

3-1193 Oxford Street East  
London, Ontario N5Y 3M2  
Tel.: 519.659.3334  
Fax: 519.659.3345  
E-mail: info@right2life.ca  
Website: www.right2life.ca

London Area  
Right to Life Association Inc.

# Newsletter



A London Pro-Life Newsletter

MAY 2015

Volume 49 Number 2

## Upcoming EVENTS

PLEASE MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS

May 29

CARPE DIEM

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- Pro-life tables at King's College
- Between 200-300 Catholic High school Students participate

June 6

LARTLA ANNUAL WALKATHON

- LARTLA'S biggest fund raiser
- Pro-life T-shirts available for purchase
- If you bought a shirt last year, please wear it this year

July 6-10 & Aug. 10-14

SHOW THE TRUTH

- Various cities across Ontario
- Rosemary Connell @ 705-454-1109

MONTHLY HOSPITAL WITNESS

- Last Thursday at L.H.S.C.
- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
- Commissioners & Wellington John @ 519-657-9009

PROJECT RACHEL RETREATS

- Caring & confidential
- 1-888-355-1110 or 519-646-2950  
E-mail: projectrachel@dol.ca



## President's Message May Newsletter

Message by Michael Hale

Matthew 3:3 "The voice of one crying in the desert, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'



While preparing myself for services this morning, I was reflecting on what my message might be this month for our Right To Life Association. This is a big month for standing in witness for the sanctity of life, from conception to a natural end. The Annual March for Life in Ottawa has just finished, with tens of thousands of people witnessing to the harmfulness of abortion and euthanasia. We ourselves will do our own bit next month when we have our LARTLA Walkathon, both a fund raiser and a witness, on the public streets of London.

The thought came to me this morning that, as with John the Baptist, we too are called to be counter culture and to stand up for His Will; that all life is sacred and anything that ends a life before it's natural end is anathema to His Will.

We may not move millions to embrace the culture of Life, but through our witness, we may change the heart of one person, and then another, and another. Baby steps.

As always, it takes an inner strength to stand up and witness in our current culture. But we know that He wins in the end and we can take strength in that knowledge. Please pray for LARTLA, our members, and our Board who do wonderful work each and every day to promote Life.

Please also consider us each month when you pay your utility bills. Our donations have faltered this year, down about 20% year over year. Costs continue to rise a bit each year, so we very much thank you for what you can send us.

May God Bless you and I hope to see all of you out at our Walkathon.

*Michael*

*Heavenly Father, create in us a desire to know what is Your Will.*

*In Your merciful love, sanctify our efforts to spread the pro-life message to others so that*

*each person in the world may know that life is precious and sacred because we are all made in the image and likeness of God.*

*We ask all this in Your beloved Son Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## From the Office *By Bonnie Pember*

### **“BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW...”**

Spring is a season of renewal and hope. Trees burst forth into leaf while daffodils and tulips show forth their brilliant colours. My niece Angela is expecting her first child and I am so very excited for her and for our whole family! Babies can be a source of joy and anticipation. Yet for some people, babies are seen as threats to the “status quo” of their lives. We need to pray for and witness to those who either view abortion as the only “choice” or who are pressured to have an abortion and help them by referring them to the following agencies: Birthright, Fresh Start Maternity Supports or London Crisis Pregnancy Centre. Each of us can make a difference in another person’s life for the better.



I would like to thank each of you for your constant support of LARTLA; without you, we would not be able to continue with our educational ministry. The school program which finished around March Break, went well due to the efforts of our dedicated pro-life volunteers. May the Lord bless each of them. Now we are gearing up for the Walk-a-thon which will be held on Saturday, June 6th. Hope to see you there!

Guess what? Our large sign which usually graces the front of our building buckled last month due to high winds and we will need to have a new frame put up to keep the sign made by Phil Arnsby and John Van Gelderen safe from further mishaps. That was one way of giving the office a facelift, yes? May the Risen Lord Jesus be with you and your families as we continue to spread the pro-life message to others, one person at a time.

## Why I am working at Right to Life? *By Cecilia Lamb*



My name is Cecilia Lamb and I am the student intern at the London Right to Life office for the summer of 2015. During the school year, I reside in Barry’s Bay, as a student at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy. After receiving my Bachelor of Arts degree, I hope to attend Teachers College and become an elementary school teacher. I am originally from London and grew up there along with my parents and seven siblings. Growing up in a large, Catholic family, I was always taught about the evil and dangers of abortion and the gruesome effects, consequences and heartache that was brought with it.

I attended many life chains and March for life’s and various events that protested abortion. As good as this was, I felt that there was always more I could do to assist the pro-life movement. This, to me, was especially important as our society feels no shame in targeting and murdering babies and attempts to hide the truth and promote “a woman’s right to choose”.

When I heard about the student internship that the Right to Life office offered in London, I was very interested and passionate about the possibility of working there. Knowing that I could learn more about the movement and help promote the sacredness of human life, really attracted me to this specific internship. I feel very blessed and appreciative that God has brought me to the Right to Life office and is using me in a special way to help and promote the value of human life..

# WALK FOR LIFE



**LONDON AREA RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL 5KM**

# Walkathon

Saturday, June 6th, 2015

**START AND FINISH AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL**

*347 Lyle Street, London (Corner of Lyle and York)*



Most Rev.  
Bishop Dabrowski

● 8:30 A.M.  
Mass  
St. Mary's  
Church



Rev. Joe  
Campbell

● 8:30 A.M.  
Prayer Service  
St. Mary's  
School

9:15 a.m. Registration - School  
9:45 a.m. Walk Starts  
11:00 a.m. BBQ and  
Entertainment

Walk and Witness for Life with family and friends OR  
pledge for family, friends or pastor to walk FOR you

For additional Pledge Forms Call

**LONDON AREA RIGHT TO LIFE - 519-659-3334**

# Annual Dinner / Silent Auction

What a blessed moment when we gather for our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. Once again the Hellenic Centre in south London hosted our event in April. The new front entrance was completed which I felt put an impressive touch to our evening. Walking in that entrance to see how everything had come together really gave me a sense of appreciation.

I must thank Janice Rutledge, Ngan Devries, and Bonnie Pember for doing such a wonderful job organizing everything. You know from how everything went off without a hitch how much planning and effort that went into the organization of the event. Our evening was so good, I know the ladies did a marvelous job.

The really wonderful thing about our annual dinner is that it isn't just a few people who make it happen. It takes many marvelous people to secure the donations, transport things to the office and then the hall, set up all the auction tables, organize the flowers, stand at the information tables spread around the room, and lastly organize a bit of entertainment. I want to personally thank;

- Darren Cooper, Sharon Weston, Joyce Haakman, Mary Lynn & Kayla Barr, Deb Jackson & Mark Richardson, Janice Rutledge & Bonnie Pember for setting up on day of Dinner
- Isabelle Tuck & Suzanne Cole arranged flowers
- Ken Lyng helped with taking cash for the auction
- Phil Rutledge helped with prize boxes

This year we had two very special people with us. The first was Elaine Arnsby, past president and Board Member of LARTLA, who was presented with the Jim Jepson award for her and her late husband, Phil, who both did so much for LARTLA over the past decade. The heartfelt love everyone in the room held for Elaine as she spoke of her Phil and how their lives were enriched by the ProLife community was palpable.

The second special person we had with us was Sister Linda Dube, co-founder of Our Lady of Guadalupe Non-Profit Home of Windsor. In Sister's personable way, she shared with us the stories behind the centre; how it came to be, who the people are who make it happen and keep it going, and the tremendous blessings doing this work for Him give to those involved.

When the Board decided to invite Sister Linda to speak at our dinner, I was very excited because I was hoping that her talk would be one of those "seeds" that get planted by Him that leads to a metanoia in someone who might be able to bring to fruition something similar here in London. Our wonderful city desperately needs a centre like Our Lady of Guadalupe for women in crisis pregnancy. As Sister shared, the greatest help we can give is prayer; pray for this seed to germinate in some person or persons who can see this as their vocation, pray that the funds for centres like this keep showing up to fill the need, pray for those who work in these centres that they will continue to have the energy to deal in a loving way with all who need their help, pray for the women who find themselves in need of a centre like this, and finally – pray for anyone associated with these women that they be completely understanding, loving, and as helpful as they can be.

God Bless you Sister and we will pray for the success of OLG.

I must thank the staff of the Hellenic Centre. Everything went off without a hitch, which is a testament to their capabilities and professionalism. The meal was wonderful, the centre was laid out well and, with the new entrance, things seemed to flow so much better this year.

Lastly I must thank all those who donated items for the auction table. I very much appreciate their sacrifice to support our organization. I hope that all those who won their items enjoy them very much. I know I'm looking forward to getting my car treated to a "spa day" while I drive around in a nice new Volvo from the Collins Family of Fine Cars. Everyone I talked to enjoyed themselves very much and the feeling of "family" was evident. Congratulations everyone!!



# 2015 SILENT AUCTION DONORS

## BUSINESS DONORS

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**Domino's Pizza Box** 8114 London N6G 2B0  
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**Robert Q** 105 Wharncliffe Rd. London N6J 2K2 519-679-2707  
**Sunripe Produce** 744 Adelaide St. N. London N5Y 2L6 519-433-4141  
**Tiger Lilley Health Centre (massage therapy)** 847 Jalna Blvd. London N6E 2S2 226-663-8915  
**Tony Roma's Restaurant** 1673 Richmond St. London N6G 2N3 519-601-7427  
**Trissa's Family Restaurant** 4014 Dundas St. RR # 16 London N5V 5C6 519-268-6833  
**Tuckey Home Hardware** 136 Wortley Rd. London N6C 3P5 519-472-7683  
**Under the Volcano Restaurant** 30 Wharncliffe Rd. N. London N6H 2A2 519-435-1197  
**Volvo of London (Collins Family of Cars)** 1035 Wharncliffe Rd. S London N6L 1J9 519-690-1600

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Kim Henderson	Loretta Wilson



# Twenty five thousand strong at March for Life 2015! *By Elaine Arnsby*



Twenty five thousand! Plus there were Marches in major cities across Canada such as Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, New Brunswick, etc. Imagine if the majority of pro-life Canadians were to join the March!

It brings such joy to be among so many people of faith. Such a beautiful sight to see young and old, families and clergy marching together for Life – a huge family!! There is even a group of pro-life atheists/humanists that marches too!!

Every year at the March, I join Show the Truth Canada (those who hold the abortion photos) at the Morgentaler killing centre on Banks St. near the end of the March route. I saw so many familiar faces in the crowd of Marchers and so many thanked us for being there. **But one woman, around mid to late thirties, came directly over to me from the other side of the street not carrying a sign, so I didn't know what her view on abortion might be. But I knew she wanted to talk...**

The first thing out of her mouth was, "I had an abortion." I told her I was so sorry! She told me that, no matter how painful they say childbirth can be, having an abortion is so very much worse, that it was just horrible. She thanked me for showing the truth about abortion. Then she asked me if I had had an abortion. I told her no, but that I certainly sympathized with her in her pain. But she wanted to know what made me willing to hold the abortion sign. I explained that years ago I heard a very solid pro-life sermon in a church and knew that I couldn't just sit and do nothing. I immediately joined a group praying for an end to abortion. And eventually heard about the Show the Truth Tour and felt God calling me to join. That was 18 years ago...

Although at least five times she encouraged me to please continue doing this work, she said she had seen a photo of an aborted baby prior to her abortion, but had felt so trapped and without help that she went ahead with the abortion anyway. She said she regrets her decision to this day...

I pointed out that so much more needs to be done to help women and that my friend Sister Linda had felt called to open a maternity home in Windsor Ontario, Our Lady of Guadalupe Non-Profit Home for Women. I told her how, after 3 years of fundraising, she and her Board had still been short of the necessary money to get started – so they began an intense time of prayer for funds. The result: a very generous person came forward with a very large donation to build the home!

The woman said she was very glad to hear about the maternity home because she had a similar story. She had begun a home for children under five years of age in Quebec (her home province) but there came a time that, due to insufficient funds, the home would be forced to close within three weeks. In faith and from her heart she began praying for help. The result: a couple bought the house and then donated it entirely back to her for the children!

**I do hope and pray that the Lord will put it on someone's heart in the London area to start up a maternity home for moms who have nowhere to turn – so they can be safe during their pregnancy and receive the love and guidance to help them become good moms or to give their babies for adoption. Sr. Linda and this brave woman are living proof that when God calls, He provides!**

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## National March for Life 2015: My First Time *By Eva McGuire*

I have been involved with pro-life activities since I started my undergraduate studies at the University of Western Ontario four years ago. I was always pro-life growing up, and so was my family. But it is when I moved away from home and entered the university scene that I realized I needed to act on my beliefs and defend the unborn in a concrete way.

In my first year, I got involved with the pro-life club on campus, Western Lifeline. In second and third year, I took on more responsibilities with the club and started helping organize pro-life events and activities on campus. And this past year, I was club president. In my time with Western Life, we hosted Member of Parliament Stephen Woodworth, a formal debate, movies nights, info-tables on campus, and many classroom sessions. I felt very engaged on campus and in the London pro-life community, but I also longed to get involved on a bigger scale, a national scale. I knew about the March for Life and every year I wanted to go, but for different reasons, it did not work out for many years.

Finally, this past year, my work schedule permitted me to take a day off to go to the March for Life. Since I just graduated from university my personal funds are quite low, but I was blessed when the London Area Right to Life Association agreed to contribute to my trip to Ottawa to participate in the March for Life. Because of LARTLA's contribution, I was able to



make my first March for Life, and I can say, it was an amazing experience!

March for Life took place on Thursday, May 14, 2015 in downtown Ottawa on Parliament Hill. I had traveled up to Ottawa with my friend the night before, and we got up early Thursday morning. The first thing we took in that morning was the pro-life Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral. It was a bilingual Mass celebrated by many priests and bishops. It was beautiful to see many youth groups at this Mass and to see so many members of the faithful gathered together to pray for our innocent younger brothers and sisters in the womb.

After Mass, we went to Parliament Hill where we prepared for the speeches, followed by the march itself. People started filling up the Hill, and by 1pm when the March started, the Hill was packed with people, young and old, from across the country. I was interviewed by reporters from The Rebel Media, and when asked "Why are you here today?" I replied "To be a voice for the voiceless!"

The march through the streets of Ottawa was a true reflection of the strength of our pro-life belief. The march was a long procession of people, chanting, praying, holding signs, and displaying to our capital that we are deeply pro-life. It was an awesome thing to see!

I had to leave Ottawa shortly thereafter but on the ride home, my friends and I discussed the day and how it would fuel us as we went back to ordinary life to fight the pro-life battle. The March for Life was an amazing experience. But I think its true value comes in its rallying our pro-life spirits together, strengthening us in our convictions, and energizing us to go back, to our many homes across the country, and keep up the pro-life fight until one day our country reflects our belief in the sanctity of all human life, and the dignity of the person.

# Revisiting the Vision: New Leadership at Western Lifeline

A good leader does not merely collect followers, but creates leaders who are equally invested in his work, and who are capable of undertaking and re-shaping what he himself has started. As the academic year draws to a close, a new Western Lifeline executive team has been elected to continue and build upon the ideas generated by our graduating and previous team members. At the forefront of this change, we are reminded of a number of facts that will never cease to hold true.

Humanity is fragile – struck by its own compelling weaknesses. Yet it is simultaneously strong – able to withstand disaster and heart break, loss, betrayal and disappointment. True strength and beauty often bloom from failure, tough lessons, and an enormous pride-suppressing swallow. As leaders in the fight for life, we seek to uplift human strength. What this means is our focus and prayers must not be solely with the pre-born, but also with the women carrying those we defend, and with the women who have already suffered from the aftermath of abortion.

The essence of a great leader revolves around love. And love, as we strive to know it, is all-encompassing. Providing awareness and education surrounding the issue of abortion is a constant goal of any pro-life organization, but do we always extend our efforts to those who have already lived through its horrors? It is the upcoming team's hope to enrich its presence on campus by providing more counseling resources for women considering or suffering from an abortion, out of a love that celebrates the pre-born as well as their mothers and families. We must not forget those who have already experienced what we are trying to prevent, what we communicate in our protests, and what we pray to end. No single person is free from the need to heal from emotional wounds while alive on this Earth, and thus it is with extreme care that each heart must be uplifted and cherished.

It is an act of taking the simpler, less painful route of life when we celebrate our accomplishments and judge others' failures. When we marvel at how others could ever consider acting the way they do, yet do not contemplate any way of understanding their hearts. When we strive for individual greatness, without attempting to inspire or encourage others to their own greatness. The next academic year presents Lifeline with a choice to support, motivate and inspire in the name of life – a choice to which its members have already willingly committed.

*Souya Ramondino*

## Pro-Life Program for Elementary Schools *By Sharon Weston*

"Each and every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. That is why everyone is special." So begins our pro-life presentation in the grades 5/6 class of our elementary schools. The program covers the growth and development that takes place inside the mother's body from the moment of conception until we are born. The material is positive and age appropriate and stresses that this is God's plan for human development.

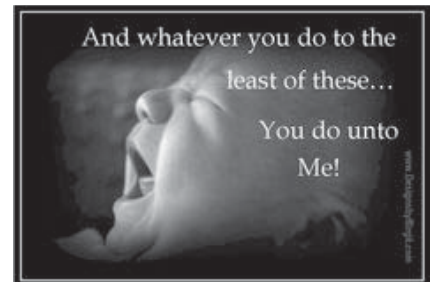
Volunteers follow a script already prepared and watch an experienced presenter several times before presenting on their own. We have been providing this program for 18 years. This year we presented to approximately 1326 students, 58 teachers, and a few student teachers, in 21 area schools, for a total of 49 presentations.

Typical comments by teachers and students are very positive:

*"The video is well done and really held the attention of the students in grade 5/6. The students enjoyed touching the fetal models to see/feel compared to the brochure. I like the Christian slant the presenter put on the presentation re references to God and God's will. Well done."* (Comment by a teacher)

*"I loved the presentation. I learned lots of new things about life before birth. This presentation helped me a lot. Thanks."* (Comment by a student)

If you are interested in learning more about this program, call Sharon at **519-472-2038**.



# ‘Dear Marchers for Life’: an open letter from jailed pro-life activist Mary Wagner



Note: Mary Wagner is currently serving a 10 month prison sentence for attempting to counsel women seeking abortions at Toronto’s Bloor West Village Women’s Clinic. In total, Wagner has spent some four years in jail for her peaceful pro-life activities. This letter is addressed to participants in today’s March for Life in Ottawa.

May 14, 2015 (LifeSiteNews) - Dear Jim Hughes & Friends, organizers of the March for Life and all who have come out to participate:

I’d like to thank you for dedicating this year’s March for Life to Linda Gibbons and me. We appreciate the public support you are giving to our efforts to love children and their mothers when and where they are most abandoned. It is not about getting arrested or not getting arrested. It is not about us, but about that poor mother and her utterly helpless child about to be killed, who are owed all the love and protection their neighbours are able to give them.

Linda has shared publicly that one of the steps that led her to be present where the babies are killed was the awakening that, though a child belongs to their parents, the child belongs to God first. This insight helps us to understand that each child must be loved, welcomed and protected because life is from God and for God.

We are entrusted with children as a family but also as a society and we are responsible for them before God. If we are Christians we know that the Commandment to love is not limited to our family, and therefore we must extend our love to others, especially to the most neglected and abandoned.

We all know people who have not hesitated to put their sick child or loved ones at the centre of their care and concern, spending days, weeks, months, years, even a lifetime at their bedside, sacrificing everything for their loved one. Very few of these people will ever be found in the news or praised for their selflessness. In fact, most people who have done this would find such praise strange, because their love for the person in their care is so strong they do not see first and foremost the sacrifices they have made. They are thinking only of what is best for their loved one.

Those little ones whose parents have forgotten them are waiting for an unofficial adoption by followers of Christ (through whom we have all received adoption by our Heavenly Father). How many mothers and children are going to these places of death today, even in this city, with no one there to love them? How many sick and elderly people are abandoned, if not killed in their vulnerability?

Dear Marchers for Life, especially all young people present, let us consider the words of Mother Teresa: “I do not see crowds; I see only one person at a time, Jesus.” While the work of Mother Teresa and thousands of her sisters no doubt helps and continues to help combat the great injustice of poverty, fighting poverty was not the goal of this saint. It was to quench the thirst of Christ – this thirst to love and be loved – present in each core person. There is no opposition between the work of Mother Teresa and the legitimate initiatives to stop poverty. In the same way, there is no opposition between those who seek to love the unique people whether born or unborn who are victims of the death culture and the many initiatives to uphold the sanctity of life.

If we are Christians, then we are called to be what a good friend calls Gospel of Life People, not simply pro-life: We have faith in Christ and in the Gospel and this faith is the greatest treasure because it leads to Love. We know that the struggle, which gathers us together today, is not just about human rights – although human rights are exceedingly important! The struggle is ultimately in building what Saint John Paul II called a Civilization of Life and Love, and it begins within each one of us. If we want to see the culture of life flourish we would do well to listen to the wise words of Mahatma Gandhi: “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

- **Do I see that I too am, in some way, a part of the darkness of the culture of death?**
- **Am I willing to admit that I need to change?**
- **Do I believe that growth in personal holiness is essential for the flourishing of this civilization of Life and Love?**
- **Do I know how important it is to pray?**
- **Do I seek God’s Kingdom, His way first, trusting that He will take care of everything else?**

“But seek first his kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well” (Matt 6:33). These words of Jesus bring us back to the mother and her unborn child. She may be in very difficult circumstances and tempted to forget the priority of God’s way: to protect His Little Ones. Are we who urge her to do what is right and good, to welcome her baby and to trust all will work out well, willing to make sacrifices ourselves to help her and her child? Will we be there for them?

Many here today are there for these mothers and babies; praise God! Still, there are many mothers who end up at these places where their children are brutally killed. Let us think of these mother and babies, pray for them, and as much as possible be there for them, as we would be there for our own children, mother, father, sister, brother, or friend. We do not need to have loving feelings before we choose to act for the good of another.

All we need is to listen to Jesus who says: “Love one another as I have loved you...Whatever you have done for the least of my brothers you did it to me...In the world you will have trouble, but take courage I have overcome the world...I will send you the Holy Spirit, who will lead you to the fullness of truth...Do not be afraid...I am with you always!”

I would like to thank as well everyone who has written to both of us in jail and who have expressed support in various ways, especially through your prayers.

God bless you!