

East Hants
**COMMUNITY
LEARNING ASSOCIATION**
Making Learning Accessible

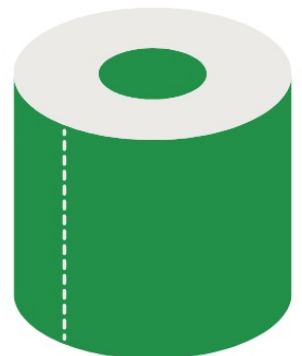


East Hants & Area
COMMUNITY RIDER
Making Life Accessible

Elmsdale
COMMUNITY GARDEN
Making Food Accessible



**2020-2021
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



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

Community Engagement
Program Excellence
Organizational Sustainability

2020-2021

km Travelled
215,325

EHCR Rides
5355

EHCR Passengers
386



← 6 ft →

**COMPARING
THE
NUMBERS**

**Compared To
Last Year**

km Travelled
↓ 53%

EHCR Rides
↓ 56%

EHCR Passengers
↑ 9%



Stay the blazes
♦ HOME ♦



TANYA BURKE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HAYLEY MILLER
DISPATCHER / ADMIN

Hi there - this sure has been a year!

This time last year we were learning how to respond to a global pandemic, had not yet been required to wear masks, and the topic in the forefront was COVID-19 re-opening plans. A year later, we are still navigating through unprecedented times. We have all gained lived experience with terms such as "pivot," "epidemiology," "immunity," and "self-isolation."

As we work toward learning how to live with COVID-19, and hope to see some restrictions loosen, it MAY be that we can start to breathe easier.

Here at EHCLA and EHCR, we have spent the past year responding to the needs of our community by offering our usual programs as best we can, as well as incorporating new programs and supports.

As I look back over the past year, I am so proud of the EHCLA team! Each and every team member, as well as our Board of Directors, showed up at every turn to ensure that we maintained quality service delivery. We had to be more creative, more careful, and more patient.

I look back with sincere pride and sheer amazement at all that we have accomplished. It takes a village and this is my village, my community and my home!



PHIL LAVEN
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

Over the course of the past year, our response has been focused on helping as many people as possible weather this storm.

The biggest question we faced was "how do we provide programs for a community in isolation?" While there is no one solution, we came up with several ideas that were well received by the community.

A drive-thru Harvest Dinner, free fresh and frozen meals, a community-based scavenger hunt for Family Literacy Day and activity kits for a range of interests are just a few of the programs we offered to combat isolation and struggles due to the pandemic.

However, my biggest takeaway from this year was the kindness and support we have shown each other. No mask or isolation measure can hide our ability to be there for one another.

Change was the word of the year. From masks to sanitizing after every passenger to bubbles, our precautions changed regularly to keep our passengers and drivers safe.

Our ride numbers remained low until our luck changed again in September. That's when we received a call from CCRCE - they asked if we were able to pick up children from local schools. We were happy to accept!

It was a costly year for vehicles. Henry Ford needed a new transmission and Our Gem needed major drive train repairs. After this makeover, Gem is basically a new van again! We also added another van named Billy's Bus (which has an accessible side step) and we have plans to purchase a hybrid vehicle for next year.

On a bright note, there have been some positives. We received money from the government to reduce costs for seniors and low income passengers. We also grew by 32 passengers, bringing the total number of unique passengers this year to 382 - our highest number yet!

As we close this chapter, all we can do is hope and pray next year will be COVID-free and we can return to growth and lots of rides on the road. Thank you to our wonderful team!





This year, we have had to do things differently. However, many of our regular programs were able to continue with modifications.



While service with the Community Rider slowed down, we only had TWO in service days over the past year with no drives. Many thanks to our dedicated drivers, giving others access to transportation throughout our communities.



Our adult learning classes resumed in September. Classes stayed small throughout the year, enabling us to provide one-on-one support for learners as they navigated the challenges of the pandemic.



We expanded the reach of the community garden this year. While pop up markets were fewer due to restrictions, our community freezer grew in popularity. We also added a cold frame to one of our garden boxes, extending its growing season by months.

**How do cows get
to doctor's
appointments?**

**In the
Com-MOOnity Rider!**

- Sadie, age 6



**2,038 plates of food
324 lunches delivered
11 pop up markets
7 community lunches**



Community Learning was ready to jump in this year wherever needed. We introduced a new online literacy program called Reading Horizons and there were plenty of sessions on technology, booking appointments online and more.

We also changed up our celebration of Family Literacy Day with a scavenger hunt that had families exploring the Enfield and Elmsdale area in search of clues and learning along the way.



While our typical rides were sidelined due to public health restrictions, we found new ways to help our community with the Rider. From delivering groceries and water to assisting with access to vaccines, our vehicles provided a lifeline to those in need of essential transportation.

We've enjoyed each and every meal from the Elmsdale Community Garden and help with Community Rider. They bring it to the door like clockwork.
- Dave Osborne



It was a challenging year for many and we stepped up with new programs to help as many people as possible. Here is a sampling of our newest programs:

Reading Horizons
Family Literacy Day
Community Scavenger Hunt
Spring into Summer
Activity Kits
Community Meals
at the Elmsdale Legion
Room-to-Room Zoom
\$5 Vaccine Transportation



The community garden branched out this year, thanks to new funding. This allowed us to rent space in the Elmsdale Legion and cook up a series of meals for the community. From Chicken Poutine to Fish Chowder, these meals were a big hit and helped raise spirits while folks were stuck at home.





Throughout the last year, our staff, volunteers and supporters have been working tirelessly to help people in our community. Thank you for the amazing work you do.



**Tanya
Burke**



**Hayley
Miller**



**Phil
Laven**



**Tanya
Ashley**



**Jean
Wright**



**Tom
Richard**



**Neil
Barr**



**Dave
Hue**



**Brian
MacInnis**



**Brent
Gallant**



**Mark
Lynch**



**Emily
MacLean**



**Gina
Winfield**



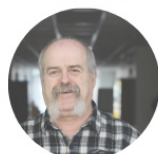
**Caitlin
Patterson**



**Cathy
MacDonald**



**Gennie
Himelman**



**Cecil
Dixon**



**Paula
Wadden**



**Stacey
Harrison**



**Alicia
Wilmot**



**Darlene
MacNeil**

Our Board of Directors have been a great support to us this year. Meeting digitally through Zoom, reviewing adjustments to operations due to the pandemic, and much more. Thank you for helping us get through these challenging times.

JOIN US!

**Volunteer Drivers
Local Gardeners with Extra Produce
Engaged Community Members**

These are just a few of the people we would love to hear from in the year ahead.

Please reach out and let us know if you would like to help our organization reach more people.



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.



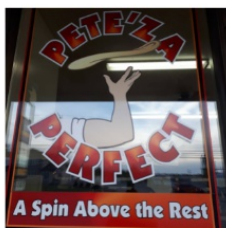
**Department of
Communities,
Culture and Heritage**

**Department of Labour
and Advanced Education**

Department of Seniors



SPECIAL THANKS



Pete'za Perfect

Pete helped us feed over 150 hungry people after our Family Literacy Day Scavenger Hunt.



Elmsdale Auto

Our vans needed A LOT of work this year. Thanks to Elmsdale Auto for always being there for us!



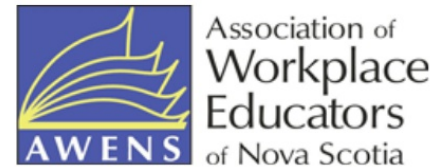
Elmsdale Legion #48

This year, we were able to hold 7 free communities lunches thanks to the Legion's kitchen!



PARTNERS

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





Enfield
Investments



Golden Star
Pizza &
Grocery

The
hearing
Specialists



Ribahi
Brothers



**Thank you for
your support!**

**Connect with us online!
easthantslearning.com**

