

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TANYA BURKE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2017-18 year has sped by! The strength and commitment of our EHCLA and EHCR staff team as well as our dedicated and talented Board of Directors has supported us to achieve a very successful year.

Our EHCLA Community Based Learning Organization has gained a new instructor this year and continues to deliver quality learning programs (Adult Learning Programs, GED Prep, family and senior literacy, basic computer instruction, and several intergenerational learning programs). Ongoing, we continue to collect feedback from our participants, families, community partners, and fellow service providers to meet the varied and changing learning needs of our community.

New to our compliment of programs is the Elmsdale Community Garden project. Through funding from the New Horizons for Seniors program, generous support from local businesses, and the hard work of many volunteers and staff, we have been able to build a boxed community garden. This project is unique in that the produce is grown by the community for the community. Through this project we have also been able to offer many programs such as canning and preserving classes, a terrarium class, and a gardening workshop.

Our Board of Directors have worked very hard this past year to stay aligned with our Strategic Plan and focus on fund raising, specifically looking at vehicle replacement. The guidance and direction the Board provides ensures the delivery of exceptional programming in a fiscally prudent manner. We have also upgraded our website.

Our EH Community Rider service has far exceeded last year's kilometers driven, gained a new driver, accepted the donation of a new to us vehicle, and implemented a new Fleet Lead Coordinator role.

As we officially close out the 2017-18 year, my message continues to be that I am so proud and grateful to be part of an organization that is staffed with such talent, commitment, and diversity. I get to spend every day with people who genuinely care about their work and community and who are engaged and empowered to bring their best skills and ideas so that we can continue to deliver a great service.

The mission of the East Hants Community Learning Association is to empower individuals to live with a sense of freedom and confidence through accessible transportation and learning opportunities. Our slogan is "Accessible Learning, Accessible Life". With strong leadership, community connectivity, and continued community engagement, EHCLA will continue to work toward three important strategic priorities (Community engagement, program excellence, and organizational sustainability).

"Huge shout out to Community Rider for coming through for my family day or night, week or weekend, always happy to help and very reliable. We appreciate everything they do for us"

"I have been using this service for my father - excellent service and very helpful staff, my dad is a retired veteran."



150 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

358,641 KM

TRAVELLED THROUGH
THE COMMUNITY RIDER

10,538
RIDES DELIVERED
FOR
274
EHCR CLIENTS

"The East Hants Community Rider was extremely helpful, accommodating and friendly. The volunteers went out of their way to ensure I was able to attend all appointments and without this service, I would have been left with no transportation to seek medical attention. I am extremely grateful for our community having such a great service."

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY RIDER



HAYLEY MILLER
DISPATCH ASSISTANT

The East Hants Community Rider was originally established to breakdown one of the biggest barriers to education - transportation. For many years, the Community Rider has helped take adult learners to class, and has since evolved to taking community members to educational programs, work, social outings, personal errands, sight seeing, holiday outings, medical appointments and to spend time with loved ones.

In the fall of 2017, EHCR launched shopping trips to Mic Mac Mall and Masstown Market, which enabled our community to enjoy social outings (and shop!).

With such a successful year, our fleet needed an upgrade. Thanks to a generous donation from Elmsdale Lumber Company, we were able to purchase "Tom Cruze", and retire "Rosie Rider" from the roads. Make sure you wave if you see us! Our new fleet is up and running thanks to our Fleet Lead Coordinator, Neil Barr - who keeps a close watch on our vehicle performance.

EHCR has had a very successful year overall and we hope we can continue to stay out of the garages and busy on the roads.

As EHCR continues to expand and improve, I want to recognize the amazing staff, volunteers and

community friends who care about their community and work extremely hard to deliver a much needed service. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone involved with this service for their hard work and commitment, we couldn't do this without you. You are always there when we need you, thank you.

As we look to the year ahead, the East Hants Community Rider is committed to delivering safe, affordable and accessible rides to all those facing transportation barriers in our community. We are here for anyone who needs us, we will continue to increase our client reach (including corporate members), will work to increase our funding, and will continue to service the East Hants and surrounding communities. Thank you for another outstanding year.

WE GAINED
36
NEW CLIENTS

*Did you know, we drove
91,566km more this year
than last year?!*

2014-2015

2017-2018

OUR ADULT LEARNING PROGRAMS

EHCLA Adult Learning Programs (ALP) and Basic Computer classes were offered in Elmsdale, Shubenacadie, and Fall River. Often, learners in our programs explicitly identify preparation for the GED test as their goal. Our dedicated GED preparation classes offer individualized instruction in a welcoming and supportive environment.

At EHCLA, we also offer instruction in the Orton-Gillingham method of tutoring. This explicit, multisensory instruction in reading and spelling is designed to help dyslexic learners improve their decoding, writing and comprehension skills.

ALP programs are designed to help learners improve literacy, math and essential skills. Throughout the

38 ADULT LEARNERS

year, we also offer opportunities to participate in additional activities that broaden learners' experience, support learning, build employability and social skills and get them ready for work in the community.

We've had a packed year, with students learning how to create healthy soup lunches as part of our nutrition program, bonding over a bowling tournament with Colchester Adult Learning Association, visiting the Body Worlds Exhibit, discovering their strengths with Strength Finders, and exploring the Discovery Centre.



COMPUTER CLASSES

EHCLA's computer classes offer instruction in basic computer applications, such as tablet, iPad and smart phone skills, email, social media and word processing. These classes are customized to the group of learners attending. Learners can be seniors or adults and classes are offered both daytime and evening. Our newest team member, Tom Richard, leads this program.

FAMILY LITERACY

EHCLA's Family Literacy Program is a very important component of our programs. Through this stream we offer several Alphabet Soup in Motion programs which are designed for 3 year olds and their caregiver. In this positive parenting program families read, rhyme, sing, eat healthy snacks, and play.

We celebrate Family Literacy Day in January and host an annual Kick off Summer Family Picnic for the whole community in June where we encourage all ages to read for fun. This past year we offered a Write Your Family Story workshop which included a free family photo shoot.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES

- Senior Computer Literacy Program
- Family Picnic
- Alphabet Soup in Motion
- Free Family Photoshoot
- "This is Us" Write your Family Story workshop



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROGRAM EXCELLENCE

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY



COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING



When funding and resources allow, EHCLA offers a variety of community interest programs. We utilize valuable volunteers and our engaged staff to supplement our core programs with these fun and interesting classes and projects. Our most recent and highly successful Fly Tying Program, coordinated by our Instructor, Tom Richard, and facilitated by Carl Weston, saw 13 men, women and teenagers learn how to tie flies for fly fishing.

Our most recent project, the Community Garden, was achieved through funding, generous donations from local businesses, and a lot of help from committed volunteers, especially Volunteer Garden Coordinator, Tanya Ashley. This project built and grew 12 raised beds of vegetables, fruit, and herbs that all goes back to the community in some way.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS & INTER-GENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Fly Tying Course
- The Community Garden
- Make a Terrarium Workshop
- Card Making
- Soup Cooking Class
- Canning & Preserving

MEET THE TEAM

The team at EHCLA and EHCR work hard to create a supportive, inclusive and welcoming community. A special thank you to all that they have done this year, and the many years prior!



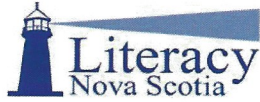
**THIS YEAR, OUR WEBSITE
HAD A REFRESH! VISIT US AT
EASTHANTSLEARNING.COM**

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With the dedication and support of a highly committed and diversely talented Board of Directors, EHCLA and its staff have the strong support of a wonderful group of volunteers who help govern and steer the organization toward meeting the learning and program needs of our East Hants residents.

- Barbara Christie, Chair
- Caitlin Patterson, Vice Chair
- Gennie Himelman, Treasurer
- Cathy MacDonald, Secretary
- Beth McNeil
- Cecil Dixon
- Gina Winfield
- Paula Wadden
- Stacey Harrison
- Mindy LeBlanc

OUR FUNDERS



**POSITIVE
AGING
STRATEGY**

OUR PARTNERS

EHCLA and EHCR strongly believe in collaboration, and partner with many other organizations and institutions in our community. Thank you to our partners & collaborators!

- Community Transport NS
- Rural Transport NS
- Literacy NS
- East Hants Family Resource Centre
- Association of Workplace Educators of NS
- East Hants Workplace Education Committee
- East Hants & Districts Chamber of Commerce
- Association of NS Community Learning Organizations (ANSOLO)
- Seniors partners Group
- East Hants Senior Safety

We would like to take this opportunity to thank RBC for their continued support. This year, the local RBC team donated 5 Days of Service to EHCLA activities!

2017-2018 CORPORATE MEMBERS





EASTHANTSLEARNING.COM