

Newslink

Attention: New On-Call Phone Number

Our pager is not working. It has been replaced with an On-Call Cell Phone. To reach the On-Call staff, call **519-949-1404**. If the On-Call person is not immediately available, please leave a message including your name, phone number, time of the call and any necessary details. Your call will be returned.



How to reach our office:
519-284-1400 ext.

Marg Mc	225
Nancy M.	221
Vickie L.	241
Tina R.	245
Jennifer L.	228
Kim M.	222
Marilyn H.	227
Marg A	242
Brenda K.	224
Linda M.	243
Jenn C.	232
Angie G.	234
Don D.	223

Employee Relations Committee

Ruth L.	284-2388
Michelle R.	284-0543
Tamie C.	284-0930

Hurononia Class Action Suit

Former residents of Huronia Regional Centre are taking the government to court alleging they experienced emotional, physical and psychological abuse and trauma in the facility. It was just one year ago in March 2009 that we were celebrating the closure of this government owned and operated facility for people labeled with an intellectual disability.

Hurononia and other similar institutions were opened with the intention to provide a safe home for people with disabilities. Former residents are telling a very different story. Joe Lambert, Board member and former Huronia

resident, has personal experience and he will be sharing his story with others. Joe believes the government should be held accountable for their actions. In our next newsletter Joe has agreed to share some of his experiences with us. He will also tell us how his life has improved since leaving Huronia.

If you are interested in learning about this class action suit, please visit <http://www.kmlaw.ca/Case-Central/Overview/?rid=99> or call Marg McLean.

Urgent Notice

The lawyers representing the plaintiffs need to hear from or about people known to you who have personal knowledge of conditions in Huronia before 1961 and after 1979.

Let's Go Green....

Please help us as we do our part to help the environment. We would like to offer everyone to sign up for an email newsletter. If you would like to receive your quarterly newsletter via email this would greatly



lesson our carbon footprint. This in turn helps keep our forests and the air we breathe healthier. We also offer the newsletter (along with back issues) available to read on our website.



To sign up to receive your copy by email please contact Tina at

519-284-1400 ext. 245

Or let us know us through our website by filling out a "contact form".

www.communitylivingstmarys.ca



We are all gifted!

On April 21st over 100 people gathered at the St. Marys United Church to hear this inspirational message from Bruce Anderson. Bruce travelled all the way from Vashon

26 people to learn about his interview process that helps people explore what their core gift is. It involves a series of 18 questions that are reflective but not intrusive. Bruce has worked with vulnerable people across the US including young people who are part of gangs, people with disabilities and those who are homeless. He urged us to think about what it means to belong and how important it is for our communities to identify and make use of everyone's contributions.

A group has already been working on using core gifts in our community for almost two years. It was at that time that Marilyn Haywood went to a similar training event about core gifts and came back very excited. Quite a number of people have had the interview done and there is even a gifts club for people who want to explore how to use their gifts together. If you are interested in finding out more about having a core gift interview contact Marilyn, Jennifer or Kim at 284-1400.

If you are interested in learning more take a look at www.communityactivators.com

Washington to tell stories about his work helping people discover their gifts and find ways to give it in their community. On the following two days, April 22 and 23, Bruce led a smaller group of

Coming Events for Community Living

Watch for Fire Extinguisher Training with Chief Brownlee. Dates to be announced.



David Pitonyak will be speaking on October 14/15th, 2010. 9a.m to 4p.m.

DAY ONE: Beyond behaviors, supporting competence, confidence and well-being.

DAY TWO: Toolbox for change: Reclaiming joy, purpose and commitment in the helping profession.

To register contact Tina at: tritu@execulink.com

Social Committee will be hosting a hot dog day for the staff of Community Living. It will be held at JPC on May 28th, 2010 from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. Free draws, free food and fun for all. RSVP to this event and have your name entered into a draw.

RSVP by May 24th. to Tina at 519-284-1400 Ext. 245



Annual General Meeting Monday June 24th, 2010
Pyramid Community Centre
Social : 5:45 p.m.
Dinner : 6:00 p.m.
Meeting and Guest Speaker to follow dinner.

General Staff Meeting and Storytelling



Friday June 4th, 2010 at the St. Marys United Church

11am - 11:45am - General Staff Meeting (all staff welcome)

12noon - Light lunch (Community members are invited for lunch and storytelling)

12:30pm - 1:30pm - Storyteller Jim May will

entertain us with stories of small town rural life and heart-warming memories of family and home.

Everyone welcome for lunch and performance!

Who says men in dresses can't raise money?



Al Slater and Rhonda Aubie enjoying the evening.

About 100 people beat the February blahs with entertainment from the Royal Sovereign Ducal Court of London Southwestern Ontario. A group of 15 entertainers performed at the St. Marys Legion to raise money for Community

Living St. Marys and Area. Not only was \$750 raised but people left with smiles on their faces and sore stomachs

from laughing. The female impersonators, drag queens, drag kings and other folks performed various hits from the '50s and '60s.

We want to thank Suzanne, Roxann, Mieke and all the performers and supporters for making this fun night possible!



Welcome.. Don Dingwall!

Don may be new in his role as the Community Resource Coordinator but did you know that he worked for Community Living St. Marys as a support worker in the late 1990s? After that he worked in employment and youth services before becoming a respite coordinator with Family Supports through VON London Middlesex.

Don is taking over for Marilyn Haywood who is retiring at the end of June. The Community Resource Coordinator role is changing a bit. Don will continue to support people who are interested in sharing a home and life with someone else. Right now there are 10 people who are involved in an associate living situation either part-

time or full-time. Don will now also act as a resource to people and their families who want to hire self-employed workers with their funding. This has happened in the past when families have approached us with Passport or Foundations funding and now the Ministry of Community and Social Services has outlined the option of direct funding in its transformation of services.

*Perth Wellington NDP
Garage Sale Sat May
15th 8am-noon
Stratford and District
Labour Centre 182
King Street . Lots of
bargains!!*

From Central Admin.

Part-time Vacation Pay: Part-time vacation will be paid out on the last pay day in May (19th). This is not a mandatory payout. However, you must notify Central Admin if you do not want your vacation pay at this time

Reminder: Due to the pri-

vacy laws and to protect the employee's information, the Central Admin Office does not give out phone numbers (including cell) or addresses to anyone.

If you are aware that your place of employment may be contacted for release and/or

confirmation of personal information - you are required to fill out a "Consent to Share Information" form which you can now download from our website - www.communitylivingstmarys.ca (click on downloads) or pick up one at the Central Admin office. "Consent to Share Information" form is still required.

*Payable cheques
and Pay stubs :
Pick up at Central
Admin.
The Central Admin.
Staff wishes
everyone a safe and
fun summer.*

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Phone - 519-284-1400
Fax - 519-284-3120



Providing support to people with
a developmental disability

[www.communityliving
stmarys.ca](http://www.communitylivingstmarys.ca)

Connie...back from England

Hi, everyone I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome home I've received from everyone. I had an amazing time teaching, traveling and just being with friends. I met many people from different nations, but it was kind of funny that most of my friends were Canadian, even though I lived at the IHOP . international house of people! I lived with Ceri from Scotland and Craig from New Zealand.

Schools there were quite different, and I was able to teach everything from kindergarten to grade 12. The majority of the students were well behaved and really funny. The schools were welcoming and I had a great time even though at the beginning it was a different school every day. After January, I was mainly at the same two schools 3 days and 2 at the other.

My favourite city was Edinburgh, and that's not because of Ian Rankin's books, which I love, it's because it was a beautiful city! My Scottish flat-mate told me that I would love Scotland because it's so much like Canada. Well I have to admit, I felt like I was at home, and if I could have taught there, I would have moved. While there: I toured the castle, walked the Royal Mile, had a drink at Rebusbar and saw Grey Friars. I didn't have enough time to climb up Arthur's seat but that was probably a good thing because it looked a lot bigger than I imagined!

My next favourite place was Lock Ness and Urquhart Castle. I didn't find Nessie but I'm sure she's there. The castle was fun to explore, it was blown up in 1692, and you could walk around the ruin. They let people get

married there and I would suggest anyone who wants to get married in a different location to do it there.

My favourite part of London the different musicals you can go to. Many shows start there then move over to New York, so the productions were amazing. My favourite show was *Wicked*, I think because the story spoke to me, and that's not because I'm the Wicked Witch of the West, but because she was fighting to protect people that couldn't protect themselves. I would suggest anyone to travel there and even just spend a week it was such an amazing time.

Connie Seaton

CHECK OUT PARENTS IN PERTH!!!!

Parents in Perth is a network for families and those who care about people with disabilities. It is just over a year old and in the midst of planning some new and exciting events to connect families in our area. You can follow Parents in Perth on the facebook fan page <http://bit.ly/ParentsInPerth> and connect with facilitator Teresa DeJong by calling (519)527-0202 or e-mailing hcf@tcc.on.ca

