

**Thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of Cambridge Right to Life  
Minutes of November 24, 2011**

**Present:** Chris O'Neil, Reggie Weidinger, Cathy Miedema, Pat Windsor,  
Camilla Gunnarson, Peggy Rann, Beth Black, Linda Kearley

**Regrets:** Anne Dearden, Jack Konings

The meeting was also attended by approximately 25-35 members and students.

**The meeting was called to order** by Chris O'Neil and Father Bill Foote offered a prayer.

**Adoption of the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting** was put forward by Beth Black after reading the minutes aloud. Reggie Weidinger seconded the motion to accept the minutes and all approved. Reggie added that CRTL may in fact have an internal audit as advised by legal counsel as per the appropriate clause in the bylaws.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Linda Kearley reported that CRTL's total income for the year was \$49,150.10 with expenses for the same period totaling \$43,791.07, leaving a profit of \$5,359.03.
- Total chequing/savings as of October 31, 2011 was \$15,329.64.
- BMO investment certificate as of October 31, 2011 was \$21,503.65.
- Total assets as of October 31, 2011 were \$37,925.98.
- Linda put forward a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Cathy Miedema seconded and all approved.

**Office Report:**

- Camilla Gunnarson reported on the recently revamped CRTL website. She explained that it is both comprehensive and interactive and has been well received. The internet and social media are the new frontier for the pro-life message and CRTL is well equipped with this new site to promote life issues, to inform, to counter the negative bias in contemporary society, to help mobilize our members and indeed to save lives. Camilla briefly showed the website itself and noted that since its launch within the past year there have been 500 "unique visitors" and over 1200 "page views." The site is also secure for online donations.
- The pro-life commercials are still being prepared and will be aired in 2012. Fundraising remains to be completed. Times and channels will be announced as airtime is purchased.
- The virtual phone service that CRTL is now using to remind members of upcoming events has been very effective. 850 calls were made for the AGM, for example, at a cost of \$11.00.

- Camilla asked for a volunteer to build a more suitable stand for the fetal models that are displayed in the CRTL office front window. These models offer an invaluable pro-life message as they are very eye catching and many, many people stop to look at them. A more dynamic display would augment their effectiveness even further.

### **Special Events:**

- Peggy Rann reported that the month of May continues to be Respect for Life month and brochures were circulated to both members and churches during May 2011.
- The annual Dessert and Coffee evening was held on May 26, 2011 at St. Ambrose Church. Angelina Steenstra, Co-founder of Second Chance Ministry and National Coordinator of Canada Silent No More, was guest speaker. Entertainment was provided by vocalists Kleyton Farias and Claudia Soto and musician Matt Weidinger.
- CRTL annual Walk for Life was held on September 24, 2011 with 65 walkers, 30 of whom were young students under 18 years of age. Many of them were students from the Monsignor Doyle Generation for Life Club along with their teachers Tania Rosario and Deborah Costa. Pledges totaled \$17,694.00 including \$1,710.00 from the telephone blitz to members. Several changes were implemented in the 2011 walk including the use of the parish hall at St. Patrick's Church and a slightly different, shortened route. Peggy thanked the many walkers, especially the enthusiastic students, and all those whose many donations of time, money, food, draw prizes, etc. made the walk a success.

### **Pro-Life Advocacy Report:**

- Cathy Miedema reported that pickets quietly held STOP ABORTION signs on January 28, 2011 on the sidewalks outside the offices of Cambridge MPP Gerry Martiniuk and MP Gary Goodyear. Letters requesting that the province protect preborn children and stop funding elective abortions were presented at each office.
- Mini Community Life Chains were held on Hespeler Rd. on the last Fridays of April, May and June 2011.
- In April 2011 several questionnaires issued by Campaign Life Coalition were delivered to local candidates running in the federal election.
- On May 12, 2011 CRTL shared a bus with Kitchener Right to Life to the annual March for Life in Ottawa.
- On October 2, 2011 CRTL participated in the International Life Chain with 70 people holding signs against abortion on Hespeler Rd in miserable weather. One

passerby stopped to thank the picketers as our efforts had helped dissuade her daughter from having an abortion.

- The next protest walk will be January 27, 2012.
- Cathy thanked everyone who participated in the pro-life advocacy events noting there is always room for more. The pro-life advocacy mandate includes the organization of pickets and rallies, the initiation and coordination of petitions and the communication of pro-life concerns to politicians; all these duties continue to be implemented.

#### **Election of Board of Directors:**

- The board of directors for 2012 will be Reggie Weidinger, Linda Kearley, Cathy Miedema, Pat Windsor, Chris O'Neil, Anne Dearden, Jack Konings, Beth Black and Tania Rosario.

#### **Other Business:**

- Chris invited Cathy to announce that Peggy Rann has offered her resignation from the CRTL board and to thank her for her untiring efforts on behalf of the unborn and their mothers over the last 38 years. Peggy started as a volunteer in 1973, worked as office coordinator for 14 years—the first paid employee of CRTL—and most recently as special events coordinator for the past 10 years. Peggy will be greatly missed. She was given a standing ovation and a bouquet of flowers.
- Cathy also thanked Camilla for her work as office coordinator and particularly for her efforts to bring CRTL into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Camilla too received applause and flowers.
- Camilla introduced the Generation for Life Club from Monsignor Doyle. Several student members spoke about their club, its mission and how the pro-life message influences their lives at school. Their teacher Tania Rosario spoke briefly about the club and its history and various activities. She stressed that she tells kids that their job is not to be liked but rather to spread the message!
- The Walk for Life draw was held and the winners in order of the draw are: Julia Dasilva, Joshua Weidinger, Audrey Adams, Jesse Joseph, Melanie Annan, Ashley Chaves, Jesse Joseph, Tiffany Croth, Ellie Silcher, Ashley Chaves, Alley Bilodeau and Matthew Goad. The grand prize winner is Audrey Adams.
- Camilla showed a trailer for the documentary “180-the Movie.” CRTL has two copies of this powerful 35 minute video that debunks the abortion mentality and it is also available online through youtube.
- Chris reminded attendees to please sign the petition to stop abortion funding. CRTL Christmas cakes and cards were also on display.

**Adjournment:**

- Chris O'Neil made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Cathy Miedema seconded and all approved. Meeting adjourned.