

Looking Back at the Beginning



Mary Schadenberg (now Fraser) was attending the 1970 National Catholic Women's League Conference in Toronto, when Louise Summerhill took the podium and delivered a passionate speech about Pierre Trudeau's 1969 Omnibus Bill decriminalizing abortion and how Christians must reach out to women contemplating abortion. Summerhill had helped found Birthright for this very reason.

Inspired by the story and appalled that children were being aborted in Canada, Mary returned home to Woodstock where she and her husband, Harry Schadenberg, arranged for Dr. Barry Deveber, a pro-life speaker, to come speak about abortion's spread to Canada. Despite a raging snowstorm, one hundred people attended this open meeting one night in February 1971 and many signed up.

The group opened an office, Birthright Woodstock, to counsel and support pregnant girls to have their babies. The schools were calling for a speaker. Dr. Deveber provided Mary with a set of slides and a handbook on abortion. She went on to speak in local schools, at debates and women's groups.

In March 1975, Right to Life Woodstock was formed and on April 9th, 1975 at the WCI Auditorium, hosted a panel of experts on abortion comprised of a doctor, a lawyer and a teacher. Two hundred people attended and signed the Petition of One Million which was presented in the House of Commons in May 1975. The public accepted our organization with high regard. We spoke on Rogers Television, Tillsonburg Radio, as well as in the schools, and letters to the editor which we wrote were printed in the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. *(continued on page 2)*

In 1991, Woodstock Right to Life became incorporated as Oxford County Right to Life to better reflect the extent of its membership and the area it served. Since 1991, Woodstock Beginnings (now Dayspring) has taken over the practical counselling and supporting of women with an unplanned pregnancy to bring their baby to term. Oxford County Right to Life remains an educational pro-life organization that promotes respect for human life from conception to natural death.

50th Anniversary Dinner

On April 25th, we celebrated 50 years of service to Oxford County with a dinner held at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock. The program highlighted current projects, anecdotes from Mary Fraser (one of our founding directors) and a video slideshow of memories acknowledging the wonderful work done by this organization of volunteers over its 50 year history. We were extremely blessed to have Teresa Hartnett as our special guest speaker who shared her wealth of knowledge and experience from a multitude of pro-life fronts with a very informative and inspiring presentation, *Life: Sacred and Precious*. Our Blind Auction items and 50 Golden Egg draw prizes were also a hit with attendees!



Special thanks to our 50th Anniversary sponsors!



Postcard Campaign Update



Last year, 20,748 "Your Life is Worth Living" postcards were delivered to households in Woodstock to bring awareness to the value of human life and the free, life-affirming services of Compassionate Community Care. **This summer, a total of 24,030 postcards** were delivered to Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, Salford, Embro, Hickson, Innerkip, Princeton, Drumbo, Beachville, Burgessville, Norwich, Otterville, Springford, Mt. Elgin, Plattsville and Bright to complete the campaign. **Thank you to all who donated to make this project a reality.**

Life Chain

Where were you in '92? **Life Chain was in its infancy and local turnouts were so numerous** that, in Woodstock, participants lined Dundas Street all the way from Museum Square to where Foodland is today - a distance of almost 2 kilometers!

Unfortunately, participation has waned over the years.

This year, we are counting on every pro-life supporter to come out and be counted.

There is a real and urgent need to witness to the sanctity of human life.

Society has a duty to protect the right to life from conception to natural death and **Life Chain is one of the most visible ways in which to share that message.**

Let our numbers speak volumes about the importance of cherishing life and defending life at all stages.

Bring your family and friends!

We look forward to seeing you on October 5th!

May this be the best turnout yet!

If you happen to be travelling on Oct. 5th, there are more than 350 Life Chain locations across the country. [Check this link for a nearby location.](#)




LIFE CHAIN
 ♦ SUNDAY • OCT • 5 • 2025 ♦
 Join thousands across Canada standing against abortion
 in a peaceful, prayerful demonstration!
 Museum Square
 466 Dundas Street
 Woodstock
2 - 3 pm
 Please meet at 1:45

2025 Oxford Community Survey

**Is THE RIGHT TO LIFE
your most important
federal issue?**

Oxford MP, Arpan Khanna, recently sent Oxford County households a survey entitled "2025 Oxford Community Survey" to ensure that issues that matter receive the attention they deserve. **THE RIGHT TO LIFE is not included among the many statements to be rated or the federal issues listed in this survey.** If you are a resident of Oxford County and received one of these surveys, **please consider taking this opportunity to enter a comment regarding a right to life issue in the box for "What federal issue is most important to you?"**

Here are some examples:

- legal protection for the unborn
- recognizing the unborn as human beings with the inherent right to life
- improving Government investment in health support systems such as palliative care, home care, mental health care and pain management methods

Conversation on the Expansion of Euthanasia

Faytene TV covers the **personal, moral and societal implications to the expansion of MAiD** in a conversation with Nicole Sheidl, Executive Director of Canadian Physicians for Life and Amanda Achtman, Producer of the Dying to Meet You project.

In this episode, you'll learn:

- Why **psychiatrists and medical professionals across Canada are strongly opposing MAiD for mental illness.**
- The shocking **rise in euthanasia cases**, including hundreds where **death was not foreseeable.**
- How this **expansion undermines suicide prevention efforts.**
- The cultural and generational **impact on families and young children.**
- The hope-filled alternative: **recovery, care and community, and the Right to Recover Act** (Bill C-218).



[Watch this episode.](#)

~ [Faytene TV](#)

Support Bill C-218



On June 20, 2025, Tamara Jansen (MP - Cloverdale - Langley City) introduced private members Bill C-218 in the House of Commons to prevent euthanasia (MAiD) for mental illness by excluding mental illness from being considered a "grievous and irremediable medical condition" for the purposes of MAiD.

If passed, no one will be eligible for MAiD for mental illness alone. Bill C-218 will likely receive its first hour of debate in November 2025.

Canadians suffering with their mental health deserve support from our government, not assisted death. Please support Bill C-218 by signing the petition at <https://nomaidformentalillness.ca/>. Once there, you can also read more about Bill C-218.

Petition Opposing Ontario Bill 4

[Bill 4](#) was introduced by Ontario NDP MLA France Gélinas on April 16, 2025. It has not yet been debated in the Ontario legislature.

Bill 4 would change *The Gift of Life Act* (Ontario), which requires consent to obtain organs and tissues, and replaces it with presumed consent. The Ontario government would consider you to be an organ donor unless you have stated otherwise.

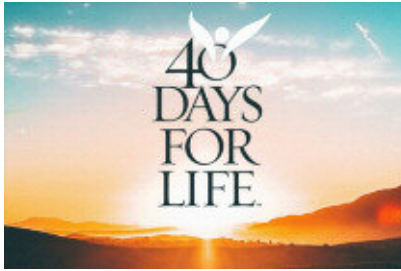
Bill 4 also changes the *Connecting Care Act 2019* for the planning, co-ordinating, undertaking, supporting and promoting of activities relating to the removal, donation and use of human tissue, including the co-ordinating and supporting of designated facilities in connection with the removal and use of human tissue for transplant.

Please sign and share the online [petition](#).



~ [Euthanasia Prevention Coalition](#)

40 Days for Life



September 24th to November 1st 2025, 9 am to 5 pm, Monday - Saturday, London's 40 Days for Life vigil will be held at the corner of Wellington & Commissioners, outside of the gates which surround the hospital where surgical abortions take place.

Call 519-659-3334 or go to <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/londonon> to unite with many others from coast to coast and internationally for this major simultaneous pro-life mobilization **to pray for the end to abortion.**

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Visit our **NEW ONLINE STORE** to purchase **PromoteLIFE** merchandise. Each item you purchase will help **SPREAD A MESSAGE THAT MATTERS** with the potential to **CHANGE HEARTS** and ultimately **SAVE LIVES!** **100%** of the profits from every purchase will go directly toward supporting the educational initiatives of Oxford County Right to Life.

Christmas Cards

We will be selling a variety of traditional Christmas cards at the **Holy Trinity CWL Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 15th**
1420 Devonshire Avenue, Woodstock, 10am - 2pm.
Each package contains **10 cards of the same design and 10 envelopes.**



A New Giving Option

Your continued support is so important to seeing a return to a culture of LIFE. We gratefully accept donations of any amount by cheque, credit card, and now, e-transfer.

NEW

e-transfer to treasurer@oxfordcountyrighttolife.com

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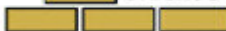


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