

**FEATURED STORY**

## Community Rocks!

By: Karla Dendrin



On Saturday December 3, 2016 Community Living Toronto held its biannual fundraiser, Community Rocks. Beaded necklaces, masks, and glitter galore, the Mardi Gras theme was huge a success! We are proud to announce that Community Rocks exceeded its fundraising goal of \$600,000! This year was significant because it was held on the same day as the United Nations, 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities'.

Our very own Mayor John Tory was in attendance, and if you were there, you may have noticed a CP24 Camera Crew capturing special moments live, for all of Toronto to see! With a crowd of 1400 we really did let the good times roll!

The Happy Pals musicians serenaded the party room with big loud musical horns. Music and

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dance filled the halls, creating a parade all the way into the theatre.

Ben Mulrone was yet again a spectacular host. His humour and energy really got the crowd going. The party really got going when the Sam Roberts Band took the stage. The energetic crowd was cheering and dancing. Everyone was having a great time. In between songs, Sam Roberts even got beaded necklaces placed around his neck from some of the audience members!

After the concert everyone was in high spirits and went back to the party room to dance floor. Our very own, "DJ Raptor Marc" delighted us with everyone's favourite party tunes! Did I mention the food? All night long we had an assortment of New Orleans themed food. From Chicken Fried waffles to Cajun Shrimp to a smorgasbord of Desserts!

Couldn't make the party? Search the hashtag #Crocks2016. Many of the audience members posted pictures from that night on their own social media feeds!

## CENTRAL REGION

# Central Region Prepares for the Holidays

By: Matthew Poirier



*Santa pays a visit to the Dinner Club Holiday Party!*

With the holidays nearly upon us, Central Region got into the spirit of the season with the help of some generous donations provided by the Central Region Council and from C.L. Toronto's Fundraising Department.

A highlight of the holiday season is the annual Holiday Party, hosted by Central Region's Wednesday Night Dinner Club. Every year, the Council sponsors this popular event. Which features a hot turkey dinner with all the trimmings, a holiday sing along (lead by students from University of Toronto's music program), and a visit from Santa Claus! The event serves as a great opportunity for Council members to connect and catch up with Club staff and participants who attend the program every week. Club attendees enjoy sharing some holiday cheer with their friends, and even leave with special personalized gifts from Santa. This year's Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the Dinner Club's Holiday Party, Council also sponsors an annual holiday celebration for Central Region's Adult Protective Services. This celebration is attended by approximately 225 individuals. The dinner and dance provides a warm chicken meal as well as a gift bag. The gift bag includes: items of clothing, personal hygiene products, and a Tim Horton's gift card. This party has become a Central Region staple, considering it is for individuals who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a festive holiday celebration.

Lastly, CL Toronto's Fundraising Department will be helping families supported by Central Region's Community Support Team. In order to help make the holidays a bit brighter for these families' in need, they will be receiving grocery store gift cards. If you too would like to lend your support this season, please contact Matthew Poirier at 647.729.1210, or [matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca](mailto:matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca).

From all of us in Central Region, we wish you and yours the very best this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

## Upcoming Central Events

### **Wednesday Night Dinner Club**

will be closed after December 14<sup>th</sup> and reopening January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

More information contact Matthew Poirier (see information above)

### **Central Council Meeting**

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

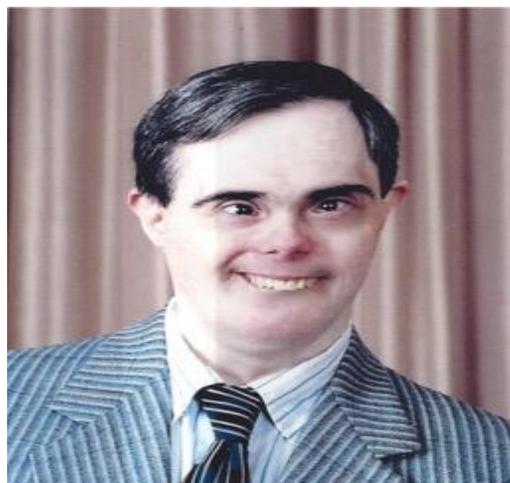
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

20 Spadina Rd. Room 2B

All are welcome.

## Remembering Robbie Tapping

By Ruth Nagy



*Robbie Tapping honored by Graceview Presbyterian Church*

On Friday November 4, 2016, Graceview Presbyterian Church held a dinner in honor of Betty Tapping and her son Robbie who passed away on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

What a memorable event it was! It was an evening filled with good food, caring family, friends, and parishioners. A loving community, I had the pleasure of meeting.

I attended the dinner on behalf of Community Living Toronto and the Etobicoke/York council since Community Living Toronto was the recipients of the benefit dinner.

Betty is a parishioner of Graceview and she was a member of Community Living Toronto for many years. Betty and I, together, advocated for our children over 30 years ago.

Robbie attended the day program on Judson; today known as Etobicoke SWACA, for many years. Betty is grateful for the staff at Community Living Toronto and the care that Robbie received from them.

Graceview Presbyterian Church held a fundraiser in September in honor of Robbie Tapping. At the request of Mrs. Betty Tapping, the proceeds were to be donated to Community Living Toronto.

After the dinner, Graceview Presbyterian Church presented Community Living Toronto-Etobicoke/York region a cheque for a \$1000.00, to be allocated for the upcoming reallocation and renovation plans at Etobicoke/York SWACA.

What a wonderful way to honor Robbie and Betty!



*Betty Tapping and Ruth Nagy-Etobicoke/York Council member.*

# Lakeshore Arts Awarded Community Living Toronto's Employer of the Year 2016

By Georgina Stergiotis



Jamie Wilder, President of Lakeshore Arts and Brad Saunders, CEO of Community Living Toronto.

Lakeshore Arts has been a partner with Community Living Toronto since 2009. They have supported various events that help to promote Etobicoke artists at Judson and Creative Village Studio. Lakeshore Arts has supported events such as: The Etobicoke Arts Collective, Art on the Move and Kaeja Dance at Montgomery Inn.

In 2014, Dale Makino, was approached by Susan Nagy, Lakeshore Arts, Executive Director; intentionally seeking to employ an individual with an intellectual disability as a part time Gallery Attendant. After a mutually developed selection process, Kadeem Parchment, became the successful candidate. Kadeem's employment began in September 2014, and after more than 2 years he continues to work there.

Kadeem came to Community Living Toronto in 2012 and is in the Supported Independent

Living (SIL) program. He lives in a one bedroom apartment in Etobicoke and also works at Loblaws. Kadeem is a George Brown College alumni, enjoys Anime, movies, super heroes, and travelling. Kadeem has traveled to Jamaica to visit his natural family and he recently went to Trinidad with his girlfriend.

At Lakeshore Arts, Kadeem works in an environment where he is welcomed and treated with respect. His love for art has allowed him to learn and to develop new skills.

On Monday November 21st, 2016, Community Living Toronto presented Lakeshore Arts with the 2016 **Employer of the Year Award** at their AGM. The event was attended by Brad Saunders-Chief Executive Officer, Dale Makino-Program Manager, and Angela Bradley-Director of Public Relations and Fundraising.

In addition, Lakeshore Arts generously presented Community Living Toronto with a donation.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Lakeshore Arts. We want to continue to do innovative projects and events, open doors for individuals with an intellectual disability, and make a meaningful difference in our community.

## Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

### Etobicoke/York Council Meeting

Tuesday January 10, 2017  
6:30 – 8:30 pm  
4895 Dundas St. W  
(Creative Village Studio)  
All are welcome!

### Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of each month  
6pm-8pm  
**(Please note: Friendship Club will attend  
Etobicoke/York Annual Holiday Party in  
December and will meet again in January)**  
Etobicoke Region Office  
295 The West Mall, suite 204  
For more information and Registration  
Contact: LauraLee Edmiston 647-729-0440 or  
[ledmiston@cltoronto.ca](mailto:ledmiston@cltoronto.ca)

### Parent Share

10 am – 12 pm  
January 19, 2017  
295 The West Mall, suite 204 (ERO)  
Park in underground on P2

For information contact Georgina Stergiotis at  
647-729-0445 or  
[georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca](mailto:georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca)

## NORTH YORK REGION

## Celebrating Marianne's Retirement

*By Wendy Dyke*

On Thursday November 10, 2016 Community Living Toronto staff and participants gathered for a pot-luck celebration dinner to say farewell to Marianne Gallagher and wish her well as she retired from the Association after 37 years of service. They were joined by a few of Marianne's family members too.



*Seniors Group performs for Marianne*

Marianne worked in a number of different positions throughout her years with the CL Toronto, including North York Employment Training Services on Steepleck as an instructor and finishing her career in the Supported Independent Living (SIL) program: first as a 'Community Living Worker' and later her position was known as a 'Support Worker III'. A few years ago Marianne went to part-time employment in the SIL program and as we were celebrating she let everyone know that she was staying on as a relief staff. The running joke on that evening was that nobody was surprised that Marianne was still not ready to leave Community Living Toronto completely!

The North York Seniors group surprised Marianne with a tribute using the letters of her name to describe how they valued the role

Marianne played in their lives. Marianne has been supporting this seniors group since it started 6 years ago. Many times she expressed how much she enjoyed being with this talented and spirited group. She enthusiastically applauded their performance showing how touched she was by their kind words. There were a lot of speeches from staff and participants that included special remembrances. To the delight of everyone in attendance, one participant told Marianne that they'd never forget the 'bed bugs'! Many staff spoke of how well Marianne mentored them when they joined the SIL team and what a gift she has for remembering and sharing the history of Community Living Toronto. Staff remarked that her willingness to support them as they joined the SIL department enabled them to quickly adapt to their new role.

Marianne had her time on stage too, expressing her gratitude to her co-workers, supervisors, manager, individuals she supported over the years, and her family. She was truly touched by the number of people in attendance – over 40 people who have known and worked with Marianne over her 37 years of service. Marianne said she never expected such a heartwarming send off and looked forward to meeting up with many of us as a relief staff member.



*Marianne thanks everyone for their good wishes.*

## Upcoming North York Event

### Sibshop

Saturday January 21, 2017  
10:30 am to 2:30 pm  
Victoria Park Hub  
1527 Victoria Park Avenue

For information contact: Wendy Dyke  
[wdyke@cltoronto.ca](mailto: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 647-729-1162  
[Sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca](mailto:Sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca)

### Parent Share

10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
January 5, 2017  
1122 Finch Ave. W

### CLT and Toronto Children's Services Presents a support group for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Ancaster Community Center  
41 Ancaster Rd.  
The second Thursday of each month  
9:30 am to 11:00 am.  
For more information contact:  
Rachele Zilli 647-729-3634  
Stephanie Hannaoui 416-392-3464

## SCARBOROUGH REGION

# Winter Literacy Class

By: Felicity Zanatta



Karen, Marianne and Geoff enjoy the literacy class

The Scarborough Region Council is a dedicated group of volunteers that meet once a month. They use the very welcome donations from Members to support various programs for people in Scarborough who are looking to participate in interesting and fun activities.

One of those programs is, the very popular, Winter Literacy Program. Three wonderful teachers (Shannon, Ciragh, and Corisa) lead 22 students in learning, maintaining and improving their literacy skills. Reading basic words, writing, basic math skills and some computer work help improve the person's ability to be more independent in the community.

This program also has terrific volunteers who support the students learning with individual help. Desiree, a volunteer, says, "*I enjoy seeing the students learn and have fun*". The students look forward to this program and benefit from the support of the teachers, volunteers, and the sponsorship that comes from the Scarborough Region Council.

If you would like to know more about the Scarborough Region Council or Winter Literacy

please contact, Felicity Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or [fzanatta@cltoronto.ca](mailto:fzanatta@cltoronto.ca)

## Upcoming Scarborough Events

### Council Meeting

Monday January 9, 2017

6:15pm

1712 Ellesmere Road Boardroom

All Welcome!

### Bingo at Lawson

Friday January 20, 2017

7-8:30pm

1712 Ellesmere Road

\$5 for a snack and prizes

### Advocacy Training for Parents of School Age Children

Thursday February 16, 2017

6:30-8:30pm

1712 Ellesmere Road

Please register with Felicity

### Winter Literacy

Saturday mornings 9-11:45 am

1710 Ellesmere Rd.

\$20 registration and \$5 per class

Eligibility determined by interview

For more information on all of these events and to register contact Felicity 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)

## Parent Share

January 12 and 26, 2017

9:30-11:30 am

Cedarbrook Community Centre

91 Eastpark Blvd

Contact Sarah Winter at 647-729-1633 or

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

## Connections Dance

Friday January 27, 2017

7:30-9:30pm

1712 Ellesmere Rd.

\$8 admission

Call Lester at 416-566-7252

## Self-Advocates Council

# Inclusion, Happiness, Peace and Love Throughout the year!

By: Sue Hutton



Richard Newland

We often talk about LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgendered, and Queer/Questioning) pride in June when Toronto has its world-famous Pride Parade. Community Living Toronto has a presence there, supporting people labeled with intellectual disabilities who identify as LGBTQ to join in the celebrations.

The Self-Advocates Council hopes that all the Community Living Toronto locations are honoring Pride for the rest of the year too!

In Community Living Toronto's rights training, there are new videos that include Self-Advocate's discussing the importance of rights. Richard Newland's piece talks about LGBTQ rights and the importance of rights and inclusion.

Richard adds, *"Everyone needs to learn to respect everyone's rights and everyone's wishes. We all have the right to be what we want to be and all rights come with responsibilities. Everyone wants to be happy. That's all everyone wants, happiness, peace, love and joy"*. Richard decided that it would be great to have some rainbow flags up at Manson, and went straight to Kim Richard to request to put some up. Kim was excited to support Richard, and within 5 minutes, there were rainbow flags in several locations at the Manson site. The flag up on the wall is a reminder that it is a safe space for LGBTQ pride. If you would like to see rainbow flags up in your site, please contact the Self-Advocates Council, as Richard would be happy to come out with some flags for your place.

So in Richard's words, from the Self-Advocates Council to you – *" may you have inclusion, happiness, peace, love and joy this time of year, and throughout the year!"*

Contact SAC at [shutton@cltoronto.ca](mailto:shutton@cltoronto.ca)

## Volunteer Voice

# Another Exciting Best Buddies season!

By: Yulia Prudova

Best Buddies from the University of Toronto (St. George and Scarborough Chapters) are a wonderful addition to Community Living Toronto's team of volunteers, providing all sorts of fun opportunities to engage people with intellectual disabilities that we support. As this year comes to an end, we are excited to share that it has, yet again, been a successful start for Best Buddies.



*Buddy Pairs enjoy a game of Snakes and Ladders at the Best Buddies Halloween Event on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.*

Best Buddies Canada generously received a donation of tickets for the Sleeping Beauty performance at the Elgin Theatre. Forty members from both Downtown and Scarborough Chapters of University of Toronto were invited to enjoy the performance on Sunday, December the 4<sup>th</sup>. The Buddy pairs were excited to have the opportunity to enjoy what turned out to be a hilarious performance. Laughter and fun was had by all!

Thank you so much to Best Buddies for including Community Living Toronto, and for always finding creative ways to reach out to the people we support.

## Volunteer Dinner – Call for Nominations!

Regional Volunteer of the Year Awards will be presented in the spring of 2017. To nominate someone for Volunteer of the Year, contact your regional Coordinator of Volunteer Services by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Click [here](#) to download the forms.

### Central Region

Yulia Prudova

647-729-1209 or [yprudova@cltoronto.ca](mailto:yprudova@cltoronto.ca)

### Scarborough Region

Sarah Winter

647-729-1633 or [swinter@cltoronto.ca](mailto:swinter@cltoronto.ca)

### Etobicoke Region

Sehrish Zehra

647-729-1162

[Sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca](mailto:Sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca)

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



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