

May 2011 Issue

Check us out!!
We created a booklet about our association so that we could share our stories and information that people may find interesting and useful. It took a number of months to write. We would like to say a very special thank you to Barb Leavitt for helping us with this important project. A big thank you to our committee: Laura Cannon, Vickie Logan, Kim Monden, Marg McLean.
Copies are available at JPC.



The Guest Speaker at our AGM this year is Peter Park.

Peter is the Founder of People First and has inspired many throughout the years.

**AGM
June 20th. 2011**

Newslink

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



Some 45 members of various People First local chapters and Self Advocates of North Perth gathered in St. Marys at the end of April for a day retreat called Planning Together: Belonging Together. It was facilitated by Kory Earle, President of People First of Ontario, Barb Fowke, Past President of People First of Ontario and Richard Rushton, President of People First Canada.

The day was full of activities and conversations about planning and its role in our lives. People shared stories and talked about their

People First Planning Retreat

dreams for today and in the future. One person said they want to play in a band. The question was what steps does the person need to take to get in a band!

We talked about the different kinds of planning we do to help us move forward in our lives.

Special thanks to Susannah Joyce of Realizations and Joe Lambert of People First of St. Marys/Stratford.

It was a great day had by all!

Great Day by Everyone! Thanks Kory Earle



Accessibility Committee



My name is Laura. I am a member of the Town of St. Marys Accessibility Committee. I want to

improve accessibility in St. Marys. I hope someday I will be able to swim at the Pyramid Centre. There are many accessibility standards in Ontario. These include; Accessible Customer Service, Accessible Employment, Accessible Transportation, Accessible Information and Communication and Accessible Built Environments. For more information about accessibility in Ontario check out <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/accessibility/index.aspx>

...from Central Administration



Are those glasses covered by our vision plan Don?



Emily and Sherri join in on the fun. Domain 4 Group B did a fabulous job of showing us how to have fun and have a productive General Staff meeting.

WANTED!

Reminder..Due to privacy 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 the release and/or confirmation of personal information you are required to fill out a "Consent to Share Information" form which you can download from our website www.communitylivingstmarys.ca (click downloads). Ensure that Central Admin

receives the filled out form. You can request a letter with the relevant information but a "Consent to Share Information" form is still required.

Vision Coverage (full-time staff): As a reminder eye exams are covered every two years as well as \$200 toward glasses/contacts every two years. In order to be reimbursed for this expense you must provide Central Admin with an itemized bill from your optometrist. An itemized bill identifies the expenses separately

— eye exam, glasses/contacts, Fundus Photo Test. Please note that the Fundus Photo Test is not covered. This test is in addition to a regular eye exam and is at your discretion.

Trillium Project. needs people to get involved!

A new and exciting two year Trillium project has begun in Perth County! It will help people with disabilities and their families to get stronger through mutual support and learning. The model for the project will be gathering small groups of people around a shared interest or issue that they want to explore together. There will be money available to support this in whatever ways are needed; hiring a facilitator, bringing in people from different areas who have experience to share, getting expert advice etc. This project will be a boost to the new family group, Parents in Perth and also People First St. Marys/Stratford and the Self Advocates of North Perth. Please pass on this information to anyone who may be interested in finding out more information or getting involved in a learning group. They should contact Charlotte Dingwall at Facile (519)271-6565.

From....Domain 4 Group C

Fellow Employees to take part in the first ever "**COMMUNITY LIVING CHALLENGE**"! A summer morning of old fashion fun and team building competing in a **variety of fun tasks and events!** **MARK THE DATE: Saturday, JUNE 11TH, 2011 @ 10:30 A.M.** at the Lions Park St. Marys. Awards and BBQ to follow! Bring along your family, friends, pets, etc. to cheer you on! **Sign up by MAY 27TH** by calling Nancy @519-284-1424 ext. 221 or Email nmarriott@execulink.com

You will be notified of your Team# and Colour!

Laughter guaranteed!



.....from Domain 3

Our focus is the physical welcoming of the office building and creating an initial atmosphere that makes people comfortable. We were able to



easily transform the front entry area by theme decorating for Christmas, Valentines & St. Patrick's Day and Easter but that is only the surface of the work we have undertaken.

We will be tackling the gardens at the James Purdue Centre (JPC) starting in May. Our goal is to transform the area into a lower maintenance, more appealing landscape that will turn heads.



We believe it is important to honour the gifts we bring to the organization and the world. They will be displayed in the JPC hallway, identified by first name and last initial. Anyone who has had a core gift statement done is encouraged to drop it into JPC at 300 Elgin St. East, St. Marys or forward it via email to vlogan@execulink.com or edavidson@wightman.ca

Everyone DIGS in...



Core Gifts

We are all gifted but exploring what we bring to the world and where those gifts are needed can take us a lifetime. Bruce Anderson from Vashon Washington in the United States has taught us a lot about this and he was back in St. Marys on May 11 for another training on core gifts. Many of the 40 people attending were also at the first training just over a year ago. We came back to learn more about the interview tool he created to help people explore what their core gift is. There were

lots of questions and time to practice and hear stories from Bruce. Nine people from across our association were part of the group and are willing to offer the interview to anyone who is interested. It is a series of 19 questions that are reflective but not intrusive and takes about an hour to do. Knowing your core gift is interesting but also has very practical implications for every aspect of your life. If you want to hear more about this exciting experience contact Jennifer or Stephanie at (519)284-1400.

Where your gifts and a need in the world cross, therein lies your purpose"
Monique

Temple Grandin... Wow what a night!

Anticipation and enthusiasm about this event was seen all around our community. The tickets sold out in record time, phone calls and emails flooded in requesting more tickets.

With 800+ people in the crowd you could have heard a pin drop.

The evening was full of inspirational stories from local people, their families and our guest speaker Temple Grandin. Each of the presenters experience some form of autism on the spectrum. The Master of Ceremonies was a young man, Brandon Reynolds. He charmed the large crowd with his sense of humour and talent for public

speaking. A musical presentation was performed by the mother daughter duo of KiSara (Kim Souch and Sara Sobey). Audience members could be seen mouthing along with Sara's vocals of "What a Wonderful World". Dylan Thomas spoke to the enthusiastic crowd about his life as a University of Waterloo student. Grace Culliton's life and gift for art was showcased in a moving video entitled "Brushes with Grace".

Temple Grandin's straight forward and practical approach to life, while experiencing Autism, gave a refreshing reminder to all that although autism cannot be 'cured' it can be better understood.

Temple could be seen in the lobby after her

presentation signing books and having pictures taken with excited fans. When she wasn't signing books she got up and talked with the crowd, often answering their personal questions.

It was an absolute privilege to be part of the dynamic group who organized this event. Our organizing committee was represented by leaders from Autism Ontario, family members and people from agencies. I was proud to represent Community Living St.Marys and Area on the Organizing Committee. ~Stephanie



COMMUNITY LIVING

St. Marys & Area



How to reach our office:

519-284-1400 ext.

Marg McLean.....	225
Jennifer L.....	228
Kim M.	222
Nancy M.	221
Vickie L.....	241
Marg A	242
Brenda K.	224
Linda M.	243
Angie G.	234
Don D.....	223
Laura C.....	232
Connie S.	305
Stephanie L.....	226
Candace O.....	245

Employee Relations Committee

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

RE:ACTION 4 INCLUSION CONFERENCE

Sarah, William, Hayden and Hannah would like to thank Community Living for making it possible for us to attend the Re:Action4Inclusion Conference. The conference was held in Orillia, from March 25-27. We would also like to thank Connie Seaton from Community Living and Rebecca Fletcher from St. Marys DCVI for being our chaperones. We had an amazing time meeting new friends and seeing inspirational speakers such as Norman Kunc, who has taught us how to do a prison break! Rebecca and her friend, that taught us even though a person is not verbal they are still valuable. Brittia, from Me to We, who showed us through storytelling we are all the same, and we all have ups and downs. We also learned about group building from the YMCA staff, by having to create a bridge in a fun way.



It was an exciting learning opportunity that taught us the power of inclusion. This weekend has lead to a group being created within our school to work on inclusion, we have also joined the Perth County Youth 4 Inclusion. Thank you Community Living for this weekend. It is something we will remember forever.

Welcoming

From...Domain 4 Group A

We would like your response to the following question:

When would you like the Christmas party to be?

- In late November or early December?
- Weekday lunch?
- Weekday supper?
- Weekend lunch?
- Friday or Saturday evening with a dance following?
- Friday or Saturday evening without a dance following?

Please respond by emailing Connie Seaton at connie349@hotmail.com or 519-284-1400 ext 305. Thank your for your response.

From...Domain 4 Group C

Happy Birthday to all employees during...April, May, June and July!

APRIL

1 st	Ruth Lamond
6 th	Carrie Bailey
13 th	Chet Greason
16 th	Chris Bibby
21 st	Tamie Coward
21 st	Cathy VanOosterhout

MAY

3 rd	Jackie Haycock
6 th	Peter Morgan
6 th	Carol Ackersviller
7 th	Heather Armstrong
13 th	Jen Leslie
17 th	Candace O'Hearn
18 th	Dan Millar

JUNE

5 th	Rhonda Aubie
6 th	Sharla Johnstn
12 th	Rene Tigani-Beardon

11 th	Stephanie Lee
15 th	Nancy Marriott
16 th	Jenny Carter
17 th	Helen Youlton
30 th	Jeromy Lee

JULY

7 th	Christine Sharp
17 th	Kelly Armstrong
18 th	Maureen Flanagan
20 th	Jane Bean
26 th	Elizabeth Davidson
29 th	Elaine Primeau
30 th	Brenda Daykin

