

PERSPECTIVES

The Newsletter for Community Living Owen Sound & District



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

Community Living Owen Sound and District marked a milestone this year with its 70th Annual General Meeting. Close to 200 friends, partners, and community members filled the Bayshore to share in the celebration. It was a night built on gratitude, pride, and joy.

For seven decades, the organization has worked to create a community where everyone belongs. The AGM looked back at how far that journey has taken us, from early advocacy to the strong network of support and inclusion we see today. Stories were shared, smiles were everywhere, and the sense of connection carried through the entire evening.

Of course, no celebration of this size would be complete without music and movement. Guests filled the floor, danced together, and enjoyed a feeling of real togetherness.

Seventy years is something to be proud of. The celebration at the Bayshore proved that the spirit of inclusion is alive, growing, and ready for the next chapter.

check out all the pics inside!

Celebrating 70 years!



COMMUNITY LIVING
Owen Sound and District

70
YEARS

Celebrating 70 years! ...and remember our history

We enjoyed looking through decades of old scrapbooks and seeing how far we have come as a community ... setting the standard for inclusivity and meaningful belonging.



OPEN REHABILITATION CENTRE — While four of the older students held the ribbon Rev. Ross Cumming, chairman of region 5, Ontario Association of Mental Retardation, cut it to officially open the new Adult Rehabilitation Centre on 4th ave.



ation at a cost of \$35,000 to give the m
tarded an opportunity to do worthwhile s
ing part in the ribbon cutting are left to i
Stephens, Ruth Dewar, Marilyn Brown,
CROFTHAVEN SCHOOL



Front - Willis Cameron, Jerry Collins, Wesley Keeling.
Middle - Sammy Buzz, Ruth Dewar, Marilyn Brown, Ivan Stephen,
Patsy Weir, Garvin Showell.
Back - Miss Neish, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Buzz.

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Education Week Display Attracts Attention
by work by pupils of Crofthaven School attracted
on at the exhibit by city public schools in the city hall
held in connection with Education Week. Here Ruth Dewar
Ivan Stephen view a section of the display. - Sun-Times Photo



Ivan Stevens, Maureen Cahoon and Mar-
lyn Brown enjoy a joke with Miss Jane
Malone, daughter of manager Spike Malone.
They are engaged in sorting different sizes
of screws.

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Justin Thompson Henry was proud to cruise on the Chi Cheemaun for her Fall Repositioning cruise from Tobermory to Owen Sound. This four-and-a-half-hour cruise marked the end of the 2025 sailing season as she journeyed to Owen Sound harbour for her winter berth. Justin used his Passport funds to help make this trip a reality.



Zach Chappel set a goal to play baseball with his roommate and their staff. Goal achieved! Good job Zach!



Austin Nuckowski set a goal of trying something new. Here he is in a kayak for the first time at Harrison Park this summer. Way to go Austin!

Congratulations to these two on their engagement! 10 years together and a lifetime of love and laughter (lots of laughter) ahead! Congratulations Tim and David!



A SUMMER PROJECT WITH REAL IMPACT

This past summer, the self advocates took the lead and turned a simple idea into something that will last for years. They organized and hosted a hot dog BBQ at the Link by the Shore. They planned the menu, worked the grill, welcomed guests, and kept the energy high from start to finish.

The turnout was strong, the food was a hit, and by the end of the day the group had raised enough money for something they had been hoping to add to the space: an accessible picnic table. But they did not stop at buying one. They decided to build it with their own hands.

Piece by piece, they measured, sanded, assembled, and finished a sturdy and accessible table that now sits behind the Link by the Shore. It is more than a place to sit. It is a symbol of teamwork and pride. Today it is used for BBQs, snacks, quiet breaks, and any meal enjoyed in the sun.

What started as a summer fundraiser ended as a lasting addition to the community, built by the people who use it and care about the space most.





Kevin McMillan recently went on a 3 day trip to Ottawa with staff. While there he was definitely out of his comfort zone being away from home and his friends but he tried to make the best of it visiting some of the local sights, 3 museums total! He also went to some of his favourite places, Princess Auto and Cabela's. Kevin tried something big and new and is looking forward to staying home for a bit and planning his next thing with friends.



Last summer, Jessica decided that she wanted to try making an outfit for her reborn doll. She wasn't comfortable with the thought of using a sewing machine so she sewed it by hand. She was so pleased with her finished product, that this summer she decided to try and make a table runner for her Mom. With some encouragement, Jessica agreed to try using a sewing machine, as she had briefly used one many years ago in high school. With each strip sewn, her confidence grew and she is now making plans for more projects since the table runner is finished and has been gifted to her Mom! Jessica's enthusiasm for sewing was contagious and her friend Makaylah also wanted to try making a blanket. Though her leg brace posed to be an issue in pushing down on the foot pedal to engage the needle, Makaylah overcame that obstacle by using her hand instead to operate the pedal! Both ladies were proud of their finished projects, as they should be!



Jesse Elijah graduated from Owen Sound District Secondary School this year. Jesse was the proud recipient of the Saugeen First Nation Education Award. Way to go Jesse for setting goals and making them happen.



Huge congratulations to Evangeline for graduating from Georgian College and has gone on to work as a PSW (Personal Support Worker). Well done, Evangeline!



YOU'RE INVITED: JOIN OUR MONTHLY PARENT GROUP!

At Community Living Owen Sound and District, we know how important it is for parents to feel supported, heard, and connected. That's why our Children's Services team is hosting a monthly Parent Group—and we'd love for you to be part of it!

Whether you prefer to join us in person or online, this group is a welcoming space for families with children under the age of 10 to:

- Connect with other parents who get it
- Share stories, tips, and resources
- Ask questions and offer advice
- Feel supported in a relaxed, judgment-free environment

We kicked things off back in May, and even though the group is still growing, it's already become something special. The conversations are real, the support is genuine, and the connections being made are meaningful.

More gatherings are on the way, and we'd be thrilled to see you at one of them. Whether you're looking for community, curious about what's happening, or just want a place to talk with others who understand the journey—you're welcome here.

Keep an eye out for upcoming dates and details. We're building something great, and it wouldn't be the same without you.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact mprowd@comlivos.on.ca





At Community Living Owen Sound and District, we're excited to share some fresh updates about our Community Participation (CP) program—and we think you're going to love what's happening!

This summer, CP got a serious glow-up, and we're loving every minute of it. Our brand-new Community Participation building is bright, modern, and full of personality—just like the amazing people who fill it. Picture cozy corners, creative energy, and a space that instantly feels like home.

Tammy and the team have worked their magic, turning the new space into a hub of connection, creativity, and good vibes. Whether it's baking up a storm, diving into a craft project, or just relaxing with friends, there's always something fun happening—and lots of laughter to go with it.

But that's not all—more exciting changes are on the way! Over the next little while, the CP program will be shifting to a more flexible, person-directed model. This means more choices, more freedom, and more ways to do what makes you happy. Want to join group programs? Try one-time community events? Explore your own interests with support? It's all on the table.

These changes also connect with fee-for-service and Passport funding options, making it easier than ever to build a schedule that works for you.

Our goal is simple: to make sure everyone we support feels included, engaged, and able to spend their time in meaningful ways. And don't worry—we'll be here every step of the way to help make the transition smooth and supportive.

Stay tuned for more details, schedules, and sign-up info coming your way soon. In the meantime, enjoy these snapshots from our open house and daily programs—and get ready to smile. This space isn't just a building—it's a vibe.



The LINK to community

The Link, the new home of Community Participation isn't just about all the amazing cooking, art, and tech workshops...it's the LINK to community. It's where friends meet to head out volunteering, adventuring, or to participate in a community event.



Visit our events calendar and see what exciting Community Participation activities are coming up next.
communitylivingowensound.com > Services > Community Participation