



Summer is in full swing and there are many fun things happening at L'Arche Ottawa.

In this issue, you will hear about our community vacation plans, read some fun spotlights from our L'Arche family, get some important updates on the "Building Our Future Together" initiative (BOFT), and learn about our fundraising strategy for the 2024/25 fiscal year.

We're almost midway through the first year implementing our strategic plan, BOFT, so it's a great time to evaluate our progress and accomplishments during this transformation process.

And time to step back and consider redistributing committee resources, rejigging timelines, and reorienting teams to reach our goals.

I'm pleased to report that some of our six committees have made exceptional progress. In particular, the Day Program and Infrastructures Committees have been trailblazing.

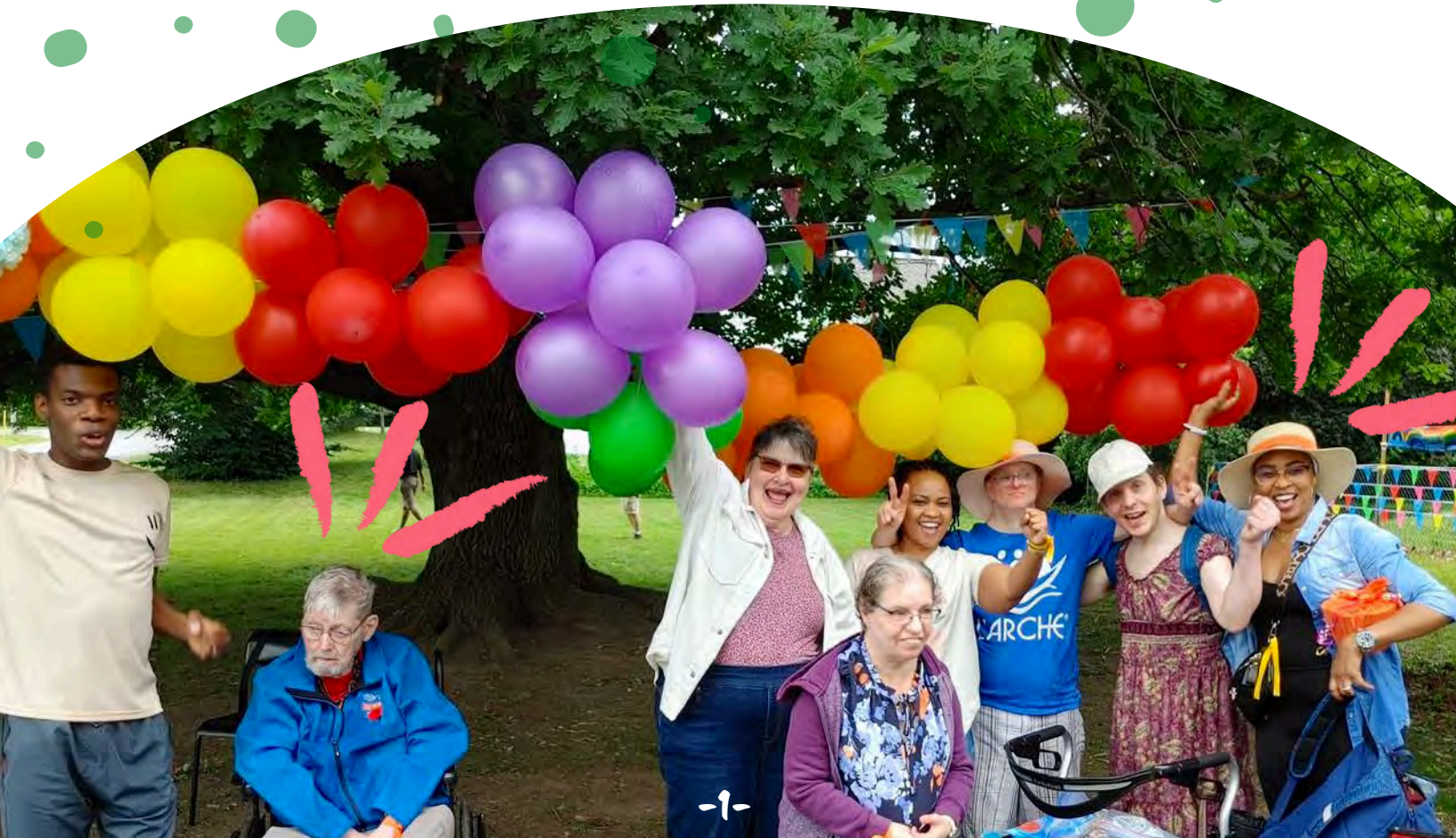
The former held a very public and very celebratory launch in May where many inside and outside our community attended.

The Infrastructure committee has worked closely with external consultants, architects, and La Source residents to consider what's needed in an updated home. The team has also helped identify possible funding sources for this ambitious project.

Although we've had our challenges with communication, we aim to do better with spreading the news about our successes and opportunities! For example with this newsletter and the website that we are currently remodeling.

I wish you a delightful summer!

Étienne Hainzelin
Community Leader/Executive Director



Get to know our community: Core Members



Joel

1. What is your favourite band?

A: Kiss (pointing to his KISS t-shirt proudly).

2. What is your dream vacation spot?

A: Kiss concert or wrestling show.

3. Favourite Restaurant?

A: Red Lobster (for the shrimp).

4. Do you like painting?

A: No, draw. (Especially the Kiss logo.)

5. Dream car?

A: Helicopter.

6. What is your favourite snack?

A: Donuts (any kind from Tim Hortons).

7. Do you play the piano?

A: No, drums at home.

8. What is your favourite animal?

A: Horse (has ridden one before too).

Community vacations!



It's time for L'Arche Ottawa to pack their bags and head off for community vacation!

We finally get to travel again and this year different groups will be traveling to Cape Breton (NS), Amos (QC), Quebec City, and Daybreak (Richmond, Hill).

Some of the Core Members choose to 'staycation' and enjoy local activities like bowling, visiting Parc Omega, playing pool and going to the movies.

We can't wait to hear about all of their adventures!



With our new and improved newsletter, we thought it would be fun to add some quick spotlights on the amazing people who make this community run smoothly! In each issue, you will get to know a Core Member, a member of the Coordination team, a member of the Board and one of our amazing Assistants from questions asked by the Core Members- our experts at welcoming new people!

Get to know our community: Assistant



Fadwa- Live-in Assistant

1. What is your favourite band?

A: Imagine Dragons.

2. What is your dream vacation spot?

A: Anywhere in nature with mountains.

3. Favourite Restaurant?

A: Honestly none really, my mom's cooking is the best!

4. Do you like painting?

A: Yes! Sometimes I paint with my friend Joël.

5. Dream car?

A: Mini Cooper.

6. What is your favourite snack?

A: All kinds of salads.

7. Do you play the piano?

A: No, but I like listening to it.

8. What is your favourite animal?

A: Dolphins but also dogs!

Get to know our community: Coordination Team



Fallon - Finance Admin

1. What is your favourite band/singer?

A: Jessie Ware.

2. What is your dream vacation spot?

A: Amsterdam (has been before and loved it).

3. Favourite Restaurant?

A: Teronni (in Toronto).

4. Do you like painting?

A: Walls, yes. Artistically, no.

5. Dream car?

A: Hopefully an Audi someday.

6. What is your favourite snack?

A: Skyflakes crackers with cashew butter and raspberry jelly.

7. Do you play the piano?

A: Mary Had a Little Lamb.

8. What is your favourite animal?

A: White tigers.

Building Our Future Together

Day Program

Completion of activities planned for 2024/25: on track

So far, we have set up twelve different program options with a total attendance of 70 in all program sessions put together (including 35 from guests from the community). Due in part to the generous donation of the Kazmierski family, we set up a special fund to operate the program. This donation is in memory of their dear family member Greg, a well-known Ottawan who lived with Down's Syndrome and experienced loneliness in his later years because of a lack of suitable day programming. Marketing the programs to attract more external participants, and examining ongoing costs and incomes to balance the budget, will be the focus for the remainder of the year.

Infrastructures

Completion of activities planned for 2024/25: slightly behind schedule

The team had hoped to be able to bring a Go/No Go decision for the La Source project to the Board of Directors by the end of June. Despite making impressive progress, the consultants, Cahdco, discovered a few extra steps needed before obtaining a building permit. But, we now have detailed blueprints for a new 'dream home' and the team has assessed the project as 'operationally viable'. This means that with some luck in applying for funding, we can make this happen! If that's not enough, the team is also exploring new locations for our offices and Day Program by surveying local churches and venues. The deadline for finding new office space was delayed until July 2025 so this is on the backburner for now.

Employer of Choice

Completion of activities planned for 2024/25: on track

We've already witnessed progress! Our retention rate for assistants has risen from where we were two years ago. The team released a 'Welcome to L'Arche' booklet in June. L'Arche Ottawa is finalizing a professional development schedule for the upcoming year that also promises to equip staff and managers with training to increase employee confidence. And staff in our Homes report smoother interactions with Rossland staff. The Committee plans to review L'Arche's mental health benefits package and institute a channel for staff feedback before the yearend.



Residential Services

Completion of activities planned for 2024/25: behind schedule

We are celebrating being able to travel again for our community vacations - something we haven't seen since COVID - with exciting trips planned over July and August. The team has been considering candidates for new Core Members (CM) but hasn't finalized the selection yet. It will be putting together a supported independent living (SIL) support team during the summer so that at least two new SILs can be supported this year. The Team is also overseeing the re-assessment of our CM needs.

Mission & Outreach

Completion of activities planned for 2024/25: mixed

Our Mission and Outreach committee has explored concrete ways to deepen our sense of community and to connect more with our neighbourhoods. It found that some of its goals would only be possible with more foundational work and a general survey on how to have more meaningful community events. Consideration is being given to various training courses including training in L'Arche core values. Lists of supporters have been tabulated, staff with strong communication skills have been identified and the committee is now ready to pilot two homes as a welcoming hub in its community and a beacon of L'Arche values.



Finance & Funding Model

Completion of activities planned for 2024/25: mixed

MCCSS gave L'Arche Ottawa a welcome funding boost for 2023/24 at fiscal year's end. We've been reorganizing and streamlining our internal finance functions so that processes, like applying for Passport funding, are easier. We now share our finance coordinator with L'Arche Stratford and are progressively able to manage budgets and fund programs more easily. On the other hand, our Fundraising Committee has been active in events and grant writing and recently released a draft strategy for the year. We'll need to consider how to better support this essential group to enable them to meet their ambitious \$225K target this year.

*activities were assessed by the BOFT oversight committee by the end of June 2024 which is only a quarter into the fiscal year but half a year after the launch of implementation

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Fundraising

Ready. Set. L'Arche!

L'Arche Ottawa crossed one of its first finish lines this year for fundraising events! The successful Ottawa Tamarack Race Weekend raised almost \$14,000.

L'Arche Ottawa's fundraising goal (\$225,000) includes funding for general operations (\$120,000) and the Day Program (\$100,000), essentially to sponsor participants.

Other fundraising initiatives include the International Day of Disabilities (Dec. 3), the Christmas Appeal, and the United Way Campaign.

For the launch of the Day Program, we have a specific fund called the Kazmierski fund named after beloved Ottawan Greg Kazmierski.

Upcoming Events

- Save the Date: L'Arche Ottawa's 52nd anniversary of opening its doors at St. Basil's church 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on September 21

How Can You Help?

- Make a donation
- Become an assistant
- Volunteer with us
- Register a core member

To find out more on how to become a part of the L'Arche Ottawa community visit our website at www.larcheottawa.org

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

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(donate by cheque by filling out this info card and sending it to the address listed above)