

FEATURED STORY

2017 United Way Toronto York Region Rouge Event



*An activity at the United Way Toronto and York regions
"Rouge 2017" Fundraiser.*

By: Karla Dendrinis

On February 23rd, The United Way of Toronto and York Region hosted a fundraiser aimed to millennials. It was a fun event with pizza, poutine, donuts and a dance floor. Over 400 people were in attendance. One of the highlights was a huge blank canvas that said "What does community love look like?". Everyone at the event got to draw on it with different types of markers. It was so much fun!

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The month of March marks the end of the membership year. Renew your membership at www.cltoronto.ca. In this issue you can find; coverage of the Niagara Falls annual trip that happens every year in December; Christopher, a long time Leafs fan receives a few surprises at the Hockey Hall of Fames' Legends Classic game; Community Living Toronto staff attends the United Way Toronto York Region's Gala held on February 7th, "A Celebration of Belonging"; Lucille in the Scarborough Region celebrates her 90th Birthday with her family and her Community Living Family; Self-Advocates lend their voices in the play "Wildfire"; and Sarah Winter wraps up Inclusion Education Month with our inclusion game called "Spinclusion".

Don't forget to 'save the date' for our Family Fun Fair coming up in June, (formerly "Annual Picnic"). The next deadline for applications to the "Choices that Can Change Lives fund" is 5pm on March 31st, 2017.

CENTRAL REGION

Annual Trip to Niagara Falls

By: Michelle Nanton-Whyte



One big happy group at Betty's Restaurant

The annual Festival of Lights trip to Niagara Falls started in 2005 when Ruth, an individual supported by Community Living Toronto expressed her dream to visit Niagara Falls to see the lights.

According to Ruth, this was one of her favourite family memories. So, to celebrate the holidays that year, two Community Living Toronto staff planned a trip to Niagara Falls for Ruth and 6 other adults.

Fast-forward to 2016, and more than 400 men and women, their staff supports, and volunteers have taken this annual day trip.

It's a fun filled day that begins with a bus ride that involves holiday movies, music, prizes and shared jokes to start off the day.

A group lunch is then held in a private dining room at the, welcoming and accessible, Betty's Restaurant. During the meal, birthdays are celebrated and a look back at past trips. Betty's is famous for the best home-made pies in the region and according to Vera – a long time trip participant **"This is the best pie ever!"**

Before the sun goes down, everyone likes to see the sites, go holiday shopping, and some even try their luck at the Casino! Then it's off to see the Festival of Lights.

"The lights are out of this world." said Steve

"I can't wait for 2017... my favourite display is the buffalo and the moose!" said Diane.

"I wouldn't miss this for anything... count me in for next year!" said Roger.

Ruth passed away in December 2010 and she's fondly remembered by many of her friends.

In 2011 upon hearing that many individuals were not able to continue taking the annual trip because of increasing costs, Ruth's brother partnered with the Choices that can Change Lives Fund to help cover the cost of transportation. This partnership is helping keep Ruth's memory alive and helping to share her love of the Festival of Lights with many others.

Upcoming Central Events

Central Region Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 14th, 2017

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

20 Spadina Rd, Room 2B

All are welcome.

Central Region Best Buddies

(Registered Buddies only)

Friday, March 17th, 2017

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

40 Birch Ave

Central Region Tax Clinics

Wednesday, March 22nd and Thursday, March 23rd, 2017

20 Spadina Rd

Further details TBA

Central Region Council's Annual Spring Fling

Dinner, Dance & Silent Auction

Saturday, April 8th, 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, March 20th, 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 legendary evening for Christopher Yustin

By: Shannon Geldart



Christopher with Wendel Clark

Christopher, a long time Toronto Maple Leaf's fan attended the Hockey Hall of Fame's Legends Classic which saw Team Lindros and his fellow NHL hockey legends take on Borje Salming and his fellow Maple Leaf legends.

It was a fun, light hearted game consisting of 2 regular periods and a shoot out to end the game. Team Lindros in the end won, but that did not spoil the fun for Christopher.

Long after the crowd had cleared from the Air Canada Centre, while waiting for his Wheel Trans pick up, Christopher was approached by Mr. Wendel Clark! (A former captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs.) Mr. Clark presented Chris with his very own signed jersey. Chris was delighted to receive this wonderful gift as he had hoped to purchase a jersey at the

game, but was not able to. Chris was fortunate enough to have Mr. Clark pose for pictures and spend a few minutes chatting with him.

While still waiting for his ride, Christopher's staff heard a tap on the door of gate 6 where they were waiting. Staff opened the door for a nicely dressed gentleman who introduced himself as "Tiger". Christopher recognized him immediately as being the one and only Tiger Williams, former player of the Toronto Maple Leafs.



Christopher with Tiger Williams

Christopher was in awe when Mr. Williams signed his new jersey as well as his shirt, posed for pictures and shook his hand. Christopher was in disbelief that he had met two legends in one evening. As Tiger walked away, Christopher exclaimed "Tiger Williams shook my hand!"

The evening truly turned legendary for Christopher who will never forget meeting two of his hockey heroes in one night!

A very heartfelt thank you goes out to Mr. Clark and Mr. Williams from Christopher and his staff,

for their kindness and for making Christopher's evening one that will forever stand out in his life highlight reel!

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 March 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm

4895 Dundas St. W. (Creative Village Studio)

RSVP: Georgina Stergiotis at 647-729-0445,

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of the month, 6-8 pm

Registration: Laura Lee Edmiston,

647-729-0440 or ledmiston@cltoronto.ca

Parent Share

10 am to 12:00 pm

Dates: March 16 (Guest presenter: Melissa Ray from Concord Day Program and Camp), April 20, May 18, June 15

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

Art from the Heart

Annual art show featuring artists from Creative Village Studio

February 17 to March 19, 2017

Opening Reception February 19, 2017

12 pm - 5 pm.

Joshua Creek Heritage Art Center

1086 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E

Oakville, ON

905-257-4730

For information contact: Harold Tomlinson at 647-351-4362

htomlinson@cltoronto.ca

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

Contact: Georgina Stergiotis
647-729-0445

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

NORTH YORK REGION

Gala 2016: A Celebration of Belonging

By: Wendy Dyke



Left to right: Nina, Wendy, Matt, Sam, Sylvie, Brad, and Liliana

The Gala to celebrate the great success of the 2016 United Way Toronto and York Region campaign was held this year at the Allstream Centre on February 7, 2017. The celebration brought together heroes from all sectors that have played a role in raising \$102 million dollars for United Way Toronto/York Region.

The Gala was a celebration of the many, many campaigns that were undertaken by students, corporations, labour unions, employees in the public sector, and agencies such as ours. The results really spoke to me about the people who live and work in the Toronto region and the big hearts our community members must have to dig deep to support the work of the United Way. This is particularly true when so many are finding it a struggle to pay the monthly bills. I know many of the contributors to our own United Way campaign had to dig deep to sponsor a CN Tower climber, buy Chase the Ace tickets, and make pledges. There were other contributions through a few events across the regions too that helped boost our total and

we thank those who were involved. Our campaign raised \$37,000.00, thanks to all our contributors, the tireless work of our committee members and our leadership from campaign chair, Yulia Prodova.

As chair for our 2017 campaign, I look forward to working with our United Way committee and hope for another successful campaign.

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!

Pizza/Bingo

Thursday March 16, 2017
6 pm to 8 pm
Victoria Park Hub
1527 Victoria Park Avenue

Sibshop

10:30 am to 2:30 pm
Victoria Park Hub
1527 Victoria Park Avenue
(Weather permitting)
Saturday March 25, 2017
Saturday May 6, 2017

TTC Readiness Program

Victoria Park Hub
CL Toronto program room
1527 Victoria Park Avenue
In class instruction dates:
Wednesday evenings, March 22 to May 3rd,
2017
Time: In class – 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Field instruction dates:

Saturday April 29 and Saturday May 6, 2017
Time for Field instruction: 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Cost: \$65.00, plus cost for two day passes to be purchased by participants (\$12.00 each day – for total of \$24.00)

Participants must have a TTC Support Person Assistance Card

Information about the Support Person Assistant Card can be found at

https://www.ttc.ca/Fares_and_passes/Support_Person_Card/Application/index.jsp

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

Jumpstart Literacy

When: 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 – 12 pm
1122 Finch Ave W
March 2, 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

Lucille turns 90!

By: Felita Kwan, Diane Akai and Lisa Forret



Lucille blows out her candle!

On Saturday January 28th, 2017 Lucille Sue-Ping along with her family and Community Living Toronto celebrated her 90th birthday with a big party filled with food (Chinese and West Indian food reflect her cultural background as well as celebrate Chinese New Year), live calypso music (Steel pan), dancing and of course lots of laughter. It was a party fit for a queen, crown and all!

Lucille was born on Jan 30, 1927 in British Guiana and was one of 11 children. She came to Canada in the mid 70's and was always supported by her family until the mid-80's when she joined Community Living Toronto. Lucille has been a resident at Roundwood for about 10 years and despite recent health challenges she is thriving due to the great collaborative care. Lucille has discovered the secret to longevity; feisty attitude, strong desire to be independent, always speaking one's mind, taking pride in small accomplishments and celebrating old memories like they were

yesterday. Oh and Elvis and Englebert Humperdinck music of course! At her party, celebrations got into full swing with heartfelt speeches, cake and candles; it took Lucille a few attempts to blow out the candles, followed by her raising her arms like a champion in response to the cheering! Family, Community Living Toronto staff (past and present), St. Paul's L'Amoreaux staff, and Roundwood residents were all there to celebrate and everyone got up and dancing to "Hot Hot Hot". It was an afternoon of pure joy!



A great Celebration!

CHOICES that can Change Lives Fund

The Choices that can Change Lives Fund provides small grants to help individuals and families pursue dreams and goals when all other resources are exhausted.

Individuals and families receiving service or attending a Community Living Toronto program who are also members of the Association are eligible to apply for a Choices that can Change Lives Fund grant.

Next application deadline
5:00 pm—March 31, 2017

For eligibility information and application forms
visit choiceschangelives.ca

Have questions or need help completing your application contact
your Regional Membership Coordinator or
Sylvie Labrosse, Manager, Fundraising 647-729-1180

Scarborough Council

A session on Advocacy Training for Parents of School Age Children was presented on February 16, 2017. This was a very informative session led by Lori Beesley and Tracey O'Regan.

The Literacy class currently has older computers that are difficult to use well 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

Try It on For Size presentation Council Meeting

Monday March 6, 2017 6:15pm
1712 Ellesmere Road Boardroom
All are welcome!

Bingo at Lawson

Friday March 17, 2017; 7-8:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Road
\$5 for a snack and prizes

Achilles 5 Km Walk/Run

Join the Scarborough Team
Sunday March 12, 2017
\$50 to register

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 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 March 31, 2017; 7:30-9:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Rd.
\$8 admission
Call Lester at 416-566-7252

Parent Share

9:30 – 11:30 am
91 Eastpark Blvd.
Cedarbrook Community Centre
March 9, 23, April 13, 27, May 11, 25, June 8
Contact Sarah Winter at 647-729-1633
or swinter@cltoronto.ca

WILDFIRE – A Play by Rare Theatre

(Self-Advocates teaching others about institutions in a play)

By: Sue Hutton



Peter Park, Nick Hutchenson, and Kristene Hurdle inside the recording studio.

Kristene's & Peter's voices will be real life stories set within the play. They tell their stories – exactly as they are. Having the voices of survivors was very important to the production and has changed the way the play is presented.

In the picture above you'll see Kristene in the recording studio where she and Peter Park (survivor, activist, People First of Ontario co-founder, and Respecting Rights co-founder) were invited to record their voices for an upcoming theatre production written by Judith Thompson, award-winning playwright. Peter Park has been well known for advocacy for the last 40 years, but this is the first time Kristene Hurdle is stepping into the light to tell her story and help others.

RARE Theatre is a non-profit theatre company that works to magnify the voice of marginalized individuals using performers from communities that are seldom heard and rarely seen on our stages. RARE Theatre works with artists who are differently-abled, BIPOC and from LGBTQ communities.

RARE is producing a play called "Wildfire", which is co-produced by Soulepper. It tackles important issues, like misconceptions about disability, love and relationships.

The actors in Wildfire did not live in institutions, as they are younger. They have learned a lot from hearing Peter Park's story, as well as Kristene's story.

Wildfire is set in an institution for people with intellectual disabilities. In the play, the story of Romeo & Juliet is told in the voices of the actors. As a way of fighting back against the abuses of the institution, the actors put on this play about relationships and love.

Kristene and Peter are mentors for a younger generation – teaching people through theatre about the institutions, and how important it is for people to make their own decisions in life about their relationships.

For more information on the play:
Accessible tickets and ODSP discounts are available.

May 2 – May 20 is the run time.
The Young Centre for the Performing Arts
50 Tank House Lane, Distillery District
<http://www.raretheatre.org/>

VOLUNTEER VOICE

Inclusive Education Month

By: Sarah Winter

February 2017 was a huge success!!!

Thanks to all the support of both the TDSB and TCDSB just under 1000 children took part in our interactive game on Inclusive Education, Anti-bullying and celebrating inclusive communities!

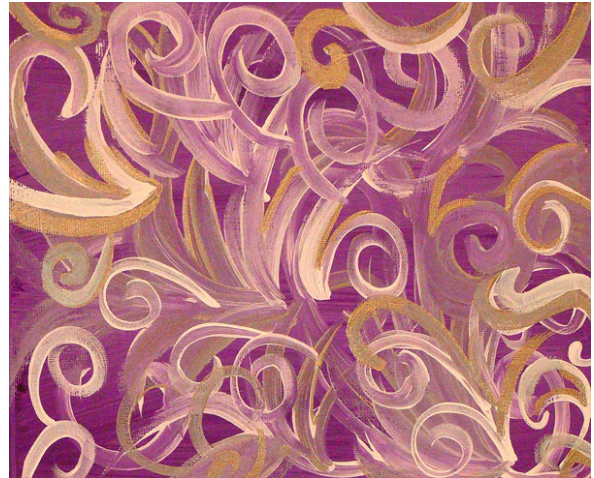
But we don't stop there! Spinclusion will continue sessions until the end of the school year and is already planning for September 2017!

Thanks to everyone who made Inclusive Education Month so successful!



Principal J. Simmons and Teacher Ms. Ng supported some fantastic Spinclusion sessions at Poplar Rd Junior Public school.

37th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event



Artwork by Sandra Churcher, Big Dreams Art Company

Monday April 10th, 2017

6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Fountain Blu

200 Princes' Blvd, Toronto, ON M6K 3C3

Registration begins at 5:30pm

In order for us to accommodate all guests, you must **RSVP** by **Monday, April 3, 2017** to:

Central Region

Yulia Prudova

647-729-1209 or yprudova@cltoronto.ca

Scarborough Region

Sarah Winter

647-729-1633 or swinter@cltoronto.ca

North York and Etobicoke/York Regions

Sehrish Zehra

647-729-1162 or sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca

Vegetarian options will be available.

A cash bar will be open throughout the evening.

Paid parking is available at the venue.

NEWS

Upcoming Volunteer Information and Orientation Sessions

March 6, 2017 10 AM to 2:00 PM
North York Region
1122 Finch Ave West

April 3, 2017 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Scarborough Region
1712 Ellesmere Road

To register please visit

www.cltoronto.ca/volunteers/

Renew Your Membership

Membership Year:

April 2017 - March 2018

www.cltoronto.ca/membership



www.communitylivingtoronto.com



www.facebook.com/cltoronto



www.twitter.com/cltoronto



www.instagram.com/communitylivingtoronto



United Way
Toronto & York Region

MEMBER OF
MEMBRE D' Imagine Canada

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