



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL
ACTION COMMITTEE

June 2018

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-chair: Elizabeth Kent
Co-secretaries: Anne Whitehurst
and Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Joe Courtright
Communications: John Pedersen

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Quaker Ottawa Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Theresa's
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our mission:

To unite Christians of all denominations through joint participation in social projects and prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
Please feel free to e-mail us,
call us, or even mail us:

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CCSAC Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday April 25, CCSAC held its annual AGM at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 400 Sparks Street. Pastor Elina Salonen welcomed everyone and gave the opening prayer.

This year's special guest speaker was Dr. Ken MacLaren, Executive Director of Ottawa Innercity Ministries (OIM). Dr. MacLaren began his talk with an apt quote for social justice from Micah 6:8: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." He went on to describe OIM various programs to help the homeless and underprivileged in our community. Their volunteers, whether working on the streets or at the different in-house programs, build relationships with people who are forgotten, alone and lonely. He also talked about OIM's important youth arts program, which desperately needs to find a new home.

Reports for 2017 were presented. In her report, CCSAC Chair, Kristine Burr highlighted several CCSAC achievements in 2017. Among these were its brief to the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy consultation, endorsing a national affordable housing project, and the 2nd very successful Walk-a-thon in October for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre, raising nearly \$20,000. Joe Courtright, CCSAC Treasurer's financial report reflected the generosity of CCSAC donors which enabled us to cover our 2017 expenses, leaving a small reserve going into 2018. In her presentation, Kerry Kaiser, Centretown Emergency Food Centre Coordinator, praised the Food Centre's volunteers, who not only give the clients the much needed food bundles, but also often take the time to listen to their concerns.

Father Murray of St. Barnabas Anglican Church offered prayers for the installation of CCSAC officers: Kristine Burr, Chair; Elizabeth Kent, Vice-Chair; Joe Courtright, Treasurer; Mary Mussel and Anne Whitehurst, Co-Secretaries; and John Pedersen, Communications. Pastor Ed Bastien of St. Peter's gave the closing prayer and benediction.



The executive of CCSAC (from left): Treasurer Joe Courtright, Chair Kristine Burr, Co-secretary Anne Whitehurst, and Vice-chair Elizabeth Kent. Absent: Co-secretary Mary Mussell and Communications Committee Chair John Pedersen.

Rooming House Update

Advocating for social justice, especially on issues of poverty, continues to be an important part of CCSAC's mandate. In March of this year, we wrote a letter to the three levels of government endorsing the recommendations of the December 4, 2017 update report on rooming houses in West-Central Ottawa by the Ottawa West and Centretown communities health centres. The findings of this report card emphasized the critical need for improvement in the living conditions of rooming houses.

In their replies, both the Ontario Ministry of Housing Ministry and Catherine McKenney, Councillor for Somerset Ward recognized the important role that the municipal government plays in regulating rooming houses. Ms McKenney outlined the specific measures that the City of Ottawa is taking to ensure that rooming houses meet "the basic health and security needs of vulnerable tenants." These measures include a Rooming House Licensing By-law Review, carried out earlier this year, which will "ultimately ensure that bona fide rooming houses are licensed and inspected in accordance with the by-law." The City has also assigned a bylaw officer dedicated to monitoring and enforcing all property standards and other City by-laws as required by licensing agreements, a recommendation made by the community centres' update report.

Walk-a-thon Returns!

On Sunday, October 21, CCSAC will hold its 3rd Walk-a-thon to raise funds for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. Hoping again for a strong turnout from family and friends to support the "Walk for the Centre!"



At the CCSAC Volunteer Dinner (from left): Volunteer Julie Stock, Assistant Coordinator Aidan Grapes, City Councillor Catherine McKenney, CEFC Coordinator Kerry Kaiser, and Volunteer Roger White.

From the Food Centre

By Allison Dingle, Chair of CEFC

In mid-February our Coordinator Kerry Kaiser was taken ill suddenly. She was in intensive care for several weeks in the hospital and then at home recovering until early May. Happily, Kerry has made a full recovery and is now back at work full time, in full swing! In fact, Kerry was back in time for CCSAC's AGM on April 25, and gave a wonderful talk on that occasion.

During Kerry's absence, the Centre was ably directed by her Assistant, Aidan Grapes, with the help of our loyal volunteers, several of whom volunteered extra shifts to assist Aidan with the many complex tasks of keeping the Food Centre well supplied and our clients well cared for. During this time Aidan was also able to complete the evaluation for our Carleton Placement Student, Rebecca (Becca) Anderson, who had done a superb job while at the Centre.

Perhaps the most noticeable change in the Centre these days is that our storage rooms are empty as we've used up our accumulated stores, and are not receiving donations in any significant amount. This means we are purchasing a larger portion of our food than normal. We hope member churches will respond to this news by encouraging their congregations to contribute food over the summer months.

On May 12, the Centretown Health Centre gave a food demonstration to clients on how to enhance their nutritional awareness and cooking skills. It featured a Tomato Bean soup made with ingredients we distribute regularly to our clients. The next demonstration will be on June 21.

Also on the horizon is a Food Drive by the Rotary Club Ottawa Bytown at Loblaws on Isabella on Saturday, June 23 from 9 to 5. Please stop by to shop and support this important initiative. In closing, we would like to thank CCSAC for hosting an outstanding Volunteer Dinner on May 30.

Volunteer Dinner

On May 30, CCSAC held its Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Centretown United Church to recognize and thank the many volunteers of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre (CEFC). Kristine Burr, CCSAC Chair, graciously thanked Catherine McKenney, City Councillor for Somerset Ward, for her continuing strong support of both CCSAC and the Food Centre. Allison Dingle, Chair of CEFC Management Committee, praised the volunteers and their team leader, Kerry Kaiser, CEFC Coordinator, for their hard work and dedication to serving the clients of the Food Centre.