

Community Living Kirkland Lake

Community Living Month

2010

Another successful Community Living Month has come and gone. Once again, we had a plethora of activities to help celebrate achievements and to raise community awareness.

In this newsletter you will find report for the following Community Living Month activities;

- Presentation to Town Council
- Heart & Stroke Big Bike
- Volunteer Appreciation Week
- Town Hall Flag Raising
- Salvation Army Food Bank Donation
- Library/Book Donation
- Meet the MPP
- CLKL Community Awareness Day

A great big thank you is extended to all that participated or supported these activities.

Town Council presentation

On **April 20/10** *Sherry Shelp*, representing Community Living Kirkland Lake, made the following presentation to Town Council;

Hi my name is Sherry Shelp,

I'm here representing Community Living Kirkland Lake.

We are asking that council declare the month of May 2010: **Community Living Month** in Kirkland Lake.

I'm also asking permission to fly our new Community Living Flag at Town Hall and in the downtown core during the month of May.

We are also pleased to announce that Community Living Kirkland Lake has undertaken the first steps towards becoming "Accredited".

Accreditation is a process which certifies that our organization meets industry best practice standards. This review will ensure that we continue to provide quality services in a way that are effective and efficient. In the future, we will be inviting stakeholders to become involved in the process.

We hope to complete all the steps needed to become accredited in time for our 65th Anniversary which we will celebrate in June 2012.

In closing, we invite the citizens of Kirkland Lake to come out and celebrate with us during the month of May. A schedule of events will be made public as soon as we finalize details.



On **May 5th 2010**, Community Living Kirkland Lake joined force with two of its many community partners and took part in the 2010 Heart & Stroke Big Bike event .

Seen in the picture:

Ron Lalonde, Mike Brown, Bobby Drury & Dennis Perrault joined the Extendicare group and the Beaverhouse First Nation Group. As a CL group we raised close to \$750.00 for the cause.



Town Hall Flag Raising 2010

On **May 4th, 2010**, *KL4 Seasons Yard Care* assisted Mayor Enouy to raise the new Community Living Kirkland Lake flag at Town Hall. The flag flew proudly throughout the month of May. Seen in the picture is left to right: Victor Brown, Joann Ducharme (Town Clerk), Mayor Enouy, Dick Bowes, Mike Brown and Joe Balanzin.



Salvation Army Food Bank Donation

During our 3rd annual Basketball Challenge, several bags of non-perishable food items were collected for the local food bank.

Cst Sandro Cave (KLO.P.P), Michelle & Caitlin (Katimavik) and Dennis were happy to make the food donation on behalf of Community Living Kirkland Lake to Capt. Anne Marie Dagnenais (Salvation Army).



Book Donation

Representing Community Living Kirkland Lake, Shelbie Fox is seen here donating a book entitled "Sarah's Socks" to Jamie Cowie from the Teck Centennial Library. May is Community Living Month in Ontario and with the help of dedicated community partners such as the local library Community Living Kirkland Lake is able to raise awareness in regards to the support and services available in the community for families and individuals with intellectual disabilities. Community Living Kirkland Lake is proud to have served this community for over 63 years.



Volunteer Appreciation

Welcome. In honour of volunteer appreciation week, we are gathered here today to say a big collective "THANK YOU" to all our volunteers. We celebrate the actions of 87 volunteers that serve our agency. These 87 people have accumulated a total of 3,143 hours and added to that number, are the many hours donated by the 10 member Board of Directors.

A quote from Sherry Anderson states that "Volunteers do not get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless". In our organization, our volunteers fill many voids, Esther and her merry band of volunteers can be seen around town or individually enhancing the lives of the people we serve. Leo Buscaglia says, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." How much more do these mean to our people. True friendships have been developed.

Every single hour, every single action done by you, our volunteers; are much appreciated. We must make special mention of the Katimavik group we have had the honour of hosting for the last three years. We have had several groups of energetic young people from all over Canada. Last years stats state that they have dedicated 1414 hours. This is their last group with us. They will be missed.

This year, we, as an organization, are embarking on the process of becoming accredited – our vision statement says we support the individuals we serve to become fully involved and accepted by the community. Would anyone of us accept anything less for members of our families? With the help of our faithful volunteers, things are happening, but sadly we still have a way to go.

It has been stated "Never underestimate the work done by volunteers." Noah's Ark was built by volunteers, the Titanic by professionals and we, here at Community Living Kirkland Lake, have a group of Ark builders, and we salute you for that. Thank you from us all. We are celebrating people of action, in action and we are so pleased to have you as a part of our team.

Annice Tilley, Board President
May 21, 2010



Mr. Ramsay's visit

On May 28th, 2010, our local M.P.P., Mr. David Ramsay, dropped by to visit Community Living Kirkland Lake. He visited the Community Living Skills site and the Station Road Residence. Pictures (L-R): 1-Mr. Ramsay and the CLS group after his visit. 2- Mr. Ramsay met with Robert Mongeon to discuss current issues affecting him.

Mr. Ramsay was very impressed with our association and thanked us for the work we do. Mr Ramsay seemed to be very current regarding our most pressing issues. (see back page)

Community Living Kirkland Lake Awareness Day

Thank you Kirkland Lake!

On May 28th, CLKL hosted a CLKL Awareness Day/BBQ. The purpose of this event was to thank the community for the ongoing support it has shown us this year. A great big thank you is extended to Esther (Volunteer Service), Michelle and Caitlin (Katimavik), Gloria (VAP), Shelby Fox (student), Amanda Gardiner (student) and Star (STEP) for making this happen. Balloons along with invitations were delivered to over 50 businesses in town.



As part of Community Living Ontario, ongoing province wide awareness campaign the following letter was sent to the Northern News for publication. Unfortunately, it was not published.

May 3, 2010

Celebrating Milestones While Recognizing Critical Challenges Ahead in 'Social Inclusion' Journey

Kirkland Lake, ON – May is Community Living Month in Ontario, and while it's important to do so at any time of year, this month motivates Ontarians to reflect on the valued presence and contributions of people who have an intellectual disability in communities, and the work of Community Living in making this province a more progressive, inclusive, and welcoming place to be for all people. This May, Community Living advocates also acknowledge the critical challenges and work ahead to ensure people have equal rights and opportunities as their fellow citizens, and that people continue to have the supports they need to be included and live well in the community.

"We certainly have reasons to celebrate this month," says Dennis Perrault, the local spokesperson for Community Living Kirkland Lake. "Just over a year ago, Ontario completed a giant step in the direction of inclusion with the closures of the last three large, government-run institutions for people who have an intellectual disability. People are now successfully living and participating in Ontario communities; and Canada's recent ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is another significant achievement for people in the journey towards enjoying full human rights and social inclusion."

Community Living's work began in Kirkland Lake over 63 years ago when families and concerned citizens rejected the idea of institutionalization for their loved ones who had an intellectual disability, and came together to create community alternatives. Today, people are supported in the community by their family members, friends, and support agencies including 117 local Community Living associations across the province. Still, there have always been challenges along the way and this is evident today. In a time of significant financial pressure, the Ontario government has frozen some funding and has even withdrawn funds that had been promised and committed to provision of supports for people. These actions are making worse the difficult situations that many individuals and families experience, say Community Living advocates.

"The reality is that there are still critical challenges and pressures facing the developmental services sector – while many people are living well in the community, there are still as many as 12,000 and more on waiting lists, and aging parents who are worried about who will support their loved ones after they die."

"Most people desire and pursue the basic fundamentals that help us all live a good life. Among several things, this includes living safely with our loved ones and friends in a community of our choosing, pursuing an education, earning a decent living for ourselves through employment, and belonging and contributing as valued citizens in our communities. Despite all we've accomplished as a society, there is more work to be done to ensure that a disability will not prevent more people from pursuing these things."

Despite financial constraints and existing barriers that people still face in their daily lives, Community Living will nevertheless press forward with its work of creating welcoming and *supportive communities*, and *working with government to ensure that it remains accountable and responsive to the significant needs of individuals and families*," adds Dennis Perrault.