What a long strange trip its been

Overview

High level view of the history of the consumer-survivor community

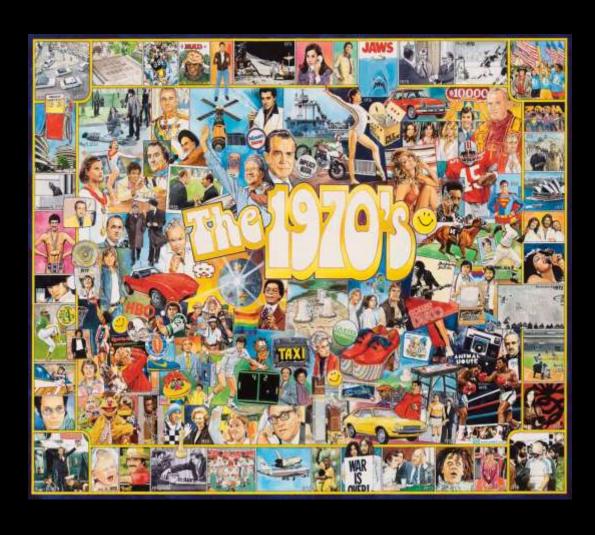
Not dates but themes

Provide a context for the rest of the afternoon

Way back when.....

- De-institutionalization began in the sixties
- Consumer-Survivor movement influenced and inspired by the various movements – Peace movement, women's movement, Gay Pride movement
- Grew out of a desire to address abuses, discrimination and isolation associated with "mental illness"
- Went from being "outsiders" to "insiders" to "reluctant participants"

The Seventies: We're Not Going to Take It



- Groups started forming in Vancouver, Toronto
- On Our Own Chamberlin
- Mad People's Liberation Movement
- Survived the system despite the system's intent to help

The Seventies cont'd

• In Toronto, Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital closes – concern about what to do with those that were once housed there

 In Vancouver, former in-patients start to band together to offer each other support

• Growth of survivor voice critical of the way people were treated by the system (Don Weitz, Bonnie Burstow, Judi Chamberlin, etc.)

The Eighties..... Making noise, being heard?

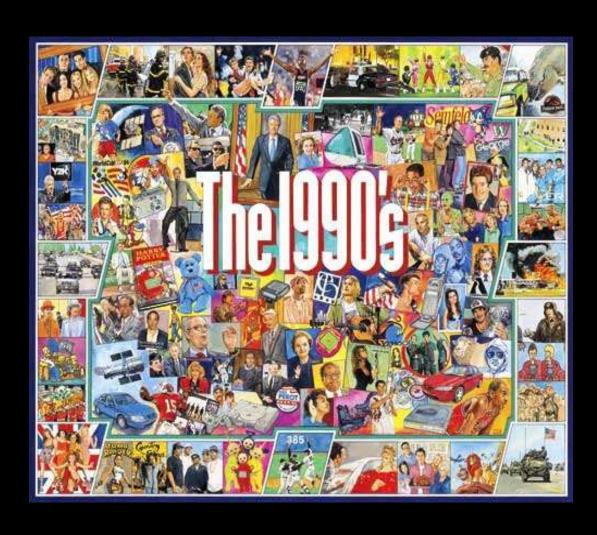


- The Coalition against Electroshock, Mad Market, Phoenix Rising
- Pat Capponi organizing in High Park (Starkman, Weitz, Burstow)
- Heseltine report, 1983
- Graham Report 1988

The Eighties

- Groups of c/s began to form in various communities (Toronto, Kitchener as examples)
- Supportive and helped people find community political activity against the system
- Money flowed into community mental health supportive housing, etc.
- Broadening social movement
- Shift in policy Graham Report 1988 involved survivors

The Nineties.... Taken Seriously?



- NDP Anti-Recession money
- CSDI OPDI
- Putting People First: 1993
- @ 30 CSI programs funded throughout the province
- CIF funding mid 90's added more CSI's

The Nineties

- With funding there came a shift to becoming providers of "service"
- Can CSI's be leaders in a social movement and accept gov't funding to provide service
- Some CSI's did well, others faltered and lost funding led to the question was funding a set-up?
- Making it Happen 1999
- Heightened focus on the role and involvement of consumers in planning, developing and evaluating of services

The new millennium... slip, sliding away

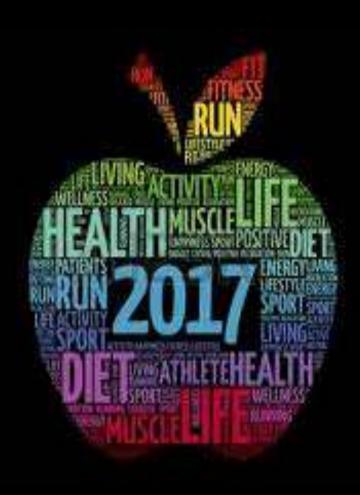


- Introduction of the LHINS
- Every Door is the Right Door (2009)
- Recovery became a big thing in the early part of the 2000's - not so much towards the end
- Lots of talk about the importance of consumer and family involvement

The new millennium.....

- Continued talk about the importance of consumers, little action
- Shift away from Consumer organizations and more focus on individual peer workers
- CSI Builder (2009) recommendations on how to support CSI's made: none of the recommendations implemented
- CSI's are merged with other mainstream orgs number of free standing CSI's decreasing
- Greater emphasis on accountability numbers

Where are we now.....



- Fewer independent CSI's
- Role of advocacy diminished remaining org's struggle to keep up
- Flip side some money has flowed for Peer Workers
- Minster's Advisory Council Mental Health

Present day - Right Here, Right Now

- Uneven approach by LHIN's to consumer orgs how things are done varies from LHIN to LHIN
- Mergers with mainstream orgs. vary in how "autonomous" CSI's are able to be
- There is less of a focus/interest on CSI's and more on peer workers
- Investigating the State of Peer Work in Ontario 2014
- Professionalization of peer support
- Peer Support Canada

What does all this mean?

• We are at a crossroads – are we still a social movement or are we service providers ?

What do we focus on?

• Are we still relevant?

What does the future hold?



Some ideas....

- Do we become professional establish a college with guidelines for certification, training, code of conduct, etc.
- Do we advocate for the protection of CSI's or do we push for more peer workers, or do we do both
- Do we continue to push for more funding from gov't or do we seek funds from elsewhere
- Do we say "screw it" and walk away

At end of it all

• There has been a rich history of consumer activism that has produced phenomenal results...

We have had our challenges and we are still here

• If not us then who?

Some men see things the way they are and ask why?,

I dream things that never were and ask why not?