

**WOLFVILLE AREA INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING - MINUTES
11 May 2011
Port Williams Community Centre**

The Annual Meeting of WAICC took place on Wednesday 11 May 2011 in the Community Centre in Port Williams

Approximately 60 people were present

President Keith Churchill called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. He noted that in order to allow full time for the programme part of the evening, the Annual Meeting agenda had been shortened to essential business only.

The meeting opened with prayer

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 12th May 2009 as circulated moved Allison Trites/Nancy Burbidge and carried.

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Keith read his report as follows:

Since our Annual General Meeting last year WAICC has continued with its ongoing activities that include:

- Wolfville Area Food Bank about which Diana Shelley will report later.
- Emergency Assistance for those in critical need of assistance with heating, electrical, rental and other emergencies that the churches and other agencies are not able to address
- School Supplies: In cooperation with the St. Vincent de Paul Society WAICC has helped to make it possible for families to acquire the necessary school supplies and fees required for their children. For many families these costs are well beyond their means.
- School Breakfast Program: WAICC has provided assistance to schools in the area who request help with their school breakfast programs. This year we responded to the needs in four area schools.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: The churches of WAICC again this year had an exchange of preachers and a combined service of Christian witness.
- Walk with the Cross and Good Friday Service. Each year for the past several years the churches of WAICC have joined in a Walk with the Cross from Acadia to churches in Wolfville led by the L'Arche community. The walk this year was called a "Walk with the World." It concluded with a cooperative Good Friday service at the Wolfville Pastoral Charge in Wolfville
- WAICC has kept abreast of the work of Habitat for Humanity in the Valley and has supported and encouraged our member churches in their involvement in the construction of the first Habitat house in Wolfville.
- In these and other ways WAICC has sought to fulfil its purpose "to give expression to the fundamental unity of the several Christian communities ... (and) to co-operate with all agencies seeking to promote the spiritual and material well-being of the community."

One of our works in progress at the moment is the development of a procedure for handling emergency assistance that will be “simple, confidential and as speedy as possible.” We are currently responding effectively but we need a clear and consistent system that can be easily described and followed. We could also benefit from having a communication director to better communicate with our member bodies and the public about the work of WAICC and the Food Bank. There is also a need to rejuvenate our Program Committee and to enlist newer members in the leadership of WAICC. Next year will see a change-over in the positions of treasurer, secretary and president. This is an opportunity for new leadership to emerge. We hope this will be a seamless transition with the support of all of our members.

In all that it does the members of WAICC are more than mindful of the tremendous support of our member churches and the people of our community. They give generously towards the work we do and we seek to be faithful to that trust and the confidence they place in us.

3. TREASURER’S REPORT and BUDGET

Copies of Year-end Financial Statement to 31 March 2011 circulated by Maurice Tugwell, Treasurer. Maurice commented on one or two points in the financial report Acceptance of report moved by Maurice Tugwell/Gary Dunfield. Carried
Copies of proposed budget 2011-2012 were circulated and some elaboration given by Treasurer. Acceptance of Budget 2011-2012 moved by Maurice Tugwell/Neil Cloghesy 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:

Wolfville Area Food Bank has had another “good” year. I use the word good with some hesitation. It is not good that our numbers have continued to increase – not surprising given the closure of many plants and businesses affecting our area and the ever rising cost of food, but the incredible support we have received from the community is *very* good.

We have served over 100 families per month and the upward curve in numbers continues. We have tried hard to create in the food bank as friendly an environment as possible. The presence of Kathie Manko on a regular basis each food bank Thursday with her teapot and cookies has contributed significantly to this and to what we are able to offer clients in addition to their food orders. Kathie is able to assist people navigate the often tortuous route through red tape and government departments and if there is help for them out there, she can usually find it. Sandy Dyer, a nutritionist has recently joined the committee and she too contributes to the welcoming atmosphere of food bank days as she is there with recipes, samples and nutritional advice. There are many among the clients of the food bank who are simply slipping between the cracks of societal and government assistance. We have in recent months identified a demographic in the Wolfville area which seems to be particularly hard hit – single adults, men more often than women between their mid-forties and mid-sixties. Younger people, particularly if they have children are offered some specific government supports and once a person reaches 65 not only are they able to draw CPP and OAS but they then qualify for guaranteed income supplement.

There is a real sense of caring and wanting to be involved in the greater Wolfville area. We have received help and support from so many parts of the community. First, there is our wonderful group of faithful willing and cheerful volunteers. It is truly a joy to work with these people and we thank them. This spring a group of enthusiastic Acadia students inaugurated "March Against Hunger"; an amazing effort involving door to door soliciting and collecting throughout the town, organizing items collected and delivering them to the food bank and then assisting with putting things away on shelves. An enormous amount of food and cash was collected. The student organizers hope this will become an annual event, which coupled with "Trick or Eat" at Halloween, will mean that the students are taking care of us at both ends of the academic year! Many thanks, too, to local businesses and other work-place groups: Food-drives were mounted by such diverse groups as a local winery, departments at Acadia University such as Sodexo-Marriott, banks, merchants and local DOH snow plough operators. Mud Creek Rotary Club has "adopted" us and we are deeply grateful to them for their moral support and help both in cash and in kind. Our thanks too to the Wolfville Baptist Church who from the very outset have made us feel welcome and who have been ever willing to accommodate our changing needs and without whom our job would be so much more of a challenge. Last but not least, thank you to WAICC who offer us financial and moral support in every way and under whose auspices the food bank in Wolfville was conceived and under whose care it continues to be nourished.

The Food Bank in Wolfville is a wonderful example of a community working together for a common cause. Its success is the result of a combination of all partners coming together to provide for those less fortunate and helping them work towards a brighter future.

There being no further business, adjournment moved by Penni Burrell

Meeting closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Trites
Diana Shelly

Secretaries

Date of next Regular WAICC Meeting
Wednesday, 8 June, 2011
7:00 pm
Manning Chapel Library

Date of next Annual Meeting
Wednesday 9 May 2012

