

34th AGM Report from the Executive Director

As I look back on 30 years of service with Addiction Services of Thames Valley (ADSTV), I can't help but comment on the number of reports at the AGM, or to the Staff and Boards, where I have mentioned "change" or "transitions". Each year I report on the changes that have happened and those still to come. I have always forecasted success for ADSTV and I have never been mistaken. I have such confidence in the various teams of our organization, as well as with both of our Boards. What we realized long ago is that it is not just aptitude but also attitude. We have a positive attitude about all that we do. It is one of our greatest sources of strength!

Fiscal 2018-19 has not been any different than prior years, with the forecast for 2019-20 suggesting the start of the greatest change, not just for ADSTV, but for all of healthcare, and virtually every part of government, the private sector and the public.

ADSTV has a proven track record of embracing change, channelling the energy of change, and for being the first in line with hands up to say, "*we can do that!*" We have piloted processes, programs, and clinical tools, while being champions for change. We volunteered in the name of innovation and to make the addiction sector stronger so people would be served in better and more effective ways. Our history of partnership and collaboration has helped us grow to be the leaders we are in many different arenas.

In the coming year, we will explore the most important transition we could ever imagine – an organizational integration with three mental health partners that would result in the creation of a mental health and addiction centre of excellence for Thames Valley. We will approach this work with diligence and transparency, focusing on the needs of our clients in the future. The senior leadership of the three CMHAs in Thames Valley and their Boards of Directors are thoughtful and talented people – all with the same goals!

A larger organization will have more power with an aligned vision, shared values and strategic goals. Coordinated access for intake, screening assessment and treatment, case management, as well as decreased barriers to access services will result. Shared expertise can only strengthen our programs and services, and benefit the community.

Although we are change positive and change capable, this is still a scary time with the outcomes unknown. In the future, this new organization will be a part of an Ontario Health Team. How this will look or feel is uncertain. However, there is excitement about the possibilities!

I want to thank all of my Staff for the work they do and for their commitment to our community. My Executive Leadership Team and all of the Coordinators have once again done an amazing job over the last year. My two Boards have spent a lot of time and energy, and I also want to thank them for their dedication.

I look forward to an exciting and successful 2019-20.

Respectfully submitted by

Linda Sibley, Executive Director
Addiction Services of Thames Valley