necessarily replace the void of not having family, but they sure can help us get through some tough times. A perfect example is the friendship that Caitlin and Diane share.

Pictured here, they took a selfie at a Toronto Blue Jays game; it doesn't get much more natural than that! They also enjoy going on bike rides together, attending events and activities together, visiting with each other, as well as spending time with Lucy the dog, and MacGyver the cat. They also enjoy the same foods and will invite each other over for dinner. They just recently talked about starting to go to the YMCA a few nights a week. Caitlin and Diane are a wonderful example of what friendship truly is.



FAST FACTS - Supported independent Living

3 People realized their hockey dream by attending a Toronto Maple Leafs game.

1 person was supported to get their G1 license.

Facilitated someone to have their dream vacation on a cruise ship.

Supported a person to join the Special Olympics Cross Country Ski Team which resulted in them attending the provincial qualified in Huntsville, Ontario.

Supported several people to purchase a YMCA membership so they can lead a more active lifestyle.

Special Projects

by [Deb Smith, Supervisor Quality Assurance and Special Projects]

Over the last year the Ministry of Community Social Services has embarked on a province wide Developmental Services Consolidated Information System (DSCIS). The system will be used by the DSO to maintain data about individuals such as intake, eligibility and assessment information. Through this past year BPACL has been involved with providing present support information, actively involved with training on how to use the system and verifying the information inputted into the DSCIS. February and March was an active month to verify and make corrections to the system which is now ready to use.

AIMS:

There has been a strong focus on expanding our use of the database to enhance our documentation of our supports. Focus has been on Individual Support Plans and Documentation Due to align with the Compliance Inspection Indicator List. The use of the Individual Support Plan has been

implemented with great enthusiasm by team members.

COMPLIANCE RESULTS

2016-2017 – 4 non-compliance items. This was resolved within 10 days.

2017-2018 – 1 non-compliant item. This was resolved immediately.

Community Participation

by [Christi Ronholm, Manager]

The transformation of Community Participation from a site based day program to a community activity-based program has begun this year.

We started 2018 with our winter session, offering many new activities based on the interests of people supported. Curling classes were provided by volunteers at the Warton Curling Club, giving many people the opportunity to try curling for the first time. An instructor from Warton Fitness was hired, providing the opportunity to do Chair Yoga. For those interested in music, a creative drumming class was offered. Participants learned to make their own drums, rain sticks, and xylophones and how to play simple rhythms on each instrument. For those with an artistic flare, an art class was run once a week, where each person learned how to mix colours, to use different brush strokes and how to use colour in several different paintings.

In the spring session, a gardening group started up, and this group joined the Salvation Army community gardening group. They are contributing to this group in many ways including; weeding and watering the raised beds, creating signs to label the plants, and taking photos of the garden for a community scrap book. For people who expressed an interest in learning how to sew, a weekly class was held where-in participants learned how to pin patterns to fabric, cut fabric and to sew several projects on a sewing machine.

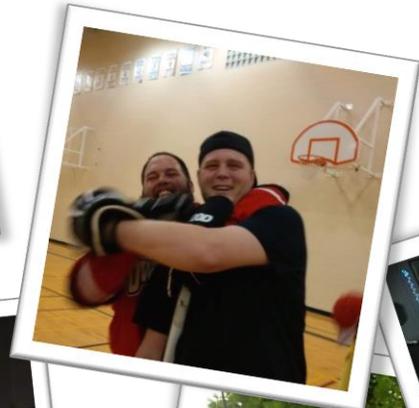
Opportunities to use the beautiful trails in the area were provided through our beginner and advanced biking and hiking groups. These are just a few of the activities that were offered by Community Participation this year. We are looking forward to our upcoming summer session which will include kayaking, canoeing and many other new activities.



New to this year's Community Participation schedule is Monday night Sports night and Wednesday night Floor Hockey. Pictured above is a group of people that participated in the Wednesday night floor hockey. The sessions are wrapping up for the summer but will be back in September.

It is so wonderful that people have these opportunities to be physically active in their community.

Events and Activities



Membership

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living we would like to extend to you an invitation to become a member of our Association. At 54 years we are on a transformative journey to make our service vision even more authentic for the people we support.

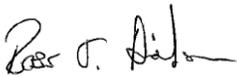
We are pleased and proud of our accomplishments this year. A strong membership is a key component to a vital organization. Please extend an invitation, on our behalf, to any friends or acquaintances who may be interested in joining us in our journey to supporting and facilitating meaning, inclusion, development and contribution to the people we serve.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in June each year. Details of date and time will be published in the Wiarton Echo. It is a night of community fellowship, and the opportunity for you to learn more about Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living and our contributions. Members vote on Governance issues, elect Board Members, and offer community feedback to our Board and Operations management.

Membership fees are \$10.00 per person per year (April 1st, 2018 –March 31st, 2019). These fees assist us in providing an advocacy voice in the Developmental Service Sector while promoting our vision, values and mission statement throughout the Bruce Peninsula.

We have moved into the modern era with enhanced electronic presence by Facebook and a regularly updated Website. Our Executive Director has been publishing a quarterly report about news and accomplishments on our website. Look also to see our Community Participation schedule! Please visit our website at <http://bpacl.com> to view these reports. (If you would prefer to receive the quarterly update by mail, please contact the office at 519-534-0553.)

Best regards,



President
Ross T. Davidson

**BRUCE PENINSULA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$10.00/per person**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

P.O. Box 95, 314 George St, Wiarton, Ontario NoH 2To