



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Annual General Meeting
June 28, 2021

Good evening. This is the second year of a Zoom AGM, and while it gives me great pleasure to provide this Report to the membership of Our Health Centre, I would much rather do this in person. That said, we have little to complain about in Nova Scotia!

While the pandemic has 'paused' our lives in many ways it has not stopped OHC from continuing to provide essential services. The *Lighthouse Now Progress Bulletin* reported this week that the provincial 'Need a Physician' waitlist has significantly grown, with over 66,400 people now on the list. We know how this impacts the communities served by OHC. Over 50% of the patients who visit our walk in clinic, which has been open throughout the pandemic, do not have a family physician or nurse practitioner. Lorraine will tell you more about the other excellent community supports provided by the walk in clinic.

OHC works closely with both the Municipality of Chester and NSHA on doctor recruitment efforts, however the pandemic has slowed the process considerably. The partnership with MOC to produce a doctor recruitment and retention strategy and the excellent promotional website that resulted are a testament to the importance MOC places on health and wellness services for our communities.

Despite the difficulty of offering direct programming from the OHC building, 2020-21 saw the strengthening of many of the partnerships between OHC and other community organizations, most significantly 'Growing Friends'. OHC also submitted applications for grants to provide mental health services and vaccine information and education delivery. Lorraine will report more fully on these.

Our finances are in good order as our Treasurer, Leo Blain, will report. We do not operate with significant margins however, and funds for programs and services must be sought from many sources. Fortunately, we have an active Foundation, and you will hear more about their work from Ron MacDonald, the Foundation Chair.

OHC would not be the success it is without the outstanding work of our Executive Director, Lorraine Burch. Despite her amazing ability to multitask, the Board recognized that she is drawn in too many directions and if we are to fully realize our vision of being a hub for health and wellness, she needs some help. We are therefore pleased to introduce Erin Perry, who will be assisting Lorraine on a part time basis. Special thanks to Cindy Robichaud, our Medical Office Administrator, for her wonderful service. We have many volunteers who deserve special mention, not the least of whom are Syd and Sandy Dumaresq, Building Advisors Wilson Fitt, Kit McCurdy and Ed Bloodworth, Professional Advisors Kim Geldart and Kelly McKnight, our volunteer navigators, members of the Doctor Recruitment & Retention Committee, members of the Community Wellness Partnership, and of course, the OHC Foundation volunteers.

Respectfully submitted, Thelma Costello