

June 21, 2013

### **A Fresh Start for the New Beginnings, ABI and Stroke Recovery Association**

**New integration creates a safe, supportive, and empowering environment for their members**

It's been four years in the making, and it has been time well spent; the New Beginnings, Brain Injury Association of Chatham-Kent and the Sarnia-Lambton Stroke Recovery Association have successfully integrated their operations.

The new entity is called New Beginnings, ABI and Stroke Recovery Association. The new name identifies that, at each site, they provide programming and services for survivors of acquired brain injury (ABI) and stroke. Through their day programs and support groups, New Beginnings provides services to almost 500 members and caregivers across Chatham-Kent and Sarnia/Lambton.

"While our members won't see much change -- because we've been supporting both survivors of acquired brain injury and stroke for quite some time -- the new name allows the public to better understand what we're about and who we support" says Lori Gall, Executive Director for New Beginnings.

There are two clubhouses, one in Chatham at 9 Maple Leaf Road, and one in Sarnia at 180 College Avenue North. Programs and services are delivered in a social setting at the clubhouses, and



*The integration is now complete and the organization had a small ceremony to acknowledge the occasion. Left to right: Sheila LeNeve, Councillor Michael Bondy, Colleen Close, Lori Gall, Jerry O'Brien.*



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Erie St. Clair Local Health  
Integration Network  
Réseau local d'intégration  
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include arts and crafts; exercises and games; and more. Programs at New Beginnings are provided free of cost, and a medical referral is not required for ABI/stroke survivors.

Gall adds, "New Beginnings works with the hospitals and other health service providers to ensure survivors and their families/caregivers are supported in the Club, and in the community, as they discover their post-injury/illness selves in an environment that's safe, supportive, and empowering."

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about New Beginnings, ABI and Stroke Recovery Association, please visit their website at [www.newbeginnings-cksl.com](http://www.newbeginnings-cksl.com) or call 519-351-0297 in Chatham or 519-491-2668 in Sarnia.

## LEARN MORE

For more information about the Erie St. Clair LHIN, please visit: [www.eriestclairhin.on.ca](http://www.eriestclairhin.on.ca)

For more information please contact Shannon Sasseville, Director, Communications and Public Affairs, Erie St. Clair LHIN, at 1-866-231-5446 ext. 3225 or at [shannon.sasseville@lhins.on.ca](mailto:shannon.sasseville@lhins.on.ca)

## ABOUT THE ESC LHIN

The Erie St. Clair LHIN is a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care agency that plans and pays for health care services totalling a billion dollars a year in our region alone – everything from hospitals to Meals on Wheels.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN strives to make the health care system better by understanding and responding to local needs and by getting services to work together more efficiently. That's how we'll all get better health care, while saving money and making the system sustainable for our children and grandchildren.



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