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London Area
Right to Life Association Inc.

Newsletter



A London Pro-Life Newsletter

MAY 2017

Volume 51 Number 2

Upcoming EVENTS

PLEASE MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

June 10th ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE
ST. MARY'S CHOIR SCHOOL
(See pg. 3 for further details)
LARTLA's MAJOR fundraiser
Pro-Life T-Shirts available!

June 17th AFLO AGM
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn, Stone Rd.
Guelph, ON

#150WaysToLife Video Contest
(See pg.7 for further details)

SHOW THE TRUTH
<http://showthetruth.ca>
Rosemary Connell 705-454-1109

PROJECT RACHEL
Caring and Confidential
1-888-355-1110 or 519-646-2950
Email: projectrachel@dol.ca

MONTHLY HOSPITAL WITNESS
Last Thursday of month
4:00 to 5:30 pm L.H.S.C.
John at 519-657-9009

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Michael Hale
Vice-President - Ngan DeVries
Secretary - Judy Balasch
Treasurer - Linda Prickett
Board Members -
Sheila Aguiar
Rebecca DeSumma
Deb Jackson
Joyce Lamb
Janice Rutledge

Prayer for Life



President's message

by Michael Hale



Gratitude is defined as the quality of being thankful. We all know how fortunate we are. God's great bounty has blessed all of us – even when we are suffering, we are blessed as Jesus said we must “pick up our cross and follow him”.

I know that every time I think of LARTLA and our activities, I'm encouraged by the passion for the prolife message shown by all our supporters and our Board members. I am thankful for all of you. Many hands make the work light and this is no truer than seen in our ministry.

I am very excited by the ideas that are being shared at our Board meetings and in our subcommittees. Our new youth contest: #150WAYSTOLIFE is but one new initiative that I'm confident will have very positive results. I encourage you to spread the word. Tell your friends, grandchildren, and youth ministers at your church. Reach out to everyone you know across Canada. We want everyone to know about it and get involved.

We have also recognized that we need to have more events where we can educate more. We recognize there are some excellent speakers who can share with us an important message. We will communicate more on this event (these events) in the coming months. I think the fall and winter will be very full for us.

Our year's activities begin with our Gala dinner. Everyone works hard to make this event worthwhile and a time when all of us can get together for fellowship and to help raise a bit of money for our cause. We follow that with our annual Walkathon. These two events are critical to our ability to do all the other things we do through the rest of the year. You will read about our Gala later in this newsletter and I hope to see all of you out at our walk on June 10th.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the annual March for Life in Ottawa last week, I know you would have been reenergized by being surrounded by thousands of others who hold life sacred. The energy felt there is something I hope everyone will experience at some point (if you haven't already). This energy gives us courage to continue to walk along our prolife journey.

In closing, please be safe throughout this summer and I look forward to seeing you all real soon.

Michael

O God, our Creator, all life is in your hands from conception until death. Help us to cherish our children and to reverence the awesome privilege of our share in creation. May all people live and die in dignity and love. Bless all those who defend the rights of the unborn, the handicapped and the aged. Enlighten and be merciful toward those who fail to love, and give them peace. Let freedom be tempered by responsibility, integrity and morality.

2017 Member Appreciation Breakfast/AGM

Judy Balasch-Board Member & AGM Committee Chairman



Thirty plus members and guests attended LARTLA's 2017 Member Appreciation Breakfast/AGM held Saturday, March 18 at St. George's Catholic Church Parish Hall.

The event started with a breakfast buffet provided by the board. The AGM was brief with reports from President Mike Hale and all the Committee Chairs followed by the election of board members. Mike Hale, Ngan DeVries, Deborah Jackson, Janice Rutledge, Sheila Aguiar, and Judy Balasch were re-elected for another year. We also elected two new board members Joyce Lamb and Rebecca DeSumma. (Linda Prickett joined the Board at our April meeting and has taken on the role of Treasurer.)

The speaker, Alex Schadenberg from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC), was next. His topic was "Caring, Not Killing." He updated us on the topic of euthanasia and encouraged the purchase of the movie *The Euthanasia Deception* to show at our churches. The movie can be purchased from the EPC office.

The morning ended with a draw for two tickets to the GALA. Attendees also checked under their chairs to see who would take home the flowers on the table. Everyone received a pen that said, "We're glad you were born."

This morning event was a new way for LARTLA to do the AGM. The board is thankful for all who attended and we hope you were informed and inspired for the year ahead. It will be a busy one!!! For those who were unable to attend or maybe hesitated to attend because it was something new we hope when you receive your invitation next year the date will be marked on your calendar and you will join us.

"Challenges & blessings" *by Bonnie Pember*

From my heart, I thank God for the ways in which He challenges me and blesses me in my work at London Area Right to Life! God never gives us more than we can handle with His help and His grace. Starting this month, Cece Lamb is once again our summer intern. She is an amazing young woman who assists me during our busy time in the office. You may have seen in the news how we pro-life groups are not able to receive government funding; therefore, I would ask for your help in raising money at this year's Walkathon, which is our major fundraiser. Your support enables us to carry on the "good fight" of witnessing to LIFE.



My great-niece, Caliana, was with our family to celebrate Mother's Day. She is 2 years old and a sweet little girl. Her laughter causes everyone around her to smile. Families are very important, from the youngest to the oldest. My family is my greatest blessing, next to my faith. They reflect God's love to me. We all belong to the family of believers, and Jesus loves us!

You are all in my daily prayers and thoughts. Let us continue to pray for those who do not realize how precious life is, from natural conception to natural death. Jesus said that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, mountains can be moved. Nothing is impossible with God! Thank you for being my companions on the journey to the Kingdom.

Bonnie

WALK FOR LIFE



LONDON AREA RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL 5KM

Walkathon

Saturday, June 10, 2017

START AND FINISH AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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

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

Youth Award and A New Campaign: Annual Gala Announcements! By Ngan DeVries

Our annual gala was full of excitement on the night of May 4th. Along with the Jim Jepson Award, we presented our first ever **Youth Award to Maria McCann on her strong commitment to the pro-life movement!** Maria is a full time university student who runs abortion apologetics workshops and pro-life activism at the university to engage students and change public opinion on the abortion debate. Maria is a fine example of the future of the pro-life movement. Not only did we want to thank and honor Maria for her faithful work, but we want to acknowledge the many committed young adults who work tirelessly for the pro-life cause. Maria is part of a new movement to re-open the abortion discussion to the public. This is a new movement to shape government to respect pro-life values. We are reaching out to mothers in need during an unplanned pregnancy. I believe we all know one or two, or more, young adults who are great pro-life leaders within the community. **This is why I need your help!**

Right after announcing the Youth Award to Maria, I announced an exciting campaign called #150WaysToLife. **This is a National Pro-Life Youth Video Contest!** We are requesting individuals ages 29 and under to submit a short video (up to 3 minutes long) to show us how they are pro-life in Canada. This can be anything from volunteering with a maternity home, to adopting a child, to engaging in all types of pro-life activism. This contest will run until midnight of June 30, 2017. On Canada's 150th birthday (July 1st), we will start to post the finalists on our Facebook page! The prize money starts at \$250 and goes up to \$1000! We will also launch our 150 ways to be pro-life in Canada infographic during this time, so please stay tuned!

This is why we need your help! Because you are reading this letter, we know you are connected to many young adults who are working hard to make Canada a better place for the most vulnerable Canadians. Please, do the following:

- Tell your priests/pastors about the campaign and encourage them to announce it during mass/service
- Encourage a young adult to submit a video for a chance to win \$1000
- Share our link with our promotional video on your facebook and various social media accounts
- Follow us on Facebook @LondonRighttoLife
- Partner with us and be a sponsor of this campaign by writing a cheque to help us raise \$1,750.
Please consider being a sponsor of this campaign today!

I am very excited to be working on this campaign, and you can be a part of it too! I need every reader to advertise for us and to encourage others to submit a video!

The pro-abortion argument is that the pro-life community represents the past, and abortion is the cornerstone of a "progressive" Canada. This is far from the truth! I know that the pro-life movement is full of great hearts and minds, young and old, of every color and creed! What a great way to encourage each other and flood social media with videos of how young Canadians are building a pro-life future for Canada! Please see the poster on page 7 and pass the news along!





2017 SILENT AUCTION DONORS

BUSINESS DONORS

- Animal Care Centre Lobo** 5592 Egremont Dr. RR# 1 Ilderton ON N0M 2A0 519-660-2014
Andrea's on Albert 125 Albert St. London ON N6A 1L9 519-673-1285
Aqua Medical Spa 570 Wonderland Rd N. London ON N6H 3E3 519-681-2800
Creative Nails (Byron) 107-1240 Commissioners Rd. W. N6K 1C7 226-663-3882
Domino's Pizza Box 8114 London N6G 2B0
Drayton Entertainment 46 Grand Ave S. Cambridge ON N1S 2L8 519-621-5511 (ext. 254)
East Park 1275 Hamilton Rd. London N5W 1B1 519-451-2950
Fleetway 720 Proudfoot Lane London N6H 5G5 519-472-9310
Grand Theatre 471 Richmond St. London N6A 3E4 519-672-9030 (ext. 0)
Heritage Garden Gallery 6867 Wellington Rd S London N6L 1M3 519-686-0027
Lynch Farms Ltd. (maple syrup products) 1950 Sunningdale Rd. W. London N6H 5J7
 519-471-7310
Movati London 755 Wonderland Rd N London N6H 4L1 519-471-7181
Mustard Seed 502 Springbank Dr. London N6J 1G8 519-439-4423
Peaceful Dove 677 Hamilton Rd. London N5Z 1T4 519-659-0592
Portugal Imports 655 Wilton Grove Rd London N6N 1N7 519-668-0702
Regency Florists 1080 Adelaide St. N. London N5Y 2N1 519-432-1713
Robert Q 105 Wharncliffe Rd. London N6J 2K2 519-679-2707
Sunripe Produce 744 Adelaide St. N. London N5Y 2L6 519-433-4141
The OVer Company (Modern Mom show) <http://theover.co>

2017 INDIVIDUAL SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Trisha Aarts (massage therapist)
 Mary Lynn Barr
 Evangeline Brett
 Danielle Bulanda-Roelands
 Michael Downing
 Michael & Sue Hale

Deb Jackson
 Harriet Machuk
 Vince & Deb Mancari
 Cynthia Obbema
 Pam & Ed Oelke
 Janice Rutledge

Nancy Schembri
 Peter Schroeder
 Veronica Solis-Oba
 Sophia Tacak
 Sharon & Dr. Wayne Weston



Women deserve better *by Cecilia Lamb*

As a young woman living in the 21st century, I feel very blessed and privileged to live in a country where my rights and freedoms are not based on my gender or the color of my skin. To live in Canada where one is given various opportunities to succeed and achieve great things and the freedom to have a choice is probably one of the greatest blessings. With this in mind, many people feel that Canada's treatment of women is much more respectable and equal than that of many other countries, specifically where there is no such thing as gender equality. I believe this to be true in many respects but there is one of which I have an issue with. The problem that I take issue with is society's consistency in pretending that abortion is about women's rights and that it is in some way, a freedom and right that every woman should be given.

As a young, pro-life woman, I find this to be not only incorrect but illogical. Just because I am a woman and it is my body does not entitle me to decide whether another human being's life is given the opportunity to live or to die. To think that society can't do better for women is ridiculous and to constantly shadow the truth of abortion with words like 'choice' and 'freedom' are misleading and quite frankly, wrong. The choice of abortion is not about a woman having control over her own body but rather, is it in my right to choose whether someone should live or die? Being pro-life does not mean that I am anti-woman but quite the contrary, as I am pro-woman and it is because I am pro-woman that I feel women deserve better than abortion. Aside from the abortion itself, the aftermath and challenges that come after an abortion are detrimental to women and can cause many physical, psychological and mental problems in the future.

As a woman, I am passionate about making opportunities and lives of women better, not worse and in telling woman abortion is the answer to their problem, we, as a society are failing them. As St. Mother Teresa said: "Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers".



The March For Life 2017 *by Victoria Lamb*



Hello, my name is Victoria Lamb and I am thirteen years old. This year I attended the March for Life with my dad and I believe this was my fifth year attending. Growing up in a pro-life household with my seven siblings, I was always taught the sacredness of every human life and feel that attending pro-life events, such as the National March for life are very important. I remember that a common theme throughout all of my years marching was the loud and angry voices coming from the pro-choice side. As a kid, I would get scared and wondered what it was that made these people so angry but I later discovered that the anger and irritation these people were voicing, probably had something to do with unresolved and hurt feelings that they were not yet ready to address. I realized that although it can be challenging at times and possibly put one in an uncomfortable position, standing up for what is right and for those who cannot speak for themselves is something that we as Christians, must do: "Be firm in the Christian faith. Be courageous and strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). With this in mind, I encourage people of all ages to come to the March for Life and stand up and be a voice for the voiceless!

Conny & Dr. Barel—Jim Jepson Award Recipients *by Bonnie Pember*

Conny and Dr. Barel were the Jim Jepson Award recipients at our Annual Gala this year. They have been active in pro-life work with London Area Right to Life Association since it was founded by Dr. DeVeber. Everyone knew that Dr. Barel was pro-life and would never perform abortions. Both Conny and Reyer believe that life is precious and that the 'right to life' is the most basic human right.

This faith-filled couple have participated in all of our events over the years and most recently, since 2011, have witnessed "at the corner" during the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil outside Victoria Hospital, where one floor is devoted to delivering babies while another is used for abortions. Dr. Barel's greatest joy as delivering babies which he considered the "heart of his practice." Even those who weren't his patients knew that Dr. Barel would take care of them and their babies.

For Conny and Reyer, education and faith are very important. They believe that life is precious and must be protected for we are all made in God's image and likeness. Their advice for young people? Continue to witness to Life and keep up the "good fight" for we are in a spiritual warfare against the culture of death. Not only must we be against abortion but also against euthanasia. Conny has experienced in her own life how euthanasia has become pervasive in her home country, the Netherlands. Canada is also in danger. We must be vigilant in addressing all life issues.

God bless all of you who, like Conny and Dr. Barel, pray for protection of all human life, from natural conception to natural death.



Canadian Doctors Will Leave if Forced to Participate in Assisted Suicides

LifeNews.com • Alex Schadenberg



On May 18, the Ontario legislature rejected Bill 129, the Regulated Health Professions Amendment Act, a bill that was sponsored by Jeff Yurek (MLA) to provide conscience protection for health care workers in Ontario.

The Toronto Sun reported that a press conference organized by the Concerned Ontario Doctors and the Coalition for Healthcare and Conscience that:

Many Ontario doctors and nurses working in palliative care say their objection to playing a role in assisted suicides may force them to leave the medical profession. Many physicians “don’t want to make a referral that would result in the death of a patient,”

Dr. Kulvinder Gill said, adding forcing medical workers to participate strips them of their conscience rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms. “Access (to assist dying) must not depend on a physician having a role.”

Dozens of medical professionals attended the press conference. The Toronto Sun article quoted some of the medical professionals as stating:

Dr. Jane Dobson said she is at a crossroads because she won’t make referrals for assisted dying.

“There are palliative-care providers who will be forced to leave (the profession) because of the conscience,” Dobson said.

Pharmacist James Brown says he believes drugs should be used to treat diseases — not kill someone.

“They’re never intended to take a patient’s life. Knowing a medication is meant to take a life goes against my core values,” Brown said.

Doctors, nurses and other medical professionals must never be forced to be complicit in acts of killing their patients.



Hey, Pro Life Canadians!

NATIONAL YOUTH PRO LIFE VIDEO CONTEST
ENTER BY JUNE 30, 2017

WIN UP TO \$1000!

Submit a video telling us how you are working to protect the most vulnerable Canadians!



Go to right2life.ca

Sponsored by London Area Right To Life Association
Follow us on Facebook @LondonRightToLife

Open to residents of Canada, age 29 and younger. To enter, submit your video on youtube. Opens May 4, 2017. Submission deadline is 12:00 A.M. on ET on June 30, 2017. One (1) cash prize of \$1000 for 1st place. One (1) cash prize of \$500 for 2nd place. One (1) cash prize of \$250 for 3rd place. The contest judges will select winners based on originality, creativity, impact, and how “inspirational” the video is. The judges’ decision is final. Complete guidelines and how to submit video visit right2life.ca.

“A Story of Love” *by Sheila Aguiar*



In the early 80's my husband & I were well settled in Bombay with four lovely daughters. I helped him in his business. I owned a leather boutique in a five star hotel. As I had very reliable staff I was involved in social work. Sr. Ella, an English nun, was the President of the Catholic Nurses' guild. As she was constantly travelling I helped her with her correspondence. In 1983, a Belgian friend of hers asked her to find a baby girl for adoption. So I wrote to all the Catholic Matrons in India stating Sister's requirement. After a few months, I received a response from the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Sister Ella rushed there as she was delighted to have received a response so soon. But the next day she called me to say that the mother had delivered the baby but had taken her home. She could not part with her.

The next morning as Sister was returning from Mass she found the grandmother of the baby sitting on the hospital steps, with the baby. Sobbing she asked Sister to take the baby, give her to a good home & to name her Salome. Sister was excited to rush back to Bombay. Here she discovered that baby had a congenital heart condition

and needed to be hospitalized. After six months, I volunteered to take Salome home while Sr. Ella was getting her papers for adoption.

My twin girls were on holidays and they along with their friends just doted on Salome; so did my entire family. But there was a setback. Sr. Ella had to make her papers in Andhra, & so the adoption was stopped. The Indian Association for the promotion of adoption stepped in were to take the baby. Now Salome had been with us for over a year, she was like a family member. We had all grown to love her & decided to adopt her. But in India one could not adopt if you were over 50; my husband was 52 years old.

I engaged a young lady lawyer, Indira Jaisingh. She was very moved when she paid us a home visit. She was convinced that it would be traumatic for the child if she was taken away from this home where she was showered with love. Indira pleaded her case in court with conviction; she brought tears to the judges' eyes.

That is the story of how Salome came to be our adopted child. Many were curious to know why, when we had four girls we adopted another girl (especially in India where couples were aborting baby girls). I would always reply with a smile (this was not choice; she was thrown into our laps) At that time in our community there were two cases where adopted children had turned against the parents. But my husband & I were firm believers that "Love overcomes anything."

Because of this adoption there was an overflow of love, not only in our home, but all our friends & relatives & especially in Virendra. (The Catholic colony of 42 families where we lived like one big family.)