

## Presidents Report November 22, 2023 – Elizabeth Klassen

Good evening and thank you all for attending this year's AGM. I have enjoyed serving as CCWN's President over the last year, and look forward to my 5<sup>th</sup> year on this Board. Once again, this year's report is a joint effort between myself and our Executive Director, Carole Fuhrer. When compiling this review, it reinforced that CCWN has been very productive and continues to move the needle on the ambitious strategic priorities we had set out for ourselves. As there is so much, I will highlight samples our accomplishments in bullet-form:

### Governance

We have been officially open now for 1 year after our building renovations and resuming in-person service to the public. Our Board has also resumed consistent, in person meetings and for those unable to attend in person, we have thankfully acquired technology to accommodate virtual/hybrid meetings with great thanks to David Thompson and his expertise. Carole and I have met, talked with and toured our facility with all members of our local Town Council. This was a very valuable interaction.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters have initiated a West Niagara office here sharing space in our facility. Niagara Community Legal Clinic Services provides regular clinics on site and Niagara Region Public Health Clinic offers clinics here as well.

FEED Niagara is operating and being fostered via our Vineland location, supporting its strategic growth. We are extremely grateful for CAA Niagara's formidable support and 10-year commitment to FEED Niagara, and also for recognizing Stewart's Leadership with an award.

### Finance

In the area of finance, we have opened a Savings Account, Lottery Account, and Trust Account. We have raised CCWN's inter-account transfer limits, and re-invested our GIC's. We have also contributed to our Endowment Fund.

### Human Resources

We have reviewed and increased CCWN's standard work week to 40 hours, recognizing the need for greater staff supports. We also updated the overall staff compensation framework. All current CCWN staff positions support the recommendations of Living Wage Niagara. We have grown our team by welcoming 5 new members to the team (Nicole, John, Dora, Paula, and Emma) and we also want to thank Lynda and Carole for tenure, enduring leadership in their roles, mentoring of new staff members, and dedication to those in our community requiring our assistance.

### Building

We have now completed construction of the Elevator and obtained a PASS when TSSA inspected it. The infamous water shut off that mysteriously didn't exist has been located in partnership with the Town and a little nudging from a Councillor on our board. The Backflow preventer #2 was installed successfully and we replaced the Rooftop HVAC system. We have also replaced the Walk in Cooler and the Walk in Freezer.

### Marketing

With such a need in our community, we have integrated Vineland Location into CCWN as a core service. It is well established now in the Vineland area and are hosting the activities for the Great Holiday Food Drive there.

We created and distributed a promotional piece (door hanger) to strategically increase awareness about Lion's Food Drive. We have continued the lengthy and multi-stepped process of having the CCWN Logo Trademarked. Our Board has also renewed CCWN's expression of interest re: BDSS Community Hub, to reinforce our commitment to remain a leader in our community, serving the most vulnerable members of our community.

## Task Forces

We conducted a comprehensive Insurance Review and updated coverage limits for a number of envelopes. In partnership with the Lincoln Lions, we initiated Lincoln Catch the Ace fundraiser. The dedication of our staff supported the additional time that was required to run this fundraiser. We also educated ourselves on the ONCA requirements to inform CCWN's future policy work and thank Jean and Carole for their commitment on this work.

A big thank you goes out to all the Committee and Task Force Chairs for helping all of us to remain focused and on track. Some of the initiatives were ongoing, and some were brand new to us, and we are stronger because of your leadership. Thank you to Dave, JD, Stewart, Jean and of course, ... our friend ... Rich.

Speaking of Rich - brings me to thoughts on the value we each bring to this Board. Losing Rich, has left a hole in our hearts but also on our Board. His kindness, humour and dedication to CCWN is something we can all strive for.

This brings me to Carole. Just a few words, so as not to center you out...most of all I want to thank you for your unending contributions to CCWN. You are an amazing ED which makes it easier for all of us as Board members to look like we have amazing governance. Your vision, strategic planning and allegiance to what CCWN represents in the community is remarkable. You have staying power and commitment even in the most tenuous situations, and your dedication and loyalty to CCWN has paid off for our community and this Board. It's not enough to thank you for your leadership and vision for CCWN.

Every great leader also has a supportive team. Lynda, we can't thank you enough for your energy and contributions to CCWN and Nicole, Emma, Dora John, and Paula have all become very valuable staff members in a very short time. We thank you for being part of the CCWN team!

None of what we do and to the caliber that we do it would happen without the tenacity, dedication, time and contributions of our volunteers. You are vital to what happens at Community Care of West Niagara. You play an important role in the direct service to our clients. You make the ideas sparked from CCWN staff and transition into action. You play a vital role in how we are able to impact our community and we graciously thank you for all you do.

I would like to extend a warm welcome (BACK to the Board) to:

- Phil Rose

And I would like to "welcome back" the following CCWN Board members for another year of service together: Jean Brohman; Stewart Capell; Christine Manuel, Paul Litschko, JD Pachereva; Stuart Reimer; LeighAnne Siebert and Dave Thompson. I look forward to working with you, and our new Board member over the coming year.

As we wrap up fiscal year 2022-2023, I wanted to take a bit of time to acknowledge the incredible impact that Rich (Richard Gark) had on CCWN. My sense is that we are all in agreement that Rich leaned into every aspect of the inner and outer workings of our organization. He was always willing to share, participate, contribute not only at the Board table, but also – in the day to day of CCWN. Rich ensured that all and each of us were keenly aware that he was paying attention, and most importantly – that he cared.

Over time, we will work together to establish a way to recognize Rich in the weeks to come. Something that would be meaningful to him, and we have already exchanged some possible ideas. For now, we have assembled a section entitled "Remembering Richard Gark" to ensure he is captured in our history.

I am confident that together, 2024 will be full of positive opportunities for us to serve residents of Lincoln as we strive towards our vision of "Growing our Community Beyond Hunger".

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Klassen  
President, CCWN

November 22, 2023

# Remembering Richard Gark

1947 - 2023



## Rich's Celebration of Life – November 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Obituary of Richard Archie Gark

Gark, Richard Archie - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Rich on Sunday, October 22, 2023.

He is survived by his cherished son, Christopher Graham and his wife Meg, his granddaughter Ella Marie, who was the "light of his life", step-grandsons Tavis and Jaxon Pozzobon, his beloved companion B.J. Romans, his nephews and their families.

He is predeceased by his wife Cathy (Stasiw) Gark, parents Anna McMillan and Lester Gark, sister Leslee and brother Gord.

He will be remembered not only for his extreme generosity, sage advice, and sense of humour, but most of all for his dedication to family and service within his community.

Rich you have set the bar high, and touched many lives.  
Please know you are forever loved and always remembered.  
Rest in peace.



Rich's Last Formal Photograph – June 2023



Rich celebrating CCWN Grand Re-Opening – September 9<sup>th</sup> 2022



Rich celebrating at Good Earth Cooking Kitchen November 2021





**A Moment with Rich – from CCWN Archives 2003**



**Mayor's Levee in 2008**

*Carole is trying to source a better version – tbd*

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## *PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

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Over the course of this past year Community Care of West Niagara has continued to strengthen its relationship with the community. We continue to look for ways to add value to those who need our services and to ensure that the service we offer clearly matches the needs of the area.

During the past two years, the complexion of the Board Members has changed dramatically. The Board members represent a broad cross section of the community; each member adding their own flavour to the mix. Thanks for your input and participation.

On behalf of the Board we wish to recognise the professional leadership of our Chief Executive Officer, Betty-Lou Souter, and our ongoing partnership with St Catharines Community Care. This partnership was very timely when implemented and continues to be an integral part of the development of Community Care of West Niagara. We would be remiss in not recognizing the caring management of Elisabeth Zimmermann as well as the enthusiastic work of Cheryl Scott and Diane Vail.

On behalf of the Board I would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the volunteers who so selflessly give of their time. Our volunteers are an enthusiastic group, each determined to help improve the lives of others. They clearly demonstrate that being a volunteer for Community Care adds to the quality of life in West Niagara.

Finally, on behalf of Community Care of West Niagara I would like to express our thanks to Michael Ensley who is stepping down. Michael has served on the Board of Directors since 1999 and as its President from 2000 through 2004. Michael guided our organization through some trying times. He was instrumental in negotiating the current successful relationship with St Catharines Community Care. Decisions made by the Board during his tenure have assured the ongoing health of Community Care and its ability to provide help to those in need. Well done Michael!

Rich Gark  
President

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***BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005***

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