

Community Living Toronto Wants You! *Why Membership is Important*

By: Chris Stringer



Chris Stringer, Community Living Toronto President

Our Association was founded in 1948 by parents who wanted to change the lives of children with an intellectual disability. They created the first nurseries, educational programs and employment opportunities – it was groundbreaking, controversial work at the time and it totally changed societal attitudes towards disability.

Over 60 years later, Community Living Toronto is still pushing boundaries, removing barriers and continuing to make a difference in the lives of people with an intellectual disability. That's why I became involved with the Association.

As I toured different locations I saw how members really are making a direct impact. Members are involved in every level of our organization: they're running cooking clubs, travel training, art programs, organizing fundraising activities and project development. There are numerous members on committees, councils and the Board of Directors who are contributing in very significant ways to the vision of Community Living Toronto.

As I've become involved in the Board of

Directors and assumed the role of President last September, I've learned how priorities and decisions are made. Not just around a Boardroom table, but by taking a look at the landscape – what the families and individuals we support need – and creating a plan to help achieve it. This year our priorities focus on transitional supports, particularly for youth and senior parents; innovative models that will get people to work, or living as independently as they are able; making sure those with complex needs have supports they need to live their lives to the fullest and different funding models that will help us expand our capacity.

If you are a member, thank you, and you should be proud of being part of such an organization that puts people's lives – their choices and dreams – at the heart of what they do. If you are looking to step-up your involvement, you can connect with your local region to find out more about committees, councils and even how to become involved with the Board.

If you aren't a member, I highly encourage you to consider it – it's easy, it's important, and it will change someone's life. In fact, gifting a membership to friends and family who want to become involved in a local movement that will directly impact their communities is a wonderful and thoughtful gift.

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April 2012

Events / Workshops

Volunteer Leadership

Honourary Patron

The Hon. David C. Onley
Lieutenant Governor of
Ontario

Patron's Council Chair

Duncan N. R. Jackman

Founding Chair

The Hon. Barbara McDougall

Vice-Chair

Andrea Alexander

Michael Adams

The Hon. Zanana Akande

Patsy Anderson

Mary Pat Armstrong

Brad Badeau

Jalynn Bennett

Chief William Blair

David Crombie

The Hon. William G. Davis

Michael Enright

W. Robert Farquharson

Paul Godfrey

Pooja Handa

Bob Hepburn

Dale Lastman

Dr. Kellie Leitch

Glenn McConnell

Jack Rabinovitch

Meredith Saunderson

John H. Tory

Board of Directors

President

Chris Stringer

Ibrahim Absiye

Colleen Broadhurst

Anny Chow

Paul Cochrane

Lisa Ellis

Ann Marie Fierro

Victor Figueiredo

Sherron Grant

Bonnie Heath

Mark G. Johnson

Colette Kent

David Layton

Dawn Lunan

Nick Macrae

Susan G. Seller

Cay Shedden

Chief Executive Officer

Garry Pruden

Victoria Park Hub Spring Walk & BBQ

Come out to enjoy a leisurely walk with friends and family in the Victoria Park Village

Saturday June 2, 2012

Starting at Sloane Public School
110 Sloane Avenue, North York

Ending at the East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church
22 Carnforth Road

Note: There is a wheelchair accessible route

TIME: 10 am to 1 pm

Must Pre-Register to Participate

Call to Register: Flora Nichols 647-729-3645
Or Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627

“THE NETWORK”

Scarborough Region
(Coming Soon to Etobicoke & North York)
50 Fairfax Crescent
-Job Placement Services-

Get into the “Net”. Explore the web.
You can access: e-mail, internet, job sites and e-learning. Open to all persons with an intellectual disability.

Open Mondays and Thursdays
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

To book an appointment contact:
Gary Da Costa
416-558-8031
gdacosta@cltoronto.ca

Petra's Poem

A Film Premiering at the Canadian International Documentary Festival



With candor and grace, Petra Tolley describes what it's like to live with a developmental disability in today's society.

To purchase tickets visit:
www.hotdocs.ca/film/title/petras_poem

Bridging Diversity

Diverse Volunteers: Invaluable!

By Deepak Verma

What is Diversity?

Diversity is commonly understood in terms of dimensions that include but are not limited to race, age, place of origin, religion, ancestry, Aboriginal status, skin colour, citizenship, sex, gender, identity, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, disability/ability, marital, parental or family status, same-sex partnership status, creed, language, educational background, literacy level, geographic location, income level, cultural tradition and work experience.

Source: Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition

Bridging Diversity Team

Sue Lynch, Sponsor
 Bob Ferguson, Lead
 Nooreen Pirbhai, Coordinator
 John Balatka
 Karen Bell
 Layla Ibrahim
 Kelly Kearns
 Shawn Ratnasingam
 Anne Sarwan
 Dwayne Shaw
 Deepak Verma



Where choices change the lives of people with an intellectual disability

Every April, Community Living Toronto hosts its Volunteer Appreciation dinner in order to thank the hundreds of volunteers that support our mission each year. This year, we wanted to highlight the great diversity within our volunteers by giving you a glimpse into where they are from and what brought them to Community Living Toronto.

In Canada, and in most of the developed world, it is immigration that has long been a source of diversity. It is no surprise then that Community Living Toronto's volunteers give a good glimpse of Toronto's diversity. Here are some of their stories.

Agnes, one of our volunteers who contributes to more than one of our programs, was born here but her great-great grandfather came from Scotland to work in the coalmines. When she was growing up, the people who Agnes knew that volunteered were rich women who did not have to work. But Agnes, who is middle-class, likes to volunteer and believes it is a good way to stay socially engaged. One day she also hopes to go back to her career as a nurse.

Eshetu came to Canada from Ethiopia about 25 years ago. He had hoped his university education would give him a smooth transition career wise. At the time, he found casual jobs off and on. He then became a taxi driver but did not find that meaningful either. A few years back, he graduated from the Social Service Worker program at George Brown College and has now been volunteering in the hopes of finding a job in the field.

Rita is a Pediatrician from Russia who came to Canada recently. Rita's love for Canada and its friendly people grows each day. What would make her even happier is the chance to practice medicine again. Rita is determined to reach her goal and is reminded of this when volunteering. "I am a doctor; I like to help people," she says quite simply. Supporting people with intellectual disabilities continues to enhance her skills and will most definitely assist her in reaching her

goals.

Blanca has come to Canada from the Philippines where she was a practicing Nurse. She finds living in Canada very enjoyable except for the weather, which she finds a bit harsh. Not having a stable job so far is another thing she finds unsettling. But despite working in retail stores here, she says that she is able to make more money here than in the Philippines. She quickly adds, "But it's that much more expensive to live here." Volunteering gives Blanca the opportunity to get hands-on experience supporting people with intellectual disabilities, which she believes will help her get back to her field of work one day. Meanwhile, she finds it uplifting, even a bit flattering, when individuals she supports tell her that they like her and eagerly wait for her visit.

There are many more stories like this and they are all extraordinary. Some come to volunteer to gain Canadian experience, while others come to find meaningful social engagement or to give back to the community. Regardless of their motivation, most volunteers believe that they are much richer by giving their time because they receive so much more in return.

What is clear is that all of the volunteers bring a range of skills and experiences to Community Living Toronto that are certainly invaluable.

Did you know?

The voluntary sector annually creates employment for 2 million people and generates \$112 billion towards serving the needs of Canadians.

Volunteers contributed almost 2 billion hours to organizations—the equivalent of 1 million full-time jobs.

Ontario has the lowest number of voluntary sector organizations per capita in the country, with 369 per 100,000 compared to as high as 825 in other provinces.

sprOUT Toronto

Peer group for LGBTQ people with intellectual disabilities over the age of 18.

Gatherings ever second Monday of the month, from 6-8pm.

Questions? CALL: 416-222-1153 Ext. 138

APRIL Interfaith Calendar

April 1:

Palm Sunday - *Christian*
Ramanavami - *Hindu*

April 6-9:

Theravadin New Year - *Buddhist*

April 6:

Good Friday - *Christian*
Hanuman Jayanti - *Hindu*
Mahavir Jayanti - *Jain*

April 7-14

Pesach (Passover) - *Judaism*

April 8:

Easter - *Christian*

April 14:

Baisakhi (New Year) - *Sikh*

April 19:

Yom HaShoah - *Judaism*

April 21:

First day of Ridvan - *Baha'i*

April 27:

Yom Ha'Atzmaut - *Judaism*

April 29:

Ninth day of Ridvan: *Baha'i*

Diversity and Inclusion Statement in the Works



In light of the increasing diversity within our communities, diversity and inclusion statements have become common practice among non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations and corporations. Community Living Toronto is currently in the process of developing its own Diversity and Inclusion Statement.

What is a Diversity and Inclusion Statement?

A Diversity and Inclusion Statement is a transparent statement that is developed by an organization and fully endorsed by senior management and the Board of Directors. The Diversity and Inclusion Statement commits the organization to viewing diversity as an integral part of the organization's mission and its activities. By ensuring that the statement is transparent and communicated widely, the organization is signaling its commitment to diverse communities and its readiness to take action to meet their needs.

How are we developing the Diversity and Inclusion Statement?

- CL Toronto created a focus group of 16 stakeholders (Board, management, staff, members, union representation and self advocates). This was done to ensure that all voices were being reflected in the Diversity and Inclusion Statement.
- The focus group was responsible for voicing key words and messages that should be incorporated into CL Toronto's statement. This was done through small group discussions relating to service delivery, organizational culture, addressing diversity and inclusion as we move forward and CL Toronto's responsibility and accountability to be diverse and inclusive.
- The Public Relations Manager and Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator have now taken this feedback and produced a proposed Diversity and Inclusion Statement that has gone back to the focus group and the Bridging Diversity committee for further feedback.
- Once the statement has been finalized, it will go to Management Council for approval and finally to the Board of Directors.
- After presenting the Diversity and Inclusion Statement to the Board, the statement will be ready to be included onto CL Toronto's corporate website and communicated to all stakeholders.

Embracing Diversity on ConnectABILITY.ca

ConnectABILITY.ca is developing its own diversity page!

The Diversity page will house research reports, helpful tip sheets and links regarding diverse communities such as newcomers, LGBTQ and Aboriginal communities. It will also link families and support staff to materials on ConnectABILITY.ca that have been translated into numerous languages.

If you have any suggestions about what you would like to see on ConnectABILITY.ca's new diversity page, please contact Nooreen Pirbhai, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at npirbhai@cltoronto.ca or Don Murray, Project Manager, ConnectABILITY.ca at dmurray@cltoronto.ca.

غسل الأسنان - 1



غسل الماء على الفرشاة



التنظيف فرشة الأسنان

Brushing Teeth Sequence

Did you know?

ConnectABILITY.ca has over 30 helpful tip sheets translated in 14 languages.

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
Paul Cochrane
Nelson Raposo
Helene Paulyn Murray
Sandra Ricci
David Danyluk
Alda Zimbalatti
Serena De Souza

Regional Executive Director
Frances MacNeil

Membership Coordinator
Felicia Zanatta
647-729-1210
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

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

T: 416.968.0650
F: 416.968.6463

Next Council Meeting:
April 11, 2012
5:30 pm
20 Spadina Road
Room 2B

The New Manson

By Paul Broomfield

After more than a year of renovations with many delays, the new Manson site has finally emerged. This has resulted in many changes, with one of them being the merging of Central Region Supported Independent Living Workers into their new office space at Manson. Lemon & AllSpice, which shared space with Employment Training Services, now has its own space separate from Manson ETS. This has necessitated an address change for Manson from 4 Overlea Boulevard to 8 Overlea Blvd. Manson has also improved its ability to adapt to people with physical disabilities by creating a parking spot for the disabled and installing automatic doors and a ramp near the front entrance.

The space has also evolved from its previous function as a work centric establishment to a social recreation model to support the individual choices of the participants. The variety of programming at Manson has increased from literacy, field trips, drumming and karaoke to even more extensive programming that reflects the goals of many of the participants. The variety of classes that have been added in such a short time include paper crafts, computer lab, reading buddies, sandwich making in the new kitchen, graphic novel,



yoga, fitness and sailing. Thus, the daily emphasis on contract work has diminished. Manson has also dipped its foot into the Social Enterprise realm in working with the community newspaper, “The East York Mirror” by inserting and delivering over 100 newspapers a week. Other forms of work are still available to Manson participants if that is their choice.

Manson is currently involved with approximately 20 community partners that employ over 20 unique individuals at their community sites. Manson has also forged or strengthened internal relationships within Community Living Toronto and externally with other community groups. Examples include the aforementioned and award winning Lemon & AllSpice, Community Junction, Central Region Supported Independent Living, Sunrise Janitorial and The City of Toronto’s Parks, Forestry, Recreation division with the Activ8 Program. This program involves approximately 20 participants going to the John Innes and Jimmie Simpson Community Centers for swimming and sports activities. Future plans for Manson include fee for service programming in anticipation of providing support families, that have Passport dollars more social enterprise activities, and more community connections.

All in all, a great job in such a short time by Team Manson.



James, Chris, Vera, Darryl, Marilyn, Jeanette make cards.



Christine Prepares for Visitors in the New Kitchen



The Literacy Room Temporarily Doubles as Spring Fling Central.



New Opportunities in New Surroundings at Manson



Bruna Has a Cracker With Your Name On It



Venus and Stefanie are Wrapping Your Prizes

It's Spring Fling Time Again

Yes, it's that time of year again. Central Region Council's annual fundraising event, The Council members are busy assembling tempting goodies for the Silent Auction. The Manson team are busy making Crackers and wrapping gifts in their new surroundings.

Joan Rivers Jewelry and HEYS luggage return with their lovely wares along with many other silent auction items that are a must for any chefs, gardeners, sports enthusiasts, and ballet and symphony fans in your life

Come and support the Council's fundraiser which in turn supports the Wednesday Evening Supper Club, the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, the Annual Picnic and Holiday Hampers.

An Evening of Fun and Fabulous Prizes
**Central Region Council's
Spring Fling Dinner and Dance
Sunday April 29, 2012**

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court

Tickets are available from
Felicita Zanatta

Phone: 647-729-1210 Email: fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

\$40 for people with special needs
\$50 for general admission

Council Listings

Etobicoke/ York
Regional Council

Chairperson
Susan King

Board Representative
Ann Marie Fiero

Alternate Board Representative
Laura Parsonson

Treasurer
Ruth Nagy

Airi Clifford
Zdenka Bilic
Mary Byne
Janina Coulthard
Wally Richards
Joan Karout
Gaston Karout
Christine LeClair
Peter Marrese
Barbara Tuckwell
Stefica Skof
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 April 10th.
6:30 pm
295 The West Mall
Suite 204
Boardroom

Getting Involved Through Membership

By: Eric Laimer



Terri Coulthard and Janina Coulthard

Membership has always been a great way to get more involved with Community Living Toronto. Membership represents a committed group that can provide a strong voice to government to ensure that people with an intellectual disability are not forgotten; not only with government funding but also influencing legislation that protects the rights of people with an intellectual disability. Membership with Community Living Toronto can also be the first step in getting more involved in the Community Living movement.

Joining regional council takes that level of involvement up a step since as elected representatives of their region's membership, council supports and address the needs of individuals and families in their region and neighbourhoods.

Janina Coulthard has been on

Etobicoke/ York Regional council for two years and is one of the newer council members. "I joined initially because I have a daughter with special needs and wanted to learn more about Community Living Toronto," she recalls.

Council is a good place to learn about the developmental service sector and not only see what is being done but how it all takes place. Etobicoke/ York region council is fortunate to have many long term members with a wealth of experience that have helped influence the direction of the Association. "The older parents can teach the younger parents about their experiences." Janina reflected. Younger families will be faced with many challenges that older parents have been through and can learn what to expect and how to prepare for the future.

Council also gives Janina the opportunity to put her expertise in fundraising to good use. Currently, she is helping the council event planning committee to organize the Vinyl Revival fundraising dance. Using her experience from her highly successful fundraising dance, "Reminiscing with the Oldies", Council has been hard at work preparing the inaugural Vinyl Revival event. It promises to be an evening of fun and nostalgia as the airwaves will be filled with music from the 50's to the 80's when vinyl records were still king.

Continued on the next page.

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Attendees can also enjoy the hot/cold buffet, celebrity impersonators, silent auction, Ryan the Illusionist and more. Money raised from Vinyl Revival will help support the Etobicoke/ York region Employment Training Services Outings Program and flagship council programs such as the Tuesday/ Thursday Social Recreation program and Conversations and Recreation Internet Café. Tickets are still available and the planning committee is looking for donations of old records to assist with the décor. Please see the ad below for contact details.



Troy Fitzgerald enjoys some computer time at the Conversations and Recreation Internet Café.

Vinyl Revival is a great example of the kind of fund raising initiatives that regional councils take on and how an individual like Janina can put a skill and passion to work supporting Community Living Toronto. Other members with experience in such fields as education, finance and real estate have put their skills to work on the many committees of the Board of Directors.

Long standing Etobicoke Council member, Ruth Nagy, serves as treasurer to the council and also sits on the Quality Assurance committee of the Board. She has also served previously on other Committees such as Communication Committee, Program and Policy, Quality Assurance, Shadow Lake Review and Government Relations. Involvement in Council can lead to participation not only on Board committees but also to the Board of Directors itself.

While your membership and accompanying donation supports Community Living Toronto, it can also serve as a spring board to further involvement in the Community Living movement.

Etobicoke/York region council is looking for new members and a representative to the Board of Directors. If you are interested please contact Eric Laimer at 647-729-0445 or elaimer@cltoronto.ca



Vinyl Revival! *Dance*

Saturday, May 5th, 2012
6:30 pm to 12:00 am
Royal Canadian Legion
3850 Lakeshore Blvd West

- DeeJay playing all your favourites from the days of vinyl!
 - Hot & Cold Buffet • Prizes • Silent Auction and more!
- All for only \$40 per ticket!

*Proceeds to Etobicoke/York Region Council and
Etobicoke ETS Outings Program*

Tickets and Information:
Eric Laimer
647-729-0445 or elaimer@cltoronto.ca

Need a Ride to the Picnic?

A free bus ride is available from Etobicoke/ York region office to the June 23 Community Living Toronto picnic at Lawson. Compliments of Etobicoke/York Region Council.

To reserve your seat contact:
Eric Laimer 647-729-0445 or
elaimer@cltoronto.ca

Bus departs 10:15 am *sharp* from
295 The West Mall

Return pickup from Lawson at 3:00 pm.

Please note: Pets are not allowed on the bus.

North York News

Council Listings

North York Regional Council

Chairperson
Nancy Ceci

Board Representative
Colleen Broadhurst

Alternate Board Representative
Morris Jesion

Treasurer
Mary Stewart

Self Advocate Representative
Sam McKhail

Members at Large
Teresa Bhandal
Shirley Germuska
Eva Lipa
Dr. Norbert Kerenyi

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:

April 2, 2012
North York Office
Boardroom
1:00 - 3:00 pm

North York Council News

By Nancy Ceci

Council meets on a monthly basis from September through June. It is Council's role to represent our Members' views, and to bring forward your questions and concerns for discussion and if appropriate to our Board of Directors. Our Members may contact the Council through our Membership Coordinator, Wendy Dyke at wdyke@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-3627. The minutes from Council Meetings are available for all members of Community Living Toronto. You may receive an emailed copy by contacting Wendy.

Our Board Representative, Colleen Broadhurst, reports on items discussed at the monthly Community Living Toronto Board meetings and keeps us up to date on issues, on the Board Priorities and on various Board Committees' work.

Our Regional Executive Director, Brad Saunders, provides reports on Association initiatives and updates Council on the work as it relates to day to day operations and Board Priorities. We learn of new initiatives, make suggestions, discuss staff proposals, vote, and fund programs and events. We ensure that there is a flow of information between our Board of Directors and our Regional Council.

The following are some highlights on member driven initiatives that Council supports;

Council continues to fund the Jumpstart Literacy Program, Sibshops and regional Social Recreational programs. They also support The Big Dreams Arts Company and the Creative Cards Company through purchases and promotion.

The Big Dreams Arts Company has a booth at the St. Lawrence Market where they showcase and sell their artwork and jewelry on Fridays from 9:30 – 3:00. Please drop by to see what they have on display.

The regions cooking program will be starting its fourth session on April 4th.

The Victoria Village Hub space has allowed us to offer social programs to our members. Last June, we sponsored a community welcome dinner and dance. It was very well attended. We also partnered with Working Women and the East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church to host a fall walk and BBQ. A Pizza Bingo Night was held on March 14. A Spring Walk is planned for Saturday June 2nd (please see page 2 for details).

The North York Region Social Recreation Committee has also been holding dances for members and families in North York Region. There have been annual Halloween Dances and winter dances for the past three years. The committee plans to continue with various social recreational activities both at the Hub and the Finch Avenue locations. Council committed funding to these activities.

It is with the help of your Membership donations, along with our Nevada Tickets fundraising, that North York Council has been able to support these afore-mentioned activities and programs.

Our new Membership year is under way. If you are not yet a Member or have not yet renewed your Membership, please contact Wendy. If you have renewed, "THANK YOU!"

Please consider attending one of our meetings. They are usually held the first Monday of the month at the North York Region office from 1:00 – 3:00p.m. *Please contact Wendy to confirm the date and time of the meeting and confirm your attendance.* Our meetings are open to both Members and non-members of Community Living Toronto North York. We look forward to seeing you.

Origami Master

By Andreia Alvares



Joshua with his origami

Joshua joined Youth 2 Work last year and has been demonstrating his origami talent in our Art class and at the St. Lawrence Market. Origami is the traditional Japanese art of creating sculptures from folding flat sheets of paper. Joshua brings his paper to the market on Fridays and does beautiful origami sculptures while he is working as a sales person

for Big Dreams Arts Company. He has sold some of his origami pieces.

During our Painting Classes Joshua facilitated an origami section with individuals in service. Last month Joshua joined the Origami Society of Toronto. This group gets together once a month at the Japanese Library

on Bloor at Avenue Road. Joshua really enjoys being part of it. They do regular trips to Museums to demonstrate origami and Joshua is looking forward to going the next time.

If you need any origami decorations please contact Andreia at 647-729-3651.



Samples of Joshua's sculptures

York U Best Buddies Chapter

The York University Best Buddies chapter had a great evening when they got together recently for a mid-term pot-luck dinner. Each student and their buddies

contributed to the dinner creating a diverse menu. Before the dinner the buddies decorated foam butterflies to exchange in celebration of friendship.



Group works on their butterflies



Sunshine with Student, Genna



Jackie and Janeese

Winter Festival Dance



Flora leads dancers

On Friday, February 17th, we opened our doors to an eager and enthusiastic group of dancers for our Winter Festival Dance. People were looking to squelch the winter blues and kick up their heels. Richard and Shane paired up to produce super dance tunes.



Richard and Shane provide DJ service

Council Listings

Scarborough Regional Council

Co-Chairpersons
Judith Andrenacci
Alison Thomas

Board Representative
Bonnie Heath

Alternate Board Representative
Donna Britten

Treasurer
Alison Thomas

Membership Chair
Pat Sparks

Self Advocate Representative
Robert Shaddock

Members at Large
Donna Britten
Donald Hale
Deborah White
Kathy Lisle
Heather McCormack
Ellen Armstrong

Regional Executive Director
Sue Lynch

Membership Coordinator
Ann-Marie Binetti
647-729-1635
abinetti@cltoronto.ca

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

T: 416.438.6099
F: 416.438.6144

Next Council Meeting:
Monday, April 2, 2012
6:30 pm
Boardroom
1712 Ellesmere Rd
Conference Room

Re:Action 4 Inclusion Conference Inspires Students

By Ann Marie Binetti

Thanks to the generous support of Community Living Toronto's Regional Councils, eight high school students had the opportunity to participate in the re:Action 4 Inclusion conference which was organized by Community Living Ontario. This youth leadership conference took place from March 2nd to the 4th, 2012 at the YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia.

Over 100 students came together to learn about how they can change and shift the culture of their school community. They learned about the impact of segregation of students who have a disability and how that influences the school culture when there is a division of students. This event inspired students to work collaboratively with others to create change and build inclusive schools and communities. Hosted by youth, for youth, this conference brings attention to social bias and attitudes about disabilities. Some of the activities the students participated in during the weekend included a Drum Café, and presentations by Jowi Taylor and Norman Kunc.

The students not only learned a lot, they had a great time and felt very

energized when they returned. Here is some feedback:

"The workshop gave me an opportunity to understand inclusion and the tools to help me to promote inclusion at my school, in my community and church. Education, awareness and community organizing were the strategies offered at the conference as tools to pass on to teachers, councilors and the community at large." -Shayna

"My favourite part of the conference was Norman Kunc; hearing about his life and how he over came the boundaries of society. The conference has inspired me to be more inclusive in my circle of friends and to try to make a difference in my community." -Kendra



Kendra shows her opinion.



It was a Tip Top Day for the Achilles St. Patrick's Day 5k Walk /Run !



Bill and Simone as they are just about to cross the finish line and head to the after party where Bill was thrilled to hear some of his favorite Irish folk songs!



Wayne looks forward to this event every year. Not only is it supporting a wonderful cause, it's a fun day! This year we had 19 members on the Community Living Toronto Team.



Max, Louis, Angela, Sue, Tony and Stacey sporting some fabulous hats for the Achilles 5K!

It's almost time for the Bingo Bowling Extravaganza!!!!

When: Friday April 20th, 2012, 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Where: Parkway Bowl, 67 Ellesmere Rd, Toronto, ON, M1R4B8

Cost: \$20.00 per person (includes shoe rental and a table)

Please contact Ann-Marie to register : 647-729-1635



Erce, Karen and Ann-Marie ran the 5k in record time this year!

Thanks to everyone who showed their support!

Annual Inclusive Education Awards

By Sharon Ross

Has your child experienced a quality inclusive education?

Have you met a teacher, principal, educational assistant or entire school team that welcomes students with an intellectual disability into their regular class?

If you answered yes to these questions, then we want to hear from you!

The Education Committee is proud to announce the call for nominations for the 14th Annual Inclusive Education Awards.

Inclusive education means that all students attend and are welcomed by their neighbourhood schools, in age appropriate, regular classes and are supported to learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of the life of the school. Inclusive education is about how we develop and design our schools, classrooms, programs and activities so that all students learn and participate together.

Awards are given to educators who:

- Promote the rights of all children to attend their local school and receive a quality education.
- Support, encourage and facilitate the inclusion of children with an intellectual disability within an appropriate grade class.
- Assist the student to achieve their full potential by ensuring necessary classroom accommodations and curriculum modifications occur.
- Provide and model a welcoming, accepting environment that ensures the student does not remain, or become, socially isolated.
- Values the unique contribution of all students
- Welcomes and encourages the involvement of parents and/or others knowledgeable about disability issues.

Send in your nomination!

If you know someone who qualifies, please send a detailed description of how your nominee has

demonstrated a belief in inclusive education; enriched the inclusive educational experience for a student with an intellectual disability and any other information which the committee might find helpful in making their decision.

All nominations must be received by **Friday, April 27, 2012.**

Please send nominations to:

Sharon Ross
1645 Warden Ave.
Scarborough, M1R 5B3
sross@cltoronto.ca

Kindergarten Registration

Generally, February is kindergarten registration month but don't worry if you have missed the date. Contact your local school for registration forms. Registration for kindergarten occurs at your neighbourhood school regardless of the type of placement you might be considering.

What will you need to bring?

- Proof of age (for example, a birth certificate, passport, baptismal certificate— required for a catholic school, etc.) and
- Proof of address (such as a purchase or lease agreement, or utility bill showing your name, address) and
- Proof of custody (where applicable), and
- Proof of Canadian citizenship, Permanent Resident status, or Refugee status. and
- Ontario Health Card and
- Record of immunization

Do you have a good news story to share or a question that you would like to see answered here? Contact the Education Liaison, Sharon Ross at 416-438-1165 ext. 222 or sross@cltoronto.ca

Self-Advocates Council Update

Self-Advocates Council Listings

Chairperson
Robert Shaddock
Vice-Chair
Sam McKhail

Board Representative
Paul Cochrane

Treasurer/Secretary
Robbie Cowdrey

Community Living Ontario
Representative
Peter Marrese

Members
Caseen Johnson
Candice Doherty
Lorraine Bradley
Margherita Cappiello
Mark Miller
Mike Murray
Nelson Raposo
Nick Lappas
Paul Cochrane
Peter Marrese
Robbie Cowdry
Robert Shaddock
Sam McKhail

Community Support
Coordinator
Sue Hutton
(647) 729-1205
shutton@cltoronto.ca

SAC Meetings are
Held the third Monday of each
month at 1PM at 20 Spadina.

**Next SAC Meeting:
Monday April 16
20 Spadina Rd.**

Membership and Community

By Janet Lawson



Rhea Park and Peter Park

Peter Parks's contributions to the intellectual disability community and his ongoing work with People First of Ontario have him celebrated as a life-time member of People First.

Peter Park is well known and respected for speaking his mind. He has been speaking up for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities since he was in an institution.

Janet Lawson, Social Services Worker, is currently doing a student placement with the Self-Advocates Council.

Janet recently sat down with Peter Park and his wife Rhea in their home. Janet asked Peter to share his thoughts on what membership means to him.

JL: What does membership mean to you?

PP: Having our own voice is being a member. Knowing that when you open your mouth that people are really listening to what you have to say – that

is being included. It feels really good to be listened to. Members of any community should have the right to speak their minds. Same goes for people with intellectual disabilities.

I remember somebody tried to tell me what to say once. That did not go over well. How am I a valued member of a community if I can't even offer my opinion?

JL: How does membership tie in to community?

PP: Being a member of a community is something to be celebrated. It is important to be a member of a community. It's also important to keep membership at the grass roots level. It is important to remember our history. Let's celebrate intellectual disability by including the voices of all of the members of our community!



Robbie, Lorraine and Peter

Calendar of Events

April 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 1 Start of new Membership year | 2 NY Council Mtg Scarborough Council Mtg | 3 Scarb. Res. Alternatives | 4 NY Cooking Class Central Dinner Club | 5 | 6 Good Friday | 7 |
| 8 Easter | 9 Easter Monday | 10 Etobicoke Council Meeting | 11 Central Council Dancing Friends- PJ Dance NY Cooking Class | 12 | 13 Lawson Dance | 14 Jumpstart Literacy Youth Group- Budgeting |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Volunteer Recognition Dinner Central Dinner Club | 19 | 20 Scarborough Bingo Bowling Extravaganza !!! | 21 Jumpstart Literacy |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 NY Cooking Class Central Dinner Club | 26 | 27 Connections Dance | 28 Jumpstart Literacy |
| 29 Central Council Spring Fling Dinner Dance | 30 | 31 | Central Region: Felicita Zanatta 647-729-1210 | Etobicoke/ York Region: Eric Laimer 647-729-0445 | North York Region: Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627 | Scarborough Region: Ann-Marie Binetti 647.729.1635 |

May 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| It's Community Living Month! | | 1 Scarb. Res. Alternatives | 2 Central Dinner Club NY Cooking Class | 3 Day at the Legislature | 4 Lawson Dance | 5 Vinyl Revival Dance Jumpstart Literacy |
| 6 | 7 NY Council Mtg Scarborough Council Mtg | 8 Etobicoke Council Meeting | 9 Central Dinner Club NY Cooking Class | 10 Appetite for Awareness | 11 Scarborough Bingo | 12 Jumpstart Literacy Youth Group- Assertiveness |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Etobicoke Dance Central Council Central Dinner Club NY Cooking Class | 17 | 18 | 19 Jumpstart Literacy Community Living Day with the Blue Jays |
| 20 | 21 Victoria Day | 22 | 23 Central Dinner Club NY Cooking Class | 24 | 25 Connections Dance | 26 Jumpstart Literacy |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Central Dinner Club NY Cooking Class | 31 | | |

dancing
carnival
BBQ
music
games

Games, activities & fun for the whole family!

Community Living Toronto

annual picnic

**SATURDAY
JUNE 23, 2012
11 AM - 3 PM**



The picnic will take place at our Lawson Site at **1712 Ellesmere Rd**, just a short walk from the McCowan subway stop. Parking is limited.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chair or blanket and sunscreen.

Admission: *minimum donation of \$2 per person*

Let us know you're coming!

ETOBICOKE

Eric Laimer
647-729-0445
elaimer@cltoronto.ca

NORTH YORK

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

CENTRAL

Felicita Zanatta
647-729-1210
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

SCARBOROUGH

Ann-Marie Binetti
647-729-1635
abinetti@cltoronto.ca

For more information and directions visit
www.communitylivingtoronto.ca

