

Bridges of Love Ministry Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021



"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"

Colossians 3:17

Executive Director's Report

October 07,
2021

Doing “all in the name of the Lord Jesus” means bringing honour to Christ in every aspect and activity of daily living. As a Christian, we represent Christ at all time—wherever we go, and whatever we say.

**BRIDGES OF LOVE'S
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**



INTRODUCTION

Thanksgiving with gratitude is our theme for another year. With pandemic restrictions still preventing Bridges of Love from conducting our normal activities, God has indeed blessed us by allowing our office/training facility to remain open. With falling support across the sector, we saw God at work as He provided for our every need.

Before we begin sharing our activities from our past fiscal year, we would like to thank those who have supported this work enabling us to move forward. Special thanks to Judy McMillan who sat on our Board for a year as well as took part in our CERT Train-the-Trainer. We were sorry to lose Judy which was due to her other commitments but we appreciated her experience, support, and expertise during this time. We continue to be so very grateful for financial support which covered rent and our day-to-day activities. Tom continues to support in the office with his IT expertise and steps in wherever needed. Thank you Tom!

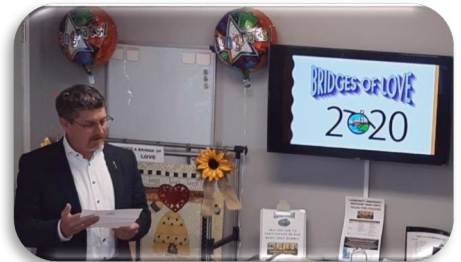
- **New Office Grand-opening Celebration – September 22, 2020**



Even though numbers had to be kept to a minimum due to COVID – 19 restrictions, we had a very special time, sharing the opening of our new office with those in attendance. Dr. Garth Mann, President/CEO Statesman Corporation, provided financial support in the beginning stage of our ministry, so he kindly cut the opening ribbon showing continued support for our charity.

Roger Reid, MLA Livingston McLeod brought greetings from Honourable Jason Kenney, Alberta Premier. Judy McMillan, Board Member read congratulatory letters from our MP John

Barlow, and High River Mayor, Craig Snodgrass all welcoming us to the community and affirming the work of Bridges of Love. Homemade apple pie was served following the ceremony for a time of refreshment and fellowship. Thank you to those who took time from their busy schedules to attend.



- **CERT Train-the Trainer (T-T) Session – October 5 & 6, 2020**



Taking several months to make revisions to the US CERT Train-the-Trainer materials, we were ready to offer our first session, to potential instructors in High River. Posters were delivered to local venues and an ad was placed in the Newspaper attracting three individuals. One student who attended, was a past CERT graduate, so we were pleased with the attendance for our first event. Judy McMillan, our Board Member who is a very capable instructor, delivered the educational portion of

the training and Marg Pollon took the CERT module review section. By all reports on the evaluation forms, they enjoyed the training and were looking forward to participating in our next CERT Canada Summit. Each graduate was more than qualified and equipped to instruct the CERT module of their choice and experience.

CERT T-T INSTRUCTORS  Judy McMillan-Evans is the principle of Middle-Evans Consulting and possesses over 25 years of business experience in the manufacturing and business consulting industries. Judy is an entrepreneur, adult educator, organizational coach, group facilitator and project manager. Judy has 25 years' experience in training entrepreneurs and business managers in all aspects of business operations, as well as 18 years' experience training and coaching recent graduates. Along with consulting and facilitating, Judy instructs two Seminars courses for the Mount Royal University (MRU), Bow Valley College (BVC), Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), and Community Futures organization of Alberta. THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL TRAINING Competent, informed, experienced, professional and equipped instructors for Basic CERT training.  Marg Pollon is a former director of Bridges of Love Ministry, located in High River in 2004 and spent 18 months in 2006, Dr. Tim Pridgen, a formerly doctor-instructed Bridges of Love to help medical students to respond to an influenza Pandemic. Bridges of Love's Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training became the main focus, recognizing the need for a coordinated group approach to Emergency Management. Marg completed C2300, 42346 Basic Emergency Courses, US CERT training, AHS Psychological First Aid, and received Public Safety's Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award in 2016. PROFESSIONAL - COMPETENT	CANADIAN HEADQUARTERS BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY 45, 609 Centre St. SW High River, Alberta T1V 2C2 Mailing Address: 109 - Fairway View, NW High River, AB T1V 1C9 Office Phone/Mobile: 403.649.0087/403.616.0536 Website: www.bridgesoflove.ca Charitable Registration Number: 84741.4471 RR0001  Bridges of Love promotes community resilience, connecting people, churches, and networks through coordination, resources and training. NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS	CERT INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAIN-THE-TRAINER  Bridges of Love Ministry Society DOING THE GREATEST GOOD, FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER! Office: 403.649.0087
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- **Introductions to the High River Community**

Due to COVID restrictions with limited opportunities to meet in larger crowds, we decided to invite local pastors in for coffee, one at a time. They receive our monthly Newsletters, but we have not had an opportunity to meet many. We secured one church as a Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) member so appreciate High River Alliance Church's participation and support. Hopefully, as we gain momentum, additional churches will feel comfortable joining.

- **Virtual Connections**

We continue to share our monthly Newsletter with our extensive data-base which includes Calgary and High River churches, as well as many other connections made over the years, including government, CERT instructors, colleagues, friends, and family.

During the Christmas season, cards were sent to donors, supporters, and prayer partners. We continue to keep these connections informed of our activities and appreciate their interest from afar.

- **Pandemic Uncertainty - Spring 2021**

As we waited for signs of Pandemic recovery to plan for our first CERT Summit in High River, unfortunately, meeting together for a CERT training session was out of the question, with strict Alberta restrictions in place.

- **2021 NAIT Emergency Management Stakeholder Summit – February, 2021**

We applied to be a presenter for the annual NAIT Stakeholder's Summit with Judy McMillan co-presenting. Since more requests were received than they could accommodate, we were not accepted for this year. Due to the generosity of a donor, however, we took in their virtual Summit, inviting a few others to attend. We all appreciated the many presenters and the information they had to share.

- **Meeting with High River's CAO – March, 2021**

We felt it was time to find out why the negativity accepting CERT training in High River, so initiated a face-to-face (with mask) meeting with the town's CAO, Chris Prosser. We asked for an honest response, so could understand without bias, why the resistance! After our meeting, Chris shared a letter clarifying their position. It is lengthy so we will not share in its entirety but the essence for their resistance was, the town felt an emergency response should be left to the professionals. Since they do not have control over volunteers, they cannot assume responsibility, for the risk that residents put themselves in when participating on a CERT team.

It is indeed a disappointment but as they stated, we are free to continue with our training without their endorsement. Chris said the town will not speak negatively or support our endeavor. As well, they want it to be clear to the public, that CERT is not a replacement for their emergency department and that it is not filling a gap, even though training of residents is not something the town does!

Hopefully, in time we will build trust with the town officials and they will see the benefits for having trained volunteers, who can respond when First Responders are over-whelmed. It is well accepted in Canada that emergencies are experienced at the local level, so emergency preparedness is primarily a local function. Canada's Emergency Strategic plan stresses, no one agency can handle a disaster on their own, which was very evident during the 2013 Alberta Floods!

- **MRU Public Relations Learning Project, January – April, 2021**

We were very fortunate to be accepted into Mount Royal University's Public Relations Management Community Service Learning Project. A team of students (3) developed a new website www.bridgesoflovenet.wordpress.com and a new CERT brochure, as well as updated our Social Media sites. It was a pleasure to be part of their learning experience and appreciated the creative work they did on our behalf.

SUMMARY

Again, we are very thankful completing year 18 serving the Lord through building Bridges of Love. We look forward to continuing this ministry, trusting Him for direction, wisdom, and the resources with which to complete the task He has called us.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marg Pollon, Executive Director
Bridges of Love Ministry
October 07, 2021

