



# PERSPECTIVES

*The Newsletter for Community Living Owen Sound & District*



## PASSPORT TO CONNECTION

*By Brian Cameron*

My name is Brian, and fishing has been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember. Over the past year or so I've been doing a lot of research into making my own lures, spinners, and flashers for fishing, maybe even start my own business and sell them. I stumbled upon a small company in Michigan, Purple Taco Fly Supply, owned by a man named Leroy. Leroy helped me figure out what type of supplies I needed to make my own lures. He was very helpful!

I then contacted the Passport office at Community Living Owen Sound to see if my Passport money could be used to purchase the supplies. I was happy to learn it could!

*Continued...page 2*

## OLYMPIC SWIMMING STAR

*By Larissa Hogan and Cathy Foster*

Colton is a 10-year-old resident of Owen Sound who is a proud and active participant of the Owen Sound Special Olympics Swim Team. He is entering his 4th season of participation and is coached by Diane Speed.

Earlier this year, Colton participated in the provincial games in Waterloo, Ontario. He earned a spot on the team by qualifying for these games in 2022. Colton won three gold medals for the backstroke, freestyle and front crawl swims and a silver medal for the team relay race, during these games.

*Continued...page 2*

## PASSPORT TO CONNECTION...CONTINUED

By Brian Cameron

So, we went ahead and ordered hundreds of dollars worth of supplies and I was excited to get started on making some unique and quality lures. After the order was placed, I realized that perhaps I had ordered too many supplies and was hoping to return some of them, so that I wouldn't use all my Passport money. However, the owner of the shop, after hearing my story, went ahead and just put \$345 back on the credit card! Just like that! And I didn't need to return anything. We sent him a thank you card with some pictures of the lures I had made. I will never forget his generosity towards me. I can't wait to share my love for fishing with people I run into, and possibly give them (or sell them) a lure or two.



My name is Brian and I make fishing lures. Passport and a kind stranger made a big difference to me.

## OLYMPIC SWIMMER...CONTINUED

By Larissa Hogan and Cathy Foster

On the first day that Colton started Special Olympics, his mother thought that he would need support as he was not yet a sure swimmer. When he arrived, Colton jumped fearlessly into the pool. He took to swimming with the help of his coaches. He blossomed into a very strong swimmer, leaving him with the nick name Fish!

Swimming is not the only thing that Colton loves though. He is also a big fan of crafting and making things, especially bracelets and fire starters. He then sells these items to his friends at the campground where his family stays in the summer, Cedar Rail. Colton loves to interact with people and socialize with them. He has made many good friends along the way and is known for his kindness. Colton donates some of the money that he earns from selling his items to the camp store to be used by kids who may be a few cents short on their purchases. The rest he is saving for a rainy day!

Congratulations Colton! Thank you for sharing your story with us.



My name is Colton and because I'm such a great swimmer my nick name is FISH!



# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH IN MAY

*Photos by Charlie Cottrell*

Every May we celebrate Community Living. We get together in the park for a BBQ, we wear our Blue & Green on Wednesdays, and we connect.





# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY





# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DINNER AND DANCE: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

*Photos by Charlie Cottrell*

This June, our community came together once again for the much-anticipated Annual General Meeting (AGM) Dinner and Dance. The evening was filled with joy, celebration, and, of course, plenty of dancing! We were thrilled to welcome special guest MPP Rick Byers, who joined us in recognizing the milestones we've achieved over the past year.

From reconnecting with old friends to making new memories, the night was a true testament to the strength of our community spirit. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success.

As we close this chapter, we are already excitedly planning for next year's AGM, which will mark our **BIG 70th anniversary**. We can't wait to celebrate this special milestone with all of you. See you next June!



*Having fun with friends  
at the June dinner and  
dance. Will we see you  
next year to celebrate  
70 years?*





# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DINNER AND DANCE: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!





# PASSPORT CELEBRATES A 1ST BIRTHDAY!

*By Jackie McCartney*

This summer marked the first anniversary of the Community Living Owen Sound & District Passport program!

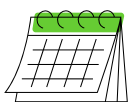
Our vision was to create a program that offers direct support, helping connect people to community resources and ensuring social participation for those receiving Passport funding. We aimed to lead the way in our community by fostering natural and meaningful connections and advocating for valued life experiences for all community members.

Over the past twelve plus months, we have provided Passport services to more than 250 people who chose Community Living Owen Sound and District to manage their funds.

Across Owen Sound, Saugeen Shores, and the surrounding towns, our Passport Team has continued to offer one-on-one support, helping people live independently, volunteer, and participate in community activities.

In addition, we've hosted various group activities that have enhanced skills, created friendships, and introduced new experiences to many.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to more awesome adventures!



Visit our events calendar and see what exciting activities are coming up next.



*(From left to right) Front row: Lisa Penny, Hayleigh Early, Marsha Blum, Jackie McCartney, Back row: Theresa St. George, Nicole Elder, Jackie Santos, Sierra Ellis, Not Pictured: Laura VanderHulst*

*The Passport Team celebrated their first birthday! We are excited about all our upcoming adventures.*



# HIGH TEA WITH FRIENDS

By Patty Middleton



Peggy and Patty love their tea but is even better with friends.

Joining the ladies for a social event hosted in their apartment were other residents of St. Francis Place who take high tea very seriously remembering to wear their decorative hats.

It was a great afternoon of friendship and making memories.



♡♡  
**RECIPE**

1. Invite friends
2. Make tea
3. Have FUN!





# Passport... to FUN!

The Community Living Owen Sound & District Passport Program isn't just about activities; it's about going on group adventures with like-minded people who share passions. It's about learning new skills together and, most importantly, having a blast while doing it!



# Community Snapshots



The ROXY Star Program was a HUGE success again this year. Those of us who attended the show will tell you, it's not to miss next year! It was a night to remember.

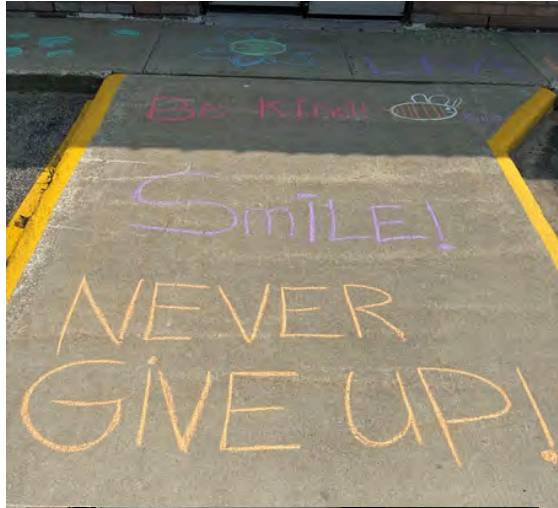


Do you walk past and enjoy the 2nd Ave window? It gets decorated all the time to celebrate the season, occasion, or event. Look how beautiful our Pride window was!



The CP "pay it forward" group handed out timbits to the EMS, Firefighters and The Staff at the ER this morning. They were very much appreciated! It's great to be part of community!

# Community Snapshots





# SUMMER TEEN PROGRAM: HIGH FIVES ALL AROUND

By Cathy Foster

During the summer of 2024, Community Living Owen Sound and District brought back its vibrant Youth Inclusion Program for teens aged 13-17, thanks to generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities grant. Over the course of nine exciting weeks, participants had a blast diving into activities that built community connections, fostered new skills, and encouraged social interaction.

With the help of energetic summer staff mentors, the group enjoyed a packed schedule that included swimming, park visits, farm tours, museum trips, movies, and sunny days at local beaches. A standout moment was the pizza-making workshop hosted by Papi's Eatery and Lounge, followed by a fun tour of the Roxy Theatre. The youth also participated in creative workshops run by Glimmer Owen Sound.

In July, the teens took the initiative to plan and host a lemonade stand fundraiser, donating the proceeds to the Owen Sound Animal Shelter—a heartwarming way to give back to their community.

The summer wrapped up with a lively celebration showcasing the participants' talents and a slideshow of unforgettable memories. The program provided an incredible opportunity for youth to engage in fun, community-based activities, while building friendships and exploring new experiences.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the 2024 Youth Inclusion Program such a success!

*Thanks to Community Living, Papi's, Glimmer, and other cool experiences our group of friends had a great summer!*





# NOT TO BRAG....BUT

**Not to brag, but....** Remember Carol Sue and her head mouse from last edition? Carol Sue is the recipient of the Bluewater District School Board Award of Excellence for the Owen Sound District Secondary School Family of Schools. This is amazing news and so well deserved. Carol Sue's dedication to her work is phenomenal and this award celebrates all her incredible effort.

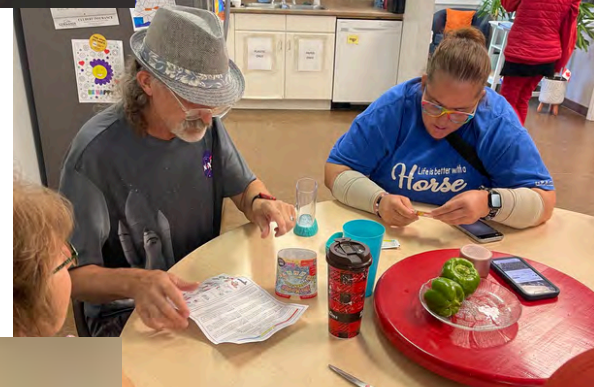
**Not to brag, but....**Shauna F got her G1 !!  
Congratulations Shauna on achieving this goal.



**Not to brag, but....**Martin and Penny were essential in making sure the latest issue of Perspectives gets mailed out. Over 500 envelopes were stuffed at our stuffing party.



# Community Snapshots



# Community Snapshots



# Coming Soon



## Retro Dance Party

November 14th

We're celebrating 70 years of Community Living, so dust off those disco shoes and boogie down in your BEST 70s clothing.



## Christmas dinner & dance

December 5th

Boogie down with Santa and his elves at the annual Christmas party dinner and dance.



### EDITORIAL TEAM

Cathy Foster, Vicki Reevey,  
Laura VanderHulst &  
Heather Travis

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michele Bell

### COMMUNITY LIVING OWEN SOUND & DISTRICT 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Paul Middlebrook **Vice-President:** Bob Nicol **Treasurer:** John Cherrie

**Members:** James Nicol, Ros Brooks, Dave Wenn, Ron Fenwick,  
Al Smethurst, Judy Porteous



@communitylivingosd

communitylivingowensound.com

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

COMMUNITY LIVING  
Owen Sound and District