

BROCKVILLE 50+ ACTIVITY CENTRE
President's Report May 9, 2018

While reviewing the minutes from this past year I was, once again, struck by amount of work that was accomplished by this team. As usual, we hosted two registration events and offered a Christmas Dinner for our members. With the leadership of Debby Greffe, our Social Director, with support from office staff and several volunteers, our activities were on display at Culture Days.

We hosted information sessions including; Question & Answer Sessions on personal tech equipment, Driver Safety Course for Older Adults and Tax & Estate Planning Information.

This year we registered 400 people in both semesters, a new record. Thanks to our talented and generous volunteer instructors and leaders we were again able to run twenty different activities throughout the year; some of which occurred 2 or 3 times per week. Included in those were two new activities, Table Tennis and Mosaic Art. Euchre also made a comeback in response to requests by our participants.

Our Newsletter, which includes everything one needs to know to be *in the know* as a member of the AC was distributed from August – May. Our AC Website was kept fresh by its' designer and maintenance man, Tony Dunbar. It is the face of the AC for members and for the broader Brockville community.

In addition to the basic activities I have mentioned, this team met other challenges. As promised, we began the work of introducing our new name to the citizens of Brockville. We had rack cards and posters created which clearly display our new name and activities to be distributed throughout the City. We sent a letter of re-introduction to the Mayor and City Council members and met with the City's Director of Operations, Conal Cosgrove, in an effort to gain their support regarding our need for additional suitable and affordable space as we continue to grow. We were encourage by Mr. Cosgrove's response. Some results from the meeting are that we are going to use the Memorial Centre for our 2018 Registration and for one or more activities in the fall.

In January we had to transfer three of our activities from the Thousand Island Mall to three of Brockville's retirement residences; The Wedgewood, The Royal Brock and Bridlewood Manor. So far, this has turned out to be a win-win situation for everyone.

In the fall, after consulting with our volunteer leaders, a committee from the Board created a new Winter Weather Policy. Now AC leaders select one of several approaches to inclement weather. It seems our members preferences are being met by this change and there is a little less confusion on snowy days.

Because of work done during this year by our Activities Director, Bill Carlyle, our volunteer leaders will have a new **HANDBOOK for AC LEADERS** available to them. In addition to the regular support offered to them by the Activities Director and office staff, the handbook should provide them with a clear picture of their value within this organization, the support they can expect from us and their responsibilities as an instructor or leader. As new activities and new leaders are regularly being added to the Activity Centre, part of our success depends on everyone being "on the same page." The new handbook should help in this regard.

During this past semester, in response to the large number of registrants and feedback from our members, the Board began the work of reviewing some of our registration policies and processes. As a new seniors apartment building is being built right next door to Wall St. United Church, and with our new name clarifying for everyone who we are, what we do and who can belong, we expect that there will be many more people who will want to join our ranks. For this reason, the Board decided that it is important that we find a way for our current membership to maintain a place in their chosen activities and continue building the friendships they enjoyed in the previous semester. Success creates new challenges and this Board has worked hard to meet them. A good “problem” indeed.

In closing I want to mention the valuable work of our volunteer office staff, Marian Rafferty, Laura Papaioannou and Carron Szabo. These volunteers represent the Activity Centre in the flesh. By phone, email and in person they respond to our members and leaders inquiries and needs. They are the part of the team who help our membership feel like “someone is home” when they come calling.

I also want to mention that we are happy tenants of Wall St. United Church. Their building is home to us. Their Board supports us to the best of their ability as we, also, wish to support them. We are given excellent care by their care-taker in chief, Trevor. Also, we are grateful for the tolerance shown by their secretary, Cathie, as our members occasionally forget that our office is upstairs.

And finally, as I now step down as President of this incredible, one-of-a-kind organization, I look forward to supporting whoever takes my place. I hope I can serve that person as well as Tony supported me over this two year journey.

Cheryl Nix