

## Summer Day Respite

By David Bedard, Summer Day Respite Worker



Summer Staff David

Each summer, more than 80 Community Living Toronto families enroll their children or other family members in summer respite programs and seek to gain assistance from a support worker. Community Living Toronto's Summer Day Respite Services Program is dedicated to assisting such families and

integrating children, youth, and adults into their communities. Respite workers focus on creating unique programs that facilitate independence and enrich the quality of life for those that they work with.

For children under 16, respite services are provided in partnership with City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation, where young children are integrated into daily summer camp activities. Parents can rest assured that staff are adequately trained to support their child with any camp activity, even swimming!

*Does support end after 16 years old?* Absolutely not! Funding from Human Resource Development Canada enables supports to continue. HRDC Respite services are for young adults where staff works in tandem with families to develop and facilitate programs based on

individual goals. Here, individuals can develop social skills and gain a sense of independence while exploring their communities. With an energetic staff and the cooperation of parents, those involved in this program have the opportunity to experience the multitude of activities and festivals within Toronto such as going to movies, Centre Island, the Science Centre, community centres, local malls, libraries, and much more.

Whether your child participates in a City of Toronto camp or in the HRDC program, you can be assured that professionally trained and qualified summer respite staff are eager to enrich the quality of your child's summer experience! For more information about the Summer Day Respite program opportunities, please contact your regional membership coordinator.

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September 2012

## Summer Fun

By Wendy Dyke and Arunn Sri Ravichelvan



Group enjoys Victoria Park Hub Walk

Community Living Toronto knows how to recognize the coming of summer with two major events in June that had our community coming out to enjoy the warmer weather. At least that was the intent for our second Victoria Park Hub walk, held on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Although the weather was cool and damp, there were about fifty people who came out to participate in 'Jane's Walk' in Victoria Park Village and then enjoy a barbeque and mingling at the East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church. The walk is affectionately known by some of the Working Women staff and volunteers as Jane's Walk. Urban activist and

Continues on page 2

## Volunteer Leadership

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## Summer Fun (continued from front page)



Obstacle Course Race is On

writer Jane Jacobs felt strongly that communities should recognize their neighbourhood history by going for community walks along the paths and streets in the areas they reside. She held the first walk in her own community in 2007. Walks now occur in cities across North America and involve more 10,000 people. The Victoria Park outreach coordinator for the hub, Kala, was instrumental in starting the Victoria Park Hub walks with the same intent as Jane while reaching out to the people who reside in Victoria Village.

The second salute to summer was Community Living Toronto's Annual Picnic. It was a great success this year as many turned up to enjoy the copious amounts of food, numerous carnival games and activities, and of course, the blow-up bouncy castle and obstacle course.

It gave many the chance to unwind, relax and enjoy the warm, summer weather. Thanks to donations from a variety of companies, the event was fully supplied with prizes, drinks, hotdogs and hamburgers, as well as boxes of cookies that were piled up at the snack table. Had there not been fun carnival games such as mini-basketball and ring toss, the crowd would not have been able to stop eating!

Kids enjoyed competing in the blow-up

obstacle course, while experiencing the feeling of flight for a few seconds at a time as they jumped up and down in the bouncy castle. Though it wasn't just kids that were having fun. The adults, (although they probably won't admit it now) were seen grooving to favourite tunes, from pop hits like Lady GaGa's "Poker Face" to classics like "Beat it" by Michael Jackson.

Those that preferred to relax opted to sit in the school gym, where the voices of people constantly yelling, "Bingo!" could be heard throughout the day.

Community Living Toronto Staff too were swept up by all the enthusiasm as many helped at the various booths enjoying a day out of the office. Some promoted new initiatives like the R-word Campaign while others helped out at the various activities, such as face painting.

Overall, it was clear that a great time was had by all during the picnic. Many danced under the sun, enjoyed the hotdogs and burgers under the shade, and won prizes playing fun carnival games. It is thanks to the donations we received that we are able to make these types of events possible, and we thank our donors for enabling us to make a real difference.



Face painting anyone?

See more walk and picnic pictures on page 10!

# Passport Changes!

As of July 1st, 2012 changes to the Passport Program have been in effect, as announced by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Below are some answers to common questions parents and individuals have been asking as the new process is implemented. If you have any further questions, please contact your Developmental Services Ontario office.

## 1. Why are the Passport Program Guidelines changing?

Until June 30, 2011, individuals requesting Passport funding were required to complete the Passport Program application form and submit it to a Passport Designated Agency which confirmed the individual's eligibility for funding through this program and administered the program. However, as of July 1, 2011, the process for accessing Passport Program funding has changed.

Effective July 1, 2011, Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) organizations will serve as single points of access for people applying for ministry-funded services and supports under the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008 (SIPDDA).

Under SIPDDA, all individuals wishing to apply for adult developmental services and supports for the first time must contact their respective regional Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) organization to have their eligibility confirmed and to complete the Developmental Services Application Package. This includes individuals who are applying for the Passport Program for the first time.

## 2. What are the major changes?

Several sections in the Passport Program guidelines have been added or revised. Included is the new definition of "developmental disability", the new eligibility criteria and Ontario residency

requirements as outlined in SIPDDA, Regulation 276/10, and the Policy Directives.

The revised Passport Program guidelines also outline the new process for applying for the Passport Program and describe the roles and responsibilities of Developmental Services Ontario organizations and agencies administering the Passport Program.

## 3. How can I get a copy of the Passport Program Guidelines?

The revised Passport Program Guidelines are available on the ministry's website at [www.ontario.ca/community](http://www.ontario.ca/community).

## 4. Where do I get an application form for the Passport Program?

Individuals requesting funding through the Passport Program should contact their regional Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) organizations. The DSO will confirm the person's eligibility for developmental services and supports and complete the Developmental Services Application Package. A separate Passport Program application form is no longer required.

## 5. What is the role of the Developmental Services Ontario organization as it relates to the Passport Program?

It is the responsibility of Developmental Services Ontario organizations to confirm a person's eligibility for ministry funded adult developmental services and supports and complete the

## Passport Changes, Cont'd

*Cont'd from next page*

Developmental Services Application Package with applicants. If an eligible applicant requests funding through the Passport Program, the DSO will provide the Passport agency with the necessary information from the Application Package. Passport Designated Agencies will continue to administer the Passport Program guidelines.

### 6. What is the role of the Passport Designated Agency?

The Passport Designated Agency will:

- Determine each applicant's level of funding
- Identify available services and supports
- Identify how the services and supports will be funded
- Determine the applicant's priority for services
- Link the applicant with available services and supports
- Administer direct funding agreements
- Notify MCSS regional offices if the applicant prefers services and supports through a service agency

### 7. I am already approved for funding under the Passport Program. Do I have to do anything different? Will my funding level change as a result of the revised guidelines?

No. The eligibility criteria and access changes in the revised Passport Program are for new applicants only – those applying after July 1, 2011. If you are already approved for funding through the Passport Program, your approved funding will continue.

The previous Passport Program guidelines required a person to reapply for the Passport Program every three years to determine whether

the individual's needs have changed. Under the revised Passport Program guidelines, individuals receiving Passport Program funding will be required to complete a reassessment with the Developmental Services Ontario organization at least every five years.

### 8. Is direct funding still an option under the new Passport Program guidelines?

Yes, Direct funding is still an option under the revised Passport Program guidelines.

### 9. When did these changes take place?

These revised Passport Program guidelines are effective on July 1, 2011.

### 10. As of April 2012 Passport will cover a broader range of services, such as respite care; will there be further revisions to the Passport Guidelines to reflect this change?

Yes. There will be further revisions to the Guidelines to reflect this change.

## Housing By-Law Changes

In 2010 an application was filed with the Ontario Human Rights Commission citing that municipal by-laws in Kitchener, Smith Falls, Toronto and Sarnia that had restrictions on where supportive housing is available, are discriminatory against people with disabilities.

Since then, Sarnia and Smith Falls have either revised or removed the by-laws that restricted locations for housing for people with disabilities. This past June, Kitchener announced they were revising their by-laws to remove distancing provisions.

Only Toronto refuses to amend its current by-laws, which state there must be 250m between 'group homes'. In fact, the City has challenged the application. Community Living Toronto is involved in this case and we will keep you posted on the progress.



securing futures

## 5 Improvements to RDSP's

*Brendon D. Pooran, Barrister & Solicitor, PooranLaw*

In the 2007 Federal Budget, the Government of Canada announced the introduction of the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Based on feedback received from an RDSP review last year, the Government of Canada proposed significant enhancements to the RDSP in the 2012 Federal Budget. If passed, these five improvements would provide beneficiaries with greater access and flexibility when opening, administering and benefiting from the proceeds of RDSPs.

To find out more about these 5 improvements log onto [www.ConnectABILITY.ca/connected-families](http://www.ConnectABILITY.ca/connected-families)



*Brendon is the founder of PooranLaw, a law firm dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities, their families and the community organizations who support them. Brendon teaches Critical Disability Law at York University, is a member of the Consent and Capacity Board, the President of Community Living York South and the Vice President of MukiBaum Treatment Centres.*

### Continue the conversation on Connected Families

This is a place for YOU to talk and connect about everything from the little stuff to the really big stuff, how you solved problems, found resources and found ways to make your dreams happen.



Tell your stories, your ideas, your successes and even your frustrations. Share your tips to help others succeed and find tips that could help you.

[www.connectability.ca/connected-families](http://www.connectability.ca/connected-families)

ConnectABILITY.ca

## Safely Supplementing ODSP

*Ron Malis, M.B.A. – Associate Broker with Independent Financial Concepts Group*

Many Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients have other sources of support. Parents and other family members provide additional resources to supplement the limited amounts received from ODSP. However, providing an ODSP recipient with additional money or assets may or may not threaten their eligibility for this important government benefit, depending on how it is done.

To find out more about safely supplementing a person's ODSP, visit <http://connectability.ca/connected-families/financial-legal/generosity-can-jeopardize-your-odsp/#p128>



*Ron Malis maintains a highly specialized focus on serving individuals with disabilities and their supporting family members. Mr. Malis is an associate broker with Independent Financial Concepts Group and Worldsource Financial.*

This page is not an endorsement or recommendation for services. Community Living Toronto can provide you with a list of lawyers and financial advisors familiar with planning for individuals with disabilities. We urge you to discuss your situation with them and then decide which one you would like to work with. Make sure that you are comfortable that the professional you have selected meets your needs, fits your budget and understands the issues of planning for a person with a disability.

# 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**  
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**Members at Large**  
Paul Cochrane  
David Danyluk  
Serena De Souza  
Nelson Raposo  
Sandra Ricci  
Alda Zimbalatti

**Regional Executive Director**  
Frances MacNeil

**Membership Coordinator**  
Felicitia Zanatta  
647-729-1210  
[fzanatta@cltoronto.ca](mailto:fzanatta@cltoronto.ca)

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Toronto, Ontario  
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T: 416.968.0650  
F: 416.968.6463

**Central Region Meeting:**  
**October 17, 2012**  
**5:30 pm**  
**20 Spadina Road**  
**Room 2B**

## Spring Fling Recap

The Spring Fling is always a welcome and special evening out for many of the individuals supported by Community Living Toronto. It is also an evening to celebrate, enjoy and contribute. This year's Spring Fling was no exception. Held on April 29, 2012, the event raised approximately \$13,000 for various activities directly supported by the Central Region Council.

Special thanks to Judy and Kelli, the driving force behind the many prizes and Silent Auction items donated for the event. With the help of a network of volunteers and the Central Region Council members, the Spring Fling comes to life!

The Central Region Council will be meeting on Wednesday September 19, 2012 at 5:30 pm at 20 Spadina in Room 2B. They will be reviewing the event, as well as brainstorming new ideas and a re-vamping of a very successful venture. If you are interested in learning more about becoming part of the committee, please consider coming out to the meeting.

In addition to the Spring Fling, Central Region Council members are also involved in helping fund and organize activities such as Holiday Baskets and the Wednesday Dinner Club. We'd love for you to join us!



Incredible Silent Auction



Harry and Susan dance the night away.



Peter, Doug and Paul Enjoy the Evening



Congratulations Judy and Kelli!

## Council Listings

Etobicoke/ York  
Regional Council

Chairperson  
Ann Marie Fierro

Board Representative  
Stefica Skof

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  
Mary Pawson  
Stefica Skof  
Sharon Totafurno

Regional Executive Director  
Brad Saunders

Membership Coordinator  
Eric Laimer  
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Etobicoke/York  
Regional Office  
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**Next Council Meeting:  
Tuesday Sept. 18th.  
6:30 pm  
295 The West Mall  
Suite 204  
Boardroom**

## Visual Journaling is Coming to CVS!

By Eric Laimer



An example of visual journaling created by Vera Radoch.

The Fall season promises to be an exciting time at Creative Village Studio (CVS) with the debut of a new program, Visual Journaling/ Scrapbooking and the return of the Choir;

This Visual Journaling/Scrapbooking class was created by Vera Radoch, Support Worker III at Etobicoke Employment Training Services. Creative art and visual journaling has been a passion for Vera for many years and the program offers artists an intriguing way to fuse different visual arts in to a unique form of self expression.

The participants are provided with a variety of simple, affordable supplies and tools to create their world in their own journal. They can express their thoughts about themselves, their friends, families and their life through drawing, painting, collaging, photographs, words, printing or all of the above using a mixed media approach.

Beside creating memories or a visual representation of one's self, there is another substantial part of visual

journaling – it can have a meditative effect. As Vera reflects from her own collection of visual journals, “It is amazing to look back into these journals and finding everything that I relate to personally and in a chronological order.”

Many people are looking forward to the follow up session of the Choir. The Spring class was a hit and the upcoming Fall session promises to be even better!

Alyssa Webb will be returning to teach the Choir. She brings a wealth of experience from her previous music theatre studies and Jazz vocal training at Humber College.

Each choir session is one and a half hours long with the last half hour being a social time.

The music instruction begins with a vocal warm up and work on some vocal technique and breathing exercises. Next, there are movement and music activities with and without instruments to get the group energized and ready for repertoire work.

Each participant has a solo in one of the songs that the group develops and they also receive some one-on-one training with Alyssa. Beatles and ABBA songs were popular with the participants in the Spring session and will likely find their way in to the Fall song list.

Each choir session wraps up with a friendship circle in which each participant gets a compliment from one of the other participants.

For more information about these and other Creative Village Studio programs see page 16.

# North York News

## Council Listings

### North York Regional Council

Chairperson  
Nancy Ceci

Board Representative  
Colleen Broadhurst

Alternate Board Representative  
Morris Jesion

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Mary Stewart

Self Advocate Representative  
Sam McKhail

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Teresa Bhandal  
Shirley Germuska  
Eva Lipa  
Dr. Norbert Kerenyi

Regional Executive Director  
Brad Saunders

Membership Coordinator  
Wendy Dyke  
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[wdyke@cltoronto.ca](mailto:wdyke@cltoronto.ca)

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## North York Region Next Council Meeting:

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

## Best Friends Vacation at Shadow Lake

By Wendy Dyke



Sunshine, centre, with camp staff

Best friends Sunshine and Alex have been going to Shadow Lake camp the same time every year for many years now. In fact, each year they make sure they book the same weeks away together.

Sunshine has been going to Shadow Lake for her vacation every year for over ten years. Alex started going to Shadow Lake Centre camp when she was a young girl, first for only one week. Alex enjoys it so much, that she has been going to Shadow Lake for the entire month of July for the past 15 years now.

This time is so special for both of these ladies that they talk about going to camp months beforehand and then talk non-stop to everyone about their experiences when they come back.

When Sunshine recently spoke to me, she talked excessively about what a terrific time she had again this year at Shadow Lake. She especially enjoyed doing activities with Alex. Sunshine listed lots of the activities offered at the camp as highlights: playing games such as bingo, arts and crafts, exercise groups, hiking, using the splash pad, watching movies on Saturday night, a talent

show and boat rides. When asked what she enjoyed the most. Sunshine replied, "I love to go in the paddle boats and do arts and crafts." She added, "The splash pad was good but the water was cold. The walking was good, too, but there were lots of hills. They had exercises in the water and exercises done seated. I also had taken my iPod to listen to music using my ear phones so I didn't wake others in the cabin and shared my fairy tale books with Alex. She really liked my books. I sang and played the guitar for the talent show. It was fun."

When asked about her highlights, Alex replied, "They put new swings up this year and Marisa showed me that they are really strong. Sunshine and three others were in the same cabin with me. I liked going in the pontoon boat with a life jacket on. It was fun. Sunshine shared her books with me. I danced for the talent show to one of the Spice Girls songs, and it was fun! I'm going back again next year! I always enjoy myself up there. It's a chance to get away and have a break from work'.

To find out more about Shadow Lake go to [www.shadowlakecentre.ca](http://www.shadowlakecentre.ca)



Alex in her Shadow Lake shirt

### Jumpstart Literacy needs more participants!

Saturday mornings - 9:30 to 11:30 - September 8th to June 2013

1122 Finch Ave W, Unit 16 (Finch & Dufferin)

Cost: \$5.00 per week, pay as you go

Contact Matt Poirier at 647-729-1162 or [matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca](mailto:matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca)



## 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**  
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F: 416.438.6144

**Next Council Meeting:**  
**Monday, October 1, 2012**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Boardroom**  
**1712 Ellesmere Rd**  
**Conference Room**

## Summer Literacy Gets The Star Treatment!

By Kaitlyn Serediuk



Summer Literacy Class with Global Reporter Antony Robart

On Friday July 27th, the students and volunteers of Summer Literacy had the chance to go behind the scenes of Global News. It was a fun filled day for everyone with a unique look at what it takes to put together news stories. Everyone enjoyed themselves amongst the dozens of spotlights and cameras on set. Students of Summer Literacy not only saw the Global News room, but they also made a special appearance on the evening news. A special thanks goes out to the staff at Global News for this awesome experience that we will always remember.

The summer fun for these students did not end there. On Friday August 3rd, Summer Literacy performed the play Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The students did a great job of bringing the magic of this story to life with a wonderful set, costumes and acting skills. Family and friends

laughed and even danced along to this great performance!

Summer Literacy is a five week program sponsored by our Scarborough Council. This year the program took place at St. Richards school. For more information , please contact Ann-Marie Binetti at (647) 729-1635.



Stefan as Willy Wonka

## Summer Fun



Hub Walk Participants



Hub Walk Staff & Volunteers



Mix and Mingling After the Hub Walk



Volunteers Kept the Food Coming



Grooving to Popular Toons



Taking a Bingo Break

## North York Cooking Class

By Jenna Martinuzzi



Gary enjoys dinner that Jenna helped prepare

My friend Amy and I wanted to join the North York Region cooking class. We talked to our parents, who signed us up by contacting Wendy Dyke.

The North York cooking class focuses on learning about simple nutritious meals so the participants can learn to cook healthy and balanced meals with their friends and family at home.

This course is goal focused, with participant input, hands on learning, Canada's food guide, and food and kitchen safety. All participants need to bring some of their own

kitchen supplies. Every participant needs to wash their hands before cooking or preparing food.

We welcome all adults with a disability in this cooking program 18+ . All participants are encouraged to practice what they learn in class with their families and Support Workers.

Each week, participants help prepare foods by cutting vegetables and meat. We also learned to use the grill, the stove and oven to cook. Afterwards we all cleaned up. We voted for what we wanted to cook every week and the meal that got the most votes was what we cooked.

The North York Cooking class ran every Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:00pm April 4 to May 30, 2012. On the last evening, we invited parents, family and friends to join us for dinner. I felt great about that evening because I helped prepare the meal. It was all of us that decided to invite guests on the last evening to celebrate learning to cook meals. Everyone enjoyed themselves and said the food was great. It's a lot of fun learning new cooking skills. Anyone interested in taking this cooking program is welcome come to join. There is an application form to sign. You can contact Wendy Dyke at 647-729-3627 or email [wdyke@cltoronto.ca](mailto:wdyke@cltoronto.ca) for more information. See you soon in 2013/2014 for our next cooking session!

# Bridging Diversity

## Seeking an Ordinary Sexual Life

By Katelyn Ott

As part of my placement as a Master of Social Work student with the Bridging Diversity Project, I had the opportunity to explore research on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning (LGBTQ) people with an intellectual disability. The research report I completed illustrates the barriers in service delivery for LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability, and examines national and international LGBTQ initiatives that provide models of how to support the needs of LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability. Although there has been much progress in terms of supporting the sexuality of people with an intellectual disability through person-directed models, there are continued barriers to service delivery for LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability. These barriers include environmental, economic, perceptions of family, staff, and people in support, and policy implementation.

Environmental barriers include bedrooms that do not have locks, a lack of privacy, rules and policies around overnight guests, single beds, and notions of 'inappropriate' behaviours related to sexual expression.

Economic barriers result in a lower likelihood of people with an intellectual disability having a disposable income for socializing and meeting people. In terms of staff, support workers are often central to the person in service achieving the sexual relationships they want. A lack of organizational support can affect staff members' choices about how to support people around sexual expression and identity. Family members have a large influence over their family members with an intellectual disability, and often prefer relationships that involve low levels of intimacy.

Generally, LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability are concerned about disclosing their sexual orientation to their support network due to fear of being rejected or discriminated against.

Finally, in terms of implementing sexuality policy, without providing support systems or further information about the policy to staff, there is a greater likelihood that the policy will not cause changes in attitudes or behaviours.

The report presents the following recommendations:

### 1. Environmental Changes

Opportunities for sexual relationships need to be provided in supported living environments, through access to transportation, private rooms, and policies that allow for overnight guests. Safe, accessible spaces where LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability can be comfortable talking about their sexuality need to be available.

### 2. Education

Sex, sexuality, and relationship education for people with an intellectual disability needs to include LGBTQ sexuality and acknowledge the complexity of disability and sexuality.

### 3. Training

Staff require training on homophobia and transphobia (an irrational fear of people who identify as gay, lesbian or transgender), heterosexism (a bias towards opposite-sex sexuality and relationships), and how to support LGBTQ sexuality (Jung & Smith, 1993). Training also needs to address how to implement sexuality policies.

### 4. Policy

Sexuality policies need to be supported and communicated throughout all levels of the organization in order to effectively address issues related to supporting LGBTQ sexuality.

### 5. Partnerships

As current organizations and groups supporting LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability are disconnected, partnerships among them will assist in sharing information and best practice suggestions. Cross-sector partnerships are also required to meet the needs of LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability.

### Looking for support for LGBTQ people with intellectual disabilities?

sprOUT Toronto is a peer group for LGBTQ people with intellectual disabilities over the age of 18, that meets every second Monday at the 519 Community Centre from 6-8pm.

For more information, contact 416-222-1153 Ext. 138

*sprOUT Toronto is run in partnership between Griffin Centre, Vita Community Services and Community Living Toronto*

# Self-Advocates Council Update

## Self-Advocates Council Listings

Chairperson  
Robert Shaddock

Vice-Chair  
Sam McKhail

Board Representative  
Paul Cochrane

Community Living Ontario Representative  
Peter Marrese

Treasurer/Secretary  
Robbie Cowdrey

### Members At Large

Caseen Johnson  
Candice Doherty  
Lorraine Bradley  
Margherita Cappiello  
Mark Miller  
Mike Murray  
Nelson Raposo  
Nick Lappas

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 Council Meeting:**  
September 17, 1pm  
20 Spadina.

## Ready for the Fall



Minutes from the Self-Advocates Council Annual Meeting created by Petra Asfaw



Community Living Toronto  
Where choices change the lives of people with an intellectual disability

After an enjoyable summer, the Self-Advocates Council (SAC) is now getting ready for Fall.

In June, the SAC gathered at Foster's Connection for our Annual General Meeting to talk about goals. Telling our stories and listening to others was an important theme of the meeting as we realized that people want to tell their stories and the SAC wants to hear them. As a result, the Self-Advocates council would like to invite you to come out to a meeting. We'd love to listen to your story!

For more information about the Self-Advocates council and our meeting dates, please contact: Sue Hutton at 647-729-1205 or [shutton@cltoronto.ca](mailto:shutton@cltoronto.ca)

The Board of Directors of Community Living Toronto cordially invite you to attend the

## 64th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2012  
6:15 pm Registration; 7:00 pm Meeting & Reception

Courtyard by Marriott Hotel  
475 Yonge Street

**Going Green...** The environment and the economy is a concern to us all. If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically please let your Regional Membership Coordinator know by forwarding your email address to them.

# Resources, Networking And You

## Spinclusion 2012

By Mia McGowan



Mia facilitates Spinclusion

It's been a great year for Spinclusion. This fun and interactive game increases awareness about inclusion with children and youth. Thanks to some generous funding from United Way, Community Living Toronto was able to dedicate two days a week to Spinclusion's outreach. As a result, over 3,000 children and youth had the opportunity to discuss differences, diversity and

inclusion of all people.

Since September 2011, 74 schools played Spinclusion for a total of 150 sessions. 48 new facilitators were trained, including staff from Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff, Toronto Public Library, internal

Community Living Toronto staff and students.

We developed a partnership with the Toronto Public Library and they purchased games for each of their districts. After providing Facilitator training, Spinclusion is now being played in libraries across the city. Spinclusion was introduced to many of our diversity partners including: Victoria Village Hub, CultureLink, North York Community House, and Tamil Ealam Society of Canada to name a few.

This year we had some great new prizes as well. As part of Community Living Toronto's Ban the 'R' word campaign, the "Lose It. Don't Use It." bracelets have been very popular. It is a great opportunity to raise awareness around the impact of the "R" word and then direct the participants to the website. Children and Youth have been enthusiastically signing the pledge to stop using the "R" word. For further information or to arrange a Spinclusion session please contact: Mia McGowan 416-438-1165 ext. 222 or

## Corporate Volunteers Get Their Spring Cleaning On!

By Karla Galvez-Del Rio



The Ladies from Proctor & Gamble

On May 9, 2012, a lovely group of ladies from Proctor & Gamble participated in the United Way Days of Caring and volunteered at Reidmount Group Home. The group spent the day spring cleaning by washing the windows, dusting furniture and tidying up the backyard.

On behalf of the Reidmount Residents and Staff, we would like to thank Kiran, Florence, Hermine, Joyce and Mary Ann for the tremendous work your group did. Your dedication in volunteering for the Spring Cleaning is

greatly appreciated!

Here is what some of the volunteers had to say:

Joyce Almedia, "Giving back to the community is so beautiful and soul-satisfying. It makes you feel like you 'belong'. I've enjoyed every moment of my day at Community Living Toronto. It has been a memorable experience for my colleagues and I. I know we're going to recall this experience for a long, long time."

Mary Ann Green, "It was a great experience for me. I would love to come back with my sons to volunteer sometimes. Hats off to Sherene and the Staff at Reidmount who made us feel so comfortable and were always checking up on us to offer refreshments, as well as always smiling with a positive personality."

If you or your workplace is interested in volunteering with a special project at one of our sites, please contact the Coordinator of Volunteer Services in your Region.

# Events / Workshops

## Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Information Sessions

**Securing the Financial Future for People with Disabilities**

Hosted by



- ✓ Under 50 Years old? You may be eligible for up to \$90,000 in federal contributions with an RDSP
- ✓ Anyone can contribute to the financial security of a person with a disability

**Community Living Toronto is pleased to host four free workshops for families, individuals and professionals. To register for these free workshops contact any of the numbers below.**

Sessions will be presented by Brendon Pooran, A Toronto based Lawyer that provides advice on wills and estates planning, government benefits and disability law.

Can't attend this workshop? Register for a webinar, teleseminar or one-on-one consultation! [www.rdspontario.ca](http://www.rdspontario.ca)

With a clear message from government that "people with disabilities should live meaningful, full lives like any other citizen," the Ontario Government has exempted the RDSP and income from an RDSP in determining eligibility for income support under ODSP.

This means the beneficiary will be able to save and use income from their RDSP whenever they want, for whatever they want.

This information is available in English only. Veuillez communiquer avec nous afin d'obtenir des renseignements en français.

Funding for these information sessions is provided by the Government of Canada. Ces séances d'information sont financées par le gouvernement du Canada.



**September 5, 2012**  
Etobicoke Region  
295 The West Mall, Suite 204  
6:00 pm—7:30 pm  
RSVP: Eric Laimer 647-729-0445

**September 19, 2012**  
North York Region  
1122 Finch Ave. W., Unit 16  
6:00 pm—7:30 pm  
RSVP: Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627

**September 17, 2012**  
Scarborough Region  
1712 Ellesmere Road  
6:00 pm—7:30 pm  
RSVP: Ann-Marie Binetti 647-729-1635

**September 24, 2012**  
Central Region  
20 Spadina Road  
6:00 pm—7:30 pm  
RSVP: Felicita Zanatta 647-729-1210



Where choices change the lives of people with an intellectual disability

## SECURING FUTURES Information Series

Community Living Toronto is pleased to host information sessions as part of our Securing Futures program.

These sessions are free of charge and we invite all those who are involved in planning for a loved one with a disability to attend.

### Topics to be Covered

- ODSP
- Wills
- Trusts (Discretionary/Henson & Non-Discretionary)
- Powers of Attorney for Property
- Powers of Attorney for Personal Care
- Guardianship
- Home Ownership
- Life Insurance

### Speaker:



Brendon D. Pooran is the principal lawyer at PooranLaw. He is involved in all areas of the firm's practice and regularly provides advice to individuals, families, organizations and government

**September 5, 2012**  
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
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**Note: Ask about the RDSP Sessions also being hosted on those days.**



COMMUNITY LIVING TORONTO  
20 Spadina Rd., Toronto, ON M5R 2S7  
Tel: (416) 968-0650 [www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca)

Charitable Registration Number: 10769-4143 RR0001 A United Way Member Agency



because everyone needs a short break...

## Open House!



See and Learn More About This Unique Respite Home for Children with Autism

**Please Join Us!**



Where choices change the lives of people with an intellectual disability

For more information, contact:  
Natasha Khemchand,  
[nkhemchand@cltoronto.ca](mailto:nkhemchand@cltoronto.ca)  
or 647-729-0476 Pina Bresciani,

**Community Rocks**  
Featuring **Blue Rodeo**  
**PARTY WITH A PURPOSE!**  
Saturday, November 24, 2012  
The Queen Elizabeth Theatre | 190 Princes Blvd., Exhibition Place  
Tickets \$150 or \$85 for CLToronto staff  
Buy yours today @ [communityrocks.ca](http://communityrocks.ca)  
Or contact us @ 416.968.0915 | [fundraising@cltoronto.ca](mailto:fundraising@cltoronto.ca)

# Calendar of Events

## September 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	3	4 Scarborough Residential Alternatives	5 Central Dinner Club RDSP & Wills/Trusts/ Guardianship Sessions—Etobicoke	6	7	8 Tri Hard Bowling
9	10	11 Annual General Meeting	12 Central Dinner Club	13	14	15
16	17 RDSP & Wills/ Trusts/Guardianship Sessions - Scarborough SAC Meeting	18 Etobicoke Council Meeting NY Parent Group Meeting, Vic Park Hub	19 Central Dinner Club Central Council Meeting RDSP & Wills/Trusts/ Guardianship Sessions - NY	20	21 Scarborough Bingo	22 Tri Hard Bowling
23	24 RDSP & Wills/ Trusts/Guardianship Sessions - Central	25	26 Central Dinner Club	27	28 Connections Dance	29

## October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NY Council Mtg Scarb. Council Mtg.	2 Scarborough Residential Alternatives	3 Central Dinner Club	4	5 Lawson Dance	6 Tri Hard Bowling
7	8	9 Etobicoke Council Meeting	10 Central Dinner Club	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Central Dinner Club Central Council Meeting	18	19 Scarborough Bingo	20 Tri Hard Bowling
21	22 SAC Meeting	23	24 Central Dinner Club	25	26 Connections Dance	27
28	29	30	31 Central Dinner Club			



### COMMUNITY CLASSES

For more information call: 647-351-4362  
Creative Village Studio  
4895 Dundas Street West

#### CARD MAKING

Mondays 1:30pm-3:30pm

*Explore various card making techniques.*  
Fall session: Sept. 17-Dec. 3 \$100

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Wednesdays 5:00pm-7:00pm

*Hands-on experience exploring digital photography.*  
Fall session: Sept. 19-Dec. 5 \$140

#### VISUAL JOURNALING/ SCRAPBOOKING

New

Mondays 10:00am-12:00pm

*Express yourself through mixed visual media.*  
Fall session: Sept. 17-Dec.3 \$100

#### ABSTRACT PAINTING

Mondays or Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm

*Learn the basics of abstract painting.*  
Monday Fall session: Sept. 17-Dec. 3 \$100  
Thursday Fall session: Sept. 20-Nov. 29 \$100

#### YOUTH EXPRESSIVE ARTS

18 to 25 years old

Tuesdays 5:00pm-7:00pm

*Expressive art that unifies body, speech and mind.*  
Fall session: Sept. 18-Dec. 4 \$120

#### CHOIR

Thursdays 6:00pm-7:30pm

*Discover your unique singing voice!*  
Fall session: Sept. 20-Dec. 6 \$120



United Way  
Toronto  
A United Way member agency

