

Presidents Report – November 26, 2025

Good evening and thank you all for attending this year's AGM. It has been a privilege to serve as CCWN's President over the past year and the experience has moved me out of my comfort zone. This year's report was a collaborative effort between myself and our committed Executive Director, Carole Fuhrer. Preparing this review provided an opportunity to reflect on the past year at CCWN, where it became clear that the organization had advanced numerous new and exciting initiatives while continuing to make steady progress towards its' strategic goals.

Narrowing in on the realm of finance, CCWN has continued to strategically strengthen its internally restricted reserves in accordance with our organizational policy, while also allocating an additional 5000 to the CCWN Endowment Fund to further support the organization's long-term stability. We continue to navigate the systems of RP Accounting, in light of George's impending retirement. Overall, we are financially in a stable position, in part due to our community's generosity and our Executive Director Carole's unique ability to apply for funding and obtain it.

CCWN remains an active participant in community stakeholder meetings, working towards the transformation of BDSS into a vibrant community hub. While CCWN is still pursuing a presence in the building, we continue to advocate for the development of community resources.

The role of FEED Niagara Manager was successfully appointed to David Vandersteen, who started earlier this month. We warmly welcome him to the team! FEED Niagara is on a journey to achieving formal charitable status and ultimately, the re-signing of the inter-agency MOU confirmed the consortium's interest in FEED Niagara's development. Special thank you to Carole and Jean for dedicating their efforts to providing ongoing essential financial support and expertise to this dynamic initiative.

The lease for the Vineland location was renewed for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Emma continues a consistent work schedule out of this office and is working to develop a proposal for service delivery out of the location.

CCWN has also signed a new 3-year lease with the Town of Lincoln at the previous De Sousa Wines property on Quarry Road for expanded food storage capacity. The addition of another warehouse space was agreed to be a strategic priority for the organization when it was discovered that tens of thousands of pounds of food was wasted last year due to lack of storage capacity.

The 36th Annual Beamsville District & Lions Food Drive was very successful, over 22,000lbs of food was donated and \$5,500 in funds. We are looking forward to next year – Saturday, September 19th, 2026.

We continue to put in significant efforts of refining our Governance and Operational policies and guiding documents. This year, the undertaking of the Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence accreditation was introduced and the thorough review of policies is ongoing with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2026.

At CCWN, we are constantly exploring innovative ways to support our clients, recognizing the vital role pets play in their lives. We are proud to strengthen local partnerships with a diverse array of animal-focused organizations, including a new partnership that flourished this year with Pet Country Market. Their opening on Ontario Street started the connection and since then, they have been hosting fundraising initiatives and regularly having a bin at the store.

We continue to act as one of Lincoln's social service agency, offering a variety of programs to our clients. If there are other services that clients need, we do our best to refer them externally and follow up with their journey.

CCWN continues to actively engage in the Feed Collaboration network, including FEED Niagara and Feed Ontario, to contribute to the One More Bite program, with a focus on sharing surplus food products and minimizing food waste in the community.

CCWN Board members and staff participated in strategic planning sessions, which were very well attended and productive. It was led to completion and approved by the Board of Directors in the summer.

We continue to be an active participant on the Affordable Housing panel, we thank Carole for representing CCWN and Dora for her future ongoing participation.

The 9th Every Bowl Full was a big success to report on. The event resulted in increased revenue values from increased sponsorships. It was a fun event held under the tent at Bench Brewing, we thank Matt and his team for having us again and for everything they did to help us plan the event. With the generous support from sponsors, donors, companies and individuals, the evening raised \$39,000. Planning is underway for the 10th Annual EBF.

The 2nd Annual Debbie Ecker Memorial Fundraiser, organized by Vineland Growers is a remarkable tribute to Debbie's dedication to community service, and it exceeded the previous year with \$130,000 donated for CCWN and proceeds from the Kraft Peanut Butter tree donated to FEED Niagara. Join us for a special evening of remembrance and support as we honor Debbie's impactful contributions to the community. The 3rd Annual will take place at Vineland Growers on December 6th. Mike has graciously offered to increase the number of attendees, from 500 to 600. Tickets are almost sold out!

I would like to offer a special thank you to our Executive Director, Carole Fuhrer and the staff at CCWN for their devotion to provide essential services to families and individuals in Lincoln facing economic hardship.

Stewart Capell
CCWN Board President
November 26, 2025

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“Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together”. Vesta M. Kelly

Each snowflake has its own unique and delicate beauty. Alone, its existence is fleeting but, united with other snowflakes, individual fragility is transformed into a frozen tapestry of collective strength. So too with people. The uniqueness within each of us is to be celebrated and appreciated. Yet there is also great value in coming together in a common purpose, giving us the power to hold strong, anchored in our shared beliefs and values. – Amos Pewter