

TTC Announces Support Person Assistance Card

Great news for transit users in 2014; the TTC introduces the Support Person Assistance Card. The following information is taken from the TTC website. Effective January 1, 2014, a support person accompanying a person with a disability will not be required to pay a fare when travelling on the TTC. **Customers with disabilities who travel with a support person on the TTC must apply for a TTC Support Person Assistance Card to be eligible for this fare exemption.** A support person is someone who assists the card holder with communication, mobility, personal care/medical needs or with access to goods, services or facilities.

Upon payment of fare by or for the card holder, the Support Person Assistance Card permits one (1) support person to travel with the card holder on the TTC on a single fare. Additional companions must pay a fare. A card holder may travel with different support persons at different times.

From January 1, 2014 to March 29, 2014, TTC will permit a support person to travel with a paying customer on an honour system. Starting Sunday, March 30, customers will require a Support Person Assistance Card in order for the support person to travel with the card holder on a single fare.

The Support Person Assistance Card application is available on TTC website and is available on request by phone. Customers can call TTC Customer Service at 416-393-3030. A regulated authorized health care professional must certify that the applicant:

- has a temporary or permanent disability
- requires a support person

Eligible applicants will be provided with a Support Person Assistance Card, issued to the person with the disability, when the completed form is processed. There is no charge for the Support Person Assistance Card.



Note: Health care professionals may charge a fee to get the application form signed. The Support Person Assistance Card will need to be renewed every 3 years, on the cardholder's birthday, since disabilities may change. Temporary cards with a shorter expiry date will be available for temporary disabilities.

For more information and to obtain an application, go to: http://www.ttc.ca/Fares_and_passes/Support_Person_Card/Application_process.jsp.

Please Note!

We have been informed that as the "honour system" is currently in place, you may want to print a copy of the cover page and application from the TTC website to show the driver proof of this new program.

For answers to frequently asked questions about the Support Person Assistance Card, please see following pages.

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February 2014

Volunteer Leadership

Honourary Patron

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Lieutenant Governor of
Ontario

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The Hon. Barbara
McDougall

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Garry Pruden

Frequently Asked Questions

Applying for a TTC Support Person Assistance Card

What is a Support Person?

A Support Person assists a person with a disability with communication, mobility, personal care/medical needs or with access to goods, services or facilities.

What is the TTC Support Person Assistance Card?

The TTC Support Person Assistance Card is a photo identification card that identifies the card holder as a person who, because of disability, needs to be accompanied by a Support Person. The Card has a photo of the person with a disability. Customers who would like their Support Person to accompany them on the TTC and/or Wheel-Trans on a single fare must obtain a Support Person Assistance Card.

How do I apply for a Support Person Assistance Card?

Applicants must complete an application form, available on the TTC website, or by calling TTC Customer Service at 416-393-3030 (TTY 416-338-0357). Photo ID session locations, dates and times will be posted on this page when they become available. Alternatively, applicants may mail in the application with two (2) colour passport photos. Further details are provided on the application form.

How do I prove to the TTC that I need a Support Person?

The application includes a section that must be filled out by one of the following authorized regulated health care professionals:

- Family Doctor or other Physician, including Psychiatrist
- Physiotherapist
- Optometrist
- Audiologist
- Psychologist
- Chiropractor
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Registered Nurse

The health care professional must certify that the applicant is a person with a disability who, because of the disability, needs to be accompanied by a Support Person, and must certify whether the disability is permanent or temporary.

Cont'd next page

FAQ's: TTC Support Person Card

My disability is temporary. Am I still eligible for a Support Person Assistance Card?

Yes

How much does the Support Person Assistance Card cost?

There is no charge for the Card. Please note that the TTC will not reimburse any costs incurred to complete the application.

Where do I get my photo taken for the Support Person Assistance Card? Can I provide my own photo?

Photo ID session locations, dates and times will be posted on this page when they become available. Alternatively applicants may mail in the application with two (2) colour passport photos. Further details are provided on the application form.

Is the Support Person Assistance Card valid on both Wheel-Trans and the fixed route bus, streetcar, subway and Scarborough RT system?

Yes.

Wheel-Trans already requires me to travel with a Support Person at all times. Do I still need to apply for a Support Person Assistance Card?

Yes. The Card will also allow your support person to travel with you on the fixed route bus, streetcar, subway and Scarborough RT system at no extra cost, if you choose.

Using a TTC Support Person Assistance Card When does the new Support Person policy take effect?

January 1, 2014, however, customers will have a grace period until March 29, 2014 to obtain their Support Person Assistance Card.

How do I use the Support Person Assistance Card?

Simply show the Card to the Collector at a TTC Subway or RT station, or the Operator (driver) onboard a bus or streetcar when paying a fare. Card holders may travel with one (1) Support Person at no extra charge.

Do I still have to pay a fare when I am travelling with a Support Person?

Yes. Card holders must still pay their regular fare when riding the TTC with a Support Person.

Do I always have to travel with the same Support Person?

No. Card holders may choose to travel with a different Support Person on each TTC trip.

Can I bring more than one Support Person with me?

Card holders may only travel with one (1) Support Person on one fare. Any additional companions or escorts must pay regular fares.

Can my Support Person travel for free even when they are not accompanying me?

No. To travel at no extra cost, a Support Person must accompany a card holder on their entire trip.

Am I required to use the Support Person Assistance Card even if I am not travelling with a Support Person?

No.

I use a token or Metropass to enter subway stations. How does this work when I am travelling with a Support Person?

Card holders must show their Card to the Collector and then deposit their token in the fare box or show

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Central News

Council Listings

Central Regional Council

Chairperson
Peter Wakayama

Vice Chair
Lee Tarshis

Board Representative
Susan McCloy

**Alternate
Board Representative**
Peter Wakayama

Treasurer
Susan McCloy

Chair of Fundraising Committee
Judy Dawson

Members at Large
David Danyluk
Kate Gilhooly
Dawn Lunan
Daniel Paquin
Nelson Raposo
Alda Zimbalatti

Regional Executive Director
Frances MacNeil

Membership Coordinator
Ann-Marie Binetti
647-729-1210
abinetti@cltoronto.ca

Contact Information
Central Regional Office
20 Spadina Rd.
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 2S7

T: 416.968.0650
F: 416.968.6463

Central Region Meeting:
February 11th, 2014
6:00 pm
20 Spadina Road
Room 2B

Looking Forward to Spring Fling!!

Spring Fling is the signature event of Central Region Council's fundraising roster and a seasonal highlight for Community Living Toronto.

This year, the Spring Fling Dinner & Dance will be taking place on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (6 Garamond Court), with the reception starting at 5:00pm.

Funds raised through Spring Fling help to support many activities including a weekly dinner club where individuals can share a meal and quality time with their friends; support workshops for children and youth who have a sibling with an intellectual disability; and sponsorship of the Komodo Dragon Boat Team, which provides opportunities for team building and physical activity.

Tickets for this wonderful event are \$50.00 each and you can contact Ann-Marie Binetti at (647) 729-1210 or abinetti@cltoronto.ca for more information and to purchase your tickets.



New Best Buddies Chapter Coming!

Community Living Toronto and Best Buddies Canada will be starting a new high school chapter in West Toronto and we are looking for interested participants who would like to be paired with a buddy!

The chapter will be run by Ursula Franklin Academy on the border of Central and Etobicoke regions. We will be recruiting prospective buddies between the ages of 14-21 from both regions. Participants will be paired in a one-to-one friendship for community outings, weekly phone calls and group events!

Interested parties should contact Jackie Fisher (Etobicoke/York) at 647-729-1162 or Matt Poirier (Central) at 647-729-1209. For more information about Best Buddies, visit www.bestbuddies.ca.



Council Listings

Etobicoke/ York
Regional Council

Chairperson
Ann Marie Fierro

Board Representative
Stefica Skof

Treasurer
Susan King

Members at Large
Airi Clifford
Zdenka Bilic
Mary Byne
Janina Coulthard
Joan Karout
Gaston Karout
Christine LeClair
Peter Marrese
Ruth Nagy
Laura Parsonson
Mary Pawson
Sharon Totafurno

Regional Executive Director
Brad Saunders

Membership Coordinator
Eric Laimer
647.729.0445
elaimer@cltoronto.ca

Contact Information
Etobicoke/York
Regional Office
295 The West Mall,
Suite 204
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 4Z4

T: 416.236.7621
F: 416.236.7673

Next Council Meeting:
Tuesday February 11th,
6:30 pm
295 The West Mall
Suite 204
Boardroom

Getting Informed With Membership

By: Eric Laimer



Adam and Mary Byne

The year 1999 marked more than just the prelude to the new millennium for Fred and Mary Byne. It was also a transition year as their son, Adam, graduated from high school.

Information at the school about future employment opportunities was sparse and the only real choice that Adam was presented at the time was Ontario Works. While Adam had a lot of strong employable skills, he could not do the independent travel needed to take advantage of the Ontario Works program.

During Adam's weekly swimming class, Mary started talking with another parent, Linda Collins, who happened to be a member of Community Living Toronto and served on Council. Linda suggested that Mary join Council to become better informed about the Developmental Services Sector and the supports that were available.

"Prior to joining Council we felt

isolated." Mary recalled. Becoming a member and joining Council gave Mary the opportunity to connect with other families, discuss challenges and share her feelings. "There was a common bond and you realized that you were not the only one facing the challenge of supporting a family member with an intellectual disability," she reflected.

Through Council, Mary learned about Employment Training Services (ETS) and applied to get Adam into the program. Adam has improved his employment skills and become more independent since early 2000 when he started working at Etobicoke ETS. "You can't do it on your own. It's very difficult to go on your own to companies and businesses to hire your child and provide them the supports to succeed." Mary stated.

Becoming a member has made Mary better informed and helped in planning for the future. When Adam graduated, Mary found that there was little support from the school in planning for future employment. "Schools seem to be better informed these days and organizations like Community Living Toronto have done a good job increasing public awareness about supporting people with an intellectual disability," Mary said. "Parents need to start planning before their son or daughter graduates high school. Becoming a member of an organization like Community Living Toronto is a good way to become better informed about the services that are available."

North York News

Council Listings

North York Regional Council

Chairperson
Nancy Ceci

Board Representative
Colleen Broadhurst

Alternate Board Representative
Morris Jesion

Treasurer
TBD

Members at Large
Teresa Bhandal
Shirley Germuska
Eva Lipa

Regional Executive Director
Brad Saunders

Membership Coordinator
Wendy Dyke
647-729-3627
wdyke@cltoronto.ca

Contact Information
North York Regional Office
1122 Finch Ave. W.,
Unit 18
Toronto, Ontario
M3J 3J5

T: 416.225.7166
F: 416.225.8623

**Next
Council Meeting:**

**February 3, 2014
Employment Training
Services
Boardroom
1122 Finch Avenue W.
Unit 16
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

December was Month Long Celebration

By: Wendy Dyke



Sunshine, Sarah & Isabella enjoy Best Buddies' holiday lunch



Santa hands out gifts at the Residential Services Party

The entire month of December was one celebration event after another in North York Region.

The first Monday of the month saw North York Council hosting a Holiday Meet and Greet for staff, students and volunteers. On Friday December 6, the York University Chapter of Best Buddies went to lunch at Boston Pizza for their holiday celebration, and that same evening the North York residential

services held their holiday party at the Employment Training Services (ETS). There were over 100 people from our various residential services in attendance who were served a fabulous holiday dinner and entertained by our own Connect **ABILITY.ca** idol, Kim Hoffman. They also received a visit from Santa.

Later in the month, group homes, the Supported Independent Living program,
Continued on page 13



Aspenwood residents at the Residential Services Party



Kim (far right) entertaining the party guests

Scarborough News

Council Listings

Scarborough Regional Council

Co-Chairpersons

Judith Andrenacci
Alison Thomas

Board Representative

Bonnie Heath

Treasurer

Deborah White

Members at Large

Donald Hale
Kathy Lisle
Ellen Armstrong
Robert Shaddock
Alison Thomas
Pat Sparks

Regional Executive Director

Sue Lynch

Membership Coordinator

Felicita Zanatta 647-729-1635
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Contact Information

Scarborough Regional Office
1712 Ellesmere Rd.
Scarborough, Ontario
M1H 2V5

T: 416.438.6099

F: 416.438.6144

Everyone Welcome!
Next Council Meeting:
Monday February 3, 2014
6:30 pm
1712 Ellesmere Rd
Boardroom

Council Talks about Membership and Participation

By: Scarborough Council Members and Felicita Zanatta

It is a privilege to work with an active and supportive Membership in Scarborough Region. There are many activities and events which provide information, education and fun. The Council meets on the first Monday of each month. They have fundraising events coming up and are currently look for new members to join. The funds raised during these events are used to support the many activities in Scarborough region such as literacy, bingo, parent groups, and many other activities. The Scarborough Council members have provided an account of their involvement in Membership and the Council. We hope you will be encouraged to participate and consider joining the Council.

Alison Thomas

Hi, my name is Alison Thomas and I have been a member of Council for about 18 years. My daughter is the reason I joined. I needed to be a part of a group who understood the issues we all face when raising a person with intellectual disabilities. Over the years, many of the people I have met have become friends and a valuable information base. At our meetings, we have had some very serious discussions and much needed laughs. Through our Board Representative we have a voice at Community Living Toronto and we can and have made a difference. When I first joined, I wasn't sure what to expect and what was expected of me. I soon found that we were all there for the same reason; to support our loved ones. I would encourage everyone to come to a meeting and see what we are all about. We all have a wealth of knowledge to share and an open mind to new ideas.

Bonnie Heath

I have been a member of Community Living Toronto since Jenny was 2 years old. She is now 28. It was hard to get to things back then; 3 young children were hard to round up, and take to activities, so the newsletter was my life line to other families in the same situation. Back then, everything was done by mail, so I would patiently wait for the newsletter to come, and when it did, I would make a cup of coffee and sit and read the newsletter from cover to cover. It kept me connected and less isolated. As the kids grew up and it was easier to get out to various activities, I started to think about what the council did, who was on it and what could I do. I had visions of the gym at Lawson being full of people who were on council and managed to organize, fundraise and execute the many activities for families. It took a little longer due to life's bumps in the road for me to join council, but when I finally did imagine my surprise when I found out that

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Self-Advocates Council Update

Self-Advocates Council Listings

Board Representative
Paul Cochrane

Community Living Ontario
Representative
Peter Marrese

Chair
Sam McKhail

Vice Chair
Robbie Cowdrey

Members At Large

Lorraine Bradley
Robbie Cowdrey
Candice Doherty
Michael Edser
Caseen Johnson
Linda Kirmiziyen
Sam McKhail
Mark Miller
Richard Newland
Nelson Raposo
Dhonnine Trinidad

Community Support Coordinator

Sue Hutton
647-729-1205
shutton@cltoronto.ca

Next Council Meeting:
February, 19, 2014
1—3pm

Monthly SAC Meetings
are the Third Wednesday
of Each Month at 20
Spadina. 1pm—3pm.

Rights – It's a Family Affair

By: Sue Hutton

Community Living Toronto has been working on building a rights culture. We have been training staff, and are piloting training for people in service. To include everyone in the support circle around a person with an Intellectual Disability, we need to have families, volunteers, everyone involved. Self-Advocate Council member Lorraine Bradley talks about another important aspect of rights – bringing families into the conversation. I talked with Lorraine and her sister Joanne Kirzner about what rights mean to them. Here's what they had to say.

Lorraine: My mom [Mildred Kirzner, a generous supporter of Community Living Toronto] wanted me to be independent. I miss my mom and dad now they're gone, but my sisters are there for me. My mom and dad did the right thing wanting me to be independent. Now I talk to my sister Joanne every day. She helps me with my independence. I might not always listen to her advice, but she's always there for me!

Sue: Lorraine, can you tell me more about how your sister Joanne helps you to stand up for your rights?

Lorraine: Well, I'm pretty good at speaking up. And my sister Joanne is pretty good at listening, so I guess we work well together! My wedding is one example. I told my family I wanted to get married. I was standing up for my rights.



From Left: SAC member Lorraine (left) and her sisters Joanne, Ellie, and Marsha enjoying time up north together.

Joanne is a social worker, a strong advocate for her sister Lorraine and for rights in general. Not that Lorraine needs a whole lot of advocating for – she's got a good sense of self-direction and knows what she wants!

Lorraine: We need to let our family know what we want. The nice thing is, Joanne really listens to me. I think that people with disabilities need to talk to their family about what's important to them. When I told my family I wanted to get married, they supported me. We had a lot of talks about it, and it was a really nice wedding. Actually, Gary and I are having our 25th anniversary next year".

As a supportive family member, Joanne talks about the importance of just listening. There is a lot of conversation between the two of them.

Joanne: I remember well how Lorraine planned the wedding out – Lorraine had a clear vision on how she

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TTC FAQ's, Cont'd

their Metropass to the Collector to enter the station. Card holders should not use a token or Metropass-only turnstile. At accessible stations, the Collector can also open the accessible fare gate remotely after a fare is paid.

I use a PRESTO card to enter subway stations. How does this work when I am travelling with a Support Person?

At this time, PRESTO cards cannot be used to enter a subway station when travelling with a Support Person. Please use an alternate form of payment.

I use an Automatic Entrance to enter subway stations. How does this work when I am travelling with a Support Person?

In most cases card holders will need to use the main subway station entrance. Some stations are equipped with automatic accessible entrances to allow customers using mobility devices to enter the station. At these stations, simply press the "Passenger Assistance Intercom" or "Help" button to call the Collector, inform them that you wish to use a Support Person Assistance Card, and follow their instructions.

I would like to travel on routes 501, 502 or 508 on Queen Street, The Queensway, or Lakeshore Boulevard with my Support Person. How do I prove that they have paid a POP fare?

TTC's 501, 502 and 508 streetcar routes travelling on Queen Street, The Queensway and Lakeshore Boulevard use the "Proof of Payment" (POP) system. Riders can board at any door with a valid transfer or pass, or at the front door if paying with cash, tickets, or tokens. If asked for POP for a Support Person, simply show the Transit Enforcement Officer a valid transfer or pass along with the Support Person Assistance Card. A Support Person must exit the vehicle when the card holder exits, or they must pay a fare.

Does the Support Person Assistance Card expire?

Yes, the Card expires 3 years after it was issued. For card holders with temporary disabilities, the card expires when the card holder no longer has a disability, or after 3 years, whichever is greater. Card holders may apply to renew their card when it expires.

I lost my Support Person Assistance Card. Can I get a replacement?

If you lose your card, please call TTC Customer Service at 416-393-3030.

Can I lend my Support Person Assistance Card to a friend?

No. The Support Person Assistance Card is for the use of eligible customers only and cannot be transferred or lent to others. Fraudulent use of TTC photo identification cards is an offence under TTC By-law No. 1 subject to a fine and permanent loss of the card.

Is my Support Person Assistance Card valid on other Ontario transit systems?

Other Ontario transit systems may accept the TTC Support Person Assistance Card. Please contact the transit system you will be travelling on to confirm their policies.

Does the TTC accept Support Person Assistance Cards from other transit systems?

No. Visitors may apply for a Support Person Assistance Card by submitting an application that is certified by an authorized regulated Canadian health care professional. Otherwise, a visitor and their Support Person must both pay a fare.

As this program is very new and the details are still being released, it is recommended that for more information, updates and application forms, visit www.ttc.ca, and watch our website for updates as they become available.

Call For Nominations Association Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

We are currently seeking nominations for “Association Youth Volunteer of the Year Award”. To be considered for the award, each nominee must:

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE LIVING WITH A **DISABILITY?**

If so, you may be eligible for up to
\$3,500 a year in Matching Grants and
up to **\$1,000** a year in Bonds!

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a unique program provided by the government of Canada to enhance the financial security of people living with disabilities. *

FREE RDSP INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Sessions will be presented by Brendon Pooran, a Toronto based lawyer who provides advice on wills and estate planning, Government benefits and disability law.

HOSTED BY:

Community Living Toronto, Etobicoke Region
295 The West Mall, Suite 204

REGISTER WITH

Eric Laimer 647-729-0445
or via email - elaimer@cltoronto.ca

Can't attend this workshop?

Register for a webinar or one-on-one consultation!

www.rdspontario.ca

*Those opening an RDSP must do so prior to the end of calendar year of their 59th birthday. Grants and Bonds are available up to the end of the calendar year of the beneficiaries 49th birthday.



Autism ONTARIO

Canada



PLAN TORONTO

pooranlaw

COMMUNITY LIVING
Ontario

This information session is available in English only.

Afin d'obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec Brendon Pooran par courriel à bpooran@pooranlaw.com.

Funding for these information sessions is provided by the Government of Canada.

*Be registered through volunteer services with
Community Living Toronto

*Must reflect Community Living Toronto's mission and
vision

*Must be between ages 13 and 29

*Must have volunteered with Community Living Toronto
for not less than 40 hours or have demonstrated
exemplary enthusiasm and dedication to the Association
and the individuals we support while fostering a
welcoming community and creating access to choices
and opportunities

Deadline for nominations is February 25th. 2014

Please submit nominations to Matt Poirier at
mathew.poirier@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-1209

Donate Your Canadian Tire Money

When we facilitate life or person-directed plans for individuals, we use painter's tape to put up the life planning pieces so that everyone can see them. That costs money which we would be able to offset if we had Canadian Tire Money, so that we could purchase the tape there. If you're willing to part with any of yours, we'll most graciously accept it. Our Membership Coordinators have kindly agreed to collect the money and forward to me.

Sincerely,

Petra Asfaw, Family Support Coordinator for Planning

9th Annual Information Fair

Developmental Services Toronto (dsto) invites you to attend the *9th Annual Information Fair*

Date:	Wednesday, May 14, 2014
Time:	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Place:	Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre 6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON M3C 1Z5 Don Valley Parkway and Wynford Drive

The day includes:

- Information on services and supports for adults with a developmental disability and their families
- Presentations on topics of interest to individuals, families and staff
- Networking opportunities with dsto agency staff, self-advocacy groups, family groups and community resources.

For more information about the fair including this year's presentation topics, visit the Developmental Services Ontario, Toronto Region website: www.dsotoronto.com

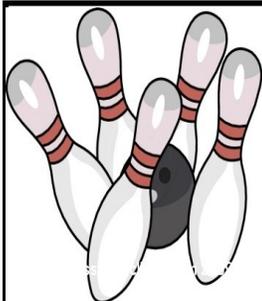
Contact: **Jennifer Altosaar** at 647-729-1217 or email jennifer.altosaar@cltoronto.ca

This is a FREE event and NO pre-registration is required.

Join the Community Living Toronto Achilles Team

The Annual Achilles St. Patrick's Day 5k run/walk will be taking place on Sunday March 16, 2014. It is the 10th year that Scarborough Region Council has sponsored this event. To join our team, you must collect minimum of \$45.00 to cover the entrance fee, but all monies collected over that could be directed to any Community Living Toronto program of your choice.

To register and to receive a pledge form, please contact
Felicitia Zanatta at 647- 729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca



4th Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza!!!!

Friday April 11, 2014 7 to 10 pm

Parkway Bowl 67 Ellesmere Road

Please join Scarborough Council for a fun night of Bingo Bowling and help us raise funds to support our great initiatives!

Please contact: Felicitia Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Council Talks, Cont'd

council consisted of a handful of people at all stages of parenting.

I have been on council for a few years now, have met many great people during this time and feel a great sense of accomplishment knowing my voice has made a difference. We are lucky in Toronto to have family councils who represent the voice of the family and start volunteer programs that help to change the lives of many.

Debby White

I started out visiting Scarborough Council representing MPP Brad Duguid as a liaison with the government. Council has wonderful caring people and we all enjoy coming in for the one or two hours each month to see what is happening and to get updates. When I left the government, I was asked if I wanted to stay on as a Member. I have felt privileged to be able to say I now have five years on Council and look forward to seeing great things happening for all people with disabilities. I sit on the board to be a voice and hope that I do make a difference in their lives any way I can.

Donald Hale

I have been a member of Scarborough Council for about 3 years now. Council serves as a conduit for information flowing both ways between the membership of Community Living Toronto, leadership, and staff. We act as your representative,

bringing your concerns to the attention of senior management and provide direction on initiatives for action. It is important to have broad-based and diverse community representation on Council. If you feel you would like to share in the work of helping to manage the activities of Scarborough Region, we welcome your participation.

Judith Andrenacci

As a member of Community Living Toronto, you can add your voice to bring changes that will make life better for people with disabilities and their families, which in turn is good for all the community. As a parent, it is important for me to be a member of Community Living Toronto to affect policy at the organization and government level in order to benefit my child and all people with disabilities. As a council member, I can keep informed about the organization and government initiatives or lack thereof, and help advocate, plan and steer local and province wide objectives that affect my community. I represent the interest of the Scarborough region which is the same as the four other regions -a good life for people with disability in their community.

Kathy Lisle

Being on Scarborough Region council has given me an opportunity to have my voice heard and to advocate for my son. Over the past eight years, council meetings have also kept me aware of the latest developments and opportunities for my son (RDSP, Passport, LIGHTS, Access to Entertainment, dances, respite, etc.). I'm having so much fun on council. Whether we're selling hotdogs or doing a bowling fundraiser, the greatest benefit of being a member is to meet and work with so many talented, passionate and inspirational people.



On behalf of all the recipients of the 2013 Christmas Hamper Program and the Community Support Team, I would like to extend

a very big thank you to everyone who made donations. Your generosity has helped several families and individuals have a brighter and happier holiday. We received contributions of food, toiletries and clothing, as well as financial donations. Your generosity was greatly appreciated by everyone. Once again, thank you! I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2014.

Shelly Greenberg, Home Management Consultant, Scarborough Region

Interested in learning more about Scarborough's Regional Council? Contact Felicita Zanatta: 647-729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Self-Advocates Continued

wanted her wedding day to be. We had a lot of discussion about it, and in the end, Lorraine had the wedding day she wanted. It was a beautiful wedding.

It's definitely a two-way street supporting rights in the family – just as Lorraine talks about speaking up, her sister Joanne talks about the importance of listening, and not judging.

Joanne: In all honesty, I had to learn to practice not to be judgmental. I learned to respect the way my sister wanted to live her life, and accept it and support it. It doesn't mean I don't offer suggestions. When it comes to issues of safety, I am very direct. If it's not about safety, I have just learned to listen and fully to respect her wishes. I think that everyone is entitled to live the life the way they want, providing they are not hurting others. If my sister comes to a decision herself, then she will follow through. No-one likes to feel that people are telling them what to do. Really, my sister's happiness is the most important thing – what else do we have? If we are not happy with the life we are living, then it's not a good life. I want Lorraine to be happy. I have learned how important it is to really listen to her. Self-esteem is really important, and we find listening is important. Don't judge other people lives by your own. Allow people self determination.



Gary and Lorraine will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary next year.

This is what my mom wanted for Lorraine, and Lorraine is great at making her own decisions. It's a lot more loaded when it's our own family member, but it's really the same as how we treat anybody. Everybody wants to be happy at the end of the day.

Joanne Kirzner supports her sister's rights by listening and encouraging self-determination. More proof that rights really is a family affair. Listening and encouraging self-determination. More proof that rights really is a family affair.

North York Month Long Celebration *Continued from page 6*

the Adult Development Program and ETS all held holiday parties. There was also a dinner at Foster's for individuals in service from our day support programs who don't have a lot of family and would otherwise not have a holiday dinner.

On December 20th, some of the program participants at the ETS were provided manicures and a little pampering from two York University students who volunteer with Best Buddies. Each person got their picture taken showing off their manicured and polished nails.

Tina, Ann-Marie and Mary all show off their newly manicured and polished nails



Events / Workshops

Learn to Cook!

**For Individuals 18+
with an intellectual disability**

Hands on learning, Goal Focused

1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 16

Wednesdays: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Starts: April 2, 2014

Ends: May 28, 2014

(no class on April 16, 2014)

8 Weeks

For more information and application

Please contact Wendy Dyke

647-729-3627

TTC Readiness: *An Introductory Course!* Sponsored in part by North York Regional Council

Location: 1122 Finch Avenue West,
Unit 16

Dates & Time: Classes - Wednesdays
(April 2 to May 7) 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Field Instruction - Saturdays (May 3
and May 10) 12:30 - 5:00 pm

Fee: \$50.00 per participant (for members)
\$80.00 per participant (non-members)

Note: Participants must also purchase TTC day
passes for each field instruction Saturday
Cost of day passes \$11.00 each

For more information or to apply contact :
Wendy Dyke

647-729-3627 or email wdyke@cltoronto.ca

North York Winter Dance!

Friday February 21, 2014

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**1122 Finch Avenue West
Unit 16**

\$5.00 Admission

Call to reserve your tickets!

Flora Nichols

647-729-3645

Wendy Dyke

647-729-3627



Sixth Easy Roller Bowlathon

**Saturday April 5, 2014
5:00 to 8:00 pm**

Bowlerama West— 5429 Dundas Street West

Silent Auction, Raffles, Prizes and More!
Enjoy a fun evening of bowling for \$25 or
collect \$25 in sponsored pledges.

Registration deadline: Friday March 28

To register, get info and to obtain your pledge sheet
contact: Eric Laimer 647-729-0445 or
elaimer@cltoronto.ca

All proceeds go towards Etobicoke/York Region council
and membership.

Calendar of Events

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Central Region: Ann-Marie Binetti 647-729-1210	Etobicoke/ York Region: Eric Laimer 647-729-0445	North York Region: Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627	Scarborough Region: Felicita Zanatta 647-729-1635			1 Trihards Bowling
2	3 NY Council Meeting Scarborough Council Meeting	4 Scarborough Residential Alternatives	5 Central Dinner Club	6	7 Lawson Dance	8
9	10	11 Etobicoke Council Meeting Central Council Meeting	12 Central Dinner Club	13	14	15 Trihards Bowling
16	17	18	19 Central Dinner Club	20	21 NY Dance Scarborough Bingo	22
23	24	25	26 Central Dinner Club	27	28 Connections Dance	

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Trihards Bowling
2	3 NY Council Meeting Scarborough Council Meeting	4 Scarborough Residential Alternatives	5 Central Dinner Club	6	7 Lawson Dance	8
9	10	11 Etobicoke Council Meeting Central Council Meeting	12 Central Dinner Club	13	14	15 Trihards Bowling
16 Achilles Walk	17	18	19 Central Dinner Club	20 Pizza/Bingo Night at Victoria Pk Hub	21 Scarborough Bingo	22
23 /	24 /	25	26 Central Dinner Club	27	28 Connections Dance	29 Trihards Bowling
30	31					

Jim Turner Memorial Award for Outstanding Voluntarism with Community Living Toronto

Each year, Community Living Toronto presents awards to volunteer leaders who support the work of the Association and the people it supports. We are currently seeking nominations for the “Jim Turner Memorial Award”. This individual must be a member of Community Living Toronto in good standing who has made an outstanding contribution(s) that has affected the lives of the individuals we support and/or their families. This may be through direct service, contribution on Association Committees or other activities/events. All volunteer recognition awards are presented annually at the Association’s Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April.

Criteria

Award nominations will consider:

- Length of time involved with Community Living Toronto
- Nature of the support/partnership
- Impact of the support/partnership on Community Living Toronto’s:
 - Presence in the community
 - Impact on the people supported by the Association
 - Impact, if any, on the greater Community Living movement
 - Relationships with corporate and community partners

To make a nomination you can request a form from your Membership Coordinator, find it on our corporate website, or contact Donna Krolewski at 647.729.1169 or dkrolewski@cltoronto.ca

