

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



East Hants
COMMUNITY RIDER
Making Life Accessible

Elmsdale
COMMUNITY GARDEN
Making Food Accessible



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

ALL SYSTEMS GO!

ANALYZING THE DATA



- **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

Learners Across All Programs: 654

Learning Programs: 22

Digital Literacy Sessions: 131



EHCR

KMs: 466,663

Rides: 12,972

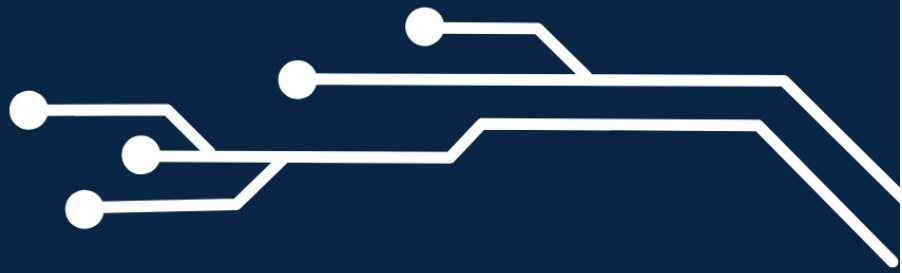
Vehicles: 8

ECG

Plates of Food: 3,926

Community Lunches: 5

Pop Up Markets: 8



TANYA BURKE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A LOOK AT OUR YEAR



The 2024-2025 year at EHCLA has been active with change, growth, challenge and success! Over the past year we have gained a new instructor and driver, created new learning programs, added to our vehicle fleet, and connected with over 17,000 individuals through access to learning programs, transportation or food.

They say change is a good thing. We know change can be hard. Fortunately, here at EHCLA, we are pretty skilled at adapting to our current surroundings. The historic GED program has been retired and we now offer the new Canadian version called Canadian Academic Education Credential. We also experienced a change in instructors which resulted in a delay in getting our programs started. Ed MacDonnell joined the team in November and we ended the year with some real successes in our programs, some new programs under our belt, and a vision for the year ahead.

The East Hants Community Rider program continues to meet the transportation needs of many in our community. We have increased our fleet with a beautiful new Kia EV9. I wish I could report that moving toward electrification has solved all our woes, but not quite. Implementing new EV's into our service

is teaching us lots about managing the vehicle's kilometers for the day. We are learning lots about how charging infrastructure is maintained – or not. We are learning not all chargers are the same. We are also learning that when we can plan the day well, the EV's are proving to benefit the bottom line, plus they are super cool and comfy to drive.

Our Elmsdale Community Garden program is going strong. We are seeing lots of need in our community for access to basic things, food among them. I think my sentiment would be echoed among our other service provider partners that there are lots of people struggling right now and life is expensive. We have seen an increase in accessing our freezer meals like no other year. Our community lunch program continues to be popular and we have tried to offer some different types of food this year including our Syrian and Mexican themed meals.

I am grateful every day that I get to spend my days working with the best people. As a group we are kind, empathetic, strong, talented, and hard-working. I sincerely thank each person who helps us get there!

The theme of this year's annual report is "All Systems Go" and we feel that it reflects our past year. As we look toward 2025 – 2026 I feel confident that we have the team, talent, ideas and aspirations that will work hard to ensure we continue to empower individuals to meet the learning, transportation, and food needs to the best of our resources.

EAST HANTS COMMUNITY LEARNING

OUR LEARNING TEAM:

PHIL LAVEN
COMMUNICATIONS
& PROGRAMS
MANAGER

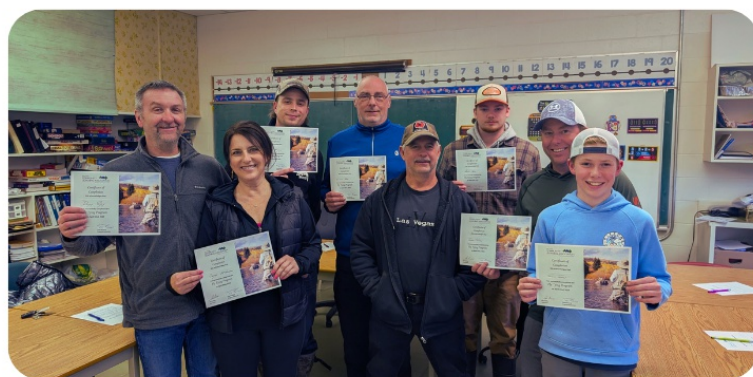
TOM RICHARD
INSTRUCTOR

ED MACDONELL
INSTRUCTOR

East Hants Community Learning went through a lot of change this year. Our longtime instructor Jean Wright decided the time was right to retire. Thank you Jean for your many years of dedication to helping people of all ages in our community. After a few months of searching, we recruited Ed MacDonell to our team. Ed has already taught us much with his background in Gaelic Studies and has been a great fit for our Adult Learning Programs.

This year, we had a great blend of programs:

- **Adult Learning Programs Levels 1-3**
- **CAEC Preparation**
- **Digital Literacy Classes in Elmsdale, Fall River and Noel**
- **Everyday English Classes**
- **Mi'kmaw Language & Culture Conversations (**
- **Dungeons & Dragons Sessions (x7)**
- **Gaelic Classes (x5)**
- **Fly-Tying Sessions**
- **CPR Training Session**



We also hosted a variety of events that brought our community together to learn and have fun:

- **6th Annual Holiday Sing-a-long**
- **A Family Literacy Day Ceilidh**
- **Bowling with CALA in Truro**
- **9th Annual Family Picnic**
- **Tuesday's Topic Weekly Workshops (x10)**

Our Tuesday's Topic Program proved so popular that many of the topics became their own distinct programs. Expect more of these next year!

I really appreciate what you're doing for us. Thanks to your lessons, we have all become friends, we who are people from different countries of different ages and religions.

The school has become a very important place in our lives because of the good attitude of everyone who works there.

- Oksana Spivak



HAYLEY MILLER
DISPATCH / ADMIN

OUR RIDER TEAM:

EAST HANTS COMMUNITY RIDER

FLIPPING THE PAGE TO A NEW CHAPTER

Our team started off this year with a farewell – goodbye to Brian and enjoy your retirement in Cape Breton! In his place, we have added a new driver, Phyl Thomas, who has been a great addition to the team.



**Neil
Barr**



**Dave
Hue**



**Mark
Lynch**



**Bev
Clarke**



**George
Morrison**



**Phyl
Thomas**



Cougar - 2024 Kia EV9

We've also had some changeover in our vehicles. Sadly, our deep red SUV Zoomster had to be retired early. To replace it, we have another fully electric SUV: a black Kia EV9 named Cougar.

Operating EVs as part of a rural transportation service comes with its challenges, especially in the winter. Some of the difficulties we've encountered include:

- Limited numbers of charging stations
- Slow charging at charging stations
- Reduced battery in cold/windy conditions
- Multiple software updates at the dealership

Despite the challenges, these vehicles have proven to be efficient and reliable, with low maintenance costs, cheap charging and lots of miles on the roads.

Outside of our regular operations, we held a few special trips with the Community Rider. We did two Christmas shopping trips to Mic Mac Mall and several weddings this summer.

The Medical Transportation Program was an important part of our service this year. When individuals booked through NS Public Health Transportation, the costs of their transportation were covered by the province. This was a huge help for many individuals and we hope it will continue to support access to medical services in our region.

It's been a busy year and our dispatch team is working hard to fit in as many drives as possible. We see new passengers every week and hope to continue growing our service in East Hants as well as our HRM service area from Enfield to Fall River.

My son uses East Hants Community Rider and it's been a great help to my family. I very much appreciate your services, especially on short notice.

– Jason Martin



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICE:
COMMUNITYRIDER.RURALRIDES.CA



BOOK A RIDE:
902-883-4716

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ELMSDALE COMMUNITY GARDEN

OUR GARDEN TEAM:



TANYA ASHLEY



KRESTIN MOSA



JUNIOR ASHLEY



BECKY GRANT



This is a huge part of the reason why I love living in East Hants. I hope we never lose that loving, helpful, community feel! Thank you so much to everybody that helped put this together.

Your hard work is very much appreciated.

- Angela Robichaud

The Elmsdale Community Garden was more essential than ever this year, close to 4,000 meals served in our community. We have a small but mighty team that gives their all to ensure others have access to healthy food when they need it.



Garden events were bustling, our Community Freezer needed regular refills and we worked hard to find ways to make food more accessible to everyone.



2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is a group of dedicated volunteers that helps guide our organization and ensure that we stay true to our cause. From supporting us at events to policy review and everything in between, our board is there to help us connect to our community and achieve our goals.



Paula
Wadden



Leanne
Taylor



Cathy
MacDonald



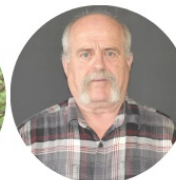
Gennie
Himelman



Caitlin
Patterson



Gina
Winfield



Cecil
Dixon



Alicia
Wilmot



Stacey
Harrison



Leah
MacMillan



Wanda
Hirtle

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EXPLORE THE GARDEN:
224 HIGHWAY 214, ELMSDALE



FIND OUT WHAT'S IN THE FREEZER:
902-883-1608

FUNDERS

EHCLA, EHCR and ECG receive funding from a range of government and community supporters. This funding enables us to deliver free programs and offer subsidized transportation through the Community Rider.

PARTNERS

We strongly value collaboration. We partner with many other organizations, institutions and businesses to help our programs reach further.

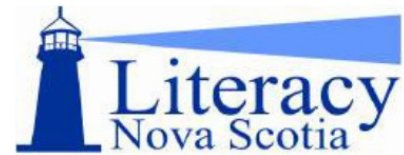
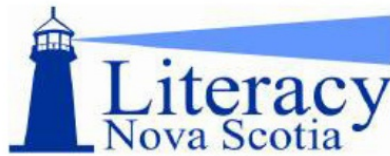


Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



EAST HANTS



2024-2025 CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



Colchester East Hants
Health Centre Foundation
Rooted in community support.




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MLA Hants East

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PROUD TO SUPPORT HANTS EAST



ADD YOUR LOGO TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

WWW.EASTHANTSLEARNING.COM/CORPORATE-SUPPORT