

## This Includes You! Diversity and Inclusion Statement

Community Living Toronto is pleased to share our new Diversity and Inclusion Statement. This Statement is one way that the Association is ensuring we are being responsive to the changing face of Toronto. It therefore signals our commitment to support and meet the needs of diverse communities within our service delivery and organizational culture.

The Diversity and Inclusion Statement was developed by a focus group of 16 people, including Board members, management, staff, self-advocates, council members and one union representative. The make-up of the focus group ensured that all voices were being recognized in the Diversity and Inclusion Statement. The focus group was responsible for voicing key

words and messages that should be contained in the Diversity and Inclusion Statement, and from their feedback a draft statement was developed. This was then reviewed by the focus group and the Bridging Diversity working group. After edits were made, the final statement went to Management Council and the Board of Directors for final approval.

As May is Community Living Toronto Month, we could not think of a better time to showcase our new Statement and commitment to ensuring that diversity and inclusion is rooted in the way we work. You can find the statement, and more information on our website:

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

### Diversity and Inclusion Statement

Community Living Toronto aspires to create and maintain an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, ideas and perspectives where we live, learn, work and play. We value and respect the rich diversity of our city including our stakeholders - the people and families that we support, staff, members, volunteers and community partners. We believe that supporting and engaging diverse populations regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or intellectual ability, ethnicity, religion and Aboriginal heritage is integral to the services we provide to people with intellectual disabilities.

Our *vision* for society is one where everyone belongs and we help each other reach for our dreams. In order to meet this vision, Community Living Toronto is committed to supporting diverse populations, attracting and retaining a diverse workforce, building and strengthening partnerships and fostering an environment free of discrimination and harassment in accordance with the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. In doing so, we ensure that diverse communities are actively and meaningfully contributing to our organization.

Community Living Toronto recognizes that valuing and respecting diversity and inclusion is a conscious and deliberate effort. Our commitment is to continue to identify and eliminate barriers to inclusion through training, policy development and community engagement. We will work to ensure that the values expressed in this statement live and breathe throughout Community Living Toronto and that diversity is reflected and included within all levels of the organization.

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May 2012

## 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 Sanderson

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

## You Know You Have Them....

They're piled on top of your dresser, filling your cupholder in your car, stuffed in old socks, overflowing spare jars, bottles and baskets. You even find them in the couch, under the couch, behind the couch.

One day you think "I'll roll them, take them to the bank, and that will be the end of it." But the idea of actually doing it is not only overwhelming, but downright frightful. Your hands will smell like copper for days. You'll need a dolly to transport them from house to car to bank. Hours of work will result in what, a few dollars—certainly not enough to even make a dent in that trip you're dreaming about.

Well, we have the perfect solution:

## Let Us Do It For You!

Beginning this fall, The Royal Canadian Mint will stop distributing the one-cent coin in Canada. The pressure is on. Sure you might want to save the odd King George Penny, or 1967 Centennial, but we recommend you take the advice of our Federal Minister of Finance:

**"Free your pennies from their prisons at home, and those jars they're in, and give them to charity,"**

*-Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, Government of Canada, March 2012*

Community Living Toronto is now collecting pennies in all four of our regional offices. You don't even have to roll them! By donating your coppers you will directly support services and supports in the regional vessel you toss them into. What an easy, time-saving way to free yourself of those pesky pennies.

For more information, please contact Sylvie Labrosse at 647-729-1180 or [sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca](mailto:sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca).



## Changes to the RDSP

*Prepared by Graeme Treeby of the "Special Needs" Planning Group.  
Reprinted with permission*

On March 29th, the Federal Government introduced its' latest budget, which if passed, will provide some significant improvements to the RDSP. Below is a summary of the changes, prepared by the Special Needs Planning Group.

Many of the changes were a result of feedback the Feds requested on the RDSP last fall.

### **Who can open an RDSP:**

Currently, if a person with a disability is not legally able to enter into a contract, a legal representative or guardian must be appointed. The process of appointing a legal guardian in Ontario is cumbersome, expensive and insulting to many in that it strips the person of their legal rights and gives them to someone else. Under the proposed changes, between now and 2016, a spouse, common-law spouse, common-law partner or a parent can open an RDSP for the person with the disability. The new rule is only temporary so as to allow the Provinces time to address their own solutions to the problem.

### **Repayment of Grants and Bonds:**

Under the current 10 Year Rule, as soon as any amount is withdrawn from the RDSP, all grants and bonds paid into the plan by the Federal Government in the last 10 years must be repaid to the Government. This could amount to as much as \$45,000 to be repaid. Under the proposed changes, withdrawals would now trigger a \$3 repayment for every \$1 withdrawn from the plan potentially resulting in a significant saving to the beneficiary of the RDSP. This change will begin for withdrawals beginning in 2013.

### **Withdrawal Maximums:**

If private contributions to the RDSP are less than the Government contributions (Grants and Bonds),

withdrawals must currently be made in accordance with the RDSP formula which is based on attained age and life expectancy of 83. The proposed budget change may allow for larger amounts to be withdrawn since the new rule will permit either the formula amount or 10% of the balance on January 1 of the year in question to be withdrawn in the year. For RDSPs that have accumulated large balances, the 10% figure may be considerably larger than the formulae amount would allow.

### **Investment Income from an RESP:**

The proposed budget will allow, under certain circumstances, the accumulated income inside an RESP that is currently subject to tax in excess of 20% in the hands of the parent to be rolled into an RDSP without triggering tax until it is withdrawn. This tax deferred roll over is allowed provided that there is available contribution room in the RDSP however the contribution will not attract Canadian Disability Savings Grants. This change will begin in 2013.

### **Termination of an RDSP following Cessation of Eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit:**

Many people who have a disability that is cyclical are prevented from owning an RDSP. This is due to the fact that their eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit can end during at times during their cycle of disability. Under the proposed changes, the termination of an RDSP due to someone ceasing to be eligible for the DTC will not take place immediately and they will be able to keep their RDSP open for an additional four years if it is likely that they will be able to regain eligibility for the DTC during that time.

## Provincial Budget Update

The Provincial Government's budget was also introduced in the last week of March, and was finally passed in the Legislature on April 24th, with important amendments. There are two key items of note to people in the disabled community in Ontario:

- Firstly, the Ontario Disability Support Program benefits that were initially frozen will receive a 1% increase. While this is still below the inflation rate, we are pleased that this increase, which has been given every year the Liberals have been in power, has been restored to the budget. People receiving ODSP are still living below the poverty line. The Social Assistance Review Commission's final report is due in June; we are hopeful that there will be positive changes to social assistance programs.
- Streamlining employment services by expanding Employment Ontario as a "one-stop-shop", bringing social assistance employment programs into Employment Ontario, including Ontario Works and ODSP. This could have serious implications on the people we support. Employment Ontario often does a good job of supporting recently unemployed people to reenter the work force, but has little experience or expertise in addressing the more complex and long-term challenges faced by people with disabilities who seek employment.

Overall, there were no major funding cuts in the developmental services sector. We will continue to provide feedback to government on these initiatives and work collectively to ensure that sector issues are addressed.

## May Is Community Living Month!

Just a reminder that all across Ontario, Community Living is celebrated all across Ontario. Here are a few you can participate in if you're in Toronto:

May 3—**Day at the Legislature**. Come hear all three parties declare their support for community living for people with an intellectual disability. After the legislative session, join us and many MPPs for a reception in the diningroom. To RSVP contact Arlene Robinson at [arobinson@communitylivingontario.ca](mailto:arobinson@communitylivingontario.ca)

May 10—**Appetite for Awareness**. Our lunch delivery program is one of the highlights of Community Living Month. If you would like to help deliver lunches to key volunteers, media, government or donors, contact Karolina Kluska at [kkluska@cltoronto.ca](mailto:kkluska@cltoronto.ca) or 647.729.1254. You get a free t-shirt!

It's also **Community Living Day in Toronto**, so if you're around Nathan Phillips Square, look up and see the CLToronto flag flying over City Hall.

May 19—**Community Living Day with the Jays**. To get your tickets, contact Andrew Haley at 416.341.1201.

We're also working with Councillor Adam Vaughan's office on a special City Hall event. Stay tuned and fingers crossed!



## CANADA'S LARGEST EXHIBITION FOR DISABILITIES

OVER 100 DISPLAYS UNDER ONE ROOF!

*Mobility Aids - Adapted Vehicles - Rehabilitation Services - Home Healthcare Products - Travel and Leisure Activities - Corporate and Government Services - Disability Publications - Associations - and More!*

Friday, June 1 - 10am-5pm  
Saturday, June 2 - 10am-5pm  
Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place  
Toronto

Free Admission  
• Wheelchair Accessible Building  
• Attendant Services Available  
• Food and Beverage Area

For more information, call: 1-877-745-6555 or fax: (905) 271-9808

## Regional Annual Meetings

Chris Stringer and Garry Pruden will be presenting at the Annual Meetings to provide an update on the Board priorities, review developments on the MCSS Transformation process, provide a progress report on the emerging issues and answer any questions you may have on these or any related issues.

**To make a nomination for regional council, please see the form on the back page.**

**Etobicoke/York**  
June 12, 6:30 pm  
295 The West Mall, Suite 204  
RSVP at 647-729-0445  
Or elaimer@cltoronto.ca

**Central**  
June 20, 6:30 pm  
20 Spadina Road  
RSVP at 647-729-1210  
Or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

**North York**  
June 6, 6:30 pm  
1122 Finch Ave. W, Unit 16  
RSVP at 647-729-3627  
Or wdyke@cltoronto.ca

**Scarborough**  
June 4, 6:30 pm  
1712 Ellesmere Road  
RSVP at 647-729-1635  
Or abinetti@cltoronto.ca

## A Respite Parent Writes.....

I feel very fortunate and privileged to have been introduced to Lawson by Community Living Toronto just over 4 years ago.

I had initially been looking for temporary respite and was concerned that my daughter wouldn't like being away from home. I couldn't have been more wrong. I immediately felt the warmth that emanates from Lawson by one of the supervisors, Adrineh Bennett, who from the first meeting put me at ease. As soon as I brought my daughter to see Lawson, she loved it and we called it the "sleepover centre".

It has been literary a great blessing for both myself, my daughter and indeed my entire family. My daughter loves the staff and looks forward her weekends at respite.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how grateful I felt when my daughter had to be away from home for a month last year when I was undergoing surgery for breast cancer and the entire staff and management were quite simply, wonderful, and took a huge load off my shoulders at a very difficult time in our lives. I cannot express how much Lawson has helped us, it's truly been immeasurable!

- Mary Czap

# 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](mailto: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:**  
**May 23, 2012**  
**5:30 pm**  
**20 Spadina Road**  
**Room 2B**

## The “New” Manson

*By: Venus Ocampo*



David Beaton and Harrold Generich prepare a meal with help from a Parks and Recreation staff

There have been major changes at Manson!

Gone (mostly) is the production work that has kept us busy for many years. While we still do some work, our participants were pretty clear that they wanted more time to do different things. Our new curriculum is designed around activities that focus on the participants’ goals and aspirations.

Given a number of choices, individuals can now decide which activity being offered they are interested in. Manson staff are developing curriculum for each class including Literacy, Life Skills, Current Events, Graphic Novel, Scrapbooking/ Card Making, Sandwich Arts, and Baking. The goal is that these will be skill development activities. For now, learning to make choices and trying

something new, is a great start! For our staff, it is also a journey in learning how to deliver a very different product. We anticipate changes in activity by season and interest and will keep you posted on the progress.

We have a computer lab and an on-site library and we are building resources. We regularly visit a local library and we are creating space for independent reading, group reading and storytelling. As literacy education can take many forms, Karaoke and Scrabble are key activities.

Participants also enjoy activity and learning through our rhythmic drumming, gentle yoga, Wii Fit, sport and dance products. We have a group bowling once a week at the local Bowlerama and our partnership with the department of Parks, Forestry & Recreation has staff and participants in community recreation centers two day per week.

*Continued on page 10*



Bruna and Paul enjoy painting their wood working pieces.

## 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](mailto:elaimer@cltoronto.ca)

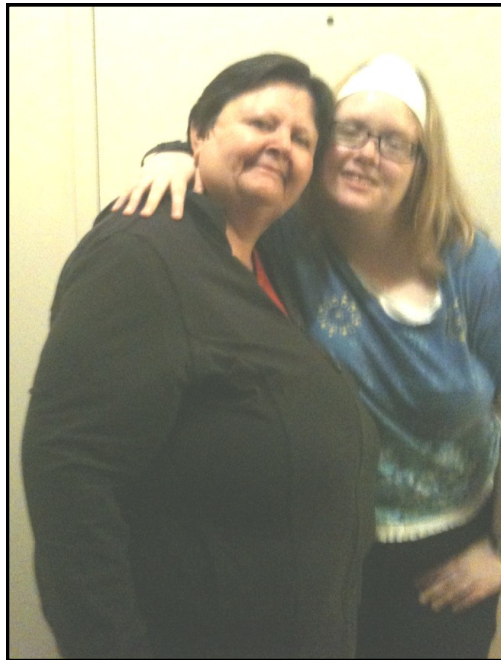
Contact Information  
Etobicoke/York  
Regional Office  
295 The West Mall,  
Suite 204  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 4Z4

T: 416.236.7621  
F: 416.236.7673

**Next Council Meeting:**  
**Tuesday May 8th.**  
**6:30 pm**  
**295 The West Mall**  
**Suite 204**  
**Boardroom**

## Youth in Transition

By Susan King



Susan King and her daughter, Torrie.

Hello parents and caregivers of children between the ages of 16 - 18. My name is Susan King, current Chairperson for the Etobicoke/ York Region Council. I also have a daughter who is 17 years old.

I recently attended an information session given by Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) Toronto. As many of you know by now, as of July 1/2011, DSO have chosen 9 regions to become the primary contact for information about developmental supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities through a new application process.

This is part of Ontario's plan to transform community based

developmental services systems and will improve fairness and consistency across the province.

If your child will be turning 16 to 18 years of age this year, please contact : DSO TORONTO at 1-855-372-3858, TTY-416-925-0295 or by email [DSOTR@surreyplace.on.ca](mailto:DSOTR@surreyplace.on.ca)

Apply for your services, such as Passport, Person Directed Planning, Family Support (case management), Residential and Employment. Make your application now to find out what supports and services your child is eligible for, in preparation for their adult years. Their future is here now!

## The Letter Says it All

March 3, 2012

Dear Artists of Creative Village Studio,  
I am a student from the Music Studio. I performed at the Creative Village studio at Christmas time. While I was there I was inspired by all the art around me. I decided to ask my family to support what you do. My mom made chocolate truffles and I sold them. I collected \$160.00!

Thanks for being in our community. Our family appreciates you.

Julia Sbert  
Julia Sbert

## 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](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  
Council Meeting:**

**May 7, 2012  
North York Office  
Boardroom  
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

## Art Class with U of T Students

By *Andreia Alvares*



Sunny and Joshua are coached by U of T



Sunshine, in foreground, copies picture from the TV

During fall 2011, I was introduced to Laura Robb, a student from the University of Toronto (U of T) Masters in Museum Studies. Laura had come to our Art Show at 40 Birch and wanted to get involved with our Art Program, Big Dreams Arts Company. Laura was very enthusiastic about the Big Dreams Arts Company and described our program to her classmates at the university. She was able to get other students interested in volunteering

to help us with art classes and shows. Laura and her team - Elyse Rodgers, Naomi Goldman and Caitlin Tracey- Miller - have been coming to North York Employment Training Services once a week since November 2011 to facilitate an art class for six individuals in service. They are also helping us to look for a Venue in the city for an Art Exhibition in the spring. We will keep you posted on the progress!

## Hub Pizza Bingo Night Great Success

By *Wendy Dyke*

More than thirty individuals came out on March 14th for our first ever Pizza Bingo night at the Victoria Park Hub. Pizza, drinks, bingo cards and daubers were passed out to the enthusiastic participants.

Four games were played and prizes won. As individuals were leaving they asked when the next Pizza Bingo night would be. We suggested that they continue to keep their eyes on future Connections issues to keep informed of Victoria Park Hub events!



Hub program is bursting its seams with Bingo enthusiasts



# 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](mailto: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**

## Another Strike for the Bingo Bowling Extravaganza!

By Ann-Marie Binetti

On Friday April 20th, 2012, Scarborough Region Council held it's 2nd Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza. Over 70 keen bowlers came out to Parkway Bowl to support this fun night.

A very special thank you to council member Debby White for all her hard work on this event and to all the staff at Parkway Bowl for their ongoing support!

Debby is so excited for next year's event and has already booked it for May 5th, 2013. Hope to see you there!



Lisa's all smiles for her turn to bowl!



Back Row: Kurt, Kathy, Liz, Nichole, Ocean, Donna  
Front Row: Tim, Kevin and Robert



Elan had the top score for his team

## SCARBOROUGH SUMMER LITERACY PROGRAM

Monday to Friday

July 3rd to August 3rd, 2012

Please contact Ann-Marie Binetti for information at  
(647) 729-1635 or [abinetti@cltoronto.ca](mailto:abinetti@cltoronto.ca)

## Best Buddies York University- A Very Good Year!

By Wendy Dyke



Jackie and Janeese – buddies

York University (York U) chapter of Best Buddies just completed its most successful year. We had fifteen buddy matches this year including three returning pairs. The chapter also had the most number of chapter events ever, including a great holiday luncheon in December at the Mandarin, a Pot Luck dinner in February, a successful fundraiser in March and an afternoon of Pizza and Bowling to close off the year on Thursday, April 5th. Jacqueline Bolel has been with us for four years, the last three years as chapter president. She has worked very hard to make York University students aware of the Best Buddies program and how rewarding it is to be a buddy. Her enthusiasm, hard work and dedication has enabled the chapter to grow from eight match ups when she first started as a buddy to almost doubling that number as chapter president. She also worked to recruit and mentor her successor. Jackie said good-bye to the chapter on April 5th as she is graduating this year and will not be returning to York U in the fall. However, she has let her buddy know that she will be continuing her friendship. She also said she wants to continue to join in the fun when we hold next year's chapter events. We will definitely welcome her back!

Best Wishes from York U Best Buddies Jackie!

## The “New” Manson

*Continued from page 6*

We have been lucky enough to have two new volunteers who are working with participants to improve their communication and have introduced music appreciation and piano lessons!

We do continue to offer a little “work” as a choice. Flyer delivery and packaging fencing supplies, in between these overflowing activities is offered. These also serve as “comfort” activities when something familiar is needed.

One of our primary Spring activities is to support Central Region Council in preparing for the Spring Fling Fundraiser. Manson participants wrap the prizes and make party crackers for the prize lottery. Participants enjoy this activity, as they get to design their party cracker to make them look very pretty to attract more buyers. They take pride of being a part of this fundraising and bask in the recognition of their contribution, when they attend this event once a year.

## Bill Turloukis Changes Careers



Annie, Jennifer, Bill, Angela and Mike

After 26 years, Bill Turloukis left the Association to take on a new opportunity with new challenges. He worked all of his career in Central Region and over 10 years as a Program Manager. We wish Bill all the best in his new career!

## Pop Can Club

Day: Saturdays

Time: 6:30-9:00 pm

Location: Wallace Emerson Community Centre,  
1260 Dufferin Street

Fee: Free

Age: Youth and Adults (14 yrs. and over)

The Pop Can Club is a drop in program that runs every Saturday evening at Wallace Emerson Community Centre. It's a free program that offers sports, fine arts, a light snack and a lot of opportunities to be social and have fun! Come out to see old friends or to make new ones! Participate in new activities each Saturday and bring a friend or two along! The group also celebrates each season with themed dances.

For more information call City of Toronto: Parks, Forestry & Recreation- Adapted and Integrated Services 416-397-4690.

### *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.*

### **Did you know?**

As a member of Community Living Toronto, you are welcome to attend events, activities and programs in any region. With so much happening across the city there is something for everyone!

## Victoria Park Hub Spring Walk & BBQ

Enjoy a leisurely walk in the Victoria Park Village. Everyone Welcome!

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



**AIR MILES**—a great way to support Community Living Toronto  
With an AIR MILES Collector Card, you can turn everyday purchases like gas and groceries into tickets, gadgets, electronics and more for the individuals and families we support and for PR & Fundraising events and initiatives.

**Join in today!**

To request your AIR MILES Collector Card(s) call 647.729.1255 or email  
elliott.port@cltoronto.ca

If you're already a collector did you know you can transfer your points to Community Living Toronto? Just another easy way to support us!

# 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 May 21, 2012  
20 Spadina Rd.**

## Donna McCormick Speaks to MSW Class

By Janet Lawson with Donna McCormick



L - R: Donna McCormick, U of T Professor Kevin Stoddart and Researcher Ann Fudge-Shormans

Donna McCormick reported to the Self-Advocate Council (SAC) on her presentation at University of Toronto in March 2012. Donna's presentation was on her research work with Ann Fudge-Shormans. Sue Hutton & SAC placement student Janet Lawson went to see the presentation. The research is called: "What's Wrong With This Picture"

Janet sat down with Donna and asked a few questions about the project, and Donna's presentation to the Master of Social Work (MSW) class.

**DM:** Well, no one ever asked us to do research before. We are really proud of our work. We like to show it to people to let them know that people with intellectual disability can do research. People don't think our opinions are important. We have important things to

say, and people should listen to us

And listen they did. Donna and Ann spoke to a MSW class for two hours. The class listened and loved hearing Donna talk about her research.

**DM:** I was happy that Ann would ask me to be in her project. I was overwhelmed that she asked me to do a research project and speak to MSW students and have a website. I felt valued. I felt empowered.

**JL:** Was it like someone was giving you the tools to have a voice?

**DM:** Yes. It makes me feel happy and good for people to ask my opinion. It makes me feel that I can do something. I like speaking and doing presentations. I feel people love me and accept me for who I am. I was born with an Intellectual Disability. Doing the research, we looked at pictures of people with intellectual disabilities. Some of them were really old pictures. We had a chance to change what they looked like. We are called the Photo Changers.

We would talk about how the pictures made us feel. We would make suggestions on how to change the pictures to make them look better. Some of the pictures we looked at invaded the privacy. You just don't start taking somebody's picture without asking for it. You have to ask permission.

Donna McCormick was the professor that day. She will be a professor again. She shared the presentation with Kevin and Ann.

## The Identification, Placement & Review Committee Process

By Sharon Ross

Spring is the typical time for Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings to occur.

### What is an IPRC?

The purpose of the IPRC meeting is to officially identify a student as having special needs or as exceptional as defined by the Ministry of Education. In the second part of the meeting, the school board staff will recommend a specific type of placement (but not the actual location if it is a special education class). If the school requested the meeting, they must invite you. You can also ask for an IPRC meeting by submitting a written request to the principal. If you request a meeting, it **must** be held.

Information about the IPRC process is contained in the Ministry of Education's Regulation 181/98 and can be downloaded at: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/general/elemsec/speced/hilites.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/general/elemsec/speced/hilites.html)

### Before the meeting...

- Confirm if you are able to attend the meeting, if you can't attend on that date, let the principal know so they can arrange another date and/or time. Parents have the right to be present and participate in all discussions and decisions about their child

***It is extremely important for parents to attend so we recommend that you never give permission for the meeting to proceed without you***

- Confirm the location and who the chair will be
- Ask for a copy of all documents that will be part of the discussion

### Getting ready for the meeting...

- Prepare any information you want to share with the committee e.g. strengths /needs list, list of skills; recent reports
- Write down questions you may have
- Find someone to accompany you, a family member, a friend or a staff from an association

supporting your family

- Bring a current photo of your child, not everyone at the meeting may have met your child.

### During the meeting...

- The meeting usually includes the teacher, principal a psychologist, school board representative (3 of the board staff present will form the committee)
- Ask for a copy of the minutes
- Take your own notes, (or ask your support person to do this for you)
- Stop the conversation and ask questions if anything is unclear or language is used that you don't understand
- Focus on the positives. Remember, you are there to work toward solutions
- Don't feel pressured to sign any paperwork presented at the end of the meeting
- Take it home and review the wording carefully
- Make sure you understand and agree with what is written
- If you want additional information included with the IPRC decision sheet, include it as an "addendum" (this is the language used by the Ministry of Education)
- If the IPRC recommends a special education placement, you can visit the class before agreeing to accept it
- If you disagree with either the exceptionality or the placement recommendations you can ask for a "reconvening of the meeting" which is the first step in the appeal process. (you can obtain more information about this from the Ministry of Education documents.)

While the IPRC process seems very formal and may be intimidating, it guarantees the school must provide an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for your child.

The placement will be reviewed every year—but you can ask for this after they have been in the placement for 3 months.

# Events / Workshops



The graphic features a central circular photo of a family picnic. Surrounding it are icons for dancing, carnival, BBQ, music, and games. A large orange circle contains the text 'Games, activities & fun for the whole family!'. The main title 'annual picnic' is in large green and orange letters. Below it, the date and time are listed: 'SATURDAY JUNE 23, 2012 11 AM - 3 PM'. The Community Living Toronto logo is at the top left.

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

## Community Living Toronto



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

## Thanks to our Volunteers!

On Wednesday, April 18, we celebrated the contributions of all our fantastic volunteers. The following individuals were honoured with the Volunteer of the Year awards:

- BMO Corporate Audit - Central Region
- Jennifer Storie - Etobicoke Region
- Colleen Broadhurst - North York Region
- Patricia Sparks - Scarborough Region
- Stephen Andrews - Public Relations
- Nelly Joaquim - Fundraising
- Rick Strutt - Jim Turner Award for Outstanding Voluntarism

Look for their incredible stories in the next edition of Connections!

### The Kiwanis Aktion Club presents The Famous People Players

July 13th, 2011 or August 10, 2011

Arrival at 10:30am

\$17.50. per person, which includes show and lunch

For more information, please contact: Karla Galvez at [kgalvez@cltoronto.ca](mailto:kgalvez@cltoronto.ca)

# Calendar of Events

## May 2012

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

## June 2012

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu | Fri                        | Sat                                   |
|--|---|--|---|-----|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Central Region:<br>Felicitia Zanatta<br>647-729-1210 | Etobicoke/ York<br>Region:<br>Eric Laimer<br>647-729-0445 | North York Region:<br>Wendy Dyke<br>647-729-3627                   | North York Region:<br>Wendy Dyke<br>647-729-3627                                |     | 1<br>Lawson Dance          | 2<br>Victoria Park Hub<br>Spring Walk |
| 3  | 4<br>Scarborough<br>Annual General<br>Meeting             | 5<br>NY Parent Group<br>Meeting<br>Scarborough<br>Res alternatives | 6 Etobicoke<br>Carnival<br>Central Dinner Club<br>NY Regional<br>Annual Meeting | 7   | 8                          | 9<br>Youth Group-<br>Relationships    |
| 10   | 11  | 12 Etobicoke<br>Regional Annual<br>Meeting                         | 13<br>Central Dinner Club   | 14  | 15<br>Scarborough<br>Bingo | 16                                    |
| 17   | 18<br>Self-Advocate<br>Council Annual<br>Meeting          | 19   | 20<br>Central Regional<br>Annual Meeting<br>Central Dinner Club                 | 21  | 22<br>Connections Dance    | 23<br>CL Toronto<br>Annual Picnic     |
| 24   | 25  | 26   | 27<br>Central Dinner Club   | 28  | 29                         | 30                                    |

## Regional Council Nomination Form

In accordance with the bylaws of Community Living Toronto, this is to inform you that it is now time to nominate members to serve on Regional and Self-Advocate Councils for the 2010-2011 membership year.

Councils meet once per month and undertake the development and implementation of initiatives to ensure a better quality of life for our community. Council is comprised of parents, professionals, people with special needs, and other interested community members. Any person willing to serve on Council must be a registered member of Community Living Toronto and be willing to serve for a period of at least one year. The election of Council Officers will take place at June Annual Meetings. Please see your page for information about the annual meetings. Please forward Council Nominations to the regional office or bring your nomination(s) to your Annual Meeting.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a registered member of Community Living Toronto, do hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_, also a registered member, to serve on the \_\_\_\_\_ Council for the 2010-2011 membership year.  
Enter Region of Membership or Self-Advocate

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a registered member of Community Living Toronto, do hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_, also a registered member, to serve on the \_\_\_\_\_ Council for the 2010-2011 membership year.  
Enter Region of Membership or Self-Advocate

