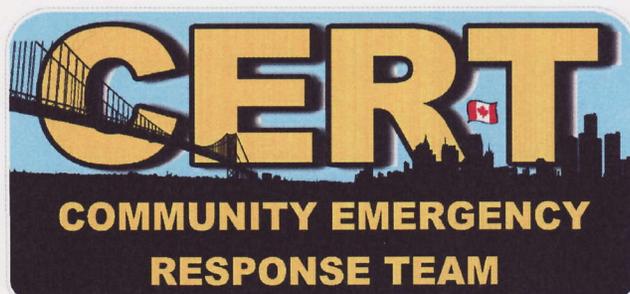


BRIDGES OF LOVE



10th Annual General Meeting

October 27, 2014



An organization exists to make a difference. Bridges of Love is no exception. In times of great hurry and busyness, the notion of emergency preparation is often left for a more convenient time. But disaster does not wait for a convenient time. The great flood of June 2013 taught us that. Bridges of Love exists to help churches and their congregations be ready to respond. This was certainly put to the test this past year. Bridges of Love was able to step into the disaster foray with speed and flexibility. The surprise was just exactly what the needs of individuals and how best to meet them. Marg and Tom were especially equipped to respond. Their work directly helped countless people and larger organizations turned to Bridges of Love to meet those unique requests.

The continuing challenge remains: how does Bridges of Love help churches as organizations be ready in such times? One answer is - to train the members of the congregation in emergency preparedness. Bridges of Love has hosted two CERT summits to do just that. The summits give the layperson an opportunity to discover basic scenarios and techniques required in emergency response. The attendees of these summits were not just from churches. People from across the community came to be trained. As individual citizens become comfortable through training to respond in an emergency, they then lead their own organizations in emergency response.

These are just two specific examples of the work of Bridges of Love in the year 2013 – 2014. However, they exemplify the overarching influence Bridges of Love has on the community as large.

The year 2013 was a terrific challenge for the city of Calgary and it was a test point for Bridges of Love. Making a difference to individuals and to organizations is the mandate of Bridges of Love and it was sincerely accomplished this past year. It has also become a reference point for where Bridges of Love can grow in further developing its mission and programs. We have laurels upon which we can rest and we have challenges yet to be met. Bridges of Love is up to the challenge.

Executive Director's Report

October 27,

2014

Celebrating **ten years**, building Bridges of Love Ministry has indeed been a journey and adventure, trusting God one day at a time. This past year has been one of thankfulness due to others recognizing the importance of the work God has entrusted us. We invite you to share in our journey as we come to the close of our tenth fiscal year.

**BRIDGES OF LOVE
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:37

The Good Samaritan Story is a familiar parable with an affirming message for the work of Bridges of Love. The Law of that day demanded total devotion to God and love for one's neighbour. The law expert treated the wounded man as a topic for discussion; the robbers, as an object to exploit; the priest, as a problem to avoid; and the Levite, as an object of curiosity. Only the Samaritan treated him as a person to love. The expert's attitude revealed his lack of the very thing that he had earlier said the law commanded—love! Bridges of Love's message continues to support the Great Commandment - Loving God and our neighbour.



Many opportunities to assist with a disaster came following the 2013 Alberta Floods. Our involvement continued for months after the devastating event; matching donations with flood victims who were in need of many necessities. We were most appreciative for the web site donated by **RECOVERS** <https://alberta.recovers.org>. We could not have accomplished the same measure of assistance (160 requests with each one being met) if it were not for this most welcomed resource to assist our matching efforts. We are also most appreciative for the generous donations from so many individuals who gave often sacrificially to help flood victims.

Donations were delivered by churches and individuals to many who needed an extra hand. Thank you all!

Hearts have been touched through **"Adopt-a-Family."** Churches and individuals took families under their umbrella building relationships and meeting needs beyond the call of duty. During the months following the flood, there was a blur of activity, but we experienced such special memories from the generosity shown during this time of upheaval. Flood recovery activities were captured from **City Light News, Faith Today and Gospel Road** who each did an interview on Bridges of Love's involvement. This note from a couple flooded in Bowness expressed their gratefulness for a furnace received from a donor on our site.

Dear Marg,

This Christmas we are giving thanks to you and all of the wonderful kind persons of your ministry who have generously helped us after the flood. Without their assistance we would not be able to live in our house. The gifts that were given to us made it possible for us to hope that we can get through the trials the flood has bestowed on us.

Merry Christmas and a big thank you.

Robert and Susan Watts

We continue to be very grateful to 3M's donation of "stuffies" that were shared with young and old alike. Many were donated to churches who distributed them to families affected by the flood. Again this fall; Highland Mennonite church included these special furry friends with 150 school packs, for under privileged children.



Bringing together flood victims and those who assisted in a multitude of ways took place on October 19, 2013 at **"Bridge over Troubled Water – Bearing Together"** held at the McDougall Centre. Special guests included, Coby Duerer - CEMA, MP Joan Crockett, MLA Wayne Cao, Samaritan's Purse ED – Fred Weiss, Canadian Bible Society – Marvin Busenius, Pastor Diane Beaman – High River flood victim, as well as a special tribute from Chris Kuryak, RECOVERS Chief Operations Officer. The 'Volunteer Feeding Crew' (VFC) provided lunch in their traditional brown paper bags. During the flood recovery efforts, hundreds of lunches were brought to workers and residents, from the VFC.

The New Year (2014) brought good news on three fronts. We received our first substantial grant through the New Initiatives Program; part of **The Calgary Foundation's Flood Rebuilding Fund Grants**, to facilitate and implement four **CERT** training sessions in Calgary. Due to the abundance of donations from the relief efforts, The Calgary Foundation encouraged charities to pursue activities to build stronger communities should another disaster occur in our City. The Community Emergency Response Team training was offered to Bridges of Love in 2011 from the Calgary Emergency Management Agency. With funding available to assist communities build greater resilience, we were successful with our bid.





The second encouraging news came from the Provincial Government. Bridges of Love received three **Alberta's Heroes of the Flood Certificates** which are especially meaningful as nominations came from two flood victims and a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Wayne Cao, who was involved in the flood relief efforts.

Good things do come in threes with the Prime Minister's office offering Bridges of Love the **2013 Volunteer Award for Social Innovator (Prairies)**. The award presented by Prime Minister Harper and MP Candace Bergen during a special ceremony in Toronto was indeed an honour. Four hundred and eighty applicants applied for the seventeen placements available across Canada. A beautiful medal, framed certificate and grant confirmed our FEPI initiative as viable having churches mobilized, coordinated with trained volunteers; the encouragement necessary to tackle the next phase of development - CERT training.



The Calgary Emergency Management Agency (Len MacCharles), requested we arrange a meeting in order to garner support for CERT and show there was enough interest to proceed. The meeting took place February 19 and we were very pleased with the 50+ who attended from church, community and the public sector. Interest appeared strong for CERT to proceed with Jason Cameron, Business Continuity & Recovery Planning CEMA, offering words of affirmation.

Our first Community Emergency Response Team training took place at Rocky Mountain College. This full day and evening **CERT CANada Summit** (April 25-26) offered 10 modules. Alberta Hazards (Environment Canada), Emergency Preparedness (CEMA), Search & Rescue (CALSAR), Disaster Medical Operations (Nurse, Peter Lougheed), Psychology of Disasters (AHS), CERT Organization (BoFL), Fire Safety and Utility Controls (CFD), Personal Preparedness (Samaritan's Purse), Terrorism and CERT (RCMP) and Food Safety (AHS). Attendees had choices for their four modules for the Saturday sessions and each registrant attended the two evening modules (Alberta Hazards and Emergency Preparedness). Fifty registered from church and community with professionals in the each field delivering the various sessions. The evaluation results were very encouraging with 98% of those who attended expressing a desire to return to complete the four outstanding modules. We were very pleased to have Wayne Cao bring greetings from the Province offering their continued support.



Generous donations of equipment (CEMA, 3M, The Canadian Bible Society, Deliver Good and Bridges of Love) helped with our CERT Kits. The bag, vest and hard hat branded with our CERT **CAN**ada Logo sell for \$40.00. It is a substantial saving for our members as its value is well over \$100.00. 40 kits have been purchased in order to have the necessary equipment ready to respond to any disaster.

CERT Motto: "Together CERTs CAN save lives and protect property"

Shortly after completion of our first Summit, we heard via a FEPI partner CEMA was planning for their own "Train the Trainer" sessions. After a brief conversation with their Deputy Chief, it was confirmed they were in the developmental phase producing emergency material specific to Calgary. They kindly shared their out-line indicating a similar path but not as extensive and broad as CERT. They indicated their material (**P.L.A.N.**) would be completed by the end of June. Not wishing to rush ahead of CEMA a decision was made to wait until it was finished before scheduling our second event. Conversations were leading to incorporate their material with CERT to offer specific material related to our city. Unfortunately, after waiting the summer to hear more, it was evident their time-frame was slower than expected. Concerned we would not have time to complete the four session commitment made to The Calgary Foundation by the end of 2014, we scheduled our second Summit, for September 27, 2014.

Bridges of Love secured a booth at **Mission Fest Alberta** attending their event the last week-end of February. We were invited to share a teaching session with "Bridge over Troubled Water" as our theme. The room was packed which indicated a keen interest in the topic. An Edmonton Church also invited us to join their Sunday service to share our experiences during the flood.

May 5th Bridges of Love was once again invited to participate in **CEMA's Disaster Alley**. Since CERT was our focus, we profiled training, inviting communities to consider attending future sessions. Tom and I manned the booth as in previous years; enjoying every minute, despite the cold temperatures. We shared 25+ bearing together bears, toques, heart chocolates and suckers with the many who visited our booth.



We continue our monthly e-News Newsletter, distributed via e-mail, the beginning of each month. With the Government constraints for unsolicited e-mails, a notice was sent in July, inviting our database to give consent. It is nice to know those who have given permission to receive our updates have chosen to keep in touch. For the past nine months, "**A Bridge of Love**" is posted in City Light News due to Peter and Leslie McManus's kind offer to publish an article written each month about our bridge building efforts.

This brings a close to another busy year of activities. We could not have accomplished what has been undertaken, however, without support from many. We thank our Board of Directors who gives of their time and expertise attending board meetings every two months. Lois Reid, Chair does an excellent job in this role. Leslie took on the Treasurer duties so we appreciate both she and Peter's support. Tom continues his IT Guy duties which were especially appreciated at the Summits as well as additional web site and video accomplishments.

We also appreciate the volunteer support at our various events. The work load is often over-whelming so extra hands are certainly appreciated. We also covet financial donations and prayer support. Blazing trails into unfamiliar territory is a daunting task if God is not at the helm. It takes a team to sustain a charity so thank you for your kind and generous support.

SUMMARY

Neighbourhoods that are alert, well-prepared, and trained can greatly reduce the impacts of disasters. CERT training provides this opportunity for grass-roots emergency teams - neighbours helping neighbours. CERT is relatively new to Canada so it will take time, intentionality, finances, determination, and obedience to keep the flame alive.

"Only Jesus taught that His followers could find Him in their neighbour. Joining Christ in His work in the world is the most exciting adventure imaginable. Real Christianity is no threat but a glorious proposal."

Chuck Colson, THE FAITH

Enduring Christian truths we defend are the most powerful life and culture changing forces. Putting Faith into action provides '**Living Proof of a Loving Saviour.**'

Marg Pollon, Founding Director
Bridges of Love Ministry AGM
October 27, 2014

AGM FINANCIAL REPORT – BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY

October 27, 2014

Please see the Summary Reports, Profit & Loss, and Budget for the past Fiscal Year.

Due to The Calgary Foundation Grant we certainly have been in better shape and able to accomplish more than in previous years.

Receiptable donations were up slightly from last year (14.4%) coming from personal individual donors and a few church 'bridge partner' donations. Two \$1000 donations came from companies for the CERT Summits. Due to The Calgary Foundation and Prime Minister's Volunteer Award Grants the non-receiptable donations were up considerably (969%).

TransCanada Pipeline continues to match our son's donation each month. They will match donations yearly up to \$1000.

It has been wonderful to have 0 balance on our MBNA Credit Card with the balance covered each month. There has been no increase in our rent at the church for the past ten years so we are most appreciative to St. John Lutheran Church for making our office space so affordable. I have the use of three rooms so the smaller room at the back is perfect for storage of our CERT resources.

We became members of Workman's Compensation this year for the first time, as liability insurance is a pre-requisite for hiring summer students. We were approved for a student from Service Canada but unfortunately, they had more requests than funding available, so in the final stage, we were declined. The minimum cost for WCB is \$200.00 for the year's coverage.

The Board gave approval for Marg's salary increase - \$3000/month due to the ED salary's budget for the Calgary Foundation Grant application. This increase took effect in January 2014. This amount has been constant since that time. No deductions have come off as Marg made the decision to personally look after the tax at the end of the year since this might be a temporary wage increase if further funding is not forth-coming.

The major expenses have gone for the CERT CANada Summits. We recovered some dollars through the Registration and CERT Kit sales which helped off-set some expenses from the Summits. The largest outlay came from the facility rental, Rocky Mountain College (\$1100 and \$350 for table rentals) at our April CERT Summit (Please see detailed list of CERT expenses).

Travel expenses were up due to MissionFest and the trip to Vancouver for the Earthquake Symposium put on by the Insurance Bureau of Canada. This does not take place until October 13-14, 2014 but the arrangements were made ahead of time and the cost for travel has already been covered before our year end so are included in this year's financials.

Our present balance in the bank is **\$3420.45** with two Summits still out-standing. Many applications have been written for grants over the summer from Oil Companies (Chevron, Devon, Cenovus, Suncor, and TransCanada), the City (CSIF Grant), Public Safety (PDCP), Alliance Pipeline Partnership Grant, and the McConnell Foundation. Unfortunately, we have been turned down by each. The reasons have been fairly constant, they receive more requests than they can support and we were not one of the high priority applications. Each application

takes hours and often days to complete so much time and effort has gone into these applications.

Since the flood, many of the larger organizations have received the bulk of the donations (Red Cross) and many others have seen this cause as an opportunity to access flood recovery funding. Since Bridges of Love is a small ministry with a Christian focus, I am sure we are seen as not accomplishing the same degree of effectiveness. Since the start of Bridges of Love, my hope was to see the ministry supported by individual Christians and the local church who understand the out-reach opportunity and believe in the ministry's goal and mission. Over the many years of 'asking' for assistance, it is now necessary to go out-side this mandate and look to other organizations that see value in the CERT training. Being a missionary in our own country is not an easy undertaking as funding Bridges of Love continues to be a challenge.

We continue to believe this is God's project, however, and He promises to supply all of our needs. We stand by our principal refusing to access money that comes from Lottery sources. Unfortunately, the Alberta sources for the non-profit sector all come from 'gaming sources so we have not applied for any Provincial Grants. There is a new fund starting next year (2015), however, Social Innovation Endowment, which is a viable option. Their mandate is:

- Accelerate action and make demonstrable progress on solving social challenges
- Improving the capacity of Alberta's social benefit sector to innovate and to solve social challenges
- Refocus Alberta's social services system on innovative, preventive, and outcomes-based approaches
- Help make Alberta's leader in responding not only to economic and environmental issues, but also to social issues.

Attending the stakeholder discussion on the endowment – Marg learned its potential, design, and implementation, gaining insight and perspective about social innovations. More information will be posted on their website as it becomes available.

Summary

Being the recipient of The Calgary Foundation Grant has taken some pressure off our fund-raising efforts over the year but we know all good things come to an end. The past year has been so very busy with the training sessions and other activities so we have not had a formal fund raising event. Sustainability of this ministry is at a crossroads so this is a crucial time for our board to consider the best options for soliciting adequate funding for the short term and long term.

Respectfully Submitted:
Marg Pollon, Ed

Reviewed and Presented by:
Leslie McManus
Treasurer
October 27, 2014

Bridges of Love Ministry Society
Profit & Loss
August 2013 through July 2014

Aug '13 - Jul 14

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4100 · DONATIONS	
4110 · Donations - Receiptable	12,842.65
4120 · Donations - Non Receiptable	49,115.47
Total 4100 · DONATIONS	<u>61,958.12</u>
Total Income	61,958.12
Expense	
5100 · ADMINISTRATION	
5120 · Bank Charges	253.68
5130 · Credit Card Charges	133.38
Total 5100 · ADMINISTRATION	<u>387.06</u>
5300 · COMPENSATION	
5310 · Salaries & Compensation	
5311 · Director	27,350.00
5310 · Salaries & Compensation - Other	400.00
Total 5310 · Salaries & Compensation	<u>27,750.00</u>
5320 · Payroll Expenses	
5340 · Employment Insurance	200.00
Total 5320 · Payroll Expenses	<u>200.00</u>
Total 5300 · COMPENSATION	27,950.00
5400 · FACILITIES	
5410 · Office Rent	1,100.00
5420 · Office Equipment	756.85
Total 5400 · FACILITIES	<u>1,856.85</u>
5500 · MINISTRY COSTS	
5510 · Activity\Event Supplies	3,198.78
5540 · Communications	
5541 · Cell Phone Charges	910.32
5542 · InternetAccess/WebPage	463.48
5545 · Telephone Services	1,172.39
Total 5540 · Communications	<u>2,546.19</u>
5560 · Food & Refreshment Expense	319.10
5570 · Gifts, Cards & Appreciation	432.54
5575 · Memberships	50.00
5580 · Office Supplies	1,754.73
5590 · Postage & Shipping	173.22
6190 · Faith Community Summit Costs	7,880.89
Total 5500 · MINISTRY COSTS	<u>16,355.45</u>
5700 · TRAVEL	2,280.68
Total Expense	<u>48,830.04</u>
Net Ordinary Income	13,128.08
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
4150 · Recovered Expenses	298.96
Total Other Income	<u>298.96</u>
Net Other Income	298.96
Net Income	<u><u>13,427.04</u></u>

Bridges of Love Ministry
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IT Report
October 27, 2014

This year, 2013/2014, has certainly been one of those years that we will remember as a milestone for Calgary and Bridges of Love Ministry. Who would ever think that Calgary and area would experience the aftermath of a disastrous flood, hail and wind storm all in one year?

Bridges of Love Ministry was honoured with the Prime Minister's Volunteer Award for Innovation, three Hero of the Flood Awards from the Province of Alberta and a grant from The Calgary Foundation to present Community Emergency Response Team training for Calgary. All of this certainly did set the stage for a busy year for Marg and Bridges of Love.

Our Bridges of Love web site was the primary vehicle to keep our constituents informed with all that was happening and to promote the first CERT Summits. We did this with several short promotional videos and an edited version of the CERT In Action video from CERT USA. Each month Marg posts the monthly Bridges of Love News Letters and other current events and items of interest on the web site to keep everyone informed on where God is directing us as we demonstrate "Love Is Action".

Another short promotional video was produced for Alliance Pipeline in support of a funding proposal. While Bridges of Love was not chosen for funding at this time, we expect to use the video for other funding proposals.

This year the CRTC required all organizations to seek approval from all email recipients to ensure adherence to new anti-spam laws. Although this resulted in a smaller email list for Bridges of Love, we now have a revised list of confirmed churches, individuals and other contacts who have indicated their support and interest in continuing to receive monthly newsletters and other communications. When there is an 'ask' for solicitation of funds, however, we can still send out to the whole data base for these occasions.

The Bridges of Love web site continues to receive a good flow of visitors each month from Canada, the USA and other countries, averaging approximately 20,000 hits per month.

We continue to acknowledge with appreciation and gratitude the continued support of Chris Kuryak and the Recovers team for their ongoing support this past year. The Alberta.Recovers web site stands at the ready while we have activated our new COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM CANada web site to support our CERT CANada teams as they are formed. The @albertarecovers twitter site continues and is also featured on both her Alberta.Recovers and CERTCAN.Recovers sites.



Respectfully submitted,
Tom Pollon
IT Guy, Director

BRIDGES OF LOVE'S VISION CATCHING – 2014/2015



It is hard to imagine ten years have passed while building Bridges of Love. It has been a journey of trusting God one day at a time. Who could have envisioned the vehicle for connecting church with community would be through emergency preparedness? After experiencing a major disaster in our Province and other emergencies in our city, however, we have clear evidence for emergency preparedness and community engagement with trained volunteers.

Dr. Tim Foggin shared in 2006, that he prayed for three months, before inviting a total stranger to join Influenza Pandemic Preparedness. My response - "What is a PANDEMIC!!" We have come a long way and due to Tim's prayers, this opportunity has remained our focus. Who could have imagined being the recipient of two Innovation (CCVO & Prime Minister's Volunteer) Awards for our vision and a grant to carry out Community Emergency Response Team training? When God is at the helm, it is indeed exciting and fulfilling, even though he does not promise an easy road. It takes obedience, courage, commitment, and diligence as we strive to carry out His agenda.

I struggle with vision casting as His ways are not always our ways. I can forecast what I would like to see accomplished but ultimately God's plan will unfold in His way. The Bible Verse from Matthew 6 reminds us of our responsibility... ³³"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." ³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

With that verse in mind, I believe God has given clear direction and opened a door of opportunity for Community Emergency Response Team training. Not only is it a vital link for community resilience but it has potential as an out-reach resource for the local church. Our desire is to be 'salt' and 'light' to those who attend our sessions as they learn basic emergency skills and techniques to assist themselves, family and community.

We will continue to strive for excellence and best emergency practices for our CERT course material. A manager, from Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) whom I recently met at the Earthquake Symposium, inquired as to our long term CERT goals. My response was, "to see CERT certified by the Federal Government so it could be shared across our country." This desire came from building a Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative template with Michel Sigouin, Jan Donais (Public Safety Canada), Chris McKiernan (AHS) and others who supported and believed in the potential of the local church being ready to serve their communities during and following a disaster.

Sustainability for Bridges of Love is a priority for the coming year. We are at a crossroads so much prayer and continued hard work is necessary in order to continue our mission. With two summits under our belt and two still to complete, we are learning and gaining credibility with each session. We must finish our Summits strong so I urge you to be a beacon of light to spread the importance for CERT training to all your contacts. Please join me in praying for 100 attendees for each Summit! With God ALL things are possible! With many receiving this community training, we envision CERT teams in each community, building resilience and strength. **CERTS CAN!!**

We know God holds the ultimate plan for Bridges of Love so we entrust Him with the outcomes. I am very thankful to have a board who believes and trusts God's will for this ministry. He has sustained us over the years and the people we have met along the way have been the reward! We look forward to the coming year and ALL that it holds. Thank you for your part in the journey...

Marg Pollon, Founding Director
October 27, 2014