



Breaking Down Barriers
Independent Living Resource Centre
Promoting a new perspective on disability

115 Hurontario St. Suite 203
Collingwood, ON L9Y 2L9
705-445-1543
www.breakingdownbarriers.ca

April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016 Annual Report



Our Mission

“Breaking Down Barriers provides supports, services and programs to enhance the opportunity for people with diverse disabilities to live independently in the communities of South Georgian Bay.”



The End of an Era At Breaking Down Barriers

As we celebrate 31 years of breaking down barriers and promoting a new perspective on disability, we are saddened to see the end of the Worklinks Employment Services.

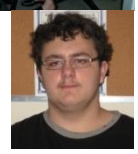
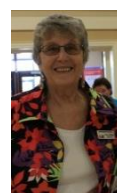
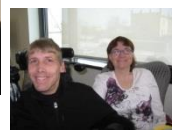
From 1997 – 2004, BDB was one of 22 Independent Living Resource Centres that participated in the delivery of Navigating the Waters. This was an employment initiative of Independent Living Canada funded by Human Resources Development Canada under the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities. BDB also received a small budget from the Regional Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities to provide employment services.

In November 2004, the employment programs were merged into our current Worklinks Employment Services with annual funding from Service Canada through the Regional Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities. Over the long history of this program, many adults with diverse disabilities have gained employment, completed job placements, had training opportunities, done volunteer placements, received employment supports and ultimately enhanced their ability to live independently as they became employable or employed.

Unfortunately, Service Canada will not continue to fund this program so it will cease on June 24th, 2016. Although this is a big loss for BDB, the community and the consumers who used the program, we are very proud of the impact this program has had and the success of the consumers who benefitted from it.

Breaking Down Barriers is grateful to all the staff who worked for Navigating the Waters and/or Worklinks Employment Services over the years in various roles including: Nancy DenBok, Barbara Downie, Linda Carnahan, Kim Blakney, Ruth Miller, Candida Clarke, Lynsi Sensenberger, Anne Allison and Elaine Kelly.

Catherine Sholtz joined Breaking Down Barriers in June 1999. For seventeen years, she has been the anchor of the employment program. We thank her for her commitment, hard work and fortitude.



Just a few of the faces of Worklinks Employment Services

Fundraising and Public Relations Committee



Valerie Dickson - Chair
Heather Draper
Amanda Groulx
Maria Borges
Andrea Abbott-Kokosin

Activities and Achievements:

- Revised the BDB website
- Launched a social media campaign
- First annual Euchre tournament fundraiser held in November 2015
- 10th Annual Rockin the House Bonspiel held in February 2016
- BDB staff, Board and volunteers increased awareness of BDB through public speaking, media appearances, community information fairs and Service Club Presentations
- Raised \$37,415 net for agency operations!

Thank you to all the committee members for their hard work and enthusiasm. Thanks also to the staff for carrying out the fundraising activities. We acknowledge the efforts of Martha Lawrence and Kathy Bloomfield, co-chairs of the Bonspiel committee. Huge thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors and donors for your financial support, in-kind donations and gifts of time.

Submitted by Valerie Dickson, Committee Chair

Governance Committee



Jim Ironside - Chair
Andrea Abbott-Kokosin

Activities and Achievements:

- Revised BDB By-Laws
- Conducted annual Board and Committee evaluations
- Conducted orientation and training for new Board members
- Reviewed potential risks to the organization
- Continued to work towards filling Board vacancies

Submitted by Jim Ironside, Committee Chair

Strategic Planning Committee

Kathy Bloomfield - Chair
John Robbins
Jacqueline Noble
Andrea Abbott-Kokosin



The organizations priorities for 2015/2016 were:

- Maintaining financial stability
- Developing a five year strategic plan
- Implementing the new Client Information Management System data base
- Expand volunteer base
- Grow system navigation role with Health Link
- Increase Awareness of BDB
- Explore potential opportunities to partner or collaborate with other organizations

Progress was made towards each of these priorities. As a result of this work, we welcomed 33 new consumers and 32 new volunteers to BDB.

A consultant has been hired to assist us with the development of a new strategic plan and we look forward to engaging all staff, consumers, Board members, members and volunteers as well as other stakeholders in this process.

Thanks goes to the committee members for guiding the strategic planning process and ensuring successful outcomes for BDB.

Submitted by Kathy Bloomfield, Committee Chair

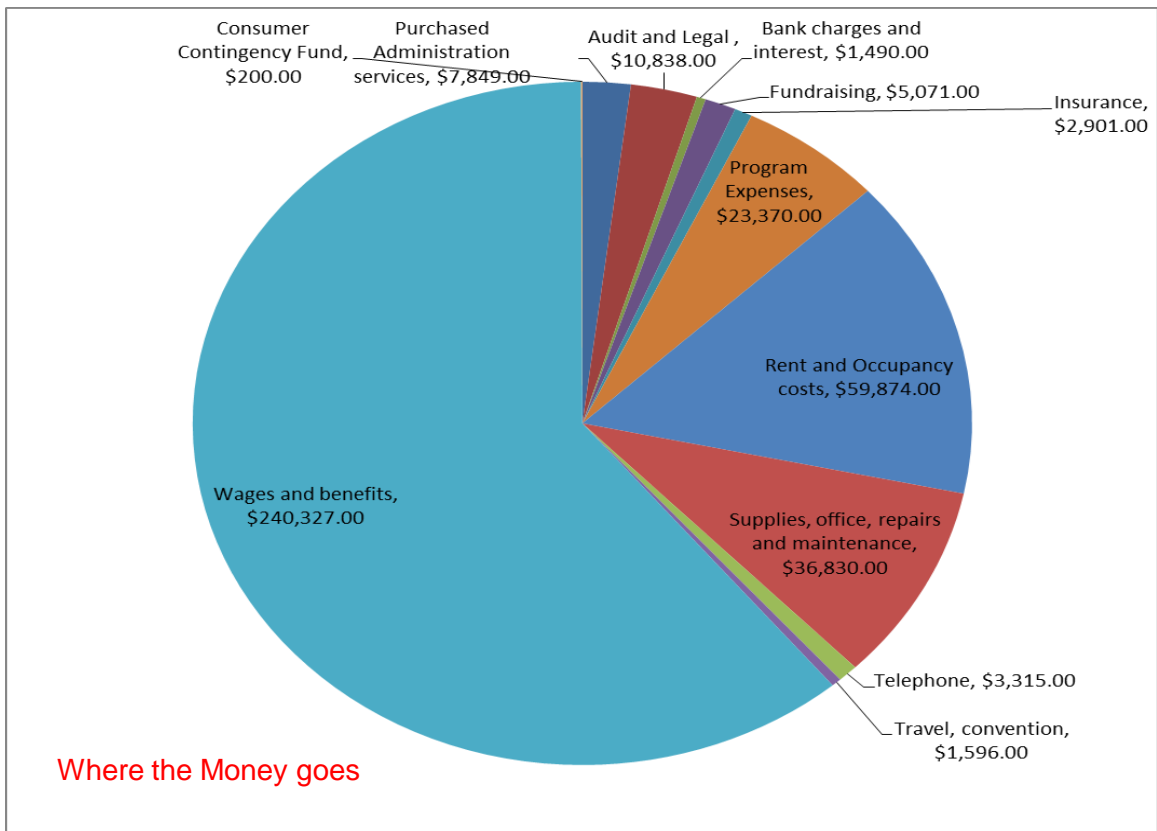
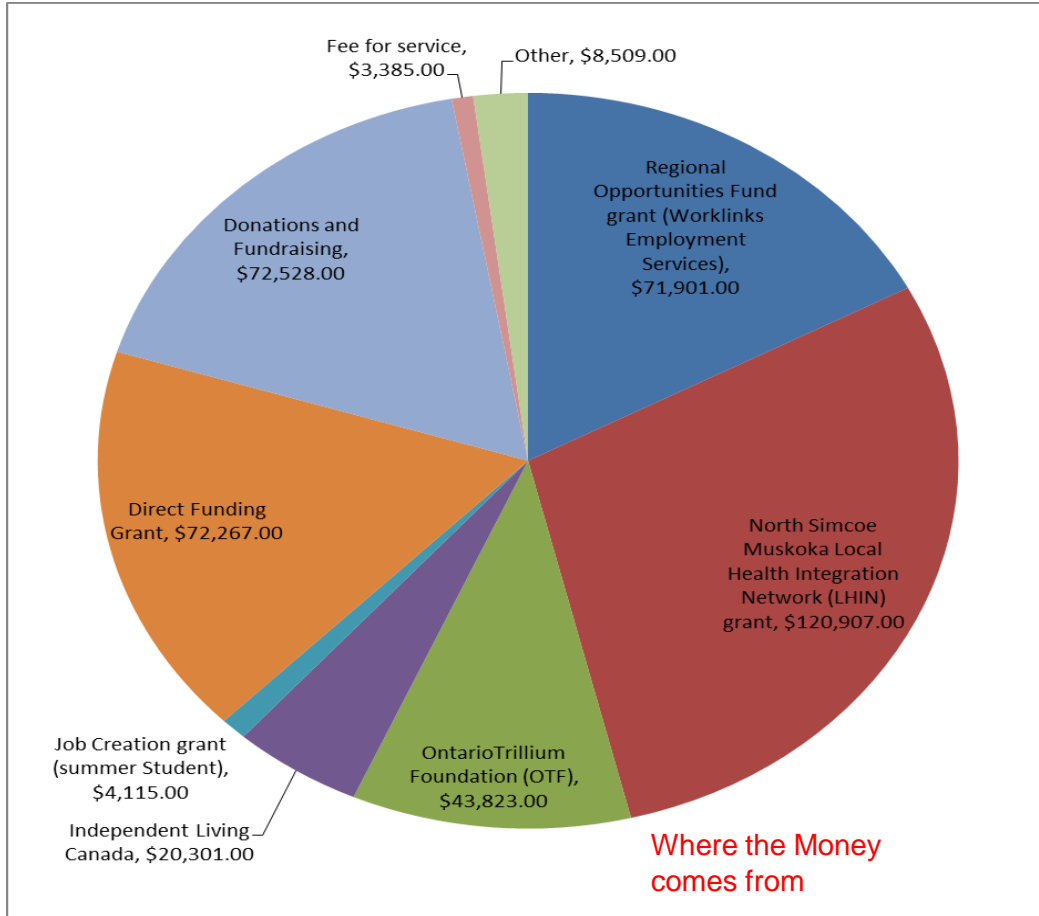
Awards were presented at the 2015 Annual General Meeting to the following:

- Thumbs Up Access and Awareness Award – In Memory of Ford Milhausen, c/o Lindi Milhausen
- Community Partner Award – C.C. Tatham, Ainley and Crozier
- Barb Meacher Memorial Award – Justin Smith
- Active Living Award – Joyce Boyce
- Distinguished Employer of the Year Award – L. E. Shore Memorial Library in Thornbury
- Pat McElroy Award for Volunteer Excellence – Gerald Loughheed
- Shirley Fasken Service Award for Board of Directors – Jim Ironside



Congratulations to all who received awards

Financial Snapshot



Funders, donors and sponsors for 2015/2016

Capacity Builder \$5,000+

- North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network
- Direct Funding Program
- Service Canada
- Independent Living Canada
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation
- The County of Simcoe
- R. Howard Webster Foundation
- TJX Canada Foundation (Winners)
- The Wasaga Beach Rotary Club
- The Georgian Bay Club Foundation
- The Town of Wasaga Beach

Barrier Breaker \$1,000 - \$4,999

- The Town of Collingwood
- Ainley Group
- C.C. Tatham and Associates
- C.F. Crozier and Associates
- Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Foundation

Integrator \$500 - \$999

- Clearview Township
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63
- Tim Hortons Stayner
- Donato Construction
- 1288808 Ontario Ltd.

Gap Bridger \$250 - \$499

- Wasaga Beach Lioness Club
- The Wasaga Beach Lions Club
- On My List, Senior Assist
- Larry Young
- Dorothy Smout
- Wasaga Beach United Church
- Pacific Developments Inc.
- Tyler Robertson



This project is funded by the Government of Canada. 



Note: All Capacity Builders logos appear here

Ramping it Up \$100 - \$249

- Giant Tiger
- Reinhart Foods Ltd.
- Point to Point Communications
- Kevin Lamb
- Trevor Robertson
- Jack and Lynn Merwin
- Don Laverdue
- Emcoe Corporation
- Sergio Molella
- Ontario Clean Water Association
- Brian Smith
- Grace United Church
- National Bank of Canada
- Nick Flavo
- World Financial Group
- Orser's Lift Service
- South Georgian Bay Association of Realtors
- Earl Gill
- Pocketfleet Diagnostic Systems Inc.
- Smart's Flowers



Door Opener \$20 - \$99

- Donna Alsop
- Pam Archdekin
- John and Linda Banner
- Derek Barkley
- Robert Becker
- Joan Bercovitch
- Laura Borland
- Cameron Castator
- Jeremy Cober
- Ashleigh Cox
- Charlene Cramond
- Kevin Criffin
- Doug Daly
- Giuliano Duni
- Veronica Easdale
- Phil Eichler
- Bill Ganter
- Jim Georgas
- Biuy Gionet
- Albert Greaves
- Amanda Groulx
- Denise Henry
- Doug Herron
- Adrian Holvik
- Kristina Jory
- Donna Judd
- Renata Kita
- Bruce Knight
- Bernie Klasen
- Lucas Krist
- Liz MacKinnon
- Don McNalty
- Penny Miller
- Rob Mills
- Marianne Mokrycke
- John Moreau
- James Orr
- Joanne Quinnette
- Gerald Reu
- Sarah Robbins
- Gordon Russell
- Bob and Gayle Smithson
- Joanne Starowojtow
- Barbara Steel
- Greg Syrota
- Stephanie Tarantino
- Edward Tjeerdsma
- Sonya Torrie
- Jim Torrie
- Suzanne Troxler
- Carol Twigger
- Keith Twigger
- Julianne Twigger
- Katie Underwood
- George Vadeboncoeur
- Doug Vincent
- Lillian Weatherall
- Angela Webster
- Nathan Wukasch
- Jennifer Young
- Collins Barrow
- G & S Services

Breaking Down Barriers received gifts in kind of products, services, facility rentals and gift cards valued at over \$22,000 in 15/16. In-Kind donors include the following:

- Rogers TV
- mycollingwood.ca
- John Robbins
- Sobey's
- Freshco
- PIE Restaurant
- Tim Hortons Collingwood
- Bulk Barn
- Martha Lawrence
- Dianne Schlegel
- Metro
- Bowers Wilkins
- M & M Meats Collingwood
- Curling Club of Collingwood
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63



We would also like to thank all the businesses and individuals who donated items for the Silent Auction at the Bonspiel; or door prizes for the Euchre Tournament; and those who wish to remain anonymous. If we have missed your name, please accept our apologies and our thanks.



46 people spent 1333 hours volunteering for Board & Board Committees, Community Companions, Programs, Administrative Tasks




1885 hours of Group Programming was offered

144 Consumers accessed programs, services and supports


33 New Consumers

1558 One on One hours of support including Independent Living Skills, Info and referral, Direct Funding and Employment Support


32 New Volunteers




Andrea Abbott-Kokosin, Executive Director has been with BDB since January 2008. The Executive Director is accountable and responsible to the Board of Directors for implementation of all Board policies and ensuring the efficient operation of Breaking Down Barriers. In addition, Andrea is the Direct Funding Resource Coordinator. Andrea is a member of the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network Leadership Council and a member of the Executive of the South Georgian Bay Community Health Link.




Debbie Carey, Administrative Services and Support has been with BDB since October, 2011. Debbie coordinates all information management activities of the Centre and performs all necessary office administrative functions. Debbie also provides administrative support to BDB's fundraising efforts.




Tracey MacLeod, Independent Living Skills Coordinator has been with BDB since February 2004. Tracey assists consumers to achieve their Independent Living goals by providing support in problem solving and skill development. She also acts as a liaison with service providers, agencies and government services. Tracey is a disability support System Navigator for the South Georgian Bay Health Link. Tracey is also responsible for the creation, development and facilitation of workshops on a variety of topics related to independence, self-advocacy or skill development.



Catherine Sholtz, Worklinks Employment Services and Accessibility Coordinator joined BDB in June 1999. Catherine managed, delivered and evaluated Worklinks Employment Services to assist people with disabilities to obtain, keep and maintain employment in the Georgian Triangle area. Catherine also managed and delivered the Thumbs Up Access and Awareness Services including training, site plan reviews and accessibility audits. Catherine also sat on the Collingwood Accessibility Advisory Committee.



Lacey Thompson, Program Assistant, joined BDB in March, 2015. Lacey works with the staff of BDB to ensure high quality programs, supports and services to the consumers. She assists with program set up, implementation and clean up. Lacey also helps with program administration.



Chuck Walton Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, joined BDB in June 2014. Chuck was responsible for ensuring that all the goals of our Ontario Trillium Foundation Project were met. The overall goal of this project was to ensure that adults with disabilities get connected to the services they need to live independently and integrate into their communities across the Georgian Triangle. The goal was to develop a volunteer program to recruit volunteers to act as companions/system navigators for consumers and to expand the Peer Support Program. Chuck was also responsible for developing, publishing and distributing a system navigation tool for those with or affected by disability.

Our Programs



Direct Funding: enables adults with physical disabilities to become employers of their own attendant care workers. Attendants assist with routine activities of daily living such as grooming, dressing and bathing.

Independent Living Skills: offering opportunities for self help, learning skills, personal growth and individual empowerment. Identifying barriers to success and working to reduce those obstacles. Consumers are supported one on one or in groups

Information and Referral: Providing up to date information on resources and options available for those with or affected by disability. Ensuring that adults with disabilities get connected to the programs, services and supports they need to maintain independence.

Peer Support: sharing knowledge from life experiences, developing leadership skills, reducing isolation.

Community Companion Network: encourages inclusion and reduces isolation by connecting a person with a disability to a volunteer who can provide one on one attention and assist them to become a part of their community.

coming soon!

Breaking Down Barriers will be holding it's second Euchre tournament this November. Please call the office or check out our website for details.

