

**Cambridge Right to Life**  
**Minutes for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting November 26, 2015**

**Present:** Camilla Gunnarson, Reggie Weidinger, Suzanne Rerrie and Chris O'Neill  
**Regrets:** Cathy Miedema and Tania Rosario

The meeting was also attended by approximately fifteen others.

**The meeting was called to order and chaired** by Mrs. Suzanne Rerrie who opened in a prayer.

**Adoption of agenda *motion* for the November 26, 2015 meeting** put forward by Mrs. Reggie Weidinger, seconded by Mrs. Camilla Gunnarson. Carried.

**Adoption of minutes *motion* for the 42nd AGM meeting November 27, 2014** put forward by Mr. Jack Konings, seconded by Mr. Klaus Steden. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report** presented by Chris O'Neill:

- The BMO chequing/savings account balance as of October 31, 2015 was \$ 22,551.53.
- The BMO investment certificate balance as of October 31, 2015 was \$20,928.53.
- Total assets as of October 31, 2015 were \$44,572.75.
- Mrs. Reggie Weidinger made a *motion* to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Klaus Steden. Carried.

**Office Report/Pro-Life Advocacy/ Education Report** presented by Mrs. Camilla Gunnarson:

- In her combined report Camilla Gunnarson stated that CRTL had a busy and successful 2015 with a very strong focus on advertising the pro-life message throughout the community.
- CRTL submitted a new bus ad to City of Cambridge and is still waiting for approval. The board wanted the ad up in the Fall of 2015 so decided to run the same ad as last year since it had already been approved
- Three busses will feature our ad on the exterior of the buses
- The same ad will appear on the new bus shelter at the Delta
- The Annual Life Giving Love Campaign which serves as an educational piece, membership drive and fundraiser has raised \$2,740.00
- The new Every Child Has Greatness With Campaign is a fundraising project which encourages schools to fundraise on their own timeline
- CRTL is working in partnership with the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate in organizing school trips to the Marian Residence. This project is called the Caring Heart Sharing Hearts Campaign. Brochures will be sent to every grade 4-7 teacher within the WCDSB

- Camilla thanked all the board, volunteers and members for their ongoing pro-life efforts and witness to the community

**Pro-Life Advocacy Report:** submitted by Cathy Miedema and presented by Camilla Gunnarson

- January 30<sup>th</sup> was the date of our annual Protest Walk, commemorating the date in January, 1988, when Canada's Parliament struck down all laws defending the unborn. Cold temperatures did not stop around 20 hardy pro-lifers from protesting abortion in front of MP Gary Goodyear's office. A letter was read and presented to Gary's staff.
- Mini-Life Chains were held on Hespeler Road on the last Fridays of April, May and June. Each time, approximately 20 pro-lifers displayed signs for hundreds of passersby to read, informing them that "Abortion Kills Children." Our prayerful silent display speaks to the hearts of many who see us—evoking responses of both anger and support. For sure, the message continues to speak to hearts.
- The largest-to-date annual March for Life, held in Ottawa on May 14<sup>th</sup>, also had the participation of many Cambridge residents. Cars, vans, buses and trains brought both young and old(er) to join with thousands from all over Canada, speaking as one to seek protection for life in all stages.
- Cambridge did their part in the International Life Chain held on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 participants helped, once more, to educate passersby of the crime of abortion—killing children. It is our hope, in the future, to add some positive message signs to our life chain displays, in order to balance our witness with a life-affirming alternative.
- Our national election did not bring forth a life-affirming government in the Liberal party led by Justin Trudeau. This means all the more that our work of prayer and education is not finished.
- Cathy's report also thanked the many who answer the call to participate in our public events, and a very special thank you to those who bring others to join them.

**Education presented by Camilla Gunnarson:**

- Camilla explained that teacher, Tania Rosario, is having difficulty getting students to take part in the Generation for Life Club at Monsignor Doyle
- Tania is retiring from the board of CRTL and Camilla thanked her for her work
- Both Monsignor Doyle and St. Benedict's are planning to take students to the March for Life in Ottawa in 2016.
- Camilla reported that she is looking for alternate office space for the CRTL. The landlord has not yet confirmed the sale of the building but the City of Cambridge has

purchased the property and we will have to vacate at some point in 2016. The current rent is \$520.0 per month. The current location is well situated for foot traffic but is badly dated and needs refurbishment. Perhaps the loss of our rental space will be a blessing in disguise. The suggestion was made to work with a realtor and several names were offered.

**Special Events Report** presented by Mrs. Suzanne Rerrie:

- Coffee & Dessert Event was attended by 65 people
- Guests enjoyed Alex Schadenberg`s presentation on how the Supreme Court of Canada`s decision will affect each of us
- Our focus is now educating the public about advocating for conscience legislation to protect doctors who don`t want to become killers
- The Walk for Life had 60 walkers and raised \$17,549.30

**Election of Board of Directors:**

- The CRTL Board of Directors for 2015 will be Reggie Weidinger, Chris O`Neill, Cathy Miedema, Suzanne Rerrie and Teresa Ferrazzi. Mrs. Reggie Weidinger made *a motion* to accept the proposed names, Mr. Bob MacDonald seconded and the new slate of directors was accepted. Board members both old and new were thanked for their work on behalf of CRTL.

**New Business:**

- There was a lively discussion about the declining membership of CRTL and how to address this issue going forward especially with the emergence of the internet, social media, television and other technology. Ideas such as working again with local churches to recruit and teach, meeting with local youth ministers, reaching out to ethnic communities, continuing to focus on digital advertising and non-membership efforts such as the Life Giving Love campaign, etc. were offered—please email Camilla with your thoughts and suggestions.
- Camilla is trying to pursue the Coins for Life campaign with the various elementary schools but at the moment the initiative has stalled.
- The Walk for Life draw (one chance for each \$10.00 raised by a student under 18) was held and the winners were: Trent Windsor, Natalie Rerrie, Charlie Adams (2 prizes), Kate Jamieson and Jesse Devasia.

**Meeting adjourned** with a *motion* by Mrs. Suzanne Rerrie, seconded by Mrs. Reggie Weidinger. Carried.