

East Hants

COMMUNITY
LEARNING ASSOCIATION

Making Learning Accessible



East Hants & Area

COMMUNITY RIDER

Making Life Accessible



Elmsdale

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Making Food Accessible



**GROWING
THROUGH
ADVERSITY**

**2019-2020
ANNUAL
REPORT**

OUR MISSION

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

Making...
Learning Accessible
Life Accessible
Food Accessible

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

With strong leadership, community connectivity and continued community engagement, EHCLA works towards three important strategic priorities:

Community Engagement
Program Excellence
Organizational Sustainability



2,465
Plates of Food

12,071
EHCR Rides

458,292 km
Travelled

A FEW NUMBERS

20 EHCLA
Programs

354 EHCR
Passengers

2



TANYA BURKE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, we will end on a very different note than we are used to. COVID-19 has changed the way we think, do, and operate. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't take a moment to look back on the past year many successes.

EHCLA learning programs continue to offer opportunities to improve academic, essential, computer, employability and life skills in our community. Our family literacy program continues to support families with free programming. The 2nd annual Family Literacy Day Karaoke Party was one of my personal highlights.

Our amazingly dedicated team is our boots on the ground and our rubber on the road! The team includes our amazing Board of Directors, who have worked to improve our policies, procedures and communication plans, ensuring that we are well governed in our operations.

I will end this year's message with a bit of good ole Cape Breton wisdom:
"We Rise Again" – and we will!

Thank You!

MESSAGES FROM OUR STAFF



PHIL LAVEN
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

I've spent quite a bit of time this year getting to know the people of East Hants, Fall River and beyond. I can say with great certainty that we will move forward stronger than ever.

This year, my goal was to highlight the outstanding range of services we offer. From close-knit learning to dedicated drivers to a garden that feeds the community, we're doing good work here.

To spread the word, we've made use of technology, word of mouth and community events big and small. Our newsletter, Door to Door Reader, has grown in readership and has been a great way to showcase our activities.

As always, I'm eager to chat and connect over the summer. Stay positive and we'll get through this together!



HAYLEY MILLER
DISPATCHER / ADMIN

It's been an eventful year!

Our newest fleet member, a Dodge Pro Master named Roada Rider, has been an outstanding addition to the fleet!

We have also added two new members to the team, Brent Gallant and Mark Lynch. Please join me in welcoming them. We now have five drivers to match our five vehicles.

This year we served 36 more passengers, bringing our total to 354.

We have seen a decrease in the number of rides in recent weeks, but it doesn't discourage us. With access to emergency funds, we have offered free transportation, within reason, to those that needed help through this difficult time.

We know better days are ahead. From helping people access beaches, parks and trails to the eventual return of social gatherings, weddings, reunions and anything the community needs us for.

We look forward to an amazing and prosperous 2020-21.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

This past year has been full of unusual circumstances. From a steamroller taking one of our classrooms out of commission to Hurricane Dorian to the spread of COVID-19, it has been a year of learning through adversity.

However, this adversity has pushed us to find new ways of doing things. We pride ourselves on being quick to adapt to the needs of the community and we have discovered new ways of providing services. Here are a few examples:

COMMUNITY LEARNING

While one of our classrooms was closed for repairs, students took to creating a picnic bench for their lunches. We also incorporated flexible one-on-one sessions over phone and online during the pandemic.

Over the summer, we will be implementing policies to ensure a safe learning environment for September.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Elmsdale Community Garden had another year of outstanding growth last year. We filled 2,465 plates with fresh, local food. Pop up markets were extremely popular this year - especially when we paired them with physical activities like Zumba, yoga and children's activities.

Our highlight of the year was our first ever Harvest Dinner! We opened our doors to the community and laid out a delicious feast of locally sourced food. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

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COMMUNITY RIDER

The Community Rider has been working hard to keep passengers connected to their needs. An important part of this has been communication and we have emphasized regular staff meetings over Zoom to keep everyone in the loop.

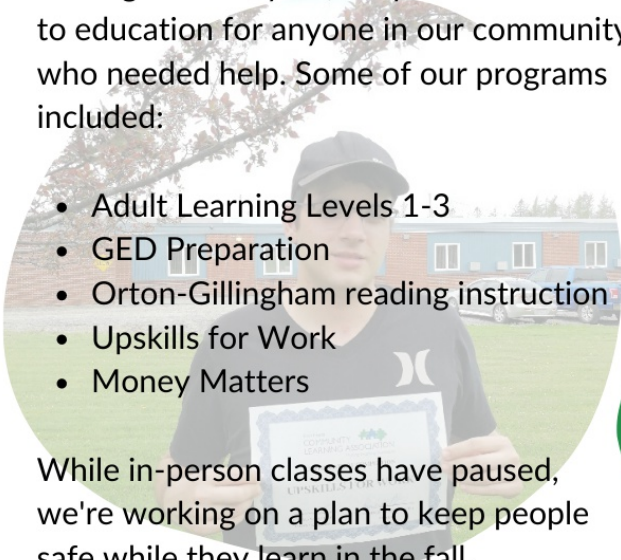
During the pandemic, safety was our top priority. From free transportation to one passenger per trip to a range of stringent cleaning policies, we worked hard to keep our community accessible.



ADULT LEARNING

Throughout the year, we provided access to education for anyone in our community who needed help. Some of our programs included:

- Adult Learning Levels 1-3
- GED Preparation
- Orton-Gillingham reading instruction
- Upskills for Work
- Money Matters



While in-person classes have paused, we're working on a plan to keep people safe while they learn in the fall.

INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

Programming designed for participants of all ages helps to bring our community together. Here's a look at some of the programs we hosted this year:

- Cooking Classes
- StrengthsFinder
- Vermiculture (Worm Farms)
- Overdose Prevention Workshop
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Mental Health First Aid
- First Aid
- WHMIS

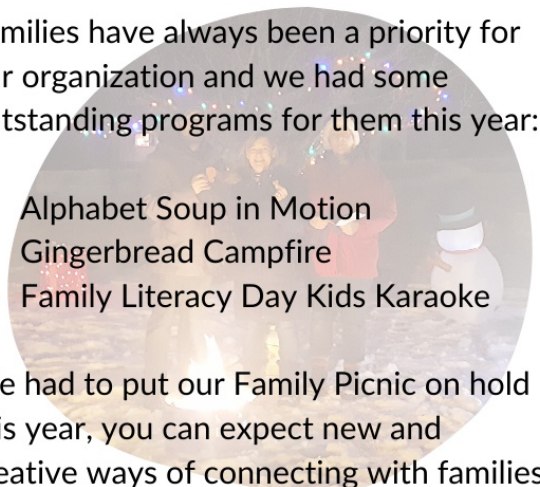
TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

We saw increased demand for technology training this year. COVID-19 has provided the push many needed to overcome their fears and learn how to connect with loved ones through technology. Classes were customized to each learner's needs, including:

- Cell Phones
- Email
- Tablets
- Social Media
- Computers
- Banking
- Storage for pictures and documents

FAMILY LITERACY

Families have always been a priority for our organization and we had some outstanding programs for them this year:

- 
- Alphabet Soup in Motion
 - Gingerbread Campfire
 - Family Literacy Day Kids Karaoke

We had to put our Family Picnic on hold this year, you can expect new and creative ways of connecting with families.

MEET THE TEAM

EHCLA, EHCR and ECG have an amazing group of staff, volunteers and supporters behind our cause. Thank you to everyone for the hard work you do to help others and build our community.



**Gina
Winfield**



**Caitlin
Patterson**



**Cathy
MacDonald**



**Gennie
Himelman**



**Beth
MacNeil**



**Cecil
Dixon**



**Stacey
Harrison**



**Paula
Wadden**



**Alicia
Wilmot**



**Darlene
MacNeil**



**Tanya
Burke**



**Hayley
Miller**



**Phil
Laven**



**Tanya
Ashley**



**Jean
Wright**



**Tom
Richard**



**Neil
Barr**



**Dave
Hue**



**Brian
MacInnis**



**Brent
Gallant**



**Mark
Lynch**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors work to guide our organization. This group of volunteers are community-minded leaders that keep us focused on the learning and program needs of our community.

JOIN US!

Whether as a volunteer, a workshop facilitator or a promoter of our programs, we're always looking for new faces to join our team. Some of our most popular programs are community-led and we welcome new ideas!

FUNDERS

EHCLA and EHCR receive funding from a range of provincial, municipal and community supporters. These funds enable us to offer programs and services that are affordable and accessible to everyone in the community.



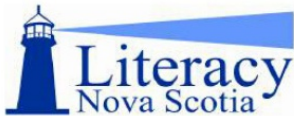
**Department of
Communities,
Culture and Heritage**



**Department of
Municipal Affairs**



**Department of Labour
and Advanced Education**



Department of Seniors

DONORS

Each year we receive donations large and small from engaged people, businesses and groups in our community.



**5 Days of Service
\$5,000**



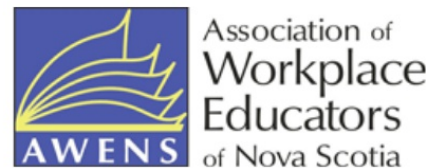
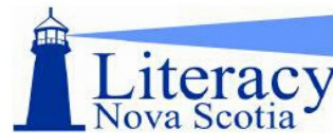
**Elmsdale Legion #48
Jig the Joker
\$5,000**

SUPPORTERS

PARTNERS

We strongly believe in collaboration.

We partner with many other organizations and institutions in our community.



**Association of NS
Community Learning
Organizations (ANSOLO)**

2019-2020 CORPORATE MEMBERS



PRACTICING LAW IN THE SAME LOCATION FOR OVER A QUARTER CENTURY

CARRUTHERS MACDONELL
& ROBSON

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS & NOTARIES PUBLIC

Bona
Investments



Friendly
Group of
Senior
Citizens



The
hearing
Specialists



McNeill's
Keeping you on the move since 1962



Thank you for your support!

Connect with us online!
easthantslearning.com

