



## Community Living Receives Funding to Address Waiting Lists

Community Living is proudly moving forward into spring with the opportunity to provide new supports and services in our newest home on Macy Street in Pembroke.

This home is part of a new initiative we are excited to be leading and is funded through MCSS. This exciting growth and support opportunity is a direct result of the Ministry's commitment to addressing individuals on wait lists in our county, specifically those who have been identified as being most urgently in need.



Macy Street Home

In April, we will welcome two women into our supports when they move into their new home. A dynamic team is coming together and is already very involved in the transitional planning needs of both women so that we can assist them in a self-directed manner. Their preferences and ideas are shaping the decorating and functioning of their soon to be home. A new Supervisor, Sharon Leskinen, has been hired to lead the team. Community Living welcomes her years of experience and training.



*This is an occasion for Community Living to create employment opportunities, welcome individuals who are in need of new and innovative supports and to promote inclusive communities and neighbourhoods.*

Community Living in the Upper Ottawa Valley is thrilled to be in a unique position to offer these supports to our new community members and look forward to welcoming three more individuals into services in the near future. We are committed to supporting these individuals to participate actively in their hometown and all of the growth and opportunity that new beginnings bring.

Happy Spring from everyone at Macy Street, we can't wait to invite you over!

## Inclusion ~ daughter teaches Mom about true inclusion

Yvonne Kendal describes herself as an 'older Mom'. "When my daughter was in kindergarten I was in my forties, compared to the other Mom's I was older", states Yvonne. Recently Yvonne, who is now a 1st year student at Algonquin College in the Social Service Worker Program commented as part of a discussion board assignment in Evelyn Culleton's class. The topic was Inclusive Education. Yvonne wrote in her assignment that she would like to share a story which happened when her little girl was in kindergarten. Yvonne continues the story....my daughter came home all bubbly one day about a new friend she had made at school. Since I had made it a point to get to know as many of her classmates as possible, I was quite puzzled when time after time my daughter would describe her friend and I couldn't seem to place who the child was in my mind. As time went on, I finally figured out who the 'new friend' was. To my daughter her classmate and friend at school was just an ordinary playmate, when I made the connection however I saw a little girl in a wheelchair who had an intellectual disability. Not once did my daughter who was completely frustrated that I could not figure out who her new classmate was, describe the child as having a disability or being in a wheelchair. Not even close. To my daughter this little girl was just another classmate. Inclusive education does work. My only regret is that I myself did not get an opportunity to be educated in an inclusive classroom. I grew up in a different generation, I don't remember a single student with a disability at the school I attended. My daughter, has been my biggest educator when it comes to inclusion.

## Partners for Planning ~ a new online resource for families

[www.communitylivingupperottawavalley.ca](http://www.communitylivingupperottawavalley.ca)  
click on the Partners for Planning icon. Partners for Planning is an online resource for families. Several times each month there are interesting events, videos, and online learning opportunities.

partners  
for PLANNING

Check out our new  
online resource  
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GET STARTED HERE!

Check out  
The Learning Centre at  
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### ONLINE EVENTS

MAR 19	EXPLORING HOME: THINKING CREATIVELY
MAR 25	RDSP WEBINAR
APR 08	RDSP WEBINAR
APR 23	RDSP WEBINAR
MAY 06	RDSP WEBINAR

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# Community Living Hosts Housing Symposium

## The disabled population is the fastest growing minority in the world

On October 30th innovation in affordable housing was emphasized at the Innovative Housing Symposium coordinated by Community Living. 90 people took part in the session that included guest speakers from across the province. Attendees heard about universal housing design features and inclusive housing options. Peterborough Housing Corporation general manager Darlene Cook shared a showcase of community developments and how 600 housing units have been built in partnership with non-profit and private developers. Vivian Chih, a Corporate Representative for Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) shared how "Seed Funding" is available for *design* of housing. On the CMHC website are other resources such as current Renfrew County Housing market information to assist developers in producing winning proposals.

Among those who attended the symposium were, senior government representatives, support service providers, housing providers, real estate agents, municipal officials and architects. While advocates continue to lobby for a national housing strategy with increased federal and provincial funding, Community Living isn't waiting. Recognizing there is less government money available for affordable housing projects, Chris Grayson, Executive Director at Community Living would like to start work with our local and regional governments to come up with plans to encourage private developers to create affordable housing units. If the largest growth market in the world is the disability market, it is time to think '*accessibility*' in housing design.

Feedback received from the symposium indicates participants want to move forward and Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley along with the other attendees plans to do just that.

Feedback included comments such as...

*"I found the event very informative and eye opening. I believe most people in attendance would have left knowing that there is a market in need of service"...*  
*"Thank you and congratulations to Community Living on a very informative and stimulating event."*

Pictured left to right: Chris Grayson, ED, CLUOV  
Vivian Chih, Canadian Mortgage & Housing,  
Darlene Cook, Peterborough Housing Corporation and,  
Jack Gillan CEO Community Living Peterborough



## Linda Pedersen

**1958—2014 "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; Love leaves a memory no one can steal" - Irish Tombstone**

*Our friend Linda passed away peacefully at the Pembroke Regional Hospital in December 2014. Linda was a great friend to many at Community Living. Linda has been especially missed by her dear friend Lynne O'Connell. Linda was well known in the local community and had a special flare for shopping, dressing up and wearing stylish hats. Linda will be missed by Moncion Riverside West, Value Village and Danny's Taxi. Linda's memory will also be cherished by many staff who contributed to her care and support for a several years.*

*Join us at the end of May at our Memorial Garden Ceremony when we will pay tribute to Linda Pedersen.*

# Annual General Meeting News



## Board Profile ~ Welcoming Bob Smith

Community Living welcomes our newest member of the Board of Directors Bob Smith. Bob has been married to Deborah for 40 years and they have 2 daughters, who are both teachers, and are proud grandparents of 3 grandsons. Bob moved from Ottawa to Pembroke in 1973 as the Manager of Hodgins Lumber, and in 1976 this company was bought out by Beaver Lumber. In 1982 Bob and his wife franchised the Beaver Lumber Store here in Pembroke and in 1999 they joined Home Hardware. Bob built the new Home Hardware store at its current location in 2006. Over the years in the Pembroke area, Bob has been active in the Kinsmen Club and volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society which runs a soup kitchen at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke. Bob also

volunteered at the Breakfast Club at Holy Name Church while working and continues to do so, in addition he sits on the Finance Committee at Holy Name Church.

Bob was invited in May to join the Board of Directors at Community Living, and after giving the invitation some thought he decided this was another opportunity to give back to the community which has been so good to him over the years. Welcome aboard Bob!



Participants in the "I Am Community Living" Awareness Campaign recognized at the Annual General Meeting in June.

From the far left: Tabitha Pitchford, Raina Flexhaug, Allan Garrah, Jesse Crawford, Jeff Shand, Josh and Holly Woermke.

Community Living is proud of the quality of service provided through our "Strongest" resource staff. Pictured from Left: Jennette Surnoskie 10 years, Bruce Felhaber 5 years, Grace Brum 35 years, Diane Mitchell 20 years, Suzanne Dupuis 20 years, Stacey Law 5 years.  
Missing: Suzie Desjarlais 25 years



**WINNER 2014  
NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**



Picture taken by Stephen Uhler,  
The Pembroke Daily Observer

Community Living was named the Not for Profit Community Organization of the year at the 11th Annual Chamber of Commerce Business Award Gala held in January. Pictured above: Board Members Holly Woermke, left, Diedre Lambert, centre, stand with Tania Discher, representing the gold sponsor Johnson and Mackie Ltd. "Community Living is one of those organizations that is often out of the eye of the community to those without intellectual disabilities. Imagine a workplace of 103 people who, in 2014, supported its clients in the Government of Ontario's settlement for the mistreatment of individuals at the Rideau Regional Centre in Smith Falls. CLUOV staff assisted 26 local residents to submit their case for settlement, and an apology from the Government of Ontario.

Their "I Am Community Living" marketing campaign took the people they support and made them the stars of the campaign rather than focusing on the organization itself. They focused on their clients and their employers, the landlords and the staff. Never once did Community Living say "look at us and what we are doing." Instead, it said, "look at these incredible people and applaud them for what they are doing." It takes an awful lot for an organization to stay in the shadows and let the people they support take centre stage. For Community Living, this is second nature."

*(Excerpt reprinted from The Pembroke Daily Observer February 3, 2015 by multimedia journalist Stephen Uhler)*

## 2nd Annual Box of Possibilities Deli Lunch Coming Soon

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April 16th

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Please contact

[carolripley@communitylivingupperottawavalley.ca](mailto:carolripley@communitylivingupperottawavalley.ca)



**We need VOLUNTEERS** to assist with our Deli Lunch Fundraiser. Please call Evelyn or Carol at 613-735-0659 to assist. Pictured above: Thelma Demers and Elaine Blakely packing lunch boxes during last years Fundraiser

## MEMORIES FLOOD BACK...a tour of Huronia Regional Centre

Robert Denis, Pembroke resident and class action member in the current claims process across Ontario recently made the trip back to Orillia with another previous resident from the Ottawa Valley, and toured the former Huronia Regional Centre (HRC) in Orillia. As Robert toured the institution he recalled some experiences, "I remember being lined up with so many people in the hallway waiting for my shower. It was cold. It was an awful feeling", Robert stated. Robert, a teenager when he went to live at the institution remembers that because he was young and healthy at the time of being admitted, he was not permitted to attend school, he was put to work on the farm. "I got up at 3 am and was taken to the farm across the road to milk cows and work hard.....we never got our breakfast until 8:30 am", Robert continues...." I thought I would get to go to school, I was only 13 years old. The institution in Orillia, known as Huronia Regional Centre closed in 2009. Robert remembers, "teenagers and adults worked very hard; on a working farm, in the kitchen, and were often made to scrub floors and other very menial work." During this interview a few days after Robert completed the tour, and during other recent meetings to complete his claim as part of the class action suit against the Ontario Government, Robert has had memories flood back about the years he lived there. Robert stated, "No one who lived there ever had any time alone, our rooms had rows and rows of beds; whenever we went somewhere, we were always in a group; always shuffling down halls and corridors, lots of stairs and more hallways and tunnels." One of the biggest shocks to Robert on the day of the tour was seeing that elevators existed in the building. During his tour Robert said "I got on the elevator and I told everyone I didn't know this building had elevators, I never saw an elevator when I lived here, we walked up and down the stairs all the time."

April Post a Community Living Worker, accompanied Robert and Ed Christiansen, also a class action member and former resident of HRC to Orillia to take the tour. April told me, when they were standing in one of the large rooms during the tour, which would have been a ward filled with cribs and beds, "I kept looking up at the extremely high ceilings, they looked gigantic to me, and I thought to myself if I was a little child how terrified I might have felt being put to bed in there". The rooms were huge, with a feeling of starkness. The pictures and video's we watched confirmed my feelings, there was no personality, no love, no joy." Robert added, "they put me in solitary confinement it wasn't a good room. It had a bed, a toilet and sink, and they didn't come back to get me until they felt like it".

Ed recalled that he went to Sunday School when he was a boy there, and he worked in the laundry room. Ed doesn't remember when he left HRC, but he remembers after he left he was moved to another institution in Picton, called Prince Edward Heights. Ed was middle aged when he eventually moved to the Beachburg area hosted by a local family for several years. Following that Ed realized a personal dream when he moved into his own apartment. For 13 years in the village of Beachburg, Ed lived independantly with supports from Community Living and close contact from the family he had lived with. While living in Beachburg Ed volunteered at Country Haven Retirement Residence, always stating, "When I retire I will move into Country Haven too." Recently Ed realized that dream as well, taking up retirement at Country Haven in the community that embraced him over two decades ago.



Robert Denis right, listens intently to Marilyn Dolmage who conducted the tour at the HRC.

## Memories continued....

Robert and Ed pose outside the former Huronia Regional Centre on October 17th, after their tour.



Robert's journey years later brought him to Pembroke. Robert eventually found employment at The Prospector store in downtown Pembroke and found love for the first time in his life. He met Jackie, now his wife and beams with pride as he describes his life now, "Jackie and I have our own place with our pet dog and we are happy together". "I'm retired now" says Robert. This summer, Jackie and I moved to a new apartment with no stairs, I am feeling pretty good these days". I asked Robert, "What do you think the Ontario government should do with the old institution building in Orillia after the claims process is complete?" Without a moment's hesitation Robert replied, "They should blow the place up, the whole damn place". It was evident to both of us, our interview meeting was over, there were not a lot of relevant questions left to ask after Roberts statement..

*Carol Ripley*



## Marilyn Dolmage comments... On the claims process and tours

I really enjoyed meeting Ed and Robert when they came to visit the former Huronia Regional Centre on Friday October 17th. I was also glad to have met April, I was very impressed by her gentle but unobtrusive support. This tour was the last of 6 visiting "occasions" and on the day Ed and Robert came for their tour several groups of self



advocates from Toronto were also visiting. The MCSS staff on duty that day took a very long time to organize the groups, resulting in Robert, Ed & April waiting for an extended period of time. Eventually we got connected and I also arranged for them to watch *One on Every Street*, a film made by the government in 1960, which showed HRC when it was operating, around the time when Ed and Robert lived there. As things turned out, I think it might have been helpful for Ed and Robert to see the film before their tour. Perhaps it helped them focus their memories. It also turned out there were areas they had lived in that we could not see - both because some of those buildings are now out of bounds, or are so renovated for use by others that they'd no longer would be recognizable.

We came up with a plan to try to make the most of the hour that was left. Ed signaled "praying" and remembered Sunday School; so we went to the auditorium where services were shown in the film. We saw a ward where school boys used to live. Both gentlemen had worked in the laundry; so we saw the old laundry area, amid the kitchens and service areas. We also saw the now renovated working men's cottage from the outside, and we travelled in "the trams" - the tunnels where abuses are known to have occurred. So much about these HRC re-visits has been difficult for survivors, but at the same time helpful. I hope it was reassuring for Ed and Robert to know that not only did they find new homes, but all of the other people got out of HRC too. It's empty now. Some people need to see that, in order to grasp its importance - that no one can ever send anyone back.

In closing, I do hope I was helpful to Ed, Robert and April. I know that they helped me that day. April was patient and resourceful; Ed and Robert were so forgiving and resilient - and together we make the world a better place.

*Submitted by Marilyn Dolmage*

**Class Action Settlement Update:** The class-action lawsuit against the Province of Ontario has resulted in a formal apology in the Legislature from the Government of Ontario, for all former residents of three Institutions closed by the province in 2009. These lawsuits have resulted in the potential for all former residents to be eligible for financial restitution. We at Community Living realize that financial payment can never fully compensate claimants for the many years of living in an institution. However, we do endorse all efforts to support people to be awarded what is due them. CLUOV hosted support days to assist in the legal process and brought expertise in to ensure we could provide support individually so proper documentation was forwarded as people wished. Now we, alongside those former residents anxiously await the outcome. It is exciting to hear people make plans for money that may become available to them which will significantly impact their quality of life. Affidavits have been provided by working with local Legal Aid lawyers. Most of the claims have now been forwarded. At this time we are unable to report how soon financial awards will be made to the claimants.

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**2015**  
**Golf Tournament**  
**August 14, 2015**

**Annual Golf Tournament News**  
**Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley**  
**raised \$13,600.00 in 2014**



Golf Tournament Chairman Gerry Mansveld far left congratulates the 2014 Tournament Champions Cassidy's Transfer & Storage, Dale Robinson, Mark Robinson, Mike Summers and Danny Robinson

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