



“YOU NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY”

Christmas morning of 2014 waking up at my parents' house was the start of what will be the highlight to my 2015 kick off.

Ever since I was younger I have enjoyed soft rock. Receiving tickets to my first concert to see one of my favourite bands was so exciting. Not only would I be going to see Bryan Adams, I would share the experience with my brother Patrick!

February 26th 2015, tonight was the night! I was so excited that I rushed through my dinner trying to make the time fly by. I put on my best outfit and impatiently waited for the group to arrive.

As I walked through the streets of Hamilton towards my venue all I could see were posters of the amazing Bryan. My adrenalin sky rocketed as I began to shake with excitement. Walking up the stairs with the ticket in my hand I could feel the vibrations of the bass coming from the curtains, I enter to find my seat and as I sat down to look at the stage in front of me a smile appeared on my face.

There he was, **Bryan Adams** walking through the cloud of smoke that magically appeared in the dark light. The lights.. The sound.. Everything. It was very exciting. Instantly I melted away into what seems like my own time zone. I took in all the stimulation and rocked back and forth beating

on my air drum to my favourite song *“The Only Thing That Looks Good On Me Is You.”*

That feeling I had listening to the music was unexplainable. All I can say is that looking at my brother Patrick I could tell how happy he was sharing this experience with me.

As the music began to fade away I felt myself return to reality. There in front of me was my very own **Bryan Adams** t-shirt that Patrick picked up for me. Without hesitation I put on my new favourite shirt.

We walked out of the curtain with a huge smile on each of our faces. I hugged my brother and thanked him for being a part of “what goes down as one of the best nights of my life.”

My parents have always been supportive wanting me to have the same experiences' as others my age.

I have spent a great deal of time working with my staff to be able to come this far. When planning this event my mother Barb spent countless hours telling family and friends how great of a gift this will be for me. When people doubted her she amazingly responded with *“We will try, if it fails, oh well, but if it is a success, we will be so happy.”* That is exactly what it was, A SUCCESS!

“You will never know unless you try,” as my house manager Kelleigh

Melito always says. That is exactly what we do, try, try and try some more to make every experience amazing and better than the last!

Timothy Wallace

“The concert was a huge success. I could have never predicted that Tim would sit through the entire show, not only sitting still but rocking out to each and every song that was played. As his brother it was quite shocking. Never in my wildest dreams could I have envisioned this. I was quite happy that both Cynthia and Moe were able to witness something of that magnitude. I was not expecting an outcome like that, but it was definitely a highlight – not only for Tim but for me, as his brother. There aren't many things that I can compare to this experience. Without a doubt, it was one of the happiest moments for us to share as brothers.”

Patrick Wallace.



SUMMER 2015

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A MESSAGE FROM JANET



2014-2015, Community Living Oakville's 61st year has seen many positive outcomes, and it is a pleasure to highlight the strides made in some key areas.

Over the past year significant focus has been placed on new options and opportunities for people, as well as on the various Strategic Plan initiatives. Our Strategic Plan will take us to the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and talks about the strength of our employees, programs and services, infrastructure and resources, and outreach. Each area has actively been worked upon and we are pleased with the results of an extensive variety of training, confirmed plans for supervisory supports, seniors initiatives, business development in Best Pack, progress with our I.T. enhancements, community partnerships and work done by the new self-advocates group “Raise Your Voice Council”.

Our organization has many goals, as do the people who use our services, and in particular our new information Management system will assist us in having accurate accessible data from which to evaluate our successes and identify areas to be addressed.

The expansion of our community outreach and new partnerships have created many benefits including for example, significant growth in supported employment. There is a fundamental benefit to people we support being active participants in their community, and to that end we strive to create many opportunities. The work of the Raise Your Voice Council has, and will continue to create opportunities for all to be engaged, come out and meet new friends, learn, and share common interests. This past year we were pleased to welcome nine new people to day services, and look forward to having approximately eleven 2015 graduates join us. It is inspiring to see community businesses and

Our organization has many goals, as do the people who use our services, and in particular our new information Management system will assist us in having accurate accessible data from which to evaluate our successes and identify areas to be addressed.

volunteers come forward to be involved and help people achieve their goals. We are thrilled to have the support of professional assistance for the music and theatre groups. The café group is thriving, and continuing to prepare a weekly lunch for all to purchase with the goal of operating on a daily basis. Our financial position remains healthy and we are committed to managing well to meet the needs of today without compromise to our future.

We congratulate and thank the Ministry of Community and Social Services for progress made on their Transformation Plan for Ontario and their significant financial investment in the Developmental Services sector. We thank all of our funders and supporters including the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, United Way Oakville, Trillium Foundation, Halton Region Community Investment Fund, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, several family funds held within the Oakville Community Foundation and all of the businesses and individuals who donate or support our events.

We are fortunate to have a committed workforce of two hundred and sixty employees, supportive families, active volunteers, strong community partnerships, and a Board of Directors who collectively provide sound leadership. We thank all of you. Your efforts and contributions have made possible the many success stories that have unfolded over the past year and we hope you enjoy reading about those that people have chosen to share.

Yours very truly,

Janet Lorimer
Executive Director

Our vision to care is always move forward in thinking, innovation and risk management using logical, safe and efficient procedures and maintaining ethical solutions for the people we serve.

Founded in 1997, SmartMeds Pharmacy is a leader in comprehensive pharmacy services driving value and quality in medication management. The pharmacy is located in Burlington, Ontario and is housed in a state of the art building of approximately 12,600 sq. ft. supported by 90 staff. It is a one of a kind structure for pharmacy services. Risk management processes and flow were carefully considered in the design of this technologically advanced, high security operation.

Our current system of pharmacy services within our client's homes incorporates a number of key features that facilitate cost-effective control of medications and staff utilization. The structure, hours of service, education, clinical pharmacy, quality and clinical safety.

Currently, these services are provided to over 800 people supported by Community Living Organizations in Ontario.

Our vision to care is always move forward in thinking, innovation and risk management using logical, safe and efficient procedures and maintaining ethical solutions for the people we serve and the health of the residents who are within our care.

Fostering Positive Outcomes through Partnership

Our team of pharmacists are deeply engaged in a people's health and wellbeing and proud to be part of the team at Community Living Oakville. The relationships that have been developed are truly valued. Many of the people supported by Community Living Oakville have provided our staff with a tremendous opportunity to learn about each person and enjoy the various wonderful personalities!

SmartMeds Pharmacy supports the mindful living approach and values the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of educational programs. A recent example, management was interested in learning how food intolerance testing, diet diaries and lifestyle management help to reduce challenges. The ultimate goal of the education session was to inform, educate and support the improved quality of life especially for people who do not use words to communicate.

It is our ultimate goal to provide excellent care for each person and to build a relationship of trust. We welcome a conversation with each person supported by Community Living Oakville to ensure they are comfortable, informed and in charge of their health.

Our pharmacist is also a part of the External Rights Committee to ensure that each person's rights are valued and respected. During the meetings we bring our knowledge of medication management, the correlation between a person's diagnosis and the associated medication and the ability to foresee an issue before it arises. We believe that each person should have the best possible quality of life.

To ensure the health and well-being of each person supported by Community Living Oakville we conduct yearly audits. This is done to ensure that each person receives the ultimate benefits from their current medication and make suggestions for their medical professional. Training of all new hires is also a part of our risk management strategy to ensure staff understand and follow the agreed upon guidelines policies and procedures.



Our Philosophy is to provide a Full Circle of Quality, Expert Care

We pride ourselves in providing a full circle of quality, expert care to all of our customers. Since we opened our doors in 1997, we have lived by a set of ideals and principles that have been critical to our long-term success. We live by those same ideals today.

Standards: We will follow an established process in order to ensure our common goals and standards are constantly upheld.

Manage Risk: We are constantly improving processes to reduce risk potential as much as possible.

Accountable: We take full responsibility for our work and the work of the people on our team to maintain consistently high quality service.

Respect and Equality: We will ensure that all individuals within our company and the people we provide service for are treated equally, compassionately, and with respect at all times.

Transparency: We will provide transparency to all of our employees and customers, allowing them to fully understand the company operations, resources, reviews, goals and results.

Mentors and Educators: We will give new students, employees and customers the encouragement and opportunity to be educated and set on the correct path to teach others.

Evolutionary: We will constantly change and improve our business, keeping up with and leveraging new technology, innovation and human administration.

Devoted and Loyal: We give our family of employees a calm, peaceful, consistent, organized and committed place to work.

Systems and Processes: We will continually innovate and improve while maintaining our core beliefs, policies and procedures. Our Philosophy defines who we are and what we stand for.

RAISE YOUR VOICE COUNCIL MAY 2015

The Raise Your Voice Council has had a very full six months with more exciting opportunities on the way in May and June, thanks to the Trillium Grant.

December saw the Council organizing a Christmas wreath raffle, donations to the Fare Share Food Bank, and icing chocolate Yule Logs for a Christmas treat. Katherine Thomson and Hans Schonrock attended a Social Media Workshop with the goal that the Council could assist other self-advocates to get their messages heard. In February a Valentine pizza party was enjoyed by all. The Council also wrote and adopted new Terms of Reference after talking to other self-advocates, and created a Member Handbook. Elections for the newly expanded Council of 15 members occurred in March. New members were welcomed from Innovations in the Centre and Employment Services in addition to Speers Place Industries and Best Pack. In April an Easter Raffle was held with prizes to be won. The Council members also attended a 2 day First Aid course and obtained their Adult CPR A Certificates.

Members are looking forward to a very busy couple of months which will launch the Council into a wider audience and the opportunity for making many new friendships. On Friday May 22, a Spring Fling Party was held, complete with a DJ in a banquet hall. With over 200 people in attendance the Council organized an event to be remembered. We welcomed our friends from across Oakville, Burlington and North Halton to share in a great night.

The Council had a table at the Halton Resource Fair on May 26th to promote its activities. Community Living Oakville in collaboration with Developmental Services Ontario distributed a survey which seeks to discover what social, recreational and learning opportunities people really want to get involved with.

On Saturday June 13th, the Council is hosting an open house named "Get To Know Us" which is being held at Community Living Oakville. Everyone is encouraged to get involved in the numerous art, music, gardening and recreational demonstrations and activities that are planned with our community partners. It promises to be a fun day that will also include donated food and a bake sale organized by the Council.

In the near future the Council members will be attending "Dreams", a goal setting workshop run by the Voice Committee of Community Living North Halton and compiling the results of the survey. From the survey results a calendar of social, recreational and learning opportunities for everyone involved will be introduced.

The very active members of the "Raise Your Voice Council" are inviting all those who are interested in expanding their social networks and discovering their true potential through engaging possibilities to come out to the many events being held in the near future. For more information keep checking our social media sites, Facebook, Twitter and our website!

Made possible by the Trillium Grant



Kicking Back with Kozak



"Keep your feet on the ground, and keep reaching for the stars." Casey Kasem

Greg Kozak has always dreamed about becoming a radio personality. Inspired by some of the greats like Casey Kasem, the day arrived when he could present his voice and interesting factoids about his favorite music to the World Wide Web. Kicking back with Kozak is a radio show recorded at STEPP studios and supported by Community Living Oakville.

A production computer installed with audio software, a microphone, and headphones sounds like a simple setup but it was enough to capture voices and arrange sounds to create a radio show.

The show exists as a podcast on podomatic and is available to listeners on their computers and mobile devices everywhere. Everyone at Stepp has the opportunity to express themselves

in one way or another on the show. Voices are recorded for station ID's and people also request songs, sing, talk about things that matter to them, as well as perform with instruments or their voices in the studio.

Everyone brings in CD's and choose songs they'd like to hear and then announce them on the air.

Improvements in vocal articulation and overall confidence behind the microphone can be heard after every episode.

"We can have up to 7 people in the studio at once, and everyone is supportive and positive towards each other. KBWK has been instrumental for bringing out the best performances in people." Says producer Hugo Troccoli.

KBWK has created opportunities for Greg such as a hosting a gig for the Halton Resource Fair, where he had the opportunity to introduce performers and speakers to the stage. The future looks bright for all who take part in the radio show as it expands and grows, including more guests and performers and generating more listeners after every episode.

Kicking Back with Kozak is a weekly 30 minute radio show hosted by Greg Kozak, powered by Community Living Oakville, and recorded at Stepp studios. It features pop music, guest interviews, and in-studio performances.

Google "Kicking Back with Kozak", follow the link to Podomatic, and have a listen!



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Kevin continues to champion the goals of Community Living Agencies at Queen's Park and through his unwavering support, they will continue to have a strong voice representing their needs.

Kevin Flynn recently celebrated his 30 years in politics in Oakville. His political life began at the Town and Regional level, then as the Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament for Oakville since 2003. He has been Ontario's Minister of Labour since March 2014. Throughout this time, Kevin has been a strong supporter of Community Living Oakville.

It was at an all-candidates meeting during the 1999 provincial election that Kevin first met Steven Muir. Steven was supported by Community Living Oakville. Steven asked the candidates an important question: How can we be a more accepting and inclusive society? It was through his friendship with Steven that Kevin became more involved with the organization, giving him the opportunity to get to know the families, employees, and volunteers who help make Community Living Oakville so remarkable. Until his recent move to Ottawa, Steven worked in Kevin's constituency office and was his longest-serving employee. Volunteering on each of Kevin's political campaigns, Steven was always considered a cherished member of Team Flynn. It was through Steven that Kevin came to learn more about Community Living Oakville, especially that inclusiveness is not about words but about actions.

Kevin has always been a strong advocate for those who provide support and services for people who have a developmental disability. Kevin has taken this message to Queen's Park by publicly praising the work of Community Living agencies across Ontario, and proudly singling out Oakville for its long history of making it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live meaningful, contributory lives in our community. Steven is a shining example of what people who have a disability can accomplish when given the opportunity. As MPP, Kevin has been pleased to announce provincial investments that support and complement the initiatives and goals of Community Living Oakville. From the elimination of waitlists for direct funding to people who have a developmental disability to new funding for projects that support inclusion and employment opportunities, Kevin has proudly announced ways in which Ontario has promoted the inclusion of adults with developmental disabilities and improved services for people who have a developmental disability and their families. Kevin continues to champion the goals of Community Living Agencies at Queen's Park and through his



unwavering support, they will continue to have a strong voice representing their needs.

Kevin Flynn is the MPP for Oakville and Ontario's Minister of Labour.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

It was a year ago that Community Living Oakville opened up a new home. The anticipation was immense leading up to the move and each one of the gentlemen was met with a keen interest in success on the part of the staff and their family. Each person moved in slowly and by the end of June there was a full house. This has been an exciting year for Community Living Oakville while assisting five wonderful young men start a new chapter in their life.

“Tell me and I will forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I will understand” is what we go by to engage people to further explore their newly discovered independence.

It is the goal of Community Living Oakville to ensure that each person takes pride in their home. People have learned to prepare meals, maintain their home as they are becoming accustomed to one another. Where there is a desire to participate in the maintenance of their home, we help people get there by providing the needed education and support.

There is a great saying by Ignacio Estrada that has helped us empower people to achieve their goals. “If a person cannot learn in the way that

we teach, then we must teach in a way that they can learn.”

Hosting family dinners at their home, going to the YMCA to work out, water skiing, hockey, trips to a cottage are just a few of the things that these young men enjoy frequently. We are fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be part of the lives of five remarkable young men.

We take this opportunity to thank the families for their involvement, contribution and ongoing support. Below are testimonials from the families.

“We are extremely pleased with the care our son receives at 1083. When we took him for a preliminary visit a year ago, we asked him afterward what he thought about this place which would soon be his home. With a broad grin he replied, “It’s like Cedar Heights (the name of the group home where he had received very good care years earlier)!!” The good news is that our son still regards 1083 as especially good – and so do we. We also like the fact that he gets to do many special things with the other residents – so that in some ways he has a better social life than we do! Another good thing about 1083 is the periodic

special events the residents and staff put on for parents and families. These have helped us to begin to build relationships with other parents too. Keep up the magnificent work!”

Ruth & John

“Bravo! How quickly the time has passed. A huge thank you to all who make 1083 a great place to work and to live. Tim is a lucky young man to call 1083 his home.”

Barb

“Michael was the first person to move to 1083 Pinegrove and with the support of a very dedicated and caring manager as well as support team he has settled in very well at his new home. The daily activity schedule implemented by the team has been a great success and Michael’s days are full of community outings and new experiences. There have been many highlights of his time at Pinegrove and many special memories that have been made. One very special moment was seeing Michael dressed up in a suit heading off to his first dance in a limousine and it is something our family will always treasure!”

Michelle

THE ART ROOM

The Art Room at Innovations goes beyond being just ‘artsy’. It engages people to put ideas together, channel their energy and produce great art projects. People no longer shy away from their artistic abilities, instead they embrace their newly discovered sense of expression through knitting, creating objects with household items, painting on rocks and making wall murals. There is always laughter and chatter coming from the room and it is drawing more and more people to it!



HELLO SPRING GOODBYE EVELYN

Tony and John share a moment in the sun at Evelyn's Retirement Celebration.



Twenty-five years, three months, and sixteen days ago, Evelyn Rhodes started working at Community Living Oakville at a home located on Lakeshore Road, supporting fifteen people on the overnight shift. The overnight staffing ratio was 15 to one and job outcomes were no less than we have today. When Evelyn moved to supporting five people at the home on Sandmere – it seemed like a vacation.

On April 17th Evelyn decided it was time to retire and her time with Community Living Oakville came to a close. This occasion was celebrated by colleagues who are sad to see her leave. As were Tony, Linda, Virginia, Donna and John, who met her consistently for many mornings (about six thousand six hundred and forty three). Evelyn was the person who greeted their morning and understood their needs - like an old friend – without having to say a word. But of course they did.

Evelyn is a remarkable person – she does not drive which meant using public transit most of those years to come to work. This required leaving home at 9PM

rain, subzero temperatures or shine (she worked overnights so that cliché does not work). In all those years, she rarely complained and was one of the most positive people about her job, that I knew.

She is quick to discount her role on our teams, even to the last day. During discussion, Evelyn felt she would be quickly forgotten and life would go on. She is correct. She said so. But over the course of the afternoon Virginia was heard saying several times to herself... 'I'm going to miss her.' We will all miss Evelyn. Virginia likely spoke for all her peers.

The overnight staff is unique, working alone, like the heart but vital to teamwork and holistic support for people who rely on us for service. Evelyn met these duties for twenty five years, three months and sixteen days. In that time she saw many changes but her personality and approach ensured that people received the same quality support that made their house a home.

Goodbye Evelyn, after a quarter century of memories we wish you the best in your future plans.

SENIORS FOR SENIORS

On March 30th, Seniors for Seniors hosted its final event at the beautiful Emma's Restaurant within The Village of Tansley Woods. This final event, brought together seniors from Community Living Oakville and other seniors in the community, in order to celebrate and share memories of the past year.

What a wonderful year it was! Seniors worked together to plan events, participated in activities and were introduced to new experiences. The highlight of this project, however, was that relationships were formed and friendships were made.

The beginning of this year kicked off with an event that had everyone in tears, as we were introduced to laughter therapy. January also provided much excitement as seniors learned to beat to the rhythm in a drumming circle. February's event was one in which many seniors still speak of today, as they participated in a horticultural activity. Seniors were led through a demonstration and created their very own heart shaped ivy planter, in which they were able to take home as a reminder of their time together. In March, seniors had the opportunity to partake in one last activity before the final wrap up celebration; card making. This activity allowed everyone to express themselves creatively and share what they made with one another. A number of seniors from Community Living Oakville, exchanged addresses with other seniors in the community and sent cards to one another.

Through Seniors for Seniors, relationships were developed and community partnerships were formed. We are looking forward to what the future holds and continuing to participate in events with our new friends.

Check out our Seniors for Seniors video to see all of the fun and experiences during this past year: http://youtu.be/m_yTOoeFrEg



MOVING FORWARD WITH U HAUL



If you have had occasion to use the services of U Haul this year you might have encountered Patrick Sequeira who has been working there since December. Patrick enjoys his position as Storage Facility Housekeeper. He says “I like working outside - even in the winter. I like the work environment and my boss is incredibly awesome”. He is tasked with maintaining the storage lockers and trucks that are rented out to the public. He also receives shipments of moving and cleaning supplies. The General Manager, Nadine McKinnon says “Patrick is an outstanding employee with a positive and can-do attitude!”

Patrick had contacted Community Living Oakville for assistance with finding paid employment in November of 2014. He had tried to find a job on his own, but was feeling frustrated as he had not been successful. Patrick was supported by the Supported Employment

team at Community Living Oakville to do career exploration and update his resume. His Job Placement Coordinator, Linda Ryan contacted U Haul in response to a job posting and Patrick was supported to attend the interview. He had everything the employer was looking for – experience, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude. Patrick received job coaching when he first started working. He will continue to receive monthly visits and support from his Job Placement Coordinator for up to three years. Linda is always available to offer further support or job coaching he requires in his workplace. She continues to support him to advance his career by taking on more responsibility over time.

If you, or someone you know, would like to find a job please contact the Supported Employment team at (905) 844-0146 Ext. 255 The Supported Employment Team would appreciate hearing of any job leads.



SPA DAYS

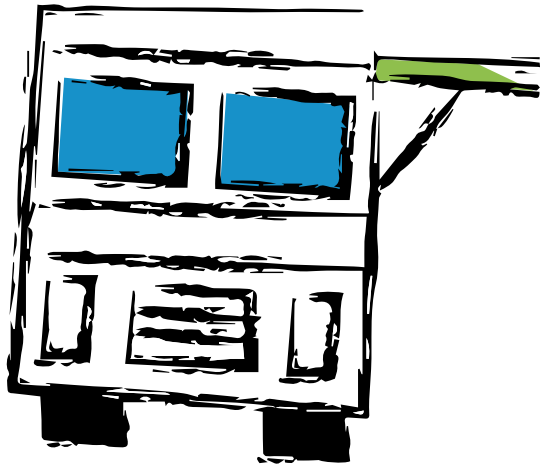
For the past few years, St. Thomas Aquinas High School has welcomed the women from STEPP in their cosmetology studio to indulge in beauty while getting primped and pampered. Spa days consist of the full treatment. This includes a hair wash, style and manicures. Teacher Lina Barbosa and her students are very welcoming and always provide us with first class treatment. Each time we visit, the students are excited to see us and share their newfound expertise with us. We are looking forward to our next trip!



FUNDRAISING NEWS!

We just held our 30th Annual Golf tournament at the Royal Ontario Golf Club on the most perfect day. We couldn't have asked for better weather. The sun was shining and there was a cool breeze to keep us refreshed. Being new to Community Living Oakville and organizing two golf tournaments in one day was a good challenge. I would like to thank the amazing golf committee, staff and volunteers who dedicated their time to ensure a successful event. Being that the tournament was just two days ago, I am going to estimate that we raised just \$2,000 shy of our intended goal of \$40,000.

CURB YOUR APPETITE



THURSDAYS
5:00-8:00 pm

Our next fundraising event is our Curb Your Appetite, Food Truck event for any foodies out there this will be right up your alley! Food Truck events are the craze today and having held many previous events I can tell you that you won't want to miss out on trying different gourmet food, but bring a friend so you can share as you'll want a taste from more than one truck. Of course you have many nights to choose from so perhaps we can be your Thursday night dinner plans for the summer!

Don't forget a blanket or chairs to relax and enjoy the evening. It's a great family night out or a great stop before bringing the children to their activities. See you there!

I am pleased to be amongst such wonderful people at CLO, those we support, staff, volunteers and our most generous supporters. It is refreshing to work in such a caring community. Many thanks for the warm welcome and stay tuned for more upcoming events.

Warmest Regards,
Gayle Kabbash-Cruikshank

Oakville

FRANKIE FETTUCCINE

GORILLA CHEESE

KOOL JIM'S

LUCHADOR GOURMET STREATERY

THE SALTED PIG

THE MEATBALL SHOPPE

Experience a variety of Gourmet Food Trucks. The tastes are amazing and the price is right! Bring the family and enjoy a night out of the kitchen. Don't forget a blanket or chairs to relax and stay awhile.

In support of **Community Living Oakville**



June 11, 18, 25 July 2, 2015

Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Culture Ctr. 2302 Bridge St.

July 30 Aug 6,13,20,27 -2015

Garth Webb High School 2820 West Oak Trails Blvd.

Contact Info: **Gayle Kabbash - Cruikshank**

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OAKVILLE COUGARS WIN BRONZE!

We are thrilled to hear of all of the talent around us! This May, fourteen athletes and three coaches from the Oakville Cougars Special Olympics floor hockey team, went to Ottawa for the provincial games. The team worked hard and had fun. Through their determination and focus, the Cougars brought home a bronze medal in the Canuck's division.

It was a great experience for everyone. We are very proud of them! Andrew Nairouz, Noah Baton, Max Baraya, Stephen Anderson, Ryan O'Donnell, John Brown, Edward Zamora, Warren Wright, Michel Marinier, Josh Black, Marco Lorio, Robert Smith, Andrew Beauchesne, and Teddy Mylonopoulos.

Happenings
Summer 2015



NIAGARA FALLS OR BUST!

January 23, 2015 was a very memorable night for Ryan, Julie, Scott and Thorne. On their first overnight stay away from their house, they embarked on a road trip to Niagara Falls to party the night away. Leaving Oakville behind, the group set their sights on the Best Western Fallsview and toward what would be an amazing night full of fun, laughter and new experiences.

After a quick stop to settle into the hotel, it wasn't long before everyone was strolling along the brink of Niagara Falls, observing the glow of

the holiday lights up close. Clifton Hill, dubbed the "World Famous Street of Fun by the Falls" is home to the Skywheel and an Arcade, both of which were enjoyed that night. This bunch of friends was lucky enough to be at the top of the Ferris wheel in time to see fireworks exploding into the sky. Not content to let the party end too soon, Ryan, Julie, Scott and Thorne capped the night with popcorn and a movie in the room. It was a very late night – but so worth it! Although morning arrived way too soon for this weary bunch of travelers,



they refueled with a big breakfast and continued on to Bird Kingdom – the last stop on the itinerary. What a sight to behold – filled with beautiful birds and reptiles, it was a great way to culminate their vacation.

Their adventures are only as big as their dreams and this was a big step

DREAM BIG, WORK HARD, TAKE FLIGHT



The Take Flight Theater group, operating out of Community Living Oakville is proud to announce its first short production called the Odyssey of Seasons. The performers Annie Moore, Vanessa Rowley, Jason Camacho,

Lou Balogh and, Faythe Horton along with their Artistic Director, Matteo Esposito are well on their way to launching their first public appearance. Jane Coryell award winning set designer with over 125 productions, mostly at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, volunteers every Wednesday to ensure the success of the production. Jane, in conjunction with Matteo and Jason designed and made the costumes and the props. Tyler Seidenberg, Matteo's music coach assisted

Matteo in creating the music and Kelly Hoyle set up the stage work lights. BurlOak Theatre Group and West End Studio Theatre loaned the folding screen and the bench and Anna Tullo purchased the costume rack.

It all started when Matteo, a very talented, driven and ambitious young man decided to take his talent to a whole new dimension and to organize a theatrical group providing opportunities for people to express their passion and talent for performing. His ambition and grit guide him in pursuit of his dreams and will without a doubt lead him to the achievement of critical acclaim. Matteo a former volunteer of Oakville's West End Studio Theater, worked with local production managers where he assisted back stage with stage props and sets. He works tirelessly to ensure that each performer is able to relate to their role. The Odyssey of Seasons is being launched at the Annual General Meeting. "The opportunity to direct and engage in doing what I love most has taught me the strength and confidence to be a leader. Thank you Community Living Oakville and Jane Coryell for all you are doing for me. You are all great supporters." Matteo Esposito

FRED GREEN

Fred Green was a gentle soul, who always had a smile on his face. He had a quiet way about him, but was always glad to help out if someone needed a hand. Fred was happily employed for many years at Food Basics on Kerr Street. Everyone in the community came to know Fred through his work at the store. For the last two years, Community Living Oakville was lucky to have Fred work at Speers Place Industries. It was in this capacity that Fred forged and cultivated many of his current friendships with people at Community Living Oakville. Sadly, Fred passed away at home on May 22, 2015. He will be deeply missed by his brother, his sister-in-law and his many friends at Community Living Oakville.





Community Living Oakville

Supporting Full Community Participation
for People with Developmental Disabilities!

Our Vision.

To be the service provider of choice in Oakville in support of people who have a developmental disability and their families.

A Career in Developmental Services

When you choose a career in Developmental Services, you can help people experience the joy of being valued and respected members of their community. You can help people pursue their dreams and lead full lives with endless possibilities and in doing so, you can realize and experience a meaningful, fulfilling work life.

For Employment, Volunteer and Student Placement Opportunities contact Human Resources at 905 844 0146 ext 233.

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EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SHERIDAN COLLEGE ANNOUNCED!

After graduating from high school, many people search for a meaningful journey in their lives. An opportunity to branch out and try new things, develop independence and life skills, secure employment or attend college to be a part of the campus experience and continue their learning.

Community Living Oakville, in partnership with Sheridan College is thrilled to announce an exciting new campus mentorship program! The program will officially launch this September and is sure to provide new experiences, friendships, and learning opportunities.

Stay tuned for more information!

FISHING TRIP - IT WAS SO NICE THEY DID IT TWICE!

For those of you that are avid outdoors people, the sign of spring is an exciting time. For those of you who dream all winter of getting your fishing rod out and your tackle box organized, June marks the time of year that fishing season starts. For Blain, Bob and Jeff, June couldn't come soon enough as they were waiting for their week away at a cottage in Buckhorne; a guys week away. The fish were plentiful, the food was great and being able to spend the time off of work and away from the hustle and bustle was just what they needed to start off their summer. The trip was so successful that they went back again in September. It was a great way to start and end the summer. All had such a great time that they are making a tradition out of it and heading out for their third trip to Buckhorne the first week in June. So if you talk to Blain, Jeff or Bob ask them about the fish they caught, but keep in mind, they are fisherman so their stories may be a little embellished. Many thanks to Peter and Mark for putting these trips together.



GRANDRAVINE TORNADES WIN GOLD!



For Hans Schonrock, being active and having fun is an important aspect of his life. After trying other sports, Hans says he finally found a sport which he loves. Hans discovered this back in 2005, when his friend introduced him to Special Hockey International. Hans was intrigued by the many trophies his friend had won and the opportunities that he was exposed to through playing hockey. Hans told his friend he would like to join and immediately signed up. Once he began playing as goalie for the team, he realized soon enough that even though he enjoyed floor hockey, “my heart was playing ice hockey”. Hans also expressed that he felt welcomed on the team right from the beginning and that the team is “like a family”. Each hockey season brings new excitement to the team and an added bonus; the opportunity to travel to new destinations for tournaments. Through

Special Hockey International, Hans has been to London, England; Denver, Colorado; Albany, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; Calgary and Ottawa. Next year, the team will also travel to a new destination; Lake Placid for the 2016 tournament.

This year was a particularly exciting one given that Hans' team, the Grandravine Tornadoes, won gold at their tournament in Ottawa. Hans shared that he was very proud to win this medal and that it was an emotional win for him. “When the medals were handed out, I was very happy that the team did well and that we proved we can do it, if we work as a team”, said Hans.

Congratulations to Hans Schonrock and the Grandravine Tornadoes!



OUR FRIENDS AT APPLEBY COLLEGE



Community Living Oakville has had an ongoing partnership with Appleby College for several years. Every semester a new group of six students and a teacher meet with the people we support to part take in various activities and to engage in social interactions. Every Tuesday, the students from Appleby College and the people we support engage in new initiatives. Baking, preparing healthy and nutritious smoothies and exploring each other's artistic flavors are just a few of the many things they do. On Wednesday's Appleby College meets with a group of people we support at a local Tim Horton's for coffee. This gives everyone a chance to interact with one another in a social setting, allowing people to talk freely about hobbies, their weekend plans, and life in general!

Appleby College has done a fantastic job at creating a

wonderful partnership with the people we support, and everyone looks forward to Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This partnership is a perfect mix of social interaction and meaningful activities and provides an excellent learning opportunity for the people we support as well as the Appleby College students.



BRIAN JOSEPH TURNS 65

It isn't every day that you turn 65, but on February 1, 2015 Brian Joseph did just that. Brian celebrated this special milestone with a few close friends, lots of laughter and plenty of CAKE! Although Brian retired from Speers Place Industries in 2012, he continues to maintain friendships with people at Community Living Oakville and on really lucky days, he drops in for a visit. Brian is an active participant at Kerr Street Ministries and keeps himself busy in an assortment of activities that are offered there. On behalf of all of your friends and former co-workers at Community Living Oakville, we wish you a very Happy 65th Birthday, Brian!



LEARNING NEW SKILLS

I love my new role as a Receptionist

My name is Kelly Perras and I have been supported by Community Living Oakville since 1993 in various capacities. I work at Speers Place Industries where we do packaging for various companies. During the past year I started a new position as a receptionist. This job has given me the opportunity to learn new skills and provided me with new challenges.

I am very thankful for the opportunities Community Living Oakville has provided me with and proudly give back using my skills and talents to engage in a peer mentorship capacity. Recently I joined the Wellness Committee and I hope to inspire everyone to embrace a healthy lifestyle!



THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Community Living Oakville worked in partnership with three other Halton agencies to enhance and expand local service delivery through the utilization of social media as a result of a project called “Techstop” funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Six training sessions were organized throughout the Halton, Peel and Dufferin Wellington Regions with 28 agencies in attendance. Led by social networking and media professionals Donna Messer, Zaigham Zulqernain, Kerry MacMullin and Mimi Stefanovska, participants learned how to use social media as a tool to connect with their audiences. It was the night of April 19th that I received a call from the social media and business development trainer, who became very ill and unable to conduct the training that was scheduled to take place during the following two days. With over 50 participants from 28 agencies scheduled to attend, a miracle seemed as the only viable solution. Linked In became my first stop. I contacted Kerry MacMullin, who I met during a previous social media training and asked for her help. In an instant, a late Sunday relaxing evening became a night to remember. Kerry kindly responded to a cry for help and began the search among her Linked In connections. It was as a result of who knew who that we were able to secure Zaigham Zulqernain, a well-known social

media and analytics professional with deep roots in social media strategy. Donna, Zaigham, Kerry and Mimi as true experts in social media through the various sessions organized by Community Living Oakville, shared their knowledge of the power of on line networking. They also demonstrated how to effectively use social media to accomplish the things that are viable to our organizations. As a result of a draw, 12 agencies received a whiteboard commercial to promote their agency’s services.

Members of the “Raise Your Voice Council” attended the training as well and this is what they said. “It was great to learn how to promote what is important to us. We want to reach as many people as we can and tell them who we are.”

Now that we have been empowered with the knowledge of what social media channels are right for our organizations, the importance of content strategy and power of posting/sharing, we can without a doubt confirm that the power of social media saved the day.

So please make sure that you are “liking” us on Facebook, following us on twitter and connecting with us on other social media sites to see what is currently happening at Community Living Oakville. We need your help and support!

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