

**WOLFVILLE AREA INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING
9 May 2011
Wolfville Baptist Church**

The Annual Meeting of WAICC took place on Wednesday 9 May 2012 in the Wolfville Baptist Church

The evening commenced at 7:00 pm with an "open house" at the Wolfville Area Food Bank in the lower level of the church. Since the following day was a food bank day, the hall was set up ready to go. Maurice Tugwell introduced the event, giving some of the history of WAICC's involvement in helping with issues of hunger over the past 40+ years and explained how the original voucher system evolved into the food bank a little over five years ago. Food Bank volunteers were on hand to explain to the visitors how different sections of the food bank work.

Approximately 60 people attended this part of the evening's events.

Refreshments were served upstairs in the vestry and the AGM commenced at 8:00 pm. About 24 people attended the business meeting.

**BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES**

Vice-President, Penni Burrell called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. She reported regrets from the President Keith Churchill who was unable to be present due to health issues and on behalf of all WAICC members; she sent best wishes to him for a speedy return to good health.

Rev. David Ogilvie led the opening Devotions. He opened with the song, "May the Peace of Christ be with you in all you do." He reminded us of the reason we exist as WAICC, referring to Matthew 5:13-16. Christ's call to us to be salt and light in the world captures an important part of WAICC's purpose and provides an opportunity for witness in the community. David led us in the song, "The Bread We Eat" and closed with a prayer of rededication.

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the Minutes of the AGM of 11th May 2011 had been circulated.
Approval moved by Margaret Burton/Maurice Tugwell. Motion carried

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Keith Churchill's report read by Diana Shelley:

Once again I am pleased to present my annual report. It has been a privilege for me to serve for the past two years as the president of WAICC. This is a very unique and effective organization that not only brings together the Christian community of the area for worship and study but carries out some very important services for the citizens of our area. During the past year we have:

- Provided emergency assistance to many in need. The actual amount of that assistance is contained in the financial statements. Beyond the amount of money expended is the care and concern with which the members of WAICC seek to respond to those with special needs. This year we adopted a protocol on emergency assistance that provides a format for the way in which we provide that assistance.
- Cooperated with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in making available school supplies for families for whom such costs are prohibitive. WAICC contributed almost \$4,000.00 to cover the costs of supplies for 83 students in the WAICC area.
- Contributed to the School Food Programs in four area schools.
- Provided support for "Jane" and anxiously await the consequences for her of the conclusion of the trial in which she was a witness.
- Appreciated the work of the Clergy Group in planning events for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Walk with the Cross and the Good Friday service.
- Plans for a public meeting in the fall on "Embracing Life: Embracing Death."
- Sent a representative, Rev. David Garrett, to the Atlantic Ecumenical Council.
- Met with Rev. Dr. Dan Gibson, the Eastern Representative of the Canadian Council of Churches, with the view of fostering communications between our Councils.
- One of the things I had hoped to accomplish during my term as president was to initiate the role of a Communications Director. I am still hopeful this may come about in the near future.
- In conclusion I want to thank everyone for his/her support and cooperation during my term as president. It has been a pleasure! In particular I want to thank Penni Burrell for filling in for me during the times when I have been away for personal or medical reasons.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT and BUDGET

Copies of Year-end Financial Statement to 31 March 2012 circulated by Maurice Tugwell, Treasurer. Maurice commented on the discrepancy between *Revenues – Budgeted* and *Actual*. This he felt was largely attributable to the food bank and its increasing visibility in the community. Acceptance of report moved by Maurice Tugwell/Maggie Kenny. Motion carried

Copies of proposed budget 2012-13 were circulated. Maurice gave a short explanation of one or two items following which acceptance of Budget 2012-13 moved by Maurice Tugwell/Laurie St. Amour Motion carried.

Copies of both of these reports attached with Minutes

4. FOOD BANK REPORT

Diana Shelley (Chair WAFB) read report of Wolfville Area Food Bank as follows:

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and I think what we have seen downstairs this evening bears out that saying. Accordingly, I will try to keep my words short! I hope those people who were able to attend have a better understanding of how the Wolfville Area Food Bank works.

I started my annual report last year by saying that it had been a “good” year for Wolfville Foodbank and then explaining that this had to be a contradiction in terms because an increase in numbers of food bank users cannot be described as being “good” Sadly that trend continues and our average number of families using the food bank each month is close to 150, compared to 100 a year ago.

We have much to be thankful in the operation of WAFB: first and foremost the wonderful volunteers – in a special count done each March for FNS we determined that in March of this year we had 61 “signed-up” regular volunteers. Another startling figure was that our total number of volunteer hours for that month (also a figure required by FNS) was 780. The increase in people using the food bank was beginning to create a space problem for us. Our quarters had always been somewhat cramped but with 70+ client families going through in the course of a day it was becoming more difficult. As usual the Baptist Church rose to the occasion and we were granted permission to use the large hall continuously from packing day on Wednesday until all orders had been collected on Thursday. This took some negotiation with the art group and they very graciously agreed to change their art group day from Thursday to Tuesday.

Kathie Manko with the assistance now of Janet Roberts continues to be available to clients to help them with a wide variety of issues such as navigating government assistance programmes, transportation for job interviews, medical appointments etc. and assistance in some cases with accommodation and employment. Sandy Dyer has been present most food bank days in her capacity as nutrition advisor. Most weeks she has made up a dish at home and brought it in. Samples are available and very popular and, for those interested, the recipe and the ingredients are also available. I have noticed that some people head straight for Sandy’s table after they have registered! The clothing depot is very popular and has expanded to include small appliances, toys and books, lots of books with a predominance of good quality children’s books. Thank you to Betty Muise for all her help in this department. The bedding programme has now been able to supply every client who would like to have them with two sets of bedding. The atmosphere is warm and friendly in the big hall on Thursdays, tea and cookies are available and it is my feeling that for many of the clients, coming to the food bank is at least not an unpleasant experience, and I believe some actually come to look forward to it.

I would like to be able to mention all the people to whom we are indebted but that would take too long and more seriously, I might accidentally miss someone. We are very grateful to our volunteers and this must include the Mud Creek Rotary Club, who help us in so many ways; to the Wolfville Community Foundation; Acadia students who become more involved all the time. “Trick or Eat” and “March Against Hunger” are two very visible projects they have masterminded and implemented and they have helped in a number of other ways too; of course, the Wolfville Baptist Church, who are so kind to us and

accommodate us in every way possible – special thanks to Penny Fawcett and Peter Brown for their help which goes far *above and beyond the call of duty*; and the many businesses and individuals who donate in cash and kind. Finally, we are of course grateful to WAICC, the organization who saw the need for a food bank in Wolfville. It was under WAICC's leadership that the food bank opened five years ago and it is by means of WAICC's support, moral and financial, that the food bank continues to exist today.

5. Friends of Jane

Jane Gomes spoke to the meeting. She first thanked WAICC for all their support over the past two years. She gave an update on her status. She will graduate from Acadia University on 14th May. She has been accepted into a Master's Programme which she hopes to be able to pursue at some time soon. She has been awarded a scholarship to help her do this. She still awaits the necessary documentation from Immigration Canada. This summer she is working in New Minas and she continues to live on Westwood Avenue.

6. Nominating Committee

Report of the Nominating Committee presented by Maurice Tugwell as follows:

President: Penni Burrell
 Vice-President: Margaret Burton (1 year)
 Treasurer: Maurice Tugwell
 Secretaries: Diana Shelly and Gene Trites

Following three calls for further nominations, acceptance of the slate moved by Maurice Tugwell/Allison Trites. Motion carried.

There being no further business, adjournment moved by Laurie St. Amour

Meeting closed with prayer led by David Ogilvie

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Trites
 Diana Shelley

Secretaries

Date of next Regular WAICC Meeting
Wednesday, 13 June, 2012
7:00 pm
Manning Chapel Library

Date of Next WAICC AGM
Wednesday 8th May 2013

