



Sharing Our Abilities

A Member of the United Way

Community Living Burlington

Volume 4 issue 1

From the Board of Directors submitted by Joe Nemet

With all the snow and the cold temperatures, it is difficult to remember that warmth and sunshine are just around the corner. Just hang in there!!!!

The Board has continued to work on the Strategic Plan. Group C is very pleased with the responses they have received (57 to date) to a survey sent out to persons who access our services or may access them in the future. One of the purposes of the survey is to identify the types of services that will be needed and to evaluate programs to meet those needs. Thanks to all those who responded. If you have not responded please get them in as soon as you can.

The Board from time to time receives communication from families who have a question or concern about a decision made by staff or management at Community Living concerning someone we support. Staff and management value the input from family, however, we recognize that from time to time there may still be concerns.

As a Board, we remind family members to follow the governance process that has been implemented to assist in resolving concerns. This process was first announced in 2006 in the November/December Issue of the this Newsletter. The procedure bears repeating.

A family should document their concern in writing and deliver it to the appropriate Manager. The document should set out the concern, why it is a concern and how the family would like to see it rectified.

Upon receipt of such a document, the Manager has five working days to provide a response answering the concerns raised. If the family is not satisfied with the manager's response, the family may refer it to the appropriate Director with a request to reconsider, along with a copy of all written correspondence to date. The Director will review and respond in writing within five working days.

If the family does not agree with the Director's response, they may write the Executive Director providing them with all previous correspondence and request that the entire matter be reviewed. The Executive Director will respond in writing within five business days.

If the Executive Director cannot resolve the concern, the matter may be referred to the Board of Directors. A complete package of previous correspondence should be directed to the Board Chair at the main office on Mainway. The Board Chair will ensure that the process outlined has been followed and then refer it to the Board of Directors to be considered at the next scheduled meeting.

The Board will review the information to ensure that the process outlined above has been followed and determine if the decisions made, or actions taken, are reasonable and in accordance with policies and guidelines established by Community Living Burlington. Following this review, the Board will direct the Board Chair to communicate the decision to the family.

Lastly, attached to this newsletter you will find the 2008/2009 membership application form. Please take the time now to fill it out and submit it. In addition to being able to vote at the Annual General meeting, being a member also keeps you informed about the happenings within the CLB.

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As we enjoy many wintery days, we continue to keep busy here at CLB. I had a meeting with a family member who wanted to share some valuable information in regards to the new introduced RDSP. Please look at your newsletter for information that has been prepared by Dennis Mullins. Edward Jones has also contacted us to host a follow-up from their fall session that addressed the Henson Trust as well as the RDSP. Information about this evening is covered in the newsletter and space is limited, so if you wish to attend don't forget to register early.

Plans are also under way for many exciting new fundraising events. The various upcoming events are listed in this newsletter on page 3 and 8 and we look forward to your support and participation.

On behalf of the Agency, we would like to thank Mayor Jackson and the local service clubs for the enjoyable evening that they sponsored so that we could attend a gripping competitive hockey game between the Burlington Cougars and the Georgetown Raiders.

We are hoping that with the end of winter soon, will come many new exciting opportunities:

- Our after school respite program and Saturday program continues to grow. Presently we have 23 children and adults accessing the program, and we anticipate for this number to grow.
- Our ODSP Employment Supports Program that started in 2007 has already placed its projected 7 people in paid community jobs and we anticipate to place at least another 7 new individuals this year.
- Our Transitional Day Program has a new place to call their home on North Service Road. This new site has been generously donated to our agency through a "friend" of CLB and the people we support are thrilled in their new surroundings.
- With the DS Transformation initiative, we are hoping that there will be more expansion in the Passports funding for the Halton Region which in turn will assist our Burlington families.

Exciting times...stay tuned and keep informed as we move through 2008.

Judy Pryde

Parent Information Night

In November 2007, Community Living Burlington hosted a Parent Information Night for a representative of Edward Jones who had contacted us following meeting with a community family. The evening was well attended by 40 people who requested that another seminar be held again in the spring. Given that new information has become available in regards to the RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan), we have been contacted by the representative to host the seminar again. We have scheduled the night for Tuesday April 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Presenters that night will be Jim Sweetlove, Estate Lawyer of Ross & McBride, LLB speaking on the Henson Trust (how it can work for you) and Wilmot George, Mackenzie Financial Tax & Estate Department (The New RDSP) . **Space is limited so please RSVP by contacting Miranda at 905-336-2225 ext. 241 by March 27th.**

Fundraising efforts are in full swing for 2008 with lots of exciting events planned. Starting February 1st until February 29th we will be selling tickets for the Community Living Burlington 50/50 Lottery! Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. This will be a monthly fundraiser that will be fun for everyone to get involved.



Ann Kloppenburg has donated a beautiful painting to be raffled off starting in March. Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and a copy of the painting will be on display in the reception area at Mainway from March until the end of August. The draw for the painting will take place on Saturday October 18th at the Sunrise Gallery at 765 Beach Blvd, Hamilton.

March 7th we will be having a Comedy Night Charity Event at Club 54! Tickets are only \$10 and include entrance to the comedy show, admission to the dance party that takes place immediately after the show, complimentary snack buffet and door prizes! 100% of the tickets sales will go to Community Living Burlington. Hope to see everyone there having a great time and supporting Community Living Burlington. If purchasing tickets at the door please ensure to mention you are there to support Community Living Burlington to ensure the money is directed to us.

April 4th we are hosting our Lock Up the Boss Fundraising Event. If you know a boss or colleague with a good sense of humour who wouldn't mind being locked up for a short time period while raising funds for CLB, please contact us for a pledge form.

Again this year we will be hosting our Reverse Raffle with the assistance and support of the Burlington Civitan Club at The Holiday Inn on **April 19th**. Tickets for the Reverse Raffle are \$50.00 and include a buffet dinner, music provided by Jan's Disc Jockey and a chance to win fabulous prizes as well as the grand prize of \$1,000.

The 28th Annual Walk'n Roll will be held on **May 3rd** at Bronte Park. We are planning many of the same great activities that were so successful last year. This fun event is open to everyone in the community and will have something for everyone including your family dog!

This summer is sure to be an exciting fundraising time for Community Living Burlington. We will be hosting the 4th Annual Golf Tournament at Tyandaga Golf Course on **June 13th**. I am also thrilled to announce Community Living Burlington Day which is set to be held on **August 9th**. This event is going to be a celebration of integration and community awareness. We have already made plans to have some great bands play, including Kaleidoscope Ride and Practically Hip. Watch for more information on these great events in future newsletters.

Also this summer, Community Living Burlington will be selling Entertainment Books in the month of August. More details on this book will be available in June. The Entertainment Book is a great book of coupons for area businesses and will be available for purchase on-line and at Mainway.

We are busy getting everything organized for these fun and important fundraising events and are confident that they will be a huge success for everyone involved!

To purchase tickets to any of the exciting fundraising events or if you have any questions, ideas, or would like to help at any of our events, please don't hesitate to contact me at 905-336-2225 ext 232 or by e-mail at: conn_chrissy@clburlington.ca

I truly believe that together as a team, and with some fun new ideas we can make 2008 the most profitable fundraising year yet!



Pictured here is Glenn, receiving a congratulatory handshake from Grahame Soley, the Customer Contact Centre Manger at Cogeco Cable Inc. here in Burlington. Glenn was pleasantly surprised this past December when he learned he would officially become a Cogeco employee.



Community Living Burlington’s mission is to enrich the quality of life, development and community integration of individuals with developmental disabilities in Burlington. Employment Services is able to accomplish this mission by building partnerships within the local business community. Cogeco Cable Inc. has been providing work experience and training to individuals from CLB since 1994. Many individuals have had an opportunity to learn and develop their skills through work placements in various departments at Cogeco. These departments include Human Resources, The Call Centre, Collections, Reception and the Mail Room.

As an Employment Support Worker it is always a heartwarming experience to witness an individual express joy when an offer of employment is extended. The individuals we support work hard; often displaying strength and determination to overcome barriers to meet the many expectations on the path to reach this ultimate goal. It gave me great pleasure to be invited to sit in on Glenn’s meeting with his manager at Cogeco when he was offered a full-time position with the company. As Employment Support Workers we are fortunate to have opportunities to observe effective and valuable relationships develop between individuals and their employers.

Glenn is responsible for all of the mail within the company both incoming and outgoing. This includes mail from Canada Post as well as from Purolator. Each day Glenn receives parcels and packages, counts them and records data using a computer. The Mail Clerk’s routine also involves processing a large volume of outgoing mail using a state of the art postage machine. Glenn is relied upon to perform various other duties such as sending out literature requested by customers and organizing and supplying the photocopier room.

In the afternoon of December 14/07 Nancy Boismer, Supervisor of the Customer Administration Department, purchased a very large cake and provided an “open-house” atmosphere for employees of Cogeco to participate in welcoming Glenn to the company. Members of management teams and many employees from various departments took the time to have a piece of cake and congratulate Glenn. That afternoon I heard many comments being made to Glenn regarding his work and his friendly, helpful disposition. It was easy to conclude that Glenn is valued for the duties he performs as the Mail Clerk within the company. When I asked Glenn to tell me how he feels about his job he said, “ I look forward to going to work with all the good people at Cogeco”. When I asked Glenn what he likes about his job he told me, “ I know people rely on me for picking up and delivering the mail with a smile”.

RDSP: A New Tool in Your Plan for your Son or Daughter's Financial Future

submitted by Dennis Mullins

The Registered Disability Savings Act (Bill C-28) was recently passed by Parliament, creating the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The intent of the plan is to provide long term financial security for a child with a severe disability. As this is new legislation, some details are well defined. More information will be available as the Plan is put into effect. It is important to know that, while this is a useful addition to the planning arsenal, it is only a part of an overall financial plan that should be put in place.

Who Is Eligible?

Any person eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) will be eligible to be the beneficiary of a RDSP plan.

How Do I Make Contributions and Does the Government Help?

The Federal government will assist in the funding of these plans by providing Canada Disability Savings Grants (CDSG) and Canada Disability Savings Bonds (CDSB). It is expected for families with net household incomes of up to \$74,357, the government will provide CDSGs of 300% on the first \$500 contributed and 200% on the next \$1000 contributed. For families with net household income of over \$74,357 the government will contribute a CDSG of 100% on the first \$1000.

For families with net household incomes of under \$20,883 the government will also add a CDSB of \$1000. The CDSB will contribute on a pro-rated basis for family net household incomes between \$20,883 and \$37,178. These income levels will be indexed to inflation and when the beneficiary of the plan turns 19 the relevant income will be that of the beneficiary and their spouse/partner, rather than family income.

Family Net Household Income	Contribution	Government Assistance
<\$74,357	First \$500	CDSG of 300% (\$1500 on \$500)
	Next \$1000	CDSG of 200% (\$2000 on \$1000)
>\$74,357	First \$1000	CDSG of 100% (\$1000 on \$1000)
For lower incomes, in addition to the above:		
<\$20,883		An additional CDSB of \$1000.
\$20,883 - \$37,178		CDSB that is pro-rated.

The lifetime contribution to a RDSP is \$200,000, with no annual limit. Contributions are permitted until the end of the year the beneficiary turns 59. There is a lifetime limit for government payments into the plan: \$70,000 for CDSGs and \$20,000 for CDSBs. CDSGs and CDSBs can be paid into the plan (if applicable) until the end of the year in which the beneficiary turns 49.

How Are Payments Made from an RDSP?

Payments from an RDSP will be required to commence by the end of the year that the beneficiary turns 60. Payment details are not yet finalized. While the draft documentation for the Bill (Legislative Proposal and Explanatory Notes for Bill C-28) contained several limitations on RDSP payouts (such as a 10 year claw-back period for government contributions), these were not specified in the final legislation. They remain to be determined by Human Resources and Social Services Canada who will administer the program. We will provide further information on the RDSP and how payments are paid when the program is finalized sometime this year.

How Do I Incorporate the RDSP into my Overall Financial Plan?

In Ontario, any plan for the future of a person with a disability must include integration with the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). While the Federal government, in its budget statement, expressed a desire that provincial disability support plans exempt RDSP assets and payments, only British Columbia at present has put this into effect. Lobbying efforts will continue to try and persuade the Ontario Government to follow B.C.'s lead.

What Other Options Do I Have?

As it now stands, the new RDSP is not exempt for ODSP purposes and there will probably be restrictions on the timing and amount of payouts from and RDSP, It is important to remember that the Henson Trust is still a useful tool for future planning.

The following lists the attributes of each planning vehicle .

<u>Henson Trust</u>	<u>RDSP</u>
- ODSP Exempt	- Not ODSP exempt
- No dollar limits	- \$200,000 contribution limit
- No timing restrictions	- Withdrawal timing restrictions
- No withdrawal restrictions (within ODSP Guidelines)	- Withdrawal amount restrictions

Given these differences it is evident that a lifelong support plan for a person with a disability should include both planning strategies

Where can I get More Information on Planning?

Further information on planning can be found on these websites:

Planned Life Advocacy Network (RDSP info) www.plan.ca

Support and Trustee Advisory Services www.supportandtrusteeadvisoryservices.ca

The Special Needs Planning Group www.specialneedsplanning.ca

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (Planning CD available. Also go to resource centre and also look at Long term planning and support) www.ofcp.on.ca

Or Contact:

Dennis Mullins Ph.D.

Y.I.S. Financial Inc.

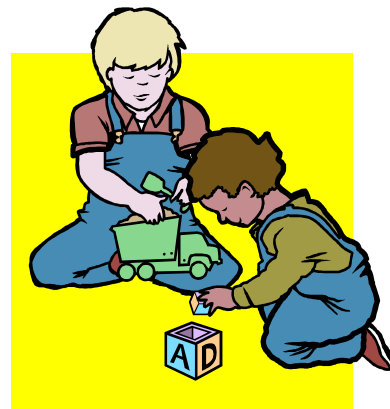
5000 New St. Burlington, ON L7L 3V1

905-637-1377

Sib Shops

submitted by Judy Shaw

Sibling workshops are geared for children who have a sibling who has a developmental disability. The workshops run for 3 hours with staff from partnership agencies co-facilitating. It is an opportunity for the sibling(s) aged 7-12 to attend workshops focusing on sharing experiences, learning about other disabilities and also meeting new people. Sibling workshops are provided in a safe and structured environment. There is a minimal fee of \$12.00 which covers the cost of dinner, drinks, arts & crafts. Sibling workshops are offered to families that are connected with the following collaborating agencies; Community Living North Halton, Halton Support Services, Community Living Burlington and the Autism Ontario Halton Chapter.



The locations for the Sib Shops will rotate monthly between the Autism Ontario Halton Chapter in Burlington at 560 Guelph Line and Community Living North Halton in Milton at 725 Main Street East. Workshops will be held once a month on a weekday evening from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

To learn more about Sib Shops, please contact Judy Shaw, Manager, at 905-336-2225 ext. 281 or by email at: shaw_judy@clburlington.ca

Upcoming Information Sessions

Leave your legacy with charitable giving. Community Living Burlington will be hosting different information sessions on “Planned Giving” over the next several months. There are many ways to make a significant difference in the lives of the people we support through Planned Giving and we at Community Living Burlington look forward to the opportunity to answer any questions you may have and have you feel confident about the future of your financial contributions.

Future dates and times will be announced in the Spring of 2008!

Winter Closures

Please remember to check on the local media network in the event that we have to close due to inclement weather. You can hear about closures on:

K-Lite FM Radio (102.9)

CHCH TV Hamilton

CHML Radio (900)

Community Living Burlington will be hosting a

Reverse Raffle

with the assistance from the Burlington Civitan Club.

We would like to ask you for your continued support by inviting you to attend our

5th Annual Reverse Raffle,

held on

Saturday April 19th, 2008, starting at 6:00pm, at the Holiday Inn.

Last year's event proved to be a successful and enjoyable evening
with great food and music by DJ Jan.

This is an event where we can all

BE A WINNER!!

All proceeds will go towards the purchase of a van for the people
being supported by Community Living Burlington.

The tickets are **\$50.00 each** including a buffet dinner, menu as follows:

Fresh Rolls & Butter

Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings

Tomato & Cucumber Salad, Pasta Salad

Breast of Chicken in a Mushroom Cream Sauce

Meat Lasagna

Market Fresh Vegetables

Herb Roasted Potatoes

Assorted Pastries

Sliced Fresh Fruit

Coffee & Tea

As well as a chance to win

\$1,000 in cash!

This year we have more prizes, more draws and more chances to win.

Please call and reserve your ticket today, for tickets please call

Christa at 905-336-2225, ext 232

Or Gary Kirkwood at 905-336-8818

**Community Living
Burlington**

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Dates to Remember

March 3, 2008	Parent Advisory Committee Mainway, 9:30 a.m.
March 7, 2008	Comedy Night at Club 54 8:00 p.m. (check out our Fundraising News)
March 21, 2008	Good Friday All Day Programs Closed
March 24, 2008	Easter Monday All Day Programs Closed
April 4, 2008	Lock Up the Boss (check out our Fundraising News) Mapleview Centre
April 8, 2008	Family Information Night 7:00 p.m. Hosted by CLB for Edward Jones
April 19, 2008	Reverse Raffle (check out our Fundraising News) Burlington Holiday Inn
May 3, 2008	Walk 'n Roll (check out our Fundraising News) Bronte Creek Provincial Park
May 15, 2008	Spring Fling Dance admission \$4.00 Seniors Centre - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
May 19, 2008	Victoria Day All Day Programs Closed
June 3, 2008	Annual General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Mainway Cafeteria
June 13, 2008	Golf Tournament (check out our Fundraising News) Tyandaga Golf Course
July 1, 2008	Canada Day All Day Programs Closed