

# COMMUNITY LIVING Owen Sound and District Perspectives



## A Pilgrimage of Faith

By Scott White

Daryn grew up in a churchgoing family, and has recently expressed an interest in going back to church. With the support of his support staff, he tried a few different churches to find the congregation that best provided the worship experience he was looking for. After trying a church or two which Daryn enjoyed, we went to St. Mary's Catholic Church, which was the church that he grew up in. Daryn was so happy and relaxed there; and when

he was warmly welcomed back by people who knew Daryn and his family, we knew that we had found the faith community that was right for him.

Daryn's support staff always try to ensure sure that he is able to attend Mass at least once a month; in addition to the other important dates on the church calendar which he enjoys being able to attend. Daryn is happy to attend services when he is asked if he would like to go to Mass and enjoys

See 'Daryn is' on Page 2

## From the Desk of Family Support New Online Tool Launched to Help Canadians with Disabilities Plan for the Future

By Meredith McAsh

September 22, 2017 –

Vancouver Plan Institute and Prosper Canada today launched the online Future Planning Tool to help persons with disabilities and those who support them to plan for the future. The Future Planning Tool is intended to promote long-term well-being for Canadians with disabilities by helping them and their families to accomplish their future planning goals, including financial planning, housing, relationships and more.

"We know that future planning for someone with a disability can be a difficult and complicated task," said Tim Ames, executive director, Plan Institute. "The Future Planning Tool simplifies the process and therefore

encourages users to start the future planning process. The tool guides you through the steps of planning for a good life, including financial security, personal network building, estate planning, housing choices and supported decision-making."

Available in English and French, the tool is user-friendly, easy to navigate and helps simplify complex planning steps to ultimately develop a personalized future plan. In addition to taking users through various planning steps, it contains a comprehensive library of relevant tools, information, resources and referral agencies that can help further support individuals to achieve their goals.

See 'Online Tools' on Page 4

## Speaking Out Conference

By Penny Brueckman-Stephens and Stephanie Jackson

The Speaking Out conference is an event where self-advocates from all over Ontario get to-

gether to share information, learn, meet new people and catch up with old friends. They celebrated their 10th year anniversary in Port Elgin at the Unifor Family Education Centre in October. Penny Brueckman-Stephens from the Sound Advocates presented at the conference on 'Cyberbullying and Mental Health'. Penny shares that "it was a good day and a good experience". There was a room full of people at her presentation. They shared their individual experiences with being bullied and what

they do to help maintain good mental health. Everyone really enjoyed her presentation and appreciated the resource handout on where to find help. Penny says she "can't wait until the next one!"

Ken Burtwistle from the Sound Advocates attended the conference this year as well. It was his first time and he was very excited to go. He enjoyed attending the 'Amazing Spider Man' presentation where he learned tips on how to start a small business by using your inner talent. Ken shares: "I liked it and had fun".



*Thank You, Ava!*

The Newsletter Committee wants to extend our thanks to Ava Sandink for her years of dedication to the newsletter committee.



# Lesley Bankes

By Janet Pawsey

For more than 10 years, the Community Living Day Program has been lucky enough to see the smiling face of Lesley Bankes coming through the door, pulling her cart full of paints, brushes and palettes behind her. She has a cheerful, easy-going way with everyone, but that hides a persistent and insightful teacher who does not allow people to rest on their laurels. She sets up shop in the Craft Room and then delivers a power-packed lesson, dealing with perspective or contrast or some other advanced art concept.

She can often be heard saying “I want to see some more warm colours in that, please,” just when a student thinks he has finished. And, lo and behold, each student feels challenged and capable and takes pride in the detail of their work.

“I’m always thinking of new ways to teach if they don’t get it the first time,” she says. “Shading, contrast and perspective, for example, are all difficult things to explain. And drawing things that overlap is always tricky.” Sometimes, without knowing it, she teaches life skills. “When changing colours, learning the sequence of paint, wash the brush and then dry the brush can be very hard work for many people. It’s a real victory when they get it.”

When she is not teaching



professionally, Lesley volunteers with several group around the City. As founder of GOSA, the Group of Special Artists, Lesley can often be seen on Saturday mornings with a booth at the Art Crawl, selling bookmarks, pins and cards produced by her students. She also works in nursing homes and has produced several videos employing an inclusive mix of cast members who really enjoy their acting experience.

Lesley has volunteered at Summerfolk for 10 years. It’s where she met her husband Rob. For the past 3 years she has been supervising the Children’s Area, where the name of the game is creativity. And when you look at the Artist’s banners that hang off the lampposts in downtown Owen Sound during the summer season, you must thank Lesley for the hours and hours of time she has dedicated to making that happen.

So next time you see Lesley, be sure to thank her for her continued commitment to the people we support. She offers a sense of accomplishment to people who really appreciate it.

Contact Lesley Bankes by calling 519-375-7678 or visit her website at [www.curveyines.com](http://www.curveyines.com)

# Engage Talent!

Boost profitability and enhance customer loyalty

- 16 per cent of Canadians have a disability which is equal to the combined populations of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- It is projected that over 20 per cent of the population in Canada will have a disability by 2020.
- 90 per cent of workers who have a disability scored average or above average in performance ratings.
- People with disabilities, along with their families, comprise 53 per cent of the marketplace.
- Globally there are 1.3 billion people who report having a disability. When combined with family and loved ones, they control over \$8 trillion US in disposable income.
- 78 per cent of Canadians are more likely to buy a product or service from a business that has a policy of hiring people who have a disability.

\* Information provided by Ontario Disability Employment Network, October 2017.

Think about where you want to spend your money in your community.

Perhaps you are a local business owner. Please consider joining with

Community Living Owen Sound and District in creating a unique partnership that will assist you with meeting employment equity objectives, while at the same time providing you with a dedicated and 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.

Kim McCorkindale, community support worker by phone at 226-664-0789, ext. 457 or by e-mail at [kmccorkindale@comlivos.on.ca](mailto:kmccorkindale@comlivos.on.ca)

# Daryn is Thankful for Inclusiveness and Welcoming at Martyr’s Shrine

Continued from front being able to dress up in his suit and tie to go to Mass.

The outdoor Mass at St. Ignace II was a wonderful service as it was at the

made everyone comfortable during this special outdoor setting remembering the sacrifices the saints made in Canada to bring the Gospel, medicine, and education to the people living here. The local congregation gave Daryn and his worker a warm welcome and included them in their conversations before and after the service.

A Jesuit Priest from the Shrine came and celebrated the Mass with us. He ensured that the service was inclusive and made everyone comfortable during this special outdoor setting...

This summer, Daryn had the opportunity to go with one of his supporters to Midland and visit the Martyr’s Shrine and participate in a special outdoor service being offered by the Jesuits who live and serve at the Shrine and the surrounding community.

location of the martyrdom of the saints remembered in the church. It was in a field, but was a tranquil spot for the congregation to worship. A Jesuit priest from the shrine came and celebrated the Mass with us. He ensured that the service was inclusive and

Daryn would like to thank everyone at the Martyr’s Shrine for the wonderful time and experiences that they helped him to have, and is looking forward to worshipping again at the shrine.

For more information please visit [www.martyrs-shrine.com](http://www.martyrs-shrine.com)



# Teen Connect 2017

By Breanne Styles

Teen Connect 2017 was another successful summer for many teens in the Owen Sound area. We had 16 teens joins us for a summer full of activities. The group visited many locations throughout Bruce and Grey Counties such as The Farmer’s Pantry,

Sauble Beach, Harrison Park, Grey Roots Museum, Big Bay, the Keady Market, plus others. They also took part in many activities such as art, swimming, hiking, food creations, science experiments, etc. Thank you to all those that made 2017 a fun filled summer!

# Inspiring Possibilities Award — Hello and Good Bye

By Fely Clarke

Bayview Elementary School was the latest addition to received Inspiring Possibilities Award. The joyful recipient was Joss Scott and Kyle Weatherhead presented him the award with glee at Harmony Centre on 26 June 2017. However, as we all know that Bayview Elementary School is closing its door for good.



Garnet Tettenborn, Alex Sheifele and Fely Clarke

Sydenham Elementary School held their graduation on June 27, 2017 at the Bayshore Centre. The elated recipient was Alex Sheifele; the Inspiring Possibilities Award presented by Garnet Tettenborn. Once again, Sydenham Elementary School is closing its door permanently. As we extended our congratulations to the all graduates of both schools, we also said good bye with a heavy heart.

Mallory Ward and Jonathan Wardrop presented the Inspiring Possibilities Award

at Alexandra Elementary School on June 22, 2017 with pride and joy. Emma Catley was the jubilant recipient.

Notre Dame Catholic School, the gracious recipient was Zoe LeBlanc. Penny B. Stephens presented the Inspiring Possibilities Award.

Catherine MacKinnon presented at Northport Elementary School; the prestigious recipient was Colin Little-Hokea.

Suzanne Miller presented the award at GC Houston Elementary School; the

delighted recipient was Mary Jane McCormack.

Marsha Alexander and Terri Johnston presented at St. Joseph. The proud recipient was Kadin Kahgee

Each of the selected and chosen students received a plaque and \$25 cheque. Inspiring Possibilities Award will continue to connect with the elementary schools in Grey-Bruce in years to come to inspire and increase awareness of our own uniqueness and to celebrate our differences wholeheartedly.



Left image: Penny B. Stephens and Zoe LeBlanc of Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School. Right image: Kyle Weatherhead and Josh Scott of Bayview Elementary School.

## The Sound Advocates

By The Sound Advocates

Do you like to have fun, meet new people and help out in your community?

If so, you would be a perfect fit for the Sound Advocates. We are a group of

together to discuss events and issues going on in our community and brainstorm a plan to put into action to try and make things better for our community members.

As a member you will



self-advocates who meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. at our 4th Avenue office location. We get

get the opportunity to help out in your community by doing fundraisers, highway cleanup and volunteering at

local events. You will expand your knowledge and learn about resources and other important life skills from guest speakers, webcasts and conferences. One of our members, Penny Brueckman-Stephens recently presented at the Speaking Out conference in October on 'Cyberbullying and Mental Health'. We also had a few members attend the Community Living Day at the legislature in Toronto where they learned more about their province and got to see a live legislature session.

Joining the Sound Advocates is a great way to connect and create new friendships while making a difference where we live! We would like our group to grow, become a member and help us speak up for those who do not have a voice.



## Making Dreams a Reality

By Rose Power

Over the past several months, Clarence Kuepfer is one of many individuals that is supported through the Passport Funded Program that has a dream of obtaining their driver's licence. He has been working hard studying the rules of the road by doing online test and reading the driver's handbook. His dedication each week to studying signs and rules has allowed him to gain confidence in writing and passing the G1 written test.

Passport funding has made it possible for him to pay for his G1 license without having to pay the expense out of his pocket. It has allowed him to participate

in driver's training to gain the knowledge and have the experience of driving a car with 10 hours of in-class and 10 hours of in-car instructions. This has created independence, confidence and self-glorification.

As a support worker, one of the greatest feelings is knowing that you've supported someone in their goals and they have proudly accomplished it. It all makes it worthwhile, when you see the huge smiles on their faces and knowing how proud they are of themselves that they achieved such a huge goal. Passport funding has allowed him to dream of getting a driver's licence and turned it into a reality.



## 30 Years of Employment

By Sarah Dunham

Daryl Harris accepted employment at KC Distributing in Owen Sound 30 years ago in April 1987. He was hired as a delivery driver and continues that role today. As an employee of KC Distributing Daryl delivers automotive, janitorial, sanitation, consumer products, food service and packaging supplies all over Grey, Bruce and Huron Counties. Daryl is a full time

employee working 40 hours a week, is well like and treated as an equal. He enjoys his position and is described as "a steady employee who knows his job".

This past summer the business was sold to Uni-Select Canada, with their corporate name changing to Bumper to Bumper. Daryl was happy to know that even with new ownership he would continue on as an employee.

Congratulations, Daryl!

# As One Door Closes, Another Door Opens



Mitch Metherel



Corey Porteous



Jacob Baker



Thomas Turnbull



Trevor Harris

By Jackie McCartney  
Able Bodied Maintenance, more commonly known as ABM, was established in March of 2001 as a worker-run co-operative where net proceeds from the business were shared amongst the workers. Over the years, it has grown and evolved to be a competitive and dependable service that is relied upon throughout the Owen Sound area. The ABM service is presently composed of a crew of three full-time members: Jacob Baker, Mitch Metherel and Corey Porteous. In addition, there are three part-time members: Jeremy Brown, Trevor Harris and Thomas Turnbull. These men have been committed and dedicated to serving the customers of ABM. The crew has perfected many

different services from residential to commercial. Services included: cleaning and snow removal from the Owen Sound bus shelters, lawn cutting and snow removal, moving, garbage and recycling services. The men shared that during their employment with ABM, they really enjoyed learning new skills; one of which was learning how to use the riding lawn mower, being able to help people, that there was variety every day especially with the smaller odd jobs, the enjoyment of working outside especially in the summer months, and just working with the crew themselves. Community Living Owen Sound and District conducted a review of all support employment services in 2016.

Rick Hill, Community Living's executive director reported that the review, mandated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, concluded that the ABM co-operative, while hugely popular and beneficial to the community and the workers, did not meet the expectations of the Ministry of Community and Social Services directive to phase out sheltered work. Hill stated that "indeed we realized that the workers were not earning even minimum wage, despite performing heavy manual labour, a situation we would not tolerate of any community based employer." As a result of the review and the mandate, the Able Bodied Maintenance business wrapped up its service at the end of

October 2017. Subsequently, the province has made it illegal for any employer or organization to employ people in "training or social programs" where work is performed on an ongoing basis for less than minimum wage. Part of the Ministry's and Community Living Owen Sound and District's responsibilities will be that those who are affected by the phasing out of sheltered work, such as the crew members of ABM, will receive supports to develop and implement a transition plan. This work has been happening throughout the summer and fall and as this transition continues to unfold, so do the possibilities for these six gentlemen that make up the crew of ABM. Employment

workshops and consultations, person-centered meetings and planning meetings are just some of the ways that they are planning for their future endeavours. Some of the crew will be working for themselves while others are planning to look for employment in areas of interest such as farming or mechanics. Others may just enjoy their new found freedom, spending time to themselves and with family and friends. The crew of ABM would like to thank their valued customers for their patronage over the years. And we at Community Living Owen Sound and District offer our sincerest appreciation to the crew of ABM and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

## Online Tools to Make Planning and Decision-Making Easier

Continued from front  
"We're very excited to be launching this tool in partnership with Plan Institute," said Elizabeth Mulholland, chief executive officer, Prosper Canada. "With the online tools we develop, we're harnessing technology to make financial planning and decision-making easier for individuals and families, and helping parents build a better financial future for their children." Funded in part by the

Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program — Disability Component, the Future Planning Tool is currently available for use by residents in British Columbia and Ontario. It can be accessed at [www.futureplanningtool.ca](http://www.futureplanningtool.ca). Plan Institute and Prosper Canada previously partnered to develop the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Calculator for persons with disabilities and their families.



## Bruce Shoreline Self-Advocate Team Logo

The Bruce Shoreline Self-Advocate Team created a logo for their group and had shirts made. These are them! (Melissa Pettigrew, Kevin McMillan, Tim Garrod, Rachael Arnold, Deanna McGillivray, Terri Johnston, Kathy Pantlin)

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

Association Membership applications are available from our office.