

Opening Doors

to the community

Community Living Peterborough

N E W S L E T T E R

www.communitylivingpeterborough.ca

November 2005 Volume 1 Issue 1

Building Inclusive Communities

Community Living Peterborough

is thrilled to present to you the first edition of **OPENING DOORS**. With this quarterly newsletter we hope to keep you informed of our many projects, extend our reach in the community, acquaint you with our supports and services, and share some of our organizational success stories. Each issue will include feature articles relating to a common theme. In this issue we focus on advocacy. *Enjoy!*

Community Living Peterborough is an active, vibrant part of the Peterborough Community.

Opening Doors will be published on a quarterly basis so we can share our exciting stories and initiatives with you!

Transformation of Services Continues Despite Delay of De-Institutionalization Court Battles

Excerpt from Community Living Leaders Oct. 25, 2005 - Craig Anderson

While declaring his ultimate goal is the elimination of waiting lists for those receiving disability supports, Ontario's Community and Social Services Deputy Minister promised to continue to "vigorously and aggressively" defend the closing of regional institutions.

During a recent meeting with the executive committee of Community Living Ontario, Kevin Costante added that

significant changes to ODSP funding could come in early 2006, adding that certain "silly" provisions (for example, on ODSP a single person can only make \$160 a month before the funding is reduced) could possibly be scrapped.

ODSP funding structures have been heavily criticized by families for acting as a disincentive to full participation in
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Lunch Meeting in Legislature

Monday October 17, 2005 - Dianne Austin

On Monday October 17, 2005 a group of five people from Community Living Peterborough enjoyed a lunch meeting with MPP Jeff Leal at Queen's Park in Toronto.

The group including Lynda Nairn, Barb Anderson, Gord Herd, Graham Sheldon and Dianne Austin were hosted by MPP Jeff Leal to lunch in the Members dining room. As Gord

put it, "we wanted to talk about some of the issues affecting people in Peterborough".

Throughout the lunch meeting, the group talked about the need for an increase of the Ontario Disability Support Pension (ODSP) for people, of their involvement in the Kiwanis Aktion Group and the fact that they raise money to buy teddy

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OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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.

ADVOCACY

We're just trying to do our best: Costante

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employment and subsequently in the community, keeping its recipients in an impoverished position. Developing flexible, individualized funding structures is one of the crucial steps in transforming disability services in the province, said Costante.

"One of the things that we are increasingly hearing, particularly from young parents is that they want to manage the money themselves," said Costante.

"And frankly, if we can give families more money then they can be healthier and perhaps better support the individual in the community or in their own home. We're just trying to do what's best. We think we've had a wildly successful program in SSAH funding and we want to build on that," said Costante. Costante promised a "landmark" decision by early 2006.

One of the ways this alteration will be made is through transferring funding duties to the federal government, said Costante. By having the feds shoulder 30 per cent of current ODSP cases, roughly \$600

million will be freed to spend on improving and expanding current provincial disability supports.

As the spring federal budget is likely to carry an announcement of another sizeable surplus, Costante added that "there is no better time to strike."

"If there were federal dollars given to Ontario to invest in disability supports, we would obviously want to deal with a host of needs in developmental services, and that includes helping senior parents, increasing funding to SSAH, helping the budgets of agencies, and more intensive supports in general. As well, as a Ministry, we have other areas that require new funding as well – the deaf/blind population has similar gaps in services. And a lot of people have talked to us about one of the biggest gaps in disability services – transportation. We might think of using some of this money to see if we can improve transportation services for the disabled," he said.

Developing more coherent assessment tools in order to

People First, *Peterborough Chapter* is a self advocacy group involving individuals who have been negatively labeled with an intellectual disability.

The Chapter is led by a dynamic Executive Board of Directors and supported by 30 members from the Peterborough community. The group works in partnership with Community Living Peterborough, however, People First is independent and self-governing.

Community Development is a priority to the Peterborough Chapter. Members play an

active vital roll by educating the community about the Strengths, Abilities, and Rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

The Chapters most recent advocacy work involved supporting the YWCA's Week Without Violence at Sir Sandford Fleming College, Rallying at Queen's Park for the Walk Wheel and Ride for Dignity Campaign, and speaking at this years Take Back the Night.

For more information about People First & Membership call: **Peter Bascan, President** 743-2412 x 536



determine needed funding is also critical, said Costante, noting the current persistent difficulty in assigning cost needs per individual.

Dealing with the class action suits facing the Ministry over its slated closure in 2009 of three institutions has been the biggest impediment to a more thorough effort in transforming services, said Costante.

Although he claimed his Ministry's full support for the closure, he offered words of warning for optimism regarding verdicts and the inevitable round of appeals the trials are likely to produce.

"The verdict might end up being a decision on whether the government has a right to close the facilities. Governments have been prevented from closing things before, so you never know. And this scenario – government against families - is not always a good one to assure

an outcome in our favour."

Although many of the local Community Living executive directors and Ontario executive committee members present were presently fully immersed in the radical changes and burdensome issues – like pay equity – challenging the sector, decrepit pay scales for support workers compared to those in other health sector positions was still the most important topic on the agenda. On this, Costante was unable to comment, however.

"It doesn't stop me from listening, though," said Costante.

Nancy Wallace-Gero, executive director of Community Living Essex County, took his cue.

"The wage issue is the most important. We're struggling in a major way to hire and retain qualified staff. We want the government to make a commitment to raising wages," said Wallace-Gero.



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ADVOCACY

Rally at Queen's Park

Thursday September 29, 2005

September 29th was a day for Advocates from Community Living Peterborough to join forces with many local groups from the Peterborough Community for this year's Walk Wheel and Ride for Dignity Campaign.



Participants from across Southern Ontario rallied at Queen's Park to demand an increase in income security and dignity for people who have been systematically marginalized.

When asked for her thoughts on the rally, Self Advocate Linda Nairn said, "there were a lot of people in the same situation."

Community Living Peterborough Advocates were proud to be a part of the Campaign's goal to build the Social Justice Community in Ontario through a Peaceful, Positive, Non-Partisan, Inclusive, and Grass-Roots Organizing Process.

With an attendance of more than 800, we hope that the issues raised were heard by our representatives inside the legislature and that this will be a catalyst for change.

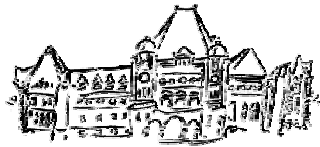
www.walkwheelridefordignity.org



Leal introduces group to fellow MPP's

Continued from Front Page

bears for emergency services in Peterborough, of People First self advocacy group, Accreditation Ontario conference, and the need for additional resources for Community Living Peterborough.



Throughout the meal, several MPPs and Cabinet Ministers came over and introduced themselves to the group and welcomed them to Queen's Park.

Following the lunch meeting, Mr. Leal had arranged for the group to observe our Provincial Parliament in action by arranging seating in the members' gallery so they could observe question period. Mr. Leal made a point to introduce the group to his fellow MPPs and as a result a record of their visit was officially recorded in Hansards.

Ernie Parsons, MPP made a point during question period of coming into the members' gallery to welcome the group from Community Living and spoke briefly about how important it was to him to be involved as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services with responsibilities for disabilities, a cause for which he has had a life long passion. The group from Peterborough immediately recognized Ernie from past conferences they have attended with him and for the fact that he corresponds by email with the People First group.

Overall it was a great day - an opportunity to bring to MPP Jeff Leal's attention some concerns requiring government action; an opportunity to exercise the right of citizenship; an opportunity to have a voice!

Thank You



We would like to thank all of those who have supported us through the years and who continue to support Community Living Peterborough

With special recognition and thanks to...

Fred & Barbara McGovern who were recently recognized at Community Living Peterborough's 2005 Annual General Meeting for their 30 years of generous financial support.

St. Joseph's Care Foundation - Virtual Reality Room

Community Futures Development Corporation - Housing

City of Peterborough - Summer Camp



Trillium Foundation - Building Accessibility Grant

2005 United Way Campaign

Building Communities
Changing Lives...

Together WE Make
a Difference.

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~ Wish Fund Appeal ~ Holiday Consideration

For some people receiving supports from Community Living Peterborough, realizing their dreams is unachievable due to a lack of financial resources.

The Wish Fund helps people financially to achieve goals important to them.

The Wish Fund has provided funding for such things as camp, mobility equipment, attending a training conference, theatre tickets and taking trips.

At this special time of year the Wish Fund Committee would like you to consider donating to the Wish Fund.

Donor's will receive a tax receipt and a special acknowledgement card from the Wish Fund.

**To make a donation call The Wish Fund
~ Community Living Peterborough 743-2411 ~**



Volunteer Opportunities

Sledge Hockey - It's similar to hockey and it's a whole lot of fun! Players take to the ice with specialized hockey sticks and sleds to play this fun recreational sport. Family Support is looking for volunteers to assist players on Monday evenings from 6:15 -7:15 @ Evinrude Centre. Helmet and skates are required. Knowledge of hockey is an asset, but not necessary.

Horseback Riding - Volunteers needed to assist a child/young adult on horseback. Wednesdays from 5:00 - 7:00 @ Storey Hill Farms near Fowlers Corners. (8 week commitment) **For Sledge Hockey & Horseback Riding Call Chris Burtch, Family Support @ 743-2412 x 532**



Pete's Fan? - Community Living Peterborough is looking for volunteers who would like to take a fellow fan to a Pete's Game. **Call A.J. McNaught, Volunteer Services @ 743-2412 x 552**

Looking Ahead...

Watch for the next issue of
Opening Doors in **FEBRUARY** featuring:

Giving Back to the Community

LEARN MORE ABOUT
HOW YOUR
FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS
ARE GIVING BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY



Find out how Mike is
keeping Fleming College
"Green & Clean"

...in the next issue!

Opening Doors Classifieds: Wanting to Buy,
Sell or Trade items? To place an Ad contact Mary @
743-2412 x549 mbucholtz@communitylivingpeterborough.ca



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