

FEATURED STORY

Community Living Toronto Celebrates Day at the Legislature!



The Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services with our CEO Brad Saunders

On May 12, Community Living Toronto, along with Community Living Ontario and a handful of Community Living organizations across the province came together at Queen’s Park to commemorate Community Living Day at the Legislature.

Held annually, this daylong event includes a lunch reception where guests are joined by members of the legislature, and later have the opportunity to attend the legislative session in the House, where statements on Community Living Day are made.

During the luncheon, the Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social

In this Issue

- Pg 1 | **Featured Story**
- Pg 2 | **Central Region**
- Pg 3 | **Etobicoke Region**
- Pg 4 | **North York Region**
- Pg 5 | **Scarborough Region**
- Pg 6 | **Self Advocates Council**
- Pg 6 | **Volunteer-Students Voice**
- Pg 7 | **News**
- Pg 8 | **Annual Picnic**

Services gave a speech where she addressed the number of ways the government is working towards improving the Developmental Services sector, including their plan to develop a provincial employment strategy for people with disabilities, improve social assistance, and design a basic income pilot.

Other speakers at the event included Chris Beesley, CEO of Community Living Ontario, Brad Saunders, CEO of Community Living Toronto, James Taylor, Chair of the Council of Community Living Ontario, and Randy Pettapiece (PC) and Sarah Campbell (NDP), critics for Community and Social Services.

It was a great way to celebrate Community Living Month!

Central Region Celebrates Spring Fling!



On May 14th, 2016, Central Region Council hosted another successful Spring Fling Dinner and Dance. Spring Fling has become a seasonal highlight for Community Living Toronto and is the signature fundraising event for Central Council. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre was abuzz with over 300 attendees eager to enjoy the buffet dinner, dance to the music of DJ Raptor Marc Ceci and spend their money at the fantastic silent auction table and raffle.

Central Council works tirelessly every year to ensure that the event is enjoyed by everyone, while also securing funds for Central Region programs and events for individuals in the region. Funds raised by Spring Fling help support initiatives like the weekly Dinner Club at Birch, CL Toronto's Annual Picnic, the One Direction monthly social group for youth with disabilities and a monthly cookie baking group. Aside from being one of the most successful fundraising years yet, 15 individuals in service who otherwise might not be able to afford a ticket were given the chance to attend the event thanks to generous sponsors and ticket donors.

Central Council would like to thank everyone who helped to make the night a success, including those who attended, donated or volunteered to help in any way. Your commitment to the event will help to expand programs and events in Central Region to those who need them.

Thank you and see you in 2017!

Upcoming Central Events

Regional Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 15th at 6pm
Foster Connections, 40 Birch Ave.
All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Matt Poirier at 647.729.1210
or matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca

FamilyLink Activities in Central

RSVP to Yulia yprudova@cltoronto.ca

Cookie Group

Sunday, June 5th
1:00 - 3:30 PM
Tie-Dye-T-Shirt making
Foster Connections, 40 Birch Ave

Downtown Parent Share

Connecting with other families
Monday, June 13th
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Regent Park Community Centre
402 Shuter Street

Easy Community Walks

Sunday Morning Neighborhood Walks
This summer join us for a stroll and learn more about your city!
Check the volunteer section for dates!

ETOBICOKE REGION

Emily's Spring Collection

By Laura Parsonson



Emily, third from the left, with the Pawson Family

For many years, Emily has taken art classes at Creative Village Studio taught by teachers Harold Tomlinson, Alexei Berezov and a host of volunteers. She paints paintings, as well as greeting cards, both at Creative Village and at home with her Mum and Dad.

Emily's decision to sell her paintings was her own. She wanted to have an art show and celebrate her work, so she tidied up the paintings, painted vibrant new ones and planned an event with over 100 family and friends in attendance! It was a wonderfully positive and joyful day that happened to fall during Community Living Month! Many members of the Etobicoke Regional Council came to support and encourage her. Harold came of course, as did Ann-Marie Binetti who was her first Youth to Work supervisor and has always championed Emily's right to work in the community. Who would have known that Emily would become an entrepreneur?

Almost 3 years ago, Emily started a business called *Emily Parsonson Productions* selling

hand painted greeting cards. She has always given a portion of the proceeds to the Hospital for Sick Children and at her art show, she raised over \$800. Although Emily doesn't particularly understand the value of money, she does understand the value of giving. She is a wellspring of kindness.

Would I have ever thought 33 years ago when she was born that I would feel such happiness and pride? Emily is an artist, imaginer, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. She is such an interesting person with a beautiful take on life. Emily Dickinson once said, "Dwell in possibility". Emily Parsonson lives there.

Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

Etobicoke/York Region Annual Meeting

Tuesday June 14, 2016

295 The West Mall, Suite 204, 6:30 pm

Please RSVP to: Georgina Stergiotis

647-729-0445 or email

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Monday Night Club

4pm-7:30pm

Etobicoke ADP, 102 Advance Road

Call 416-232-1213

Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of the month, 6pm-8pm

295 The West Mall in Boardroom

Registration: LauraLee Edmiston,

647-729-0440 or ledmiston@cltoronto.ca

NORTH YORK REGION

Community Living Sarnia Presents Summer Employment Transitions

By Mike Adair & Flora Nichols, Community First Team



Bob Vansickle delivers one day training at the Victoria Park Hub for CL Toronto staff

Community Living Toronto staff gathered at the Victoria Park Hub on May 11th for a presentation on creating a summer employment program for students who have an intellectual disability. The workshop was organized by Community First and sponsored by Youth 2 Work from all four regions.

Bob Vansickle, manager of the Community Living Sarnia Employment Options program and current Training Coordinator for the Ontario Disability Employment Network delivered a humorous and fact-filled day of training. Topics included the importance of an “employment first” philosophy for people who have a disability, how to access inclusive employers, the value of minimum wage employment for jobseekers with disabilities, and accessing traditional volunteer opportunities to increase work skills.

Vansickle also presented a summer jobs toolkit which outlined how to create a summer employment program for students who have a disability. According to a 2011 Canadian Association for Community Living report, only 26.1% of working age Canadians with an intellectual disability are employed and close to 40% have never worked. Vansickle stated that these low statistics can be turned around, with one method being to help high school and college students who have a disability find paid employment. The presentation mentioned that according to a 2013 study (Improving Post-High School Outcomes for Transition-Age Students with Disabilities), “The number one indicator of successful labour market attachment for people with a disability, upon graduation from school, was having a paid job while in school”. Vansickle reinforced that providing these opportunities was a key factor in fostering relationships with families and the business community.

The workshop was part of an ongoing effort by the Community First Project to increase the awareness of innovative and creative approaches to support people receiving services from Community Living Toronto. The Community First Project is one of the 38 projects funded in Ontario by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to modernize service delivery and make them more individualized and responsive.

Upcoming North York Events

North York Regional Annual Meeting NY 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!

Summer Cooking Classes – 2 Sessions

Time: 9:30 am to 3 pm
Victoria Park Hub – 1527 Victoria Park Ave.
July 4, 11, 18 and August 8, 15, 22, 2016

NY Adult Development Program
1122 Finch Ave. W., Unit 8
July 25 to July 29, 2016

To learn more about the above events and programs, please call Wendy Dyke at 647-729-3627 or email wdyke@cltoronto.ca

SCARBOROUGH REGION



6th Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza

By: *Kathy Lisle*

Happy Bowlers!

Scarborough Region Council's 6th Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza event was held on Friday May 6th at Parkway Bowl. It was great fun and a financial success, raising over \$1200

that will go towards literacy and cooking programs in Scarborough. We had approximately 80 bowlers this year, including bowlers from MPP Brad Duguid's office and MP Salma Zahid's office.

Lots of desserts and pizza provided energy for the bowlers throughout the evening. The event also included a 50/50 draw and a raffle with over 20 donated prizes!

Huge thanks to Parkway Bowl, especially Karen, for their continued enthusiasm supporting our event, as well as to everyone who donated prizes and money. Thanks to all the bowlers, friends and families that came out to support this event. Hope to see you all again next year!

Upcoming Scarborough Events

Annual Regional Council Meeting

Monday June 6, 2016 6:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Road

Year in Review!

Multi-Sensory Room Presentation!

All Welcome!

Scarborough Summer Literacy Program

July 5 to August 5

\$220

Applicants will be interviewed.

Scarborough Summer Day Respite

Worker to support child in day camp or in the community. Limited space available.

Applicants will be interviewed.

For more information on all of these events and to register contact Felicity Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or 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

Self-Advocates Council

New SAC Representative to the Board Elected

The Self Advocates Council is pleased to announce a new representative to the Board of Directors. When Self-Advocates Mentor Paul Cochrane announced that he would like to step down, the SAC held an election to decide who would be the next Board Rep.

Paul spoke to the SAC and explained that it is an important position. Paul let everyone know that the SAC Board Rep has to attend meetings and work hard to get the voice of the SAC out at the Board level.

Paul Cochrane has devoted 5 years to the Board, and is ready to move on to new projects. He is happy to pass the torch on to Lorraine.

Lorraine Bradley is a longtime volunteer with Foster's Club House. Lorraine loves to help people. She has been married for 25 years and loves to support other people with intellectual disabilities in understanding their right to be in relationship.

Congratulations Lorraine! Thank you for your years of service Paul!



From left to right: Caseen, Paul, Sam, Lorraine, and Shineeca

Upcoming SAC Events

SAC Annual Meeting on June 15 at 40 Birch, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Both Lorraine and Paul will be doing some talks. The SAC will talk about what they have been doing this past year.

And most importantly, they want to hear from you! Come have your voice heard at the SAC Annual Meeting and meet with other self-advocates from around the agency.

For further information contact Sue Hutton:
shutton@cltoronto.ca

Volunteer-Students Voice

Volunteers Make It Happen!

This summer, volunteers at Community Living Toronto will dedicate their generous time to make many fun and engaging events happen;

Who can argue that the **Annual Picnic** would be possible if not for our numerous committed and caring volunteers? From face painting to balloon twisting, drums to DJ-ing, pitching tents to flipping burgers, find our volunteers with welcoming smiles this June 11!

Some of our volunteers are also taking on a brand new initiative – the **Summer 2016 Easy Walks**, a series of walks designed to help participants stay connected to each other and to our great city through its beautiful neighbourhoods. You can join a walk on any or all of the following dates:

June 12th, 2016 – 10:00 AM – The Annex

July 10th, 2016 – 10:00 AM – Graffiti Alley

August 11th, 2016 – 10:00 AM – West Don Lands & The Distillery District

Come learn about the history of our old neighbourhoods and explore brand new ones like the West Don Lands.

Later this summer, more volunteers will be immersed in our **Summer Literacy** programs, helping to teach and facilitate classrooms to promote and develop literacy in a fun learning environment! Please contact Sarah Winter (below) for more details.

If you're interested in volunteering at Community Living Toronto, please contact our Coordinator of Volunteer Services for your region:

Scarborough Region: Sarah Winter at
(647) 729-1633

Central Region: Yulia Prudova at
(647) 729-1209

North York/Etobicoke Region: Sehrish Zehra at
(647) 729-1162



Families of People with
Intellectual Disabilities,
Connecting Through
Friendship and Support

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

Find us on  FamilyLink Toronto

News

Access to Education Information Survey

Each year parents and caregivers are asked to make important decisions about their child's education. Community Living Toronto's Education Committee would like to help.

Our goal is to make the right education related information available to help families of students with intellectual disabilities (special education needs) navigate the education system and be aware of their educational rights.

We would like to ask you to take 5 minutes to **complete a survey** so we can improve access to available information. All individual information is confidential and will only be used to help us identify gaps.

Please complete the survey even if your child has graduated from school. Your input is valuable. **Survey deadline is June 17, 2016**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DXPKVCM>

For further information please contact Mia McGowan at mmcgowan@cltoronto.ca or 647-725-1258

Join us at the Annual Picnic!

Community Living Toronto
annual picnic
SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2016
11 AM - 3 PM

Games, activities & fun for the whole family!



The picnic will take place at our Lawson Site at **1712 Ellesmere Rd.** just a short walk from the McCowan subway stop. Wheelchair-accessible parking only. **For Wheel-Trans bookings please use 1710 Ellesmere Road.**

Don't forget to bring your lawn chair or blanket and sunscreen.

Admission: \$2 per person. Additional donations welcome.

Let us know you're coming!

<p>ETOBICOKE & NORTH YORK: Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627 wdyke@cltoronto.ca</p>	<p>SCARBOROUGH: Felicia Zanatta 647-729-1635 fzanatta@cltoronto.ca</p>
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CENTRAL:
 Matt Poirier
 647-729-1210
 matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca

For more information and directions visit www.communitylivingtoronto.ca

The day's activities will include:

Outdoor Games!

BBQ!

Prizes!

with performances by:

[The Greenwood Band](#)

[Let's Jam Drum Circle](#)

and much more!

www.communitylivingtoronto.ca



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Community



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