



NEWSLETTER



Community Living Ajax-Pickering and Whitby
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*Visit us at our website
 at [www.cl-
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A Message From The President

With the Christmas Season here, I would like to review for you the highlights of another rewarding year for our Association.

After protracted negotiations with C.U.P.E. representatives, a two year contract was approved by members assuring business as usual for our Association.

The group home located on Willows Lane became unsuitable for the aging residents and was sold. We were able to replace it with a well designed home on Kirby Street. It is two storied, has widened doorways, an elevator, and a well designed accessible bathroom on the second floor.

A member family generously donated to our Association a beautiful bungalow located in Ajax which has now been adapted for use as a group home.

We submitted a funding request to allow us to purchase a much needed new wheelchair assessable van. The request was given approval in November by the Trillium Foundation.

With the imminent arrival of 2006, your Association will be celebrating its 50th anniversary June 6, 2006. A committee has been established to ensure that this historical event is recognized by all levels of government and the peoples of those communities we service. We are in desperate need of volunteers to assist with the many projects to celebrate our Association. Please let us hear from you.

Thanks to the efforts and skills of Board member Donna Edwards, we can now boast our own website at www.cl-apw.org. Please visit it for a peek and feel free to offer feedback to help us make the most of this web-site.

Paul Rosebush, our Executive Director, continues to provide solid, reliable and trusting leadership to ensure our Association offers the highest levels of service and support of those people we serve.

On your behalf, I offer a sincere vote of thanks to all our dedicated staff members and my fellow Board members.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and all the best in 2006.

Bill Girling



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Association Friends,

As 2005 draws to a close it is time to reflect on our year and our hopes for 2006. 2005 saw the Association through some challenging circumstances. It also saw the Association experience moments of pride and joy.

Our challenges revolved around continuing to provide the best quality supports available in the community within our funding envelope. Our costs, unfortunately, continued to rise in 2005 without a corresponding increase in our revenue. Arriving at a new collective agreement with our Full-Time and Part-Time Bargaining Units tested the Association's resolve to maintain optimal staffing resources and services without mortgaging the future of the Association. Our loyal staff deserve recognition for enthusiastically supporting the Association by way of their acceptance of a modest but entirely pragmatic collective agreement. Some of our colleagues in other Associations were not as fortunate as we were here at CLAPW.

Last year we were thrilled to receive funding through the Trillium Foundation to put a new roof on our vocational service's building. We recently received notice that the Trillium Foundation has approved our funding proposal to acquire a handicap accessible van for the Association. We will receive the new van sometime in January.

In 2005, our Ministry (MCSS) supported the Association by investing in our group homes. As such, we were able to upgrade many aspects of our homes. MCSS also supported our proposal to receive "Foundations" funding to help transitional aged youth to build a meaningful life for themselves beyond high school. As such, we were able to create a new position. We also were able to purchase a new van, to support our Community Participation Program, through Ministry funding made available to us through a competitive proposal process.

Our community also invested in our Association. We received bequests from a number of amazing families who, despite their significant personal loss and grief, managed to direct donations to our Association. This outpouring of support truly reflected on the legacy of those who passed away including George Keil, Agnes Conkey, and Tony Azzopardi among others.

There were other sad times within the Association. In 2005 we saw the passing of Lorna White and Dave Swindall and the Association actively participated in paying tribute to their very valuable lives. They are sadly missed but like Mr. Keil, Mrs. Conkey, and Mr. Azzopardi; Lorna and Dave will never be forgotten.

In 2005 we increased our ability to better support people residentially through the purchase of a new home in Whitby, and through the bequest of a family home in Ajax to the Association by Reverend Conkey. Reverend Conkey is one of the most incredible men I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Reverend Conkey lives out his values and faith every day of his life, which I respect immensely and look up to. In our age when there are precious few role models in our society, Reverend Conkey shines as a bright light in a world that badly needs it.

In 2005 we also expanded our day programs, gained new contracts at ARC to maintain the workshop, and improved our ability to respond quickly to families in our community. Along the way we continued to refine our operations, manage our funding prudently, and improve the knowledge and skill base of our valued employees.

Our Association has also been recognized for its organizational effectiveness and high standards by being selected by the Ministry to open a short-term assessment and treatment home to be used as a specialized resource throughout the central-east region. This home will open sometime in spring 2006 and will be featured in our next newsletter.

In 2005 we had some fabulous moments. Our “Aktion” club participated in many community events, our Community Participation Program connected folks to all kinds of new community experiences (look for Tim’s picture at Tiller’s Boxing Club, and at Chris Bennett and friends attending the Molson Indy). Our Association participated in the Big Bike event to raise money for the Heart & Stroke Foundation and we also had a delegation attend a Blue Jays game. The ARC BBQ in the summer, like the fall Corn Roast were again fantastic experiences for those who attended as were the dances and seasonal celebrations organized by our Association stalwarts (Clara Muro, Inez Curl, and others too numerous to list here). Our Association is also indebted to our Bingo Team who raises substantial funds for our Association, despite never having enough volunteers to make the task manageable. We are also fortunate to have many amazing volunteers who add vitality and passion to the mission of our Association. Our Literacy Program would not exist without their support.

Our Summer Environmental Program, funded by the Town of Whitby and Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund, continues to be a source of great pride for the Association. Our team of university students and young supported individuals bring a sense of excitement to the Association through their summer environmental work in Whitby and through the day camp that they offer. It’s a sad day for us when the summer ends and the team disbands.

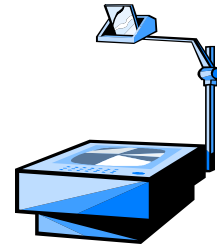
I can also attest to the value that your Board brings to the Association. Their unheralded and dedicated work assists the Association to survive and keep supporting families. The many hours of behind the scenes work that they contribute selflessly speaks to their overall commitment to the Association. I remain thankful for their direction and guidance.

Finally, to my staff and supervisors, I am privileged to work with you all and I hope I can guide the Association into the future as well as you all have safeguarded its past. 2006 will mark the Association’s 50th Anniversary. It will be a monumental year for us. I look forward to our entire membership and community celebrating our remarkable history and our optimistic future.

Paul
Rosebush



TRAINING DEPT.



2005 saw numerous training events for CLAPW staff. In addition to the mandatory NVCI, First Aid and medication training, there were several other beneficial sessions that both staff and families participated in. Some topics included Positive Behavioural Supports, Alzheimer's / Dementia, Aging and Developmental Disabilities, Dual Diagnosis, Sexuality and People with Disabilities, and various management courses.

Our Association was also able to offer another 5 day Personal Outcomes and Planning with Personal Outcomes workshop from Accreditation Ontario. Bringing our total number of staff trained in this area to 26!

It has also been brought to my attention that there is a number of association staff furthering their education in Developmental Services and Human Services courses offered at various colleges in the province. It is great to see that commitment to continued education in the field!. I wish the best to all of you in your studies.

2006 promises to be another year loaded with great training opportunities. Keep a look out for memos on future training events. As always, if anyone has any ideas or topics that you would like to see offered, please let me know!

Lena Reilly
Training Coordinator



*Create an inhome
apartment!*



The Federal government is offering funding through the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) Second Suites Program to create a second apartment in a family home which could be rented as low cost housing.

This is an opportunity for families to create a second apartment for adult sons / daughters in the family home.

Specific programs:

- ◆ RRAP Second Suites Program
- ◆ Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities (RRAPD)

CMHC administrates the program and they will provide families with direction on how to proceed on housing related matters.

For further information visit CMHC @ www.cmhc.ca

A special thank you to



AND





FAIR WAGE ADVOCACY

CLAPW has enthusiastically joined both OASIS and Community Living Ontario in advocating for higher wages for our employees.

Comparison studies with similar government positions reflect that individuals employed in Associations such as ours are being compensated at a far lower rate. For nine agencies across the

province the difference is over 50%.

Your Association has proactively participated in consultations with local MPP's regarding this matter. In the spring, we along, with Durham North and Oshawa Clarington met with MPP Gerry Oulette and a representative from MPP Flarehty and MPP O'Toole's office. All were receptive to advancing these concerns on our collective behalf.

In the New Year we will work with the union executive to lobby the government further.

In the meantime Association members are invited to contact your local MPP regarding this matter. The union has prepared a sample letter that you can use if desired. Please contact Karen Anderson at 905-683-6732 to get a copy of the sample letter.

Hello Everyone!



Please be advised that the following website may be of interest to families as it displays several videos about estate planning. The video follows a family speaking with a lawyer,

financial advisor, trustee and a representative from Community

Living Peterborough. Hopefully, you will find this resource to be of value. This video was created by The Peterborough Estate Planning Council.

The website is:

www.estateplanptbo.com

Click on: "Your Estate Matters"

VOCATIONAL SERVICES
UPDATE
ARC INDUSTRIES AND
THE BASE PROGRAM



We have some new and exciting news to share with everyone.

Firstly, we have been invited into a new partnership with two of our neighbouring agencies, CMHA Durham (Canada Mental Health Association) and CDE, Whitby Mental Health Centre (Challenging Direction Enterprises). These agencies operate a café at Hubbell Canada in Pickering. This is a consumer run cafeteria and catering business. Our BASE staff, Karen, Kelly and Jennine will help to direct the café activities giving 2 individuals in their program an opportunity for competitive employment. The Hubbell Café has been a successful business venture for the past few years and Hubbell Canada continues to provide immense support to ensuring its success. We look forward to growing our long standing partnerships with these very supportive and innovative agencies.

Next, we will be expanding our transit shelter contract. We will be expanding our shelter cleaning from our current Ajax and Whitby area to the Oshawa area as well. This is a welcomed expansion to our transit crew who seem to prefer working outdoors.

We have had some staffing changes within ARC Industries. Catherine Robinson has moved to the Residential Program and is now working at a group home in Ajax. In January will be welcoming Joe Durrant, a familiar face at ARC. Joe was a college student in our program and then secured a position in Residential. He will assume Catherine's responsibilities. Congratulations to you both.

If you have any questions, give us a call or if you wondering what were up to, stop by anytime. Our current staff roster is:

BASE: Karen Anderson, Kelly Mckenzie-Wills, Jennine Jarvis

ARC: Ron Gauslin, Sharon Burgess, Maylen D'Souza, Eric Smiglieski, Lindsay Dubreuil, Joe Durant, Sue Taylor (Supervisor)

Louise Kitchener (Secretary), Don Elliot (Maintenance), Candy Bridgman (Director)

Our busy building of 75 workers and 45 people supported in BASE makes for a very busy time each and every day.

As many of you notice we occasionally have a flooded driveway and we apologize for any inconvenience that may arise. We are working with our neighbour to try to remedy the problem. As an interim measure we may dig a bigger catch basin. If anyone knows of a company with excavation equipment let me know.

Keep your eye out for our monthly ARC Star publication. This newsletter is produced by individuals in the program to help keep us all informed. We welcome any submissions you may have.



Best Wishes to everyone for a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

LOTS OF ACTIVITIES AND FUN OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS

Steve, Gary and Mario at the Molson Indy VIP Lounge



John, Jon Patterson - Kiwanis, Dawn, Shayne and Tim at our Aktion Club meeting



Aktion Club members at their summer get away



Participants from Community Living Ajax-Pickering and Whitby
At the Big Bike event



***Tom Robertson with
Coach Tiller sparing to
be the next
heavy weight champion!***



NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The next Association General Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th at 7:00 pm. The general meeting will take place at our main office, 36 Emperor Street, Ajax, Ontario