







COMMUNITY LIVING SOUTH MUSKOKA

May 2015



May is Community Living Month!

Celebrate with us on
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015
1:00 – 5:00PM
IN THE PARKING LOT AT
15 DEPOT DRIVE, BRACEBRIDGE

-  **BBQ** - sponsored by Bracebridge Taxi and MV-1 Canada
-  **Performances by Community Living Idol Singers**
-  **Face Painting and Games for the Kids**
-  **Bottle Drive** - bring your empties to help raise funds for a camping trip to Algonquin Park



Community Living South Muskoka
Serving Your Community Since 1967
Ph: (705) 645-5494 www.clsm.on.ca

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From the Office of the CEO

I would like to start by thanking everyone for all of their support over the past 6 months as I have made my transition from Chief Operations Officer to CEO. It is hard for me to believe that the time has passed so quickly, and that we have all accomplished so much together.

One of the reasons for the successes here at CLSM is the great teams we have. As a team, we gather individual strengths to accomplish more than we can do alone. Building on this concept, our strategic plan for this year includes service excellence in support to people with developmental disabilities and being an employer of choice. We are also striving for ways to ensure financial sustainability and improve operational efficiencies.

We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors that understands that while government funding is shrinking the needs in our community are growing. They share our commitment to providing quality services, and will be working with all of us to set a new vision for the future of the agency.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring a few accomplishments to everyone's attention. First of all, we are considered leaders in the region for our work with seniors and dementia. The recently implemented agency wide dementia screening program is considered innovative and has been recognized as such throughout the new North Region. Similarly, Morrison Meadows is a show case for our agency. The farm is operated on funds raised through the community and activities we run. The training opportunities for people have been exceptional, and the collaboration from Community Partners has made everything worthwhile. The greenhouse operation with St. Dominic's High school is a great example of success. Similarly, I was so pleased to see the people we support independently running activities and showcasing their abilities at our recent Easter Day event. Another excellent example of team work and innovation is the work we have done to develop a support model for people with Passport funding. It has truly taken the effort of multiple staff and areas of the agency to make this happen, and I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone for all of their hard work.

I would also like to bring to everyone's attention the funding we received from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to assist us in addressing wage pressure and precarious issues. We also need to extend a similar thank you to the District of Muskoka for all of their support to our Special Needs Resource program and the families we support in South Muskoka. This is in large part due to the excellent service the team provides to the community. Finally, we have been fortunate to receive funding to create 3 additional rooms at our Muskoka Beach Road home. This is a significant investment from the Ministry in an era where group homes are not a priority for funding.

As a final note, let's thank Mother Nature for finally brining us spring weather and an end to all the snow!

Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer

Family Home Trip to Cuba



From April 7th to the 14th, Don Dewasha and Gail Brockie, along with Family Home Support Workers Sarajane Charron and Linda Carley-Raithby vacationed in Cayo Coco, Cuba. The week away was beautiful and sunny and everyone enjoyed a mix of relaxation and adventure. Excursions included a carriage ride, a double decker bus ride to a craft market, a trip to a world famous beach, and visiting with the dolphins. There were many memorable moments, including collecting shells on the white sand beach, viewing pink flamingos in the mangrove swamp, a wide selection of amazing musical entertainment, and the spotting of many cars from the 1950's.

The trip offered many opportunities for new experiences like drinking milk out of a fresh coconut, enjoying virgin pina colodas by the pool, and adapting to Cuba's unique cuisine.

By the end of the trip the group was greeting staff and other guests with HOLA! which means hello in Spanish.

It was a wonderful experience that will never be forgotten.

Submitted by
Sarajane Charron, Family Home Support Worker



Easter at Morrison Meadows



On April 2, 2015 we held our first ever Easter event at Morrison Meadows and it was a huge success! There were 128 children and 77 adults in attendance who enjoyed lots of activities to keep the kids interested and active during their visit to the farm, including a small animal petting station with chickens and rabbits, face painting, craft stations, a DJ booth, and of course, an Easter egg hunt! A huge thank you goes out to all the people who helped make this event such a success: Tammy, Jordan, Tamica, Melody, Aimee, Ailene, Nancy, Blaine, Xavier, Nathan and Bobbie. Thanks also to our Employment Team, Rob and Shane, Supervisor Debbie, Volunteer Coordinator Pat, Event Coordinator Jeff, and Residential and Vocational Support Workers Keifen and Vern. Many thanks to Pauline for bringing her rabbits and chickens. Another huge thank you goes out to the PALS program (life skills) from BMLSS and to the crew from Beaver Creek Community Services who volunteered their time to help prepare for this event. We are looking forward to another successful Easter event again next year!

Submitted by
Kelly Marion, Employment Support Worker



Top to bottom and left to right: Nathan Hartley, Melody Booth, Ailene Nelan, Xavier Brisette, Jeff Dewetering, Nancy Snider, Tammy Laskowski, Aimee Fleger, Tamica Cameron, Nolan Dewetering, Jordan Dupuis, Kelly Marion

CLSM
thanks Kelly
Marion for all her
hard work in
organizing this
community event!

Community Living South Muskoka invites you to the



of our new ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES at



1177 Fraserburg Road, Bracebridge
Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Pumpkin Planting 9:00-11:00am
Grand Opening and Free BBQ Lunch from 11:00-2:00pm

Our Grand Opening Celebration will take place in conjunction with St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School's official unveiling of "OPERATION GREENHOUSE" at Morrison Meadows

Please RSVP to Amanda Brown at 705-645-5494,
ext. 285 or by email at abrown@clsm.on.ca by May 29.



Community Living South Muskoka

This project was made possible
through a grant from the



Purina Walk for Guide Dogs

On Sunday, May 31st, Morrison Meadows will be hosting the Purina Walk for Guide Dogs fundraising event. 100% of the funds raised at this event will go towards the training of dogs to support individuals. Guide dogs assist people with vision, hearing, physical and medical disabilities, including Autism and Diabetes.

Our committee is seeking your support and participation in this fun event. This is your chance to show off your special pooch, meet some interesting people and maybe win a prize or two!

If you would like to participate in the walk, sponsor a walker or volunteer to help organize this day, or just want more information, please contact a committee member or check out the walk website at www.purinawalkfordogguides.com

Submitted by
Dawn Bunker, Family Support Worker



Committee Members

Dawn Bunker
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13th Annual Lake IGE Regatta



Where? CSD Gravenhurst, 205 Industrial Drive

When? Thurs. May 7, 2015

10:30am – 1:30pm

(rain date May 14th)

Bring your own homemade sail boat to enter

"Sail Powered Only and No Cheating!"

Your boat should be no larger than 18"

Lunch will be provided at noon at a cost of \$3.50

Menu: Hotdogs & Hamburgers

Salad & Pop

Any food restrictions please bring your own lunch

Please RSVP with numbers no later than by May 4th to
Anne, Erin, Sheila or Nicole at 705.687.1611

Submitted by
Anne Vanderjagt, Vocational Support Worker

Community Living Idol

Everyone had a fabulous time during the Community Living Idol contest at CSD Bracebridge during the months of February and March. There were many outstanding performances and it was difficult for the judges to choose a winner. Congratulations to all who participated! Thanks to everyone who organized the contest, Gavin for hosting and Vern for providing the music. Thank you also to the judges and a special "thank you" to Kwik Copy for donating the amazing certificates and photo collage.

Top to bottom and left to right: Mark, Vanessa, Jennifer, Tracy, Ailene, Karla, John, Mike C, Doug, Mike M, Andy, Julie, Leanne, Melanie, Joni & Tom, Patrick, Laura, Gail, Blaine, Bev



1st Place – Jennifer Murphy & Karla Struyk (tied)

2nd Place – Ailene Nelan

3rd Place – Bev Tompkins