



ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Ontario Early Years Centre

Client Services

Reach Out Centre

The Job Centre

The Learning Centre

The Training Centre

Niagara Youth Justice Committee

Development Office

Mission Statement:

A community organization that provides leadership,
support and resources to improve quality of life

**Port Cares Board of Directors
2008 - 2009**

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Charline Hellinga

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Bob Saracino (ex officio region)

Executive Director's Report

This year has been an exciting year for Port Cares as we stepped into uncharted territory with a number of new initiatives. For the first time we purchased property, held a successful inaugural SoupFest to bring awareness to the issue of poverty in our community, began a transitional housing program, worked to bring the First Family Literacy Day event to the area and assisted in bringing an accessible transit service to Port Colborne/Wainfleet.

After renting space for over five years from the Knights of Columbus at 61 Nickel Street Port Cares purchased the building last October. The location of the property in the East Village has been identified as part of The Three Bridges neighborhood in a recent Regional Niagara mapping process. This neighborhood has been identified as a high priority area requiring attention while lacking many resources and services and having many identified risk factors. Sole support parents make up 27.8 % of the population in comparison to 17.3% in other areas of the Region. Port Cares applied for funding, made available by the Region through the Prosperity Projects, to do community development and increase resources in this area.

This year also saw the beginning of a strategy to provide transitional housing in the community. Port Cares has long identified the need for more affordable, suitable housing to those in the community who are making significant changes in their lives. We are very pleased to be partnering with the Regional Municipality of Niagara through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy in this project.

Port Cares received a Trillium grant to renovate and create a fully accessible washroom, entrance and walkway at our property at 176 Catharine Street. This building is rented to the District School Board of Niagara and the Young Carers Initiative for their Powerhouse Project.

The Agency underwent a Human Resource study which assisted us in developing a new and long needed compensation framework for all staff. We have seen a number of staff move to new positions internally and for the first time in our history we applied for and received three Job Creation partnership “staff” that are assisting with and increasing our outreach.

It has been a year of unparalleled increase in client numbers in all programs. Staff have been skillfully and determinedly working with the resources that they have at their disposal to meet the increased needs. Although we did experience a decrease in our allotment from the United Way this year the generosity of the community along with the collective efforts of our resourceful staff and our willing volunteers, have made it possible to meet many needs and provide the resources that assist to build a stronger community.

Respectfully submitted by: Lynda Reinhart, Executive Director

Board of Directors

Once again it has been a very busy year for the board and staff of Port Cares as we purchased 61 Nickel Street which is where the Reach Out Services are located, and 176 Catharine Street, which is directly next door to our main location on Charlotte Street. The purchase of these buildings will help create a foundation for the future by establishing equity within our organization and allowing us more control over our own direction. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Executive Director and staff members who participated on the various committees as this was a very time consuming process for everyone involved as numerous meetings were required to make the necessary decisions.

As I have stated in the past the needs of our community will only increase in the future given the present economic conditions, this has been demonstrated with the huge increase in demands being placed on our Reach Out Services over the past year. Based on this we have applied for infrastructure funding from both the Provincial and Federal Governments to allow us to expand the building at 61 Nickel Street and increase our ability to meet the needs of the people we provide services to.

It is my opinion that the focus of the next Board has to be Fund Development. We cannot continue to rely solely on the program funding if we are to survive in these very difficult times. Based on this, we are presenting a full slate

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of prospective Board Members to accomplish the goals that will be set. I am very excited about the board prospects that will be before you and urge you to make your decision based on what is best for Port Cares.

If I have learned anything in my time with Port Cares it is that this organization is a very vital part of this community and that the services that are provided make a difference in so many people's lives. The Executive Director, staff, and volunteers of Port Cares are a unique group of people who truly believe in what they do and the difference they make and we should be proud of all of them.

In closing, my time as Chair is coming to an end; it is hard for me to believe how fast the time has gone. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for the dedication put forth by them, especially over the very busy and demanding past two years.

As always, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming fundraising auction.

Respectfully submitted by: Mike Bendia, Chair

Ontario Early Years Centre-Erie/Lincoln

The Ontario Early Years Centre, Erie/Lincoln supports parents and communities in raising children and to ensure they reach their full potential.

Outreach

Community Events: Staff participated in many events throughout the service area promoting the Ontario Early Years services. Some of these events included the Beamsville Strawberry Fest, the Smithville Poultry Fest and three "Every Kid in Our Community" family barbeques in Port Colborne over the course of the summer. These barbeques were at no cost for participating families.

Port Colborne/Wainfleet Family Literacy Event: The Port Colborne/Wainfleet Family Literacy Event will take place on October 17, 2009 in Port Colborne. The event is titled "Read Please Louise". Frieda Wishinsky, author of the book "Please Louise", will be in attendance along with other literacy based entertainment and activities for the children. Sponsorship for the event is being provided by the Port Colborne Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.

PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters): In partnership with Speech Services Niagara, PALS was originally offered in May 2008 at the Port Colborne site. The project ran Thursday evenings for six consecutive weeks. Feedback from the families involved showed that the program was successful in attaining the intended goal. Children and parents felt that through participation in the program, a love and excitement towards reading was fostered.

The PALS program was offered in the fall of 2008 on Wednesday evenings at the Fort Erie Aboriginal Head Start Centre. The partnership with the Fort Erie Aboriginal Head Start was a success. It was a wonderful opportunity to develop yet another partnership within the community.

The program was offered at DeWitt Carter School in Port Colborne on Tuesday mornings in the spring of 2009. Once again the program was successful in attaining its' intended goals.

Welcome to Kindergarten; A government funded program was offered at nine schools to provide an open house for families that would be attending JK in September. The public library was available to register families, the public health department was there to explain nutrition breaks, and Early Years staff was there to inform families about the OEYC program. The participating schools were: St. John Bosco (Pt. Colborne), St. Martin (Smithville), St. Elizabeth (Wainfleet), St. Mark Catholic (Beamsville), McKay (Pt. Colborne), Ridgeway Public (Ridgeway), Senator Gibson (Beamsville), and St. Therese (Pt. Colborne).

Parent Education

Active Parenting Now is a highly acclaimed six week parent education program that was offered at Port Colborne OEYC in the spring of 2009. The program aimed at teaching parents skills and techniques to more actively parent their children. Some of these skills and techniques included: building on children's strengths, putting an end to power struggles, development of self esteem, respect, and responsibility, and effective communication. A family

meal and on-site child care were provided at each session.

Triple P: Triple P is one of the only [evidence-based parenting programs](#) available worldwide, founded on over 30 years of clinical and empirical research. Triple P is a parenting and family support strategy that aims to prevent severe behavioral, emotional and developmental problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents. Since Triple P is designed and tailored to the needs of parents, you can select one of the many [levels of Triple P](#) suited to the specific needs of your organization and/or clients. Triple P will be offered in Smithville this fall and at the Port Colborne OEYC Thursday evenings during the winter.

French Language Services

French Language Services Committee: OEYC has been invited to attend a group of service providers that are mandated to provide service in French. This group is assessing service currently being offered and an inventory is being collected. This will gauge the agency and where in the spectrum we fall.

French Language Services Forum: Liz Carr attended a Ministry Forum where excellent information and resources were shared to assist Port Cares and OEYC in abiding by the French Language Service Act.

Van Fire

On June 1, 2009 Beamsville OEYC staff arrived to find that the mobile truck had been destroyed by fire. The truck was deemed irrecoverable. After discussions with the Ministry, it was decided not to replace the truck. Existing services are being modified to compensate for the loss of the mobile unit. Services are now being offered in Lincoln five days a week at Providence Christian Reformed Church.

Respectfully submitted by: Liz Carr, Manager

Client Services

We have continued to expand to accommodate increasing and changing needs. We have been successful in our submissions of proposals for funding for basic needs and filling gaps in our community. Our focus is to support and empower consumers in working through personal barriers to succeed in becoming productive, participating members of our community. Until basic needs are met, people can only struggle to survive.

The Moving Forward Program is specific to individuals who **self identify their goals**, but have barriers that prevent success. Our job is to facilitate the means for their success, which includes such things as life skills, budgeting, education, and job search. Part of this program involves our transitional housing units. We have **6 units** and a **75% success rate** to date. These successes include 2 previously homeless youth who have since graduated high school, a single parent becoming financially self sufficient by securing a job while taking night classes, and a person leaving an abusive marriage, who is undergoing counseling.

Through prosperity projects funding we are able to assist 150 children and 162 adults with back to school and winter attire. We will facilitate 150 loads of laundry, and provide 50 families/month for 18 months with food vouchers to purchase live foods such as milk, bread, eggs, cheese, fruit, vegetables and meats. The demand is high and clients suffer increased health issues with these essentials missing from their diet. Our client base shows:

45% O.W. recipients

29% ODSP recipients

72% between the **ages** of **25-54**

20% required **food**

29% required financial **assistance for basic needs**

Our emergency food cupboard has been expanded to a **food bank**, open Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30. The only other food bank in the city is open two mornings, 9:30-12:00 and is significantly farther for clients to walk.

A full time staff, **Housing Supports, has been hired**. The job entails working with landlords and clients in gaining and maintaining suitable housing. This includes advocacy for vulnerable clients, referral to legal services,

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filling out housing applications, information on landlord/tenant acts, tracking housing availability, life skills, budgeting, and preventative measures such as utility and food programs.

Last year:

31% presented with **housing issues**

20% applied for **utility funds**

We continue to support, facilitate and refer clients **daily** who suffer with mental health issues, addictions, domestic abuse, suicide, homelessness, need medications, eye glasses, dental, financial constraints, family disputes, teens with no direction or anybody to care for them, seniors with not enough funds for dietary, sanitary or medical devices, parents struggling to provide basic necessities, advocacy for vulnerable consumers – we also work with OW and ODSP, and refer to life skills, education and employment.

We continue to facilitate Canadian Tire Jumpstart, NEEF, Winter Warmth, Koats for Kids, Income Tax Clinic, Give a Gift, Adopt a Family, Back to School Backpack Program and many others.

We are active members of Tune Into Mental Health Series, Youth Without Secure Housing, Community Policing, Accessibility Awareness and Safe Communities of Port Colborne.

Respectfully submitted by: Judy Cassan, Manager

Reach Out Centre

We have had the busiest year in the history of the Reach Out Centre, serving a grand total of 12,713 meals. This marks a 24% increase over last year. However, please note the increase is due to many factors. This year we provided an extra Tuesday meal all summer while the Out of the Cold program was closed due to renovations at the Guild Hall. In addition, we prepared food for The Training Centre's classes adding 15 meals each time their program was running. We have become better statisticians, tracking second servings and recording the number of consumers having breakfast. As well, we have definitely seen an increase in the number of people attending the centre, particularly at month end. When our hall was open 2 days a week in 2000, we served 6,663 clients. In five years we have doubled our numbers.

Our motto at the Reach Out Centre remains “more than just a soup-kitchen.” Our 16 dedicated volunteers help add the extras that make us special. We have great guest speakers, a weekly craft program, bingos and euchre as well as our annual East Village Clean Up. Of course, our main claim to fame remains the excellent meals that our clients boast are best in the region!

The most significant event this year was the purchase of the hall from the Knights of Columbus. As a result, the program can now run more efficiently. Simple things like food storage, accepting food donations and having an office on site has made the program much easier to manage. More importantly is the increased programming opportunities. For example, in March we partnered with Bridges Community Health Centre and received funding for our Incredible Edibles program allowing us to offer evening cooking classes to parents and children. Through the same Healthy Living Grant, we received \$500 for our vegetable garden allowing us to expand the program to the Moving Forward Transitional Housing Site enabling the students in the units and in the Second Chance Program to participate. Pam Swick Janjac completed a proposal for a grant from Benjamin Moore and \$5,000 was received to paint the hall and renovate the kitchen to improve the air flow and temperatures. In March, Harold Dick and a team of volunteers began offering a “restaurant- style” breakfast on Sunday mornings. More of these new initiatives are planned for next year and would not have been possible if we were still renting.

Our biggest challenge was the economic downturn that hit the province. In March of 2008, The Client Services Division experienced a \$12,500 shortfall in funding for 2009/10 fiscal year. The ROC assistant resigned in

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February 2009 and was not immediately replaced which assisted in cost savings. Thankfully, these deficits were further compensated by new partnerships and generosity from local business. We owe many thanks to Sandi Pilot, Sponsorship and Fundraising Manager with the City of Port Colborne and her association with Canadian Niagara Power (CNP). CNP donated \$5,000 to our program and Ms. Pilot orchestrated a corporate challenge matching the amount from local businesses. Our ongoing discussion of membership with The Ontario Association of Foodbanks resulted in an excellent Food Drive at No Frills. Over \$1,200 in non-perishable food donations and \$500 in cash donations were collected. McKay and St. Patrick's schools came to our aid and helped collect gifts and food for our Christmas meal. These new partnerships and events undertaken by the Fund Development team have helped compensate for the tough times. Even with economic hardships the Reach Out Centre was still able to generate a total of \$24,467 in cash donations and \$8,532 in in-kind donations. Special thanks to the following who are continual loyal supporters: Swiss Chalet; Canal Side Pub and Eatery; At Twenty-Seven; The Galley and The Reeb House.

The future looks promising. Port Cares received funding from Niagara Prosperity Projects and we will be focusing on expanding services in the East Village. Further renovations are planned so the Reach Out Centre can be a hub of activity and improve the quality of life for our consumers.

Respectfully submitted by: Mary Anne Feagan, Manager

The Job Centre

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The PORT CARES Job Centre is a multi-service employment centre providing information and referral, job seeker resources, and individual and group job search interventions with unemployed or underemployed individuals of all ages in the Port Colborne area.

The Job Centre has been funded to provide Employment Assistance Services on behalf of the Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities' Employment Ontario Division. The PORT CARES Job Centre is presently under a 44-month contract for the period August 1, 2006 through March 31, 2010.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

- 1) A monthly Job Finding Club – an all encompassing program that provides the job seeker with the skills and motivation to find employment in the shortest possible time frame
- 2) One-to-one employment support – clients meet with an Employment Counselor to develop a job search plan, prepare resumes, learn and practice interview techniques, and receive job search coaching
- 3) A wide range of specially designed employment workshops to meet targeted groups of job seekers
- 4) A staffed resource area with computers, Internet access, printers, fax machine, photocopier, telephone
- 5) Resource Library housing business directories and job search reference materials
- 6) Job Bank Kiosks with job listings and a direct on-line connection to Employment Insurance applications
- 7) Daily newspapers, Help Wanted advertisements, and a job / volunteer opportunities board
- 8) A full pamphlet library of regional community resources and government application forms
- 9) Knowledgeable staff provide employment and community resource information & referral

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

The Job Centre has six full-time, trained and experienced career development staff that provide quality employment services to any client demographic through one-to-one and group interventions. Additional staffing also includes the annual hiring of a co-op student from the Niagara College Social Service Worker program and a student intern through Industry Canada's Community Access Program Youth Initiative.

OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT

The following information highlights statistical outcomes for the period of this report:

- 1) 56,527 client contacts, including 28,954 through in person visit / accessing on-site job seeker resources
- 2) Delivery of 58 targeted workshops for 468 job seekers
- 3) Delivery of 9 Job Finding Clubs to 64 job seekers. Over 75% of participants were employed within 3 months
- 4) Delivered 895 one-to-one client interventions. Over 80% of clients were employed within 3 months

SERVICE DEMAND

Based on labour market conditions and the affect on local workers, the demand for service has and continues to significantly increase, up to 30% greater than the previous year. The Job Centre has effectively managed the increased need for service without any additional funding, and has demonstrated success in meeting the demand for Employment Assistance services in our community.

Respectfully submitted by: Michelle Knapman, Manager

The Learning Centre

Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) are funded across Ontario by The Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MTCU). MTCU's vision in setting up these programs is "to establish a training system relevant to the needs of workers and employers, one that will help Ontarians find and keep jobs in increasingly competitive markets." The LBS program here at Port Cares focuses on goal directed, learner centered literacy training that helps adult learners attain the skills necessary to gain employment, enroll in further training or education, or achieve personal independence. By offering upgrading in reading, writing, comprehension, numeracy and self guided computer classes, learners are able to achieve their goals in specified areas of study.

The issue of literacy in Port Colborne continues to be a concern as well as the growing need for employment due to the economical downturn that the community and surrounding areas are experiencing. Low literacy levels and a growing awareness of the importance of essential skills affect employment, education and independence within the community. The Port Cares Learning Centre continues to focus on transitional programming which remains centered around reaching independent learner goals through education and skills training.

The Learning Centre (TLC) programs met and exceeded the expectations of MTCU in the areas of Contact Hours (time actually spent teaching learners and meeting/speaking with clients), Number of Learners enrolled in programming and Learner Satisfaction Surveys (overall satisfaction with program delivery). Over 70% of our learners who exited from our programs immediately continued on in their educational pursuit, employment or work in a volunteer capacity. The overall satisfaction rating of our programs, from these learners upon exit, was 95% according to the MTCU implemented satisfaction survey results.

Our excellent partnerships and established internal referral system with other Port Cares programs and our enhanced relationship with various service providers throughout the community and the region were instrumental in our successful year.

Key Partnerships at the local level include:

Literacy Link Niagara (LLN) – Co-ordination of Literacy Services throughout the Niagara Region. Offers support, resources, advocacy and various opportunities for practitioner development and enhanced programming.

Niagara Catholic District School Board – Continue to provide credit programming in Port Colborne with support from The Learning Centre in regards to referrals, registrations, transportation etc.

Niagara College – Through funding from MTCU, Port Cares and Niagara College continue to offer the Academic Career Entrance Program better known as the ACE Program which targets individuals with or without a high school diploma who are considering a college education and/or apprenticeship and need to upgrade their skills to gain entry into their prospective programs

Niagara Regional Literacy Council – Training volunteers who are interested in tutoring in our One-to-One Program. Katimavik – Student volunteers were a part of our programs throughout the year. The experience was a positive one.

Key Partnerships at the provincial level include:

Laubach Literacy of Ontario (LLO), Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO), Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) and Alphaplus for current resources and training opportunities.

The Learning Centre will continue to enhance our programming and work with literacy networks, partners, students and volunteers to provide our learners with the knowledge, skill development, encouragement and support that will empower them to obtain their goals.

Respectfully submitted by: Christine Eaton, Manager

The Training Centre

- Provide support to consumers returning to work who have determined they have **barriers** that are preventing them from achieving their goals. We also work with many **partner agencies** to help find alternative funds for training.
- This was an extremely successful year that has far exceeded almost every aspect of our agreement with the **Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities**. We delivered **double** the expected outcomes in all but one area of our current agreement. Our consumers require **a number of interventions** to work through their barriers to employment or training. Under our agreement we were to serve 136 consumers, we served 309. We were to deliver 7 – 2 week workshops, we delivered 13. We were to have 63 consumers complete our workshops, we had 122. With the above numbers in mind it is my intention to request additional funds to hire more support staff. We continue to explore additional funding to enhance the services we provide. We have grown from the beginning of our agreement in October 2006 with struggling to meet our targets, to being over booked and struggling to provide the timely service and support our consumers require and deserve.
- We delivered the **Personal Support Worker Preparation** course April through June. We were extremely busy and our classes were always full to capacity. The **Reach Out Centre** provided lunch for the participants of the 2 week programs and was valued by everyone. Participants were referred to **The Learning Centre** for the Health Studies program. This streaming prepares participants to be successful with the **District School Board of Niagara**. **The Regional Municipality of Niagara** has an avid interest in the program because of its' excellent reputation and we will pursue a 'train the trainer' development opportunity.
- In July 2008 our Job Developer took a medical leave of absence for three months which resulted in an unexpected nine month absence. During this time we temporarily hired Tasha Dagenais to provide administrative and program support. Brenda Harvey stepped into the role of Job Developer.
- The **Pardons Guidebook** is being completed. This is part of a package for consumers applying for a pardon. Criminal records restrict work opportunities for consumers. The guidebook will be available as reference material for other agencies. This project has been well received by Ontario Works and our staff.
- Staff, with Erin Forde at the lead, partnered with The Learning Centre to develop curriculum. The finished product of this effort includes an **excellent board game** to help teach real life money management. The curriculum was tested in the classroom this spring. This connection between programs allows for a smooth transition for consumers.

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- In October we took part in an extensive questionnaire exploring the capacity of the agency to provide current and additional services for our community. Participation was a requirement of **Employment Ontario**.
- We took an active role in the formation of **NERN, Niagara Employment Resource Network**, a group of Niagara based agencies. The committee created the booklet, **The Job Seekers Journey to Employment in Niagara** to support regional job seeker's and is available through Port Cares.
- **Labour League** continues to match clients looking for short term employment with community members or local employers. This **innovative service** provides workplace experience to those clients who are not quite ready for full time employment, or who require patchwork income. It is tied into our **Volunteer Job Shadowing** work place experience which we continue to expand. This project depends on the Job Developer's relationship with individual **employers** as well as the employers' ability to accommodate an **"on the job"** work experience. Our focus this coming year will be to expand the project. We have newly interested employers on board.

The staff of The Training Centre is a dynamic team. That is our continued winning formula.

Respectfully submitted by: Marnie Lambie, Manager

Niagara Youth Justice Committee

Serving all of the Niagara Region, the Niagara Youth Justice Committee (YJC) brings together young people between their 12th & 18th birthday alleged to have committed their first offence or a subsequent offense deemed appropriate, his or her parent(s)/guardian, the victim(s) and trained community volunteers to negotiate an appropriate way for the young person to make amends for their actions.

Usage of the YJC continues to grow. During the 2006-2007 fiscal year the YJC had seven referrals and during the 2007-2008 fiscal year twenty-eight cases were referred. During this past fiscal year (2008-2009) the YJC had fifty-five cases referred by the police, two cases referred by the crown attorney and three cases referred by local schools for a total of sixty cases.

Currently the YJC has thirteen volunteers and recruitment began in March 2009 with the new volunteer coordinator and eleven new volunteers will be joining the YJC in late 2009.

Promotion of the YJC has continued with the focus on the Niagara Regional Police Service but presentations were made to other groups as well. Presentations were made to the Port Colborne and area clergy group, the south Niagara foster parents group, Drummond Hill Presbyterian Church during a Sunday service, and I did a mock community conference with the Youth and Law class at Brock University. I also helped represent Port Cares at a Community Day at the Seaway Mall in October 2008.

Two ride-alongs with the Port Colborne Niagara Regional Police were completed and four were arranged in the new year with the Grimsby NRP. Advertising was again purchased to promote the YJC in "Off the Cuff", a newsletter that goes to all current and former members of the NRP. Pens with YJC information were purchased and distributed to NRP personnel and to the general public. Laminated business cards with information for the police on the YJC and their internal referral procedures for extrajudicial measures were distributed. In December 2008 presentations were made to all four Port Colborne NRP platoons on understanding the children's mental health system and how to direct youth and parents on accessing services.

The YJC has also represented Port Cares in several area committees related to youth issues including the Niagara Youth Victimization Coalition, the YES Niagara Coalition, and Safe Communities Port Colborne Intentional Harm sub-committee. The YJC Coordinator continued as Co-Chair of the Every Kid in the Community Coalition of Port

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Colborne/Wainfleet until January 2009. One of the projects completed by the Every Kid coalition with Brock University was a community mapping exercise on services and activities for youth both in Port Colborne and regionally. Over forty agencies and programs attended a one day meeting and over one hundred agencies responded to an over the phone questionnaire. The final report was completed in Spring 2009 and shared with Information Niagara (211) and is available to anyone.

Respectfully submitted by: Scott Johnson, Manager

Development Office

The first year for the development office of Port Cares has been a very busy time. Starting in the fall of 2008 as work moved ahead for the 10th Anniversary of Port Cares Annual Fundraising Auction, held in November. Port Cares saw its' first Direct Mail Campaign late in 2008 with plans to make this an annual campaign. At the same time, plans were well underway for a new fundraising event – Soup Fest Lunch – planned for March 2009. It was decided as well at this time, that an application would be submitted to the Job Creation Partnership (JCP) through Employment Ontario. The application went in for three positions under the JCP project; a Health & Safety Coordinator, a Special Events Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator. Port Cares was approved and the three positions started early in March 2009 to work for a 52 week period.

Working on accessing funding opportunities to help with specific programs and services as well as general fundraising to help with all financial needs of Port Cares, is one of the main objectives of the Development Office. The other being to plan for the various events and activities in order to increase membership and sponsorship for Port Cares as well as realize further resources to enable the agency to carry out its' mission. Funding opportunities arise through various avenues and can often give Port Cares access to resources which can help in many ways to support existing programs or start innovative new programs.

The recently identified need for accessible transit for seniors in Port Colborne and Wainfleet was addressed by Port Cares through a collaborative effort with Canadian Red Cross Transportation Services and the town of Fort Erie. We were able to put forward an application to the LHIN (Local Health Integrated Network) Aging at Home Strategy and received approval for the cost of the vehicle and operational dollars. An application to the Niagara Community Foundation realized for Port Cares, \$10,000 as their contribution to the cost of the special transit vehicle and 5 day/week service started in Port Colborne in February 2009

The Development Plan includes new fundraising events for the agency; the first of 2009 was the Inaugural Soup Fest fundraiser in March. It was exciting as this was a sold out event and we plan to make this an annual event with the support of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Niagara College Culinary Institute and our two local high schools; Lakeshore Catholic High School, Hospitality & Tourism Program and Port Colborne High School, Food Preparation Program. Another opportunity was an application to Benjamin Moore which realized cash and resources to work in combination with a cash donation received from a local business, to provide much needed updates at the Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

I wish to thank Board Member, Michelle Giancola for her support and encouragement over this inaugural year for the Fund Development Committee. Thanks also to Karla Gramatovich, Special Events Coordinator and Kathy Capperchione, Volunteer Coordinator (JCP) for all their support and efforts as well as Becky Lee, Port Cares Administrative Assistant for her ever ready assistance with all our efforts.

Respectfully submitted by: Pam Swick Janjac, Development Officer

Candidates Standing for Election to the PORT CARES Board of Directors 2009-2010

Frank Balogh lives in Dain City with his wife and 2 sons. Born in Port Colborne, Frank and his family moved back to his home area after teaching in Kingston for 9 years. He now teaches at Port Colborne High School and is the Department Head for Special Education and Special Needs. He is a member of the Port Cares Niagara Youth Justice Committee and has previously volunteered at Peterborough Youth Services, Hotel Dieu Child Life Program, Prison Literacy and the Kingston Youth Diversion Program. He has been a member of the Port Cares Board since 2004 and has been active on the Youth Focus Committee and the Nominating Committee.

Cathy Boggio has lived in Port Colborne for 27 years. She and her husband have 3 grown children and own Boggio Pharmacy. Cathy sits on the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Board, several committees of Central United Church and the Showboat Festival auction committee. She joined the Board of Port Cares in 2005. She is a member of the Port Cares Niagara Youth Justice Committee and is the board representative for the Port Cares Fundraising Auction. Cathy is currently serving as Secretary of the board.

Mark Feduck lives in Wainfleet with his wife and has 2 grown children. He is employed as an auditor with the Canada Revenue Agency. He has been involved with scouting and has served as coach for both hockey and baseball. Mark is a member of the Port Cares Niagara Youth Justice Committee. He has been a member of the Port Cares Board of Directors since 2004. Mark is currently serving as Treasurer of the board.

Charline Hellinga lives in Port Colborne and grew up on a family farm in Wainfleet. She attended Victoria University in Toronto, Toronto's Teachers College, and Brock University. She started teaching in 1974 at DeWitt Carter Public School. She became principal of Winger, Humberstone, and DeWitt Carter schools. Charline and her husband were actively involved in Port Colborne Summer Kids' Camp for approximately 10 years. In June 2006 she retired from her career in education and is a member of the Retired Teachers of Ontario. Recognizing the importance of Port Cares to the Niagara residents, she became a board member in the fall of 2006 to continue her support of the community.

Florence MacDonald lives in Port Colborne and is employed by Niagara College as a consultant with the Job Connect program in the Business Development Division. She has volunteered in the Out of the Cold program. She joined the Board of Directors in 2005. Florence is currently serving as Vice Chair of the board.

Claudia Brema born and raised in Port Colborne, worked 37 years at Port Colborne General Hospital in the Finance Department and retired in 2008. She is a member of the Port Colborne Lioness, Canal Days Committee, Bikes & Trails for the City of Port Colborne and the Bridges Community Health Centre Board of Directors. Claudia was citizen of the year in 2001 and she was a previous member of the Port Cares Board of Directors from 2004 to 2006. She rejoined the board in September 2008.

Michelle Giancola was born in Port Colborne. She left the city with her parents and younger brother when she was 2 years old, returning in 1987. Michelle attended High School in Lethbridge, Alberta, followed by courses in Early Childhood Development at the Lethbridge Community College. She currently works for South Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation as Administrative Assistant. Michelle lives with her husband and their 2 dogs. She is involved with the Port Colborne Community Policing Committee, Port Colborne Wainfleet Block Parents, Safe Communities Port Colborne and the Port Colborne Horticultural Society. Michelle joined the board in September 2008. She is the board representative on the Fund Development Committee.

Georgia Smith born and raised in Port Colborne and recently retired back to Port Colborne after living for 40 years in Toronto. She has a B.A. (Political Science) from York University. She was employed as a Professor/Field

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Placement Coordinator at Seneca College School of Legal and Public Administration for 21 years. Georgia has been a member of many professional and volunteer associations and has a long standing family history and commitment to this community. She would like to continue that commitment by joining the Port Cares Board of Directors.

Ron Bodner is a lifelong resident of Port Colborne (Gasline). He has been a business owner for many years, currently the owner of Sherkston Convenience located in Sherkston Shores. Ron is a former Mayor of Port Colborne and a former City Councillor; currently the President of Showboat Theater and a board member for the South Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation. He is married with 2 grown sons and a granddaughter. Ron is a huge supporter of Port Colborne and would like to continue that support by joining the Port Cares Board of Directors.

Jan Marshall born and raised in Port Colborne. She left after high school to continue her education and later settled in the Toronto area. Jan's career choice was food service and management, but when a position opened with the Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club, she decided to take a different direction. Since retiring 8 years ago as the Blue Jays Box Office Manager, she and her husband have returned to Port Colborne and haven't regretted a minute of it. Jan volunteered for 4½ years with the Department of Health as a Community Food Advisor. She would like to continue her support of Port Colborne by joining the Port Cares Board of Directors.

Michael Sloat lives in Port Colborne with his wife and two children. Mike is the owner of @Twenty-Seven Restaurant. He serves as the First Vice President with the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce and is a Director of the Port Colborne Country Club. Mike has organized numerous fundraising events for the United Way as well as Port Cares. He would like to continue his commitment to Port Cares by joining the Board of Directors.

Alexander White lives in Port Colborne with his wife. Sandy has two grown sons and has just welcomed his first grandchild into the family. He is an insurance broker with White's Insurance Brokers Ltd. He is the Chair of the South Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation, has served on the Port Colborne United Way Campaign Cabinet, and is the Past President of the Port Colborne Rotary Club. Sandy would like to volunteer to the community that has provided so much support to him over the years by joining the Port Cares Board of Directors.

Mike Bendia was born and raised in Port Colborne, and is employed as the Fire Prevention Officer for the City of Port Colborne. He lives with his wife and has two grown sons. He has been active with the Canal Days Committee and the Port Colborne Policing Committee. Mike became a member of the Port Cares Board of Directors in 2005 and is currently serving as Chair of the board. Mike is moving to the Past Chair position for 2009-2010.

Ex Officio Members

Barb Butters is appointed by council to the Port Cares Board.

Bob Saracino is the Regional representative to the Port Cares Board.

VOLUNTEERS

With sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following individuals
that volunteer for Port Cares.

Each day we find there are people in need, a shoulder to clothe or a mouth to feed.
Your endless support, your generous heart, shines from within you when you do your part.
Who can measure the time that you spend? The lives that you change, the hearts that you mend?
Necessary and needed, wherever you go, helping so many, in goodness you grow.
So take one small moment to let out some cheers, with appreciation and thanks, to the best volunteers!

Written by Amanda Falcioni, The Learning Centre

Lynn Adams	Frank Balogh	David Barrick	Mike Bendia	Joy Benner	
Deanna Bettle	Karen Biko	John Bilodeau	Karen Bird	Cathy Boggio	
Sue Boggio	Claudia Brema	Gary Bruno	Bell Burger	Johnny Bush	
Barbara Butters	Larry Butters	Reg Cameron	Bev Canuel	Bob Canuel	
Steve Carr	Audrey Cassan	Jeff Clark	Helen Clarke	Nancy Comi	
Neville Cumberworth	Linda Davis	Mike Dayboll	Barbara DeRuiter	Diane Deschamps	
Angie Desmarais	Frank DiBartolomeo	Sue DiBartolomeo	Charlene Easterbrook	Brian Emburgh	
Brenda Farbycuk	Rick Favero	Jane Feagan	Mike Feagan	Mark Feduck	
Marie Feduck	Susan Foebel	Jody Forbes	Clancy Forgeron	Kelly Gay	
Michelle Giancola	Kyla Gramatovich	Ashley Grass	Mike Havran	Teresa Havran	
Patti Hebert	John Hedges	Charline Hellinga	Erin Holloway	Gary Hoyle	
Carole Huffman	Janet Jackson	John Jackson	Cheryl Janeway	Samantha Janjac	
Dianna Jarram	Beth Keiffer	Bea Kenny	Alfred Kiers	Ann Kiers	
Ron Klauck	Wendy Klauck	Bonnie Koabel	Barb Koiter	Hans Kwaak	
Adrienne Lafontaine	Laura Lambie	Madison Lambie	Joyce Lampman	Terrence Law	Jamie
Lee	Kaitlin Lovegrove	Valerie Lovegrove	Heidi Lukacs	Florence MacDonald	
Bunny Macfarlane	Gary MacMillan	John Maloney	Reta Marr	Donna Martens-Gamm	
Lin Martin	Scott Martin	Casey Mattie	Patricia McDougal	Evelyn McKenzie	
Lois McLaren	Michele Metraux	Candice Mitchell	Paul Morin	Vivian Moskalyk	
Barb Nicholson	Gary Oakes	Nicky Oakes	Jody Olm	Tracey Ottaviano	
Erin Pace	Catharine Parry	Kim Penwarden	Janet Plato	Carol Prior	
Cory Pruyn	Vincy Purificati	Debbie Reid	Linda Reid	Norm Reinhart	
Dara Richardson	Crystal Robitaille	Ruth Ryske	Debbie Salmon	Peggy Salmon	
Kaitlin Saxton	Vanessa Saxton	Liz Seger	Robert Shaubel	Mike Sloat	
Rita Smith	Jacob Smits	Nancy Spada	Susan Speck	Bill Steele	
Mary Stimac	Patti Stirling	Lucy Tardif	Claire Tarrant	Sandra Taylor	
David Thorne	Sue Thorne	Marilyn Torok	Theresa Ursacki	Richard Vance	
Wayne Walker	Christine Winger	Debbie Wright	Annette Zarb-Tedesco	Theresa Zierle	
Harold Nigh	Will deGraaf	Emma deGraaf	Erin Wilson	Morgan Minor	
Mitch Minor	Darcy Feagan	The Delphine Family			