



COMMUNITY LIVING SOUTH MUSKOKA



Happy Holidays!

Come and celebrate
the Holidays with
Community Living
South Muskoka
at our
Christmas
Wine & Cheese

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 19,
2014
2:00 - 4:00pm
15 Depot Drive
Bracebridge
in the Boardroom

*Everyone
Welcome!*

December 2014

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CLSM Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting of Community Living South Muskoka was held on September 22nd, 2013 at Morrison Meadows in Bracebridge. Board Chair, Gord Haugh, called the meeting to order and introduced Program Supervisor, Lisa Graham, who brought greetings from the Ministry. The Annual Report was reviewed and the Board answered a number of questions from those in attendance. Gord thanked Alex Armstrong, who has retired from the Board of Directors, and welcomed new Board member, Cameron Hoffman. The first annual Core Values Award winners were acknowledged in the following categories:

Category

Creative Problem Solving
Developing Others

Individual Winners

Heather Greer
Judy Lintott

Category

Creative Problem Solving
Advocating for Others

Team Winners

Resource Teacher's Team
Spencer Street Team

The following staff were congratulated and recognized for their commitment and service to CLSM:

25 Years of Service

Marjorie Schliwa
Robert Gillmore
Rachelle Lawrence
Lorri Fraser
Rita Myers
Shelley Groomes
Lynn Dennys
Connie Patterson

20 Years of Service

Kim Bryan
Glenda Taylor

15 Years of Service

Bonnie Brooks
Diana Bradstreet

10 Years of Service

Judy Lintott

After the presentations, those in attendance enjoyed a Family BBQ prepared by the Management Team.

Fall Harvest Festival

The Fall Harvest Festival 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 weather didn't co-operate and attendance was down from last year, however, word is spreading throughout the community about this annual family event! Thanks to the many volunteers who helped out as well as to the families who came out to enjoy the festivities.



Fourth Annual Muskoka Mud Run

The Fourth Annual Muskoka Mud Run took place again this year at Morrison Meadows on October 4th and 17th. On the 4th the Farm was host to over 100 cross-country runners in Open Division 5km and 9km trail runs. On October 17th more than 1,100 students from schools in Muskoka, Timmins, North Bay, Haliburton and Lindsay raced through the mud in a series of courses ranging from 1.5 to 2.8 km.



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 chosen to be one of the first agencies in our region and the province to undergo the new compliance review format by the Ministry. Under this new format, the entire agency adult service areas underwent an in-depth audit to ensure that we were in full compliance with all Quality Assurance Measures. For some service areas such as Supported Independent Living and Community Participation Supports, this was the first time they had undergone an audit by the Ministry. We were very pleased that the agency passed compliance with only minor corrective actions that were implemented within 10 days of the compliance report. A thank you is extended to everyone for their on-going efforts to ensure we are providing Quality Services.

Inclusion and Employment Opportunities Partnership Fund

Community Living South Muskoka was one of the few agencies in the province to receive approval and funding through a new initiative 'Developmental Services Inclusion and Employment Opportunities Partnership Fund'. The funding is being used to enhance our vision of Morrison Meadows becoming an employment training facility. A diverse range of activities are in various stages of development to provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to gain meaningful employment and/or training experiences. The agency also received a Trillium Grant to complete accessible washroom renovations at Morrison Meadows to ensure accessibility for all. In November, Morrison Meadows was named Employer of the Month by Employment North.



Community Participation Supports



To align our current resources in preparation for Passport funding, the traditional Vocational service area of the agency underwent a significant review and subsequent change to the service delivery model. The agency is now providing Community Participation Supports (CPS) with a focus on spending time outside of a segregated program.

The target for last year was to spend at least 50% of all time in community based activities, which CPS was able to achieve. The target for the upcoming year includes developing individualized community based goals and measuring achievement. A large thank you goes out the vocational team for all their efforts to ensure that individual goals and dreams are being realized.

Children's Services

Children's services have also undergone significant changes over this past year. Our children's respite funding is now allocated on an individual basis at a regional level. With the new application and assessment process, families are receiving more funding than in any other time of the agency's history. This past April 1, 2014 saw the service delivery responsibility for Huntsville area respite families transfer to Community Living Huntsville. This change made sense as we move to align our resources to prepare for increased levels of direct funding. A second change in children's services has been through the implementation of full day early learning. This change has impacted 4 and 5 year olds who had traditionally been attending local integrated licensed child care with Special Needs Resource Teacher support to now attending school on a full time basis without our SNRT in the classroom. We have been able to successfully implement a 'pilot project' with the school boards to help transition the most complex needs children into the classroom. In the meantime, we are waiting for new legislation to identify the future service delivery model for children.



Agency Succession Plan

Over the past year, Community Living South Muskoka has been involved with a succession plan as we transition the leadership of the organization. We would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the great accomplishments of our retiring CEO, Ann Kenney and thank her for all her dedication and hard work. Over her tenure as Executive Director and CEO of CLSM, Ann not only provided strong leadership to our agency, she also became a leader in our region and in the province through her work on the OASIS Board of Directors. Ann was known as someone to 'go to' for information about the future of our sector, and has been able to align the agency in a way to meet challenges head on. She has been tireless in her endeavors to ensure the issues of the sector are identified to the Ministry in a way that is both respectful and informative. She has been a strong collaborator and representative of the sector on numerous local, regional and provincial working groups. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the success in her upcoming retirement.



Fire Code Regulations

On January 1, 2014 laws affecting fire safety were amended to include significant changes that impacted the agency both this year and will continue to impact us over the next few years as the changes continue to be phased in. The changes are a result of the Report on Improving Fire Safety for Vulnerable Ontarians. Members of CLSM's Management team have received certificate training regarding our responsibilities for compliance with Fire Safety Regulations through the Ontario Fire Marshal's office. The agency has been working in partnership with local fire prevention officers to develop a number of fire safety plans including approved evacuation procedures by the local fire chief and timed practices for all our homes classified as B3. This has been an ongoing challenge for not only CLSM, but for agencies across the province. We are pleased to report that we have been able to meet all the fire scenario timelines and fire safety plan requirements to date. We continue to work with the local fire departments and our Ministry to not only ensure that all regulations are met but more importantly that all people supported by the agency are safe.



Habitat Heroes

Recently Tom Peterson, Tracey Spink, Tom McLean and Don Dewasha were given "Habitat Hero" awards for their extensive volunteer work at the Bracebridge Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The staff at the ReStore appreciate the cheerful attitude of our hard-working crew members, who clean and organize shelves and even package some items for sale.



Service Planning and Resolution Committee

With the implementation of Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) and dissolving of our local 24 hour access committees, the region and province have been working on an Urgent Crisis Response and Community Engagement Strategy. Ann Kenney has been the Chair of this working committee for the past three years, and over the summer, the province finally announced their new guidelines. Ann and the committee were able to take all of the hard work completed and add in the new requirements to create a regional process. A Service Planning and Resolution Committee is being developed that will also address the new requirements for a regional urgent response committee. In her new role as Special Projects Manager, Ann will implement this committee across the region.

Christmas Food Drive



Please join in donating a non-perishable food item to the Christmas Food Drive!

CLSM individuals who are in need will receive food items first,

the remaining items will go to the Manna Food Bank.

Please drop off your food items in the boxes in the front foyer.

Merry Christmas!



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



