

Images

SPRING EDITION
2016

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.....2-3
OEYC: BRANT.....4
GIVING BACK/VOLUNTEERING.....5
IN MEMORY OF/TRAINING.....6
EXPERIENCES & ACHIEVEMENTS.....7-8
VACATIONS.....9-10
PASSPORT FUNDING.....11
GOLF TOURNAMENT12

Community Living Brant was honored to have Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, for a tour and conversation about their diverse and evolving supports and services.

Pictured from left to right are:

Leanne Bebee, Program Supervisor, MCSS

Biljana Simisic, Director

Janet Reansbury, Executive Director

Debbie Cavers, Senior Director

Minister Helena Jaczek

Chloe Zaluski, Self-Advocate

Bret Page, Self-Advocate

Martha Hillier, President, Board of Directors

Bruce Jones, Vice-President, REACH Out Self-Advocates

Marylou Chatland, Parent

Donna Blackmore, Supervisor



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Community Connections - Opportunities



King of Customer Service

Connor had been hitting the books at Mohawk College, but once he graduated he wanted to find a job and save some money. Connor was hired at Lowe's and he has been really enjoying his new job. Connor gets along with his team and says they are a fun group of people to work with. He also likes all the exercise he gets being on his feet all shift in such a big store. The best part of his job though is helping all the customers; he has always been a people person and now gets to practice his customer service skills.



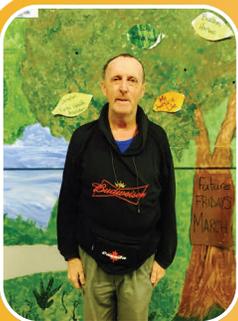
From Volunteer to Employment

Gary is happy to be jumping back into the work force. He has been volunteering with the Restore for a year, building up his work experience to get a paid position. After a challenging experience Gary never gave up, he continued to work hard and look for a great match. He is now starting his new position at Wal-Mart with a very supportive manager. Gary said that working and volunteering helped him feel better about himself because he likes getting out there and giving back.



Hi my name is Mike and I have been working at Dunn Enterprise for 19 years. Over the last year I started trying out new jobs at the Dunn.

I have been doing Janitorial, running the cash register in the cafeteria and I work with the Meals on Wheels team by prepping food and sealing the food containers. I have been working really hard to build my confidence and my resume by learning new job skills. I applied for a job at the Water Depot and was really nervous because there were 3 other people applying for the job. I got the job right on the spot!! I am really happy and proud of myself. ~Mike



Achieving My Employment Dreams

I have always wanted to work for Parks and Recreation. For years it was a dream of mine to work outdoors, help clean up the city, and maintain the parks and now this is exactly what I will be doing. This summer I will be working at the Arnold Anderson Stadium where I will be maintaining the field, the diamond, cleaning up the morning after the games and changing the waste containers. I was even invited out for beers with the other employees. I have been working hard for many years but I am really excited about this job because I will be making way more than minimum wage and doing what I love. My friends and family are really proud of me and I can't wait to get started! ~Bobby



Feeling Accomplished

After months of training in the kitchen at The Dunn Building and working hard to find employment, I landed a job at Pizza Hut. I do the dishes, food prep and help fold the pizza boxes. I am a really fast worker and at Pizza Hut this is my strength. I will eventually be given more responsibilities and hours as time goes on. My goal is to work in the kitchen as a cook and I know that I will get there. ~Jeremy

Community Connections - Opportunities

Spring Forward!



Chris has always had an interest in plants, flowers, and gardening. While out in the community Chris noticed an advertisement for a job fair at Lowe's and decided to give it a shot. Chris' experience, math skills, and shining personality blew them away at the interview, and he was hired on the spot! On March 31st, Chris started his first day at Lowe's as a seasonal employee for the garden centre. Chris went in with an enthusiastic attitude and a passion for plants. He is now being trained not only to water the plants in the greenhouse and garden area, but as a cashier as well. Chris plans to continue this work at home by planting his own garden in his backyard. Chris is looking forward to a busy summer at a job he truly loves.

Justin's dream job is to work at City Hall in the Public Works department. He hadn't been there before but has a keen interest in the building.

Justin got a tour of City Hall on March 24th where he got to see the different departments. He visited the Public Works department where he discussed the possibility of new roads and development coming to Brantford. Then went to Council Chambers where Justin got to sit in the Mayor's seat, he was already familiar with the room as he has watched televised Council meetings before. Justin met the Mayor and his assistant and got to wear his chain of office. Justin was very pleased with his visit!



Splash!



Brady recently started his first job at the Water Depot. He has become very passionate about fitness and was happy to have a job that requires physical lifting as well as other job duties. Brady also loves the fact that his gym is located very close to his job and he has plans to work out after his shifts in the near future. Brady was thrilled when he found out when he would be receiving his pay cheque and left work feeling proud.

Community Collaboration To Help the Homeless



My peers and I had the opportunity to make sleeping mats out of milk bags for the homeless. We were all excited about this opportunity. We successfully completed two mats, which was a lot of work considering the amount of milk bags we used. Once the mats were made, it was time to get them to the right people. I was involved in making the donation to North Ward School in Paris. Miss Connors and her class will be donating these to an organization who works to help the homeless. We enjoyed this process, and found it rewarding to be involved in helping our community. ~Kirk



Mandy, Jen, David, Vicky, Richard and Cathy came together after the SPCA came and gave a talk about volunteering for them. We decided to take part in the National Cupcake Fundraising Day by selling Cupcakes. We made the cupcakes and decorated them. We presented a cheque for \$200.00 to the SPCA. We want to do it again next year!

It's all about the CHANGE Conference (Communities Hand in Hand Actively Nurturing Guiding and Educating)

On Friday, April 1, and Saturday April 2, the Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant hosted the 18th Annual CHANGE Early Learning and Child Care Conference at the Best Western Brant Park Inn.

Two full days of workshops, networking, great food and learning together were enjoyed by all the participants.

On Friday morning we started the conference with a heartfelt message from Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade, Mental Health Lead from the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. Dianne shared her experiences in working with families and children within her

role and how as educators in early childhood programs we have a responsibility to provide awareness on mental health issues to the people we serve. National Mental Health Awareness week was May 2-8. As part of the calendar of events, Brant has issued a Mental Health Awareness Dance Challenge. Seen here is a photo of the participants dancing to the Chicken Dance in support of the challenge. While great fun was had by all, it provided a sobering message that the work we do with families and children in support of mental health needs to be always foremost in our thoughts. Exciting for us is that when we returned after the conference we discovered that more people want to take on the challenge because of their experiences at the conference.



Friday was filled with a variety of wonderful workshops from our presenters including; Onkwehonwe Traditional Teaching, Rethinking Problem Behaviours, Finding You Within Yourself, Changes to the Nutrition Standard in the CCEYA, Anxiety in the Early Years and workshops by the OEYC staff. Our featured presenter was Marc Battle from Red River

College. An energetic, funny and charismatic speaker Marc presented two workshops: We are Warriors and The Fourth Movement. Marc says "It is our duty is to be one of the many people in children's lives who will help guide them in their journey towards discovering who they are".

Saturday brought a new day of training including: Using First Nation Literature and

Arts in Early Childhood Programs, Games for Early Years, and numerous workshops presented by the OEYC staff. Saturday's featured presenter from British Columbia was Vince Gowmon. Participants loved his enthusiasm, keen insight and energy. His first time presenting in Ontario, Vince delivered his morning workshop on "Communicating from the Heart ~ Empowering You and Your Relationships" and in the afternoon spoke on "Remembering to Play ~ Inspiring Joy, Freedom & Self-Care". Vince sums it up best in his quote "Communicating from the heart is a lost art that must be reclaimed if we are to empower ourselves and our relationships. It is essential if we want to experience success and fulfillment in all aspects of our life". Great words to live by!

Giving Back!

Daryl and Bud Give Back to Brant

Both men continue to expand their week to include numerous volunteer roles. Along with the Christmas Toy Drive for Nova Vita and the Spartan Neighbourhood Food Drive for Christmas baskets, both very successful for the 5th consecutive year, the men have numerous additional roles.



Daryl continues to volunteer for the Red Cross delivering his Meals on Wheels route weekly. He volunteered for the Canadian Cancer Society delivering out collection boxes to various retail locations in Jarvis, Delhi and Ohsweken for their daffodil campaign in April. He was responsible for collecting them at the end of the campaign as well. His newest role is for Friendship House. He will be responsible for the pick-up and delivery of buns on a weekly basis to this program so lunches can be prepared.



Bud, too, continues his role with the Red Cross delivering Meals on Wheels weekly. In addition, he volunteers at Friendship House making and delivering 30 – 40 lunches each week to local schools. He also volunteers at the Brantford Food Bank weekly helping to package food items. More recently, he brought home cases of product to break down into more appropriately sized packages for the emergency food kits. The Food Bank supervisor was impressed by his initiative to help. Bud continues his role at Telfer Place, covering the Tuck Shop for the seniors who stop in for supplies and goodies. He also assisted the Canadian Cancer Society again this year with the daffodil campaign. He covered a retail location during their weekend blitz and collected a significant amount of donations during his coverage there.



The men enjoy their give back projects/roles and have become valued members to the organizations they assist.

Volunteering



Ken and Vicky each volunteered their time to sell daffodils to support the Canadian Cancer Society. Ken was a true professional in explaining to the patrons at the Brantford Zehrs what the donations would support. He quickly sold out of pins, but was still accepting donations on behalf of the CCS.

Vicky was front and center two days later and approached patrons as they were paying for their groceries. She engaged with many people in the community and was told a variety of stories involving people's experience with cancer.



In Memory Of



Mary Alice Barber

April 4, 1956 -
February 03, 2016



Maryanne Drago

April, 25 1950 -
January 16, 2016

Community Development & Person-Centered Training



Community Living Brant welcomed Joe Erpenbeck back to conduct more Asset Based Community Development training with people receiving services and staff.



Community Living Brant had Shaun Wood and Emily Harris from the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment (WISE) to hold training on Person-Centered Planning in the employment process.

Colborne-Respite, sharing experiences and achievements



Shaun celebrated his birthday with Water Gretzky (left) and Mayor Chris Friel (right)



Reba having fun in Respite



Luke (right) had a great time seeing a game in Toronto. Being an avid sports fan, wearing his Toronto Leaf jersey and cheering his team on!



Jackie went to Abigail's Tea House in St. George in March. While there, she was treated like royalty and was offered a selection of gourmet teas and choice of tea setting. Jackie thoroughly enjoyed herself and brought the remainder of her royal feast back to respite with her.



Thys Koekoek (far left) had a BBQ on April 2nd at his apartment with a group of his friends. Despite the snow and cold weather, Elvis was still able to make an appearance.

Sharing experiences and achievements



I met Frankie Ferragine, from "Frankie Flowers" in January at a Dream Garden Conference. I am passionate about gardening and have followed Frankie on Facebook, Breakfast Television and sometimes Cityline. Frankie has taught me a lot of gardening tips and gave me tips for my small vegetable gardening. I have also seen him in Toronto at Canada Blooms in March. We talked and he encouraged me to grow succulents in the house. I still can't believe I actually met my favourite dream gardener. Frankie is the best!
~Stephanie



"It Takes One Super Hero, To Know Another Super Hero"
As an avid fan of Star Trek and Super Heroes, I had the opportunity to attend The Comic-Con Convention in Toronto. While I was there I got to see Jonathon Scott Frakes, Commander Riker of Star Trek: The Next Generation, and many of my favorite Super Heroes. There were many other spectators there, many which attended in costume of their favorite heroes. I had such a great time and look forward to attending again next year. This time in costume as well.
~Richard Ward



Friends; Richer Arsenault, David Hutcheon and Jeremy Tomlinson-Willis enjoyed a trip to Toronto in March. They visited the spectacular Ripleys Aquarium. After that, they enjoyed a fine dining experience at the 360 Restaurant top the CN Tower. The view through the glass floor of the observation deck was breathtaking!



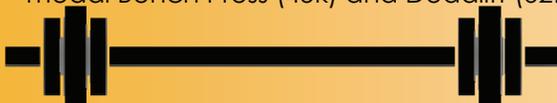
Stephen and Richard at Comic-Con.

While out at Comic-Con, if we got lost we knew who to call, "Ghostbusters".



Weightlifting Competition

The Powerlifting meet was held in London on April 3rd 2016. There were 8 Brantford powerlifters who competed in the competition. Sarah was very fond of her former coach, Mark Stachurski and was so sad to hear of his passing last month in Cuba. All of the Brantford athletes wore badges in honour of Mark. Sarah competed in the Bench Press and Deadlift. She received a medal Bench Press (45k) and Deadlift (62.5K)



Jennifer Scott having a great time seeing the Harlem Globetrotters for the first time.

Vacations of a Lifetime!



WWE WrestleMania

Gary Kusch took a trip of a lifetime to Dallas, Texas, from April 1-4 2016. Gary travelled to Texas to participate in WWE's WrestleMania Weekend. Gary attended several events which were WrestleCon, Hall of Fame Ceremonies, WrestleMania 32 and Monday Night Raw.

Gary was able to meet many wrestlers at WrestleCon. He met his favorite person, Micky James. She was great and took lots of time to ask Gary about his favourite match of hers and gave him a free autographed picture. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies brought back a lot of memories of wrestlers from the past. Gary loved seeing The God Father take his rightful place in the Hall of Fame.

The big event of the weekend was on Sunday when he attended WrestleMania 32 at AT and T Stadium. Gary was one of over 103,000 people who were in attendance for the event. Gary's seat at WrestleMania was so close to the action he could feel the heat from the flames used during the Undertaker's entrance.

If you were paying close attention while watching Monday Night Raw on April 4 you would have noticed Gary on LIVE TV. He was sitting behind 5 Time World Heavyweight Champion Booker T during the show.

Gary enjoyed his time in Texas. He participated in many wrestling events but also enjoyed shopping, eating BBQ ribs and relaxing at his airport hotel, which always had fresh hot coffee ready for him!



Marjorie's First Cruise

Marjorie Weaver took her first plane ride on March 27th 2016 in order to take her first Cruise. Marjorie took me, Kathy; a long time friend of 20 years. Marjorie had an opportunity to see the islands of St. Marten and St. Thomas Virgin Islands. Marjorie met many new friends from Montreal, Los Angeles, Kentucky, Edmonton, Seattle and Virginia. Not to mention all the wait staff who came from all over the world.



A few days into the trip, she liked it so much she wanted to live there. We heard many renditions of Happy Birthday at dinner time on the ship and Marjorie thinks that would be a good time to go back. The Caribbean and the Princess Regal will never be the same after having such a wonderful, funny, friendly gal on board. Thank you Margorie for allowing me to see the Caribbean through your eyes.



Vacations of a Lifetime!

Associate Family

Punta Cana, Dominican



My name is Mario and I have been saving for 4 years to go to someplace warm again to have a tropical vacation. I am Canadian but do not like the cold winters here and if I could, I would go south for the winter months.

I went to Punta Cana, Dominican and it was such a great time being in the sun and warmth. Swimming, seeing the ocean and meeting lots of people there and the food was really good too!

I loved being in the pool with the swim up bar. I loved shopping for souvenirs to bring back for friends and of course, things for myself. ~Mario

Caribbean Cruise



Mickel was able to realize a dream when he went on a trip for 8 days. Mickel went on his first vacation out of the country, and chose a Caribbean cruise. During his cruise Mickel was able to participate in many new activities, watch shows and visit new places. Mickel enjoyed indulging in one of his passions, his love of animals. Mickel even had a close encounter with a friendly dolphin.



Community Living Brant hosted their 20th annual Associate Family Appreciation Dinner at the Best Western Brant Park Inn on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our Associate Families for their continued support throughout this past year:

Joan and Walter Tracey
Erica King and Scott Redin
Glenda Baptiste
Leanne and Dave Byrne
Kathy Deane
Patricia Decoteau
Kim and Delano Osmond
Kim Verberk
Nancy Krug
Bonnie Wallingford
Lily and Samuel Estoesta
Sarah and Kevin Goodfellow
Susan and Kevin Walters
Kathy Richardson
Barbara Purdy
Dawn Sebire
Derek and Francisca Horton
Sheryl Praugh



Community Living Brant: Invested In Inclusion. Invested In You!

All supports we offer are focused on the goals, interests and needs of each person.

- ◇ **Contact us to develop your individual supports**
- ◇ **Get involved in your community**
- ◇ **Literacy and education**
- ◇ **Employment and volunteering**
- ◇ **Respite (in and out of home)**
- ◇ **Person directed planning**

**Have you received Passport Funding?
We can help.**

Providing supports and services to adults with an intellectual disability through Brantford and Brant County.

- ◆ **Customized supports**
- ◆ **Flexible options and reliable services**
- ◆ **Experienced, trained support staff**
- ◆ **Let's figure it out together!**

Make Passport Funding Work for You!

Community Living Brant offers a broad range of services that are person focused, as well as a large qualified team of staff ready to support you and your family with your Passport Funding.

Contact us today!

Donna Blackmore; Supervisor,

Ph: 519-756-2662 ext. 226

E-Mail: donnablackmore@clbrant.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016

(as of May 6, 2016)

OFFICERS:

President: Martha Hillier

Vice-President: John Farley

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Secretary: Pat Barter

Past-President: Marylou Chatland

DIRECTORS:

Cate Breough

Rachel Kelly

Gary Kusch

Philip Scott

Debi Pickering

Claire Speirs

MISSION STATEMENT

Community Living Brant is committed to providing supports and services to meet the diverse developmental needs of people within the community.

VISION STATEMENT

Community Living Brant envisions a welcoming, inclusive community where all are encouraged to reach their full potential.

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2016

@ 7:00 p.m.

Best Western, Brant Park Inn



Join us for our **29th**
Annual Circle of Friends Golf Tournament
Thursday, August 18th, 2016

1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Northridge Golf Course, Brantford

All-inclusive registration: **Before June 20th ONLY \$125**

After June 20th \$135 per person. This includes:

- * 18 Holes of Golf
- * Golf Cart
- * BBQ Lunch
- * Giveaway
- * Tax Receipt
- * Chicken and Beef Dinner
- * Raffle & Auction

Funds raised at this tournament are dedicated to the agency's Young Adults in Transition Program - a service that supports young adults with a developmental disability transition from high school to independent community life.

For more information, if you would like to enter a team or sponsor this event, please contact: Kim Walsh, Community Relations at (519) 756-2662 ext. 213, kimwalsh@clbrant.com or visit our website at www.clbrant.com

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