

Art From the Heart

By Harold Tomlinson



Quyen Ngo, Lisa Tuckwell, Paul Maurici, Lisa Raven, Judy McLarnon & Donna Worotyneec

March 2012



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The Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre (JCHAC) show has been the most fulfilling for Creative Village Studio artists since the show held at the Ottawa School of Art in 2009. JCHAC is an emerging cultural facility that promotes local heritage, outreach and accessibility, with ecological integrity being central to the activities of the Centre.

Seven painters and one photographer were chosen by the curator to participate in their international show. All artists had varying disabilities from blindness, paralysis to intellectual disabilities. Creative Village Studio was well represented with an all star line up of artists including: Patricia Habuda, Neil Clifford, Quyen Ngo, Lisa Tuckwell, Lisa Raven, Judy McLarnon, Donna Worotyneec and Paul Maurici.

A promotional video was produced with the artists using Justin Hine's song 'Courage,' and both videos can be seen on the Joshua Creek website- www.joshuacreekarts.com.

Opening night was spectacular. Justin Hines and Colin Brennan performed to an audience of over 300 people in this idyllic renovated barn gallery in

Oakville. Most of the artist's work sold quickly on opening. The volunteerism from Joshua Creek was phenomenal- from advertising, promotion, graphic arts to parking cars, selling art and catering on the day of the event.

The artists received accolades from local MPP Kevin Flynn on behalf of the Government of Ontario, the Art Council of Oakville, Rob Burton- Mayor of Oakville and Dalton McGuinty's office. Soon to come will be a letter from Stephen Harper's office on closing night.

The art show was such a great success that Creative Village Studio was also invited to participate in JCHAC shows annually, by founder Sybil Rampen.

Personally, it was one of the proudest moments in my career with Community Living Toronto. To see the artists come in to their own, speaking about their work with determination and depth, to the general public with courage, made my eyes leak uncontrollably.

See page 8 for more photos of the art show.

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

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Chris Stringer

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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



Games,
activities
& fun for
the whole
family!

Community Living Toronto

annual picnic

JUNE 23,
2012
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	elaimer@cltoronto.ca
CENTRAL	Felicita Zanatta	647.729.1210	fzanatta@cltoronto.ca
NORTH YORK	Wendy Dyke	647.729.3627	wdyke@cltoronto.ca
SCARBOROUGH	Ann-Marie Binetti	647.729.1635	abinetti@cltoronto.ca

For more information and directions visit

www.communitylivingtoronto.ca



Where choices change the lives
of people with an intellectual disability

Social Assistance Review

The Social Assistance Review, led by Frances Lankin and Munir Sheikh has released a second discussion paper, based on feedback provided by families, individuals and agencies last June. The Commission is again seeking public input into the discussion paper until March 16. You can find the paper at:

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

Community Living Toronto will also be providing feedback, and we will make this available on our website once it's been finalized.

The Drummond Report

As you all know, the Drummond Report was released on February 15 with over 300 recommendations on how the Ontario Government can trim spending to achieve a better financial position by 2017.

While the developmental services sector seemed to be spared somewhat from deep cuts, we are anxiously seeing how the recommendations will be implemented in the Budget, expected at the end of March.

Recommendations to the sector specifically included:

- over time, moving to a 100% individualized funding model
- cap spending in social services to 0.5 per year
- combining Ontario Works and ODSP
- ensuring the Social Assistance Review helps people get out of poverty

We will be preparing a budget brief for submission to the Ministry of Finance and we will post the document.

City Kids Inclusion Award



Congratulations to Ms. Sholeh Khalili, program supervisor of the North York YMCA Child Care Centre for receiving the CITY KIDS Inclusion Award. The awards recognize professionals in the Early Learning and Care field who demonstrate exceptional practices of inclusion in their programs. Ms. Khalili was nominated by Community Living Toronto staff Sabrina Luongo-Silva.

Pictured: The Honourable David C. Onley (centre) with program award recipient Sholeh Khalili (with award), nominated by Community Living Toronto staff Sabrina Luongo-Silva (far right).

One Message, Many Voices

A working group has been established through the Provincial Network to prepare common messaging that agencies can take to their local MPPs and media, outlining concerns and critical issues in the developmental services sector.

While you can find all the documents at <http://www.provincialnetwork.ca>, the key messages include:

- a \$64million investment, this year to address the waitlist and senior families, passport funding, SSAH and sector stabilization.
- By 2020 every person is supported in the community and free of poverty
- Community support organizations receive the help they need to meet legislative obligations

- Government work with individuals, their families and organizations to establish a plan

Community Living Toronto's Government Relations Committee has incorporated these messages into their work plan and is beginning to coordinate visits to key Toronto MPPs to discuss these important issues.

If you are interested in visiting your MPP, please contact Karen Bell in our Public Relations office at kbell@cltoronto.ca.

End the R-Word Campaign!

On March 29, Community Living Toronto and other agencies from across the province will be getting together to discuss the possibility of creating a campaign to end the use of the R-word in our communities, school yards and media. This campaign is being developed on the heels of a very successful campaign in the US, 'Spread the Word to End the Word', created by Special Olympics.

CL Toronto and Special Olympics Ontario will be hosting this stakeholder day, where we will discuss how we can create a campaign that we can implement at our own agencies, within our budgets and resources, but build on work that has been done in Ontario and in the US. It should be a very exciting day.

If you aren't familiar with the Spread the Word campaign, you can check it out at <http://www.r-word.org>. It is expected that many of the materials available will be made available here in Ontario, creating a consistent international message.

Ontario Developmental Services

Over the past two years, the Developmental Services Human Resource Strategy has been working to further professionalize and promote a career in developmental services as rewarding to students going into post-secondary study and people who are new to Canada or looking to a second career.

Several tools have been developed including a website, which you can find at <http://www.ontariodevelopmentalservices.ca>. There you will find testimonials, information and soon, links to career postings from agencies across Ontario. We are also developing a facebook page and other ways to engage people in choosing developmental services as a career of choice.

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
Felicita 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:
March 21, 2012
5:30 pm
20 Spadina Road
Room 2B

Central Region Council's

Spring Fling Dinner and Dance

Sunday April 29, 2012

5:00 pm reception
6:00 pm dinner

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court
(Don Mills and Wynford Drive)

Tickets: \$40 for persons with special needs
and children under 12 years of age
\$50 for general admission

VISA, Mastercard and Amex accepted for Silent Auction
bids so don't forget to bring that plastic.

To order tickets please contact Felicita Zanatta at
647-729-1210 or email at fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

**Community
Living
Toronto**



Where choices change the lives
of people with an intellectual disability

Community Junction's "Beat the February Blues"

By Melanie Hooker

Community connections are an instrumental part of who we are at the Junction. Community Junction lies in the heart of the Junction neighbourhood. This is located north of High Park, at the corner of Dundas/Keele.

This past December we were invited by the Junction BIA to participate in a "Santa in the Junction" celebration. It was a festive day, enjoyed by many and the weather was like spring, as people came to celebrate our special window display. It was a wonderful winter celebration of snow white and ballerinas.

We were fortunate to have Creative Children's Dance company present their talented dancers. They showcased their talents by dancing to classical music in our windows. It was a huge success and based on the admiring crowds drew some of the highest numbers of observers.

We were asked to participate in the "Beat the February Blues" in the Junction, so a combined effort of participants, instructors, and Community Living Toronto staff brought their amazing talents together to create a theme of blue related art, displays and ideas to contribute to this community event.

The Community Junction values the involvement with the Junction BIA, but in addition have a true understanding of the reciprocal nature of community.

We demonstrate this by hiring community instructors, developing flourishing partnerships with local businesses, inviting local guest speakers, opening our doors to the community and offering classes that meet the needs of individuals we support that live, work and play locally. We are proud to be a part of the Junction community!

The Community Junction is currently in our second session and plans are currently underway for the third session starting in April. Please watch for our webpage to go live on March 31st and our new calendar listing all of our returning and new classes.



Creative Children's Dance Company Dances In The Community Junction Window

Education is a Life Long Journey

By Paul Kinnear

My name is Paul Kinnear and for the past few years I have been attending Frontier College at Yonge and St. Clair. I attend Frontier College to continue to learn how to read and write. I go to the program, run by a wonderful woman named Susan, on Monday nights. I have a great tutor named Vera who teaches me to read, write and problem solve. I enjoy attending the college and the patience the school has towards learning.

On Tuesday night I attend the Salvation Army warehouse to continue to learn how to read and write. The Salvation Army has a group of assistants that help me reach my goals of literacy. I enjoy the program and their philosophy towards aiding others.

I find importance in education and learning and feel that these skills will help open doors for me in the future.

Come and Join the Fun
Central Region Council
Dinner Club

Wednesday Evenings
4 pm to 7:30 pm
30 Birch Avenue

\$5 for a great meal and friendship

Please call Felicita Zanatta at
647-729-1210
for information

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 March 13th.
6:30 pm
295 The West Mall
Suite 204
Boardroom**

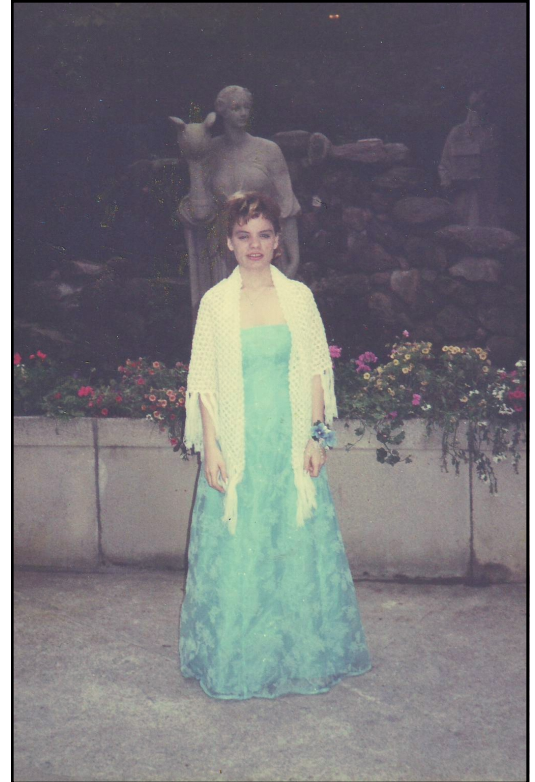
Leaving High School

By Elizabeth Callaghan

What was it like when I left high school? It was a mixture of different feelings. The feelings I had were: nervous, scared, and upset. The reason why I was feeling upset is because I knew I might not see my friends again.

However, we are still friends today on Facebook. I felt nervous and scared because I knew I was and will still be facing challenges in the future. Being in college is more challenging because they expect more from you but as long as you put your mind to it you can do it!

Elizabeth is currently enrolled in the Early Childhood Education course at Humber College.



Elizabeth at her high school graduation.

Heavenly

By Songbird

Once so long ago, when I was all alone
And I was lost without hope in this
world

A stranger in the distance, far from the
sun light

In the darkness, a heart apart
Lonely and cold, did not know who I
should trust

Or who I should let in, a soul without
love

A heart beat without a life, a ghost
behind these tears

A lost cause to be thrown away, broken
dreams

I was a broken tune when you found me
Then you brought me closer to the light

Took me into your life and gave me the
nourishment to grow

The nurture to flourish and become the
man I am

Put the love back in my soul

Took all my fears and washed away all
my tears

Gave me the strength to make me
stronger

Protected me like a shelter from all that
was bad

Gave me the faith to be a better man
Even in my turbulence, you saw the
good in me

You let me be me, gave me the hope to
love again

*Songbird is the alias of a talented poet in the
Supported Independent Living program.*

Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre— Art From the Heart



Colin Brennan and Justin Hines display their CD's.



Neil Clifford & Donna Worotynech proudly stand by their art.

Friendship Group

Join us for an evening of exciting social activities.
Meet new people and make friends!
Wednesday March 28th.
6:00-8:00 pm
Etobicoke/ York Region Office Boardroom
295 The West Mall, Suite 204

Contact: LauraLee Edmiston
647-729-0440 or ledmiston@cltoronto.ca

Dancing Friends

Join us for the St. Patrick's Day dance!
Wednesday March 14th.
6:30-8:30 pm
Etobicoke ETS
288 Judson Street Unit 17

Contact: Christine Denis 416-252-1171
For more event listings and info go to
www.communitylivingtoronto.ca and click on
"Regions" and then "Etobicoke".



Yoga At CVS!

Yoga Therapy is the process empowering individuals to progress toward improved health and well-being through application of the philosophy and practice of Yoga.

Next Session:
Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:30 pm
April 4th-May 23rd
8 Weeks- \$40

Info and Registration:
Creative Village Studio 647-351-4362



Vinyl Revival! Dance

Saturday May 5th. 2012
6:30 pm to 12:00 am
Royal Canadian Legion
3850 Lake Shore 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

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:**

**March 5, 2012
North York Office
Boardroom
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

A New Chapter for North York

By Wendy Dyke



Sue packs up her North York office.

As the new year began, so did a new chapter for the leadership of our region. In the midst of packing to move to her new region in Scarborough, Sue Lynch, stopped to celebrate the achievements and journey North York region took while under her leadership. On Wednesday January 11th, a pot-luck lunch was held in our boardroom to share memories and bid a fond farewell to Sue. The event was wonderfully well attended by volunteers, students and staff currently and formerly from North York Region.

While a 'North York Memories' slide show was played on the television, everyone dug into the wonderful array of food staff brought in for the farewell lunch.

Once everyone had their fill, the management team lead a lively and humorous journey down memory lane of the challenges our region has encountered and work that was undertaken with Sue at the helm. Sue also spoke a few words making references to the leadership,

spirit of collaboration and team work that North York Region is known for.

The event was a true celebration of the region as well as a moment to wish Sue the best.

On Monday, January 16th, Brad Saunders joined the North York Region as the new Regional Executive Director. Brad is also the Regional Executive Director for Etobicoke/York Region and is therefore dividing his time between the two regions. He has been spending most of his time in North York getting to know the staff and the work of our region. Please join our North York region in extending a warm welcome to Brad.

Below: Two of the pictures from the memories slide show.



Sue at the opening for the Victoria Park Hub.



United Way Caravan: Sue, Mia, Donald & John

Scrapbooking All the Rage

By: Stephen Tward



Noticing that scrapbooking is all the rage at the Employment Training Services, our very own reporter Stephen Tward sat down with Donna Crisp, a participant in the scrapbooking group for a Question and Answer session.

Q – Stephen: How did you get involved in scrapbooking?

A – Donna: When Elizabeth told me about the new group being formed, I thought it would be a great fit for me since I love photography. It's always been important for me to capture memories and I thought scrapbooking would be a good place to start. Also, I had so many pictures in boxes and I felt they needed to be properly displayed.

Q – Stephen: Do you have a favorite picture?

A – Donna: Of course. It appears on the album's cover. It's a picture of Tagger, my cat, with my dog, Cassie.

Q – Stephen: What do you like the most about the picture?

A – Donna: I like how they're cuddling. They're very playful with one another, although I must admit that Cassie is always the referee when they're fighting.

Q – Stephen: What do you enjoy the most about the scrapbooking sessions?

A – Donna: It's just really fun to be with my friends and share a hobby together. I'm also a participant in the photography classes here, so I'm really happy I can work with some of the pictures I've taken.

Q – Stephen: Do you see yourself continuing to work on scrapbooking as a hobby?

A – Donna: Absolutely. It's a great way for me to chronicle my life. And with three dogs and nine cats to look after, I've got my hands full. There's never a shortage of exciting moments to capture with my camera.

In December 2011, the scrapbooking sessions ended for the fall/winter season at the ETS. The next set of sessions with new participants is slated to begin in August 2012.

COOKING CLASS!

For Individuals 18+ with an intellectual disability

Hands on learning & goal focused

1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 16

Wednesdays: 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Starts: April 4, 2012

Ends: May 30, 2012

(no class on April 18, 2012)

8 Weeks

For more information and application,
please contact Wendy Dyke
647-729-3627

email: wdyke@cltoronto.ca

Application deadline: March 19, 2012

Pizza/Bingo Night at Victoria Park Hub!

Wednesday March 14, 2012

6 - 8 p.m.

1527 Victoria Park Avenue E.

Everyone Welcome!

\$2.00 Cover Charge

Call to register!

Flora Nichols: 647-729-3645

Wendy Dyke: 647-729-3627

Space is Limited!

Scarborough News

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, March 5th, 2012
6:30 pm
Boardroom
1712 Ellesmere Rd
Conference Room**

Making A Difference: Community Living Toronto

Written by Lori Padley-Lee. Reprinted with permission from Council Michelle Berardinetti's office, Ward 35

Michelle Berardinetti
Councillor Ward 35 Scarborough Southwest



A chorus of voices rings out in a cheerful song that fills the corridor. In another room, a small group sits laughing together as they watch a DVD. On the opposite end of the building, several men and women explore their creative sides under the supervision of art instructors. In yet another section of the expansive space, people of all ages are in the midst of their work day, swiftly packing boxes and handling delicate medical equipment with care. In this hub of activity there is a sense of purpose, fun and family. This is Community Living Toronto.

The mission of Community Living Toronto is a simple one: "To change the lives of people with an intellectual disability by giving them a voice and supporting their choices where they live, learn, work and play." The organization began in 1948, and the branch at 50 Fairfax Crescent has served our community since the 1980s. One visit and it's easy to see how their mission statement is fulfilled on a daily basis. The environment is structured without being institutional, organized yet casual, efficient and professional yet cozy and

inviting. The individuals who frequent the facility – who range in age from young adult to senior citizen – require support in a variety of ways. Some are developing the tools needed to live independently (including employment skills), and some need help with basic literacy and numeracy. Others require training in the fundamentals of daily living, such as hygiene and cooking. For others still, Community Living Toronto primarily provides socialization, a sense of routine and an opportunity to experience new things and pursue hobbies they may not otherwise be exposed to, such as line dancing and music appreciation. Karaoke is a popular pastime here!

Last year this organization saw over 55,000 hours logged by its volunteers across the GTA (Community Living also has locations in downtown Toronto, Etobicoke and North York). Volunteers are vital. Their contributions can include anything from offering time and friendship (in the "Best Buddies" program) to utilizing their talents to teach (in areas such as music and dance).

News, cont'd...

Students are welcome – the youngest volunteers are fifteen years old. All that is asked is a commitment of at least six months. According to Program Supervisor Lousie Ehrkamp, one area of expertise most needed is Education. Teaching the basics – letters and numbers, is “just the beginning” she says, of what can be accomplished with these most extraordinary learner. Indeed, to teach here would be a rewarding challenge for a retired teacher or a teacher in training. All sorts of professionals are drawn to this organization; those seeking careers in social work, nursing, developmental or personal support work can all gain valuable experience here while giving back to the community and touching the lives of people who will truly appreciate their time.

Through Community Living Toronto, individuals with intellectual disabilities have gone on to pursue gainful employment in such industries as food services and retail. “They want to be included,” says Bob Ferguson, Service Development Manager. “They want to be involved with the local community and have choices in the process.”

To those who may feel intimidated or unqualified to work with the intellectually disabled, Scarborough Volunteer Coordinator Karla Galvez advises, “Just put yourself out there. Once you get to know them as individuals, the fears go away.” Undeniably, the men and women who work and play at Community Living Toronto are open and friendly. They’re eager to say hello, explain what they’re working on, and get to know you. Says Bob Ferguson, “Volunteers make their day!”

The range of services and support offered by Community Living Toronto is vast. Serving individuals and families, children and adults, there are numerous ways to get involved. Visit www.communityliving.ca to find out more about this organization, and to see where your abilities, interests and time could be shared with these extraordinary members of our community .

Do you know someone who is making a difference in our community? Email us at councillor_berardinetti@toronto.ca and tell us about them!



Louise Ehrkamp, Program Supervisor (Scarborough)
Photo by Lori Padley-Lee



Art work by Community Living Members
Photo by Lori Padley-Lee

Summer Day Respite Program

2 week sessions, starting
July 3rd to August 10th, 2012
For ages 4-21 years

Supporting the inclusion of children and youth who have an intellectual disability in summer community based activities and/or day camp programs.

To find out more about Summer Day Respite, please call
Ann-Marie Binetti at 647-729-1635

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:
To be determined**

Inclusion is Important to the SAC!



Candice Doherty, SAC member.

What is important to us? Like, really important. Something we all believe in – a belief we all share. Recently, the Self Advocates Council (SAC) decided to think about what is really important. What ideas do the SAC members share? What kinds of things do SAC members all believe in?

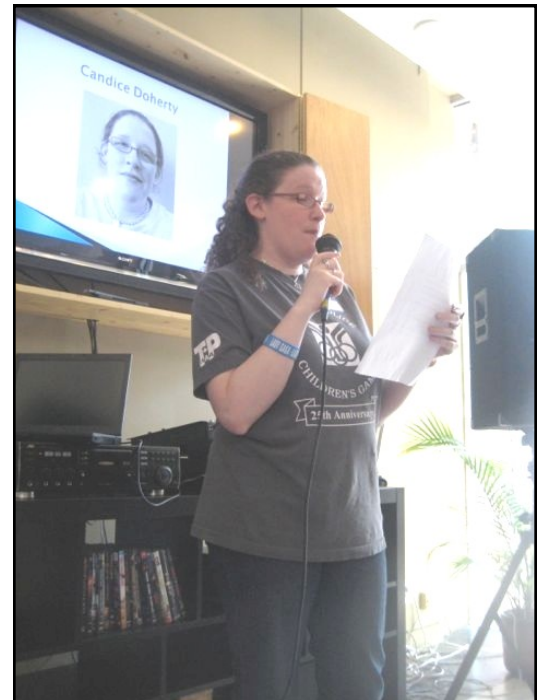
The group started talking about what we believe in. What would a SAC Mission (or mandate) be? What would a SAC Vision look like? First, we thought it would be good to start thinking about Values. Values are things that are really important to us. We want to decide on shared values., social values and what is a value system. So we talked as a group and decided on a few things that we call our values. We will share them all with everyone soon.

But to start with, here is one that we agreed is really important., which we all voted on and everyone in the room agreed it needs to be in our list:

INCLUSION.

Candice Doherty spoke about inclusion at the last SAC meeting, while were talking about what values we share:

I think it's really important we have INCLUSION in our list of values. We all want to feel like we belong. Wherever we are. We want to know we have a place in the school system. We want to know we can work and be just like everyone else. Wherever we go, we need to make sure everyone with an intellectual disability is included. We need to be open to include everyone in our work, too.



Candice speaks to SAC about inclusion.

SAC would like to remind everyone to “spring forward” On March 11 and move your clocks forward one hour for daylight savings time.



By Mia McGowan

National Inclusive Education Week gets bigger and better each year. This year due to the high demand, we added three extra days to our Inclusive Education week outreach. Spinclusion, a fun interactive game that encourages children and youth to discuss inclusion of all people was facilitated by 48 staff, students and volunteers in 23 different schools across Toronto. Almost 2,000 students had an opportunity to play Spinclusion and immerse themselves in scenarios that encourage empathy and inclusion of all people.

A student in grade 4/5 at Holy Redeemer school had this to say, “Thank you for bringing Spinclusion to our school. I think it was very meaningful and will

help us include people with disabilities.”

Teachers, as well as principals commented on how well Spinclusion fits in with their focus on anti-bullying and I have noticed that students are much more aware of the impact their actions have on other people now. I was very pleased to see that most teachers immediately posted the three Spinclusion challenges in their classrooms so that they could refer to them even after we had left the school. The three challenges embody Spinclusion’s message and encourage the students to:

- Think positively rather than negatively on differences
- Focus on people’s abilities not their disabilities or inabilities
- Consider how people feel rather than what they look like

Thank you to everyone who took the time to make National Inclusive Education Week such a huge success.

Proud Father Speaks of Son’s Employment Success

By Kristian Partington

When Sal Amenta considers the growth he’s seen in his son, John Paul, over the last two years, he says he and his wife are continually swelled with pride. Two years ago, John Paul was a frustrated young man out of high school and eager to find meaningful work, only to grow more disheartened when leads fell through or opportunities failed to pan out.

But through his determination to succeed and the help of support staff at Community Living Newmarket-Aurora District, things began to turn around and today he’s happily employed with the Community Safety Village of York Region.

Sal says two things happened to contribute to the success his son realized. First, John Paul, who Sal says has mild intellectual disabilities, got his driver’s license after much dogged determination. Achieving this goal helped John Paul discover a new sense of self determination and made it more practical to widen his scope in pursuit of employment.

Secondly, York Regional Police, which runs the program as a way to teach young children community safety principles, moved to meet obligations under Ontario’s new Accessibility for Ontarians with

Disabilities Act (AODA).

They were looking for someone like John Paul as much as he was looking for a job and when employment support workers from the association learned of the opportunity, Sal says they immediately thought of John Paul. Both events converged and created the perfect opportunity for John Paul to thrive and are great symbols of the power of perseverance.

“We, as parents, are thrilled,” says Sal. “This is every parent’s dream; to see their kids as independent as possible. We keep telling everybody about it because we want them to know that success is possible.” Sal points to the AODA as part of the reason why more employment opportunities are opening up for people who have an intellectual disability. “He works like anybody else in the community,” Sal says when considering his son’s sense of true inclusion thanks to his work. “He’s contributing and he’s getting a great deal of satisfaction from that.”

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Calendar of Events

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Central Region: Felicitia 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	1	2 Lawson Dance	3 Jumpstart Literacy
4	5 NY Council Mtg Scarborough Council	6 Scarb. Res. Alternatives	7 Central Dinner Club	8	9	10 Jumpstart Literacy
11	12	13 NY Parent Group Meeting Etobicoke Council Meeting	14 Pizza/Bingo at Victoria Park Hub Central Dinner Club Dancing Friends– St. Patrick's Dance	15	16 Scarb. Bingo	17 Jumpstart Literacy
18 Achilles Walk/Run	19	20	21 Central Council Mtg Central Dinner Club	22	23	24 Jumpstart Literacy
25	26	27	28 Central Dinner Club	29	30 Connections Dance	31 Jumpstart Literacy End of Membership year

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Start of new Membership year	2 NY Council Mtg Scarborough Council Mtg	3	4 NY Cooking Class Central Dinner Club	5	6 Good Friday	7
8 Easter	9 Easter Monday	10 Etobicoke Council Meeting Scarb. Res. Alternatives	11 Central Council Dancing Friends– PJ Dance NY Cooking Class	12	13 Lawson Dance	14 Jumpstart Literacy
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	30	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.

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.

www.communitylivingtoronto.ca

**Community
Living
Toronto**



Where choices change the lives
of people with an intellectual disability

