



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



WAYNE DIPERSIO: OUR NEW BOARD CHAIR

In June, Wayne was voted in by the L'Arche Halifax Board of Directors as the new Board Chair. He has been on the L'Arche Halifax Board for the past four years and has previous experience as a Board member of the Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists (public member) and the Military Family Resource Centre. Wayne has 34 years of uniformed service with the Canadian Navy and is now a senior civilian administrator at CFB Halifax.



Hello from Wayne:

What a memorable, difficult, fun year the L'Arche community has had. So many changes. So many challenges. So many opportunities.

I would like to begin by saying what a joy it has been working with L'Arche Halifax over the past four years. The core members constantly amaze me with their strength, resilience, warmth and good humour. They have made me feel like I am part of something special, and I know that I am.

The assistants continue to impress me with their hard work and sense of care and compassion. So much responsibility on such young, vibrant, enthusiastic shoulders. All of this is held together by an incredibly capable and professional leadership team, captained by Kelly Geddes, Community Leader.

I would be remiss if I did not also give a shout out to my colleagues and friends on the Board of Directors who give so generously of their time and energy to help provide the over-arching support and oversight to L'Arche Halifax. Our meetings are fun and refreshing. You are all such wonderful people.

In particular I would like to highlight the outstanding contributions and tireless dedication of our out-going Board Chair, Brian Hebert. Many thanks Brian for your leadership, wisdom, and passion for L'Arche. I am so glad you are staying on with the Board as Past Chair. I will rely on your advice and guidance as I grow into my new role.

To family, friends, volunteers and supporters, you are an extremely important part of the L'Arche Halifax community. Please remain engaged. Your feedback, participation and prayers are a source of motivation and comfort.

Despite the obvious clouds that have darkened the past few months, 2020 is an important year for L'Arche Halifax. A new mandate was developed by the community and approved by the Board which has charted a path to 2024. The focus moving forward will be continuing to integrate core values into the community's daily life (Go Deeper), expanding the community through various growth initiatives (Go Out), and strengthening community life through continuous learning and improved communications (Go Within). As part of the mandate process, the community invited Kelly to remain as community leader for the next four years and she graciously accepted. We are so grateful to have her back for another term.

I look forward to serving as Board Chair for as long as the community will have me. I take the responsibilities that go with the job very seriously and feel the weight of the trust that has been placed in me. I will do my best to embrace the values of servant leadership as I work with you to ensure that L'Arche Halifax continues to be a safe, healthy, happy, and active place for all community members.

All the best,

Wayne DiPersio | Board Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADER

Dear Friends,

The past year was one filled with highs, lows, and everything in between!

We visited other communities in our region with exchange weekends, we invited friends and family to join us for our Holy Week celebrations, we put on a very successful Art Show and Sale, our Open House was the most well-attended yet, we went to the regional picnic in Truro, Wayne organized a group to attend the International Tattoo – always a highlight, and we attended Andy Filmore's summer BBQ. We decided to have summer vacations closer to home with spa days, local hotel nights, karaoke party, suppers out, etc.

In August, we had a small group attend The Celebrate the Gift Conference at St FX, hosted and planned by L'Arche Atlantic Region. We also had members participate as presenters on panels. Our Golf Tournament was well attended and the new changes, such as gifting teams with cookies from Prescott Group along with a nice bottle of wine, were noticed & appreciated by the golfers.

In October, our Regional Leader, Jenn Power, came for her annual visit and she led sessions helping us write our next community mandate. The Mandate Committee worked hard and with lots of community participation, we celebrated our new 4 year mandate in January 2020.

The lows started in February when we heard about the inquiry into Jean Vanier and that he wasn't the person we all thought he was. Right on the heels of that devastating news, the Covid-19 pandemic hit, drastically changing our daily lives. I can't say enough about our committed group of assistants who put their fears aside and continued to be there each day, masks and all. Thanks to each and every one of you. We appreciate you!!

Another big change for our community was saying thank you, goodbye and good luck to Tricia as she moved into a national role with L'Arche Canada. Tricia was our first Homes Coordinator and was very involved in community life. Luckily, she continues to be a member of L'Arche Halifax and lives nearby so we see her often, which helps. As with every goodbye, there is a new hello, and we welcomed Coryn as our new Homes Coordinator. Coryn is a great person and feels blessed to be a part of our community. We think we are the lucky ones!

In closing, I would like to say a special thank you to Brian as he moves into the role of Past Chair on the board. Brian was Board Chair for many years and welcomed me as Community Leader. His steady, calm and caring leadership was a huge support to me and the whole community. Thank you, Brian!

In gratitude,

Kelly Geddes | Community Leader



ART SHOW AND SALE

The 10th annual L'Arche Halifax Art Show and Sale had to be cancelled this year due to the global pandemic. We had already invited the artists but everyone was so understanding when we made the decision to cancel.

Hopefully most can join us this upcoming spring, April 2021! We look forward to an even better show with many beautiful paintings! Thank you to everyone who continues to support L'Arche Halifax!

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Following the great success of the 11th annual golf tournament in September of 2019, the golf committee got off to an early start planning for the 12th annual tournament. It was to be renamed the **David W. Banks Memorial Golf Tournament in Support of L'Arche Halifax** in recognition of our friend and supporter David Banks, whose idea it was to have an annual golf tournament.

Unfortunately, like many things, the Covid-19 pandemic had other plans. The committee continued to meet by phone during the pandemic taking a wait-and-see approach. As parts of the state of emergency restrictions were lifted, the committee hoped that the golf tournament might still go ahead as planned in September 2020.

However, by early July it was still not clear whether all of our community members would be able to attend the event due to public health restrictions. As a result the Committee sought direction from the Board and it was decided to cancel the tournament for 2020.

GROWTH PROJECT

The community's desire for growth was confirmed through the recently completed Mandate process. The goal of the growth project is to build a gathering space that can be used by both the community and other like-minded organizations.

The building would also include several affordable and/or accessible apartments to generate revenue to support the operating cost of the rest of the building.

Over the past year, the Growth Committee has met with L'Arche Canada staff, CMHC, and the Affordable Housing Association of NS in order to try and formalize a proposal.

Obviously, COVID has shifted the focus of the community inward, but now that the public health crisis has begun to stabilize, the Growth Committee will step up our efforts to move this project forward.

The next step is to begin dedicated fund raising in earnest.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Past Chair: Brian Hebert
Chair: Wayne DiPersio
Vice-Chair: Open
Secretary: Joy Fraser
Treasurer: Andrew Howatt
Director: Barb Ross
Director: Katherine Boone
Director: Steve Estey



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