

# Connections

## The Meaning of Community



*Jenny and Jenna modelling our brand new t-shirts*

This past month, Community Living Toronto celebrated Community Living Month - a May-long initiative honouring the achievements of individuals with an intellectual disability and advocate for their rights.

This year, in honour of the celebration, we invited artists from Community Living Toronto's art programs to tell us what Community means to them by submitting a painting of their interpretation.

We received close to 40 submissions by the artists, showcased them on our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/cltoronto>) and asked members of our Facebook group to vote for their personal favourites by 'liking' that particular image.

After a very successful and exciting contest period, the image chosen as the winner was a collaborative piece by Peter, Scott, Jeffrey, Angela, Cathy and Maria - artists from Creative Village Studio.

Truly depicting the word 'Community', these six artists worked together to create an image that represented themselves amongst their friends.



*The winning contest design was a collaborative effort by artists from Creative Village Studio*

This image has now been created into a t-shirt and is available in both green and white. It can be purchased for \$10 from the Public Relations and Fundraising Department by contacting: Karolina Kluska at [kkluska@cltoronto.ca](mailto:kkluska@cltoronto.ca) or 647-729-1254

To view the other images submitted for the contest by the artists from our various art programs, please visit our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/cltoronto> and click on the 'T-Shirt Competition' album.

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June 2014

## 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

David Layton

Ibrahim Absiye

Donna Britten

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Lisa Ellis

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Mark G. Johnson

Colette Kent

Nick Macrae

Susan McCloy

Susan Silma

Stefica Skof

Chris Stringer

### Chief Executive Officer

Garry Pruden

## Day of Service For Shadow Lake Centre

By: Eric Laimer



*Arborists clear trees away from buildings.*

With summer approaching, most of us would like to forget the ice storm that hit much of Ontario last winter. Like many parks and neighbourhoods in Toronto, Shadow Lake Centre received a lot of ice damage to trees situated throughout their property. However, the Ontario Commercial Arborists Association (OCAA) recently came to the rescue!

Every year, the OCAA selects a not-for-profit organization to receive a donation of their time and service and Shadow Lake Centre was their choice. On April 30th, close to 50 professional arborists put their talents to work removing dead trees, cutting and stacking firewood and trimming branches.

For all of their hard work, the hungry arborists enjoyed some Shadow Lake hospitality and were treated to a great BBQ lunch. Gary Oullette, Shadow Lake Centre Director, was very grateful for the work of the arborists and the timing couldn't have been better as Shadow Lake staff are preparing for the

summer camp season.

Gary had many kind words to sum up the day, "This project saved us thousands in future costs and I'm very grateful that Community Living Toronto and Shadow Lake Centre were selected. This was a great project for our Centre and we really appreciated Ontario Commercial Arborists Association's dedication in completing this work for Community Living Toronto so that our residents would enjoy the scenic views of our wonderful Centre."

Thanks to all of the companies and arborists that participated:

*Davey Tree Expert Co.*

*Advanced tree care*

*Uxbridge Tree Service*

*Shady Lane Tree Care*

*Way Stump*

*Four Seasons tree Care*

*Kelly's Tree Care*

*Bartlett tree Experts*

*Able Tree Service*

*Cohen & Master*

*Pests Aside*

*HS Tree Service*



*Getting those hard to reach branches.*

## Provincial Election—Let's #EndTheWait



### #EndTheWait

#### Ask:

*If your party is elected, will you commit to ending the wait for funding and supports to people with a developmental disability and their families and stabilizing services by committing to the \$810 million over three years promised in the proposed 2014 provincial budget?*

The proposed 2014 provincial budget promised the developmental services sector \$810 million in funding to:

- End the wait for daily living supports for youth and adults which is almost 20,000 people long
- Begin to address the wait list of over 7,000 people who are waiting for support to live in a home of their own
- Deliver stability to agencies who provide direct supports
- Develop new community-based services that support community inclusion

Individuals with a developmental disability and their families are in crisis. The developmental services system requires immediate investment and planning and community support agencies are struggling to respond to this crisis.

#EndTheWait for people with a developmental disability.

With the Provincial Election only days away, we are asking members, volunteers, people we support, staff and friends to ask their local candidates a single question—will they fund developmental services?

Tell your candidates—at your door, at events or on the street why funding developmental services is important to you and your family and ask them if they will #EndTheWait for thousand of people with an intellectual disability.

On twitter or facebook? You can follow and be part of our campaign: use the #EndTheWait hashtag. You can find us @cltoronto on twitter or facebook.com/cltoronto. See more tips on meeting candidates on the next page.

## Yes, There's A Municipal Election Too! We're having a debate!

Community Living Toronto has partnered with March of Dimes Canada to host another Mayoral Candidates Meeting. We have confirmed **Olivia Chow, David Soknacki, Karen Stintz** and **John Tory** will participate in this debate to discuss issues that people with disabilities in Toronto are facing: housing, inclusion, transit to name a few.

Join us!

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

6-8pm

Metro Hall Rotunda, 55 John St.

*Space is limited so please RSVP to Corey Glasberg, cglas@hotmail.com*

Sponsored by Community Living Toronto and March of Dimes Canada, in partnership with:

Canadian Hearing Society

Christian Horizons

Family Caregiver Newsmagazine

Kerry's Place

Muscular Dystrophy Canada

Multiple Sclerosis Society of  
Canada

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario

Surrey Place Centre

Toronto Developmental Services  
Alliance

Vita Community Services/Mens

Sana



## Election Tips: Meeting Your Candidates

### Ask your local candidates the question:

*If your party is elected, will you commit to ending the wait for funding and supports to people with a developmental disability and their families and stabilizing services by committing to the \$810 million over three years promised in the proposed 2014 provincial budget?*

### Who are my local candidates?

You can find your candidates easily by visiting [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca) and entering your postal code or the name of your riding.

Candidates will also be knocking on doors and announcing community events in your riding over the next few weeks until the June 12 election

### How can I ask candidates 'the question'?

Candidates will also be knocking on doors and announcing community events in your riding over the next few weeks until the June 12 election. You can also give candidates a copy of the election fact sheet available on our website and:

- Attend all candidate meetings and debates – it's a great opportunity to ask a question. If you don't like speaking in front of large audiences, hang around and wait until the meeting is over – this is often a great opportunity to have a few private minutes with a candidate.
- Discuss the question with them when they knock on your door or canvas your street/building
- Candidates will be attending all of the community events in your riding – farmer's markets, festivals and community days
- Send them an email by asking the question or forwarding the e-card – this is available upon request from your regional membership coordinator, on our website and facebook page.
- Connect with them on facebook and/or twitter

### Don't forget the party leaders!

*Liberals:* Kathleen Wynne – twitter: @kathleen\_wynne, facebook: Kathleen Wynne

*NDP:* Andrea Horwath – twitter: @AndreaHorwath, facebook: Andrea Horwath

*PC:* Tim Hudak – twitter: @timhudak, facebook: Tim Hudak

### Are you on social media?

Follow us @cltoronto or [facebook.com/cltoronto](http://facebook.com/cltoronto) and retweet, share or comment!

#### If you're on Twitter:

Follow, use and retweet tweets that use the hashtags #endthewait and #ONpoli urging candidates to honour the recent promised investment and eliminate waitlists and stabilize services for people with a developmental disability and their families. You can also:

- Follow the grassroots campaign @dignity2016
- Follow our sector partners as well!
  - Provincial Network: @ProvNetDS
  - Community Living Ontario: @CLOntario
  - OASIS: @oasisON

#### If you're on Facebook:

- Post #EndTheWait messages on your facebook account and ask your friends to share!
- Post messages on candidate facebook pages.

### Tell Us!

Let us know what candidates tell you! This will help us after the election when we communicate with the new government and they present their budget. Contact Karen Bell at [kbell@cltoronto.ca](mailto:kbell@cltoronto.ca) or 647.729.1179.

# 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  
Kate Gilhooly  
Dawn Lunan  
Daniel Paquin  
Nelson Raposo  
Alda Zimbalatti

Regional Executive Director  
Frances MacNeil

Membership Coordinator  
Matt Poirier  
647-729-1209  
[matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca](mailto:matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca)

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

T: 416.968.0650  
F: 416.968.6463

**Central Regional Annual Meeting:**  
**June 3rd, 2014**  
**6:00 pm**  
**20 Spadina Road**

## Another Successful Spring Fling!

By Matt Poirier



*The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre was abuzz with Spring Flingers!*

Once again, Central Region Council hosted another fun and successful Spring Fling, raising funds for programs for the individuals supported by Community Living Toronto. Whether it was the assortment of door prizes, the fabulous silent auction, or the dinner and dancing, the event had something for everyone to enjoy.

The highlight of Central Region's fundraising repertoire, Spring Fling is a

perfect opportunity for people to come together to enjoy a great meal and fantastic company while raising money for a good cause.

Congratulations to all the dedicated Council members and supporters, and a huge thank-you to everyone for coming out to help Central Regional Council raise funds for the activities that benefit individuals we support. See you all next year!



*Ann-Marie and Patricia working the Silent Auction.*



*Kim, Teresa and Vera cutting a rug on the dance floor.*

# Etobicoke / York News

## 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](mailto: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

**Annual Regional  
Meeting:  
Tuesday June 10th,  
6:30 pm  
295 The West Mall  
Suite 204**

## Join a Council Meeting From Your Laptop!



The view of Council from Janina's computer.

At the May Council meeting, Janina Coulthard, Etobicoke/York Council member, attended the meeting from the comfort of her home computer. Community Living Toronto has been using "Go To Meeting" to conduct virtual meetings and has given Councils access to the technology.

"Go To Meeting" is an on-line video conferencing tool that allows one to schedule a meeting and invite up to 26 participants by email. Those receiving the email just need to click on the meeting link and follow the instructions. Meeting participants can see the

meeting on their computer screen and can listen and talk during the meeting by using computer speakers and a microphone or through their home telephone. Users that have a webcam can also have their image appear on the screen with other meeting participants and at the home base of the meeting.

Any materials such as meeting minutes, agendas and even videos can also be seen on the computer screens of participants during the meeting.

If you have ever wanted to attend a Council meeting but find it difficult to fit in your busy schedule, a virtual Council meeting may be perfect for you! Etobicoke/ York Region plans to have virtual meetings available to those interested starting in September. If successful, other regional councils may try virtual council meetings as well.

If you are interested in attending the September Council meeting via your computer, please contact Eric Laimer at 647-729-0445 or [elaimer@cltoronto.ca](mailto:elaimer@cltoronto.ca).

## Etobicoke/York Annual Regional Meeting

Tuesday June 10  
6:30 pm– Light Buffet  
7:00 pm– Meeting

Guest Speakers:  
David Layton–President  
Garry Pruden–CEO

Register to: Eric Laimer  
647-729-0445 or [elaimer@cltoronto.ca](mailto:elaimer@cltoronto.ca)

## ***Need a Ride to the Picnic?***

***\*\*Spaces are going quickly!\*\****

Etobicoke/York Council is sponsoring a free bus ride to the Community Living Toronto picnic at Lawson Residence!

To reserve contact: Eric Laimer at 647-729-0445 or [elaimer@cltoronto.ca](mailto:elaimer@cltoronto.ca)

Bus departs June 21, 10:15 am *sharp* from 295 The West Mall  
Return pickup from Lawson at 3:00 pm

*Note: Pets are not allowed on the bus.*



## 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](mailto: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 Meeting:  
Regional Annual Meeting  
Monday June 2, 2014  
6:30 - 9:00 pm**

**Victoria Park Hub  
1527 Victoria Park Ave.  
2nd Floor**

## Summer Soon Upon Us: Are You Ready?

By Wendy Dyke

As I prepare to hire a summer one-to-one respite worker to offer a few families in the region one week of respite, I started to think about what some of the participants would like to do with this support. I also wondered what the staff might need to know or be aware of in order to support families making summer plans for their family members.

Planning with the families takes into consideration what resources they may or may not have. If finances are a big consideration, then we need to look for things that are free or relatively cheap for the participant and the worker to do close to the participant's home. Are there community centres, public swimming pools, community hubs, libraries and shopping centres near by that can be a source of free activities? We also look at what the individual enjoys doing in their free time. Perhaps the individual likes to go to the park to shoot baskets, or go for walks in the neighbourhood. If the individual likes to do artistic things, perhaps the employee can prepare something from the internet that they can work on with the individual supported. Does the individual have an interest in computers? These can be accessed in the public library or a community hub.

Knowing what is in the neighbourhood goes a long way in coming up with a plan for activities.

The city of Toronto also has a large range of festivals, attractions, parks and gardens to explore. The following are a few links that may be worth checking out for things to do in the city:  
Cheap or free Toronto attractions

[http://gocanada.about.com/od/canadiancities1/tp/toronto\\_cheap\\_or\\_free.htm](http://gocanada.about.com/od/canadiancities1/tp/toronto_cheap_or_free.htm)

Day trip information

<http://gocanada.about.com/od/toronto/tp/torontodaytrips.htm>

Parks and Gardens

<http://www.toronto.worldweb.com/SightsAttractions/ParksGardens/>

When planning activities, it is also important to create a plan of alternative options. It's fine to say you are going to spend the morning at the park and go to a movie in the afternoon, but what if the humidity is really high the day that these activities are planned. You might decide then to go to the mall in the morning and still keep the plan for the movie in the afternoon.

It is also a good idea to check into what discounts or policies a venue has for people with disabilities. Many attractions offer free admission to the companion. It also helps if the individual receiving support has an Access2Entertainment card. Families can find out more about this program and apply for the card at:

<http://www.access2card.ca/>

Lastly, the support staff should find out if the participant has a TTC Support Person Assistance Card. If they have not already applied for this card, they can do so here: [http://www.ttc.ca/PDF/Support%20Per-son\\_Assistance\\_Card\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.ttc.ca/PDF/Support%20Person_Assistance_Card_Application_Form.pdf)

## Council Listings

### Scarborough Regional Council

**Co-Chairpersons**  
Judith Andrenacci  
Alison Thomas

**Board Representative**  
Bonnie Heath

**Treasurer**  
Deborah White

**Members at Large**  
Donna Britten  
Donald Hale  
Kathy Lisle  
Ellen Armstrong  
Robert Shaddock

**Regional Executive Director**  
Sue Lynch

**Membership Coordinator**  
Felicita Zanatta 647-729-1635  
[fzanatta@cltoronto.ca](mailto:fzanatta@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 June 2, 2014**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Victoria Park Hub**  
**1527 Victoria Park Avenue**

## Learn 2 Cook Healthy Meals

By: Felicity Zanatta

The Cooking Class sponsored by Scarborough Region Council had a wonderful 10 week session ending on March 24, 2014. Everyone prepared their own meal which made it easier to learn the entire recipe and replicate it at home. Meals included mouth watering chicken and vegetable dishes, familiar items such as fajitas, fish and vegetarian dishes with a variety of vegetables and beans. The last meal was a feast including dessert.

Betty Ann, the program's instructor, provides lessons helping people learn a variety of kitchen skills such as measuring, healthy food choices and



Karen, Ryhaan, Sophia, and Pam cook up a storm.

exposure to a variety of foods and food groups. The highlight of each session is when people share their experiences of cooking and expanding their meal repertoire. The class is perfect for anyone looking to learn and improve cooking skills.

**Come learn to make nutritious and delicious meals and take away a recipe book of your own!**

This 10 Week class will take place on Monday evenings  
September 29 to December 8  
5:00pm to 8:00pm  
1712 Ellesmere Rd in the  
basement kitchen.

The cost of the 10 week class is \$150.00  
Eligible Students must have basic food  
preparation skills and come for a  
'Getting to know you' interview.

Please call Felicity for information and to book an interview  
at 647-729-1635 or [fzanatta@cltoronto.ca](mailto:fzanatta@cltoronto.ca)

Supported by Scarborough Region Council



# 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 Kirmiziyani  
Sam McKhail  
Mark Miller  
Richard Newland  
Nelson Raposo  
Dhonnie Trinidad

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

**Next Council Meeting:**  
**June 18**  
**Foster's Club House**  
**11am—2pm**

SAC meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month. The SAC takes a break for July and August.

## Self-Advocates Work Together on the Rights and Diversity Game This June

By: Sue Hutton



*High fives all around.*

People with intellectual disabilities from across the association have been piloting rights training games for the last two years. Staff from across the Association have devoted hours of time and hard work to help with this big project. The Self Advocates Council (SAC) has completed many rights role-plays and education workshops with ARCH lawyers. Now we are going to bring the SAC together with those who have piloted the game to share in a feedback session.

One of the issues that members keep bringing up is the need to have things accessible for all people with intellectual disabilities. The idea of fair treatment is important. So testing rights training properly and having the feedback of people with intellectual disabilities across the organization has been important. If your region has not had a chance to check the game out, please contact Sue Hutton at

647-729-1205 or [shutton@cltoronto.ca](mailto:shutton@cltoronto.ca) to come and see it.

We invite people who have been a part of these pilots to join the SAC in this final feedback session on June 18 at the Club House! Then we can move on to creating a game that will be as accessible as possible to everyone with intellectual disabilities.



*Sharonette and Lillian at one of the first large group Rights Pilots in 2013 at 50 Fairfax.*



*Michael, Tara and Maria listening closely at the Scarborough ADP Pilot on rights.*

## Henson Trusts: Preparing for the Future

### What is a Trust?

A trust is a legal arrangement where someone sets up an account to help someone else, called the beneficiary. The account is in the name of another person or persons. These persons, the trustees, must use the money or assets in the trust for the benefit of the beneficiary. The person who sets up the trust is called the settlor. Usually the settlor is a parent, some other relative, or a friend of the beneficiary. A settlor can also be the beneficiary of a trust. A trust may be set up while the settlor is living (an 'inter vivos' trust) or in the settlor's will (a 'testamentary' trust). The person or persons who manage the money and assets are called the trustees. The bank account or assets are in the trustees' names, but the trustees must use them for the beneficiary. If you use a trust for your relative with a disability, you must make sure that the trustees are reliable and honest.

When planning for the well being of our sons and daughters with disabilities, we are usually attempting to protect their entitlement to government support programs. The Henson Trust (also referred to as the Absolute Discretionary Trust) is used for that purpose.

### Setting up a Henson Trust

Parents will often set up the Henson Trust in their wills. However, a Henson Trust can be set up by people who want to take care of a relative with a disability during their own lifetimes. This often happens where parents divorce and make a trust as part of the divorce settlement.

A Henson Trust gives the trustee absolute discretion to pay or not pay income and capital to the beneficiary. This means that the trustees are the only ones who can make decisions about giving money to the person with a disability or paying for things that will benefit him or her.

A Henson Trust can allow the trustees to pay money only to the person with a disability or to other

beneficiaries as well. The other beneficiaries could include the other daughters and sons and grandchildren of the person who set up the trust. The trustees could invest the assets and allow income from the trust to build up. They could give more or less income and capital to each beneficiary.

### Choosing a Trustee

Since a Henson Trust is an absolute discretionary trust, it gives the trustees a huge amount of responsibility. You need trustees who are honest and whom you can trust completely. Be very careful when you choose the people who are going to be the trustees. Look for someone who:

- ◆ is highly involved in the relative's life and has an ongoing concern in their health and welfare
- ◆ will be sensitive to what the beneficiary needs and wants
- ◆ will understand the terms of the will and why you set up the trust
- ◆ understands ODSP rules and how payments from the trust could affect the beneficiary's ODSP benefits
- ◆ can invest the money wisely so that there will be enough assets in the trust for what the beneficiary needs, over the long-term as well as meeting immediate needs
- ◆ will be careful with money in the trust and make payments that will help the beneficiary
- ◆ has good judgment and business sense
- ◆ knows how to keep careful records and accounts
- ◆ knows how to prepare tax returns or arrange to have them done

Consider that when family members or friends act alone as trustees, they do not always act in the best interest of the person with a disability. When a trustee is also a beneficiary of the trust, they can be in a conflict of interest and not make wise or fair decisions.

*Continued on the next page.*

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### **Funding a Trust**

Once we have determined that we wish to provide for our son or daughter with a disability through the use of the Henson Trust, we need to turn our attention toward how we are going to provide money to the trust. There are a variety of resources within the reach of most families which can be used to fund the trust.

They are:

Savings

- ◆ The establishment of a regular savings program may be able to provide adequate funds to Henson Trust.

Parent's Estate

- ◆ Provided that the parent's estate is sufficiently large, it could provide for their own needs in their elder years, as well as having enough left over to fund the trust.

Family Members

- ◆ Siblings, Aunts and Uncles, Grandparents could be willing and able to provide money to fund the trust.

Life Insurance

- ◆ For the average family, life insurance may be the only way that they can leave a large lump sum to the trust by making small monthly payments. It is also possibly the only way of funding a trust that is guaranteed. The other resources mentioned above may not always be available but a paid-up life insurance policy can guarantee future funds.

Families of people with disabilities should examine the benefits and pitfalls of each of the funding methods mentioned here. A review of these resources with an Estate Planning Professional who specializes in planning for people with disabilities would be an excellent starting point.

### **Helping Your Relative Plan for the Future**

*Here are some suggestions to help you get started:*

- ◆ Talk to your family member with a disability about her or his personal goals, priorities, plans, and wishes.
- ◆ Talk to other family members and friends.
- ◆ Talk to the director or supervisor of the agency providing services to your family member with a disability.

- ◆ Talk to caseworkers or caregivers who know family member with a disability well on a day-to-day basis.
- ◆ Investigate the services and supports that may be available to the person in the community. This is especially important for parents whose daughter or son has lived at home with them their whole life, to begin to explore residential options.
- ◆ Many parents find that it helps to talk about issues with other families who have faced similar challenges. If you are involved with a disability organization or service provider, ask if they have a 'peer support' or 'parent-to-parent' group or program. If they do not, find out if they can refer you to one.

### **Who Do I Contact for More Information?**

Special Needs Planning Group assists families in establishing plans which will provide their family members with a disability with a decent quality of life for their entire lifetime while at the same time, preserving their entitlement to government support programs.

Visit the website at: [www.specialneedsplanning.ca](http://www.specialneedsplanning.ca)

Find a detailed information booklet on the Henson Trust from Reena at:

[www.reena.org/pdfs/hensontrust.pdf](http://www.reena.org/pdfs/hensontrust.pdf)

To find the regional office of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, go to:

[www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/pillars/developmental](http://www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/pillars/developmental)

For information about home care, through the Community Care Access Centres:

[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/contact/ccac/ccac\\_mn.ht](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/contact/ccac/ccac_mn.ht)

### **Upcoming Wills and Estates Presentations**

Community Living Toronto will once again be hosting information sessions about Wills and Estates starting in the fall. Be sure to look for presentation dates and times in the September edition of Connections.

Look for other great articles like this on:

**Connect**ABILITY.ca



# Bridging Diversity

Community  
Living  
Toronto



## Ontario Trillium Foundation Invests In A New Diversity Initiative

By Sue Lynch, Regional Executive Director, Scarborough Region

### Defining 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  
Karen Bell  
Ilaneet Goren  
Moreen Grant  
Winnie Ho  
Layla Ibrahim  
Kelly Kearns  
Karolina Kluska  
Dwayne Shaw

Last summer, Community Living Toronto partnered with Developmental Services Toronto (dsto) on a two-year project entitled 'Diversity in the Developmental Services Sector: Increasing Capacity and Sustainability Initiative.' Recognizing the urgent need to support adults with intellectual disabilities and families of various cultures, faiths, backgrounds and beliefs, the project hopes to improve the sector's capacity to respond to diversity while removing barriers to service access for ethno-culturally diverse families.

This March, our Association and dsto were delighted to receive a \$115,100 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to support the initiative. With the support from this grant, our hope is to make accessing services easier and more inclusive for families from ethno-culturally diverse backgrounds. Staff in the Developmental Services sector will also have increased knowledge and resources to support people from all communities.

The partnership between Community Living Toronto and Developmental Services Toronto (dsto) will enable us to increase capacity for the 37 member agencies to respond to diversity, as well as to improve access to services for families through culturally-sensitive information, outreach and education.

This grant represents the third significant investment in this work. The Ontario Trillium Foundation provided a two year grant in 2011 that helped fund

a Diversity Coordinator role, which lead to significant outcomes, including the formation of many positive partnerships.

Community Living Toronto also recently collaborated on a Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) grant to measure sector-wide diversity related capacity and practices, including ability, or inability, to meet service demands. This information is being used in the current project as a baseline to measure the advancement of knowledge and practices amongst dsto agencies.

The Bridging Diversity Project was the first of its kind in the developmental services sector. We are proud that Community Living Toronto has significantly raised the profile of increasing the sector's responsiveness to newcomer and ethno-cultural groups. Our Association has benefitted greatly from the leadership of Bob Ferguson and his ongoing commitment to this work. The support of our Fundraising Department, namely fundraising coordinator Elliott Port, has guided us to successful grant proposals.

The work of the Bridging Diversity Committee has been foundational in positioning our organization well as we continue to embrace this work at every level of the organization. We are very excited about this next phase of our journey in diversity!



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### **Community Living Toronto Autism Camp at Shadow Lake 2014**

**WHO\*:** This is a funded camp is for kids between the ages of 12 – 17, who have a diagnosis of autism and want to go to camp for the first time but may be experiencing some barriers.

**WHEN:** Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**WHERE:** Community Living Toronto's Shadow Lake Centre

**HOW:** Give us a call or email Shelley Greenberg 647.729.1627 or [sgreenberg@cltoronto.ca](mailto:sgreenberg@cltoronto.ca)

Lynda Ball 647.729.0436  
[lynda.ball@cltoronto.ca](mailto:lynda.ball@cltoronto.ca)

\* Note: Individuals who wish to apply should not have received respite funding since April 2014

### **Calling all Dragon Boat Racing Fans**

*By: Jennifer Delhorbe*



*The Komodos training for the Spirit Challenge race.*

Come one Come all to the Toronto Cup Regatta hosted by the Sunnyside Paddling Club. Community Living Toronto's Dragon Boat team, the Komodos, will be racing in the Spirit Challenge race on Saturday, August 9th at Sunnyside Beach on the Lakeshore.

This year, the Komodos will be racing against teams from Meta Centre, Vita Community Living, and New Visions, just to name a few. We look forward to the event each year and the opportunity to race against others. As one of our team members has said, "Here, I am an athlete first."

Please come out on August 9th at noon and support the Komodos. It will be a blast! If you need any other information, please don't hesitate to call Jennifer at 416-456-4809 or [jdelhorbe@cltoronto.ca](mailto:jdelhorbe@cltoronto.ca). Hope to see you there.

### **Scarborough Region Summer Day Respite Program**

2 week sessions, starting  
July 2 to August 8, 2014  
For ages 4-21 years

Supporting children and youth who have an intellectual disability in individualized community based activities and/or day camp programs.

To find out more about Summer Day Respite, please call:  
Felicitia Zanatta  
647-729-1635

### **Scarborough Region Summer Literacy Program**

July 2 to August 1, 2014  
At St. Victor School  
20 Bernadine St.

Monday to Friday from 9 am to 3:30 pm  
Cost: \$220

Students should have basic literacy skills  
For Registration and Information please call:

Felicitia Zanatta 647-729-1635  
Sponsored by Scarborough Council

# Events / Workshops



Community Living Toronto

# annual picnic

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 21, 2014  
11 AM - 3 PM**

The picnic will take place at our Lawson Site at **1712 Ellesmere Road**, 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	<a href="mailto:elaimer@cltoronto.ca">elaimer@cltoronto.ca</a>
CENTRAL	Ann-Marie Binetti	647.729.1210	<a href="mailto:abinetti@cltoronto.ca">abinetti@cltoronto.ca</a>
NORTH YORK	Wendy Dyke	647.729.3627	<a href="mailto:wdyke@cltoronto.ca">wdyke@cltoronto.ca</a>
SCARBOROUGH	Felicita Zanatta	647.729.1635	<a href="mailto:fzanatta@cltoronto.ca">fzanatta@cltoronto.ca</a>



Where choices change the lives  
of people with an intellectual disability

For more information and directions visit  
[www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca)

## Community Spring Walk & BBQ

**Saturday June 7, 2014  
9:30 am to 1 pm**

**Walk starts at Sloane  
Public School  
110 Sloane Avenue  
Ends at East Toronto  
Baptist Church  
22 Carnforth Road  
(wheelchair accessible route)**

**BBQ Lunch provided at the  
church!**

### Call to register your attendance!

**Flora Nichols  
647-729-3645  
Wendy Dyke  
647-729-3627  
Kala  
416-750-9600**

## The Kiwanis Aktion Club presents The Famous People Players Wednesday, August 13, 2014

**Arrival at 10:30 am. Live performance at 11:00 am.**

**\$10/person, payment received no later than July 2, 2014.**

**For more info contact: Matt Poirier at [matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca](mailto:matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca) or 647.729.1209**



# Calendar of Events

## June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 NY Annual Regional Meeting Scarborough Annual Regional Meeting	3 Scarborough Residential Alternatives Central Annual Regional Meeting	4 Central Dinner Club	5	6 Lawson Dance	7 Victoria Park Hub Spring Walk
8	9	10 Etobicoke Annual Regional Meeting	11 Central Dinner Club	12	13 Lawson Bingo	14
15	16	17	18 SAC Annual Meeting Central Dinner Club	19	20 Connections Dance	21 CL Toronto Annual Picnic
22	23	24	25 Central Dinner Club	26	27	28
29 Pride Parade	30	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: Felicitia Zanatta 647-729-1635	

## July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Scarborough Summer Literacy Central Dinner Club	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Central Dinner Club	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Central Dinner Club	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Central Dinner Club	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Central Dinner Club	31		

### Our Mission:

Community Living Toronto changes the lives of people with an intellectual disability by giving them a voice and supporting their choices where they live, learn, work and play.

[www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca)

### Our Vision:

Community Living Toronto is a recognized leader offering a full range of personalized supports and services to people with an intellectual disability and their families. We set the benchmark for excellence, innovation and accountability in the developmental services sector. Our vision for society is one where everyone belongs and we help each other reach for our dreams.

Community  
Living  
Toronto



Where choices change the lives  
of people with an intellectual disability



A United Way member agency

