

Annual Report 2021-22

engagebarrie

equitable • empowered • engaged



Engage Barrie Organization

Engage Barrie Organization Annual Members Meeting 2022

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

- Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

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Welcome to our first Annual Members Meeting!

After a couple years of life as a grassroots movement, Engage Barrie Organization was incorporated as a not-for-profit in June, 2021. The Founding Board consisted of five Directors: Randy Aylwin, Kenzie Churchward, Myrna Clark, Paige Power, and Alyssa Wright. These five worked hard to build a solid foundation from which Engage can confidently grow into the future, and we are grateful to them all.

At the time of publishing, we have 36 “Contributing Members” (34 voting, 2 non-voting), and 56 active members. Thank you for your faith in the Organization, and for all you have done in the past year to help support it – from joining a committee, writing an article, offering an idea or criticism, sharing a social media post, or encouraging people to vote (it really can be as simple as that). You’ve all been an essential part of this organization, and we deeply appreciate you all.

The behind-the-scenes work of incorporating as a not-for-profit was our primary focus through much of 2021 – and continues on as we develop policies and procedures to keep the organization running smoothly. Other things we focused on this year were developing our website, making new and strengthening existing connections with other community organizations, and continuing work on the campaigns and issues that brought us all together in the first place. Plus, of course, the provincial election, and preparing for the municipal election.

Rob Romanek joined the Board in February, to replace Randy after his resignation, and Victoria Scott answered the call in October, when Kenzie resigned to focus on her business. Thank you to both, for completing our Board for the remainder of the term as First Directors.

In the coming year, we’re hoping to keep building on these foundations, expand the campaigns and issues we’re working on, and develop more ways for our members to get engaged, both with us and local politics in general.

Thank you to everyone who is helping us work towards an equitable community, empowered people, and engaged local democracy!

– Rob, Paige, Alyssa, Myrna and Victoria

CHAIR

Rob Romanek

SECRETARY

Paige Power

TREASURER

Alyssa Wright

DIRECTOR

Myrna Clark

DIRECTOR

Victoria Scott

What have we accomplished this year?

Becoming a non-profit

This was, of course, the main focus of 2021, and continued (and continues) into 2022.

Beginning in the spring of 2021, the Founding Board put together Engage Barrie Organization’s application for incorporation as an Ontario not-for-profit, which was granted in late June.

Building on the work of many of our original contributing members, the Board developed and solidified our mission, mandate, values and founding principles. We continue to develop policies and procedures to keep Engage operating according to those foundations, and true to our original grassroots.

Shortly after Engage was incorporated, the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) was proclaimed, so much work continues to be done behind the scenes, as we transition from the old legislation to comply with the new. We’ll be holding a Special Members Meeting in the next year or so, to approve a few minor changes to our Articles of Incorporation, so we can finalize the transition.

Website Relaunch

Engage launched its new digital home in September, at www.engagebarrie.org, and we continue to develop the site.

The website is an information portal and a gathering place. Members have access to private channels in our web forum for conversations on the issues that mean the most to them. Those who have something to say can contribute articles to our blog. And we’re adding information and resources regularly.

In development for the site is an interactive vote tracker (thanks to contributing member James Kerekes), so you can see how council voted on the matters that mean the most to you. We’re also putting together pages for each issue we’ve been paying attention to, plus “report cards” for the 2018-22 term council members.

If there is a feature you’d like to see, please get in touch, and we’ll try to make it happen!

Connections

It was a year of making new connections and strengthening existing ones. From comparing notes with colleagues in other municipalities, to collaborating on projects with local organizations, to supporting and spreading the word about what our friends and partners were up to – there's strength in numbers, and strength in community.

Just Recovery Simcoe

CARP Barrie

Simcoe County Food Council

Downtown Barrie BIA

Barrie Housing and Homelessness Justice Network

**Ward One Neighbourhood Association
Allandale Neighbourhood Association**

SMDHU Community and Family Health Department

**Engage Peel
Engaged Citizens of Oro-Medonte
Horizon Ottawa
iElect Hamilton**

Ryan's Hope

Women for Local Politics

**Aware Simcoe
Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition**

John Howard Society of Simcoe & Muskoka

Gilbert Centre

**Parents Against Racism Simcoe
UPLift Black**

Unlock Democracy Canada

We are sure we've missed someone – if it was you, please accept our apologies.

Projects & Issues

Community Connection Guide

As one of the many partners under the Just Recovery Simcoe umbrella, we helped create this printed and online guide to local issues for municipal leaders and community changemakers, leading up to the municipal election.

Municipal Election Toolkit

Spearheaded by the Simcoe County Food Council, we were one of many consulting organizations who helped prepare this toolkit, to help people understand the role municipalities play in ensuring a sustainable, resilient local food system that is affordable and accessible for everyone.

Harm Reduction / Supervised Consumption Site

Shortly before we were incorporated, City Council approved the SCS, and we have since been waiting for provincial approval. But there has still been work on this issue:

- Responding to Doug Downey's survey (and our concerns over it) about the site
- Endorsing/supporting Bill C-216 (amending the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act)
- Articles, blog posts, deputations and letters to the editor

Also shortly before incorporation, we assisted the complaint to the Integrity Commissioner regarding former BIA Chair Hamilton's racist and offensive language around drug users – when no Council member took action, even after the story hit national media, it was one private individual (with the community's support) who was able to make a difference!

Accountability Team

Keeping track of Council meetings, recording votes, and giving our synopsis (and critique) of what's happening at City Hall throughout the year. This team is also developing an interactive vote tracker and other means to keep the public informed on the decisions made at the Council level on our behalf.

Ranked Ballot Elections

Supporting Bill 80, the Local Choice for Local Elections Act (which, unfortunately, was dropped when the provincial election was called).

Workplace Harassment

- Supporting Bill 10 / Bill 5, the Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act
- Follow-up and analysis when story broke about the civil case coming forward
- Articles, blog posts, deputations and letters to the editor

Public Safety

Supporting campaign for police-free schools, encouraging feedback for the municipal budget.

Decolonization

Supporting campaign to work with local First Nations and find alternatives to Canada Day celebrations, after more graves of Indigenous children were discovered in the weeks before.

Elections Committee

Probably our busiest group outside of the Accountability team, with the spring provincial election, and preparing for the municipal election (which occurred after our fiscal year-end)!

- Recruiting candidates, especially women and under-represented communities
- Providing information pages for candidates and voters
- Preparing for all-candidates meetings in the fall
- Collaborating with other organizations to create toolkits/guides, and share / promote events and information they created

And more...

Actions and communications big and small, everything our members do contributes to an equitable, empowered and engaged community!

Financial Statements, 2021-22



Engage Barrie Organization Balance Sheet For the 12 months ending June 30, 2022

	Current Year	Previous Year
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$120.47	N/A
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	N/A
	\$120.47	N/A
Fixed Assets		
Capital Assets (Property & Equipment)	\$0.00	N/A
	\$0.00	N/A
Total Assets	\$120.47	N/A
Current Liabilities		
Bank Indebtedness	\$0.00	N/A
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	N/A
	\$0.00	N/A
Net Assets	\$120.47	N/A
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$120.47	N/A

Engage Barrie Organization

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Engage Barrie Organization Statement of Operations For the 12 months ending June 30, 2022

	Current Year	Previous Year
Revenues		
Membership Income	\$1,062.29	N/A
Total Revenues:	\$1,062.29	N/A
Expenditures		
Communications	\$612.08 (1)	N/A
Office Supplies	\$104.81	N/A
Business Licensing	\$155.00 (2)	N/A
Mail & Courier	\$3.60	N/A
Bank Fees	\$4.53	N/A
Campaigns / Committees		
Poverty / Homelessness	\$61.80 (3)	N/A
Total Expenditures:	\$941.82	N/A
Profit / (Loss)	\$120.47	N/A

Notes

- (1) This includes two years of domain registration and website / contact management hosting - next fiscal year won't be as high.
- (2) Fee for non-profit incorporation - one-time expense (although we will have to pay fee to update our articles of incorporation to conform to ONCA before 2024)
- (3) Freedom of Information request to City / BIA re: west end benches

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Finances to date, 2022-23

Engage Barrie Organization — Cash Flow, July - October 2022

(Unofficial, for information purposes only)

Income

Donations via Paypal	\$570.89
Donations in kind	\$40.67

Net Income	\$611.56
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Expenses

Administrative Expenses	
PayPal Fees	\$19.57
Mail & Courier	\$40.67
Marketing Materials	
Banner, retractable banner & business cards	\$266.58
Domain renewals	\$205.17
Campaigns	
Election — Citadel rental (1/2)	\$125.00

Total Expenses	\$656.99
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Profit (Loss)	(\$45.43)
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Submitted for Annual Members Meeting, November 27, 2022

Board Election

As of time of printing, there are six members who have put their names forward as candidates to be elected to the Board of Directors. Members may nominate themselves or other members at the Annual Members Meeting.

Voting members attending will be asked to select a total of five Directors – one for a 3-year term, two for a 2-year term, and two for a 1-year term (all future terms will be two years). These five new Directors will determine the Officer positions at their first Board meeting.

Candidates:

- Anita Johnson-Ford
- James Kerekes
- Suzanna McCarthy
- Rob Romanek (returning)
- Victoria Scott (returning)
- Alyssa Wright (returning)



DONT HESITATE TO CONTACT US

ONLINE

www.engagebarrie.org
admin@engagebarrie.org

ADDRESS

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Canada

(Mailing/legal address only, not open to the public)

