1980

Hastings and Prince Edward Legal Services opens doors at 194 Front Street, Belleville

1981

Incorporated – April

Legal services were focused on tenant rights, welfare and disability pensions, unemployment, workers' compensation and consumer issues

Down to Cases – legal information series produced with local cable TV station

Challenged Trenton's discriminatory taxi bylaw and broke a city monopoly by liberalizing the taxi bylaws

Living with the Landlord – tenant information series that ran in the Intelligencer

1982

Represented a young native client and challenged Section 120 of the *Indian Act*. Racially discriminatory section was struck down. Precedent-setting case, reported across Canada.

Represented committee of concerned citizens to prevent aerial spraying for Gypsy Moths in the Kaladar area

1983

Challenged the Hasting County Social Services Committee's arbitrary withdrawal of special and supplementary assistance under the *General Welfare Assistance Act.*

Settled a Human Rights complaint, on the basis of handicap, on behalf of a quadriplegic person against the Ontario Housing Authority who had been refused accommodation.

Clinic staff and the Canadian Environmental Law Foundation represented a group of Ameliasburg Township citizens fighting a large scale illegal whey disposal practises by a local dairy.

1984

Opened first satellite office in Madoc

Assisted in establishing **Youth Habilitation Quinte** to serve the needs of youth

1985

Organized an information session on the proposed changes to Workers Compensation – this event was the catalyst for the formation of the **Quinte and District Injured Workers Group**

1986

Produced self-help videos on Small Claims Court procedures

Organized the region's first **Domestic Violence Conference** with Quinte Coordinating Committee Against Domestic Violence

Worked with community partners and the Quinte Labour Council to create **Gleaners Food Bank**

Involved in the reform efforts of the *General Welfare Assistance* Act and the *Family Benefits Act*

Made a submission to the Social Assistance Review Committee to examine the need for comprehensive social assistance reforms

1987

Moved to **158 George Street**

Expanded service to Bancroft office

First Duty Counsel Service for tenants in Hastings County

Made a submission to Father Sean O'Sullivan' s Committee on Advocacy for Vulnerable Adults

1988

Created **For Abused Women: A Legal Rights Handbook** – Over 4,000 copies were distributed in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties. The handbook was then distributed across Ontario to transition homes and shelters. Community Legal Education Ontario then took over publishing, updating and distributing the book. Over **419,000** copies have been distributed to date.

Organized two-day conference on **Law and the Handicapped**

A notorious local landlord was fined $200 for contempt of court and ordered to pay $800 in costs for his disregard of a Judge's order.

Won a precedent-setting case for a homeless client who was improperly denied Welfare because she lived in a tent in Prince Edward County

Published first clinic newsletter "**Bafflegab**"

1989

Presented a comprehensive submission to the Standing Resource Committee on Bill 162, *An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act*

Acted as counsel for the Advocacy Committee at Prince Edward Heights Institution in the inquest into the death of one of the developmentally handicapped residents.

Participated in Advocacy Committee at the Heights from 1986 – 1993 considering many human rights issues

Partnered with Youth Habilitation Quinte to form the **Housing Resource Centre** to help tenants find accommodations.

1990

Participated on the Board of Directors for the non-profit housing developments in North Hastings, Center Hastings, and Prince Edward County

Published a series of 20 newspaper articles on Landlord and Tenant Law

Obtained interim injunction stopping Hasting County Council from obtaining a list of names of the people who receive Welfare in Hastings County

1991

Helped organize the **Affordable Housing Conference** as part of the Access to Permanent Housing Committee – over 200 people across the province attended

Organized **The Law and Seniors Conference** with the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly – 150 people attended

Successfully advocated for improvements in the processing of applications for Family Benefits Act disability pensions. Settling many cases, fairer treatment of all new applicants resulted

1992

Radio Stations in Belleville and Bancroft begins airing a series of programs on legal issues.

Organized 2 major conferences aimed at clients living on a low income – Workshops included **Putting a Human Face on Poverty** and **Can we afford Social Justice in Hard Times**

Welfare List Case was precedent setting

Published two editions of **Guide to Living on a Low Income in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties**

Released **Task Force on Hunger** report

Advocated for changes to the *General Welfare Assistance Act* to permit "self employment"

1993

Won a large award in a Human Rights case where a landlord had discriminated against the tenant due to receipt of social assistance

Sponsored legal information evenings in Bancroft on Workers' Compensation Law - as a result the North Hastings Injured Workers Group was formed

Public Legal information booths were set up at local fairs throughout the region including Picton, Belleville, Stirling, Madoc and Tweed

1994

Challenged Hastings County Social Services Department practices using Enhanced Verification Officers – resulting in changed practises recognizing clients rights

Formed **Deaf Community Advisory Committee** to improve services to the Deaf community

Produced a video series for the Deaf, which aired on the local Cable TV station

Submitted **Federal Social Programme Reform: Dismantling our Social Safety Net** to the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development on Social Security review. Held several workshops and organized a candlelight vigil for social programmes

Organized **Social Programs Under Attack** workshop with Lynne Toupin, Executive Director of the National Anti-Poverty Organization, who also appeared on CJBQ "Open Line"

Established significant precedent-setting decisions regarding entitlement to vocational rehabilitation under the *Workers' Compensation Act*

1995

Organized a one-day workshop to address the lack of American Sign Language interpreters in our 2 counties and the legal obligation of service agencies to provide interpretive services

Advocated for changes to Hasting County Social Services Department policy regarding "reasonable efforts to seek employment" requirements

Organized an eight-day **Systemic Advocacy Workshop** for 17 participants

Advocated for the creation of a **Mayor's Task Force** to address the drastic social assistance cuts and changes

Helped to organize the constitutional challenge to the "spouse-in-the-house" rule, chaired the Advisory Committee (**Falkiner Case**)

1996

Participated in many local groups dealing with the issues of poverty including **Belleville Mayor's Task Force on Hunger**, the **Food Action Group** and the **Poverty Working Group**

Organized special myth-busting workshops on the Deficit **(Prof. Neil Brooks)** and with the **Centre for Policy Alternatives**

Organized **public meetings about the impact of the welfare cuts** with the Mayor's Task Force, and also worked on emergency housing, a soup kitchen, childcare, and workfare issues

Revised and distributed 4500 copies of the 3rd edition of **Low Income Guide: Surviving the 90's in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties**

Submission on Workers Compensation reform (Jackson Report)

Systemic Advocacy Course offered a second time

Worked with **Housing Resource Centre** on tenants' rights workshops

1997

Republished and updated **Do You Know a Woman Who is Being Abused?**

Released **Tenant Self-Help Kit on Repairs**

Revised and republished **How to Sue Your Employer in Small Claims Court**

Made a submission to review of the Ontario Legal Aid Plan

1998

Participated in CJNH radio interviews on legal rights

Organized focus groups for the Ontario Social Safety Network's **Workfare Watch Project**

Tenant Duty Counsel provided at bi-weekly sittings of the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal

Produced **Workers Compensation Self Help Kit** to inform workers of their right to appeal under the new Workplace Safety and Insurance Act

Setup a **toll-free 1-800 number** for all residents of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties

Lost **Pyke** case at Divisional Court, constitutional challenge to 16-17 year olds, partnered with Justice for Children and Youth clinic

Wrote and produced **Reality Cheque** – a play about poverty law and social justice issues

1999

Eviction Prevention Project – Hastings County funds one year pilot project, also work with other community organizations and county residents on homelessness issues

Held a **Seniors Conference** to recognize International Year of the Older Person, re-broadcast on Cablevue

Collaborated with the Quinte Coalition for Social Justice on a **voting rights pamphlet**, and organized an **all candidates meeting** for the provincial election on justice issues

Began meeting regularly with the Belleville Legal Aid Area office to explore better service delivery.

2000

Mounted a public campaign against a **lien requirement** for Ontario Works recipients. CBC TV National News covered the story, Globe, Toronto Star

Produced a Self-help Kit to assist clients in appealing their loss of benefits and launched a complaint to the Privacy Commissioner regarding the Certificate of Lien

Organized a **Criminal Injuries Compensation Board workshop**

Organized a **special education law workshop** for the general public in Stirling

Created **Police Aide Memoire** for housing law issues, provided training to police

Good working relationships with Hastings County Social Services Department result in settlement of 50% of appeal cases

Provided professional development sessions to **private bar** lawyers in ODSP and WSIB

2001

Researched and published **Beyond Band-Aids: a Community Response to Homelessness**, calling for a systemic community approach

Carried out major legal needs study and published **Community Legal Needs Assessment: Examining the Need for Access to Justice for Low-Income Residents of Lennox & Addington County**

Expanded Belleville offices to incorporate two new staff because of clinic expansion anticipate to L & A

Resolved several privacy complaints successfully concerning welfare recipients, including a Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner order on the certificate of lien issue

2002

Community Forums held in Napanee to discuss the **Community Legal Needs Assessment**

Expanded legal services to Lennox and Addington Counties, opening a satellite office

Precedent-setting victory at the Court of Appeal expanding the definition of "a person with a disability" under the Ontario Disability Support Plan Act (**Gray case**)

Won another precedent-setting case at the Divisional Court in **Moon** on the issue of earnings from self-employment

Created **permanent Tenant Duty Counsel** at the Belleville sittings of the ORHT in collaboration with Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario

Falkiner case won at Court of Appeal (spouse-in-the-house)

Begin collaborating with other clinics to challenge the "**dependent adults**" rule in social assistance legislation

Legal information inserts on tenants issue for Hastings County Ontario Works recipients

Vital services bylaw work begins

2003

Developed a comprehensive "**Intake Manual**" to provide immediate answers to tenants, began "**Tenant Hotline**" Service

Undertook **Disrepair Project** to address housing that was continually in disrepair

Affordable Housing Research Project launched by the Housing Working Group, a coalition of community organizations concerned about homelessness

Hastings County Social Services Department meetings result in more Community Start up Benefits, more compassionate treatment of overpayment deductions

Helped to organize **Connections and Directions** – first Canadian International Clinic Law Conference. This conference became the catalyst for change in the legal clinic system, **Fire in the Belly** research project launched

Wrote and produced the **Domino Effect** play to raise awareness of the fragility and frustrations of living in poverty

Worked with community agencies to sponsor two **Bread & Butter** debates during the provincial elections

2004

Changed clinic name to "**Community Advocacy & Legal Centre**"

Satellite office opens in Quinte West (Trenton)

Founded the **Housing Working Group** and began the **Affordable Housing Research Project** in Hastings County, organizing a major public forum

Researched and prepared **Observations From the Front Lines** analyzing the housing problems seen at the clinic and identifying potential systemic solutions

Released **Boxed In: the Affordable Housing Crisis in Hastings County** on National Housing Strategy Day, **Affordable Housing Action Plan** revealed

Began a pilot project in partnership with **Pro Bono Law Ontario** to train private bar and clinic lawyers in special education issues

Bafflegab newsletter won media award from Adult Protective Service Workers' Association

Organized a special workshop for service providers about domestic violence victims and social assistance problems with Prof. Janet Mosher **Walking on Eggshells**

Year of ODSP Disability – organized several community forums and undertook a number of other special activities

Organized forums in Napanee and Bancroft with the **Office of the Worker Advisor**

Our House opens (Canadian Mental Health Association)

2005

Launched **Affordable Housing Action Network (AHAN)** in partnership with six community agencies, federal funding obtained

LAO Four County Service Coordination Network is born

Worked with Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) to start a legal clinic **newsletter sharing project** on CLEONet

Tenant Early Intervention Project launched

Overpayment project - successfully reduced social assistance overpayments allegedly owed by clients

Developed the clinic's first website – **www.communitylegalcentre.ca**

Organized a provincial Deaf Services Consultation project with Legal Aid Ontario, and participated in **Deaf Accessibility Research Project** Advisory Committee

Collaborated with other organizations across Canada to launch a **Poverty Law Advocates Network**

Organized **Child Advocacy Project** training for private bar members and clinic lawyers

Settled "dependent adult" case with legislative changes

Researched vital services bylaw issue

Completed needs assessment for community law school and survey of private bar lawyers willing to help

2006

Recovered more than **$1 million** for clients.

Clinic staff win LAO's Outstanding Achievement **GEM (Going the Extra Mile) Award** for innovative coordination of LAO services

Worked with Hastings County to develop model bylaws to assist the community in maintaining affordable, safe and secure housing for low income residents

Successful complaint to the **Ombudsman's Office** on behalf of Ontario Disability clients who were not being paid retroactive benefits due to Ministry delays

Helped organize **Poverty Law Advocacy Network of Canada (PLANC)** conference in Vancouver

Created popular resources **Who Does What?** (LAO-funded services) and **Where Else to Go for Help** (when LAO and clinics can't help!)

Our House Too opens (CMHA)

2007

Recovered **1.2 million** for clients

8000 page hits a month to communitylegalcentre.ca including 1400 per month to the 31 tip sheets we created

AHAN continues to grow – launched **All-Together Housing Corp.**

Helped form new **Affordable Housing Committees in L & A and Prince Edward County**

Created "**Myth or Housing Reality**" game with Moira Secondary School students

Special **Forum held on Deaf Legal Rights** – Information on Human Rights of the Deaf and issues of discrimination faced by members of the deaf community

Victory in Divisional Court on behalf of client who was denied eligibility as a person with a disability under the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act*

Complained on behalf of 22 Criminal Injuries Compensation clients in **Ombudsman investigation** concerning the length of time of application processing

Know Your Law – legal clinic provides a series of information sessions to the public regarding the changes to housing law.

"**In Celebration. In Recognition. In Appreciation**" – Local pro bono lawyers were recognized for their generous contributions to the community and Access to Justice

Chinese delegation study tour one-day visit to clinic

Cycles of Homelessness: Understanding Eviction Prevention and Its Relation to Homelessness forum

Community Action Plans released for Deseronto, Central Hastings, North Hastings, and Quinte West

2008

Recovered almost **$2 million** for clients

Launch public service announcements to raise awareness of services

Co-counselled with the Income Security Advocacy Centre and the Clinic Resource Office to bring a **Human Rights complaint about the Special Diet Allowance**

Worked with Hastings County Social Services and AHAN to convince several Hastings County municipalities for **Vital Services Bylaws**

Launched new clinic logo

CALC

Community Advocacy & Legal Centre

Clinic awarded **Law Foundation Community Leadership Justice Fellowship** at Osgoode Hall Law School

Casa Tres opens (CMHA)

2009

Recovered almost **$2.2 million** for clients

Clinic ED presents on the Promising Practices of Ontario's Legal Clinics at **International Legal Aid Group Conference** in New Zealand

Held public forum **Sexual Harassment on the Job: Lessons from the Past And Innovative Remedies** with Constance Backhouse

Completely redeveloped website and re-launched http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/

Won important case at **Human Rights Tribunal** – sexual harassment in shared accommodations

Began North and Central Hastings **Employment Law Outreach** project

Collaborated with Family Law Education for Women to organize a **Family Law Workshop** for service providers and private bar lawyers

Participated in **Ukrainian conference on Legal Empowerment of the Poor** - about community legal clinics in Ontario.

National Housing Day Forum — Community input to submission on Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy

Tom's Place opens (All Together Affordable Housing)

2010

Recovered **$2.4 million** for clients

Launched **Aboriginal outreach project**

Developed Web 2.0 social marketing strategy, CALC goes on **Twitter**

Collaborated with LAO and clinic colleagues to begin Phase I of the **Five County Legal Literacy & Access to Justice project,** many focus groups held

Began Rural and Linguistic Outreach project with help of Law Foundation Articling Fellowship focusing on migrant and lumber workers

Helped to organize **Community Forum: Working with Clients Who Hoard** workshop for National Housing Day with the Affordable Housing Action Network

Joined the **Housing Action in Lennox & Addington (HALA) Working Group**

Hosted week-long **Ukrainian community law centres'** study tour

Released Ontario community legal clinic system's KnowledgeNOW report **Knowledge Management, Sharing and Creation: Building on Our Strengths and Enhancing Access to Justice**

Organized **Beyond the Basics: Helping Victims of Crime Claim Compensation (CICB Conference)** with funding from the Quinte & District Victim's Fund