

COMMUNITY LIVING
Owen Sound and District

Perspectives



Back Row: Travis Tibbo, Lisa Kay Blome, Ashley Grahlman, Erica Rooney, Maryanne Reid, Brenda Waters, Maureen Crawford, Sarah Dunham, Fiona Smith (Team Leader), Scott Brady. Middle Row: Ray Benain, Martin Fox, Jennifer Ramsay, Cindy Coultis, Natasha McCarthy, Tammy Robertson (Manager), Alexis Kahgee, Jackie McCartney (Team Leader), Alisha Bowles, Deanna Hellyer, Tammy Klages, Mary Carson. Bottom row: Nicole Anderson, Rose Power, Mallory Ward, Sierra Ellis, Melissa Pettigrew, Stephanie Jackson, Fely Clarke, Sandra Yates. Regrets: Don Wilson, Vicki Reevey, Katie Little, Jodi Klerks, Suzanne Miller.

Outstanding Employers Wanted!

Submitted by Kim McCorkindale
The Ontario Disability Employment Support Program (ODESP) is utilized by individuals supported by Community Living Owen Sound and District. The program's primary function is to assist people with a disability to participate in competitive employment. Personalized supports are provided to assist with the initial training requirements, follow-up and

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The Support Pool

Submitted by Erica Rooney
Community Living Owen Sound and District adult supports and services includes The Support Pool Program which has a staff complement of 33 supporting over 240 adults in Owen Sound, Port Elgin and area since 1995. This group of staff

works together as a team to provide one-to-one supports to each individual's specific needs and goals for continued learning and independence. We provide community participation supports, supported independent living supports, as well as Passport funding supports.

The Support Pool is committed to assisting people with developmental needs to live, work and participate fully in the community as valued partners. While providing supports in the community, support staff accompany individuals as needed, often without people identifying their

presence. They provide support only as needed for the person to be as independent as possible.

This team supports individuals who live independently or with their families, support in daily living activities, employment, and provide ongoing support for important personal goals.

The Fence

Submitted by Gareth Lloyd
Last year, a collective of creative citizens presented their first series of skits, poems and plays entitled *From the Other Side of the Fence* to an audience of around 30 engaged people in downtown Owen Sound. The group worked for over a year on the material which dealt with inclusion, respect, pet therapy and more. It was truly a democratic experience, as each and every performance piece was shared, discussed and tweaked before being rehearsed and fine-tuned some more. There were certainly some apprehension leading up to the day of the performance, but on the day all 6 members of the group beat the nerves and were successful in delivering their positive messages. The next step for the group is a series of pamphlets called *The Fence*. Issue 1 (the Anger Issue) features writing with anger as an inspiration and features cats, haikus, aliens eating Caesar salad, and more. Issue 2 will be the Friendship Issue. Intrigued? Pick up a pamphlet at one of our locations and happy reading!

From the Desk of Family Support

What is Legal Capacity? Equality Rights

This article was originally shared by the Canadian Association for Community Living at www.cacl.ca and is reprinted here with permission. By Meredith McAsh

Legal capacity is a human right for all persons — all persons should enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life. The term recognizes two things: the capacity to have rights and the capacity to act upon those rights. In practice, legal capacity ensures that a person is recognized before the

law and can make decisions about his or her own life, exercise rights, access the civil and court systems, enter contracts, and speak on his or her own behalf.

Most adults enjoy the 'legal capacity' to make their own decisions, to enter agreements with others, and to be recognized and respected by others for this purpose. Historically, the legal capacity of some people in society can be restricted. In this case, the State puts protective measures in practice as it is believed that the

individual is unable to make decisions. People with intellectual disabilities are extremely vulnerable to having their legal capacity questioned by others, restricted, or removed altogether. This can happen when an individual goes to make a personal decision — like where they want to live, health care decisions requiring 'informed consent', and/or financial decisions. When this happens, a person can be required to have their legal capacity 'tested' and sometimes it is removed. When removed,

another person or agency is given the authority — as a guardian, trustee, or other substitute decision maker — to make decisions on behalf of the individual. As a result, people are denied having a voice in their own life; they have no power to make, control, or even influence decisions about issues that are important to them. The restriction of legal capacity is a rapid and often irreversible process. Slightly more than half of people with intellectual disabilities in Canada report

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Communication Strategy Committee Update

Submitted by Craig Rourke (on behalf of the Communication Strategy Committee)

This past winter was a busy one. In January, members of the Communication Strategy Committee visited Hillcrest and East Ridge schools in Owen Sound to play Spinclusion with students in Grades 2 to 6. We were excited to have the opportunity to spend time with children in these schools and have fun while discussing the importance of inclusion and accepting and embracing our differences. This was the first time that we have been able to visit Hillcrest school to play Spinclusion and we were pleased to speak with many students who enthusiastically shared ideas on what it means to be a good friend, how to include everyone at recess, in class and in the community and how to make people feel comfortable if they are new to the school or new to Canada. At East Ridge, we were welcomed into the large amalgamated school

and learned to navigate the many halls and stairwells. At Hillcrest, we were again able to engage with enthusiastic students who proudly talked about ways they made people feel welcome and why it is important that we embrace our differences while finding things that we all have in common. We discussed how boring it would be if we had to colour a picture but all of the markers were the same colour — grey. It is such a positive experience to hear young people in our community who echo our values of inclusion and mutual respect and who seem to come by it naturally. When we play Spinclusion, it isn't that we are teaching or preaching messages about the importance of inclusion but more so we are facilitating a discussion whereby young people share how good it feels to be included why it feels good to include everyone. Our future leaders continue to impress us with their willingness to accept differences, to be a positive influence

in their school and their community and to work hard at trying to make sure that everyone is included.

Community Living also sponsored a community swim in January at the YMCA in Owen Sound and the Port Elgin Pool in Saugeen Shores. It was a great way to meet people and for families to come and enjoy a swim together with other people from their communities. In February we partnered with the United Way and held a Sock Drive to collect new warm socks for people in the community who were in need. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of people connected to Community Living and how willing people are to help out when there is a need in the community. This has been evident on many occasions throughout the year such as when the self-advocate committees and Christmas committee organize food drives or when we are looking for people to help with events and kindness initiatives.

Neyaashiinigiing Pow-Wow

Submitted by Courtney Lyons

Every year in August there is a Pow-Wow in Cape Croker. Every year I go there for my birthday. Everybody lines up for O Canada on the Sunday morning. My favourite part is the spirit dance because it is fun to watch and people can win some money. There is native jewellery, drums and clothing for sale. There are also Indian Tacos which are

flat bread with chili, lettuce, tomato, cheese and sour cream on it. One year there was a girl who was famous for competing for an Olympic gold medal in boxing named Mary Spencer, and I got her autograph! There are some competitions there for the best dancer. The women do a Jingle Dance, but the Pow-Wow itself is a competition for dancing and drumming, I go every year and I have fun!

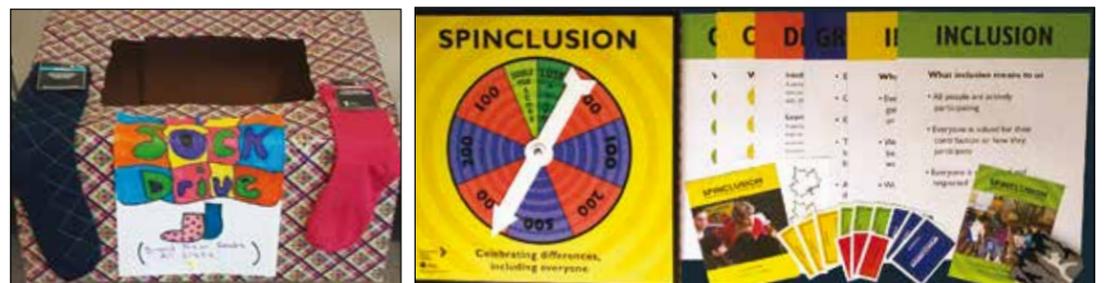


Left to right: Jacob Baker, Ken Burtwistle, Andrew Ansell, Sue Corbett.

Christmas Food Drive

The Sound Advocates organized a Christmas food drive for the Salvation Army food bank. They were able to collect four boxes of non-perishable food items that go to those in need in our community. Andrew said, "it was a great success." The Sound Advocates provided a draw as a fun incentive to encourage everyone to donate this year. The lucky winner

Stefani Smith, received a \$10 Tim Hortons gift card. A few members from the group helped to collect and drop off the donations to the Salvation Army just in time for them to put their Christmas hampers together. Ken shared that this is something he would like to do every year! It's a great way to give back and help those in need. Thank you to everyone who participated!



PASSING

Submitted by Victoria Kirkconnell

In October 2016, I attended a Social Role Valorization (SRV) workshop. It helped me to see supports in a different way, and I have been continuing to augment my understanding and knowledge of SRV theory since. This past November, I was able to move forward in my learning by attending a PASSING workshop, a hands-on learning course about SRV. But through taking the PASSING workshop, I was able to grasp the concept of SRV so much more. PASSING involved very long days, but with meaningful and thought provoking discussion.

In small groups, we were welcomed to visit two different human service agencies, interview staff, and meet and interact with recipients of the service. Following the visits, we looked at 42 different categories based on image and competency that Wolf Wolfensberger had created

and as a group rated the agency according to SRV theory. One example of a rating is group size and how it affects each person in the group, such as if one person needs locked doors, and therefore others who do not benefit from that would still not have access to an unlocked door. My group had five participants including myself, plus one team leader and one assistant team leader. When we met the representatives/service provider, we spent three hours interviewing and then three hours interacting with the people using the service. The following day was a long one of debating the other 40 ratings in our group. I was able to discuss with other professionals and see different points of SRV that were both positive and negative. On day three, we were up early to do our interview and meet with the second agency, and our afternoon and all of the following day was discussing and rating

together the 42 ratings for that agency. By the end of the week I could see how the workshop had changed myself and opened my eyes to see the impact of SRV more prominently, but also how my peers in the group were able to change some negative thoughts they had had into working on positive changes they could make in their work to incorporate SRV. The workshop really helped to clarify points I was unsure of in SRV, as well as showing me how universally the theory can be applied to not just one aspect of human services, but to all of them. I now constantly think when I work to make sure what I am doing is positively image or competency enhancing of myself as a worker and for the people I support. The main thing to realize, I found, is that change is slow, but small changes we make today can leave an impact and start to change people's lives for the better.

WATCH FOR...

Planning is underway for the

Mom's Get Away Weekend

to be held in the Fall of 2018!



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Hi Mary,

I just read the article you wrote about your SRV training in the Fall issue of Perspectives. I was so impressed by how you took what you learned and put it into practice by changing how you view and support people.

That's what it's all about — respecting people by valuing who they are as individuals and allowing them to make their contributions.

I suspect you're going to enjoy your work even more now. Well done!

Cheers, Chris Beesley,

Chief Executive Officer, Community Living Ontario

Community Living Owen Sound and District,

I find your magazine very interesting this month about Daryn especially of his visit to Martyr Shrine also about Leslie Bankes with her artwork for the students.

I wish to give a donation to help with the work of so many others too.

Sincerely, Thelma L. Hatten & Gary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Date and Time:

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Location:

**Community Living Owen Sound Main Office
769 4th Ave East, Owen Sound, Ontario**

Presentations:

**Service Awards, Student Bursary,
RDSP Awards, Community Living Bursary**



Coming again this summer

TEEN CONNECT

Summer fun for youth aged 13-21

To register or for more information please call

Sandra at 519-371-9251 ext. 231

As One Door Closes, Another Door Opens

Edit from Winter 2017 article



Community Living Owen Sound and District would like to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of Jeremy Brown to the Able Bodied Maintenance (ABM) Crew. Jeremy had stopped working with ABM in January 2017, but was a crew member for many years and was at the appreciation luncheon held in October 2017. Thank you Jeremy.



Artists in the House!

Submitted by Cathy Foster

On March 3, Community Living Owen Sound and District was full of aspiring artists eager to paint and create some amazing memories.

Whimsy by Nikki joined us to facilitate a family paint event where step by step instructions were given to paint the Wishing Tree.

Twenty-three people of all ages participated in the afternoon paint and the room was filled with laughter and enjoyment. Participants appeared to be relaxed and had a wonderful time creating their paintings. Every painting was unique and beautiful — a reflection of all those who gathered together to create them!

2nd Avenue Port Elgin Day

Submitted by Marsha Alexander

For the past two years, Bruce County has been able to access 2nd Avenue Activities in the Port Elgin location. Once a week, staff from the Owen Sound 2nd Avenue location, have been facilitating a morning and then a separate afternoon activity on a sign-up basis in Port Elgin. This has provided many more new opportunities for people in that community. Some of the activities that have been offered include: geocaching, tasty tarts, aquafit, barbecue blitz, beach bound, healthy eating, canning,

snowshoeing, hiking, duct tape crafts, etc. The response from people wanting to join the activities has been amazing!

It has been so refreshing to be meeting new individuals and their families and see them accessing community resources with their peers. With new opportunities and activities being offered, individuals have been setting and achieving new goals, as well as accessing local transportation services with Saugeen Mobility. New friendships have been formed as well as opening new doors for people who haven't signed

up for activities in the past. Some participants have even been making the trek over to Owen Sound now to join in even more activities during the remainder of the week.

Families have been requesting more services in the Bruce County area for quite some time, and seem very happy with the variety of services we are now offering. It has been a pleasure working at both the Port Elgin and Owen Sound locations and getting to know such a wide variety of people and helping others discover their interests.

Motivated, Reliable Employees for Hire

Continued from front retraining when necessary.

Bruce Grey Shores Employment Services in Wiarton is the Service Provider that Community Living Owen Sound and District works with to support participants in the ODESP program.

Community Living Owen Sound and District has been working for many years in partnership with local businesses to provide employment opportunities to individuals who face employment challenges. Our organization enjoys the endorsements of many satisfied local employers who are benefiting from reduced training costs and qualified local employees. Additional

benefits to your business include a new source of motivated, reliable employees to your staffing needs along with a reduced burden of internal resources for screening and training of new employees.

Our staff will provide all the necessary support for up to 13 weeks if needed. A thorough orientation is provided to ensure the individual is trained in the required skills for their position. During this initial period once the employee demonstrates his/her competencies our staff will begin to lessen their supports so that by the end the individual will be able to attend to their job with minimal or no assistance. After the 13 weeks, the

individual will enter into a job retention phase in which we will continue to support the person as needed on an ongoing basis.

Please consider joining with us in creating a unique partnership that will assist you with meeting employment equity objectives, while at the same time providing you with a dedicated, well-trained employee.

I look forward to meeting with you to explore the possibilities of working together to create an employment opportunity and to discuss our service further.

Contact Kim at 226-664-0789, ext. 457 or email kmccorkindale@comlivos.on.ca



College Life...The New Beginning

Submitted by AJ Brand

College life at Georgian College, Owen Sound campus is a new life, discovery and adventure. Having College Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) gives me an opportunity to experience college and further my education.

Communication

Before college, I found conversation difficult. After taking the communication class I found it a lot easier to keep a conversation going. I am so glad that I enrolled in college, it helps build up my self-confidence and socializing is a lot easier.

Classes

I am really enjoying my classes, especially communication in the work place. I am also fond of my field placement in the math, reading centre and the library. My favourite job is removing the reference books off the shelves. I am doing very well in all of my classes. So well that I got chosen to be

the CICE student ambassador that it gives me an opportunity during the open house to show the new students the entire college and its amazing facilities. First semester, I got three 80s and a 90.

The longest strike ever

The first few days during the strike were boring, and then I realized I could use the strike to finish my assignments. The last week of it, I went back to Reach for a few days and had a blast. Finally, the strike was settled and it was time to go back to school. It was the longest college strike in Ontario.

Therapy dogs

I really like when the dogs come to college campus for a visit; they are so amazing as soon as I see them all the stress of my assignments melts away. No, the dogs did not eat my assignments.

I am so looking forward to finish my first year of college at Georgian College, Owen Sound campus through CICE program with flying colours.

Passport

Hi, my name is Margaret Benedictus and I am 54 years old.

I like baking, going on trips to see my family, going to the Roxy Theatre and playing computer games such as Family Farm.

I use my Passport funds for taxis around town and to get to and from my job. I use it to buy tickets to see plays or concerts at the Roxy Theatre. I am excited to be going to visit my sister in Vancouver, B.C.

this summer. My Passport money will help to make sure I have someone with me so I am safe while on my trip.

The Passport funds have enriched my life to a much fuller, happier, healthier life. It also helps me get out of my apartment more and enjoy the things that I like doing at the same time!

I also get to see my family a lot more!

Human Rights Approach Supports Equality

Continued from front

they make none or only some of the decisions about their everyday activities.

Substitute decision-making not only removes the legal capacity to act, but it does so often against the person's will and sometimes without their knowledge. This denies people a voice in their own lives and results in the social perception by others that the individual is not a full person, but rather something to be managed by others. This denial of personhood marginalizes people with disabilities, making them more vulnerable to abuse by others.

As outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, legal capacity is a fundamental right, regardless

of perceived level of disability or support required to exercise it. All people with disabilities should "enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life." No one should be excluded from the process of making decisions about their lives. Article 12 of the CRPD states very clearly that no one should be deprived of their legal capacity just because the person needs help in making decisions. People with significant support needs or those who do not communicate or express themselves in ways that are easily understood by others must have a continued presence in the decision-making process — this can be achieved via accommodations and/or supported decision making.

Across the country there is uneven access and recognition of the use of accommodations and supported decision making with respect to realizing a person's right to legal capacity.

In all places, reliance on

substitute decision making arrangements and guardianship remain far too commonplace. Canada's ratification of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities included an interpretive declaration and conditional reservation saying that "Article 12 permits supported and substitute decision-making arrangements", and that "Canada reserves the right to continue to use substitute decision-making arrangements in appropriate circumstances". CACL do not support the interpretive declaration and reservation.

a human rights approach to legal capacity, by replacing substituted decision-making regimes with the appropriate support measures persons with disabilities need to exercise their legal capacity.

UN CRPD, Article 12, Equal Recognition As A Person Before The Law (Plain Language Summary)

The countries:

1. Agree that people with disabilities have the right to be recognized as people before the law.
2. Agree that people with

disabilities are capable like all other people on legal issues in all areas of their lives.

3. Will take action to make sure

that people with disabilities can get and use support if they need it to work on legal issues.

4. Agree that where people with disabilities need support on legal or financial issues:

- They will be protected from abuse;
 - Their rights and their choices will be respected;
 - People who give support will not pressure people with disabilities into making a decision;
 - They get the help they need, only for the time they need it and only as much as they need;
 - The courts will review the support received.
5. Agree and will make sure that people with disabilities:
 - Have the right to own or get property;
 - Have the right to control their money or other financial affairs;
 - Have the same opportunities as other people to get bank loans, mortgages and credit;
 - Cannot have property taken away without a reason.

All people with disabilities should "enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life." No one should be excluded from the process of making decisions about their lives.

Whether in personal life, in matters related to health-care, finances, property, or anything else for that matter, adults with intellectual disabilities must have their legal recognized and supported. Adults with intellectual disabilities have the right to act legally independently and must be provided appropriate accommodation to exercise this right. Where required, adults with intellectual disabilities must be assured access, with appropriate safeguards, to needed supports. These supports must include representatives and support networks — people who are legally recognized to assist a person to make decisions and/or represent them in the decision-making process, based on their personal relationship, moral and ethical commitment to the individual's well-being, and their best understanding of the person's will and intention.

Implementing Article 12 requires a real shift towards

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: Lorraine St. Germain, Erica Rooney, 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

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.



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Association Membership applications are available from our office.