

Executive Director
Annual General Meeting Address
October 6, 2020

It is my pleasure to say thank you for all of your continued support and dedication to the Alzheimer Society in our communities. Your presence here today further demonstrates your devotion to the work we do and the people we serve. We cannot function without good, healthy, strong relationships and support. We take this opportunity to celebrate all of our triumphs and challenges we face in our quest to be an organization that continually strives to be the best we can be.

It would be truly impossible to accomplish all that we have accomplished if it were not for what each of you bring to our Society.

You continue to give your time and talents in all aspects of our operations. You have all answered the call, whether you are staff or volunteers, for that I say Thank You.

This year our one hundred and twenty volunteers donated **1300** hours of time in all aspects of our organization, from board members, fund raising, office support and our special projects. Your time and talents are very much appreciated and never taken for granted. Of course all of this is not possible without our major source of funding, the North West Local Health Integration Network, and the continued support we have received from the local LHIN staff. As we ended our year amidst a pandemic with uncertainty and disruption, I do want to thank all the staff for their creative and collaborative approach to COVID 19 in an effort to ensure we provide support to all our clients and educate our community.

The completion of the Strategic plan for the next five years is now our working document moving forward. Our focus is to be ***Recognized as the leader in dementia education and support, Financial stability and Sustainability and Engagement.*** Despite the challenges that may lie ahead, the commitment of the dedicated staff, board, and numerous volunteers, the society will continue to have a strong foot print in our community and district.

Highlights relating to clinical services provided through First Link –Care giver support through face to face, telephone and in home targets are 1500, the Clinical Team surpassed their target supporting 1846. New clients supported by the society is 565. Great job ladies!

Education continues to be key to encouraging people living with memory loss and their caregivers to seek information through the Alzheimer Society. Targets for the Educational team are 2700 and they have managed to surpass their requirement by 900! It is truly amazing that you consistently and tremendously exceed the targets every year, job well done!

The Rendezvous was a huge success bringing in over \$27,000 for our Recreation Therapist position. Kara has come on board making many more connections and provided valuable support, in our community, Atikokan as well as the Northwest District. The 50/50 was successful bring in just over \$17,000.

Grants are up 61.3% from the previous year and we continue to look for any opportunity that is in line to support our current programs.

The Walk in 2019 raised just over \$70,450 an increase of \$18,050 from the previous year. 2019 was the highest in the history of the society, and everyone should be very proud of their efforts as we could not have done this without you!

The society has certainly had its challenges from staffing to maintaining a fiscal budget to support the ongoing needs to support people in our community. With the collective support of our board, staff and community we will continue to challenge these hurdles.

Coccimiglio and Cuninghame Golf Tournament continues to be the largest fundraiser for the society, however as we face challenges relating to COVID, our hope is that we will continue to benefit from this event given that it will be significantly different than previous years.

The society has accomplished many milestones this past year that you can all be very proud of. All of our programs have experienced continual growth; we have been fortunate recipients of additional sources of Revenue that has allowed our Society to add more human resources in an attempt to meet the continued need for service.

The Dementia Café continues to increase in numbers. People supported and their care partners truly value the interactive weekly activities as well as a time they can meet new people and reconnect with those they have developed friendships with. Minds and Motion continues to grow rapidly, and the Art program is well attended. Individuals have an opportunity to create beautiful pieces that are displayed at various locations throughout the city and in our office.

We achieved our goal to institute a district position that will service the NW Region. Honey is our First Link Navigator, Public Educator and Awareness specialist for Superior Greenstone and the North Shore.

We also continue to participate in the planning with our community partners as it relates to the proposed Ontario Health Team.

I'm continually humbled by the incredible support our organization receives from the many individuals, groups, organizations and businesses in our community. Thunder Bay is a very generous and giving community and we cannot do what we do or have the success we have had without their support.

I say thank you to the board for all of your support, guidance and vision in helping the Alzheimer Society continue to achieve new heights. To our board chair Ted Davis, your commitment to the society and your role has been tremendous, and you continue to help and guide the board to achieve a greater purpose. Thank you to all of our board members for believing in our Society and allowing us to continually progress.

Thank you to all the staff who have stepped up to the challenge as we worked through the pandemic and were faced with many challenges. Despite what we faced you continued to persevere and focus on our common goal, the clients we serve. The months ahead will have many obstacles in our path, but with such a strong team there isn't anything you can not over come.

This year we welcomed new members to the team. We welcome Honey Goulet First Link Navigator/Public Awareness for the NW Region and Kara Kruk Recreation Therapist/Volunteer Coordinator. We had a few staff who have left the Society this year, Ryley Fingler and Ally Albanese. We wish them well in their new careers and they will never be forgotten for the work they did for the society. We also want to thank Brad Mayes who continues to work behind the scene and support the

team to manage all our financial information. We also want to thank Derek Tycholas from LCPS who worked endlessly to capture our final yearend financial document.

Each of our staff have put in an incredible amount of work that has continued to allow the Alzheimer Society to build on the respect and admiration that we have gained in our community. It gives me great pleasure to be able to represent you and the work you do and to ensure you have the resources necessary to make a difference in the lives of persons living with dementia and their caregivers across our region. You continue to work hard at reducing the stigma of Alzheimer's disease and ensuring that all who come through our doors are treated with the utmost respect and dignity.

Thank you for all that you have done, we will continue to work diligently and hard on your behalf so that we can all achieve continued success.

Thank you!

Lucy Black