

# COMMUNITY LIVING BURLINGTON NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue - November, 2017

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW JOURNALISTS



My name is Amanda Marie Strapp, a cashier at the Waterdown Walmart, an aspiring journalist that blogs weekly at Wordpress and one of CLB's clients. I'm 23 years old, and have been diagnosed with a very mild case of Asperger's syndrome. I currently live in Waterdown with my parents and my two dogs.

I grew up in Waterdown, and had wanted to be a writer due to my love of reading. After graduating from Waterdown District High, while I was trying to figure out what to do next, my parents suggested that I take a journalism course to make my passion into a career. At that suggestion, I ended up attending Sheridan College, in the Print-Journalism program. I received my diploma when I graduated last year after three years of learning and hard work. Currently, CLB is helping me find a way to jump-start my journalism career by hiring me to write for them. I really appreciate everything they have done for me so far, and what they are doing for me now.

You can read about my experiences at Walmart and other stories showing my views and opinions at <https://daschundllover.wordpress.com>



Hi my name is Jennifer I am a writer for the Community Living Burlington site page. I am an animal lover and I am also a vegetarian. I love

music and my favourite TV shows are Big Bang Theory, Blue Bloods and Fuller House. I took some courses in Media in College and this job working for CLB is a great opportunity for me to use my skills I have learned. I also volunteer for an animal rescue called Rescue Dogs Match and very much enjoy it. Can't wait to start writing for everyone.

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**We are excited to have Amanda & Jennifer  
contributing to our quarterly newsletter!**

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# AN AFTERNOON WITH RALPH STEELE

By: Jennifer Honey



**Left: Colleague Brent Saunders, Ralph, the man of the hour, and boss Gary Johnson. Photo credit to InsideHalton.com. Right: Jennifer Honey & Ralph Steele**

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On October 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 I got to meet Ralph Steele, an amazing person who retired after many years of service with both Tim Hortons and Jetport. When I met Ralph I quickly saw what everyone was talking about when asking them to describe Ralph.

Ralph is polite and a pleasant individual. He immediately smiled at me when I began to introduce myself explaining I was going to be writing an article on him. I began asking him questions and with the help of his friends he answers excitedly. Ralph tells me he likes the Hamilton Tiger Cats, bowling and also enjoys boats. When I asked him about his favorite thing to do at his job he smiles... and his friends say he likes to dance with the customers making them feel welcome at Tim Hortons.

Ralph told me what he did for his job by explaining that he cleaned tables and kept an eye open for when the delivery people arrive and alerts the other staff members. Ralph's favorite food and drink at Tim Hortons are doughnuts and hot chocolate. The best part about working at Tim Hortons Ralph says, are *"the people."*

Ralph is looking forward to continuing his drama class now that he is retired. When I asked his friends and co workers to describe Ralph they all tell me the same thing, Ralph is a ladies' man, is happy and is gregarious. His fellow workers also stated that Tim Hortons won't be the same place without him. They tell me he is always talking to everyone and he is very friendly. I quickly noticed this when Ralph made his way into the room... when I first see him everyone welcomes him with claps and cheers.

I had the opportunity to speak to his sister in law and she told me that everyone knows Ralph in Burlington and that he is bigger than life. I saw what she meant as I observed all who came to see him on his special day. Meeting Ralph Steele was an honour and a great privilege; he is someone I will never forget and I hope to see again while working with Community Living.

# WANT EXCEPTIONAL? HIRE EXCEPTIONAL!

**Letter by:** Rich Lomoth,  
Owner of FOAM4U Workshoppe -  
Div. Rich's Recovery, Upholstery  
and Manufacturing Inc.

**Left to Right:** Rich Lomoth, Adam Quinn, and Amber Armstrong



Operating a business is always a challenge: staffing....an ongoing hill to climb. Thankfully I found a life line of sorts. Community Living Burlington to the rescue.

It seems that there is pool of people who can help! So I dove in and found Adam. I have been asked "So, I hear you hired a helper with Autism, how's that working out?"

Well let me tell you. One has to deal with rowdy conduct, tardiness, high pace difficult custom jobs, no sense of time structure, attitude, bad jokes, talking to one's self and inanimate objects, people skill issues, dancing and singing on the job. That's just me and Lou, my business partner!!

Adam has done very well adapting to his new work environment (and us). He says that we're not

funny :) Gives us heck if we are out of line. 'Atta boy! His ability to adapt and learn is unlimited. I suggested that he doesn't know what he can do because he hasn't done it yet. Rises to the challenge. He operates machinery, uses tools, can do math, and continues to excel. Not to mention he's punctual, and reminds me its lunchtime. Not afraid to work; he's a machine. Adam gets no special treatment and is part of the team. Adam has more than earned his role on our team.

Without a doubt, Adam is the best staff yet at what he is tasked to do. Of note is the speed that he completes various tasks at without losing quality. He adapted to the fact that things are not perfect; from "I don't like that" to "look, I fixed it" He wrestles with foam and usually wins.

To other business owners; I jumped into the pool, the water is fine.

Yes, employing Adam presented some challenges.

How many challenges have you faced hiring 'typical' people???

No difference, except you now have people who want to learn. Show up on time, happy to work. Love to learn. Make you smile and laugh, imagine that in an employee, (you might even get a hug).

Like any other hiring it's about seeing skill and potential, realizing expectations on both sides. Sometimes Adam breaks into a dance, damn he can move, look out Ellen. I found that happy dances make a day better; after all, I have been doing so for years.

I must say Adam has taught me a lot. Humility and choice of wording. Lou enjoys (way too much) watching Adam and I interact. The absent minded professor and dancing Adam, makes for instant comedy. Yes, I admit to bouts of self-reflection on occasion. Thankfully CLB's Amber (Employment Support Worker) rescued me so I can learn how to help Adam when needed, and provides support (to both client and employer) when you need it. End result is a feel good hire; giving back and paying forward. A few less bumps in the road.

Having trouble with normal hiring routes (what is normal anyways?)....try the non-typical approach then. In closing, thanks to the fine folks of Community Living Burlington for their ongoing support.



# COMMUNITY LIVING'S GOT TALENT?

# YES WE DO!



By: Amanda Strapp

Photo Credit: Greg Alderson



**Left:** Joseph El-Khoury, Maninee & Mousumi Roy, Rainer Noack.

**Right:** The Rhythm Cats from Life Skills.

Disability or not, everyone has talent. That was proven on the night of September 23 at the Burlington Performing Arts Center when Community Living Burlington hosted it's annual Community Living's Got Talent-Yes We Do! Show.

The show had been in the making since last January by Community Living's staff: Candice Keem, Emily Huang, Amber Armstrong, Debbie Turner, and Karen Lade. They worked very hard to make the show a success with the help of the community.

The night started with the audience enjoying a dinner provided by Pepperwood Bistro. During that time, they had an opportunity to browse the silent auction, and place their bids.

The show itself, hosted by Rainer Noack and Joseph El-Khoury, was spectacular. People and adult groups really showcased their talent to the audience. Every one of the fourteen acts was met with roaring applause and shining comments from the judges, Amber Armstrong, Diane Dupuy, the Honourable Karina Gould, Pat Leyland, and Sam Forbes.

Halfway through, everyone was let out for an intermission while the reminder of the acts prepared. At the end, the judges had a brief recess to decide who won, while all the acts were brought back out and congratulated for their talent. **The winners for this year were:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** Camelot Centre & their hand bell performance of 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' & 'Over the Rainbow'

**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** Momentum Choir & their singing performance of 'Hallelujah'

**1<sup>st</sup> place:** Conner Mahoney & his singing performance of 'Believe'

The event itself is Community Living's biggest fundraising event of the year. The previous shows were held at Appleby United Church, to show off the talents of the people from Community Living. "Its always been to showcase the talents of the people that we support," Lade said, "And the people we support have talent, people do play piano, do dance, do amazing things."

Community Living wanted to raise more awareness in the community and to make the show 'bigger and better'. This year the goal was to reach \$20,000. But it went over, and "Community Living's Got Talent - Yes We Do!" ended up raising \$25,000. Special thanks to Candice Keem for her passion & vision.

# THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

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## COMMUNITY SPONSORS:

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# UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
November 30, 2017	Christmas Dinner & Dance	Burl Convention Centre (5:30pm)
December 9, 2017	Breakfast with Santa	3057 Mainway (9am)
December 9, 2017	ARCH Disability Law Speakers	Central Library (11am)
December 21, 2017	Holiday Luncheon	3057 Mainway (11:30am)
Dec 25 - Jan 2, 2018	Start it Right Program	Program closed
Dec 25 & Dec 26, 2017	All other Day Programs	Program closed
January 1, 2018	All other Day Programs	Program closed
February 19, 2018	Family Day Statutory Holiday	Programs closed
March 12 - 25, 2018	March Madness Online Auction	<a href="http://www.clburlington.ca">www.clburlington.ca</a>
March 30, 2018	Good Friday Statutory Holiday	Programs closed
May 21, 2018	Victoria Day Statutory Holiday	Programs closed
May 26, 2018	CLB's 38 <sup>th</sup> Annual Walk'n Roll	Spencer Smith Park (10am)

**Questions?** Contact Emily Huang at [fundraising@clburlington.ca](mailto:fundraising@clburlington.ca) or 905-336-2225 ext.320

Check <http://www.clburlington.ca> for event updates

# TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL DONATIONS

## In memory of August Kloppenburg

G & J Levy      K Andrews  
E Birch      C & L Copelin  
P Kloppenburg  
V & N Gerasimchuk  
W & P Bouman  
M & W Brennan  
J Sloan  
M & D Gaunt  
L & C Crawford  
I & S Szivak  
P Murphy  
J Wood  
R Tywonek

## In memory of Murray Roulette

L & D Bowser  
C & J Floroff  
L & R Renaud  
M & S Flokstra  
K Bock  
C & J Weisz

## In memory of Charles Maggio

J & C Rowles

## In memory of Donald Ashwell

M & D Robinson  
Oakville Bowling League (Men)  
W Ashwell  
P Omerod & D Bailie  
S & R Norrington  
J & D Dale  
C Coish  
T & A Turjansky  
K Kemp & G Bizyk  
C & B MacLellan  
A Tapp

## THANK YOU TO BDC



We would like to thank Business Development Bank of Canada for their \$29,000 donation to Community Living Burlington. The proceeds were generously raised from BDC's annual Charity Golf Tournament. Your support will create endless possibilities for the people we support. Thank you.

## INFINITY FUND



This summer, CLB enjoyed a day out with the Toronto Argonauts, all while raising money for our organization. Mark Formagie of Coldwell Banker organized this wonderful day to kick start the Infinity Fund: a fund that will make programs & activities more accessible and cost efficient for the people supported at CLB. Thank you Mark!

# MAKE A HOLIDAY DONATION

This year has been a difficult year for Community Living Burlington. With the impending closure of ARC Industries, our staff have been working on transitioning the people we support to new opportunities and programs. However, with the lack of additional funding, it has been a challenge for us to financially keep up with these changes. This Holiday season, we are asking for donations to help us bridge these gaps and to continue creating possibilities for the people we support. Here is how you can help:

- ♦ The team at ARC Industries has created a new partnership with North Burlington Baptist Church to open a program called **ARC creations** - a place where people can choose how to spend their day. We are looking for funding to be able to purchase games, supplies, and electronics for the program.
- ♦ The team at ARC have also created an Art Program where people have been making beautiful wooden signs, wreaths, and other home décor. This has brought out a creative side in many of the people we support and the items have been sold to raise funds for the program. Donations made will be used to create an Art Room at Mainway that will provide a creative environment where people can continue to express their artistic talents.
- ♦ In listening to the people we support and their families, the need for a **drop-in centre** has been identified. In response, CLB is currently working to repurpose space at Mainway to create a safe environment where people can be social with their friends. Your donations can help us provide meaningful opportunities for people in this space.

All donations will make a significant impact on the **ARC Industries transformation**. Thank you in advance for your generous donations in helping us create endless possibilities. We wish you a happy and safe Holiday season!

Fill out the form below and send to: Community Living Burlington, 3057 Mainway, Burlington, ON L7M 1A1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$75   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$250   ☐ \$500   Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please designate my gift to:

☐ ARC Industries Transformation   ☐ Other CLB Programs/Needs

## Donation payment options:

☐ Cheque payable to **Community Living Burlington**   ☐ Visa or MasterCard

Credit Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to make a donation online, please visit: <http://www.clburlington.ca>