

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



East Hants
COMMUNITY RIDER
Making Life Accessible



Elmsdale
COMMUNITY GARDEN
Making Food Accessible



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

LET'S GET GOING!





THE FINISH LINE



This year, we revamped our strategic plan:

MISSION

Empowering individuals to live with a sense of freedom and confidence through accessible learning opportunities, transportation and food security

VISION

The community of East Hants is supported to learn, grow and thrive

VALUES

Collaboration - Community - Integrity - Inclusion - Connection

EHCLA

Registered Learners: 50
Learning Programs: 16

EHCR

KMs: 469,978 ↑ 21%
Rides: 12,271 ↑ 26%
Passengers: 522 ↑ 14%

ECG

Plates of Food: 3,520
Community Lunches: 11
Pop Up Markets: 8
Communities Visited: 5





A FEW CELEBRATORY REMARKS

Well.... it is time to close the books on 2022-2023. It is at this time we celebrate our successes, reflect on our challenges, plan for what comes next, and dream about what we might like to achieve. Our theme for this year's annual report is **"Let's Get Going"** and I think it fits perfectly.


When I wrote last year's message, we were looking toward reuniting with the people and programs we had so badly missed. We also knew that we would need to adapt, collaborate, and grow with the changing times and technology. Over the past year, EHCLA, EHCR and the Elmsdale Community Garden have certainly done that! We have experienced many wonderful accomplishments over the past year that we are excited to highlight in this report, including: a **refreshed Strategic Plan**, a **Corporate Sponsorship Program**, **improved technology**, **increased fleet**, and an **amazing community garden program**. This past year we have experienced an overall increase in those using all of our services.

Recently, I attended a conference. Included in the team-building aspect of the day was a Personality Dimensions activity. Through this activity, participants were able to define their predominant personality style according to a colour. Having experienced this activity in the past, I was not surprised to find that my predominant color is "gold". Folks who present with a strong "gold" color tend to be organized, doers, list makers and get the job done-ers. I also learned that those with strong "gold" skills who function in a leadership role, tend not to just build a team, but build a family. That is so true.



Our EHCLA team is built of amazing, dedicated, caring, compassionate, and empathetic individuals, who do what they do because they care. We are so fortunate and grateful to all of you and all that you contribute to make EHCLA the very best place and East Hants a great place to live.

Please take a few moments to check out our report. I hope, like me, you will feel a sense of pride and accomplishment! Now, **"Let's Get Going"** and see what 2023-2024 will bring.



HAYLEY MILLER
DISPATCHER / ADMIN

TRAVELLING FURTHER

This year saw some big changes for the Community Rider. Our Chevy car, **Tom Cruze**, bit the dust. Thanks to funding from the federal **Rural Transit Solutions Fund** and provincial **ATAP program**, we've grown our fleet with twins: Merle and Pearl, the Ford Escape Hybrids.

We said farewell to **Brent Gallant**, who retired at the end of September. Thanks for your many miles on the road, Brent! We were very fortunate to find two more amazing team mates, **George Morrison** and **Beverly Clarke**.

The Community Rider has been booming, with more rides, passengers and kilometres than ever before! We were grateful to receive funding for the **Fare Assistance Program** again this year, which enabled low-income passengers to travel for less. We also received a one-time investment from the province to help us keep up with rising costs - this was a huge help in an expensive year!

Another area of growth for us was in the transportation of food. Many people used the Community Rider this year to pick up **mobile orders for groceries, meals and more**. It's an efficient way to do shopping and our drivers are happy to help you get it to your door.

As we close another amazing year, we look back on the many people we reached, the kilometres we drove, and the **MANY hours** spent on the phone with passengers. Sometimes, people just need to be heard!

Thank you to everyone that makes our service shine: the drivers, passengers, and our community. We hope next year stays busy, but even more than that, we hope to have more drivers, more vehicles and most importantly, **help more people**.



Meet Pearl & Merle, our twin Ford Escape Hybrids!



- **Mobile Order Pick Up & Delivery**
- **Community Lunch Delivery**
- **\$5 Vaccination Transportation**
- **Fare Assistance Program**
- **Medical Transportation Program**
- **2 Shopping Trips to Mic Mac Mall**
- **Christmas Lights Tour**



This year, we launched a new Corporate Support Program. You can now advertise on our vans!

THANK YOU TO OUR DRIVERS!



Neil Barr



Dave Hue



Brian MacInnis



Brent Gallant



Mark Lynch



George Robertson



Bev Clarke



George Morrison



PHIL LAVEN
COMMUNICATIONS
& PROGRAMS
MANAGER

LEARNING LONGER



Jean
Wright



Tom
Richard



Diana
Stead

What a year it has been! We went from pivoting and adapting our programs to all systems go: it hasn't slowed down since. The Community Learning classes in particular are showing increased interest from a wide variety of people looking to learn the skills they need to succeed.

One of the big shifts this year has been the launch of **classes in Noel and Sipekne'katik**. Tom and Jean have spent many days each month in these communities, increasing **access to skills and learning** and **bringing people together** in the process. I also returned to the classroom on Thursday mornings and led **everyday English classes for newcomers**. It's great to see so much activity in the classroom and we anticipate more to come for next year.

What sticks with me from this year is the joy of seeing people **actively taking part and having fun**. From our Hot Chocolate Holiday Sing-a-long to the knitting group that meets at our office on Wednesdays, there has rarely been a day without folks laughing, smiling and enjoying the great community that we have built here at EHCLA.

- **Adult Learning classes Levels 1-3**
- **GED Preparation**
- **Alphabet Soup in Motion**
- **Digital Literacy Classes**
- **Take Charge of Your Health**
- **First Steps in Weaving**
- **Fly-Tying Sessions**



- **Poster Making and Presentation at the Elmsdale Legion**
- **Hot Chocolate Holiday Sing-a-long**
- **Family Literacy Day Event**
- **Trip to Pier 21**
- **Presentation from Hope for Wildlife**
- **End of Year Party at Oakfield Park**



GROWING QUICKER

TANYA ASHLEY
GARDEN COORDINATOR

Krestin Mosa

Sara Millen

Once again, we saw an increase of people in the community using the garden, its programs and services. Approximately **25% more people** have used the garden this year. The biggest increase we have seen is the use of the community freezer, which has more than doubled. **As many as 60 meals** have gone from the freezer in one day! With the increased cost of groceries, I foresee the usage of the garden and freezer to keep on growing.

We did a **Shopping and Cooking for One** program at the **Noel New Horizon Senior Center** and participated in the **Family Literacy Day** and **Family Picnic** with planting seeds for children to take home. People seem to enjoy pop-up markets and coming to the garden to pick fresh vegetables to take home to enjoy. Several people have said that they are able to get just enough to enjoy with out having to go to the grocery store to purchase more than what they need.

A big part of our success is credit to our garden team, **Sara Millen, Krestin Mosa, Becky Grant** and all of our volunteers. I feel that as the cost of groceries keep increasing, the need for the garden project will continue to grow. Thanks to all for a successful year and I look forward to the upcoming gardening season.

- 12 Garden Boxes
- Harvest Dinner
- Pop Up Markets
- Community Lunches
- Community Freezer Meals
- Seed Planting at the Family Picnic
- Shopping and Cooking for One at Noel New Horizons
- Food Rescues



2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Paula
Wadden**



**Caitlin
Patterson**



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MacDonald**



**Gennie
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**Alicia
Wilmot**



**Stacey
Harrison**



**Leanne
Taylor**



**Leah
MacMillan**

Our Board of Directors has been hard at work plotting our course during these times of flexibility and change. This year, they focused on a new strategic plan and the implementation of our new business plan for the Community Rider.

FUNDERS

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



**Government
of Canada**

**Gouvernement
du Canada**



**CANADIAN
RED CROSS**



PARTNERS

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



2022-2023 CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



Colchester East Hants
Health Centre Foundation
Rooted in community support.



Enhard
Distribution



Golden Star
Pizza &
Grocery

The
hearing
Specialists



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