

In Touch



COMMUNITY LIVING UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston Governor General of Canada celebrates National Volunteer Week in Pembroke at Community Living

Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley welcomed His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston on April 23rd in celebration of National Volunteer Week. A fitting tribute to an organization started by parents and volunteers in 1958.

Melissa Hoffman, a Self Advocate, warmly greeted His Excellency as he entered the building and Raina Flexhaug who identified herself as a self-advocate and volunteer, spoke from the heart as she officially welcomed His Excellency. "I know I speak for many volunteers here, when I say we are honoured that you have chosen our agency to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week".

Without doubt the highlight of this esteemed visit was the warmhearted fashion His Excellency spent chatting with 20 volunteers and guests. His Excellency addressed the

important role of volunteers in his speech, referencing the endless and outstanding needs "Does that mean that we give up, that we don't do our thing that's within our means to do because it's only a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of things, it's too small or irrelevant?" He

further went on to say that he believes that everything matters and that is why volunteer support is so crucial.

Approximately a third of the people we support with an intellectual disability volunteer in their local community in a

Story continues on page 2



Chris Grayson, Executive Director of Community Living presents His Excellency David Johnston two commemorative books, 50 Years of Living your Dreams, published in celebration of CLUOV's 50th Anniversary in 2009, and, Kirby's Lane...a well travelled Path.

Governor General of Canadacontinued

meaningful and valuable role in over 30 different environments. These volunteer positions present opportunities for respected social roles, helping others and often the necessary experience as a stepping stone towards gainful employment. Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley also recognizes the efforts of dozens of volunteers who contribute their time and talent annually to enhance and develop the agency with a variety of projects including fundraising, community awareness and promotion, rights advocacy and board and committee functions. Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley's new Executive Director, Chris Grayson, was extremely proud the agency and its volunteer's efforts were acknowledged by His Excellency's visit. Mr. Grayson commented, "The Governor General David Johnston was casual and interactive with all present. His Excellency allowed for many personal one on one conversations with the volunteers." Chris added "Community Living member agencies are engaged in volunteer efforts nationwide and this privileged visit helped highlight that fact." Following this portion of His Excellency's official visit was a stop at the

Millennium Boardwalk to share in a community clean up.



Raina Flexhaug, Volunteer & Self Advocate brings greetings to His Excellency David Johnston, and proudly shares her notes with the Governor General later.



Larry Markus (standing left), Keith Rae (seated left) Mark Raglin (standing right) and Kyle Croft (seated front), share some stories and laughter with His Excellency David Johnston **



Melissa Hoffman, officially welcomes the Governor General to Community Living as Nancy Goodbody, Service Coordinator with CL, and Fred Blackstein look on. To the right Shelley O'Malley, Board President & Chris Grayson ED, share a moment in the limelight with the Governor General.

Chris Grayson Appointed Executive Director

Shelley O'Malley, President of the Board of Directors announced on April 15, 2013 the appointment of Chris Grayson as the organizations new Executive Director.



Chris has a long history and depth of knowledge in the Not-For-Profit sector as an executive leader. Chris has filled key management and executive positions with other Community Living organizations in Ontario.

Chris has owned and operated a Not-For-Profit consulting company for several years.

During these past tenures, Chris has initiated rigorous approaches in elevating fund development, raising standards and successful accreditations, has researched and authored numerous successful grant applications to various government Ministries and external

agencies, capturing multi-million dollar funding.

During his executive leadership roles Chris led his team to the first accreditation with distinction and received repeated national not-for-profit awards of excellence in the Donner Awards program. www.donnerawards.org

Chris graduated from Loyalist College as a Developmental Service Worker, has completed a Management Studies Certificate at Fleming College, and the Executive Leadership Program from the Queen's School of Business & Management of Human Services, Queen's University.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley, Shelley O'Malley stated, *"We are pleased to have Chris join our team. We are confident his experience and enthusiasm will enhance the programs provided by our organization in the community."*

* Page 1 Photo
** Page 2 Middle Photo

Photo credit:
Sgt Ronald Duchesne,
Rideau Hall
©Her Majesty The Queen
in Right of Canada
represented by the Office
of the Secretary to the
Governor General
(2013)"

Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley

894 Pembroke St. West

Annual General Meeting

June 20, 2013

Registration

6:00-6:30 pm

Business Meeting

6:30 pm

Guest Speaker

Chris Grayson, Executive Director

Followed by Light Refreshments

IN THE NEWS

The Ombudsman of Ontario recently announced an investigation into the growing level of unmet needs for Developmental Services. An important part of that process is to hear from individuals with intellectual disabilities, their families, developmental service organizations and other stakeholder groups regarding this issue.

For more information:

<http://www.ombudsman.on.ca/Make-a-Complaint.aspx>

PROVINCE of ONTARIO BUDGET 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ \$42 million per year for support to people who have an intellectual disability. New funds will be invested to “help families and adults in urgent need, reduce waitlist pressures and better support those with complex needs. The government will also work to transition young adults currently receiving youth residential services into more appropriate adult services and supports”.
- ◆ ODSP income supports will be increased by 1% as of September
- ◆ As of September, the government will implement a \$200 earning exemption under ODSP to encourage people to seek employment. This means the person can keep the first \$200 of earnings after which ODSP benefits will be reduced by 50% of earnings. At present, benefits are reduced by 50% of every dollar earned.
- ◆ The government will work to encourage people with disabilities to take advantage of the Registered Disability Support Program. In particular it will work to address the barriers to people opening RDSP’s where their capacity to enter into a contract is in doubt. Addressing this issue has been a key priority for Community Living Ontario. The government is looking to the Law Commission of Ontario for guidance on this matter. The Law Commission has already undertaken a process to develop recommendations on capacity issues (Community Living Ontario is represented on the advisory committee for that process). The budget indicates that the Law Commission has agreed to undertake a second process to make specific recommendations aimed at improving access to RDSPs.

Stewart Lavalley proudly
accepts a cheque for
\$1,000.00
from
Eddie Minns-Roy
of Shot’s Tap & Grill

Special Thanks

Peter SAB Sabourin
and all the participants at the
Thanksgiving Jam held
annually to raise funds for
local
organizations.



**Community Living
Upper Ottawa
Valley**

sends out a

BIG THANK YOU

To all the musicians
and volunteers
who contribute
to the
Thanksgiving Jam

Thank You Volunteers

In Recognition of National Volunteer Week April 21—27, 2013

Community Living says THANKS to our VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS CAST A BEAUTIFUL SHADOW

Board of Directors

Shelley O'Malley, President
Christine Reavie, Past President
Dave Marcus, 1st Vice President
Jane Dougherty, 2nd Vice President
Karen Payne, Treasurer

Directors

Keith Rae
Laura Mayo
Kyle Croft
Joanne Clarke
Elaine Clouthier
Colleen Whittier
Patricia Durston
Brian Tate



Quality Enhancement Committee

Gerry Mansveld

In Touch Newsletter Mail-Out Group

Donna McMahon
Mark Raglin
Glen Ford
Richard Hurst

Pembroke & Area Speakers Bureau

Mark Dougherty
Cheryl Tennant
Jeff Shand
Kyle Croft
Raina Flexhaug
Brenda McCormac
William Gorgerat
Melissa Hoffman
Jesse Crawford
Kyle Lamarche
Nancy Druve
Rosa Tatascoire
Jill Davidson

Servers Soup & Sandwich Lunch and Fall Tea

Jill Davidson
Meghan Ripley
Christine Kranz
Rachael Balfour
Shelley O'Malley
Laura Mayo
Elaine Clouthier
Jane Dougherty
Dave Marcus
Brigitte Phinney
Suzanne Dupuis

Rights Committee

Evelyn Culleton
Tammy Prescott
Mary Ann Vanner
Maria Conroy
Noreene Adam
Kevin Thompson

Golf Tournament

Gerry Mansveld
Dave Marcus
Shelley O'Malley
Jeff Shand
Mathew Dumont
Nick Dumont
Meghan Ripley

Garden Helpers

Gordon Bellamy
Mark Raglin



Bingo

Dorothy Bergeron
Melissa Hoffman
Maureen McKinnon

Parent Support Group

Laura Mayo
Joanne Clarke
Sharon Nicholai
Liz Cobb
Wendy Hallock
Marly Bruce



Many supporters, volunteers & staff joined in the clean up at Pembroke's waterfront with the Governor General in the afternoon on April 23rd, prior to the Governor General's departure.



May is Community Living Month

*We Kicked it off with a Soup & Sandwich Lunch
Raising Funds for Accessible Playground Equipment at
Champlain Discovery School*

Community Living raised \$765.75 towards Accessible Playground Equipment to be installed at Champlain Discovery School at a Soup and Sandwich Lunch on Friday May 3rd. It was also the official Kick Off to Community Living Month which is celebrated across the province in the month of May. On May 3rd Community Living Flags were presented to Mayor David Thompson of Deep River and CAO Wayne Kirby at the Township of Laurentian Hills by citizens from the Chalk & Deep River areas. Mayor Ed Jacyno of the City of Pembroke and Mayor Jack Wilson of Laurentian Valley Townships attended the Soup & Sandwich lunch in Pembroke and officially received their flags at that time.



Ghislaine Laplante accepts the door prize she won. **Jim Dunn** and **Meghan Ripley** present the prize



Polly James (left), **Stephen Gorr**, **Ed Jacyno**, Mayor of Pembroke, **Shelley O'Malley** and **Colton Gaston** pose with the Community Living Flag



Nancy Druve and **Danielle Levasseur**



Above Far Left: **Andrew Foley** brought his Aunt **Kay** to the lunch.

Above: **Karen Poelzer** attended the lunch with her father.

Reminder
**Community Living's
Golf Tournament**
will be held on
August 16, 2013
Oaks of Cobden



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Board Member Profile ~ Keith Rae



Keith Rae was invited by Community Living to join an ad-hoc committee in the 1990's, formed to look into the accessibility of some proposed homes being built in Pembroke. Keith recalls, he was part of a group who drove to Barry's Bay to tour the premises of a couple of homes which had been built by Madawaska Community Living, and as Keith relates "we borrowed the plans to assist us with our planning process". After this project was completed it seemed fitting for Keith to join

the Board of Directors in September 1994. Keith can recall the feeling of victory in being part of a movement committed to his years on the board, but educating the public about the derogatory use of the "R" word. Keith speaks with much pride when he reflects about the name changes the organization has taken over the years. Keith expresses his delight when he recalls the name change in the 1990's from the Pembroke & District Association for the Mentally Retarded to the Pembroke & District Association for Community Living. Keith is a proponent of respectful language and recalls his feelings of how the term "*mentally retarded*" was insulting and offensive to him and all people receiving services at that time. Keith also embraced the current name change which included local associations across Ontario and Canada adopting the "Community Living" brand.

Keith also recalls his excitement when Community Living moved to its current home on Pembroke Street West, which is an accessible building. Keith remembers, "prior to 2001, many of our board meetings had to be held at various locations around the city of Pembroke enabling the board to accommodate my attendance as the former office was a two story building".

Keith loves to get out to committee meetings, board meetings and has been involved on Accessibility Committees both at the municipal level and the county level. Keith continues to sit on the Renfrew County Accessibility Advisory Committee as one of the original members. The committee meets quarterly. In addition, this committee carries out inspections throughout the county. Keith was delighted when Pembroke's City Hall was able to provide accessibility to all its citizens.



Renfrew County Accessibility Advisory Committee Members cut the ribbon to unveil the new Automated Doors at the Provincial Offences Administration Office in Pembroke

In Memoriam

Judy Eilien Fletcher

Judy Fletcher passed away peacefully at Caressant Care, Cobden on March 16, 2013 in her 56th year. Judy Fletcher of Cobden, formerly of Greenwood, daughter of the late Carl & Eilien Fletcher. Dear sister of Jack, Joy Wright (Terry), Bruce (Gail), and Bryan (Gwen). Judy will be sadly missed by her many friends, companions and support workers who shared many special memories of Judy.



Community Living Management Team

Left Back: Nancy Goodbody, Suzie Desjarlais, Chris Grayson, Grace Brum, Stephanie Moss. Front Left: Carol Sollows, Donna Locke, Tina Williams

Community Living Month

Memory Garden Event



May 31st at 11 am
894 Pembroke Street West

Prayers will be shared and flowers will be
planted in memory of
Judy Fletcher and Sandra Turcotte
Light refreshments

Community Living Staff Recognized



Shelley O'Malley, (centre) President of the Board of Directors, congratulates staff members on milestone years of service.

Pictured Left to Right: Brigitte Phinney 20 years, Donna Duffin 5 years, Kim Rigo 5 years and Carol Ripley 20 years.

Other Honorees
celebrating
Milestone Years of
Service in 2012

Sharon Cochrane
Tracey Hubert
Stephanie Moss
Amanda Quinton
Chris Saulnier
5 years

April Post
20 years

Congratulations

