

COMMUNITY LIVING BURLINGTON



63rd Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, June 12, 2018

The Possibilities Are Endless

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 & LEADERSHIP

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

ADVOCACY & 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.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Board Chair	Joe Nemet	1 st term, September 2015 – June 2018 Elected Chair – June 2017
1st Vice	Cathy Thomson	2 nd term, June 2015 – June 2018
2nd Vice	Scott Black	2 nd term, June 2016 – June 2019
Treasurer	Harold Hay	2 nd term, June 2017 – June 2020

Directors at Large

Graham Browne	1 st term, June 2017 – June 2020
Jane Bullbrook	2 nd term, June 2016 – June 2019
Mike Flintoff	1 st term, June 2017 – June 2020
Dianne Kerkhof	2 nd term, June 2016 – June 2019
Jennifer Nolan	2 nd term, June 2015 – June 2018
Chris Roszell	1 st term, June 2015 – June 2018
Tanveer Singh	1 st term, October 2016 – June 2019
Kenneth Wong	1 st term, June 2017 – June 2020

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 + Years

Debbie Hixson
Alan Martin

Anita Stevenson
Jackie Young

25 + Years

Susan Aubert	Cheryl Kielt
Donna Clausnitzer	Debra Neill
Marisa Colucci	Michele Pacheco
Pamela Fevens	Nicole Sauer
Fiona Gardiner	Bonnie Wight
Sheila Gillies	

15-20 Years

Rosalie Adams	Amy Jancar
Nicole Algar	Joanne Karauskakis
Lindsey Blumenauer	Kim LeVie
Melanie Bonnes	Azzure-Lea Lickman
Tracy Boudreau	Laura Maillet
Lisa Callen	Caroline Martin
Bonnie Clay	Janet Mayer Lawson
Marilyn Desjardins	Tracey McCarthy
Nicole Dorsman	Lola McGregor
Sharon Earle	Lisa Morton
Kristina Fernandes	Shelly Pavan
Lorie Fletcher	Judy Pryde
Brenda Gerometta	Gema Rondon
Mandy Guibao	Meghan Tyrrell
Chris Hobbins	Laura Van Der Niet
	Jennifer Wilson

20-25 Years

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

10-15 Years

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

An afternoon with Fran from Connected Families

Written by: **Jennifer Honey**

What many don't know about the program is that "it is a parent's group for families caring for someone with a developmental and sometimes also a physical disability." It began approximately a year ago when Fran and a couple of parents were trying to put together a support group with resources for families with children who had disabilities.

Much work has been put into the program to get it to where it is today. It's been a challenging but positive year for Connected Families.

Last year Connected Families received an Ontario Trillium grant to help fund the program. Beyond this help, there hasn't been any further funding for this invaluable service. Fran has managed to put together an advisory committee which accomplished putting together a fundraiser. A few workshops and information sessions as well have taken place and as she puts it "were very successful."

Connected Families in Fall 2017 wrote a letter to the Honorable Eleanor McMahon, MPP Burlington outlining their concerns and issues that families face caring for individuals who have developmental disabilities. The intent of the letter was to have the policy makers and local government officials take a serious look at the challenges that Halton families have on a daily basis in hopes that some assistance would eventually arise. Many relevant points were addressed in the letter with the request to help, "NOW". The letter was worthwhile as Eleanor McMahon did respond and has since been in contact with Connected Families. The advocacy group believes that Bill 148 needs to be challenged and changed as, in its present form, it affects services and supports that families simply can't live without.

Connected Families has accomplished much in just over a year's time; the program has partnered with P4P Network and Connectability, the program has approximately 106 registrants and the list goes on. Fran Stewart has been very instrumental in making many of these things happen. Thanks to her dedication and hard work, the community has pulled together and has a very unique resource. All of this can be appreciated by visiting www.connectedfamilies.com



ARCreations...

Fun Times and Opportunities

Written by: **Jennifer Honey**

Recently I was privileged to have a telephone interview with Support Worker Marisa Colucci of Community Living. The purpose of my interview was to research and learn a little bit more about the ARCreations program. I must say that I was impressed to hear of all of the events and activities the program offers. Sadly, ARC Industries no longer exists as a sheltered workshop but happily, ARCreations was formed to support some participants who used to attend ARC. Although they do not share very many common elements, it has to be observed that both have one very important common aspect, and that would be to provide opportunities for their members.

Marisa, who has been a long time CLB employee of 28 years, works hard along with Leanne to coordinate the activities of the ARCreations program. ARCreations has been up and running since September 11, 2017; it is held Monday through Friday during the day, with the meeting place being North Burlington Baptist Church on Walker's Line.

The Church has allowed the program to be held in their Multi-purpose Room on the ground level. Storage space is limited but all are grateful for the use of the premises. Presently there are approximately 14 people who attend the program.

Those who have attended the program over the last year have had opportunities to learn new skills such as rug hooking, not to forget enjoyable days out to area parks, bowling, shopping at local malls, shopping for groceries, and enjoy relaxing music therapy. The day's events allow the participants to be with their friends.

Pastor Merv has been at North Burlington Baptist Church for 17 years. He indicated that the program runs very smoothly and is a real success. He said the benefits of the program "are to bring about integration and engagement as well as some good camaraderie" and "it also provides those attending to be with their friends. It's a great opportunity for the community."

Pastor Merv first found out about the group when Karen Lade contacted him about holding the program at North Burlington Baptist last year. Pastor Merv referenced the opportunities as "fantastic" and says that whenever he is having a down day he visits the "Sit to be Fit" program which can help him to start feeling good again. Now if that doesn't say something, one has to believe that it is working well.

Hats off to CLB for the development of ARCreations.



Evan Moves In

Written by: **Amanda Strapp**

On New Street in Burlington, there is a group home supported by Community Living Burlington, where they help people with disabilities live and give them the support they need. One of these people is Evan Mommersteeg, a young man graduating from high school this year.

An opportunity became available in the home and was presented to Evan and his family. "It was a very difficult decision to make," his mother, Audrey Mommersteeg said, "but I think it's good for him to live with his friends and it gives mom and dad a bit of relief." Evan has been living in the group home since October 29, 2017.



When Evan's family decided this would be a good opportunity for him, he paid visits to the house with support workers and his parents. His parents would leave him at the house for periods of time to help him get used to the place and he would do things such as have dinner with everyone. Over time, the staff got to know Evan and figured out what to ask his parents so they could best support him. The visits turned into overnight stays and finally, into his permanent home.

At the house, Evan likes to be outside. "He likes to be around people and he likes to spend time outside, more than anything, that's his thing," Audrey had stated.

With his housemates, Evan does things such as going out to the movies, seeing the Christmas lights in Niagara Falls and going out for drives in general. Evan loves going for walks and listening to noisy vehicles going by. He loves to clap with someone. Evan also enjoys getting out of his wheelchair to move around but the most important thing in the whole world for Evan is to play ball with someone.

Evan is happy to be with his friends, and his parents are relieved that he has a good support system. They visit Evan in his new home regularly and Evan returns to his family home for visits, too.

Way to Go Matthew!

Written by: Joanne Karaiskakis, Bonnie Ridgewell and Kylie Steiger

Life Skills welcomed Matthew Perris to the program in March 2018. Matthew started his transition accompanied by staff from his house. He started with a few half days a week, gradually moving to five days a week by the end of March without the support of his residential staff! Way to go Matthew!

Over the course of the last few months, Matthew has enjoyed many activities and trips out in the community as part of the Life Skills program. To date, his favourite days are those involving visits to bakeries and particularly lunch out at Swiss Chalet (a room 7 favourite)! Matthew also enjoys hiking at Regional and Provincial Parks in the Halton and Hamilton areas. He also

enjoys walks at Paletta Mansion, the beach strip and Lowville Park. While hiking, Matthew particularly likes to listen to music on a Bluetooth speaker and usually stays right by or slightly ahead of staff so he can hear the music. Matthew has been to Springridge Farm many times and loves seeing the animals, going on tractor rides around the farm and choosing a delicious treat at the bakery.

While at Life Skills, Matthew enjoys time in the Snoezelen room, exercise room, water room and reading room. Matthew also enjoys music class and using some of the instruments provided.

To date, Matthew's greatest accomplishment has been his reintroduction to using PEC symbols and using these to communicate his wants and needs to staff. There is a visual PEC board on the wall by his place at the table – this enables Matthew to see what the current day's plans and activities are. Matthew has consistently used these symbols to make requests to staff and express his needs. Staff are anticipating this communication system will be built upon and more symbols will be added in the near future.

Matthew has transitioned quite well into the Life Skills program and everyone is looking forward to many more adventures with Matthew. Matthew's beautiful smile and charming personality has melted many hearts here at Life Skills and we welcome him with open arms.

At Ryerson Matthew has also made some amazing progress. He has started participating in Pet Therapy on Wednesday nights before Friendship Club. Ryerson's Pet Therapy friend is named Sulley. Sulley is a Golden Doodle who visits on Wednesday nights with his owner Priya who is a local Burlington High School teacher. Matthew helped staff go and pick out toys for Sulley to play with while at Ryerson and enjoys playing with him when he visits.

Over the last several months, Matthew's Social Capital has increased and he has grown tremendously. We couldn't be more proud of Matthew and his progress. We can't wait to see what is in store next for Matthew and the amazing adventures he will embark on in the future! Way to go Matthew!



Board President's Report

Respectfully submitted by **Joe Nemet**

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."

-John Lennon-

As I sat down to write the President's Report for this year's Annual General Meeting the above quote attributed to John Lennon (and possibly others) came to mind. The quote pretty much sums up what happened over the past year.

Last year at this time the Board was poised to finalize its strategic plan which included the concept of "social capital" and how to empower all of the people we support with it. Financially and staff wise, CLB was stable. All this changed when the full effect of Bill 148 was finally realized by us and other agencies in this sector.

I won't go into all of the provisions of Bill 148 but suffice it to say that it had a significant financial impact on CLB. Our conservative estimate at the time last year was that it would increase our labour costs by over \$1 million dollars per year. There was no guarantee of extra money from the Ministry to offset this increase and we faced the real possibility of having to make some tough decisions about some of the programs we offer. To make matters worse, for the first 6 months or so, it was difficult to get reliable information in order to make decisions as to how to respond and plan.

Bill 148 also made it impossible to run sheltered workshops like ARC and the Ministry advised us that we had to shut down ARC. An alternative had to be explored.

To top it all off, our collective agreement with our unionized staff came up for negotiations this past spring and despite the best efforts on both sides the membership rejected CLB's offer. As I write this report, the matter is going to conciliation in July so as of today there is no agreement.

It has been an interesting year to say the least. The strategic plan we had hoped to have had implemented was put on hold as we turned our attention to the challenges noted above. Judy Pryde and her team under the supervision of the board, worked to reduce the impact of Bill 148. ARC is gone but in its place is a drop-in centre, an art room and music. Many of the former ARC team are now volunteering with Food for Life which provides our folks an opportunity to engage with members of the public and develop new relationships all the while contributing to the Burlington community. This is a pilot project to be reviewed and reassessed in September.

All in all, the board remains optimistic about CLB's future and its ability to provide support to our community. Change is never easy, and the board and I would like to thank the staff, the people we support and family members for their understanding and patience.

Lastly, I would like to make a plug for Connected Families. Connected Families is a parents' advocacy and support group for families caring for someone with a developmental disability that will inspire, encourage, educate and empower families. For more information go to <https://www.connectedfamilies.ca>.

"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

-John Lennon-

Executive Director's Report

Respectfully submitted by **Judy Pryde**

Looking back at the last year at CLB I am awe struck when looking at how well the people we support adapt to change and diversity every day.

The last couple of years have been a real struggle for the workers at ARC Industries, who have shown their commitment to the contracts that they have done; some who have worked at ARC for the last 40 years. As Joe Nemet mentioned, the challenge our agency has had with Bill 148 has been all consuming the last 2 years. But with these challenges and changes we have had to make, the people we support have once again risen to the occasion and shown all of us that although change is not always welcome, it can provide some positive opportunities.

Although the day looks different, our programming at Mainway is presenting new opportunities for the people we support. We have a lovely drop in centre with free coffee, which is the big highlight along with the comfy couches. Thanks to a generous donation, a bright and cheery art room has been created. And for those who still want to do "work like" activities, the volunteer pilot project with Food For Life is underway. ARC industries has closed, but the opportunities for different day supports is still open for those who want to attend.

As we look back at 2017/2018, it is also important to note that our agency, although challenged with outside political pressures, still has welcomed new people to our day and residential fold. Most notably, a new wonderful home was acquired that has provided stability for two people who needed a permanent residence with lots of wide open space. The staff team has been very successful in making this transition for the people we support seamless and successful.

You will read further in our AGM report, some heartwarming stories of other successes within our agency; and although there are only a few in the report, I can assure you that there are many more that could have been shared.

I do have to close this report by mentioning how overwhelmed I was watching our Talent Show that was held at the Burlington Arts Centre. I am not a lover of Talent shows and was admittedly nervous and scared for the performers that night. By the second act I was in tears and overwhelmed with the courageousness of the people we support performing their hearts out to a huge crowd. The show was professional and showed the Burlington community that the people we support can really do anything they put their minds to.

I look forward to 2018/2019. I am sure we will encounter more challenges and change is an inevitable result of challenges, but with the support of our employees and the Board of Directors, our agency will meet the challenges and continue to thrive.

Every day is a new beginning. Take a deep breath, smile and start again.

- unknown author -

In Loving Memory of Jimmy Dixon

Sent in from: **Clare (Chuck) & Leona Thompson** (Jimmy's cousin)



On behalf of Jimmy's family, we can't thank Community Living Burlington enough for the wonderful love and care they gave him. While living at Rubens 2, Jimmy was happy, carefree and energetic. His care givers were the best!

Jimmy was very fortunate to have had the loving and caring parents and sister he did. His parents did their very best to give Jimmy the best care they possibly could.

In closing, we (Jimmy's family), would like to thank Community Living Burlington, Rubens 2 House and anyone else who helped make Jimmy Dixon's life a positive experience.

Sent in from: **Jimmy's friends and staff at Rubens 2**

Rod, Joe, Lisa and David along with the staff at Rubens 2 will truly miss Jimmy's presence in the house. He was truly one of a kind with a huge spirit that will forever live on through our memories.

His love for sports and music was amazing and we enjoyed watching it grow over the past number of years. He had so many positive gains since moving into Rubens 2 that were truly wonderful to see and we were glad to be a part of them. His love for his sister Lori and his family was very evident. We talk and think of him every day.

Memories of Bobby

Written by: Theresa Kiehn



Ingrid Bergman, William Shakespeare, Betty Frieda, etc. These are all famous people who have entered and left the world on the same day. Bobby has joined this elite club and October 7 will always be known to us as "Bobby Gove Day".

We have had the pleasure of supporting Bobby for almost ten years, and they have been a great ten years! Bobby was a gentle, kind and affectionate man and anyone who met Bobby was drawn into him, he greeted everyone with a smile and of course two hands turned up ready to be clapped and we have all spent countless hours slapping them, clapping them, tickling them.

Over the years Bobby went to many plays and concerts; Rock of Ages, our Christmas Ross Petty Pantomime tradition, Meatloaf, etc. He did have an uncanny knack for filling silence with incredibly loud singing, and anytime silence would fill those huge theatres, you could hear Bobby filling the void with his humming or singing.

We have had countless adventures over the years with Bobby. He has been to Florida, cottages, African Lion Safari, Maple Leafs games, Grand River Cruises, Blue Jays games, Science Centre, annual Toronto Zoo visits, goat yoga, pet therapy, music therapy, Mohawk College; the list goes on and on. One of his favourite activities was to go swimming. He loved having us dunk him under the water, splashing and floating around in the pool. He was happy and weightless there.

Bobby had very meaningful relationships with all of his roommates, friends and family. Lynn will always hold a special place in her heart for her dear friend Bobby. He will be missed by his close friends Daniel, Ross, Brad, Nancy and many others who have had the pleasure of hanging out with such an amazing man.

This is just a small glimpse at our time with Bobby and how he has touched our lives forever. We were so blessed to be given the opportunity to show this man what life is really all about. In return he showed us that when things aren't going your way, enjoy the moment anyways.

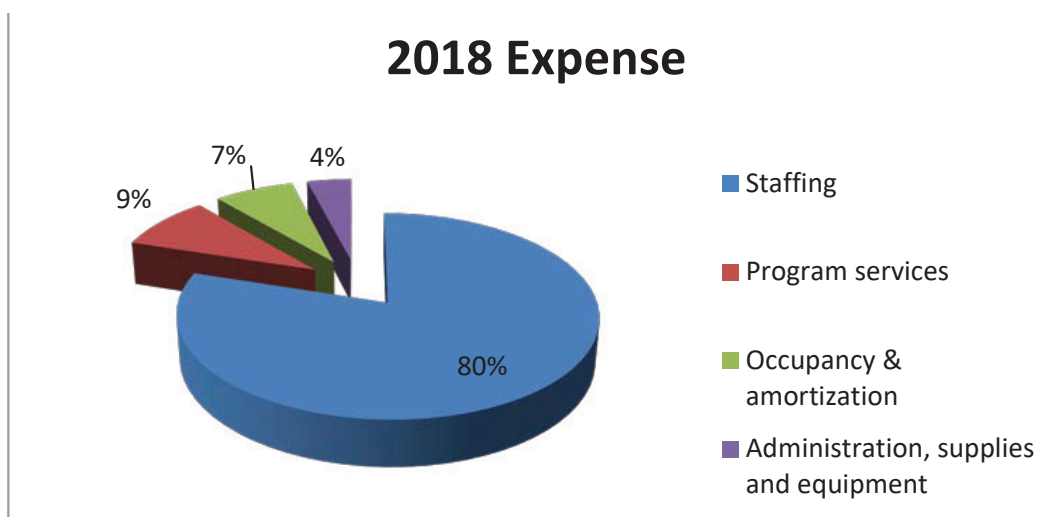
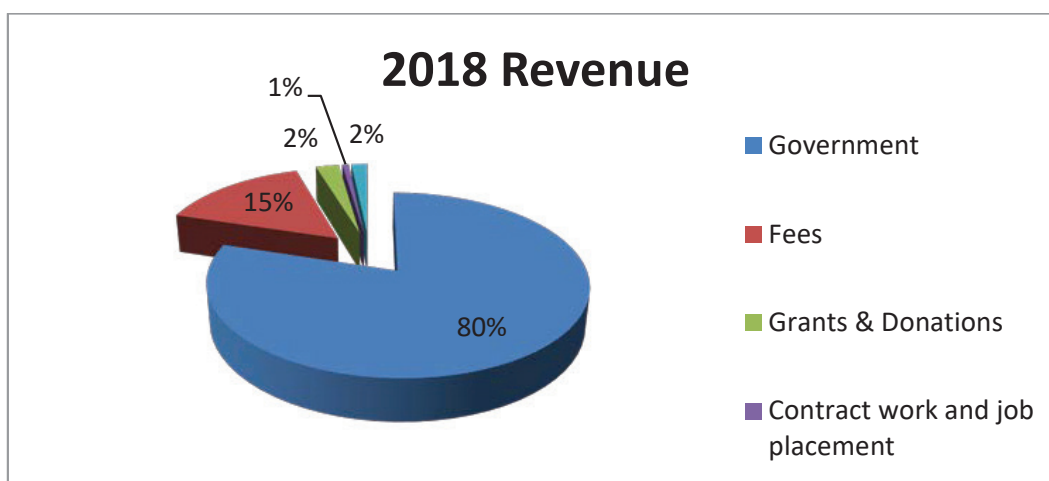
Finance Committee Report

Respectfully submitted by **David Capek**

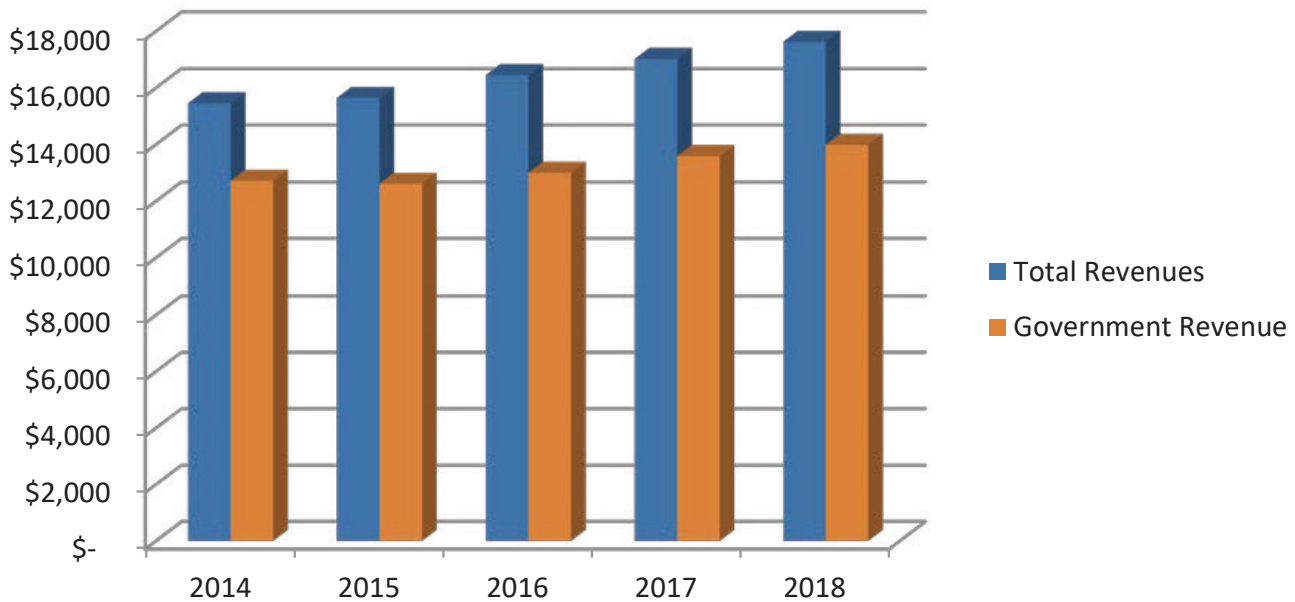
Financial highlights for the year ended March 31, 2018

in '000s

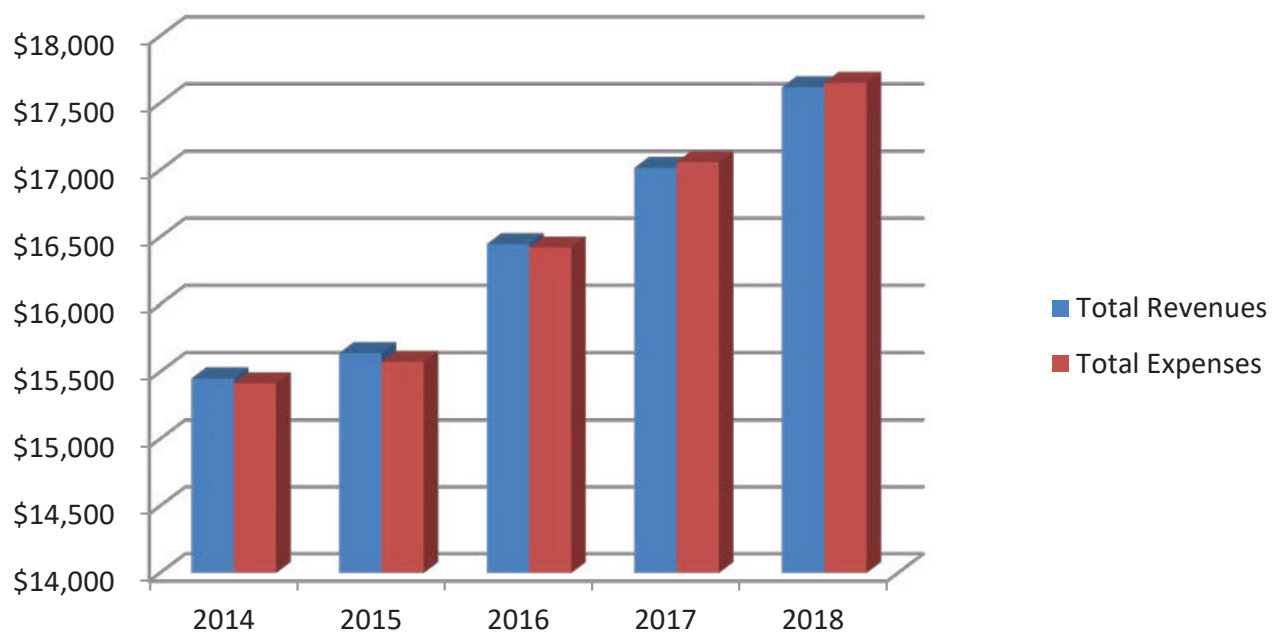
	2018	2017
Total Assets	\$8,506	\$7,955
Invested in Land and Building at Amortized Cost	76%	82%
Total Liabilities	5,362	4,764
Total Endowments	2%	2%
Total Revenues	17,621	17,016
Total Expenses	17,655	17,060



Total Revenues



Total Revenue and Total Expense



For full audited financial statements please visit www.clburlington.ca

Walk 'n Roll 2017

Written by **Amanda Strapp**



On Saturday, May 27, 2017 Community Living Burlington held their 37th Annual Walk'n Roll at Spencer Smith Park.

Walk'n Roll is a fundraising event to help raise money for Community Living Burlington. Every year people get together to walk either 1km or 2km around Burlington Pier, ending with a BBQ lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs.

Tents were set up throughout the park for a variety of different activities. There was a children's activity area, community tents for the Dream Weavers Self Advocates and Connected Families, an area for Therapy Dogs and Massage Therapy students, and complimentary coffee and tea from Starbucks. *"We wanted to help out, get involved with the community and this is a great way to do it"* said one of the volunteers from Starbucks. Walk'n Roll also had a truck with a DJ set to play music for everybody to pump them up.

Spencer Smith Park was packed full of people who receive service from Community Living Burlington and their families. Burlington's MP, and one CLB's biggest supporters, Karina Gould kick started the event. She gave a speech on what she's been up to, and what she loves about Community Living Burlington. Her speech energized everyone and set a positive mood.

"The best thing about Walk'n Roll is the community coming together," said Emily Huang, the Manager of Resource Development at CLB, *"all the people we support, their families and the community we live in come together to have a fun day while raising money for our organization."*

Walk'n Roll was a huge success and raised over \$35,000 in net proceeds, and most importantly it was lots of fun for the people that attended. A big thank you goes out to all our volunteers, sponsors, walkers and donors.



Community Living's Got Talent? "YES WE DO!"

Written by Amanda Strapp



Disability or not, everyone has talent. That was proven on the night of September 23, 2017 at the Burlington Performing Arts Center when Community Living Burlington hosted its annual Community Living's Got Talent-Yes We Do! Show.

The show had been in the making since last January by Community Living's staff: Candice Keem, Emily Huang, Amber Armstrong, Debbie Turner, and Karen Lade. They worked hard to make the show a success with the help of the community.

The night started with the audience enjoying a dinner provided by Pepperwood Bistro. During this time, they had an opportunity to browse the silent auction, and place their bids.

The show itself, hosted by Rainer Noack and Joseph El-Khoury, was spectacular. People showcased their talent to the audience. Every one of the fourteen acts was met with roaring applause and shining comments from the judges: Amber Armstrong, Diane Dupuy, the Honourable Karina Gould, Pat Leyland, and Sam Forbes.

At the end of the show, the judges had a brief recess to decide who won, while all the acts were brought back out and congratulated for their talent.

The winners for 2017 were:

3rd place: Camelot Centre & their hand bell performance of 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' & 'Over the Rainbow'

2nd place: Momentum Choir & their singing performance of 'Hallelujah'

1st place: Conner Mahoney & his singing performance of 'Believe'

The event itself is one of Community Living's biggest fundraising events of the year. The previous shows were held at Appleby United Church, to show off the talents of the people from Community Living. "It's always been to showcase the talents of the people that we support," Lade said, "And the people we support have talent, people do play piano, do dance, and do amazing things."

Community Living Burlington wanted to raise more awareness in the community and to make the show 'bigger and better'. This year the goal was to reach \$20,000. But it went over, and "Community Living's Got Talent - Yes We Do!" ended up raising \$25,000.

Don't miss this year's 'Community Living's Got Talent' on September 22nd at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Check www.clburlington.ca for more details! Tickets will be on sale mid-July.

Thank You For Your Support!

Halton Region

Halton Region Community Investment Fund

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Ministry of Children & Youth Services

Ontario Trillium Foundation

United Way of Halton & Hamilton

Our members & donors



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SB Partners

Mohawk College

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