

COMMUNITY LIVING ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH SIMCOE

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

7:00 p.m., September 20, 2016

Resource Centre

125 Dufferin Street South, Alliston

**Welcome**

Thomas Eagan

Thomas Eagan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the following guests: Mary Small-Brett, Mayor, Adjala-Tosorontio; Garror Sands, Truster Zweig; and Derek Lederer, Truster Zweig, Auditor.

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

John Green

John Green presented the minutes of the September 8, 2015 Annual General Meeting.

(i) Motion

"that the minutes of the September 8, 2015, meeting be accepted as presented."

Moved: Cindy Brent

Seconded: Shirley True

Carried.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no old or new business arising from the minutes.

2. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*President's Report*

Thomas Eagan

It's been another wonderful year for CLASS! Most important, we have been able to welcome five new people to the CLASS. Jonathan who now lives in our Tottenham house; Vanessa, Krista, Ryan and Dawn who have moved into our new house located in Everett. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to welcome them to the CLASS family. I know that together with their staff they will flourish and they will have every opportunity to fulfill their potential. Yes you heard correctly, we have purchased a house in Everett. We have been able to do so because of the success that we have had with our fundraising efforts. Specifically, I want to point to the very successful golf tournament that we had last year where we raised about \$45,000. I also want to mention Mr. Lou Biffis from the Nottawasaga Foundation, who donated an additional \$10,000, and Honda, who donated an additional \$10,000.00 to make the necessary renovations to the house.

Increasing the capacity at CLASS is positive in many respects. First and foremost, we have been able to provide homes for people who have been on the ever-growing waiting list of people with intellectual disabilities, who need supports. Unfortunately, this waiting list is in excess of 5,000 people across Ontario. Not only does this expansion enhance our capacity to support more people, it allows CLASS to contribute to the economical growth of our community. I am proud to say that currently CLASS employs more than 250 staff. With over 19 physical locations, our need for goods and services continues to support local businesses.

Two years ago, I spoke about some of the challenges with which CLASS has had to deal. One of those challenges related to the pay equity legislated obligations that were forced on our agency and our sister agencies

across the province. In accordance with the legislation, CLASS and its employees developed a multi-year year plan to provide wage enhancements of 1% a year above and beyond negotiated settlements. When the Pay

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Equity legislation was first enacted, the Ontario government provided the funds to meet those obligations. During the past six years, the funds were no longer forthcoming. As a result, CLASS and the majority of other agencies in Ontario did not have the funds to meet their obligation so the liability kept growing. Two years ago, CLASS was ordered by the Pay Equity Commission to pay up. At that time, CLASS owed back pay of over \$700,000.00 and a 5% increase across the board. It was a challenging time.

Today I am happy to report that CLASS has met all of its pay equity obligations and is again in good financial shape. We are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a four-year collective agreement and our books are balanced. Happy days are here again.

Our most recent challenge is to adapt to major changes in the way the government of Ontario provides financial supports to people with intellectual disabilities. Historically, funds were provided to agencies to develop services. Although this funding model is still here, the trend is for the government to provide the financial resources directly to the people needing support, who then can purchase whatever services they choose from a provider of their choice. This allows people to tailor their supports. This is a good thing because people will get what they want. It is also a challenge for agencies because if and when the majority of revenue is generated through a fee-for-service, the operating budget becomes uncertain from year to year which may have a de-stabilizing impact. Currently, CLASS' operating budget includes approximately \$400,000 that is classified as fee-for-service, and thus, subject to the will of the people purchasing the service. We anticipate that this will grow rapidly. Our job is to ensure that we are responsive and capable of meeting the needs of people purchasing services.

Aside from our adult services, CLASS operates the Resource Teacher Program. This program provides services to pre-school aged children who are considered at risk of having a delay. The program focuses on assisting children to get ready to have a successful transition into the classroom. Our teachers work with families and daycare centres to develop appropriate strategies to help the children. This program also acts as a way for CLASS to meet families and children, who will likely need the services of CLASS as they get older. Funding for the Resource Teacher Program comes from Simcoe County.

During the past year, the County of Simcoe has been moving towards consolidating all the Resource Teacher Programs under the management of one central agency. CLASS has argued that this move will not result in either cost savings or improve the service. In fact, we believe that it will result in reduced sensitivity to families who live in our community and take away our opportunity to get to know the people who we will need to serve when they are older. We will know the specific of this restructuring in the next few months.

On a personal note, my involvement with CLASS has truly opened my eyes to the contributions made to the community by the people that we support. I have become aware that the people, who live at CLASS, can be productive members in our society especially when they are given the opportunity. Often we see people with disabilities as being "unable". But I have seen Dan working at the reception area greeting me and others while answering business calls. I have witnessed people we support assisting customers at Zehrs. I am aware of an individual who is terrific with young children and often cares for them. I have been impressed with the team of individuals who operate a successful co-operative business making and selling dog biscuits. I see people we support making a living mowing lawns and shovelling snow. Have you seen the photography hanging on the walls of the lobby in this building? It's beautiful art produced by a person with a developmental disability who lives in our community. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention Ann, who will give you the best advice if you are looking for a bargain in our shops. I can go on and on and on about successful individuals with a

developmental disability making good! I want to thank them and CLASS for giving me the opportunity to have had this experience.

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Unfortunately, business people appear to be leery to hire people with disabilities. I urge them all to give this a second thought. Businesses and our work readiness-training program have partnered to ensure that the proper conditions are created for the people we support to be successful at work.

I would also like to applaud the volunteers who help out. To mention a couple, we will miss Dr. Margaret Hurst and Marjorie Miedema, who are retiring from the Board of Directors. They have worked hard over the years. CLASS wouldn't be the agency we are today without our volunteers.

I also would like to thank the staff and management. Without them, CLASS wouldn't be here. ....

(ii) Motion

"that the President's Report be accepted as presented."

Moved: Janet Knight  
Seconded: Cindy Brent

Carried.

#### Treasurer's Report

Al Dresser

Throughout the year, the Finance Committee was chaired by Tom Eagan on behalf of myself, Al Dresser, Treasurer, with support from Colleen Butler and John Green as well as staff support from Vito Facciolo, Carolyn Garton, and Debbie Zimmer.

The purpose of this committee is to monitor and review all resources and recommendations that have financial implications for the Association on behalf of the Board.

At each meeting, the financial statements for the month end were reviewed and variances explained. This included reviewing the current cash position and donations received.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS THAT WARRANT SPECIAL MENTION:**

During the year, CLASS responded to several emergencies within our community, of individuals, who could no longer be supported by their primary care givers and required residential care. This agency is extremely grateful to the Central Coordination Committee, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), and various children's services, which provided the financial support necessary to provide quality care under these unexpected and challenging circumstances.

In fiscal year 2015/2016, CLASS received close to **\$300,000** in additional funding from the Ministry! This one-time funding was used to cover the cost of building improvements such as magnetic lock systems, sprinkler systems, roof repairs, and septic system replacements.

#### Fundraising

- CLASS' annual fundraiser golf tournament, hosted at the Nottawasaga in August 2015 raised in excess of \$43,000! Much thanks to all of those who continue to support this annual fundraiser through their participation and gifts.

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- The Nottawasaga Foundation for their generous donation of \$8,500;
- Tottenham United Church for their donation of \$4,500 to subsidize CLASS' Preschool Program;
- the Townships of New Tecumseth and Essa for their continued support; and
- Pizza-Pizza who donated \$5,000 to help subsidize our Bradford Day Program.

- In all, the **GROSS** amount raised and received via donations during the year was in excess of \$105,000.

(iii) Motion

"that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented."

Moved: Janet Knight

Seconded: Betty Galbraith

Carried.

3.

### AUDITOR'S REPORT

Derek Lederer

It was noted our reports are unchanged from one year to the next.

(iv) Motion

**"that the financial statements and the Auditor's Report be accepted as presented."**

Moved: Marjorie Miedema

Seconded: Cindy Brent

Carried.

4.

### RESOLUTIONS

(v) Motion

**"that the firm of Truster Zweig LLP, Chartered Accountants, be accepted as the Association Auditors for the 2016-2017 financial year".**

Moved: Tom Eagan

Seconded:

Mary Munnoch

Carried.

(vi) Motion

**"that the acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, elections, appointments and payments, whether enacted or not, made, done and taken by Directors and Officers of the Association since the last Annual General Meeting, September 8, 2015, and the same are hereby approved, ratified, and**

**confirmed."**

Moved: Betty Galbraith  
Seconded: Cindy Brent

Carried.

5.

## **BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

Colleen Butler

Colleen Butler presented every change, addition, and deletion, and made explanations why the changes were made to the membership.

- (vii) Motion
  - “that the changes to the CLASS Bylaws be approved as presented.”
  - Moved: Betty Galbraith
  - Seconded: Mary Lou Osborne
  - Carried.

6. **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**  
 Ron Parsons

Ron Parsons reviewed the profiles of the Board members standing for re-election: Colleen Butler and Allan Dresser.

New Board member nominees are Cindy Brent, Dr. Matthew Myatt, and Mary-Lou Osborne. Profiles were distributed to the membership.

- (viii) Motion
  - “that the report of the Nominations Committee be accepted as presented.”**
  - Moved: Marjorie Miedema
  - Seconded: Janet Knight
  - Carried.

- (ix) Motion
  - “that all nominees be elected and inducted onto the Board of Directors.”**
  - Moved: Betty Galbraith
  - Seconded: Janet Knight
  - Carried.

6. **INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS** Mary Small  
 Brett

Mary Small Brett, Mayor of Adjala-Tosorontio, told the membership what an honour it was to install the Board and thanked the Board members for volunteering their time. The Board was installed with all the Board members reading the installation commitment.

7. **WALL OF HONOUR** Marjorie  
 Miedema

Marjorie Miedema spoke about the recipient of the Wall of Honour award. Margaret Bricknell was recognized for her commitment to CLASS for over 40 years. The Wall of Honour plaque was unveiled to show her name.

8. **SELF-ADVOCACY GROUP**

David Trache

My name is David Trache and I have been part of CLASS for 12 years. Since I've moved in, my life has changed a lot. All I did before I came to CLASS was work. Now, I go bowling, to the walking track, cat sit, and I am part of Self Advocates. Self Advocates is a group where we can get together to talk about our rights and improvements we would like to see made.

I believe my opinion is heard and matters as a member of CLASS. I really feel like a part of the community and that is important to me. CLASS is helping me live my life where I am independent and I hope that CLASS can continue to be part of the lives of others like it has to mine.

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9. **PARENTS' ADVOCACY SUPPORT GROUP**

Janet Knight

Janet Knight spoke on behalf of the Parents' Advocacy Support Group (PASG). The PASG has now joined with another group, Lives in Motion. Janet spoke about how the group meets to find solutions to problems affecting families and how difficult and frustrating it was to find services for family members, especially when there are funds available but no services. The group also meets to learn about new ideas and means to support your family members within developmental services through various speakers attending the meeting over the year. The next speaker will be Colleen Butler and the topic will be about Guardianship. All advocates, parents, and guardians are encouraged to join every second Tuesday of the month.

10. **NEW PROPERTY**

John Green

At the end of the evening, it was announced CLASS had just bought a new house in Wasaga Beach pending Board approval and inspections. The purpose of this house will be to support those supported by CLASS requiring respite care and vacations. Janet Knight, PASG, had spoke on the difficulty to get services whenever they were needed; Respite care, vacations, etc. Vito assured everyone that CLASS will own the building and there are needed to be many things worked out at this time.

11. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

(ix) Motion

**“that the meeting adjourn.”**

Moved:

Carried.

Mary Munnoch thanked everyone for coming on behalf of the Board of Directors and adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

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Thomas Eagan  
President

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Vito Facciolo  
Executive Director