

President's Remarks

BY DR. RENATO BRUN DEL RE

Dr. Renato Brun Del Re



▶ HOW HRTL RAISES AWARENESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The ways and means by which we at Hamilton Right to Life (HRTL) raise awareness for our cause is varied and multifaceted. Above all, we aim to educate and gently prod the conscience of people at large, to recognize that abortion and euthanasia are immoral and that there are other ways to help people in a crisis pregnancy or a potential end of life circumstance. Listed below are some of the means we use:

- Ads in local newspapers and the electronic student resource guide
- Billboards such as the one we had at Aberdeen and Longwood for one month, just recently
- March for Life Walk, starting from Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Every May HRTL sends a bus full of people
- The Life Chain, a prayer vigil, held every first Sunday of October to encourage preservation of life
- The Annual Fundraising Dinner held each November: a delicious dinner, raffle, and stimulating speaker to educate on an aspect of preserving life
- The newsletter Lifespan published three times per year detailing upcoming events, a glance at past activities, and articles to inform our readers of what is happening in the areas of concern
- The annual general meeting has been separated from the fund raising dinner and now occurs in June. This is a means to inform our members of our income and expenses and to present a speaker who can enlighten us on a topic. In June 2015, Alex Schadenberg from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition spoke about the worldwide use of euthanasia
- The Ancaster Fair: we have a booth with our banner and give away pins to raise awareness about the precious gift of life
- The prayer vigil in January, the coldest day in Canada, remembering that the abortion law in Canada was struck down by the government on January 28th, 1988 resulting in no law against abortion. Canada is one of three countries in the world with no abortion law!
- Our office which is at the heart of operations has moved to 209 McNab St. N., in St. Mary's Resource Center. Our office manager fields calls from all inquirers and manages all operations from here.
- Our Board of Directors meets once a month on a voluntary basis to respond to new challenges, aiming to be most effective at all times. Hamilton Right to Life operates as a registered charity.
- Our new website is up and running: www.hamiltonrighttolife.org and is very informative as well as looking to interact with the community. Won't you come join us or become a member and support our cause? Y'all come back now, you hear?

▶ LET'S BE PRO LIFE



hamiltonrighttolife.org

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PRESIDENT: Dr. Renato Brun Del Re
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OFFICE MANAGER: Sandra Dykstra
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Vicky Dykstra



Fall Events

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN A HUGE SUCCESS!

Hamilton Right to Life extends a big **THANK YOU** to the hundreds of people who participated in this year's **Spring Baby Bottle Campaign.**

The campaign this year involved the distribution to churches of 1,835 empty baby bottles on Mother's Day. They were returned Father's Day weekend, full of coins, cheques, and paper money which amounted to **\$21,886**

These funds keep Hamilton Right to Life afloat and allow us to advertise and otherwise promote the message of life to the Hamilton community. Your support also allows us to reach out to students and assist in transporting hundreds to the annual March for Life in Ottawa.

HRTL volunteers distribute and pick up the bottles and some of the same volunteers, including several Board members set about the important job of counting the donations, rolling the coin, and preparing them for bank deposit.

It takes approximately 100 hours of volunteer time to accomplish this work, under the supervision of Office Manager Sandra Dykstra. We extend our heartfelt thanks to those who give so generously of their time and energy. Thanks also to clergy and church secretaries whose co-operation is essential to the process.

Churches participating in the 2015 Father's Day to Mother's Day campaign included:

- St. Francis Xavier
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Blessed Sacrament
- First Christian Reformed Church
- St. Luke's
- New Hop Christian Centre
- Immaculate Heart of Mary
- St. John the Baptist
- St. Ann's Ancaster
- St. Margaret Mary
- Corpus Christi
- Cathedral of Christ the King



A Fall Baby Bottle campaign will be underway shortly and include the participation of the following churches. If you would like a bottle or want to have your church involved please call our office. Thank you.

- Ancaster Christian Reformed Church**
- Our Lady of Lourdes**
- Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church**



Fall 2015 NEWSLETTER Lifespan

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▶ Pro-Lifers March for Life May 14, 2015 in Record Numbers! BY VICKY DYKSTRA



Pictured here are the Hamilton marchers who rode to Ottawa in the wee hours of the day on HRTL BUS

Each year at the National March for Life, thousands gather to demand protection for children before and after birth. This year, an estimated 25,000 pro-lifers assembled on Parliament Hill sang, listened to parliamentarians speak, and marched through downtown Ottawa to inform Canadians that Canada is the only western nation with no protection for the pre-born. Since 1969, over 4 million children have been killed by abortion in Canada. In 2015, another 100,000 babies are being put to death each year, at taxpayer expense, while society turns a blind eye. This event is a great opportunity for people of all ages to join in the civil rights movement of our day. By your presence, you can show lawmakers that the abortion issue is not settled.

▶ Join us for the next MARCH FOR LIFE IN 2016.

A Chat With Taylor Hyatt

COURTESY OF EUTHANASIA PREVENTION COALITION.

Canada's euthanasia debate implies a double standard for people with disabilities. An interview by the Ottawa Citizen with Taylor Hyatt, a Carleton University student who lives with cerebral palsy.

On Feb. 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's assisted suicide law, opening the door to assisted suicide (Carter v. Canada).

This is an incredibly complex topic, one fraught with moral and ethical issues. This interview with Taylor Hyatt, a Carleton University student, gives her opinion from the perspective of a Canadian with a disability.



Tell us about your disability.

My disability defines my life. I was born three months prematurely, and as a result I have spastic diplegia cerebral palsy. I use a walker or electric wheelchair for mobility.

Do you feel that you are treated differently as a result of your disability?

Growing up, I was treated quite differently. I lived the first 19 years of my life in a small town, with many of the same people in my class every year. I stood out socially in the worst way. Normal teenage recklessness never really appealed to me. I've always been a bit of a bookworm and I take academics very seriously. I would rather be found with my nose in a Jodi Picoult novel than out at a party. On top of that, school accommodations and the general inaccessibility of my area meant that I had to maintain closer relationships with the adults in my life — physical therapists, teachers, and my family. One of the most prominent examples: I can't drive, and public transit in my area left a lot to be desired. Nobody wants their mom chauffeuring them to the mall if they're a day older than 16. I'm grateful that I was able to get the help I needed, but my circumstances didn't do me any favours. In a nutshell, most of my peers had no idea what to do with me. *Continued on page 2*

Fall 2015

Mission Statement

Hamilton Right to Life (HRTL) is a not-for-profit organization committed to the principle that God is the author of life, and that each human life has intrinsic value and should be revered and protected from conception to natural death. The HRTL mission is to educate and promote these positions while encouraging people to recognize and affirm the sanctity of human life.

► Life without abortion.



Membership Renewals

Our membership year now runs in tandem with our fiscal year from May 1st, to April 30th. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your membership in this current fiscal year. If you have forgotten, or misplaced your membership form please find one enclosed with this newsletter. Each membership is \$30. If you are able to help us again with another donation on top of the membership you have already sent in, this would be so appreciated. Please note that your renewed membership extends from May 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016.

What does Hamilton Right to Life do with your membership and donation money? Good question. Our mandate is to educate, and in doing so we want everyone in the Hamilton area to be made aware of the devastating effects of abortion. This year we plan to put up billboards, advertise in magazines, host a prayer and candlelight vigil, attend the March for Life in Ottawa in May, and have our new Annual General Meeting in June with a guest speaker. We also plan to be present at various functions such as the Ancaster Fair where our display will be up. If you have already renewed your membership why not pass on the membership form to a family member or friend? For only \$30 per year they too can be a part of educating against abortion! Without your support we cannot keep this issue alive!

► Thank you.



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How have things changed for you over the past years?

Moving to Ottawa (which I now consider my hometown) for university was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I am now surrounded by a much larger and more diverse group of people in a city that is better equipped to serve residents with disabilities. I found my place quite quickly... sometimes I'm still amazed at the difference between my life now and what it used to be. Right now, I'm in my last year of a linguistics degree at Carleton University — one of the most accessible schools in Canada. I'm living in an accessible residence room with full-time attendant care provided through the school and I'm on a waiting list for an accessible apartment

What are your thoughts on the current Canadian euthanasia debate?



Carter v. Canada has definitely put the issue back on Canadians' minds. The ruling on Feb. 6 went beyond what assisted suicide supporters claimed to be hoping to accomplish. The requirement for someone seeking assisted suicide — besides reaching the age of majority — is that they have a "grievous and irremediable" illness or disability causing "enduring and intolerable" suffering. There are no limitations restricting the practice to those with terminal illnesses, contrary to what many Canadians expected, and no definition of suffering. As well, the one-year timeline for new legislation proposed by the Supreme Court has been shortened significantly by the federal election.

Does giving doctors the right in law to intentionally cause death negatively affect people with disabilities?

Yes. What concerns me most is the potential shift in the way our society views disability. Right now, I'm a capable and independent young woman of 23. The mobility gear I use fits into the typical understanding of disability. Even though we have a long way to go to ensure a truly accessible society, seeing a walker or wheelchair user is not a rare event. Yet there still seems to be a feeling of unease. There is a subtle difference between being grateful for your physical abilities and assuming that life with a disability is unbearable. I've never encountered anyone who has explicitly said, "Boy, I'm glad I'm not in your position" but attitudes imply it. By the time I am 43, 63, or even 83, I wonder if that will have changed. Especially for progressive conditions that can affect mobility, I can see a doctor advising someone, like me, that it would be better not to live than to experience some of what I have.



Is the Supreme Court decision which states that laws prohibiting assisted death discriminate against people with disabilities a false idea?

Absolutely. I see a double standard here. Mental health campaigns have become more visible than ever, and rightly so. I would argue that the court decision, rather than the law it struck down, is discriminatory.

Why is assisted suicide — "death with dignity," some say — called a positive development for people with disabilities when there is no effort to help us live with dignity? I wish the law prohibiting assisted suicide had remained untouched. Now, I suppose the best I can hope for is a strong and diverse group of people to speak out against euthanasia, along with more time to clear up these misconceptions.

My city and country are far from being perfectly accessible, but I need to acknowledge the progress we've made. The Supreme Court decision only takes us backwards.

For more information on this topic visit the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

Don't Forget, We Moved!

In April, Hamilton Right to Life moved locations from 166 Bay Street North to 209 MacNab Street North, into the St. Mary's Catholic Education Resource Centre. The phone number remains the same.

Featured Fall Events For 2015!

ANCASTER FAIR BOOTH

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, September 24, 25, 26, 27



Hamilton Right to Life will have its annual booth at the Ancaster Fair, corner of Trinity Road and Highway 2. If you are able to volunteer 2-4 hours to man the booth, it would be most appreciated. You will receive a complimentary pass into the fair. Please email or call Sandra at the Hamilton Right to Life office at sandra@hamiltonrighttolife.org or 905-528-3065.

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR STAND AGAINST ABORTION! Sunday, October 4th from 2:30pm -3:30pm



- McMaster University Medical Centre with parking at Canadian Martyrs Parish
- Upper James & Mohawk Road, Hamilton with parking at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church
 - Hwy 20 & Hwy 8, Stoney Creek with parking at Eastgate Square
 - Hwy 8 & Grays Road, Stoney Creek with parking at Stoney Creek Shopping Plaza

RESPECT LIFE FUNDRAISER DINNER & RAFFLE Wednesday October 28

GUEST SPEAKER: Alex Schadenberg of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Alex Schadenberg is the Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and is an expert on the issues surrounding euthanasia and its impact on society. In light of the Supreme Court's decision not to uphold the law in place regarding euthanasia, Alex will be giving us all the information needed to arm us in our fight in this battle.



Tickets: \$50 Adults, \$35 Students
For more information or to purchase your tickets please contact our office at 905-528-3065

Civilizations Committed Suicide

BY FRANK FLORIO

In Neil Simon's Broadway play, 'Prisoner of Second Avenue', a Manhattan apartment is broken into by thieves. When the resident returns home, he is devastated. He surveys the carnage and the removal of his prized missing objects and then notices, to his great consternation, that " they even stole the Chivas Regal (a high brow Scotch whiskey)." He then slips into a prolonged depression about the evils of society and becomes a self-imposed pajama-clad prisoner of his Second Avenue home. And, as they say in the Broadway play business, 'hilarity ensues.' Well, it seems a strange comparison but the pro-life movement has its parallels. For us, of course, there is no hilarity. There are, instead, times when we survey the carnage of our modern society and lament not merely a stolen bottle of Scotch but fast-eroding human decency and common sense. How else to describe a world in which we kill pre-born babies and then also are enticed by the idea of killing the sick, the elderly, the depressed, the physically and mentally challenged? It is easy to get depressed and sit around the house in our pajamas, not just angry or depressed but bereft of the energy to walk out the door into the sunlight and challenge the craziness. But how to challenge? The news media censors pro-lifers and has collectively decided we are irrational religious freaks who need to 'get with it' and accept the modern world. The fact that more than 4-million Canadians have been murdered in the womb doesn't strike news editors across the nation as being anything negative. Even when the catastrophic effects of low birth rates are explained in solid economic terms, they refuse to listen to the fine points of demographics. It's truly a case of ' see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.' And so, if the media says that something isn't so, then it isn't. Collectively, we accept their view of reality and get on with life. Except that we are NOT 'getting on' with life. We are 'getting on' with death! People say, 'Do not lose heart, do not get discouraged' and they are right. We should not lose heart, we should not get discouraged. But what SHOULD we do?? Should we turn out by the thousands for the annual Life Chain to make a definitive statement for life? You bet we should! Should we fill the empty baby bottles circulated to our churches each spring and autumn to ensure Hamilton Right to Life is properly funded to promote the pro-life cause? You bet we should! A historian said that civilizations don't die, they commit suicide.' He was right. Centuries and eons from now, we could be known as a society that 'coulda, woulda, shoulda' been something special. Instead, they may note, we eschewed greatness so that we could have prosperity, comfort and pleasure. And the great irony could be that we threw all that away, too. UNLESS, one at a time, today, we stand up for life through the simple opportunities available to us. Ultimately, the state of our society, and its future, depends on each one of us. So, are you coming to this year's Life Chain?

Baby Bottles Pink & Blue!

Baby bottles, pink and blue, Supplied for donations from you. Coins take so much time to count, Please cheques and bills to make up the amount.