

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



East Hants  
**COMMUNITY RIDER**  
Making Life Accessible



Elmsdale  
**COMMUNITY GARDEN**  
Making Food Accessible



# 2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

## WE RISE AGAIN

# ABOUT US

- **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: 648

Learning Programs & Events: 15

## EHCR

KMs: 439,968

Rides: 11,533

Vehicles: 10

## ECG

Plates of Food: 3,978

Community Lunches: 6

Pop Up Markets: 7

Freezer Refills: 11



# A LOOK AT OUR YEAR

The 2025-2026 year at EHCLA has been filled with activities, events, new programs, new team members and new clients. We continue to work hard to improve our fleet and services so we can better serve our community. Over the past year we have connected with 16,159 individuals through access to learning programs, transportation or food. This is certainly something to celebrate.

The world is experiencing many challenges right now. The cost of living is incredibly high, fuel costs are higher than ever, the news is scary, and our weather is unpredictable. As a funding-based service, this creates extra challenges in an environment that is already resource challenged. Here at EHCLA, we are pretty skilled at stretching a dollar, but we are feeling the high costs also.

We greatly appreciate every funding dollar we receive, particularly from the Province of Nova Scotia's NSSAL and CTAP funding programs, as well as the Municipality of East Hants, the HRM Rural Transit fund and the Federal Rural Transportation Solutions Fund. Our community is a place where "we live it" when we all work together to make sure the things people need and want exist.

EHCLA's mission is to empower individuals to live with a sense of freedom and confidence. Our organization's culture and work environment is among our strongest qualities. We work with the BEST!



As a group we are a kind, empathetic, strong, talented, and hard-working. Independently, we can achieve a lot. Together, we can outdo our own expectations.

Our volunteers are amazing! EHCLA, EHCR, and ECG host a large number of events each year. Our Board of Directors meet most months to govern, guide and inspire us. I sincerely thank each person who supports our mission and brings their passion and volunteerism to our doors so we can return it to the community!

The theme of this year's annual report is "We Rise Again". As we look toward 2026-27, I feel confident that we have the team, talent and ideas. We will continue to empower individuals to overcome barriers to learning, transportation, and food needs and help our community rise even higher.

# EAST HANTS COMMUNITY LEARNING

## OUR LEARNING TEAM:



East Hants Community Learning continued to support lifelong learning and skill development for adult learners in East Hants and beyond. Our small class sizes and flexible programming engaged learners in a way that suited them and provided opportunities to build their literacy, numeracy, digital skills, and essential skills. This year we successfully offered a variety of events and programs in addition to our core offerings:

- **Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) Preparation**
- **Skills for the Workforce**
- **Communications for Life in Nova Scotia**
- **Digital Literacy Classes in Elmsdale & Fall River**
- **Community Cafe Information Sessions (x31)**
- **Tuesday Topics Weekly Workshops (x24)**
- **Mi'kmaw Language & Culture Conversations (x10)**
- **Dungeons & Dragons Sessions (x7)**
- **Gaelic Sessions (x10)**
- **Drop-in Sessions on Quality of Life Survey**
- **5th Annual Holiday Sing-a-long**
- **Pizza vs. Pasta Family Literacy Day Event**
- **Trip to the Museum of Natural History**
- **10th Annual Family Picnic**

Overall, we continue to be committed to learner empowerment through literacy, the confidence it fosters, and the benefits it brings to individuals and communities. See you all in September!



This year, our new Tuesday afternoon Community Cafe & Community Provider Information Sessions have been successful with well-attended, interesting programming delivered by representatives from the Alzheimer Society Nova Scotia, Caregivers Nova Scotia, NS Health, and many other organizations. We look forward to expanding this model next year to create more opportunities for skills upgrading and community connections.





**HAYLEY MILLER**  
DISPATCH / ADMIN



**BRENT GALLANT**  
DISPATCHER

# EAST HANTS COMMUNITY RIDER

## OUR RIDER TEAM:

This year was challenging at times, but we made it through with a lot to be proud of.

In December, one of East Hants Community Rider's very first drivers let us know he was retiring. Dave Hue drove with us for 19 years and travelled over a million kilometres on the road with us. Thank you for always being there for us, Dave!

With big shoes to fill, we recruited two new drivers: Karie and Kristina. Welcome to the team, both of you!

We also received funding to grow our fleet. We added two new vehicles: a 2025 Toyota Sienna mini-van named Sunny and a 2025 Toyota Corolla Cross named Toto. This brings our total number of vehicles to 10: the most we've ever had.

A major highlight for this year was providing transportation for Tide Fest. Three of our drivers stayed up late to give rides home to 64 people over the course of two days. We're so glad we could assist!



**Neil Barr**



**Mark Lynch**



**Bev Clarke**



**Phyl Thomas**



**Karie Pye**



**Kristina Butler**



**Sunny - 2025 Toyota Sienna**



**Toto - 2025 Toyota Corolla Cross**

The Community Rider also made a difference through food delivery this year. Whether it was freezer meals from the Community Garden, a hot Community Lunch cooked by our garden team, or food orders from the Food Bank, our drivers have helped make food more accessible in our community.

With more drivers and vehicles, we are looking to increase our service delivery wherever possible. This is an unfamiliar feeling for us, as we have had limited availability in recent years. We are excited to start booking more rides and being able to connect with more people in all the communities we serve.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICE:**  
[COMMUNITYRIDER.RURALRIDES.CA](http://COMMUNITYRIDER.RURALRIDES.CA)



**BOOK A RIDE:**  
902-883-4716

# ELMSDALE COMMUNITY GARDEN

## OUR GARDEN TEAM:



TANYA ASHLEY



JUNIOR ASHLEY



KRESTIN MOSA



BECKY GRANT



The Elmsdale Community Garden continued to deliver much needed food support to our community this year. Our Community Freezer was particularly busy, with frequent refills and top ups. Many of our pop up markets were held in partnership with other organizations, helping us connect individuals with food and a range of support services available in the area.

We also hosted our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Picnic and 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner this year. It's amazing to see these ideas grow into much loved community events. The Harvest Dinner was held off site at Cup of Soul for the first time. It was a great success in both logistics and turnout.

As a project which relies on donations and one-off grants, we are always amazed at the impact our garden and its team can have in the community.

## 2025-2026 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



Alicia  
Wilmot



Stacey  
Harrison



Gina  
Winfield



Leah  
MacMillan



Wanda  
Hirtle



Linda  
Wood

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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.

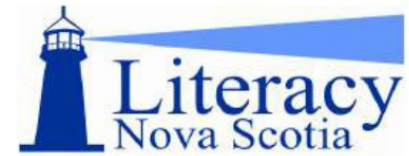
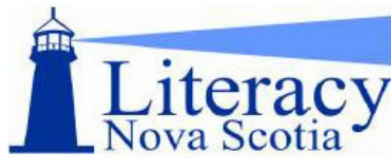
# PARTNERS

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



# 2025-2026 CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



ALL CLEAR SEPTIC SERVICES



Colchester East Hants  
Health Centre Foundation  
*Rooted in community support.*



Be Happy!  
EHFRC

East Hants  
Writer's  
Group

East Hants & Districts  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



HalifaxStanfield



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PROUD TO SUPPORT HANTS EAST

Jordan  
Taylor  
Productions



**ADD YOUR LOGO TO OUR SUPPORTERS:**

[WWW.EASTHANTSLEARNING.COM/CORPORATE-SUPPORT](http://WWW.EASTHANTSLEARNING.COM/CORPORATE-SUPPORT)