

February 2007

# NEWSLINK

## Community Living St. Marys and Area



You can reach us by  
calling 519-284-1400.

Marg McLean x 225  
Nancy Marriott x 221  
Vickie Logan x 241  
Jennifer Leslie x 228  
Kim Monden x 222  
Jan Gerrie x 223  
Marilyn Haywood x 227  
Barb Leavitt x 226  
Marg Angus x 242  
Brenda Kaiser x 224  
Suzanne Simpson x 234  
Linda Munro x 243  
Wayne Hotson x 233  
Jenn Binnendyk x 232  
Leave a message for Jessica  
Rains with Voices x 305

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## Come To the Fair!!!

“**Growing a Healthy and Strong Community**” is the theme of the 2007 St. Marys Health and Recreation Fair. Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 19, 2007 from 2:30 – 7:30 pm at the St. Marys & Area Community Centre and St. Marys & Area Friendship Centre. This year the Fair is expected to be bigger and better than ever with over forty booths that feature a wide range of services, recreational opportunities and health care options that are available in our area. There will be demonstrations, the Friendship Centre’s food canteen will be open and best of all – it’s

FREE! We only ask that you bring a food donation for the Salvation Army’s food bank. If you have any questions contact Kim Leis at Home Support Services (519-284-3272 ext. 222) or Jennifer Leslie (519-284-1400 ext. 228)



## It’s that time of year again...Tax Time

The personal income tax system provides a number of tax credits and deductions for people with disabilities and their families, including:

- the disability tax credit;
- the disability tax credit supplement for children;
- the medical expense tax credit;
- the caregiver credit;
- the infirm dependant credit;
- the disability supports deduction; and
- the refundable medical expense supplement.

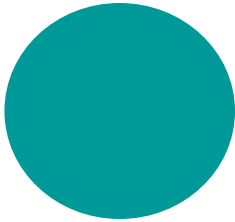
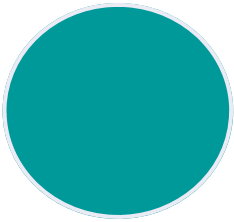
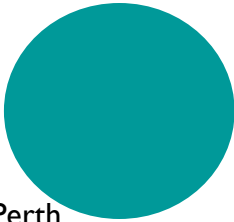
These tax measures recognize that people with disabilities and their families face extra disability-related expenses that reduce their ability to pay tax. In addition to these tax measures, the Government of Canada offers a benefit delivered through the tax system to families caring for children with disabilities, the Child Disability Benefit.

Talk with your tax specialist.

Check the website [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability).



# Voices



It's an exciting time in Perth County for Voices. Since last summer a number of service providers have been meeting with the coordinators to do some planning about the future of Voices.

One of the outcomes has been the addition of two new Coordinators from Stratford, Amy Rowe from Community Living Stratford and Marg Van Herk from L'Arche. Formerly two coordinators from Listowel and St. Marys covered the county, with Amy and Marg we have more help work more effectively throughout the county.

In November Voices coordinators and supporters participated in a PATH planning process. This has helped to clarify our future direction.

As well, the Coordinators from Listowel and St. Marys, Stephanie Gratton and Marilyn Haywood will be leaving the position as coordinators and are being replaced by Tanya Sloetgraaf from Listowel and Jessica Rains



from St. Marys. Stephanie and Marilyn will stay on to provide training and support and then in an advisory capacity.

We look forward to an exciting year, new coordinators, and a committed effort from service providers throughout Perth County and the launch of **"Where To Find It"** our user friendly guide to services in this county.

**New information about using the pager:**  
DO NOT TYPE IN '519' when you enter the phone number you want to be called at - just put in the actual phone number. When people are entering the '519' the rest of the number sometimes gets lost and can't be seen on the pager.

**Using the Association Pager**  
In case of an emergency situation or when there is a need for immediate consultation from a supervisor, call 519-430-7992. You will hear a voice message. After the tone, enter the phone number you want to be reached at. The pager takes up to four minutes to receive the page. The on-call person will return your call as soon as it is received.

## News from Central Admin

We have received funding from the Ministry, which is targeted for salaries and benefits. The Board of Directors has approved the following:

1. 2.5% increase to the grid salary ( this includes pay equity) effective January 27, 2007.
2. 1% matching RRSP program will increase to 2% matching effective April 2007.
3. Employees can expect a retroactive payment deposited into their account on February 21st.

4. Coverage for eyeglasses/contacts increase to \$200 every two years effective January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

Also; **T4's** will be available for pick-up from the Central Administration Office, 300 Elgin St. East beginning the week of **February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. T4's not picked up will be mailed February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007. **Please note:** If your address has changed and we were not informed of your new address, it would be advisable to pick up your T4, otherwise it will be mailed as such.

### Christmas 2006!



# Community Living For Everyone!



There is an ancient belief that not understanding the mistakes of the past leads to reliving them in the future. Perhaps this is good advice as the last three large institutions for people with disabilities in our province are finally closing. As quickly as we say “never again” it seems an alarming number of individuals are ending up in institutional settings, this time in long term care facilities. Some people are even moving directly from the institution to a nursing home. But those leaving institutions are not the only ones at risk. There are 2 recent cases in Huron County of young adults just out of high school moving into nursing homes because their support needs were not met in the community. Recent statistics from the Ministry of Health show that in our southwest LHIN (Local Health Integration Network), an area that stretches from Elgin County in the south to Grey in the north, there are 399 people under the age of 65 living in nursing homes. To bring this a little closer to home, statistics I just received from the Ministry of Health show that in Perth County the total number of people under 65 is 25 and in Huron County the number is 33. Within the province that number stands at 4,127 people and it seems to be increasing. Recently the Ministry of Community and Social Services developed a protocol that would make it easier to work with the Ministry of Health on creating better access for people with disabilities (especially those leaving the institutions) to enter long term care. There have been strong objections to this from Community Living Ontario and from others such as MPP Shelley Martel, NDP Critic for Health and Long Term Care. In part frustrations are rising with the

[communitylivingontario.ca](http://communitylivingontario.ca)

and also the

I.F.C.O.'s site [individualizedfunding.ca](http://individualizedfunding.ca)

prospect of funding moving from non-profit agencies to for-profit facilities to develop services that already exist in the community. The Ministry is claiming that this is not their intention. We should be asking ourselves “why is this happening?” Why now at a time when more than ever we understand that every person needs to belong as a citizen with choices and risks and opportunities to grow daily. In an article in the Individualized Funding Coalition of Ontario’s newsletter, Tim Kinney suggests that “a zero entry policy into nursing homes for people under 65 must be implemented immediately.” He also suggests that what is needed is greater access to funding for supportive housing and attendant care services because many people simply need more assistance with daily living needs such as dressing, meal preparation and getting out and about. We should also be thinking about how to move people out of long term care facilities that are there now. If you are interested in this issue watch for the latest news as it is posted on Community Living Ontario’s website.

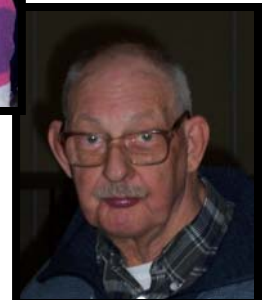
Jennifer Leslie

Hmmm....

Think you've been with the Association a long time? Well, not to worry, you can now stay even longer! Ontario workers can now decide when to retire as the end of mandatory retirement took effect on December 12, 2006.

Ontario currently has 1.5 million seniors. By 2031, estimates put that number at 3.7 million. Approximately 100,000 people reach 65 every year, some have estimated as many as 4,000 would continue to work if given the choice.

## Community Living Christmas Dinner 2006



## Book Review by Marion Fox

### OUR PRESENCE HAS ROOTS The Ongoing Story of Deohaeko Support Network By Janet Klees

Deohaeko is a support network in Durham Region developed by families of great vision in order to provide the best possible support to their developmentally handicapped sons & daughters. They developed the Rougemount co-operative, a housing community in Pickering, where they live together with others who represent a typical cross section of people in their city. They have intentionally built a community where everyone is included. Support and funding are individualized for each person. Support workers support only one person in the community. They are never recruited from members of Rougemount as that would detract from the essence of the community and mutual neighbourhood support. They offer support as friends and neighbours, not as paid workers. What struck me most about Deohaeko is the absolute unwavering commitment to ensuring that their sons and daughters are full and active members of their community. They do not settle for activities that fill time and are interesting. They look to see what other people of the same age and gender and interests might be doing, where they would go, what highly valued roles they might hold, how they might contribute to their community. They absolutely do not accept segregated activities. As I read I kept stopping & rereading parts of the book, thinking about how they applied to people I support. It made for a very slow read but a very thought provoking one. I highly recommend it for all support workers and anyone interested in the provision of supports for people.

### *Community Living*

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*Become a Member of  
Community Living  
St. Marys and Area!*

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome!

Leave them for Tracy Brant at JPC

Did you know....

On December 31st, 2005,  
we had 65 employees...

On December 31st, 2007,  
we had 83 employees!

## Bargain Corner

1) men's 3/4 length brown leather coat. i think it's a large. removable liner.

only worn 1 winter. asking \$125.

2) baby tub with a sponge insert and "bath ease" to help when bathing a newborn. asking \$5 for all three items.

3) My BreastFriend nursing pillow, blue in colour. never used. these sell for \$60 at marley and me. asking \$20.

5) bag of maternity clothes. 4 shirts, 1 jean, 1 dress, 1 capri pant. size

med. -lrg. nothing fancy but all in good shape. asking \$10 for all items.

6) big box of boys baby clothing, blankets, and receiving blankets. size 3 month to about 12 month. asking \$15 for everything. these items have been loved by a couple of babies, but all they do is barf and poop on everything anyway!!

7) VHS movies, \$2 each or take them all for \$12. everything should work, we're just trying to get rid of some of the zillion movies we have. Fun and Fancy Free, Stuart Little, Cinderella, The Secret Garden, Watership Down, The Brave Little Toaster, The Tangerine Bear & The Country Bears.

8) 3 pairs of women's jeans and 1 pair of gray pants. all brand names and gently worn. waist size will be about 29. asking \$7 per pair or \$20 for all 4 items. **Call Cathy at 519-229-6431**

## Exciting Opportunity for Learning Planning and Facilitation skills in Perth County!

Since 2004 a network of facilitators has been meeting in Perth County. The purpose has been to share new ideas, support each other in our work and to develop training and resources. Recently facilitators from Huron County have joined our group.

When the Ministry of Community and Social Services released its policy paper, "Opportunities and Action" our group took great interest. Planning and independent planning are key components of this document. What role could we take in moving this forward?

At our last meeting there was a lot of discussion about the need for training in planning and particularly facilitation. Although there are a number of facilitators in our

counties, there are wide variations in how we work on behalf of people and their families. This is especially true because most of us work for agencies and our work is often directed by the agency instead of the person we are working for. We decided that we need a strong, value based training curriculum and we asked for Facilitation Leadership Group to develop that for us. As well we will apply to the Ministry for some financial assistance to get this started in the spring.

Watch for details, we encourage people, their families and any interested support staff to consider participating. We need skilled facilitators to help people and their families develop a strong voice!