

As two of the newest staff members here at the Centre (Robin and Victoria), we feel incredibly lucky to be working in this Centre with many active members, committed volunteers, dedicated staff, and experienced mentors, like Kim and Wendy. Everyone has been so welcoming, willing to help, and able to share their knowledge. We know we have very big shoes to fill, but with all the support from our community here at the Centre, we truly feel that the possibilities are endless.

It's a wonderful feeling to come to work, loving our roles, because of the enthusiasm and commitment to the Centre displayed by our nearly 750 members and the invaluable service given by our extraordinary volunteers. We truly are a member-driven centre and we are looking forward to serving the membership in our roles.

Because of the strong foundation we came into, we feel like we have had a pretty strong start so far. It's very exciting to know that we will be having a lift installed in the new year. Construction will be starting in January and the goal is to have the lift completed by March 1st, in time for our Active Living Fair. This project has been made possible from funding provided by the RBC Foundation (\$85,000), Town of Ingersoll (\$10,000), Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll (\$10,000), and the Rotary Club of Ingersoll (\$10,000). This renovation will most definitely increase our capacity, allowing us to host additional programs and services. The second part of this project will be renovating the washrooms upstairs to include a barrier-free washroom, universal washroom, and a new space for our Foot Care Clinics.

Through Facebook, Chris found a great lead on shingles and with assistance from Gladiator Roofing, we had the roof on our Dining Shelter and Shed replaced. We are looking forward to expanding the outdoor programs we can offer next year. We hope to install some shade structures and have members socializing and spending time outdoors, in the fresh air, next year!

Thanks to Megan, Nicole, and Heather, we were one of 20 applications accepted of over 400 for a \$10,000 grant to support our meals and equipment loan program from HelpAge Canada.

We are also just starting to roll out our new Social Prescribing program with subsidies provided by the OACAO, the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario. Social Prescribing allows community healthcare partners and leaders within the community to refer older adults to our Centre to assist them with engaging in programming opportunities. The subsidies allow us to remove financial and transportation barriers, improve the mental health of older adults, by increasing their sense of belonging through social and physical activity.

Have you heard about Men's Shed? We are thrilled to be partnering with the Tillsonburg Senior Centre on a joint Men's Shed. We can't wait to see our woodshop more active and provide opportunities for men to socialize, volunteer, and participate in activities together. More details will be coming out in the next few weeks!

Another new project to look forward to, is our expansion of MySeniorCenter. In the new year, we will be introducing MyActiveCenter. This will allow members to register for programs online, at home, and on their own. This includes bus trips, special events, fitness classes, workshops, and presentations. We are slowly embracing technology to make the registration process a little easier and more convenient. Of course, you'll still be able to register by calling or stopping in as well.

Perhaps, one of the most exciting announcements we can make, is our Mature Movers program being funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Through this funding, we will be able to provide our current instructors with additional certification opportunities and bring on new instructors with appropriate certification. We will be able to expand our fitness class offerings to better meet the needs of our members. Because of this funding, for the next year from January 1st to December 31st, 2025, we are able to give back to our members by decreasing the cost of our Fitness Classes to \$3 for members and \$6 for non-members. We wish we could make them free, but we hope this is a way to show our appreciation and encourage our members to stay active!

We hope you are as excited as we are for the future! So much has been accomplished because of the hard work, creativity, and determination of staff, members, and volunteers for the past 30 years. We hope we are able to cultivate the same excitement and opportunities going forward. Please make some time to check out the displays in the front lobby. We have some snapshots from the past, but also some space for you to share some ideas with us for the future.