



REBUILDING COMMUNICATION

BUILDING Bridges



Building Bridges – Newsletter of the Aphasia Institute – The Aphasia Institute is a Canadian community-based centre of excellence, pioneering programs and practices that help people with aphasia learn how to communicate in new ways and begin to navigate their own lives again. Through direct service, research, education and training, the Aphasia Institute has built an international reputation as a world leader and educator in aphasia.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

You “Walked the Talk” and took us over the top!



Staff member Marisca Baldwin, rousing the Walk-Talk-n-Rollers!

Client Kumar, this year's Walk champion



For the 20th anniversary of Walk, Talk 'n Roll, we celebrated a number of firsts: More first-time participants; more first-time donors; more people were involved in the walk on the day of the event; and our new clients (“Intro members”) got involved for the first time, creating their own neighbourhood walk-a-thon.

When all was said and done:

- **You raised over \$87,000!**
- **You helped us keep our promise to people living with aphasia and their families:**

We help you navigate your life one conversation at a time.



Walk, Talk 'n Roll

WHAT'S NEW?

1. Pilot Project with Toronto Stroke Network

Recent stroke best practice guidelines in Ontario recommend that all health care providers be trained in aphasia support, including methods to aid in communication and the recognition of the impact of aphasia on the patient and their family. To achieve this, we collaborated with the Toronto Stroke Network (TSN).

The **TSN Pilot Project** is a 3-part training program administered by the Aphasia Institute to caregivers within the Toronto Stroke Network:

- **Part 1:** Five speech-language pathologists (S-LPs) trained in our world-recognized communication tools and methodology;
- **Part 2:** These S-LPs will in turn train their own stroke care team members;
- **Part 3:** Using our Communicative Access Measures for Stroke (CAMS) tool, stroke care teams can now accurately measure the degree to which the care they provide to stroke patients with aphasia is communicatively accessible.

2. Basic Outcome Measure Protocol for Aphasia (BOMPA)

In our Annual Report, we updated you on BOMPA, the quick assessment tool used to track the progress of people living with aphasia. We have now received a small grant to evaluate this tool.

The Aphasia Institute relies on the generosity of individual donors and volunteers to deliver life-changing programs.

The Aphasia Institute
73 Scarsdale Rd., Toronto, ON M3B 2R2
T: 416.226.3636 • F: 416.226.3706
URL: www.aphasia.ca

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



Patron Elinor Caplan with Founder Pat Arato

Each year, our Annual General Meeting allows us to share our successes and present awards of merit to very deserving recipients.

This year's special guest was our founder, Pat Arato, who received a standing ovation with family and friends at her side. In recognition of Pat's trailblazing work on behalf of people living with aphasia and their families, our community partner award was renamed in her honour.

The first recipient of the **Pat Arato Community Partner Award** was the Harmonize for Speech Fund, founded by longtime supporter George Shields. Mr. Shields was in attendance to accept this award and to reunite with Pat after many years. (For more information on the wonderful work done by the Harmonize for Speech Fund, visit their website at www.harmonize4speech.org.)

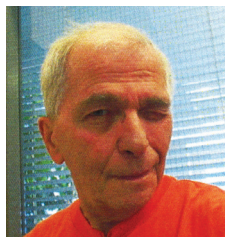
We were honoured to host Kerrie Allerton from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. Ms. Allerton accepted the **Gerry Cormier Communicative Access Award** on

behalf of the Rigshospitalet-Glostrup, the Danish hospital that is using our resources, education, and training to effect real change for people with aphasia in Denmark.

Other highlights:

- The introduction of our newest patron, Elinor Caplan, whose prestigious work has included serving as a cabinet minister for both David Peterson and Jean Chrétien;
- A special presentation by our clients with aphasia – powerful, one-line performance pieces exploring the gifts they have received and the gifts they have given back (see **Supplemental Materials** footnote);
- The presentation of the Ambassador Award, given to two of our volunteers (Moira Minoughan and Gayle Wilmot) for their outstanding contributions to the Aphasia Institute community.

Katherine Cormier, wife of the late Gerry Cormier, with award recipient Kerrie Allerton



Alex, Self-portrait

ANNUAL APPEAL 2017

Spend any time at the Aphasia Institute and you will likely meet Alex, a former design engineer who makes full use of all our programs and services, and has participated in our research projects. Alex is a living example that life is far larger than aphasia. He agreed to tell his story for this year's Annual Appeal, launching in November.

BUSTING APHASIA MYTHS

the myth

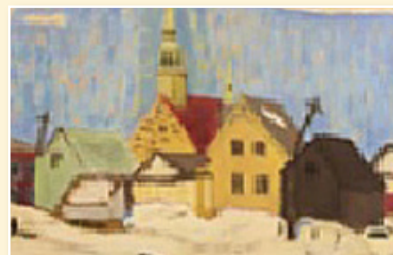
Stroke is the only cause of aphasia

While aphasia is usually the result of a stroke, it can also be caused by physical trauma to the brain, by dementia, or from a brain tumour. Aphasia may be classified as an invisible disability, not well known or understood. In addition to providing communication and life strategies for people with aphasia and their families, the Aphasia Institute works to increase awareness of aphasia – to health care workers on the front lines of acute care and to the general public. ***You have been essential in raising this awareness!***

AN EASY WAY TO HELP US!

Buy our greeting cards

Greeting cards are available at our online store, featuring artwork by our clients and created right here in our Art Program. Proceeds from these cards help subsidize program fees for clients with financial challenges.



Shop our secure on-line store:

www.aphasia.ca/shop/greeting-cards

See the Building Bridges page of our website for **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**, including: Our latest Creative Expressions video; the 2016/17 Annual Report; and the text of our AGM member presentation, mentioned in this newsletter.

OUR
FUNDERS



Human Resources and
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