

Inclusion requires **PARTNERSHIP** with family, community supports, school staff *cont'd from front*

The North Cavan Public School community provides instruction for students from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 6, and has been the home school for seven-year-old Cheyenne Carew for three years. Full inclusion, with the support of an educational assistant, has provided Cheyenne and her classmates with many positive school experiences. As a full participant in her school community Cheyenne brings her gifts to all classes and students in the school.

Cheyenne attends school on a full-time basis with the support and guidance of E.A. Christina Van Beek and Teacher Catherine Dufourt. Although Cheyenne lives without the gifts of sight, speech, or independent movement, she engages and is highly responsive to others. Cheyenne receives support to participate in the activities of her classmates and the broader school community to the fullest extent, including class trips and joining in on the events of many different classes. An upcoming school trip to experience the Robert Munsch (one of Cheyenne's favourites) Production at Showplace will be particularly exciting for Cheyenne. Staff assist Cheyenne in easing her many daily transitions between activities and locations, and consistently promote opportunities for Cheyenne's frequent interaction with her peers. Cheyenne has a gift for elevating her fellow students.



Bev welcomes input from Cheyenne's parents and community resources, and ensures daily communication between school and family. Bev accesses any needed adaptive equipment and/or training to support Cheyenne's learning. (For example, she arranged for Cheyenne's teaching staff to attend recent team training sessions, at the Five Counties Children's Centre, related to the introduction and use of a new communication device.) Many physical

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accommodations have been made within the school to facilitate Cheyenne's access and mobility.

The successful inclusion of a young student with unique learning issues and many physical challenges requires the full partnership of family, community supports, and school staff. The strong leadership established by Principal Bev Care within North Cavan Public School, sets a tone of equality, respect, and acceptance for *all* students, exemplified by an excellent staff team. "We are not the heroes here," says Bev Care modestly. "Cheyenne is our hero. Cheyenne is an integral part of North Cavan school community. She has provided for all of us the opportunity to grow in courage, compassion, empathy and optimism."

Kids Belong Together!

Include children who have an intellectual disability in the classroom. Be a part of making their dreams come true.

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Opening Doors

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An Agency committed to ... *Building Inclusive Communities*

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KIDS belong TOGETHER!

MAY is Community Living Month



Community Living Peterborough advocates for, promotes and facilitates the full participation, inclusion and citizenship of people who have an intellectual disability.

We believe:

"Kids Belong Together!"

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Bev Care sets inclusion bar at NORTH CAVAN Public School

North Cavan Public School is a superb model of inclusion in action. This is due in large part to its proactive and dedicated Principal, Beverley Care, who advocates for *all* her students to ensure their respective needs are addressed.



My friends listen to music and sing to me

Bev and her committed teaching staff work as a team to create a welcoming, supportive learning environment, in which students with differences are regarded as "students of the whole school." As she points out, there are "200 children attending this school and they all have needs. Cheyenne is no different."

see *Inclusion requires* pg.4

MISSION

Community Living Peterborough

To inspire respect and equality for people with an intellectual disability by promoting: community knowledge, organizational excellence and individual quality of life.

AMIGOS - it's all about hanging out with friends

Excerpt from Amigo News
March 2006 Vol.2 Iss.3



"Darby Allison and Sarah Oberholzer sign, 'This is my school.'"

– it's all about hanging out with friends. It's about choosing how to spend your time.

Darby and I meet once or twice a week at lunch. She is teaching me sign language. For me, Amigos is not just making new friendships – it's developing new skills."

The Amigos Project envisions inclusive school communities where all students have the opportunities and supports they need to participate fully in the life of their school, no

Sarah Oberholzer knew just how to respond when another Student Leadership Conference participant said she did not have enough time for Amigos.

"At Thomas A Stewart I'm really busy," said Sarah. "I am involved on Student Council, with the Character Education Committee, and I run all the dances. Amigos isn't like another commitment

matter what their level of ability, and to develop mutually satisfying friendships. Amigos are high school students with a range of abilities who come together to build relationships, build stronger communities, build skills and have fun.

Participating Schools:

Thomas A Stewart Secondary School

(Amigo Leaders Kyle Walden, Laura Orsatti and Sarah Sweeney)

Adam Scott

(Amigo Leaders Paige Raper and Andrew Harte-Maxwell)

Kenner Collegiate

(Amigo Leaders Katie Bradley, Amanda Herman and Jenny Warrington)

Norwood District High School

(Amigo Leaders Stephanie Warner and Casey McIntyre)

Campbellford District High School

(Amigo Leaders Donny Carter and Brittany Ossterlaken)

East Northumberland Secondary School

(Amigo Leaders Erica Larmer, Natasha Goodfellow and Phil Grey)

Crestwood Secondary School

(Amigo Leader Stephanie Lakis)

For more information go to:
www.headsupforinclusion.ca



"WHEELS" a big part of Holy Cross



... I enjoy being in class with my friends

classes he wants to take. "The best thing about Holy Cross is I get to be in class with my friends," says Ryan.

Ryan is often seen hanging out in the library with his

"Wheels," otherwise known as Ryan Hicks, is a popular fixture at Holy Cross High School. His nickname is "Wheels" because he's known for whizzing down the halls, calling out to everyone as he goes. "Ryan looks forward to going to school every day so that he can hang out with his friends," says mom Brenda.

One of the amazing things for this 18-year-old is his complete integration in his high school. He attends class with his friends, and chooses which

friends. One of Ryan's friends, Jessika, says that "Ryan is so easy to talk to. I like being his friend because when I have a problem he will listen to me".

Last year, Ryan brought his love of body building to the gym, where he spent many hours working out after school. This year he enrolled in a gym class. "Kids in Ryan's class recognize his ability and are often the first one to come up and choose Ryan for their partner," says Jessika.

Along with being an honour roll student, one of Ryan's biggest accomplishments is the recent purchase of a racing wheel chair. Scouted by the track and field coach, Ryan was asked to be a member of the team; and this year "Wheels" will race with his schoolmates.

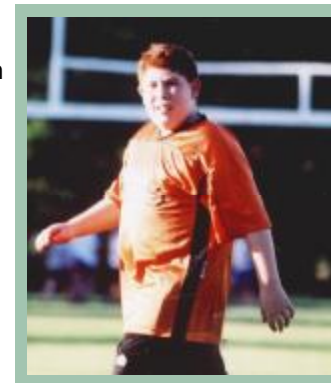


FOR THE LOVE of the game

Inclusion is a concept that has been well accepted in the Peterborough athletic community. People of all abilities participate on sporting teams and in events all across Peterborough.

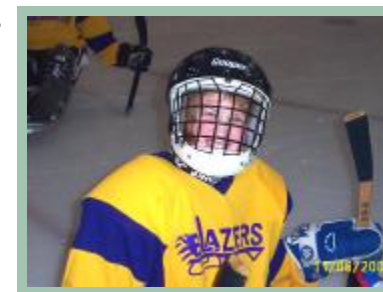
12-YEAR-OLD likes being part of the team

Bobby Kelly plays in the Peterborough Youth Soccer League with players of all abilities. Each player gets equal playing time and is recognized for their individual talents. Bobby was very proud of the trophy he won last year: "I won a trophy for passing the ball," he said. "Soccer is so much fun and I know it's important to win." Being cheered on by his teammates and kicking the ball are what make soccer the sport for Bobby.



IT'S AWESOME - Shannon Downey

At 14 years of age, Shannon Downey is enjoying a new adventure in her life - organized sports. "This is my first year playing with the Kawartha Blazers Sledge Hockey Team," says Shannon. Playing forward keeps her very active on her sledge. Shannon uses two hockey sticks to not only pass, stick handle and shoot the puck, but also to propel and maneuver her sledge. "It's hard, but it's fun and I'm learning a lot," says Shannon. It's not all about the competition and exercise though; Shannon loves the camaraderie on her team. "I get to meet a lot of new friends," she says. When the Kawartha Blazers set their sledges to the ice, what you will find is kids of all abilities playing together as a team. "Having everyone included is awesome. It's good team work," says Shannon.



GORD a valuable teammate



Gord Hall has grown up playing organized sports in the Peterborough community. Gord's determination and absolute love for sports has landed him well-deserved positions with the Peterborough Paxton's hockey team, the Peterborough Minor Lakers Lacrosse team and his school lacrosse team - The Hurricanes. "Lacrosse is fun," says Gord. "It's a team sport and has lots of action. I am treated like any other teammate."



These **DOORS** are **OPEN** to **ALL KIDS**

Bud's Music Centre

Camp Kawartha

Camp Quin-Mo-Lac

Charlotte Video Plus

Class Connections

Fleming College

Get Up and Go Club

Jungle Cat World - Summer Camp

Kawartha Blazers Sledge Hockey

Kingswood Community Centre

Northcrest Arena

Peterborough Daycare

Peterborough Family Resource Centre

Peterborough Minor Lakers Lacrosse

Peterborough Paxton's Hockey

Peterborough Youth Soccer League

Peterborough Sport & Wellness Centre

Peterborough Symphony

Scholars

Sparks YMCA

Trent Sports Camp

Trent University - Swimming Lessons

Turner Park - Wading Pool

VISION

Community Living Peterborough

That all people live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in their community and have the opportunity to participate effectively.