

September 2021



Community Living South Muskoka

Vision

The “Go To” expert for those impacted by a developmental disability.

Mission

Community Living South Muskoka provides lifetime support to all those impacted by a developmental disability, utilizing skilled staff and effective partnerships involving the individual, the family and the community with the result that the individual is accepted as a valued community member.

Values

Excellence

Trust

Respect

Success Factors

A Highly Valued

Community Organization

A Leader in Innovation

Person Centered

Valued, Skilled Staff



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Community Living South Muskoka



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Living_South_Muskoka

A Message From Your Board Chair

Speaking at our recent Annual General Meeting I commented that I was fairly certain that a year ago when we met we all thought that by now we would be able to gather together to meet in person. We know now, that the old ways of doing business are changed—probably forever.

But, I am so proud of the CLSM team that have made adjustment after adjustment to be able to safely continue to serve our special clientele.

And, indeed, safely it has been. While everyone on the staff has been diligent about all the necessary protocols, I know it has been difficult to provide quality programming for many individuals who do not understand the need to wash their hands, stay socially distant and indeed stay at home and indoors—whether with their family or living in one of our residences.

Most of the staff has had to get used to working remote from the office. Some have adjusted to working from home—others wish they could return to the office and the benefits of working together.

Where will we be next year? Like many of you, I have worn out some shirts, but most of my pants are still on the hangers where they were hung 2 years ago.

Will shirts, ties and suits return to the office, or is casual here to stay?

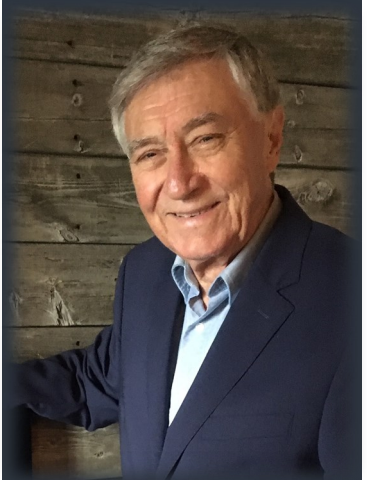
I guess we have learned that some things don't matter as much as we thought.

And, that obviously also goes for how we conduct our business. Thank you everyone for all your efforts to continue to serve our clients and meet the inevitable emergencies that arise in this business. The recent reaction to the tragic Gravenhurst fire is testament to this.

One thing is for certain, when we gather for next years Annual General Meeting, we will have more stories to tell and more changes to reflect on. Thank you all for your resilience and adaptability. Give yourself, a pat on the back. You all deserve it.

Gord Haugh,

Board Chair



"I am so proud of the CLSM Team that have made adjustment after adjustment to be able to safely continue to serve our special clientele"

***- Gord Haugh,
CLSM Board Chair***



Celebrating the Grand Opening of CLSM 505



On September 10th, 2021, CLSM hosted our Grand Opening Celebration, where we officially opened the doors to our new location at 505 Highway 118 West Bracebridge. This space is now the new home of our Community Participation Supports, Employment and Passport Services. Joined by Muskoka Parry Sound MPP Norm Miller, Mayor of Bracebridge Graydon Smith, and Sandra Holdsworth from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, CLSM Board Chair Gord Haugh cut the ribbon and welcomed in this new era for the agency.

This event also presented us with an opportunity to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for awarding us with the Resilient Communities Fund grant earlier this year. The funds from this grant helped us to upgrade our technological capabilities, for our residential homes, as well as aiding in the development of virtual programming and IT infrastructure to help keep us all connected. Thank you once again to the Ontario

Trillium foundation for supporting us in this endeavor, and for all of your support over the years.

After the ribbon cutting, Mayor Graydon Smith presented CLSM with an official Town plaque to display at the new location and attendees each got a tour of the new facility. We are proud to officially call this space home!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

Ensure that the Community recognizes, respects & is inspired by CLSM

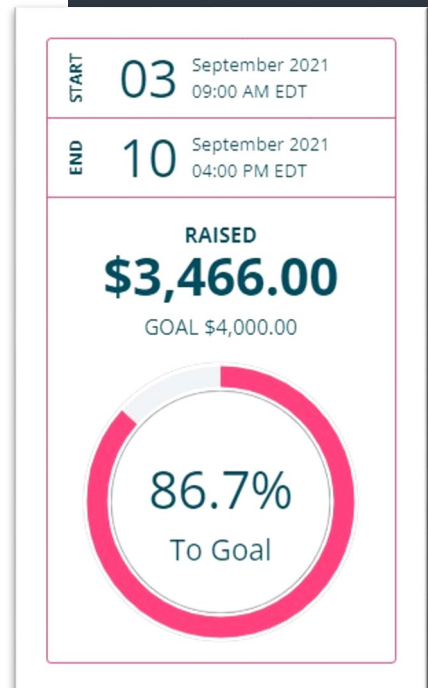
Online Auction Bids to raise money for CLSM









The ongoing Covid pandemic has meant that new and creative ways of fundraising have needed to be sought. As our first online auction in August 2020 was such a success we decided to do it again in September 2021. As with all our fundraising events we were once again grateful to have the support of local businesses who generously donated to the auction. All in all, there were over 50 amazing items up for grabs. The auction ran from September 3rd – September 10th, and as we moved through the week we got closer and closer to our fundraising goal.

Some frantic last minute bidding, accompanied no doubt by some chewing of finger nails helped us reach 86% of our goal, raising a total of \$3746 for the agency. We hope to be back again with another Online Auction in 2022. Keep your eyes on the CLSM website and social media pages for updates!

A special thank you to all who donated items to our auction, including Allport Marina, Kent Lee, Leon's of Muskoka, Misty Sontag, Muskoka Highlands, Residence Inn by Marriott, South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club, and Windermere Golf & Country Club, and thank you to all who participated in the auction.

Submitted by Taylor Watson



FEATURED	FEATURED	FEATURED	FEATURED
 \$150 Gift Certificate for Leon's Muskoka \$100.00 CAD value: \$150.00 CAD bids: 7	 \$500 Allport Marina Gift Certificate \$750.00 CAD value: \$500.00 CAD bids: 2	 Darryl Sittler Signed Bar Table and 10-Point Game Stick \$325.00 CAD value: \$700.00 CAD bids: 2	 Foursome of Golf at South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club \$200.00 CAD value: \$250.00 CAD bids: 4
 Foursome of Golf at Muskoka Highlands \$180.00 CAD value: \$320.00 CAD bids: 3	 Foursome of Golf at Windermere Golf & Country Club \$200.00 CAD value: \$400.00 CAD bids: 1	 One Night Stay at Residence Inn by Marriott Gravenhurst Muskoka Wharf \$140.00 CAD value: \$285.00 CAD bids: 3	 One Night Stay in Yurt at Morrison Meadows \$90.00 CAD value: \$150.00 CAD bids: 8

Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

Ensure that the Community recognizes, respects & is inspired by CLSM

The 2021 Annual General Meeting

We closed off the month of September as we always do, with our 2021 Annual General Meeting. With Ontario currently in Stage 3 of the reopening strategy, and with our PPE close at hand, we were able to hold the meeting back at Morrison Meadows once again. We invited limited attendees consisting of CLSM voting members, members of our Board of Directors, CLSM Management and award recipients to ensure that we were following the current occupancy guidelines.

Working through a host of technical difficulties, we managed to stream the meeting virtually alongside the in-person gathering, allowing for the many people we support, family, friends and community partners to join us in reflecting on the past year at CLSM. We also talked about the year to come, and how we will continue to work our way through to the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was a nice reminder of past years to smell the BBQ as we prepared the after-meeting meal. Thank you to all who helped make the AGM possible and congratulations to all of our very deserving award recipients. We hope you will join us again next year!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Community Living
South Muskoka

You are Invited to Attend

The Annual General Meeting &
Awards Celebration of
Community Living South
Muskoka on

***Monday, September 27, 2021
5:00 - 6:00pm***

The event will be held virtually via our Blue Jeans platform,
as well as limited in person participation, pending public
health measures for gatherings. The CLSM bylaws will be
reviewed and updated at this meeting.

***Visit our Website
www.clsm.on.ca for details***

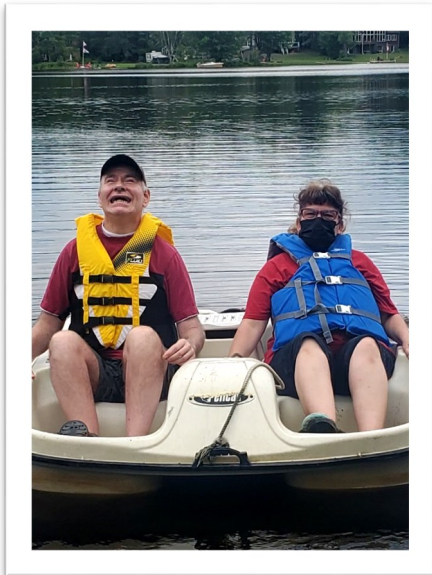




Success Factor - Person Centered

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

The Annual Woodward Cottage Getaway



It's hard to believe a year has gone by since the crew from our Woodward residence last visited the cottage on Doe Lake. Although to some of us it seems like just yesterday that we were looking at those pictures of Frank fishing on the dock, he would tell you that it was a long wait for this year's Vacation!

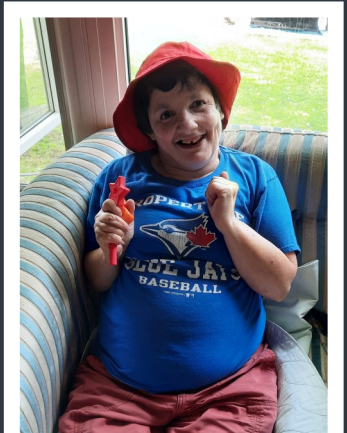
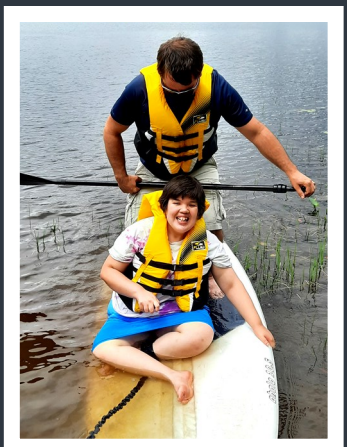
Once again the team enjoyed the water, ate s'mores by the fire and soaked up the sun. They also tried something new; paddleboarding! This was a first for many, and it was easier for some than for others. For a few of the participants, trying to stand on the paddleboard led to a splash in the lake!

Another favourite cottage activity is to head out on the paddleboat. Vanessa and Lucille made a day of it and did an

entire tour of Doe Lake! When asked about the adventure, Vanessa said "We saw lots of birds and fish, and we saw a heron! We got pretty wet and it was a lot of paddling, but I want to go again next year!".

Everyone had a blast as they always do, and we look forward to seeing the pictures of next year's Get away!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Dale Thriving in CLSM's Virtual World



For some the Covid pandemic has meant not being able to see their friends and family as much as usual, however for others it has opened up a whole new world previously unexplored.

The ever increasing use of technology in our daily lives has provided new and exciting ways of staying connected and Dale for one has welcomed this with open arms.

The agencies online programming has provided Dale with the opportunity to try things which previously may not have been available for her, in particular Dale looks forward to her weekly Bingo and exercise/meditation sessions, and she has enthusiastically participated in the Magic Shows and Friendship groups.

A highlight of Dales year was being able to join in the Christmas craft making with Sandhill Nursery and producing a unique hand crafted gift for her family.

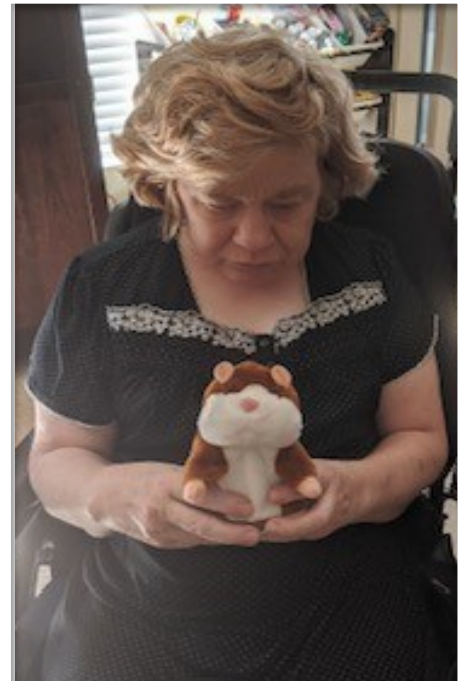
Rachelle, Dales Community Participation Support staff commented "The most exciting part is that Dale frequently initiates great conversation with me to get stuff rolling for the virtual activities. It is awesome for Dale to have something fun to look forward to during these difficult times. The virtual world seems to be a perfect fit for Dale to stay connected with new and old friends especially her cousin "O" from the comfort of her own home".

With the agencies online offerings growing and growing there is sure to be many more new activities for Dale to enjoy in the coming months.

Submitted by Rachael Lawrence

"The virtual world seems to be a perfect fit for Dale to stay connected with new and old friends."

*- Rachael Lawrence,
Community
Participation Support
Staff*



Success Factor - Person Centered

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Relaxation and Rejuvenation at Woodfield Sky River Farm

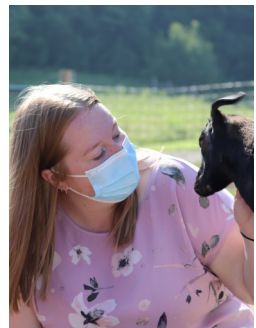
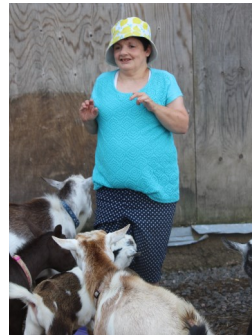
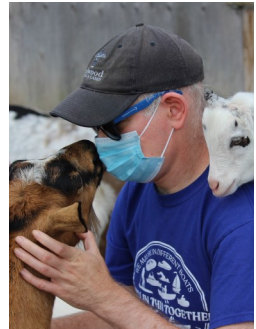
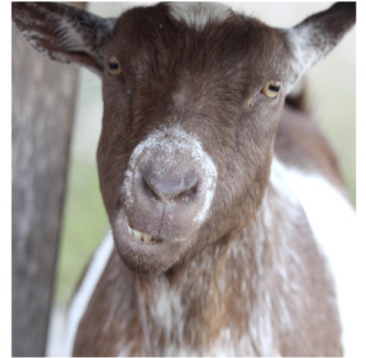
With COVID keeping us close to home for the past 18 months, everyone has been eager to get back out in the community to visit some of their favourite local attractions. Back in July they got the chance to do just that, with our Spencer Street, Woodward Street and Fraserburg Road residences all making separate trips to Woodfield Sky River Farm for some much needed relaxation and fun!

Woodfield Sky River Farm is located on Three Mile Lake Road in Utterson. They describe themselves as “Muskoka’s Very Own Therapeutic Animal Farm” and feature a specially trained herd of Nigerian Dwarf Goats. As described on their website, “These small, adorable, master's of emotion, will help you to find a deeper way of connecting to yourself, and to others.”

Smiling faces and lots of laughter were the order of the day as the individuals interacted with their new four legged friends, enjoying many cuddles and licks!

The entire experience was a magical one for all and one which is sure to be repeated in the coming months.

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Fleming College, Our New Employment SSM



Fleming College recently launched a prototype program implemented by the Ontario Government with the aim to help streamline employment services across the province. Fleming is now the Service System Manager (SSM) for employment services in Muskoka-Kawarthas, and alongside employment service providers like Community Living, they are tasked with addressing current labour market needs for all jobseekers in their service area. The area they oversee includes the City of Kawartha Lakes, District of Muskoka, Haliburton County, Northumberland County, and Peterborough County.

"We are pleased that the Ontario Government chose Fleming College to lead its new SSM model, and stand ready to address current labour market needs and advance the future of employment services. Fleming's expertise in delivering high quality skills training, paired with the experience of our local employment agencies, will result in solutions for job seekers including youth and older workers, Indigenous peoples and newcomers. We will also help employers find workers equipped with the right skills." - Maureen Adamson, President, Fleming College (2021, flemingcollege.ca).

Community Living South Muskoka is working in partnership with the Muskoka-Kawarthas SSM to match potential employees and employers to create a more inclusive and sustainable employment market, remove barriers and improve employment longevity. CLSM is excited to develop our employment services alongside Fleming College.

Contact Employment@clsm.on.ca for more information or to make a direct referral.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



WWW.CLSM.ON.CA

"Fleming's expertise in delivering high quality skills training, paired with the experience of our local employment agencies, will result in solutions for job seekers including youth and older workers, Indigenous peoples and newcomers."

*- Maureen Adamson,
President, Fleming
College*



Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

The 2021 CLSM Kindness Conspiracy



Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give! This sentiment certainly rang true as everyone at CLSM geared up for the first ever Kindness Conspiracy.

The last two weeks in July saw everyone at the agency Conjure up some great ideas of how to show kindness to one another, and bring happiness and joy to all.

Acts of kindness ranging from home baked cookies being delivered to painted rocks being left on doorsteps, as well as hand made cards being exchanged, created a wonderful sense of belonging and friendship right throughout the agency.

These gesturers of kindness big and small were so gratefully received, and left everyone who participated with the feeling that in a world where you can be anything it is most important to be kind!

Submitted by Declan Ormsby



Introducing the Yurt at Morrison Meadows

Prior to the Pandemic, CLSM had completed a lengthy strategic planning process for Morrison Meadows which included focus group work and led to the eventual development of a social enterprise business plan. Part of this plan was to develop Yurts for overnight stays at our farm.

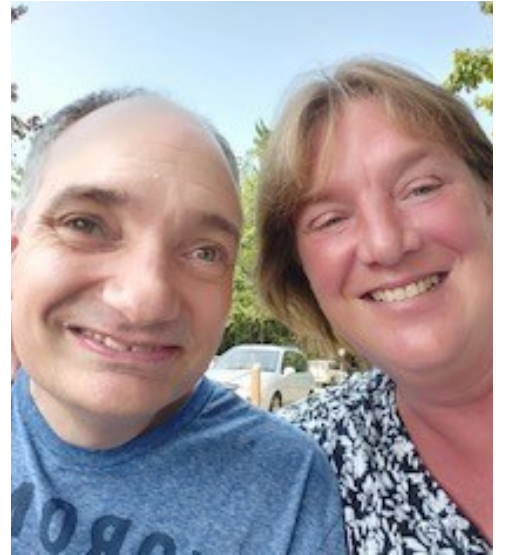
However our focus shifted as we were forced to deal with the pandemic and the safety of everyone at CLSM. This past spring, we picked up where we left off and got to work installing our first yurt. A special thankyou to Lodestar Montessori School who helped raise funds for a fully accessible deck, and to Jeff DeWetering, Stevenson's Plumbing and Electric, Mark from Three Trees Construction, Hydro One, and Duncan Ross (Architect) for helping bring the project together. We are still working on the interior design and furnishings, but it wont be long before it is ready to go!

Our goal is to make this yurt available to anyone who wishes to escape into nature. In the near future we will be offering the yurt for overnight stays with priority to people and families we support and staff.

Keep your eyes posted on the CLSM website and social media platforms for more updates!

Submitted by Taylor Watson





A Message From Your CEO

Fall in Muskoka is so beautiful. This year more than ever I have noticed the number of people who travel up to our area to see a bit of the beauty we get to enjoy each and every day. Perhaps this beauty is a small contributing factor to how our staff and the people we support and their families have managed to be resilient throughout the last 19 months of this pandemic. Our staff have demonstrated their courage and dedication each and every day as we have faced one challenge after another. Families have been patient with us as we have attempted to maneuver the ever changing infection prevention and control practices and government rules to 're-opening'. And most impressive, the people we support have continued to stay strong and healthy, coping better than most in this COVID world we live in.

You will see articles in this newsletter that highlight some of the ways we have adapted to provide services. We learned during COVID that there is a whole virtual world out there that we were not part of. With the pandemic in our community, we could not safely continue to have large groups gather, and we were under severe restrictions to keep people healthy and safe. Studies show that compared to adults without developmental disabilities, adults with developmental disabilities were more than twice as likely to be hospitalized following COVID-19 and to die. For adults with Down Syndrome, mortality rates were 6.59 times higher than those without. We have taken the risk very seriously and have been operating with Enhanced Infection Prevention and Control measures for the past 19 months. This meant finding new ways to keep people a part of their community. We began writing proposals to find ways to fund the type of technology support we needed to keep people connected. We are so very Grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Muskoka Community Foundation for understanding the importance of these connections and investing in people. Thank you to Cathy, our Director of Services and Supports for writing the proposals and help lead the project. Today, we have expanded our virtual supports significantly. We have over 55 virtual offerings per month with 436 total participants. On top of that, while our homes were closed to all visitors and people were not allowed to visit family until this past July (which was for the better part of a year) the technology helped people to stay connected to families. We had people face timing and in some cases, people are more connected to their families and friends than ever before. We have learned that people with disabilities can belong to the virtual 'world' in meaningful ways and become valued members of those social circles.

As with many businesses in Muskoka and across the province, we have faced the adversity of staff shortages. We redeployed our CPS team to help with this, but with the province now well into the road map to reopening, we have taken the staff out of the rotations this fall, and are slowly getting back to community based supports. We also moved our CPS, Employment and Passport main space in Bracebridge to a smaller more central location. Our opening on Sept 10th was a great success and hopefully a sign of great things to come in the future.

I cannot express enough my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for your ongoing support and dedication to those we service and our agency.

Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer
Community Living South Muskoka



"I cannot express enough my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for your on-going support and dedication to those we serve."

**- Krista Haiduk-Collier
CEO**

THANK YOU TO OUR AUCTION SPONSORS



Errington Walsh

Auction Item Sponsors



Kent Lee, Misty Sontag



Community Living
South Muskoka
Serving those with a Developmental Disability

Pritchard Perfect Photography Presents...

CHRISTMAS MINI SESSION FUNDRAISER

November 6 & 7, 2021



Session Information:

*Location: Morrison Meadows
1177 Fraserburg Rd. Bracebridge*

\$100 - 15 Min. session

*5 Images included (may purchase
additional photos)*

CLMS will receive a portion of all proceeds



Pritchard Perfect
- PHOTOGRAPHY -

*To reserve a SPOT:
Saturday*

<https://book.usesession.com/s/JRO-flqiK>

Sunday

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Call 705-706-1523

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