

HURONIA TRANSITION HOMES



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



La Maison Rosewood Shelter, Athena's Sexual Assault Counselling & Advocacy Centre, Choices for Children, Aquarius House, and Operation Grow

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OUR MISSION

We believe that all violence against all women and children must end. We are community members who are committed to education, advocacy, harm reduction, and poverty reduction as a means to end violence. HURONIA TRANSITION HOMES is also committed to providing shelter and support to abused women and their children and to providing counselling to women survivors of sexual assault and socioeconomic opportunities through social enterprise.

Board of Directors 2022 – 2023

Chairperson

Thea Jones

Vice-Chairperson

Victoria Ellery

Treasurer

Judy Larmand

Members at Large

Samantha Docherty

Lorraine Hebner

Jennifer Watson-Choi

Melissa Robillard

Andrea Vieira

Acting Executive Director

Haily MacDonald



A Message from the Board Chair and Acting Executive Director

Thea Jones and Haily MacDonald



Things have started to return to their new normal, since the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, this new normal, mirrors its predecessor in that it is characterized by violence against women and gender-based violence. In the first 30 weeks of the 2023 calendar year, there were 30 femicides in Ontario, one of the women murdered was a resident of Simcoe County, Ashley Schwalm. This demonstrates the importance and relevance of agencies like Huronia Transition Homes, that are dedicated to ending all violence against all women. HTH works so hard to ensure that all its decision making is guided by this mandate. This has allowed the agency to continuously make a positive impact in the lives of women who have experienced violence, and the community at large.

Every year, HTH seems to expand its services to better meet the needs of women. This year was no different, as it brought many positive changes to the organization:

- Operation Grow was the recipient of funding through the provincial Investing in Women's Futures program. This funding will support the social enterprise to design its low-barrier employment program by developing a kitchen apprenticeship program, supporting women to transition into mainstream employment, and offering a self-employment program.
- Athena's Sexual Assault Counselling & Advocacy Centre, started to offer a trauma-informed yoga program for women in service. The program was also successful in extending its grant with the Department of National Defense to increase access and provide specialized services for Canadian Armed Forces members who have experienced sexual abuse.
- La Maison Rosewood Shelter and Aquarius House successfully piloted and evaluated an on-site nurse practitioner project, providing low barrier health care to women and their children in shelter programs.
- Choices for Children began running in-person groups again, and began offering a teen group, providing a space for teens to connect.

This year the organization both finalized a three-year strategic plan, 2022-2025, and began to work on achieving its new strategic priorities. In that vein, HTH has adopted a social procurement policy, to guide the agency's purchasing and procurement decisions to optimize the positive outcomes. Specifically, the policy will look at the social, environmental, economic, and community impact of its decisions related to

the purchase of goods and services. In the next year, HTH will work to implement this new policy across the organization.

The Board also struck an Investment Policy Working Group, Group, to review and provide recommendations on HTH's current investment policy to see how it aligns with the organizations mandate and values.

HTH also saw an unexpected leave of absence from the organization's longstanding Executive Director, Kathy Willis. The Board worked to appoint Haily MacDonald, HTH's longstanding Director of Operations, to the role of Acting Executive Director.

Substance use is often used as a coping mechanism from trauma. This leads to a number of toxic drug poisonings and related deaths in anti-violence work. Staff and women in service at HTH are continuously navigating the grief and trauma related to the toxic drug crisis. HTH remains committed to harm reduction, as a best practice to reduce the number of toxic drug poisonings. This year, HTH distributed 628 naloxone kits in Midland, and supported 1903 women through our injection and inhalation kit distribution program. HTH is in full support of the proposed supervised consumption site at 11 Innisfil Street in Barrie, Ontario.

HTH continues to call for the implementation of the 94 Actions from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the 231 calls for justice from the report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+, as well as adherence to its National Action Plan. Specifically in Ontario, HTH stands in solidarity with calls for the ongoing commitment to the Pathways to Safety, the provincial strategy in response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+. Recognizing the agency's commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression, in October HTH started an organizational Equity, Diversity and Belonging committee.

Anti-violence work is complex and challenging, but it is a challenge that the staff and women at HTH rise to everyday. Thank you to all the staff who directly or indirectly support women by joining them on their healing journeys and supporting them in gaining autonomy and self-agency. Thank you to the Board of Directors, who dedicate their time to ensuring HTH continues to do better and be better for the women we serve.

There is so much strength and resilience within the organization. We are so grateful for everyone's commitment to doing the absolute best for the women we serve, and for your unwavering dedication to ending all violence against all women.

Sincerely,

Thea Jones and Haily MacDonald
Board Chair and Acting Executive Director

A Message from the Treasurer

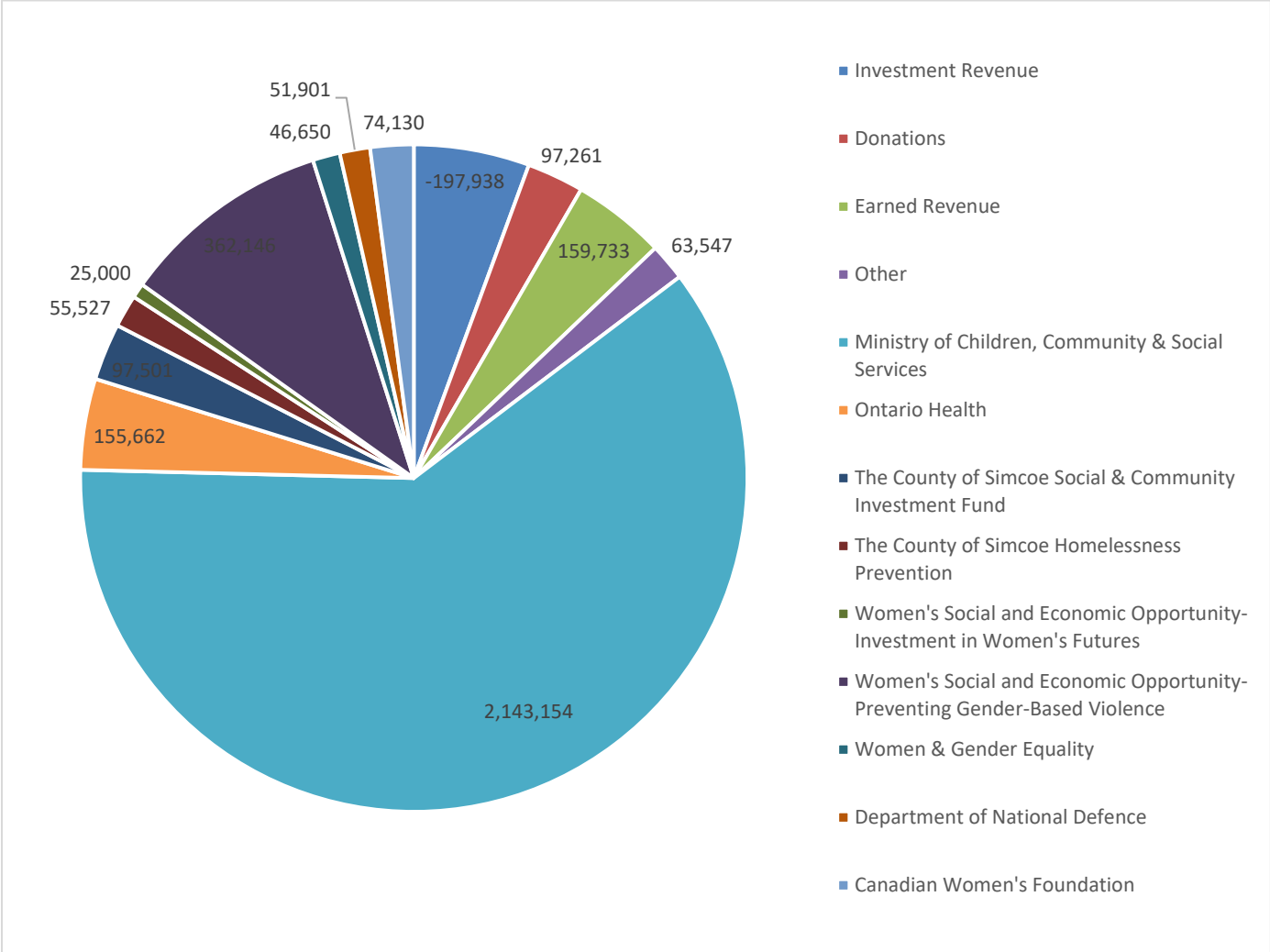
Judy Larmand

As presented by BDO, Huronia Transition Homes received a clean audit report. Due to loss on the market value of the investments and the amortization of fixed assets HTH finished the year with a \$175,353 deficit.

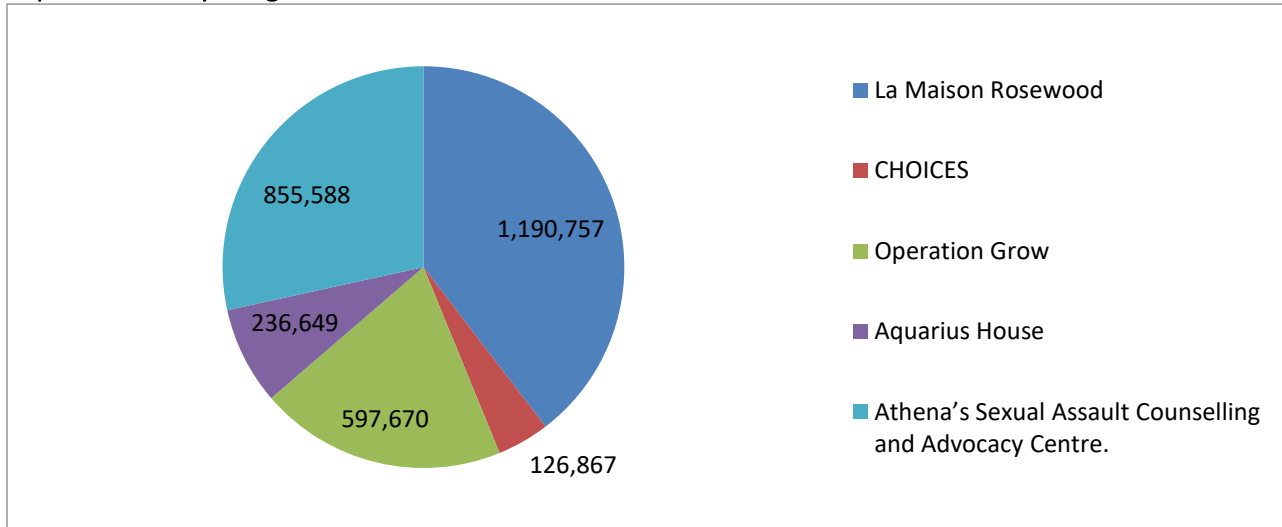


Summary Statement of Operations for the Year Ending March 31, 2023		
Total Revenue from all Sources	\$	3,131,812
Total Expenditures	\$	3,307,165
Net Deficit	-\$	(175,353)

Funding by Source



Expenditures by Program



Funding by Source and Expenditures by Program

As noted in the pie chart above Huronia Transition Homes received funding in the amount of \$ 3,011,671. Funding is provided by municipal, provincial, and federal Ministries. On behalf of the organization, I would like to thank our funders the Ministry of Children & Community Social Services, Ontario Health, the Department of National Defence, and the County of Simcoe for their ongoing financial support.

Funding highlights in fiscal 2023 include new agreements:

Department of National Defence– HTH was successful in their application for a three-year grant through the Sexual Misconduct Support and Resource Centre which aims to provide specialized services and supports for members of the Defence community who have experience sexual abuse. Annual funding will be \$ 75,000.

Ontario Office of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity– HTH was successful in their application for Investing in Women's Futures funding. The funding will support Operation Grow and is meant to deliver a range of flexible economic readiness and violence prevention programs and services. The first year of funding is \$ 25,000 and will be \$ 150,000 there after.

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation – A donation of \$ 27,500 was provided by the foundation to La Maison Rosewood Shelter. The Royal LePage Shelter Foundation is a longstanding supporter of the shelter, and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

Investments:

HTH earned interest and dividends in the current fiscal year. However, the overall market value position of investments on March 31, 2023, declined in value from the previous year resulting in an overall revenue loss from investments for the year. It should be noted that for the prior two years the investments market value increased at year end increasing the net excel of revenue over expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Larmand



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of Huronia Transition Homes

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Huronia Transition Homes (the "organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2023, and its results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the organization derives revenues from donations and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation and fundraising revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2023 and 2022, current assets as at March 31, 2023 and 2022, and fund balances as at April 1 and March 31 for both the 2023 and 2022 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Barrie, Ontario
June 26, 2023

A Message from the Nominating Committee

HTH was excited to welcome Melissa Robillard and Andrea Vieira to the Board in September 2022. Melissa (Spirit Name 'Yellow Thunderbird Woman') is a Metis woman, born and raised in the Georgian Bay area. Melissa is currently an Adult Mental Health and Addictions Navigator for the Métis Nation of Ontario. Melissa enjoys fishing, boating, drumming and painting, and tries her best to keep the Seven Grandfather teachings at the heart of her work and life. Andrea is a Brazilian born Canadian living in Innisfil. She has a plethora of experience in marketing and communications, including through her roles as host at CityTV and CM CanadaTV as well as on the KBUENA Radio TV Show "Sem Frescura". Andrea is also well-versed in the social media world, with her Twitter account being ranked as one of the Top 4% most influential worldwide.

In February, Andrea Vieira resigned from the Board. This left the Board with two vacancies. Advertisements for the vacancies were created, were shared on social media, HTH's website and circulated through the networks of staff and Board members. The advertisements articulated the Board of Director's commitment to increase diverse representation, specifically welcoming racialized, Indigenous, and queer women to join the membership of the Board of Directors. The advertisements also sought to recruit Board members with financial and business acumen.

The nominating committee has met with and is recommending Kim Rowan for membership on the Board. Kim is a certified Executive Human Resource Leader and Executive Coach. She has comprehensive knowledge of Board function, a strong business acumen and a passion for supporting purpose-driven agencies like Huronia Transition Homes. Kim has recently returned to the Georgian Bay community, and through her role on the Board, is looking to give back to her community and share the knowledge she has gained through her years of experience leading high performing human resource teams.

The search to fill the remaining Board vacancy will continue until the positions are filled. The Board is committed to increasing its diversity and continues to welcome applications particularly from Black, Indigenous, women of color, and queer women.

Respectfully submitted,

Haily MacDonald
Acting Executive Director

Services

La Maison Rosewood Shelter

Emergency accommodation to women and their children who are fleeing abuse, and/or experiencing homelessness. The program services North Simcoe

Services:

- ✚ 15 bed emergency shelter for women and their children fleeing abuse
- ✚ 5 bed emergency shelter for women and their children experiencing homelessness
- ✚ Individual counselling
- ✚ Support groups
- ✚ Transitional housing support
- ✚ Legal support
- ✚ 24/7 crisis line: 1-800-461-1750 or 705-526-4211

Athena's Sexual Assault Counselling & Advocacy Centre

A County wide program for women over the age of 16 who have experienced sexual abuse or intimate partner violence in their lifetime

Services:

- ✚ Individual Counselling
- ✚ Legal support
- ✚ Support groups
- ✚ Friday drop-in
- ✚ 24/7 crisis line 705-737-2008 or 1-800-987-0799

Choices for Children

Program for children who have been exposed to abuse/violence against their mothers.

Mothers and children 5-15 years old attend together

- ✚ 10-week psychoeducational group, 5:30-7:30pm one evening per week
- ✚ Support for transportation and childcare during groups are available
- ✚ Services are available throughout Simcoe County with groups running in Midland, Barrie, Orillia, Collingwood and Alliston

Operation Grow

A social enterprise holistically designed to address poverty, food scarcity, food de-skilling, social exclusion, isolation, and the impacts of trauma for women who have experienced violence.

Services:

- ✚ Training and employment centre
- ✚ Vertical farm
- ✚ Inspected kitchen
- ✚ Food collective
- ✚ Meditation and yoga studio
- ✚ Food retailer
- ✚ Drop-in space

Anti-Human Trafficking Program

Women over the age of 16 who have been trafficked

Services:

- ✚ Individual Counselling
- ✚ Legal support
- ✚ Case Management
- ✚ Longer term residential program
- ✚ Crisis response program
- ✚ 24/7 crisis line 705-737-2008 or 1-800-987-0799

Public Education

Provide free public education workshops to community members, organizations and schools.

Topics include:

- ✚ Consent
- ✚ Harm Reduction
- ✚ Healthy Relationships and Dating Violence
- ✚ Rape Culture
- ✚ Thinking Critically about Sexual Violence
- ✚ Gender Respect and Self Esteem

YEAR IN REVIEW

35,000

Hours of direct service in shelter and Aquarius House

1,878

Number of crisis calls to La Maison Rosewood

60

Women received housing support

26

Women served with Anti-Human Trafficking Program

6

Women resided in Aquarius House

192

Women served at Athena's

3,798

Counselling hours at Athena's

60

Women in Shelter

731

Crisis calls at Athena's

YEAR IN REVIEW

26,900

Needle Kits
distributed

628

Naloxone Kits
distributed

9,106

Inhalation Kits
distributed

2,270

Syringes returned
through Exchange
Works

1,903

Women served harm
reduction at La Maison
Rosewood

157

Operation Grow
members

74

Women served by
Choices for Children

40

Children served at La
Maison Rosewood

119

Children served by
Choices for Children

