

**FEATURED STORY**

**Bonnie Heath honoured with the Jim Turner Award for Outstanding Voluntarism**



*Brad Saunders, Diane Turner and Bonnie Heath*

Bonnie Heath has been a generous and selfless innovator, trailblazer, trendsetter and a rock of support for families and individuals with intellectual disabilities in Toronto.

Through Community Living Toronto, she started the Parent Share Program for family members and parents of children with disabilities to meet and support each other around 15 years ago. She personally attends these meetings and has gone on to set up groups in other areas, as well, all of which are still thriving, and act as an incredible resource for parents. Bonnie has also

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revolutionized a supported shared living model though the Residential Alternative Initiative.

She started the initiative with the community, and collaborated with agencies, including LIGHTS and the DSTO. Her willingness to share and mentor is legendary and she is an inspiration to families in our community.

Bonnie is a past member of the Board, has been a member of Community Living Toronto Scarborough Region Council since 2005, and is now the Council Co-Chair. From the beginning of her time on Council, she has contributed at meetings and worked on the Newsletter committee.

She is a strong, quiet force in our community, inspiring us all with her leadership, energy and vision to dream big and be active and proactive in helping people with intellectual challenges take their place in their community.

## CENTRAL REGION

# Central Region Volunteer of the Year -

## Amir Elkharadly



*Brad Saunders and Amir Elkharadly*

For over five years now, Amir has been a friendly and reliable helping hand at our Spadina office and various events such as Spring Fling, Annual Picnic and Community Rocks. He has also worked with our youth volunteers to ensure Community Living Toronto volunteers were represented at the PanAm and Para PanAm Games last summer.

Amir always brings bright and cheery conversation to the office with him and is ready for any task. In fact, he looks forward to days when there is extra work to do because he enjoys helping and learning new skills so much. Sometimes, he will stay a full work day to help staff get something done, and then offer to come in the next day to help finish it.

He is consistently open to taking on new things and adjusting his personal schedule to make sure his volunteer work commitment is a priority.

As a self-advocate, Amir is passionate about having his voice heard, and strives to be an active member of his community.

His commitment to Community Living Toronto and devotion to personal growth is truly inspiring and this award is a proof to that.

## Upcoming Central Events

### Central Region Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 6:00 pm  
20 Spadina Rd, Room 2B  
All are welcome.

### Central Annual Regional Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 6:00 pm  
20 Spadina Road, Boardroom  
Everyone is welcome!

To RSVP to the above events contact:  
Matt Poirier at 647-729-1210 or  
[matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca](mailto:matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca)

## Etobicoke Region Volunteer of the Year - Lois Langdon



Lois is an integral member of Creative Village Studio. She has a great work ethic and is dedicated to the learning and success of our artists. Whatever needs to be accomplished throughout the day, Lois is eagerly up for the task.

Lois has a great sense of humour and brings out the best in people. She is very respectful in her interactions and teaching techniques. She really knows how to work a room! Lois works with each artist depending on their needs; her kindness and giving nature leads to a comfortable, exciting, and productive experience at CVS.

Being an artist herself, she knows when to help and offer suggestions and when to let people work through their ideas, offering a facilitated learning experience through bonding and friendship.

Lois is an amazing help and addition to our team and we'd be lost without her enthusiasm and positive spirit. We appreciate all the wonderful work that Lois does for the artists and Creative Village Studio.

## Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

### Etobicoke/York Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2016  
295 The West Mall, Suite 204  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

### Etobicoke/York Region Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2016  
295 The West Mall, Suite 204  
6:30 pm  
Please call to RSVP to: Georgina Stergiotis  
647-729-0445 or email her at  
[georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca](mailto:georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca)

### Monday Night Club

4 - 7:30 pm  
Etobicoke ADP  
102 Advance Road  
Call 416-232-1213 for details

### Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of the month, 6 – 8 pm  
295 The West Mall in Boardroom  
Registration: LauraLee Edmiston,  
647-729-0440 or [ledmiston@cltoronto.ca](mailto:ledmiston@cltoronto.ca)



## NORTH YORK REGION

# North York Region Volunteer of the Year – Isabella Hamilton



*Isabella, right, receives her award from Nancy Ceci, North York Council Chair and Brad Saunders, Community Living Toronto's CEO*

For the past five years, Isabella has volunteered with the North York seniors program faithfully every Thursday. As a long-term participant in North York Supported Independent Living Program and the Supported Work and Community Activities program - where she works part-time assisting children and staff at the Sunnybrook Hospital Crèche Daycare - Isabella has long demonstrated a caring and compassionate nature, coupled with a strong work ethic.

Isabella has made good use of these qualities and experience in assisting our seniors in their programs at the Victoria Park Hub and in our regular community based activities.

Her unwavering willingness to help the seniors at every opportunity along with her innate

patience and understanding has made her an exemplary asset to the Seniors Program. The seniors love her and always look forward to seeing 'Isabel' as they fondly call her.

## Upcoming North York Events

### North York Regional Annual Meeting North York Council Presents Community Living Toronto's Housing Partnerships

Please join us to learn about various Housing Partnerships offering a variety of options  
Monday, June 13, 2016

16 - 1122 Finch Avenue West

6:30 pm

Everyone Welcome!

Please RSVP to: Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627

### Big Dreams Spring Art Sale

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

North York SWACA

16 – 1122 Finch Avenue West

For information please call Andreia Alvares

416-638-7042

### Upcoming Sibshops

Where: Victoria Park Hub

1527 Victoria Park Avenue

10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Please call to register: Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627 or Cate Whiteley 647-729-3635

### Pizza/Bingo at the Victoria Park Hub

1527 Victoria Park Avenue

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Cost: \$3.00 per person

Call to register your attendance:

Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627

## SCARBOROUGH REGION

# Scarborough Region Volunteer of the Year - Stacey Bateman



Stacey started volunteering with Community Living Toronto as a teen for a program in Scarborough Region called Tuesday Night Drop-In. Young people could 'drop in' on Tuesday nights for cards, bingo, sports and friendly conversation. The goal was to have a volunteer from the community for each of the regular participants. Stacey showed an early affinity for this activity and took on more responsibility over time. She became a trusted aide, standing in when needed for Pat Sparks who created the program.

Stacey was soon given full charge of the evenings, keeping attendance, training new volunteers and holding the keys. She was an enthusiastic partner in all the fund raising activities that - in addition to grants from Scarborough region - kept the program going for decades. As Pat's health began to fail, Stacey was the obvious choice to keep the drop-in alive.

Stacey is the epitome of volunteering; starting young, eager to please, growing with the activities, learning, staying with it and now assuming the mantle of leader. Pat knew she had left her program in the best of hands.

## Upcoming Scarborough Events

### Scarborough Regional Annual Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2016

6:15pm

1712 Ellesmere Road

All Welcome!



### Bingo Bowling Extravaganza

Fundraiser on Friday, May 6, 2016

Parkway Bowl, 67 Ellesmere Road

Lanes open at 6:30; games start at 7 to 9:30 pm

Cost is \$25 per person; register your team of 6.

For more information on these events and to register, contact Felicita Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or [fzanatta@cltoronto.ca](mailto:fzanatta@cltoronto.ca)

### Tuesday Morning Drop In

10 am to noon, \$4 each week

1712 Ellesmere Rd

RSVP to Sarah at 647-729-1633 or

[swinter@cltoronto.ca](mailto:swinter@cltoronto.ca)

## Volunteer-Students Voice

# Association Youth Volunteer - Bradley Dunne



*Brad Saunders and Bradley Dunne*

Bradley Dunne first started volunteering for Community Living Toronto at the Annual Picnics. Always willing to lend a hand, and lug the heavy stuff, Brad wanted to get more involved!

Bradley then moved on to volunteer at the Scarborough Summer Literacy program, where he always encouraged and motivated the participants to do their best and try new things, even if it meant getting up on stage himself to support a dance number.

Bradley was not ready to say good-bye to the summer program, so he decided to commit his time and dedication to Scarborough's Winter Literacy program, where he is an incredible help, always showing up with a smile on his face eager to help in any way that he can and expecting nothing in return. Bradley makes the classroom a brighter place where the students truly feel comfortable.

Programs such as the Summer & Winter Literacy cannot run without volunteers like

Bradley. His dedication, sense of humor and patience is greatly appreciated and valued by the students, and Community Living Toronto. His passion to make a difference in this world as a youth advocate is admirable and has impacted many.

## Self-Advocates Council

# Ken 'Sam' Samler Award – Peter Park



*Paul Cochrane, Sue Hutton and Nelson Raposo accepting the award on Peter Park's behalf*

The Self-Advocates Council has had the privilege of being mentored by Peter Park, known widely as the Godfather of Self Advocacy in Ontario. The Self-Advocates Council selected Peter to win the Ken 'Sam' Samler Volunteer of the Year award this year; however, they are saluting Peter for his 38 years of deep commitment to human rights activism for people with intellectual disabilities. Peter's wife Rhea Park sat on the Self-Advocates Council from 2009 – 2011 and during this time Peter volunteered to help the council learn about their rights. He continues to bring his voice and wisdom to many rights

issues the Self-Advocates Council is involved in.

Peter lived in institutions for 18 years. The day he got out was the day he started People First of Ontario. His contributions to the movement of human rights for people with intellectual disability are far and wide. Peter currently is working with the Re-specting Rights Committee at ARCH Disability Law Centre, sits on the Deinstitutionalization Working Group, and is teaching others about rights everywhere he goes.

Peter has the honoured distinction of having received the June Callwood Award for Outstanding Voluntarism. He has taught generations of people to speak out and stand up for their rights. When Nelson Raposo and Paul Cochrane nominated Peter Park for the award, they knew how important it is to honour Peter's invaluable work over the years for people with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you, Peter! You help inspire us to speak up for our rights.

## News and Events

### Our Annual Picnic is just around the Corner...

And we are looking for volunteers to help with set up, bingo and running the stations on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 1712 Ellesmere Rd, Scarborough.

If you are interested, contact your Regional Volunteer Coordinator:

Scarborough Region, Sarah Winter at 647-729-1633

Central Region, Yulia Prudova at 647-729-1209

North York & Etobicoke/York Region,  
Sehrish Zehra at 647-729-1162



Are you a caregiver for a person with an intellectual disability? Join our network of caregivers and family members. For further information, contact Sarah Winter @ 647-729-1633 or [swinter@cltoronto.ca](mailto:swinter@cltoronto.ca)

Find us on  FamilyLink Toronto

### DSTO Information Fair – A Free Event

Wednesday May 18, 2016, 10:00am – 6:00pm  
The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre  
6 Garamond Court, Toronto ON M3C 1Z5

**The Day Includes:** Information from Toronto based agencies on services and supports for transitional youth (16 years of age and older) and adults (18 years of age and older) with a developmental disability.

For information contact Matthew Armstrong at 647-729-1158 [matthew.armstrong@cltoronto.ca](mailto:matthew.armstrong@cltoronto.ca) or visit the Developmental Services Ontario Toronto Region (DSO TR) website at [www.dsotoronto.ca](http://www.dsotoronto.ca)





North York Regions: Wendy Dyke  
647-729-3627

Scarborough Region: Felicita Zanatta  
647-729-1635

Central Region: Matt Poirier 647-729-1210

Etobicoke Region: Georgina Stergiotis  
647-729-0445

**Live in Etobicoke and need a ride to the picnic?**

Please call Georgina at 647-729-0445 or email her at [georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca](mailto:georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca) to reserve your seat on the bus which is being sponsored by Etobicoke/York Region Council. Seating is limited, so reserve early!

The bus leaves from 295 The West Mall at 10:15 am *sharp*, and departs Lawson at 3:00 pm.

*Note: no pets are allowed on the bus.*

1712 Ellesmere Road, a short walk from the McGowan TTC Station. Wheelchair accessible parking only. For Wheel trans booking, please use 1710 Ellesmere Road

Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blanket and sunscreen. Admission: \$2.00 per person. Additional donations welcomed. Please let us know you are coming by calling:

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**Nominations for Regional Councils**

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 Council for the 2016-2017 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 voting 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 regional page for information about the annual meetings. Forward Council Nominations to the regional office or bring them 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 2016-2017 membership year.



## May is Community Living Month!

During the month of May, we proudly celebrate people with intellectual disabilities and people like you who are supporting the mission of building inclusive communities for all! Join us in celebration at any of the following events and keep checking our facebook, twitter and website for up-to date information on all other activities and events!

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

### CN Tower turn blue and green for Community Living Month

The CN Tower lights will be illuminated in blue and green to celebrate Community Living Month! We encourage everyone that day to show your support of Community Living Month by sporting blue and green!

**Thursday, May 12, 2016**

### Community Living Day at the Legislature



**Saturday, May 14, 2016**

### ReelAbilities Film Festival

On Saturday, May 14, at 4:45pm at Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, we will be co-presenting the film A WHOLE LOTT MORE – a documentary by Victor Buhler that brings awareness to employment issues for people with disabilities and the controversies around sheltered workshops. A panel on accessible employment will follow. This is preceded by short fiction film THE INTERVIEWER by Genevieve Clay-Smith and Robin Bryan, about a lawyer looking to make a difference in the world.

Click on the link to [buy your tickets](#)

### Community Living Toronto Store

Show your support of our Association with Community Living Toronto merchandise! Purchase today:

<https://store.souvenircanadainc.com/category-s/1827.htm>



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



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