

Thank You Jane Grech

The following is a thank you speech to Jane Grech on her last official day presiding over the Hamilton Brain Injury Association given by Dave Gaylor, representing survivors, at the 10th annual 5 K By the Bay fundraising event June 20, 2015.

Thank you Jane

If Jane Grech is not very well known to some of you survivors, it is because she likes to stay out of the limelight and instead work hard in the background. Jane has been on the HBIA Board of Directors the better part of 20 years and its President for the last 10. Ten years is how long I have been in HBIA and thus to me she has been the face of the organization the entire time I have been here.

The last four years I have had the pleasure of working with Jane first hand on the Board and have witnessed what she does in the background to keep HBIA alive and well. We have participated in OBIA Council meetings both on-line and in person in Toronto and had many meetings with the Hamilton Tiger Cats acquiring their support of our organization some of which you can see directly out there today. I have been with her on some of her more difficult days where her car has broken down or her phone stops working. I've even witnessed her money being lost in a parking ticket machine that stopped working, then later getting a ticket from an over zealous parking attendant. She always seemed to take these things in stride like they were normal occurrences for her but they were not going to stop her getting through her busy schedule.

While on the Board, I've learned that there are many hard working people besides Jane, many of whom you have seen here today making sure this event goes as smoothly as possible. But I also know from my own personal experience pre-injury how much the chair of an organization has to do to keep things together. They fill in the cracks when they appear often with no-one's direct knowledge. That takes dedication and a lot of personal time!

Jane is a major reason we have a clubhouse now, which I believe is one of only 3 in the province. But that is not all that is special about this. Under her leadership she has both encouraged and enabled the clubhouse to be managed by the survivors themselves through an Operations Committee. This is a very unique model in the brain injury community, and I would think is one of the important reasons that OBIA wanted Jane on their Board of Directors.

I'm sure Jane, you will not only represent HBIA well in your new role but also contribute in a significant way to making survivors of brain injury, their families and caregivers better off in this entire province.

On behalf of all HBIA survivors, I want to thank you so much for all you have done and to invite you to one of our summer Operations Committee meetings or events to make a presentation to you that could not be ready today.

Thank you Jane...