

FEATURED STORY

Spring is finally here, and although we may still have some more winter like days ahead of us, the city is starting to wake up. With that, we have so many exciting events coming up in the next few months.

Our Spring Fling will be on Saturday April 8th, find out more in the article following.

Community Living Toronto is proud to be presenting a panel discussion following the Canadian Premiere of SANCUTUARY. Presented by ReelAbilities Film Festival, Toronto Irish Film festival and Tangled art + Disability. Find out more on our Facebook page!

Hosted by Community Living Ontario, May 9th is Community Living's Day at the Legislature. If you are interested in joining us, email Terri Meshwork at terri@communitylivingontario.ca by Friday April 28th, 2017.

Be sure to check our website and Facebook page regularly for fun events that are coming up.

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Central Region Council's

Spring Fling

2017

Dinner & Dance

Saturday, April 8th

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

5 p.m. Reception • 6 p.m. Dinner

Tickets \$55

Buy tickets online at www.cltoronto.ca/spring-fling or
Contact springfling@cltoronto.ca

Live DJ • Raffle • Door Prizes • Silent Auction
VISA, MasterCard & AMEX accepted



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

Spring Fling is Coming Soon!!

By: Michelle Grimley



Dancing up a storm at last year's Spring Fling Dinner & Dance!

Spring has officially sprung and the glimpses of sunshine bring the promise of brighter days. With this welcome seasonal change comes our annual Spring Fling!

On Saturday, April 8th, join us at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre for a fun-filled night with a delicious three course buffet dinner, a live DJ, and dancing!

Try your luck at our raffle and bid on exciting silent auction items, ranging from gorgeous jewelry, stellar concert tickets, citywide attractions, and baskets brimming with all kinds of tasty goodies!

Spring Fling is a highly anticipated event each year and touches the lives of countless people. Funds raised through ticket sales, donations, and silent auction bids help to support numerous Community Living Toronto programs and activities including:

- A weekly dinner club where individuals can share a home cooked meal and quality time with friends and volunteers.
- Sibling workshops for children and youth who have a sibling with an intellectual disability.
- A monthly social group for youth with an intellectual disability who want to participate in fun activities in their community and hang out with their friends.
- Support through funding of the TTC readiness program.
- Supports the Family Fun Fair (formerly the Annual Picnic) for fun and tasty BBQ for all.
- And so much more!

Since 2008, more than \$100,000 has been raised by Central Region Council and Spring Fling.

You can help us to reach our 2017 fundraising goal by attending the event, buying a ticket for an individual we support who may not be able to afford to go, or donating to the event.

Sponsor a table for \$1,000 and through your table sponsorship, 10 people supported by Community Living Toronto will be able to attend Spring Fling. You'll receive 2 tickets so that you too can attend the event and a tax receipt for the maximum allowable amount of your sponsorship.

I can't wait to celebrate and dance the night away with all of you at the best Spring Fling yet!

Spring Fling Dinner and Dance
Saturday April 8, 2017
5:00 pm Reception – 6:00 pm Dinner
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court (Don Mills and Wynford
Drive) www.jccc.on.ca

\$55/person (taxes included)
Join us for fun, friendship and inclusion!
Purchase your Spring Fling tickets at the link
below: www.cltoronto.ca/spring-fling

Upcoming Central Events

Central Region Council Meeting

Tuesday April 18, 2017
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
20 Spadina Rd, Room 2B
All are welcome.

Central Region Tax Clinic

Wednesday April 12, 2017
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
20 Spadina Rd, 1st Floor Boardroom

Central Region Council's Annual Spring Fling Dinner, Dance & Silent Auction

Saturday April 8, 2017
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
\$55/ticket

For information on any of the above events,
contact Michelle Grimley at 647-729-1210 or
michelle.grimley@cltoronto.ca

Central Region Parent Share

Monday April 10, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Regent Park Community Centre
402 Shuter St, 2nd Floor
RSVP: Yulia Prudova 647-729-1209,

yprudova@cltoronto.ca
Bonnie Heath 416-645-6000 ext. 1311,
bheath@woodgreen.org

ETOBICOKE/YORK REGION

A Busy and Exciting Year at Creative Village Studio

By: Sarah Weredynski



CVS artists and Harold Tomlinson at the Joshua Creek Heritage Art Center in Oakville for "Art from the Heart"

It has been a very busy and exciting year for the artists of Creative Village Studio. Harold Tomlinson, the facilitator of Creative Village Studio, along with Community Living Toronto staff and volunteers, work countless hours providing a space for individuals to create original pieces of art each day. Creative Village Studio has become a very important part of the community, allowing individuals to express their creativity through painting, drawing, photography, knitting, sculpting and even music.

To start the year off, Creative Village Studio won the 'GEM of Etobicoke' award for Community Service in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ward 6. The award was presented to Harold and the artists of Creative Village Studio by MPP Peter Milczyn (Etobicoke-Lakeshore).

Throughout the years, Creative Village Studio has formed partnerships with other artists and groups. This year Creative Village Studio hosted an art exhibition for Artists without Barriers. Creative Village Studio also hosts the Music Studio for recitals three times a year for their members and the community.

Creative Village Studio began a rotating art exhibition at Visual Arts Brampton, exhibiting 6 times, over the course of the year. In September, Creative Village Studio collaborated with Kaeja Dance to encapsulate the immigration/migration of the Syrian refugee crisis through dance and art, which was presented at Montgomery's Inn. In October, Conrod Skyers' pieces were part of a small group showing at the Ben Navaee Gallery on Queen St. East. In addition, Creative Village Studio artists successfully sold many pieces of art at Community Living Toronto's Community Rocks event on December 3, 2016.

Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre (JCHAC) hosted the 6th annual, 'Art from the Heart', which ran from February 17th to March 19th of this year. JCHAC supports artists of all ages, stages, cultures, needs and abilities. It is an exhibit we have been involved in since it began. Participation in 'Art from the Heart' gives the artists at Creative Village Studio a sense of pride and accomplishment. Creative Village Studio artists have a large local following in Oakville and the surrounding area. We have been recruiting other artists to be involved in this show by including other

Community Living associations and community members.

We are also displaying "From Our Perspective" at Montgomery's Inn, in the Tea/Community Room. Montgomery's Inn is our newest community partner. This exhibit had run from March 1st to March 29th, 2017.

Lastly, Creative Village Studio artists were honoured when they were approached by Brands Canada to make 45 awards to be presented to their volunteers and sponsors.

Stop by Creative Village Studio, meet the artists, enjoy their art on display or even purchase a one of a kind original creation.

If interested in taking part in classes at Creative Village studio, visit <http://mycommunityhub.ca/> website for programs offered and to register on line.

For more information about Creative Village Studio, contact Harold Tomlinson at 647-351-4362 or visit <http://cltoronto.ca/hubs/creative-village-studio/>



Original paintings on display at Visual Arts Brampton created by CVS artists

Books and Magazines Needed

SWACA Etobicoke/York is in need of books and magazines with pictures/illustrations to be used for programs, arts and crafts. Please donate at 288 Judson Ave. Unit 17. For information contact Christine-Lisa Denis at 647-728-0396, cdenis@cltoronto.ca

Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

Etobicoke/York Region Council Meeting

Tuesday April 11, 2017; 6:30 pm
288 Judson St. unit 17
All are welcome
RSVP: Georgina Stergiotis at 647-729-0445, georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of the month; 6-8 pm
Registration: LauraLee Edmiston at 647-729-0440 and ledminston@cltoronto.ca

or Sehrish Zehra at 647-729-1162 and sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca

Parent Share

10 am to 12 pm
April 20, May 18, June 15, 2017
For information contact:
Sarah Winter 647-729-1633
swinter@cltoronto.ca
Bonnie Heath 416-645-6000, ext. 1311
bheath@woodgreen.org

Note: Friendship Club and Parent Share are held at **295 The West Mall, suite 204** Park in the underground on P2



Ninth Annual Easy Roller Bowl-a-thon

Saturday April 22, 2017
5 pm - 8 pm

Bowlerama West
5429 Dundas St. West
Silent Auction, Raffles, Prizes and More!
\$25

Register deadline: Thursday April 13, 2017
Contact: Georgina Stergiotis
647-729-0445
georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

NORTH YORK REGION

How Are Membership Donations Used?

By: *Wendy Dyke*

We are currently in the final push for our annual membership campaign. While many former members have already renewed their membership there may be a few who have not yet renewed. It's not too late to renew for 2017/2018. Some people may question why they should renew or become a member of the Association and how do membership donations make a difference to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Membership donations enable Community Living Toronto to increase their capacity to provide services and supports beyond the scope of ministry funded supports. Membership donations enable us to reach out

to people currently waiting for ministry funded services and to provide additional services beyond what is funded by the government to those who are currently receiving ministry funded supports. Regional Councils use the donations received to sponsor programs and workshops that are not funded by the government. These programs include Saturday literacy classes, Sibling Workshops, cooking classes, dinner clubs, and social recreational events such as Pizza/Bingo nights. Virtually all the listings in our newsletters regional upcoming events are funded through membership donations. Membership donations also go towards hosting parent/family information sessions with topics such as; Wills and Estate Planning, Presentations from the DSO, Transitional and Post 21 Planning.

Further to providing funding for additional services to individuals with intellectual disabilities, our membership provides the Association with clout to advocate for more funding for services and supports for the developmental services sector. The larger our membership is, the louder our voice is when we speak to our funders.

If you would like to learn more about membership to Community Living Toronto, please contact your regional membership coordinator.

Upcoming North York Events

North York Council Meeting

Monday April 10, 2017
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
North York Office Boardroom
1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 18
Everyone Welcome!

Sibshop

Saturday May 6, 2017
10:30 am to 2:30 pm
Victoria Park Hub
1527 Victoria Park Avenue

North York Cooking Classes

Tuesdays – April 18 to June 6, 2017
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
16 - 1122 Finch Avenue West
Registration fee: \$80.00

For More Information and to register/apply for the above events contact: Wendy Dyke at wdyke@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-3627

Jumpstart Literacy

Every Saturday
9:30 am to 11:30 am
1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 16
Registration fee: \$20.00 per person
Weekly fee: \$5.00 per person
To learn more and to register, please contact: Sehrish Zehra at sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-1162

Parent Share

10 am to 12 pm
1122 Finch Ave W
April 6, May 4, June 1, 2017
For information contact:
Sarah Winter 647-729-1633
swinter@cltoronto.ca or
Bonnie Heath 416-645-6000, ext. 1311
bheath@woodgreen.org

Munir Goes to Cuba!

By: Najat Mahmmed



Munir Mahmmed in Cuba!

Through the help of Lynn Gilling at the Surrey Place Centre, Munir was able to find a respite placement at the Sibley residence. While our family was anxious to see how he would adjust, he quickly blended in and began looking forward to his visits.

From monthly trips to the movies, music nights at the residence, road trips to Stratford and to Niagara Falls and occasional dinners at local restaurants there is never a shortage of exciting activities for Munir to take part in. He not only found new friends, he gained a second family.

This past December he got to experience something our family has not been able to give him in close to 20 years; a fun vacation. Munir, along with a few of his Sibley residence family, went to Varadero, Cuba. His excitement leading up to the trip was great to see. The preparedness of the staff helped calm our nerves.

The joy he feels when telling us about the plane ride, the resort, the beach and the food is priceless. We're forever grateful to the staff and supervisors at the Sibley residence. The respect they show Munir has greatly contributed to him building strong self-esteem.



Munir relaxes in Cuba!

Scarborough Council

The Literacy class currently has older computers that are difficult to use and is in need of newer donated computers to support the Literacy class.

Do you have an interest in simple accounting? The Council needs a new Treasurer for basic management of local expenses. Join the Council and support the great activities and events that are sponsored.

Upcoming Scarborough Events

My Community Hub Presentation Council Meeting

Monday April 3, 2017; 6:15pm
1712 Ellesmere Road Boardroom
All are welcome!



7th Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza

Sunday May 7, 2017; 2-4:30pm
1:30pm registration and practice

At the Parkway Bowl, 67 Ellesmere Rd.
\$25 per person, includes shoe rental, sweet table and fabulous raffle prizes!
Book your lane of six today!

Bingo at Lawson

Friday April 21, 2017; 7-8:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Road
\$5 for a snack and prizes

Winter Literacy

Saturday mornings 9-11:45 am
1710 Ellesmere Rd.
\$20 registration and \$5 per class
Eligibility determined by interview

Learn 2 cook Healthy Meals

10 Mondays starting April 24, 2017; 5-8pm
1712 Ellesmere Road
\$150 for the session
Eligibility determined by interview

For more information on all of these events and to register contact Felicita Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Tuesday Morning Drop in

10 am to 12 pm, \$4 each week
1712 Ellesmere Rd

RSVP to Sarah at 647-729-1633 or swinter@cltoronto.ca

Connections Dance

Friday April 28, 2017; 7:30-9:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Rd.
\$8 admission
Call Lester at 416-566-7252

Parent Share

9:30 – 11:30 am
April 13, 27, May 11, 25, June 8, 2017
Cedarbrook Community Centre
91 Eastpark Blvd.
Contact Sarah Winter at 647-729-1633 or swinter@cltoronto.ca

Self-Advocates Council

Hurononia Grounds – Self-Advocates want to remember

By: Sue Hutton



Peter Park and Martin Levine, both survivors of Ontario's institutions, led a discussion with the Self-Advocates Council about what should happen with the Huronia land. Volunteer of the Year Mike Edser stands with them.

Hurononia was an institution that many, many people labelled with intellectual disabilities were housed in before the days of community living. People experienced abuse there. There has been a class action law suit, and an apology from Ontario's premier Kathleen Wynne. But still, people labelled with intellectual disabilities who experienced the abuse at Huronia want to say more about it.

People with Community Living Toronto's Self-Advocate Council had a chance to speak about the land and talk about what they think should happen to it. The question about what will happen to the Huronia site is now underway. Survivors of the institution were invited to a discussion led by Peter Park in March at Community Living Toronto's Self-Advocates Council meeting. Peter came to the Self Advocates Council to hear what people think should happen with the grounds. Peter is an institutional survivor. Martin Levine also came to the meeting with Peter. Martin is a survivor of Huronia as well as the Pine Ridge institution. Peter and Martin let people know a little bit about what it was like to have to live there.

Then together as a group, people talked about what they thought should happen to the grounds.

People had ideas about turning the land into a memorial garden. They wanted to have the buildings torn down. They wanted to make sure there were memories so that people could remember what happened there. People thought it was important to make sure the land was open to the public – so that anyone could go and learn about our history. There is a graveyard at Huronia – but there are no names on the grave stones, only numbers. This was really sad to the members of the

Self-Advocates Council – who think it's really important that the names be put on those gravestones. "It should be maintained like any other cemetery where people are allowed to rest in peace. Especially after what those guys lived through" said one self-advocate.

It could be a place of remembering, and also of teaching about rights – and the importance to remember how far we have come.

Let's hope we can make it a beautiful place to remember the people who lived there. The government wants to hear what people's thoughts are about what to do with the Huronia land. There is also a meeting that took place on March 30 in Orillia for people to share their views. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact Sue Hutton at shutton@cltoronto.ca

Here is a video with Cindy Scott, Huronia survivor talking about Huronia:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbwH6BDVV7o>

VOLUNTEER VOICE

New Chapter in Volunteer Services – Monthly Orientations for New Volunteers

By: Sehris Zehra

Last month, the Volunteer Services department hosted their first official Volunteer Orientation for new volunteers – a successful start to their new intake model! The Volunteer Orientations

are an opportunity for new volunteers to learn more about Community Living Toronto in a group environment, and gives volunteers the chance to ask questions and meet likeminded individuals. New volunteers get to share their volunteer experiences and express their interest in the many departments within our organization. Volunteers also receive their mandatory trainings and are subsequently placed into suitable volunteer placements.

Volunteer Orientations will take place every month and new volunteers are encouraged to attend to officially become a Community Living Toronto volunteer! Register for the next Volunteer Orientation by visiting <http://cltoronto.ca/volunteers/>

Returning volunteers are also encouraged to register for an upcoming session in order to receive their Annual Training Refresher.

April 3, 2017; 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Scarborough Region
1712 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, ON.

May 1, 2017; 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Etobicoke/York Region
295 The West Mall, Etobicoke, ON.

June 5, 2017; 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Central Region
20 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON.

FAMILY FUN FAIR



A short walk from McCowan Subway Station

Saturday June 10th, 2017
11AM-3PM
Admission: \$4
1712 Ellesmere Road

Carnival Games
BBQ
BINGO
plus More!

Let us know you're coming...

Etobicoke

Georgina Stergiotis
647-729-0445

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Central

Michelle Grimley
647-729-1210

michelle.grimley@cltoronto.ca

Scarborough

Felicita Zanatta
647-729-1635

fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

North York

Wendy Dyke
647-729-3627

wdyke@cltoronto.ca

Additional Donations Welcome!

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and sunscreen!



Pay Parking across the street

Only Wheelchair-accessible parking on site

www.communitylivingtoronto.com

www.twitter.com/cltoronto

www.facebook.com/cltoronto

www.instagram.com/communitylivingtoronto