

# COMMUNITY LIVING BURLINGTON



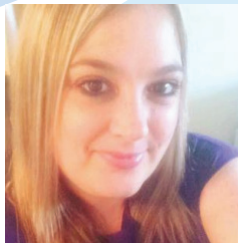
**64<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 25, 2019**

*The Possibilities Are Endless*

## MEET OUR JOURNALISTS:



Amanda Strapp is an aspiring journalist and a self-advocate with autism, who attended Sheridan College's Print Journalism program. She currently works as a cashier and shares her experiences on the job as well as other interests and musings on her blog, Amanda's Tales. (<https://daschundllover.wordpress.com>)



Jennifer Honey has completed courses in Pre-Media and General Arts & Sciences at Mohawk College and enjoys working for Community Living Burlington as she continues to gain experience in the journalism field. Jennifer currently runs a successful Facebook page with her friends called "The Daily Cultures" which promotes entertainment and music news.

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



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Add your email to receive updates and our e-newsletter:

[www.clburlington.ca](http://www.clburlington.ca)

## Our Mission

The mission of Community Living Burlington is to enrich the quality of life and to promote full and meaningful inclusion in our community of people who have a developmental disability.

## Our Guiding Principles

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

## Our Values

### DIGNITY

Each person is unique, to be respected and empowered.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

Everyone at Community Living Burlington is responsible for the safety, security and well-being of the people.

### HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEADERSHIP

We value the staff and volunteers that enable the organization to achieve the highest quality of service to the people we support.

### ADVOCACY AND INCLUSIVENESS

We value, promote and protect the right to full participation within our community.

### SERVICE

We are committed to exceptional service based on the uniqueness of each person we support.

### PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

We value and promote collaboration with our community.

## 2018 – 2019 Board of Directors

<b>Board Chair</b>	Joe Nemet	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, June 2018 – June 2020 Elected Chair – June 2017
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice</b>	Scott Black	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, June 2016 – June 2019
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice</b>	Graham Browne	1 <sup>st</sup> term, June 2017 – June 2020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Harold Hay	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, June 2017 – June 2020

## Directors at Large

Michael Flintoff	1 <sup>st</sup> term, June 2017 – June 2020
Dianne Kerkhof	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, June 2016 – June 2019
Chris Roszell	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, June 2018 – June 2021
Jim Boland	1 <sup>st</sup> term, June 2018 – June 2021
Aurelie Dimandja	1 <sup>st</sup> term, June 2018 – June 2021
Kenneth Wong	1 <sup>st</sup> term, June 2017 – June 2020
Jane Bullbrook	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, June 2016 – June 2019

## Committees of the Board

Ethics Committee  
Executive Committee  
Finance Committee  
Governance and Human Resources  
Resources Development Committee  
Risk Committee

## CLB celebrates the many contributions of our Staff and thanks them for their dedication

### 40 + Years

Joyce Jagt

### 30-40 Years

Alan Martin  
Anita Stevenson  
Debbie Hixon

### 25-30 Years

Bonnie Wight	Michele Pacheco
Cheryl Kielt	Nicole Sauer
Debra Neill	Sheila Gillies
Fiona Gardinar	Susan Aubert
Marisa Colucci	

### 20-25 Years

Cathy Makin	Jennifer Minstrell
Chrystlyn Thompson	Lise Lapointe
Debbie Turner	Martina Boyd
Eunice Janzen	Susan McGarry
Jennifer Chesterton	Traci Hurley

### 15-20 Years

Amy Jancar	Isha Persaud	Lindsey Blumenauer	Melanie Bonnes
Azzure-Lea Lickman	Janet Mayer Lawson	Lisa Callen	Nicole Algar
Beverley Coleman	Joanne Karaiskakis	Lisa Morton	Rosalie Adams
Bonnie Clay	Judy Pryde	Lola McGregor	Sharon Earle
Caroline Martin	Kim LeVie	Lorie Fletcher	Shelly Pavan
Christine Hobbins	Kristina Fernandes	Mandy Guibao	Tracey McCarthy
Gema Rondon	Laura Maillet	Marilyn Desjardins	Tracy Boudreau
	Laura Van der Niet	Meghan Tyrell	

### 10-15 Years

Abigail Izerein	Emily Huang	Krystal Conway	Renee Chafic
Akinola Muritala	Faridah Namirembe	Lara Arnold	Samya Mohammed
Alicia Gerrard	Genoveva Lam	Leanne Sheehan	Sandi Demone
Alison Hird	Heather Scullion	Linda Lysko	Sharon Hewitt
Almaz Gebremichael	Hilary Keeves	Lorie White	Sheena Sanita
Alysha Evans-Demarco	Janel Harris	Lucy Oduraa	Sheryl Jurak
Ashlee Marshall	Jennifer Harley	Mandy Taylor	Sigrid Collas-Robichaud
Brenda Sheehan	Jennifer Bowdidge	Maria Aguilar	Sithini Mtetwa-Phillips
Camiel Tait	Judy Shaw	Marsha McLean	Stephanie Wojtowicz-Rogers
Candice Keem	Karen Lade	Nadina Toric	Steve LaBorde
Carrie Batt	Katelyn Parkinson	Nicole Brainard	Tammy Penk
Cassandra Small	Katie Iampietro	Patricia Boucher	Theresa Kiehn
Charmaine Hanson	Kelley Andrews	Patricia LoRegio	Tisha Bryan
Chelsey Clay	Kerri Kalliokoski	Penny Scott	Wanda Strupinska
Chrissy Armstrong	Keverne Postma	Priyanganee Jayathilake	Winnetta Chiasson
Danuta Cieklinska	Kim Southe	Rajwattee Singh	
Elizabeth MacDonald-Whelan	Kimberly Lamoureux	Rakiyah Moynan	



# Danielle's Magical Trip

Written by: **Amanda Strapp**

Disabilities should not hold anyone back. Everyone should be able to do what they want: they just need a little more help along the way. They should be able to do what everyone else can do such as going to movies or hanging out with friends or in the case of Danielle, going to Disney World in Orlando for spring break with two staff members, Shelley and Rachel.

Danielle is someone supported by Community Living Burlington. She is a bright woman who loves to get out there and travel. She is also a huge fan of Disney, and had visited there once with her family many years ago. She had always dreamed of going again someday. It was one of her goals.

After a manager suggested they go on a trip, Shelley and Rachel wanted to make it possible for her. However, they knew that traveling could be stressful. They did everything they could to make the trip to Disney a successful one.

At the beginning, they took Danielle on overnight trips to Niagara Falls to help her get used to being away from her home. These trips occurred during the past year, allowing Danielle to get used to being in different environments. Then during their preparations for the trip, they rented a house instead of checking into a hotel and rented a van so they wouldn't have to use public transportation.

"For Danielle, it was important to have space," Rachel said, explaining why they chose to rent a house, "She doesn't like to sit, she likes to wander, and to listen to her music while standing up and dancing. A hotel room with two people plus her wouldn't have provided enough space."

"While there we were able to park jump if we wanted to and we could come back to the house during the day if Danielle needed a break," Shelley said, explaining the van. "We were able to leave and go for a meal then go back and visit the park after."

Then when it came time for boarding the plane, they gave Danielle a set of headphones and music for her to listen to. Danielle ended up spending the whole flight happily listening to the music.

"She did fabulously well," Rachel said, "In fact, I think we found one of her new skills, travelling."

The trip itself was a big success. Over the course of her vacation, Danielle went to many of the attractions. She went on a flight simulator in Epcot. She rode on many of the rides in the Magic Kingdom Park, loving the Teacups the best. She went on a safari in the Animal Kingdom Park and saw all the animals. And of course, she did a lot of shopping and got to meet Mickey and Minnie.

Danielle absolutely loved the trip! Every day was a day full of activities, and she always looked forward to what was next.

"At eight in the morning, she's trying to get us going," Shelley said, "She's like 'Come on, let's go!' After the first night, we knew she was happy."

Danielle is going to go camping in a trailer this summer. She also hopes to return to Orlando to visit Sea World and the Harry Potter World in Universal Studios.



# Staples Surprises Amy on her Bronze Medal

Written by: Amy Van Impe



Amy has worked at Staples on Fairview since July 2014. This past May, Amy attended the Special Olympics Provincial Floor Hockey Championships in Toronto. Amy and her team finished with a bronze medal. Below, in her own words Amy describes what she encountered at Staples on her first day back:

*"So this morning this happened. I walked in like usual. I came in early like I do, to make my rounds, say Hi to the person who's on cash, usually my manager. I slowly made my way to the lunchroom. I instantly stopped dead in my tracks. I dropped my bag, I could feel the tears just building. So everyone knows my story. I went from job to job, hated almost all of them, but Staples has always made it known how much they like me. This morning when I saw this, I never felt this special that people actually cared this much about me. I want to say a big thank you to store 14, not only for keeping me but for showing me I am important and that I mattered to you. Big thank you to the managers who did this. I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate every single one of you and thanks to all the associates who have signed this. You are not only my friends, you are my family. Love you all."*

Congratulations Amy on your big win! We are so proud of you. A special thank-you to Staples (on Fairview) for not only making Amy feel so special, but for your continued partnership with Community Living Burlington.



# Mike Retires from IKEA

Written by: **Amanda Strapp**



Meet Mike Avey. Mike has done something amazing. At the end of April 2019, he retired from IKEA Burlington after 22 years of hard work.

Mike had multiple jobs in the past before IKEA. Other places he worked are Halton Recycling from 1986 to 1988, Leon's from 1988 to 1996 and finally IKEA starting in 1997.

The Employment Program from the Halton Employment Assessment Centre, which was run through Community Living Oakville, helped him find work at Halton Recycling and Leon's. Then Employment Services at Community Living Burlington helped him find his job at IKEA.

At IKEA, he works the compactor, where he would compact empty cardboard boxes into manageable sizes for them to recycle. It is not as simple as it seems. IKEA sells a lot of stuff, which means there is a lot of cardboard Mike needed to process. As a result, he often worked tirelessly for hours alongside another coworker.

In the past, he worked the small baler. His role was to cut up cardboard, put it in the baler, add the strapping and then compress the cardboard into little bales.

Mike loved the early morning shifts (9am to 2pm and 7am to 11am) as he would get work done early in the morning, and then he would have the rest of the day off.



"If Mike could work earlier, they would love him at 6:00 am." said Debbie Turner, "but Mike takes the bus to work and he can't get the bus any earlier. Mike gets the first bus to work at 5:50am in the morning."

Mike is a beloved worker of IKEA, and he has become very popular with the staff and managers. He always loved talking to his friends during work. IKEA had been supportive of him, always offering to help him with online training and being flexible with his hours.

"Mike has been such a happy, positive and warm member of our team." says Logistics Manager, Daisy Clarke, "He is extremely reliable and turned up every day with a smile on his face, ready to work alongside the team, he loves to chat with his colleagues who have been such a huge part of his life."

People and Culture Generalist Katrina Buiter said, "I just wanted to say that I have only worked with Mike Avey for 3 years and during this time I have always appreciated his everyday friendliness and his participation at all of our weekly co-worker meetings/gatherings. He is always interested to know what is happening at his IKEA Burlington's store and his genuine smile has had an impact on all our co-workers. We should all feel lucky to have worked either directly or indirectly with Mike."

### **A letter to Mike from IKEA:**

*Dear Mike,*

*Remember the days when the cardboard was outdoors and you would have to go outside in the winter wearing a red winter coat?*

*Things have changed a lot over the years that you have worked at IKEA. You, however have not changed that much. You still like to greet your co-workers with a story or a new movie that you have seen or want to see. You have remained steady throughout all the changes. We always knew what we could expect from you on a daily basis.*

*I wish you all the best in your retirement. You will have all the time in the world to be watching movies and enjoying your time with family and friends.*

*Thank you for all your years of service. Thanks for your stories. You will be missed.*

*To a glorious future.*

*Christine Collier-Haggar and your IKEA Family*

After retiring, Mike would like to travel to Vancouver to see his family, go to see more movies and enjoy his free time with his girlfriend. Congratulations Mike on your retirement from all of us at CLB!

# Board President's Report

Respectfully submitted by **Joe Nemet**

As I write this report about the year that has past, I thought back to the first report I ever delivered as the President of a Community Living organization in the late 1990s. I do not have a copy of what I had said then but I know it dealt with the same primary issue we face today in 2019 - funding.

When a group of parents got together in 1957 to form what became Community Living Burlington, I am sure that funding was also foremost on their minds. They must have breathed a collective sigh of relief when the Provincial Government stepped in. Today we collectively worry about how much will be taken away.

Last year we talked about the financial impact the changed labour laws would have on our employment costs. In response, we negotiated a new collective agreement with our union that allowed for permanent weekend staff and other changes that allowed us to contain the increased costs and allowed for better use of our staff over the entire week (7 days).

Members will also recall that last year we announced a pilot project with Food for Life that could have led to the leasing of the warehouse space previously used by ARC Industries and that would have allowed the people we support to volunteer. We decided to not pursue this venture in light of the uncertainty surrounding continued funding and the fact that the entire warehouse space would have been leased out and unavailable to CLB for other purposes.

Over the past year, CLB along with 3 other Community Living agencies have worked with the Osborne Group to develop efficiencies and cost saving measures on a collective basis. This work will continue on into 2019/2020 now that there is momentum.

One of the responsibilities of a governance Board of Directors is to manage risk. Under the leadership of Scott Black as chair, the Risk Committee has developed mechanisms to monitor risks and in particular in the area of cyber security.

At the Annual General Meeting, the membership will learn about Social Capital: what it is and how we can and will increase the social capital of everyone we support.

The next 4 years will be challenging. The Board is prepared to respond as necessary and make the difficult decisions that may be required. However, I and the Board remain optimistic that CLB will continue to provide quality support to everyone they support.

# Executive Director's Report

Respectfully submitted by **Judy Pryde**

2018/2019 was once again an eventful year for Community Living Burlington. Last year we were struggling with the direction from the Government to close the Sheltered Workshops in Ontario as well as the new labour laws relating to Bill 148.

CLB moved forward with the closure of ARC Industries and also settled a Collective Agreement with the Union making significant changes in order to comply with Bill 148. We deemed this a success story until Ontario elected a new Premier and Bill 148 was repealed. Such is the life of an Agency that relies heavily on funding from the Provincial Government.

Although we continue to deal with ongoing fiscal pressures, Community Living Burlington continues to strive for excellence and support innovative ideas that will enhance the lives of the people we support. Most of the incredible work our employees do will be highlighted in our report, but I do want to mention some of the resources and programs we provide to Burlington and the Halton Region.

Our agency welcomed four new people to our residential services and they have adjusted well with the transition. The employees at our agency work hard to ensure individualized supports are provided; even with the tight financial resources and shortages in staffing.

The fundraising and community outreach of our agency is something to be proud of. We continue to have success with our annual Walk'n Roll and online auction but our real highlight of the year is Community Living's Got Talent. This show is outstanding in every way. The people we support have so many gifts to share and the Talent Show allows them to show off their musical, dance and artistic talents. We look forward to the next show in September. (Mark your calendars for September 21, 2019!)

The Fundraising and outreach would not be successful without our members and community supporters. We recently had the grand opening of our Moments through Music room. The creation of this customized room was successful only through the support of our generous donors. We wouldn't have this wonderful resource without the generosity of our membership and community stakeholders.

CLB is thrilled that the people we support are able to access Passport funding. This will be a welcome financial support to everyone. Candice Keem is the Passport Facilitator for Halton and is working diligently with families and staff to help them navigate through the many forms and applications so funding can be approved quickly. Along with Candice, we have Amber Armstrong who works with all of Central West Region to assist with Housing Solutions. I mention these two employees specifically because they represent CLB well and support all of the Halton community with compassion and humour.

Our Self Advocates committee (The Dream Weavers) continues to thrive and together with other self-advocate committees in Halton, hosted another successful COVE (Community of Voices Everywhere) Conference and dance. They are proud of the work they do and have connected and made new friends through these conferences and social media platforms that they are accessing. The Dream Weavers have undertaken the task of organizing the CLB community dances. As well as inviting those living in Burlington, they have extended the invitations to our neighbours in Halton & Hamilton. The people we support are more connected and in turn more friendships are being developed. It is truly a win/win situation.

Staff and the Board expect the next couple of years are going to be challenging. Budgets most likely will be reduced, and the struggle for staffing will continue to be a challenge for all Social Service agencies. As long as we all continue to keep the Mission and Values of our organization in the fore front, we will be able to meet any challenges head on.

I want to thank the employees of Community Living Burlington for their support to the people we serve. Their work is very important and the reason why this agency is a success. I also want to thank our Board of Directors. The personal time that they commit as volunteers is commendable and very much appreciated.

# Jeff & Social Capital

By: **Amanda Strapp**

As the number of people with disabilities steadily increasing over the years, it is more important than ever to have supportive communities. Communities that go out of their way to make people feel like they belong, whether it is helping them find jobs or helping to socialize more. Helping people form networks of supportive people is referred to as 'social capital'.

Often people in the community do not always know how to socialize with someone with a disability. As a result, people are often left alone with no support from anyone in their community, often feeling like they do not belong. That is why social capital is so important: it helps people find the connections they need to belong.

More and more people are becoming social advocates for social capital, either by simply providing public support or by getting together to form groups to spread social capital awareness. One of those groups is the Halton Social Capital Committee, which gives talks about social capital, workshops to provide information and promotes 'Welcome Spaces' for people with disabilities.

One of the people the Halton Social Capital Committee wants to highlight is Jeff Hopkins, a young man who works as a custodian at the Tim Hortons/Wendy's in Burlington, supported through Community Living Burlington's Employment Services Program. Despite the challenges he faces, Jeff is a very popular guy at his workplace. Everyday before work, he and regular customers from The City of Burlington gather around to talk, which quickly becomes lively with everyone always having something to say. Then at 10:00am, Jeff pulls himself away from the conversation and goes straight to work.

The social connections he has with his friends from the city's Transportation Services Department does not end there. They often invite Jeff to watch one of their sports games outside of work. They even took the time to check in on Jeff when he was ill and away from work for an extended period. When asked how they knew Jeff fell ill a city worker shared, "He just wasn't here, we were all thinking 'Where's Jeff?'" Jeff is an important part of their day, if they are aware that Jeff won't be working on a specific day or he is on vacation, the city workers will change their morning coffee spot. Jeff's friends are always trying to help Jeff the best way they can and always try to include him, whatever it is, bringing him into a conversation or getting him a costume for Halloween. Knowing Jeff had a Halloween dance to attend, city worker Dave took it upon himself to borrow a uniform they all wear and gave it to Jeff to wear for Halloween.

Working in the community has provided Jeff an opportunity to build on his social connections. When Jeff was asked how Halton can be a better place, he answered, "Including everyone in their community, including me, and meeting new people. I'm easy to get along with, I'm a hard worker," Jeff said with pride, "I communicate well with others and I'm a kind person as well as honest."

## Talent Show Save the Date



**Community Living's Got Talent**

**Saturday, September 21, 2019 @ 7pm**

Burlington Performing Arts Centre

**[www.clburlington.ca/yeswedo](http://www.clburlington.ca/yeswedo)**



# One of the Team

By: Sharon Will, Communications Advisor at the City of Burlington

*This Focus Article will be published in City of Burlington Internal Newsletter*

A group of City traffic signal staff in the Transportation department are making a difference in the life of one Burlington resident, Jeff H. who is employed at the Tim Hortons at Walkers Line and Mainway through the Community Living Burlington Employment Services program.

As visitors of the Tim Hortons Mainway location during their coffee breaks, the members of the City's traffic signal crew have forged a friendship with Jeff over the last 18 months, chatting together during their daily visits.

Leading up to Halloween last fall, the group asked Jeff about his costume plans for a Halloween event he was attending.

"After tossing around a few ideas for different superheroes, one of the crew members somewhat jokingly suggested Jeff dress up as a Burlington traffic signal technician and Jeff's face lit up. He was really excited about the idea," said Steve Vrakela, Supervisor of Traffic Signals.

With the decision made, the members of the signal crew gathered up some of their extra gear and gave it to Jeff to use as part of his costume. To make it official, the team also had a mock City of Burlington ID card made for Jeff to hang around his neck.



According to Jeff's father, who came to Tim Hortons the day after Halloween to personally thank the signal crew team, Jeff was elated to have been "one of the guys" for the day and won a prize for best costume at his Halloween event! To show his appreciation, Jeff gave the signal crew a thank you card.

"This story is a true reflection of the caring and thoughtful individuals who are part of the traffic signal crew team. It's evident their small gesture not only touched Jeff but also his parents. It is a great demonstration of how small things can have a big impact on our community," said Vito Tolone, director of Transportation.

The story of Jeff's friendship with City staff has also touched Community Living Burlington, who recently interviewed the members of the signal crew team for an article in their newsletter with a focus on "social capital."

As defined on the Halton Social Capital website (<https://www.haltonsocialcapital.ca>) "The term "social capital" generally refers to the valuable resources that come from forming relationships. While this may seem unclear, the benefits are truly endless. Just think, with the right friends, peers, and networks, accessing resources like property, employment, and opportunities becomes simple."

"Without possibly realizing it, the workers from the City have formed a friendship with Jeff, in the most natural way. Many people we support have paid supports but to have additional networks of people they can reach out to within their community is enhancing. Bringing awareness to social connections like this is very important," said Debbie Turner, an employment support worker at Community Living Burlington.

Many thanks to the members of the traffic signal team for being true ambassadors for the City of Burlington and contributing so positively to the community.

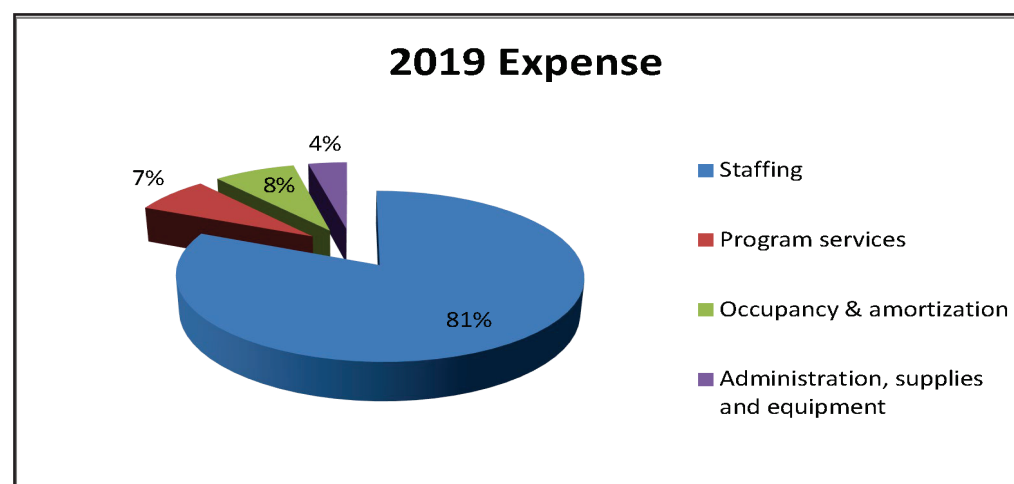
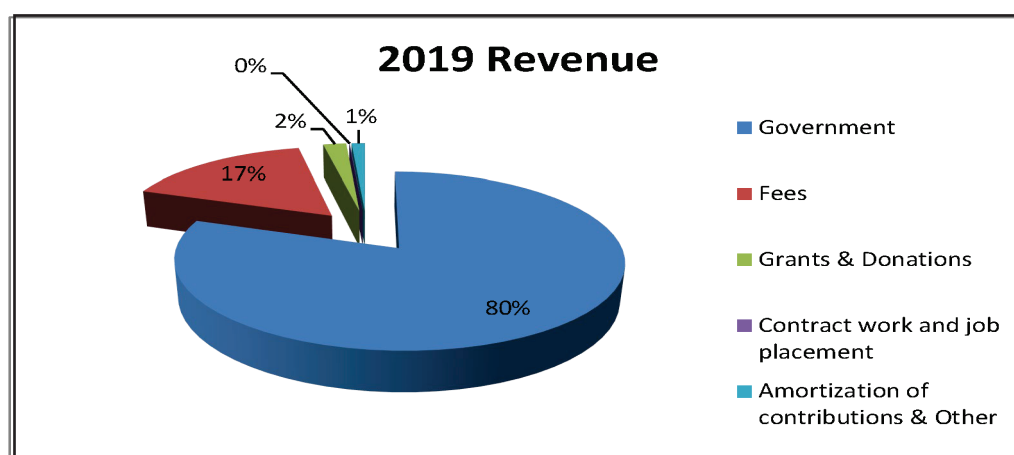
# Finance Committee Report

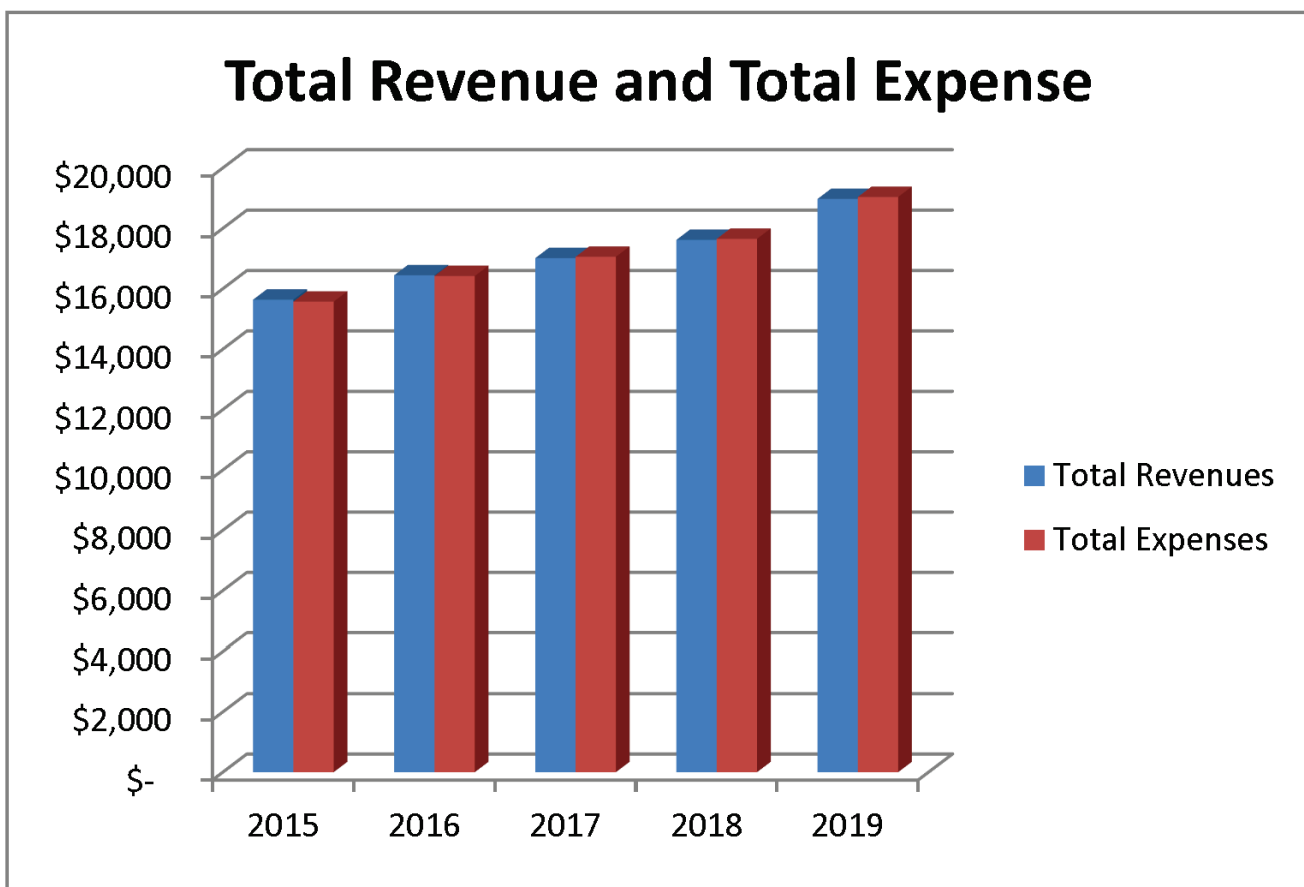
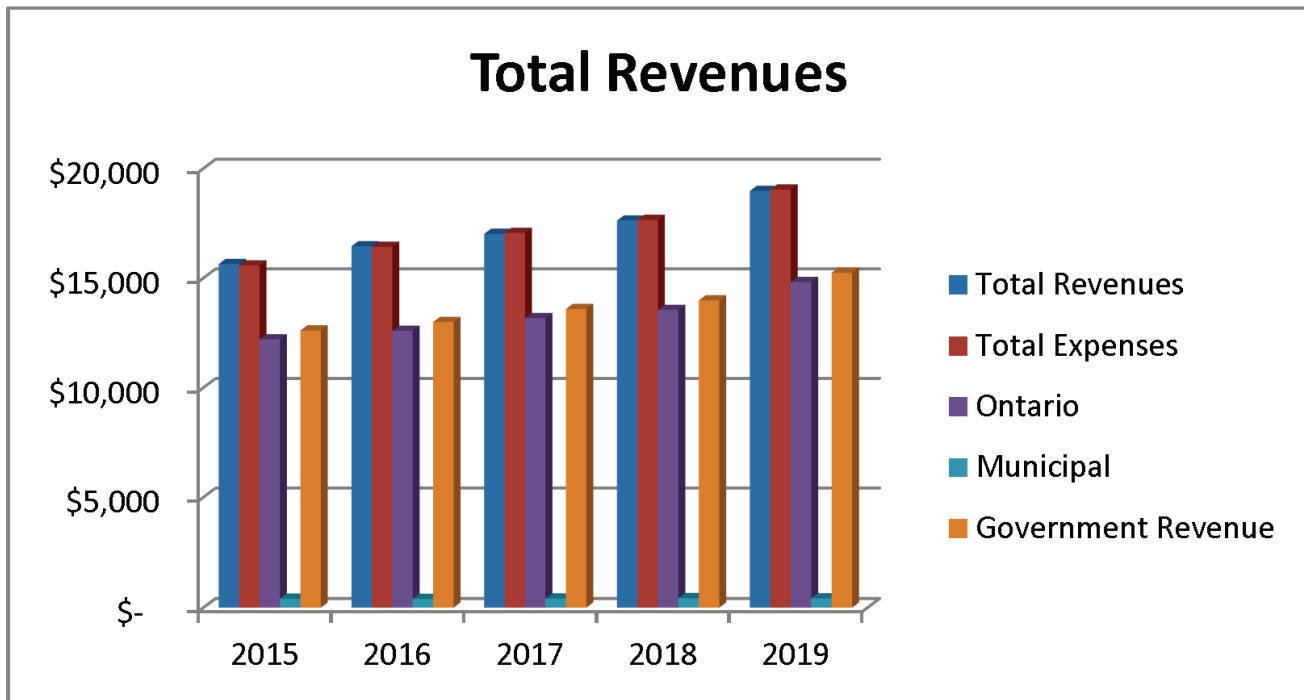
Respectfully submitted by **David Capek**

Financial highlights for the year ended March 31, 2019

(Figures in 000s)

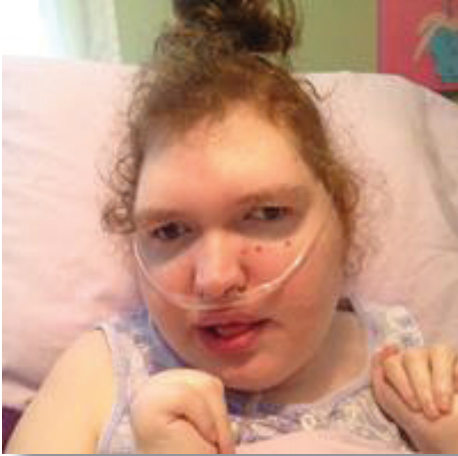
	2019	2018
Total Assets	\$8,740	\$8,506
Invested in Land and Building at Amortized Cost	81%	79%
Total Liabilities	5,662	5,362
Total Endowments	2%	2%
Total Revenues	18,974	17,621
Total Expenses	19,040	17,654



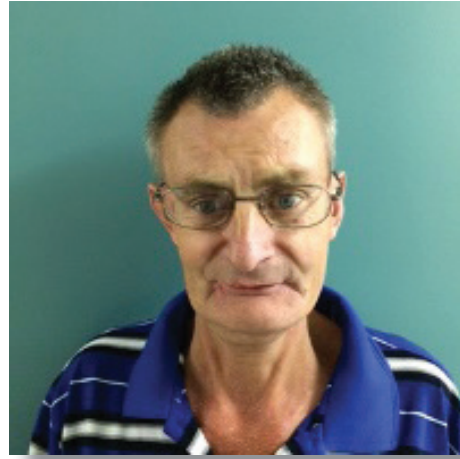


For full audited financial statements please visit [www.clburlington.ca](http://www.clburlington.ca)

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Angela Dolbec, Hugh Noy,  
Brian Russell and Louise Wellwood**



*Angela Dolbec*



*Hugh Noy*



*Brian Russell*



*Louise Wellwood*

**Afterglow** by Helen Lowrie Marshall

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;  
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.



# What is Free Wheelin'?

By: Jennifer Honey



What is "Free Wheelin'?" that was precisely the question I had on my mind before this interview. I became pleasantly surprised to find out what it actually was. I had the honour of speaking to Debbie Neill from Community Living about this amazing program that runs every Friday night from 7pm to 7:30pm during the summer months at Spencer Smith Park. The program connects volunteers and participants in wheelchairs for a fun night of running.

Debbie has been involved with the leadership and coordination of this program for three years. "I wanted to do something to give back to them. *I wanted to provide a different sensory experience to those who cannot do it for themselves. To be in the fresh air, to feel speed and movement in a way they haven't felt before, to be in their community enjoying the sights and sounds and most importantly to be out having fun.*" says Debbie. Currently, the program sees 6 to 12 people attend every Friday night. Debbie's goal for this program is to attract 40 people in attendance. However, even with her current numbers, this program is still rewarding to all volunteers and participants. Debbie works diligently to inform the community about the program by reaching out to the hospital, nursing homes, and the school board hoping to stimulate interest to gather more members in the future.

Debbie is a believer that Free Wheelin' has brought about much excitement and social engagement to the people who attend. She recalls a time when one of the volunteers brought his dog to the program. One of the participants of the program could not stop talking about that memorable evening and how much joy the dog and his volunteer brought to the group. In fact, the participant recalls his experience to this day and reminds his parents from time to time of how much fun he had that evening.

In order to bring this event together every week, Debbie says she emails her volunteers every Wednesday to see who can join in on Friday. This group enables the people who join to have some social activities and fun outdoors and in particular to be able to feel the experience of wind blowing in their hair as they enjoy "running" with their volunteers.

Anyone who is interested in Free Wheelin' can join in on this fun and should do so without hesitation. For those interested, more information can be found on the Facebook page called "**Free Wheelin' Runners.**"



## A Dream Come True

By: Jennifer Honey

A dream came true for two people who live at CLB's New Street 2 residence. Daniel and Ross had the opportunity to go to Las Vegas, Nevada. In March, Dan and Ross enjoyed their stay at the Luxor Hotel as they were accompanied by two CLB staff members, Kelly and Jessie.

While staying at the hotel, they all enjoyed hanging out by the pool - relaxing, swimming and enjoying the nice weather that Vegas has to offer. The weather was hot but still enjoyable and allowed for everyone to take in all the sites.

They experienced the great nightlife that Vegas has to offer while enjoying all the amazing meals eaten at buffets on the Strip. The trip also included some visits at a Wax Museum, the Secret Garden of Siegfried and Roy, and the world-famous casinos. Ross had a spectacular and unusual occurrence when coming face to face with a dolphin. This artistic and talented dolphin actually painted Ross a picture! This was by far Ross' favourite moment of the trip.



Some of the shows that Dan and Ross attended included Beatles impersonators, Blue Man Group Sensory, Country Mega Star and Cirque du Soleil. Touring and attending all these things kept everyone busy and at the end of it all, Dan and Ross were exhausted. Despite this, both gentlemen would do it all over again.

Dan and Ross felt the flight was a bit long but all the fun they had outweighed the long flight. The experiences they had on Fremont Street won't be forgotten and should they go back to Vegas, they will be going to this downtown attraction again. This street has a canopy over it that takes up five blocks with lots of glitz and glamour under it. The street is lined with over 60 restaurants, stages with concerts and the world's largest video screen. By the sounds of it, they will be going back one day and I hope they have the chance to do it in the near future.

All and all, the trip was the event of a lifetime for Dan and Ross. It was truly a dream come true!

# Thank You For Your Support!

Burlington Community Foundation  
Foundation for Human Development

Halton Region

Halton Region Community Investment Fund

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Ontario Trillium Foundation

United Way of Halton & Hamilton

Our Members & Donors



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