

# COMMUNITY LIVING Owen Sound and District Perspectives



## Soccer Award

By Don Bertin

Don Bertin has been travelling south each week over the summer months to play with the City of St. Catharines Special Olympics Soccer team "The Devils". Congratulations to Don on his Award for the most consistent player of the year that he accepted on November 5, 2016.

Don has displayed strong teamwork, excellent sportsmanship and achieved success at either the local or provincial levels. Coach Dan Gauvreau of the Devils Soccer team said that "Don's soccer skills and talent was well recognized for this award. His participation with the team was very successful".

See 'Award' on Page 2

## Team Support

By Michelle Rutt-Carlson

One of the things that Community Living Owen Sound and District prides itself on is how self-directed our staff teams are and this group is no exception. This amazing Community Living Owen Sound and District team are supporting four young men that recently moved together into their first home.

Felicia, Mary, Laura, Betty Ann, Danielle, Lindsay, and Tori bring a great mix of youth and experience. They have overcome many challenges as a team and have really demonstrated our mission and values in their everyday work lives. They have sought out some pretty amazing opportunities for and with the young men they support and this has led to some great memories.

This hard-working group has been instrumental in supporting the young men to

See 'Team' on Page 2

## Passport Funding Opening Doors

By Jodi Klerks

Passport funds have opened many new doors for Wendy Murphy. Wendy has been able to plan some new trips, activities and experiences with her funds. Earlier this year, Wendy went on the Chi Cheemaun's Spring Cruise. This was something that she had wanted to do for a long time and her Passport funds enabled to her go. Wendy enjoyed it so much she would

like to make this a regular spring event. Wendy is currently starting her

new people there. Wendy has started going to activities at 2nd Ave. where she often

to the Toronto Zoo and Canada's Wonderland. Wendy enjoys going to Toronto to shop and visit new places. She hopes that she will be able to visit new places in Toronto next year using her Passport funds as well. I have enjoyed seeing Wendy try all of these new experiences and I look forward to her telling me about the new things that she has tried and learned each week.

This was something that she had wanted to do for a long time and her Passport funds enabled to her go.

second session of dance class. She says that "dance class is a lot of fun" and she likes to learn the moves and meet

sees her old friends from school while meeting new ones as well. Wendy has also gone on trips this year

## Mom's Retreat

Saturday, May 27th and Sunday, May 28th

This year we will be returning to the great Evergreen Resort! There will be lots of fun to be had at this scenic, peaceful and beautiful place.

If you haven't registered or would like more information please contact: Tammy Cameron @ 519-370-0866 ext. 114 or Sandra McManaman @ 519-371-9251 ext. 231





## Award an 'Honour to Receive'

*Continued from front*

The Devils were awarded to go to 2017 Provincial Summer Games along with the efforts and hard work of Mike D. and Chris R., good work. Don wants to congratulate his teammates as well for a successful year.

Don shares that this is a very special honour to receive this award. It would not have been possible without my teammates hard work and efforts. We train very hard to make it possible to get to the provincials. "Well done", said Don. I am very humble

for the ongoing support of Thrifty car rental, my drivers, my doctor, and my trainers to see me live my dreams of playing soccer on my last run to nationals.

After 45 years of many great memories it's come to a time to leave the sport and walk away a champion amongst champions. My very deepest gratitude goes out to the staff at Community Living for helping me with the hard work to organize these events to make it possible for me to play soccer. Thank you very much.



## Team Seeks Out Opportunities

*Continued from front*

settle in to their new home and evolve into adulthood. The young men have been very busy learning what being an adult is about, learning how to be roommates sharing space, and learning many new skills while having fun and sharing responsibility for keeping their home running

smoothly and safely.

They've been paying their own bills, taking control of their own health care, looking for employment opportunities, developing friendships and generally getting to know their community. Owen Sound Attack hockey games, individual vacations, and spending time with family are frequently supported events.

# Social Role Valorization

*By Gareth Lloyd*

Social Role Valorization (SRV) is a sociological concept developed by Wolf Wolfensberger in 1983, the central tenet of which is the belief that people are more likely to experience the "good things in life" if they

hold valued social roles. Therefore, a significant and ongoing focus of staff

working for Community Living Owen Sound and District is to support the creation, maintenance and progression of these valued social roles.

A general consensus exists about what the "good things in life" are, and these thoughts neatly overlap our own vision, values and mission — being

accorded dignity, respect and acceptance, being included and able to participate in the community, having friends, family connections, and opportunities for meaningful, competitive work, to name but a few.

and expectancies which can provide opportunities to develop said competencies.

Community Living Owen Sound and District remains committed to professional development and several staff have taken the four-day

**There are two main strategies to help achieve valued roles: enhancement of image and enhancement of competencies.**

There are two main strategies to help achieve valued roles: enhancement of image and enhancement of competencies. Ideally, both processes are augmented alongside one another, because if a person has a positive social image they are more likely to be provided with experiences

Social Role Valorization introductory course, about which feedback has been universally

positive. Our Association remains committed to assisting people with developmental needs to live, work and participate fully in the community as valued partners, and after reflecting upon the Social Role Valorization training the word "valued" has never seemed so profound.



## Hero — Heartfelt Gratitude

*By Fely Clarke*

Thank you ever so kindly for the love, care, and awesome time working side by side with Nyla as her service dog for almost 10 years. Thank you for gently volunteering as we visited the Georgian Heights and Maple View Nursing Homes.

The people that we visited, especially the residents at the nursing homes, truly enjoyed the social meet and greet every Monday and

Wednesday. The visits gave them a tremendous sense of happiness and got them ready for supper. Well done, Hero.

Your retirement day came and your pictures on the wall of the nursing homes are such a treat to relive the good old days of patting you and stroking your very tight curls. Your name "Hero" sincerely suited you so well for you are such a very special service dog who rendered services with passion and always with

unconditional love. It was a pleasure and an honour working with you, Hero.

Another chapter in your life Hero to savour the moment of retirement as a house pet with Nyla's sister and her dog Xico. Now Nyla has a new dog called Revei and still learning the many routines of being a service dog.

With whole-hearted thanks and gratitude from all of us, who will always remember you, "Hero."

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, June 21st, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

**Location:** Walker House, 146 High Street, Southampton, Ontario

**Guest Speaker:** David Mason, Bluewater District School Board Trustee

**Presentations:** Service Awards, Student Bursary, RDSP Awards, TD Mayer Community Living Bursary



## Sue's Employment at Staples: A Success Story

By Kim McCorkindale

When you ask Sue Corbett what she likes about her job at Staples her face lights up and she quickly says, "It's a great place to work! Everyone is nice to me." Sue has been successfully employed at Staples in Owen Sound for the past eight years. She works on Thursday afternoons in the Stationary Department for three hours each week. Store

manager Syd Austin stated "that is when Sue is needed the most; it's a busy day when the merchandise is delivered to the store and needs to be stocked on the shelves," he said. "Sue is a valued team member who is hard-working, reliable and focused." Syd's very first comment when I asked him about Sue being an employee at Staples was: "She's part of the family."

Over the years Syd said he has seen immense growth around Sue's ability to interact with customers. Sue's focus now is to provide excellent Customer Service to everyone

she meets at the store. If she is unable to assist the customer she finds a coworker who will be able to help them.

I think back to eight years ago when I first met Sue and we discussed her employment goals and she told me she didn't really want to be working with the public. She

respected by her peers and is accepted for who she is and where differences are celebrated.

Manager Syd said "Staples is the big-box retailer with lots of heart, it's your community store." This is very evident with the great partnerships that have been developed over

the years with many local agencies. Being part of Community Living Owen Sound and

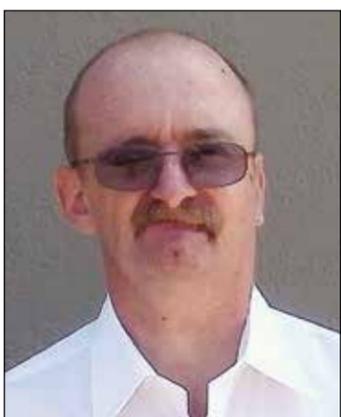
"Sue is a valued team member who is hard-working, reliable and focused."

— Syd Austin, store manager, Staples

wanted to go to work and just stock shelves like she did in her previous job at Zellers, where she was employed for a number of years. It took a little while for me to get to know Sue, as she was very quiet. I wanted to find a job that would utilize all of Sue's great skills and find an environment that would be welcoming and supportive, a place where she would enjoy going to work. Staples has been a wonderful employer that has fostered growth and given Sue the opportunity to develop new skills and confidence. She is well

District's Communications Committee, I have asked Syd on many occasions to help out with various projects we are participating in like the One World Festival and local school's Breakfast Clubs. He has always been quick to generously donate supplies for these events. Staples is also a proud sponsor of the United Way of Bruce Grey's annual Backpack Program and the Stuff the Bus initiative. A hat off to Sue's continued success and Staples' commitment to their employees and community.

## There Are Happy Days Ahead!



By Marsha Blum

After 13 years of Janitorial Services at the Second Avenue Day Program, Robert Mepsted has retired! His last day of service was Friday, March 10, 2017. We thought we would send him off with a party as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Robert has seen many changes over the years. The gang at Second Avenue will

miss him. He was such a permanent fixture here. He knew everything and anything that was going on — you just needed to ask Robert! We will miss his whirlwind of activity with a mop in one hand and a dust rag in the other! We wish Robert the best during his retirement! The cushion says it all! There are happy days ahead Robert!

## From the Desks of Family Support

By Meredith McAsh

Empowering families with FREE planning resources to help your loved one with a disability live their best life.

Partners for Planning (p4p) is a great planning resource that is designed specifically for the relative or caregiver of a person with a disability. The Planning Network was formed by and is led by families and helps you navigate each step and life stage, empowering you with all the tools you need along the way.

One of the most helpful tools offered by p4p is their online events. Webinars and webcasts on such topics as Estate Planning, Addressing Loneliness, Registered Disability Savings Plan and

Understanding Your Legal Rights can be conveniently accessed from your own home. Community Living Owen Sound and District's Family Support team often hosts these online events as well.

With the click of your mouse, p4p's Learning Centre offers extensive information on Planning for the Future; Work, Roles and Contribution; Relationships and Community; Federal and Provincial Supports; Legal and Financial Planning, and Creative Options for Home.

For more information on this fantastic planning resource go to [www.planningnetwork.ca](http://www.planningnetwork.ca) or contact your Family Support Worker.



Coming again this summer

## TEEN CONNECT

A summer initiative for youth

For information please contact

**Brianne Styles at 519-371-9251 ext. 233**



# Celebrate!

**Infant and Child Development Day**

**Sunday, June 18**

# The Sound Advocates Give Back to The Community

By Cathy Foster

The Sound Advocates were looking for different opportunities to give back to the community and thought about a food drive. They then thought about how they could make an even bigger impact and have fun at the same time, and so they came up with the idea to issue a challenge to the other advocate groups in the area.

The Sound Advocates made up a flyer and contacted The Bruce Shoreline Advocates and the Action Committee in Walkerton. The groups accepted the challenge! The Sound Advocates placed boxes in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenue Owen Sound offices and collected a few boxes of food. They were happy to participate and felt good about helping people in the community.



Above: The Bruce Shoreline Self-Advocate Group accepted the challenge set out by the Sound Advocates and collected 68.5 pounds of food to donate to our local food bank. Members of the group created a flyer and delivered them to various local businesses and hung them in apartment buildings. On Nov. 18 we delivered the food to Ed Giles at the Salvation Army. After dropping the food off, the members who assisted said that they felt good to be giving to others.



Pictured above is the Action Committee from Walkerton. They participated in the Food Bank Challenge and gave back to their community! The Sound Advocates thank both groups for answering the challenge and making a difference.



Pictured for The Sound Advocates are Ken Burtwistle and Shawna Schank.

## PERSPECTIVES PURPOSE:

Perspectives promotes acceptance of people with different abilities in our community. We celebrate successes and embrace new ideas, approaches and opportunities.

**Editorial Team:** Jennifer Ramsay, Lorraine St. Germain, Erica Rooney, Ava Sandink, Tammy Robertson, Heather Thomson

**Photographer:** Charles Cottrell

**Executive Director:** Rick Hill

We encourage readers to use the newsletter for new ideas, contacts, websites and resources. Perspectives welcomes comments, contributions of articles or questions.

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

When you make a financial contribution to the Foundation for Community Living Owen Sound and District, you will make a difference in the lives of those you care about today and in the years to come. Consider making your donation today.

For more information and/or to make a donation, please contact the Foundation of Community Living Owen Sound and District at 519-371-9251.



## COMMUNITY LIVING OWEN SOUND AND DISTRICT 2016 – 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Association Membership applications are available from our office.

**Community Living Owen Sound and District**  
769 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 2N5  
Telephone 519-371-9251, Fax 519-371-5168