



... building on the L'Arche model in Newfoundland and Labrador

AUGUST 2014



BUILDING BLOCKS NEWS

Here in Newfoundland, one of the questions frequently asked is “whaddya at?” To answer that question, here is Building Blocks News – a publication of Cornerstone Housing Society. Some of you may be wondering where we are in the process of becoming a L’Arche community and if we are making any progress. We are indeed making progress as we continue to lay down the building blocks of our organization. But we need the continued support both of our membership and wider interest group to ensure this dream becomes reality.



Our founding Board of Directors was elected at the first AGM held April 5, 2014. Board Members include Brian Dawe, David Buckley, Don Rowe, Evelyn Friesen, Jane Pippy, Lewis Andrews, Marilyn Bruce, Mel Friesen and Peter Barnes. At the inaugural meeting of the Board, the executive of the Board was formed with Evelyn Friesen, Chair; Lewis Andrews, Vice Chair; Don Rowe, Secretary; Mel Friesen, Treasurer. Additionally, Paul McCarthy has joined us in a consultative role as Accountant.

The Board meets the second Thursday of each month. Decisions made to this point have been primarily of an organizational nature.

- Ratified the by-laws
- Identified skills and interests of Board members for future committee work. Committees will include both Board and Society members.
- Signed a Conflict of Interest policy
- Decided to follow best practice of requiring Certificate of Conduct and Vulnerable Sector checks for Board members. In future those checks will be mandatory for employees and volunteers (including committee members) who have contact with core members.
- Met informally with Raphael Amato, former Community Leader with L’Arche Ottawa.
- Began work on a presentation package
- Worked with Jenn Power in developing a community mandate (more info below)
- Discussed timelines
- Decided that the minimum donation eligible to receive a tax receipt is \$20



FINANCES

Mel Friesen, Paul McCarthy and Spiro Angelopoulos form the Finance Committee. George Warren with GW Tax is the Auditor.

- Set up Sage 50 Accounting processes
- Registered with CANADA HELPS to accept on-line donations through website www.cornerstonehousingsociety.ca
- Set up a receipting system using DONATION software



FUNDRAISING

Charitable Donations received to date: \$ 7936.77 with \$5,000 of that designated for Community Leader Fund. A fundraising committee will be established. We will also apply for grants and other offerings from organizations and individuals who wish to support Cornerstone and L'Arche in Newfoundland and Labrador. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and dollars! If you have experience writing grant applications and proposals, we would love to hear from you.

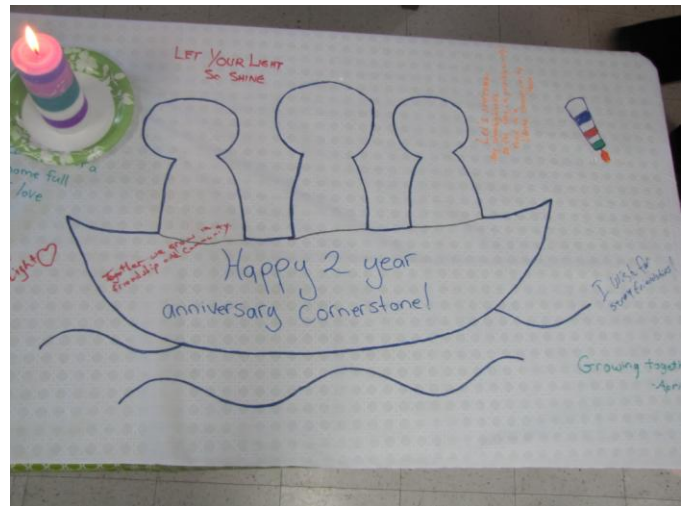


BUILDING COMMUNITY BY GATHERING TOGETHER



COMMUNITY MANDATE

On June 9th and 10th, and continuing on August 16th, the Board and other interested members met with Jenn Power, L'Arche Atlantic regional leader, to work on developing a community mandate, a required step for a L'Arche Community. This was an intense reflective process in which we had to examine ourselves, our motives, and our ideas as we identified what we believe is the call of Cornerstone Housing Society as we work to establish a L'Arche community in Newfoundland and Labrador. It was also a valuable exercise in coming together as a group to listen to each other and to grow in understanding. The community mandate will be the framework for our future, including (we anticipate with hope and faith) being named a "L'Arche Project."





NEXT COMMUNITY GATHERING
Sunday, September 21st
4:30 pm at Rotary Sunshine Park



CONNECTING TO L'ARCHE

August 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of L'Arche and celebrations are on-going in Canada and in L'Arche communities world-wide. The Atlantic region is celebrating the third weekend of October with activities and events in Halifax starting Friday, October 17 and wrapping up Sunday, October 19. What a terrific opportunity for folks from Cornerstone to join with our regional L'Arche community to celebrate. Adrian, Mel and Evelyn plan to be there and would be delighted to share this celebration with others from Cornerstone. Please consider it, and let Evelyn know if you will be there. Maybe we can get matching t-shirts! What a great chance to connect with – and begin to identify with – core members, assistants, and community leaders from Cape Breton, Antigonish, Wolfville, Saint John, Fredericton, and Halifax.



GREETINGS

To our own April Stapleton, living the life as a L'Arche assistant at L'Arche Beloeil, Quebec.



Congratulations to Meagan and Ben who celebrated their wedding on July 26th!



EDUCATING OURSELVES AND OTHERS ABOUT L'ARCHE

There are really two ways to educate oneself – you can learn it or you can live it! Cornerstone has a small collection of L'Arche related writings and media materials which are available for loan and displayed at every gathering. And we are pleased that a good number of our group are exploring L'Arche communities when they leave Newfoundland for vacation or business. (Thank you to all those communities which so generously welcome our curiosity and questions!) Here are a couple more options:

- The current (July-August 2014) issue of The Economist Intelligent Life magazine features a fresh look at Jean Vanier and L'Arche in an article entitled "Jean of Ark." Intelligent Life is available at Chapters and through the link: http://www.larche.org/en/news/2014-06-30_article_about_larche_in_intelligent_life
- St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia offers a **Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies** through distance education. Also suggested for personal enrichment, this course was designed in cooperation with L'Arche and "is a progressive way of addressing some of the toughest challenges in the field of disability and assisted living." For more info visit: <http://www.sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/INDS>



WELCOME

To those recent L'Arche assistants who are in Newfoundland ~ Catherine Snow, Elissa Gazel, Meagan White, Naomi Cousins, Sarah McMeekin, Ben Anderson.

Cornerstone Housing Society

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CRA Charitable Registration Number 81025 5042 RR0001

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