



# DREAM WEAVERS

Community Living Burlington Advocacy Newsletter



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## INTRODUCING:



Stacey Decyk –  
Editor-in-Chief

*DREAM WEAVERS....is self-advocacy. It is knowing your rights and speaking up for yourself to get what you need or want to make a difference in your life.*

*-Definition from the Dream Weavers*



Gary  
Chenevard –  
Columnist

## A Note from the Editor

Hello. How's it going? Gee, that's super. This is Stacey Decyk, Editor-in-Chief of our first newsletter for the Dream Weavers. The whole group decided to make a newsletter because we wanted to show people in the community that we are no different than them. Here are some articles that are important to us. I hope you enjoy them!

*- Submitted by Stacey Decyk, Editor-in-Chief*



Jeff Hopkins –  
Reporter



Crystal Logan–  
Columnist

## Gary's Lifestyle Corner



Nicole Stefaniuk –  
Reporter



During my years with Community Living Burlington, I have met a lot of people who face a lot of different challenges but everyone here is always very friendly. They have a lot to give and make you feel welcome and like you are part of the family. People will always say hello to you and ask you how you are doing.

I noticed when I started here that people weren't sure how working with the association would be, but you learned in a short time how to do your job and how to do it well. There are many different jobs for different kinds of people. For example, people who work in shops do a valuable job. Sometimes after doing a good job and working hard they are rewarded (such as a gift from the company they are working for).



Scott Hedelius –  
Reporter

As for improving the organization, why would you change something that is so uniquely perfect as this is? I think it's a good thing now and wouldn't change anything at all at this time. Leave it be. One thing that I wouldn't like to change is my current job. It has been there in good and bad times in my life. To do something which I enjoy doing means so much to me. I have even told people in our community of how well it



Jodi Kaczur –  
Assistant Editor



Lisa Turner –  
Facilitator

is run. We have a number of great people working here.

On a personal note my story is like this: I am a 47-year-old who enjoys what I do. My goals in life have already been met: I have a great girlfriend (who has a “heart of gold”), a wonderful mom, a wonderful place to live with people that I get along with and a great job. It is a joy to be someone who I want to be. I wouldn’t change that for anything at all.

- Submitted by Gary Chenevard, Lifestyle Columnist

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## Jeff’s Questions and Answers Corner



Today I am interviewing Scott Hedelius.

**Jeff – Why are you an advocate or why did you want to become an advocate?**

**S** – Development, having people learn more about people with special needs and their rights.

**J – What do you hope to achieve with advocacy?**

**S** – I hope to find out more about people’s rights with disabilities.

**J – Where do you see our group a year from now?**

**S** – In 2010 keep the meetings and go to different conferences in Ontario. Continue to learn more about our rights. I would like to see more funding for advocacy and our newsletter.

**J – What issues concern you the most?**

**S** – Paying too much money



**Scott Hedelius**

for taxes. We need better tax breaks and more ODSP support.

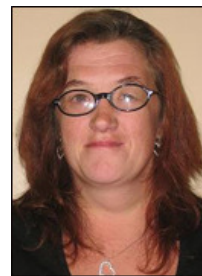
**J – What kind of person should be an advocate?**

**S** – People with special needs and people that want to fight for people’s individual rights.

-Submitted by Jeff Hopkins, Q and A’s Corner Reporter

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## Getting to Know Us



Developmental disability is....

The three most common developmental disabilities are Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome. Mental, physical and/or developmental disabilities are used to describe life-long impairments. Learning disability, intellectual disability and mental disabilities are a few of the terms used to describe developmental disabilities. Symptoms usually show up before the age of eighteen such as having trouble reading, writing, and learning slower than the rest of their peers in school according to the Developmental Disabilities Association. There are also many social, environmental and physical causes of developmental disabilities even though some causes may never be determined.

Some common factors are:

- brain injury or infection before, during or after birth
- growth or nutrition problems
- abnormalities of chromosomes (one of the structures within a cell, each consisting of a single strand of DNA and genes)
- babies born before expected date
- poor diets and health care of expecting mother

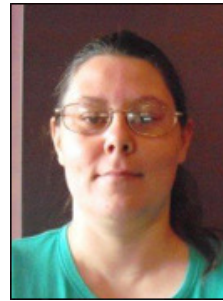
- drug misuse can also have a serious effect on the development of a child, especially the social-emotional development

Developmental disabilities affect between 1% and 2% of the population in most western countries. Approximately 14% of the world's population is believed to have some sort of developmental disability. Developmental disabilities are twice as common in males than females. Researchers found that disabilities are likely to be higher in areas of poverty and deprivation, says Wikipedia, the Free Web Encyclopedia. Throughout history, people with developmental disabilities have been viewed as incapable and incompetent in their daily decision-making and development. In the 1950's little was developed in the way of special education for those with a disability because it wasn't mandatory to provide service by the public school. Children recognized as having a severe disability such as a deformity at birth were assumed to be severely disabled. Medical standards at the time were to help families to decide to place their baby in an institution, to forget about the baby as much as possible and to get on with their lives and have another baby. Nowadays, professionals recommend special education while the child stays at home and special education in school rather than institutionalization as soon as the developmental disorder is diagnosed, as said in "What About Me" by Siegel Silverstein. There are a lot of programs out there today for people with special needs. A few of the programs are HATCH - Halton Access to Community Housing, Community Living, Ontario Special Olympics (sports for people with special needs), Halton Support Services, ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program), Kerry's Place for Autism, People First (people with disabilities speaking up for their rights in the community).

*-Submitted by Crystal Logan, Columnist*

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## Nicole's Interview



Today I am interviewing Steven Winter for government issues.

**Nicole** – What is the goal of Group Three?

**Steven** – To get feedback from our members and pin point things that need to be

addressed in our community with regard to our rights and abilities.

**N** – What is your group doing to accomplish those goals?

**S** – To research our rights and let others know.

**N** – How else are you seeking out information?

**S** – We are bringing in an ODSP speaker to answer our questions, we meet and

discuss our research, goals, needs, and then bring them to the group.

**N** – What are you doing personally to support your group?

**S** – Going to conferences to get more information so we can make our group stronger. Attending Group Three meetings to bring needed information regarding issues that affect us to the group.



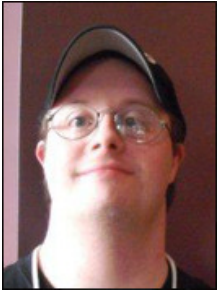
**Steven Winter**

*-Submitted by Nicole Stefaniuk, Reporter*

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## Job Interview Questions



Scott Hedelius is going to give you some common job interview questions that people don't know how to answer on the spot.

1. What experience do you have that would make you qualified for the job?
2. What do you feel are some of your strengths and weakness?
3. Can you think of a situation where you set a goal and you met it?

If you don't know what to say, ask a friend to help you. Write it down on a piece of paper. Practice by saying it over and over again until you remember. Then ask a family member to ask the questions and then you answer them.

Tips when going to an interview;

- Arrive on time
- Have good hygiene
  - Have a shower
  - Comb your hair
  - Clean you fingernails
  - Brush your teeth
- Wear clean clothes
- Shine your shoes
- Bring your resume and your references
- Smile
- Be positive

*-Submitted by Scott Hedelius, Reporter*

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## Dream Weaver's Election

On Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> we voted for Chairperson and Vice-Chairs for the Dream Weavers Advocacy Group. Congratulations to Duane Corbeil as your first Chairperson for Dream Weavers and Mike Buzit and Gary Chenevard as Vice-Chairs.

Duane Corbeil says, "I want to thank everyone who voted for me, I promise I will make the first year as Chair the best. All three of us are open for your ideas so please don't hesitate to approach us with concerns or new and innovative ideas."



Left to right: Vice-Chair, Mike Buzit; Chairperson, Duane Corbeil; Vice-Chair, Gary Chenevard.

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## Notes from the Editor

If you have any comments on the newsletter please call Community Living Burlington at 905-336-2225 ext. 429 and leave a message.

We hope to publish 4 newsletters a year.

*-Submitted by Stacey Decyk,  
Editor-in-Chief*

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