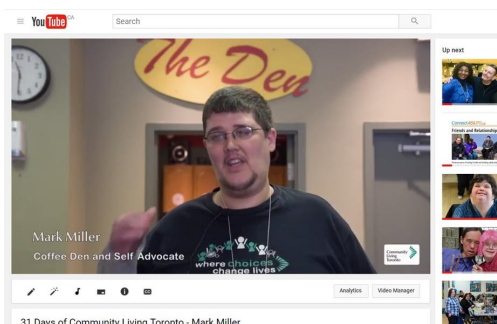




Where choices change the lives of people with an intellectual disability

FEATURED STORY

Community Living Month!



Mark Miller in his "31 Days of Community Living Toronto" YouTube Video!



#ITookaBreak17 Social Media Campaign on Community Living's day at the Legislature.

The audience waiting for the premiere of the Irish Film, Sanctuary.

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 7 | Volunteer Voice
- Pg 8 | News



By: Karla Dendrinis

May was Community Living Month! We had so many wonderful events during the whole entire month!

Community Living Day at the Legislature was on May 9th. We gave away KitKat candy bars and urged our local MPs to take a selfie and post it on their Twitter and Facebook pages using the hashtag: **#ITookaBreak17**. So many people participated in this fun social media campaign that we were actually trending on Twitter!

If you were not on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube for the month of May, then you did not see our daily videos that we shared! Here at Community Living Toronto, we celebrated Community Living Month by posting a video each day, called "31 Days of Community Living Toronto. Each video was highlighting someone that works, volunteers, or is involved with Community Living Toronto. You can view them all on our YouTube page:

www.youtube.ca/cltoronto

The ReelAbilities Film Festival was also happening during this month of May. We presented a panel discussion following the Canadian Premiere of the Irish film "Sanctuary". You can read more about this event in the Self-Advocates section of this newsletter! www.communitylivingtoronto.ca/disability-sexuality-consent

Shine a light on Community Living was on May 8th. All across the province buildings, including the CN Tower and the "TORONTO" lights at city hall, had their exterior lights beam blue and green!

TTC Readiness Program: A Rewarding Ride!



Riding the Rocket on Field Instruction Day!

By: Michelle Grimley

Navigating Toronto's transit system using phone apps, maps, and safety protocols was just part of the recent TTC Readiness Program experience. Participants, family members, support workers, volunteers, and facilitators enjoyed role-playing common TTC scenarios and discussing how to be prepared and safe while traveling the city on public transit.

The TTC Readiness Program was generously co-sponsored in part by North York and Central Regional Councils. It was based at the Victoria Park Hub, running from March 22nd to May 6th. Knowledge and ideas about using the TTC were shared by both the instructors and participants in a supportive classroom setting.

Two field days, included in the program, allowed the participants to apply their learned skills, taking buses and subways across numerous lines to the Scarborough Town Centre. Everyone took turns leading the way and offering advice. Many individuals regularly enjoyed taking the TTC outside of the course and happily shared their expertise with the group. Even a subway closure and shuttle buses didn't faze the participants. Everyone remained upbeat throughout the journey. The travelers talked about their day with beaming smiles over lunch at the mall.

The course instructors, Naomi and Nicole, commented on the wonderful time they had teaching the TTC Readiness course. They were so impressed with the dedication demonstrated by each participant and were thankful to be part of such a welcoming group. In addition to learning about transit signs and routes, the program offered invaluable social opportunities. New friendships were formed and participants went above and beyond to make everyone feel included. The TTC Readiness Program truly was a rewarding ride!

Upcoming Central Events

Central Region Dinner Club

Every Wednesday
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm
30 Birch Ave

Scotiabank Rat Race for United Way 5K Run/Walk

Thursday, June 15th, 2017
Race start: 7:30 pm
Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St W

Central Region Best Buddies

(Registered Buddies only)
Friday, June 16th, 2017
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
40 Birch Ave

Toronto One Direction Social Group – BBQ

Saturday, June 17th, 2017
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
40 Birch Ave

***Summer Camera Club and Cooking Classes will be available during July and August.**

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

Travel Training- A Ticket to Opportunity



Josh Splude stays connected with the TTC

By: Eric Laimer

One of the greatest barriers that people with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD) face every day is independent travel within their communities to access programs, services, employment and community activities. Without a community presence people with IDD live unnoticed in our society and miss out on opportunities to enrich their lives.

With a two year grant from the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Employment and Modernization Fund, Community Living Toronto, Community Access to Transportation Hamilton, Geneva Centre, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Kerry's Place Autism Services, Salvation Army Lawson Ministries, and the Toronto Transit Commission have all partnered together to develop a comprehensive Travel Training Program in Toronto for adults with IDD. Starting with a 22 month pilot program, this will include in class instruction to teach safety and transit skills, and one on one field training to learn a transit route of the participant's choice. Participants are needed for the pilot program and will receive free instruction and transit fare while route training. A smartphone app will be also be developed to help interested participants with their training and help coach them during their travels.

After completion of the pilot, the Travel Training Program will be offered as a Passport or individualized funding option to individuals and families by the Developmental Services agencies involved, and then licensed out to other organizations to help make it sustainable and maintain program quality. Travel Training will open an exciting world of opportunities for adults with IDD in Toronto.

To register for the pilot program visit:

MyCommunityHub.ca (Search: Travel Training Program-Pilot Project or # 5851)

Or email TravelTraining@cltoronto.ca to learn more.

Another Easy Roller Bowl-a-Thon Success!

By Georgina Stergiotis



Etobicoke/York council members Ruth Nagy (Left) and Laura Parsonson (Right) presenting Gord Bilic (Centre) the award for the most pledges!

Etobicoke/York Council was proud to host the 9th annual Easy Roller Bowl-a-Thon. 120 Bowlers attended making this the largest Bowl-a-Thon to date!

A silent auction, a 50/50 Draw, a surprise \$10 gift bags, and bowler pledges helped us raise over \$4000! Gord Bilic collected the most pledges out of us all submitting \$751! Way to go Gord! Prizes were also given away to the bowlers with the highest score.

Etobicoke/York Council worked tirelessly to organize this fun filled event! All proceeds benefit social and recreational programs in Etobicoke/York region.

If you are interested in Joining our Etobicoke/York Council contact

Georgina Stergiotis at 647-729-0445, or

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

Save the Date!

Etobicoke/York Council's Wine and Cheese

Fundraiser

Thursday September 28, 2017, 5 - 8 pm
Creative Village Studio
4895 Dundas St. West

Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of the month, 6-8 pm
295 The West Mall, suite 204

Friendship club will not meet for July and August

Registration:

LauraLee Edmiston at
647-729-0440 or

ledmiston@cltoronto.ca

Etobicoke/York Council Regional Annual Meeting

Tuesday June 13, 2017

6:30 -8:30pm

4895 Dundas St. W. (Creative Village Studio)

Presentation on ConnectABILITY

All are welcome

RSVP:

Georgina Stergiotis
at 647-729-0445 or

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Parent Share

Presentation: DSO- Q&A (for families with children 12+)

10 am -12 pm

June 15, 2017

295 The West Mall,
suite 204

for information contact:

Sarah Winter 647-729-1633

swinter@cltoronto.ca

or

Bonnie Heath

416-645-6000, ext. 1311

bheath@woodgreen.org

Note: Friendship Club and Parent Share park in the underground on **P2**

North York

SWACA Bids Teresa a Fond Farewell



Teresa at a birthday celebration a few weeks before she retired.

By: Carlotta Carmichael and Georgina Kurlinas

After 40+ years of dedication, members of North York Supported Work and Community Activities (SWACA) bid Teresa Streczk a fond farewell as she began her the newest chapter of her life, retirement.

The celebration included a breakfast of biscotti, fruit, cake and treats. Accompanied by a staff presentation of appreciation for all Teresa had done for the team. A photo memory book was given to Teresa, containing pictures from way back to when she started at Harry Foster's, all the way up to days before her retirement. Another beautiful book was given to Teresa that included personal accounts from staff and individuals in service, all about how Teresa had changed and had improved their lives.

After breakfast, Donna, Alan, Antonio and Frances as well as staff members Wendy, Shereen, Aida and Elizabeth all spoke about how much of a support Teresa had been to each of them and the impact of her positive influence. A 'snap- shot of her future', including a funny list of things Teresa could do now that she is retired was also read to her.

The SWACA celebration ended with their choir singing three songs, including the medley "Memories/ The Way We Were" by Barbara Streisand.

Congratulations Teresa on your retirement!

Upcoming North York Events

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:

Karla Galvez- Del Rio

647-729-1162

kgalvez@cltoronto.ca

SCARBOROUGH REGION

Bingo Bowling Extravaganza Strikes Success Again

By: Felicita Zanatta

The 7th Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza held on Sunday May 7, 2017 was a wonderful family event, enjoyed by all.

The event was held at the Parkway Bowl at 67 Ellesmere Road. We are grateful to them for their continued support. There were about 70 bowlers including MP Salma Zahid, MPP Brad Duguid, and MPP Soo Wong.

The funds raised will enable the Scarborough Region Council to sponsor activities such as dances, literacy classes, drop-in and cooking classes, etc.

The event had many wonderful donors of gifts and gift cards that were used as prizes for bowling and the raffle. We are very grateful to these donors including the family of Debby White, who offered the sweets table.



A great turnout at the Bingo Bowling Extravaganza!

Bingo Bowling is a fun way of lining up the scores on the screen in a Bingo card. The Bingo Bowling event is a great opportunity to have fun while contributing to the wonderful works of Scarborough Council. We raised \$1,364 to support the many activities planned for Scarborough Members.

Congratulations to Council members Debby White and Kathy Lisle who organized this very successful event and much gratitude to both of you for your hard work. We hope to see you all again next year and hope you will enjoy the benefits of Scarborough Council activities!



*Winners of the BINGO Bowling!
Eugene, Kim, Ray, Gary, Cathy and Logan*

Upcoming Scarborough Events

Regional Annual Council Meeting
Monday October 2, 2017
6:15pm
1712 Ellesmere Road
All are welcome!

Connections Dance
Friday June 23, 2017;
7:30-9:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Rd.
\$8 admission
Call Lester at
416-566-7252

Bingo at Lawson
Friday June 16, 2017;
7pm-8:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Road
\$5 for a snack and prizes

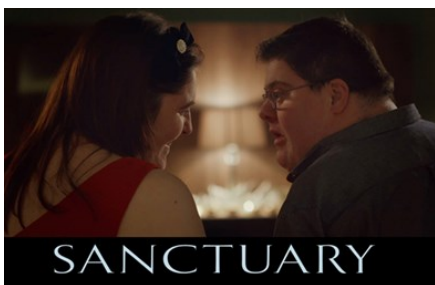
Parent Share
9:30 – 11:30 am
June 8, 2017
Cedarbrook
Community Centre
91 Eastpark Blvd.
Contact
Sarah Winter
647-729-1633
swinter@cltoronto.ca

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 12 pm,
\$4 each week
1712 Ellesmere Rd
RSVP to Sarah at
647-729-1633 or
swinter@cltoronto.ca

Self-Advocates Council

Community Living Toronto hosts the Canadian Premiere of “Sanctuary”, a film about Disability, Sexuality, and Consent.



Panelists: (from left) Fran Odette, Rainbow Co Co Channel, Doris Rajan, Anna Drake, Sue Hutton, John Drake, and Samantha Walsh.

By: Sue Hutton

Community Living Toronto hosted the panel discussion following the premiere of the film, Sanctuary, at the ReelAbilities Film Festival. What’s really special about this film, directed by Irish director Len Collin, is that it helped change the law in Ireland.

Sexuality is an important part of life – and that goes for all human beings. People labelled with an intellectual disability have every right to engage in meaningful sexual relationships just as everyone else does. In Ireland, it was illegal *for two people with intellectual disabilities to have sex with each other unless they were married. This is based on Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act 1993 in Ireland. When Collin made the film, it was illegal for the actors with intellectual disabilities to engage in sexual activities before marriage, and by the time the film was released, the law was changed.* What a victory! People with disabilities should never be treated differently than everyone else. This law was discriminatory and we applaud Len Collin and the amazing cast of actors for having the bravery to challenge the system through film!

A panel of rights speakers and disability activists spoke after the film about how important it is for people labelled with intellectual disabilities to have their full rights to sexuality honoured. The picture above shows three of the panelists. Rainbow Coco Channel ...

Community Living Toronto Welcomes University of Toronto Alumni Volunteers!

By: *Sehris Zehra*



Alumni gather to hear about volunteering!

Earlier in May, Community Living Toronto was invited as one of 12 organizations to showcase our wonderful volunteer opportunities to a crowd of 100+ University of Toronto Alumni, who are looking to make a positive impact in their communities. The event was hosted by the University of Toronto's Alumni Association, and provided us with the opportunity to meet up and coming professionals who are interested in contributing their expertise to help organizations thrive.

At the event, Michelle Grimley, Coordinator of Membership Services in Central Region spoke about the great impact Community Living Toronto makes in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. She highlighted the possible ways that volunteers can get involved in our events and programs as well as with our board committees and regional councils.

Through the event, we made many meaningful connections with potential volunteers and other likeminded organizations doing great work in the City of Toronto!

...in left of centre is a transgender woman with a mild intellectual disability who spoke passionately about sexuality and rights at the panel. She is a self-advocate, an amazing activist and speaker who does education work on LGBTQ issues. Rainbow talked about how challenging it was when she lived in a group home to have her right to be a sexual-being honoured.

To learn more about the film and the panel, visit the link here:

<http://cltoronto.ca/disability-sexuality-consent/>

We are continuing to make things better for people labelled with intellectual disabilities, and the Self Advocates Council is so happy Community Living Toronto showed this amazing film!

Self-advocates council Annual Meeting and Elections

Wednesday June 21
1pm-3pm
40 Birch Ave

People labeled with an intellectual disability and their supporters are invited. People labeled with intellectual disabilities elect their new Council.

For more information please contact

Sue Hutton at shutton@cltoronto.ca

Connect **ABILITY.ca**

Volunteer Orientations and Trainings

If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, please sign up for one of our upcoming volunteer orientations! Existing volunteers are also required to attend one session per year to update their annual trainings. Register for an upcoming session at

www.cltoronto.ca/volunteers

Orientation Dates	Regions
Monday July 10, 2017 at 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	North York
Monday August 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Scarborough
Monday September 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Etobicoke
Monday October 2, 2017 at 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Central

NEWS

Looking for some Summer Fun? What to know what kind of discounts are available to you?

Did you know that Community Living Toronto members have access to our discount programs?

The Association every year connects to various GTA venues and service providers to arrange discounts for individuals in service, staff, volunteers and members!

We currently have agreements with the following venues: *CN Tower, Great Wolf Lodge, Ontario Science Centre, Ripley's Aquarium, and the Royal Ontario Museum., Marineland, Canada's Wonderland, Centreville and Santa's Village in Bracebridge and for Fallsview Resorts.*

We also have a membership with Perkopolis.com! Perkopolis provides access to a variety of discounted products and services, including: theatres, hotels, attractions, movies, shopping, travel & much more! You simply create an account and include the unique Member ID (Ask your Membership Coordinator for the Membership ID Code) Log into the website and add the product to your 'shopping cart'. Payment is processed online and the products are delivered to you either electronically or directly to your home address.

Each of the programs above requires a discount code that is confidential and only made available to our members. Some venues will ask you to produce your Community Living Toronto membership card when you check in. If you are interested in any of the above offers, please contact your regional membership coordinator.

Additionally, there are also offers for free passes through the Toronto Public Library for a variety of places. Quantities are limited so be sure to check them out ahead of time! For more information visit: <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/museum-arts-passes/>

Many venues and services offer discounts to individuals with disabilities. They don't advertise their discounts to the general public. However, if you call venues or ask service providers (i.e., airlines, VIA rail, etc.) if they provide discounts to individuals with disabilities and their companions, they usually do.

We hope you have a fun and safe summer!



SHADOW LAKE CAMP FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE AUTISM



Information Fair

A Free Event

Wednesday October 18, 2017

1:00pm - 8:00pm

The Warehouse Event Venue

Downsview Park

35 Carl Hall Road. Unit 2

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.

- The opportunity to explore purchasing services with your Passport dollars.
- Information on fee for service programs.
- Agency and Community Partner presentations on topics such as:
 - Developmental Services Ontario, ODSP and Passport;
 - What you can do while you wait for services and supports;
 - Self-Advocates presenting Yellow Brick Road
 - dsto Council.
 - Opportunity for families to speak to dsto agency staff, self-advocacy groups and family groups.
 - More information will be available on the Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) website as we get closer to the event. Please check in for updates at www.dsotoronto.ca
 - Presentations from the Fair will be available for viewing after the event at www.connectability.ca

This is a funded overnight camp for children between the ages of 12-17 who have a diagnosis of autism. The camp is ideal for children who would like to try an overnight camp for the first time but may be experiencing some barriers. The children will be able to participate in a variety of both indoor and outdoor activities such as arts and crafts, swimming, playing in the splash pad, paddleboats, and canoes. The ratio will be 2:1 with behavioural supports if necessary.

There are only 6 spaces available so please apply soon if you are interested.

DATE: August 7-11, 2017

WHERE: 150419 9TH Line, Stouffville L4A 7X3

PHONE: 905-640-6432

FEE: There is no fee for this camp

To apply please contact

Shelly Greenberg at 647-729-1627 or

sgreenberg@cltoronto.ca

Follow Us!



@CLToronto

www.CommunityLivingToronto.ca

Renew Your Membership

cltoronto.ca/membership/



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



United Way
Toronto & York Region