



COMMUNITY LIVING SOUTH MUSKOKA

December 2013

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CLSM Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting of Community Living South Muskoka was held on September 23rd, 2013 at Community Skills Development in Gravenhurst. Board Chair, Gord Haugh, called the meeting to order and introduced the Mayor of Gravenhurst, Paisley Donaldson, who brought greetings from the Town. The Annual Report was reviewed and the Board answered a number of questions from those in attendance. Gord presented a gift of appreciation to retired Board member, Bonnie Leonard, for her years of service on the Board of Directors. The following staff were congratulated and recognized for their commitment and service to CLSM:

25 Years of Service

Kathy Kruger
Janice Clark
Sarajane Charron
Sheila Stratton

20 Years of Service

Erin Strength
Jacqueline Smith
Debra Auclair
Tina Loshaw
Pamela Gillmore
Larry Blunden
Dione Schumacher
Anne Vanderjagt
Monica Beaumont

15 Years of Service

Jo-Anne Sander
Monica Kenney

10 Years of Service

Debra Lockhart
Terry Wakeling
Kim Hawn
Aleisha Burta
Radek Kucera
Judy Penny

Fall Harvest Festival Days

Fall Harvest Festival Days took place this year over the last two weekends in September at Morrison Meadows. There were many great outdoor activities for families to enjoy including a petting zoo, hay wagon rides, face-painting, giant potato sling, tractor train rides and much more. The Moose FM's DJ Andrea Kitchen broadcast live from Morrison Meadows on the third day of the Festival and more than 3000 people attended over the two weekends!

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make Fall Harvest Festival Days a success as well as to all the families who came out to enjoy the festivities.



Third Annual Muskoka Mud Run



The Muskoka Mud Run took place again this year at Morrison Meadows on October 18th and 19th. On the 18th the Farm was host to 1,200 students from schools in Muskoka, Timmins, North Bay, Haliburton and Lindsay. Throughout the day students raced through the mud in a series of courses ranging from 1.5 to 2.8 km. On October 19th Open Division 5km and 9km trail runs took place with 150 runners participating. Coming in February, 2014 the trails at Morrison Meadows will host the Muskoka Snow Scamper Snowshoe Race which will include 4km and 8km courses.



Ailene's Newsletter

As part of her literacy training, Ailene Nelan has created a new *Community Living Friends* newsletter. With the help of her Literacy Coach, Lynda Coad, Ailene designed, wrote and edited the first issue of her newsletter, which went out in October. Look for another issue in the new year.
Way to go Ailene!

Special Olympics Ontario – Muskoka Chapter

Every 4 years Special Olympics have National Summer & Winter Games. In 2014 the National Summer Games will be held July 8 to 12 in Vancouver. In June 2012 Muskoka had several athletes compete in Bowling and Swimming in the Provincial Summer Games in Kingston, Ontario with the winners qualifying for the National Games. We are excited that the following two athletes qualified for the Nationals.

- ☆ *Leanne Ellis in Swimming*
- ☆ *Todd Gordon in Bowling*

In 2014, Muskoka Special Olympics will be hosting competitions in Curling and Swimming. The Curling Bonspiel will be held at the Gravenhurst Curling Club on January 25, 2014. We expect 14 teams from six towns to join our Muskoka curlers.

The Swim Meet will be held at the Bracebridge Sportsplex on Sunday, April 13, 2014. It will be an exciting day with teams from many towns in Ontario.



Agency Based Compliance Review

Community Living South Muskoka was selected by the Ministry of Community and Social Services Regional office to participate in a pilot project for agency based compliance reviews. The review took place in mid-September, 2013. We are very pleased to announce that we passed our review with the Ministry. Many thanks go out to everyone that worked so diligently in the days, weeks and months prior to the review.

Last year, we underwent another compliance review in which our policies and procedures were reviewed along with three residential locations. Community Living South Muskoka achieved 100% compliance in all areas – the only agency in the province of Ontario to do so. We can all be very proud of both of these achievements!

New Changes to Community Participation & Employment Supports

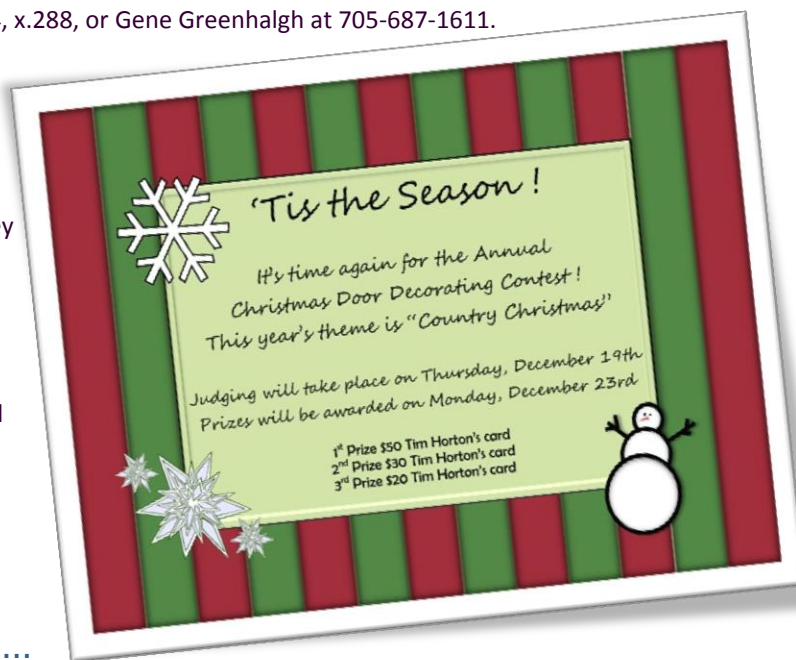
Since last spring the vocational staff have been participating in planning meetings to change the way Community Participation and Employment Supports are offered at Community Living South Muskoka. The services in Bracebridge transitioned to the new model in September and at the beginning of November in Gravenhurst. Work is continuing on employment supports this winter. Two family meetings were held on November 4, 2013 to explain why the changes were being made, how service delivery would look in the future, and provide feedback to the process.

Community Skills Development, Recreation and Leisure Services, Seniors Leisure Services and Youth Works have now been collapsed into one service. This change enables the organization to move from a menu based service with little capacity to accept new referrals into recreation and seniors programs to a model that is more individualized. The program goal is to provide community participation services and supports to adults with a developmental disability that promote social inclusion, individual choice, independence and rights. The services and supports provided will be based on the person's individual support plan that is based on the principles of person-directed planning, self-determination, social inclusion, citizenship and choice. The goal of the new service model is that, wherever possible, 50% of the services to an individual will occur in the community.

Hours of service have been changed to enable staff to focus on service delivery from 8:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Thursday and from 8:30am to 2:00pm on Fridays. We will be implementing a summer closure of the services so look for more information in January. For further details, contact Bob Gillmore at 705-645-5494, x. 225, Debbie Southorn at 705-645-5494, x.288, or Gene Greenhalgh at 705-687-1611.

CLSM Food Drive

The "Friends Helping Friends" group in Bracebridge has decided to show how much they care for our community by collecting donations for the Manna Food Bank's Holiday Food Drive. Donations will be collected downstairs until Friday, December 20, 2013. Thanks to Mike McKenzie for designing, printing and distributed the great Food Drive flyers!



Did You Know...



Since it started 10 years ago, the Cookie Jar has baked more than 36,000 butter tarts - that's amazing! They won the Muskoka Butter Tart Contest this year, and have received compliments from professional chefs. They are currently in the middle of the Christmas baking rush so if anyone wants to place an order for this year, it will need to be in soon! Contact Sheila at 705-687-1611.

From the Staff, Management and Board at Community Living South Muskoka, we hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season!

