

RENFREW AND AREA SENIORS HOME SUPPORT | 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

President's Message

Dave Bennett, President

As President of Renfrew and Area Senior Home Support, it is my responsibility to report on the activity of our 2015 - 2016 year.

My message this year will be informative and persuasive in content, in order to truly reflect the year as it was.

May 10, 1999 we were incorporated with the following objectives:

- 1) Provide services which enhance the ability of clients to live independently in their homes as long as possible
- 2) Provide services which enhance the quality and dignity of life for clients
- 3) Provide a focal point for clients to obtain services and gain information

Over the last year, this mission statement very much became a dominate factor at our meetings, as we struggled to get CRA to accept the Golden Age Activity Center as a program.

On a January 28, 2016 meeting our motion was put forth and carried that Golden Age Activity center is a program of Renfrew and Area Senior Home Support and all financial considerations will be administered by us.

The challenge now, is to bring together all involved so we can grow as one, and in the upcoming months we will strive together to achieve this goal.

Every program we offer is to insure that the needs of our clients are met. The funds for this come from a number

of revenue streams. We do receive funds from the M.O.H. and grants from both the Federal and Provincial governments. However, these funds fall well short of what is needed to sustain Renfrew Home Support and Golden Age Center combined budgets every year, we must rely on our fund raising teams to come up with approximately \$80,000.00. This goal is a challenge for the volunteers and staff, but somehow they have accomplished their target. Saying this, I want to bring to light that the government funding has been held at 0% increase over the last number of years. This means if we want new programs or services our funds raised must go up to accomplish our goals.

To insure that all programs are here for years to come, we must become a strong union and dedicated to the sustainability of all programs we supply to our clients.

Our staff has done a wonderful job over the last year and have made sure that all issues are looked after in a professional and caring manor.

To Judy Ewart, Kareen Rekowski, Susan McGregor, Kerry Fortin, Nellie Kingsbury, Jenn Daniels, Faye O'Reilly, THANK YOU. I can assure you I speak for the entire board when I say "a job well done".

To our volunteers, who's dedication is priceless, whether it is looking after our income tax program, driving one of our clients, fund raising, or looking after the activity centre, thank you for everything and please believe your services

to your Community does not go unnoticed.

To our Advisory board, that gives up their time to help at the Activity Center, thank you Nellie Kingsbury, Jim Miller, Frank Belanger, Sandi Heins, Jack Ledger, Karen Abbott and Kayla Menkhorst.

As President a very special thank you to our board, Andrew Evans, Carol Ann Simson, Jack Ledger, Jasper Lafrance, Joan Daley, Joanne McDonald, Randy Elliott, and Robert Johnston, it is a pleasure to work with all of you.

A very special thank-you to Lawrence Gallagher, for supplying us with legal advice over the years, we wish you a very healthy and joyful retirement.

The year 2015 - 2016 has seen a number of issues arise before the board, and as we work through them, we realize how important our community partners are, whether it be Horton, Admaston, Renfrew, Greater Madawaska and all the businesses and individuals, along with the Ontario Government, we could not make it happen without you.

Thank you

In closing, please take this home with you:

***Remember yesterday,
dream about tomorrow, but
live for today!***

Our Mission

"to preserve the independence of seniors and adults with disabilities by enabling these individuals to remain as active as possible for as long as possible in their own homes and communities."

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Executive Director's Message

Judy Ewart, Executive Director

It is my pleasure to be able to present the 2015-2016 Executive Director's report.

2015-2016 has been a year of growth and learning - growth in our staff numbers, programs with the addition of the Golden Age Activity Centre and learning from new and younger staff members. As we rely on technology more in our work world, the younger staff members have been both teaching and helping the "older staff" to improve and learn new computer skills.

This past fiscal year we supported 925 individuals through Home Support programs and 300 members took part in activities at the Golden Age Activity Centre. While transportation remains one of the Home Support larger programs, we did see a decrease in the number of drives towards the end of the fiscal year due to fewer dialysis clients. Client Intervention and Assistance numbers remained strong and this year's income tax season was quite busy with 663 returns being completed to date by a team of 7 volunteers. Our frozen meal program saw an increase in usage with 56 individuals being served with 2746 meals. The Golden Age Activity Centre had a very successful year with 13666 program attendances, 1549 drop-ins for a total of 15215 individuals attending the programs or dropping by.

Volunteers are a vital part of our program – providing services and programs, hosting, assisting in the

office, fundraising and serving on the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee. This past fiscal year, 84 Home Support volunteers donated 6959 hours and 42 Golden Age Activity Centre volunteers donated 3429 hours. Music is a very popular program at the Activity Centre and 25 different entertainers and musical groups have given of their time during the year to entertain the members.

Last summer we were again successful in our application for a Summer Student through the Canada Summer Jobs program and were fortunate to hire Deanna Berndt who helped us with file management and completed a community survey. Deanna was a welcome addition to our team, bringing a youthful presence to our office.

With the support of our community, clients and fundraising committee we were able to reach our Home Support fundraising target of \$42,000.00. Donations to our agency remained strong. Our fundraising committee put in many hours planning events and trying out new ideas to raise those much needed dollars. Our second annual golf tournament and our first Christmas Shop Local raffle were great successes.

To help us keep up with our workload we have been using office volunteers on a more regular basis and have opened our office to work and student placements. Jenn Daniels came to us as a student and taught us many computer skills while assisting in the office. Fortunately for Jenn we were able to keep her on

staff one day a week after her placement to assist our Financial Officer in completing her expanded duties. She has since stepped in to provide coverage for Kareen who is on a leave of absence. Joanne Martin joined us in the New Year and assisted us with our golf tournament, publicity and promotions.

An agency is only as successful as the staff and volunteers that provide support and assistance to its clients and members: Kareen Rekowski, Financial Officer, Susan McGregor, Administrative Assistant, Karry Fortin, Program Support Assistant; Jenn Daniels, Finance Clerk and Fay O'Reilly, Administrative Assistant and Programmer for the Golden Age Activity Centre; the many volunteers who give so willingly of their time and go the extra mile to assist seniors, members and adults with disabilities; our Board of Directors and Dave Bennett, our Board Chair, for the leadership and guidance they provide; the Advisory Committee of the Golden Age Activity Centre who oversee the daily operations of the Centre; the service organizations, businesses, and individuals of the Town of Renfrew and surrounding areas who support us both financially and with their gifts of time as volunteers; and finally our clients and members without whom there would be no agency or Seniors' Centre. Thank-you to everyone for helping us to be:

**People helping
People...that's what it's all
about!**