

Annual Report 2015-2016

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION
OF WINDSOR – ESSEX COUNTY



Idawe • Learning Disabilities
Association of Windsor-Essex County

The right to learn, the power to achieve

The Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor – Essex County (LDAWE) received its registered charitable status from the Government of Canada on February 11, 2004. Since the opening of the Centre, the Association has been using the incorporation number of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario. Application for incorporation as the Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor – Essex County and charitable status for the newly incorporated organization was received during 2011/2012, and the formal transfer of operations to the incorporated organization took place on October 31, 2012.

Mission Statement:

LDAWE's mission is to assist children, youth, and adults with learning disabilities, and those who support them, through information sharing, support, and relevant programs.

Vision Statement:

LDAWE is an established organization clearly recognized as a leader in the provision of innovative services to address the wide range of needs of those living with the challenges of a learning disability.

Vital Statistics:

- 47 members as of June 30, 2016
- 3221 total contacts during the 2015-2016 fiscal year

Services Provided:

- Information and referral services
- Community lending library
- Public meetings, workshops, presentations
- Social skills training for children
- Basic literacy and numeracy tutoring for children
- After-school programs, PA Day camps, and summer camps for at-risk children
- Transition planning program for youth
- Computer enrichment and adaptive technology training for youth
- Recreation program for youth and adults
- Advocacy training for parents
- Scholarship for post-secondary students
- Employment supports for adults
- Client intervention services for adults
- Psychological assessments for adults who meet the eligibility criteria

Volunteer Involvement:

Many volunteers contributed hours to LDAWE during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The value of these hours are not reflected in the financial statements. Volunteers helped with administrative tasks, workshop preparations, facilitating programs, hosting an LDAWE Gala, fundraising events preparation, and sitting on the Board of Directors or other committees. Without the support of our many volunteers, LDAWE would not be able to offer all of the services and programs that are currently offered to the community.

Program and Service Development:

The following proposals were submitted to potential funders and funding was received during this fiscal year. These proposals were submitted in response to the needs identified by LDA members and the community.

Grants:

- The **May Court Club of Windsor** continued to provide funding for program subsidies for the child social skills programs, computer enrichment camp, and transition planning programs.
- **Service Canada** provided funding through the **Canada Summer Jobs Program** to provide summer employment opportunities for five students in Windsor-Essex.
- The **Windsor Sertoma Club** continued to sponsor the youth and adult recreation programs. Activities include swimming, mini golf, bowling, laser tag, movie nights, and game nights.
- The **Windsor Star**, through the **Raise-a-Reader** program, continued to provide a financial contributions to the child tutoring program and summer enrichment camp by sponsoring program subsidies. Funding is also used to purchase new books and materials for LDAWE's community lending library.

Service Contracts:

- The **City of Windsor** continued a service contract with the organization to provide client intervention services and psychological assessment services for adults currently receiving Ontario Works benefits, who are experiencing difficulty meeting program requirements.
- The **Ministry of Community and Social Services** renewed its service contract with the organization to provide employment supports to adults with learning disabilities or ADHD through the Ontario Disability Support Program – Employment Supports (ODSP-ES) program.
- Additionally, they entered into a service contract with the organization to provide adaptive technology training to students with disabilities who have recently received Special Equipment Amount equipment.

- The **Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board**, with targeted funds received from the Ministry of Education, entered into a service contract with the organization to provide an after-school tutoring program and summer camps for children who are not achieving curriculum standings in reading or writing from grades 3-8.

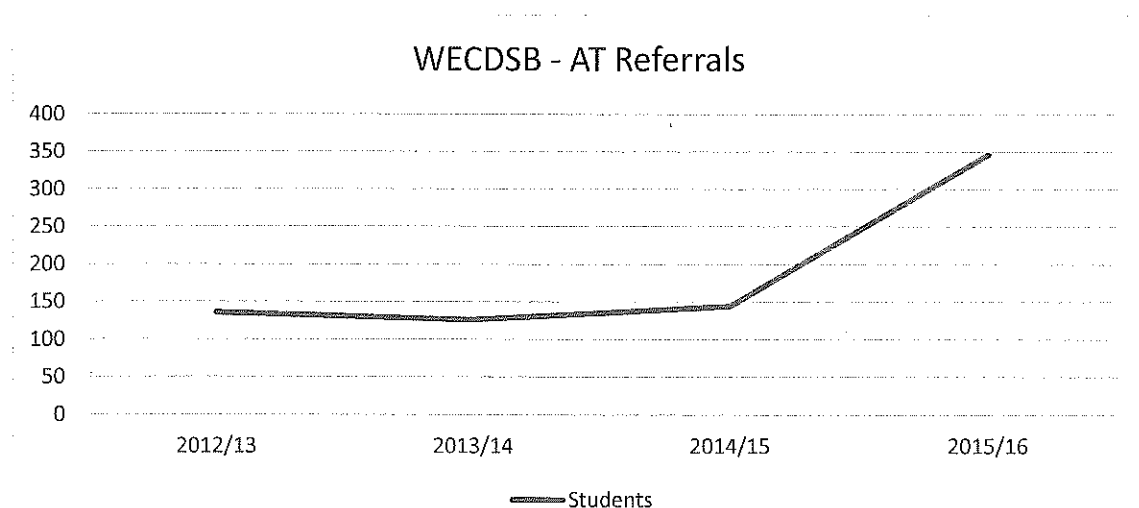
LDAWE has provided AT training in the Separate School board for the past four years. As well as AT training LDAWE runs afterschool programming at sites selected by the board for 12 weeks. This after-school programs provide tutoring and afterschool support for students enrolled in schools which have a demonstrated need for academic support.

In the 2012-2013 school year LDAWE provided initial laptop training to 136 Separate School Board students. The following year (2013-2014) 20 students were trained on a laptop, while 126 students received training on an iPad.

In the 2014-2015 year Chromebooks were added to the training. There was no laptop training as the Board moved away from this device. The board had purchased a domain (mytools2go) and had put Chromebooks in every classroom for all students. This meant a lot of work was now done online and submitted by email by all students. This also had the effect of making those students with exceptionalities disappear into the general population, as now all student were using Chromebooks. iPad were phased out and training was only provided to 28 students with iPads. The remaining 116 were given training on Chromebooks.

In 2015-2016 iPads were completely removed. The only students receiving this type of training were those with a diagnosis of Autism and their training was completed by a special team of Board employees. A total of 346 students received Chromebook training, a significant increase to previous years.

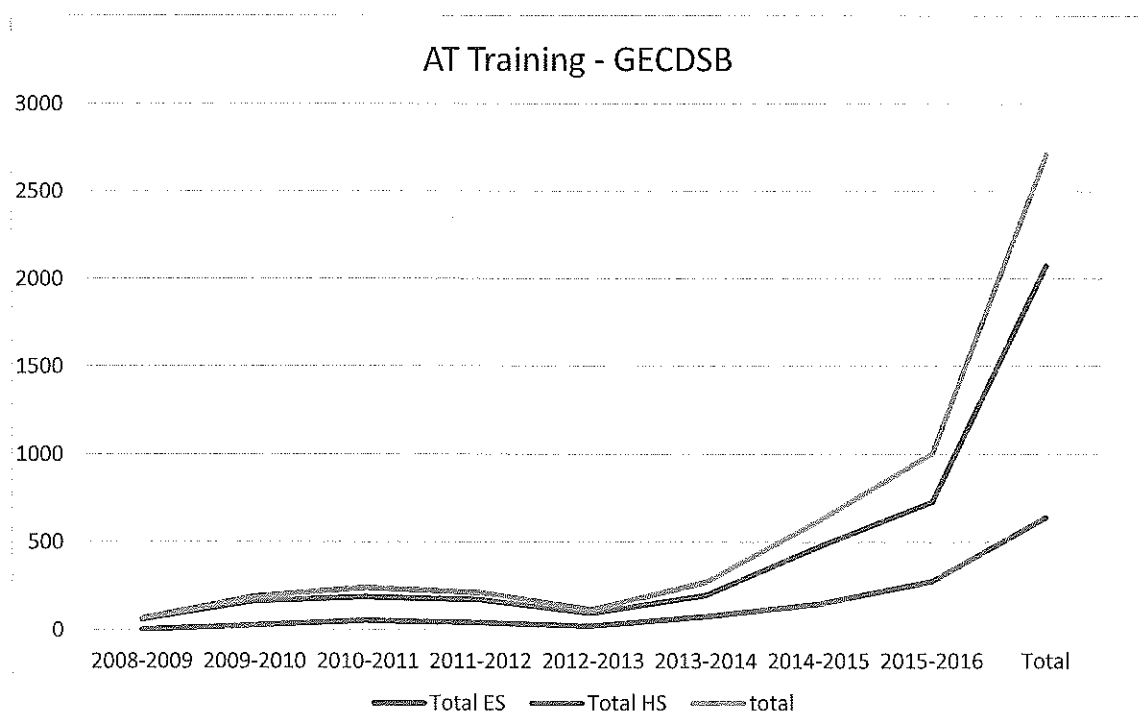
The Separate School Board only does initial training so these numbers represent unique students in all cases.



- The **Greater Essex County District School Board** renewed its service contract with the organization to provide adaptive technology training to students with disabilities who have recently received Special Equipment Amount equipment.

LDAWE has been providing AT training to the public school board since 2008. Over these years LDAWE has provided AT training to over 2000 children. The goal of AT training is to assist children with disabilities in their understanding and use of the technology provided to them. This technology allows such children to meaningfully access the curriculum and more fully participate in educational activities. Though technology has been proved to these children due to a lack of proper training. The board had limited resources for training and struggled to implement a board-wide training system that reached all students. Even with proper training, students often were hesitant to use the technology for daily work due to the stigma of being different, as their peers did not have technological supports. Of course the stigma of being different still persists but newer training developments such as classroom training have aimed to reduce that stigma and provide a positive technological experience in the hopes that it will produce greater and more consistent use of technology by students.

There has been more or less steady growth until the 2014/2015 school year when referrals more than doubled. The 2015-2016 year has again nearly doubled. This new pattern of growth is expected to continue for several reasons: changes in the expectations of students has led to a greater success rate of SEA claim trials, increased awareness of learning disabilities has led to greater incidence of diagnosis, and changes to the referral process has decreased the time which students have to wait to be accommodated.



Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

November 21, 2015

Annual General Meeting

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Opening Remarks

Bev Clarke was appointed Meeting Secretary and Danielle was appointed Meeting Parliamentarian. Member voting procedures were explained.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the Agenda.
Moved: Joshua Higgins
Seconded: Mary Anne Mouawad
Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.
Moved: Deb Gignac
Seconded: Pierre Monette
Carried.

4. Treasurer's Report

Motion: To accept the financial statements, as presented.
Moved: Tammy Groulx
Seconded: Mary Anne Mouawad
Carried.

Motion: To appoint Gordon B. Lee, C.A., to complete the 2015-2016 audit.
Moved: Shelley Lavoie
Seconded: Deb Gignac
Carried.

5. Annual Report

The Executive Director and Resource Manager reviewed the highlights of the Annual Report.

6. Nominations Report

Tammy Groulx acknowledged the work of the 2014–2015 Board of Directors and thanked Mary-Anne Mouawad for her 5 years of service.

7. Election and Introduction of the Board of Directors

Tammy Groulx introduced the Slate of Directors.

Motion: To accept the Slate of Directors for 2015-2016.

Moved: Shelley Bois

Seconded: Deb Gignac

Carried.

8. New Business

In response to a question from the floor at the 2014 AGM, Teresa Hoffman-Sartor explained that in fact a Board Member is required to sit on the Pay Attention and Learn Task Force. Shelley Lavoie has agreed to sit on the Committee.

9. Date of Next AGM

To be determined.

10. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Shelley Lavoie

Seconded: Shelley Bois

Prepared by:
Bev Clarke
Executive Director

BC/mg.

Community Workshops, Conferences and Presentations:

One of the roles of LDAWE is to provide information referral services and to educate the public about learning disabilities, several workshops and presentations were made about learning disabilities and ADHD in this fiscal year.

Workshops and Presentations:

Date	Venue and Topic	Attendees
Sept. 1, 2015	University of Windsor – BUILD Orientation for new students on campus with LD	15
Sept. 17, 2015	City of Windsor – Social Services Team Meetings	10
Sept. 28, 2015	St. Clair College – CYW Program (AT - Training)	40
Oct. 2, 2015	ADHD Awareness Day Discussion Panel	150
Oct. 3, 2015	Instrument of Change Conference	90
Oct. 3, 2015	Rising Above Noise Conference	90
Oct. 20, 2015	Reading and Writing with Google Webinar	12
Oct. 20, 2015	City of Windsor – Social Services Team Meetings	10
Oct. 24, 2015	LDAWE Open House	15
Nov. 3, 2015	WECDSB – LST/ESL Teachers	20
Nov. 18, 2015	City of Windsor – Social Services Team Meetings	10
Nov. 21, 2015	LDAWE AGM	15
March 1, 2016	LDCC Teacher PD for GECDSB	30
May 2-5, 2016	Reaching Every Learner Sessions	200
June 10, 2016	PD Session for GECDSB Support Staff	55
June 23, 2016	GECDSB, Self-Advocacy Resources	24
	total	786

Tammy Groulx

Tammy is a Special Education Coordinator for the Greater Essex County District School Board. She has received her Bachelor of Arts in Behavioural and Cognitive Neuropsychology and her Bachelor of Education from the University of Windsor and her Special Education Specialist from Queen's University. Specializing in children with Dyslexia, she has completed the qualifications as a tutor in the Orton Gillingham method, and is a registered Parent Advocate. Tammy is on the SEA Coordinator Council and is working on her Math Specialist. After a short hiatus, Tammy returned as a member of the Board in September 2014 and is currently the President.

Shelley Lavoie

Shelley is currently employed as an Adult Literacy Instructor with the Windsor Public Library. Shelley received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Windsor as well as a Developmental Services worker diploma from St. Clair College. She then obtained her Learning Disability Specialist (Learning Strategist and Assistive Technologist) from Cambrian College in 2013. Shelley was the Association's Secretary in the past and is currently Vice President of the Board. Shelley is also the owner/operator of The Literacy Loft.

Eva Pacitti

Eva is currently employed by the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board as a Learning Support Services Teacher (LSST). She is a graduate of the University of Windsor, where she received her Honours Bachelor of Commerce and her Bachelor of Education. She has been an employee of the Catholic Board since 1992, where she has been a French as a Second Language Teacher, Literacy Support Teacher, and Board Literacy Teacher in addition to an LSST. She is a Special Education Specialist. Eva has been a board member since October 2012.

Shelley Deslippe

Shelley graduated from St. Clair College in 2002 with her diploma in Early Childhood Education. She has worked at a variety of local daycares since that time. She has volunteered at many of the Association's fundraising events and likes helping people in the Windsor-Essex community.

She was diagnosed with a learning disability in reading comprehension in grade 1. Shelley has been a member of the Association's Adult Support Group for over 7 years. Shelley has been the Association's Consumer Representative since October 2012.

Shannon Porcellini

Shannon works part-time at the Patronato ITAL-UIL, the Italian Pension Office, and previously worked in finance, marketing, and community development. She is a mother of three children, including one identified with ADHD and Learning Differences. She is currently the President of the Canadian Parents for French Windsor-Essex Chapter, sits on the Board of Directors of the Downtown Mission of Windsor and Community Legal Aid, and volunteers for the Girl Guides of Canada 79th Windsor Sparks and Brownies troop. Shannon is a former Trustee with the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board and a former member of the Board of Directors of the St. Mary's Ontario Early Years Family Learning Centre and the Arts Council of Windsor. Shannon will be joining the Board as of November 2015.

Christine Stanley

Christine is an English as a Second Language and Literacy instructor in the Adult and Continuing Education department of the GECDSB. She is also the Centre Director for the Scottish Rite Learning Centre, and trained in the Orton-Gillingham method. She received her Honours B.A. in Psychology from The University of Waterloo, B.Ed. from Queen's University, and M.Ed. from the University of Windsor. She is also TESL certified through the University of Saskatchewan. She joined the board last year and is currently the SEAC representative for the WECDSB.

Michael Wilcox

Michael Wilcox is in his second year as the Principal of Special Education/Programs and Services with the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB). He received his Bachelor of Arts (Communications), Honours Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor and Master of Education from the University of Windsor. Michael has been with the GECDSB since 1998 where has served in the role of Primary/Junior/Intermediate Teacher as well as Vice-Principal and Principal of various community schools. His last administrative assignment, before his current position, was as Principal of the Agency Schools (Maryvale, Regional Children's Centre and New Beginnings) working with students with mental health needs. Michael has previous Board of Directors involvement with the AIDS Committee of Windsor and the Paediatric Read Program and is very excited to be involved with the LDAWE.

Gay McMillan

Gay McMillan has progressive municipal and school board management experience with a background in human resources management, finance, marketing, facility management, and administration. Since 2009, she is the General Manager at Student Transportation, Windsor-Essex. She has her Honours Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Windsor and a Human Resources in Action Certificate from Queen's University. Some of her volunteer experience include the Leone Residence and Alternate Treasurer at the Life After Fifty (Centre For Seniors).

Lucas Lavoie

(Student Representative – Non-Voting Member)

Lucas is a Grade 12 student at Holy Names High School. He is involved in wrestling and school drama performances. In addition, he maintains an 80 average and enjoys volunteering his time for various organizations. Lucas has volunteered at a variety of LDAWE's fundraising events and volunteered during the organization's 2015 Summer Enrichment Camp. He has been LDAWE's Student Consumer Representative since March 2015.

Government

City of Windsor Ministry of Community and Social Services Service Canada

Corporate

Bell Media Radio Windsor Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board
Greater Essex County District School Board Windsor Star (Raise-a-Reader)

Service Clubs, Organizations, Groups, etc...

May Court Club of Windsor Rotary Club of Windsor
Optimist Club of Belle River Sertoma Club of Windsor

In-Kind Donations

Canada South Science City	Jiffy Lube	Revs Rose Bowl
Cineplex Odeon	Johnny Piez Gourmet Pizza	Rogues Gallery Comics
Colasanti Farms	Kelsey's Restaurant	Scholar's Choice
Costco	Ken Lapain & Sons Truck	Silver Tee Golf Centre
Emanuel United Church	Leamington Flyers	Sweet Peas Children & Maternity
Estetica Day Spa	Lilly Kazzilly's Crab Shack	Tatoola Café
Family Vidoe	Magic Cuts	WalMart
Fling's Chicken	On The Green	Wee Ones
FreshCo	Real Canadian Wholesale	Windsor Family Credit Union
Good Life Fitness	Refresh Day Spa	Windsor Spitfires
Jamieson Laboratories	Revs Bowlero	XS Family Fun Centre
Janette Florist		Zehrs Great Foods

Individual and Family Donations

Thank you to the many individuals and families, who made individual donations, or made memorial donations!