

Fundraising begins for new Community Living facility in Erin



Community Living Guelph Wellington (CLGW) participants, supporters and staff gathered at their new property on Thompson Cr. at the north end of Erin village Thursday to erect a new sign. They are launching a fundraising campaign for the construction of a new facility for "Arc Industries East." L.r., Kalen, Campaign Chair Marvin McDougall, Jessica, EDHS student Nick Weller (who did the drawing below), Blaine Schmidt of Boothill Auto, Keith McKinnon of Tim-br Mart, Mary Cunningham, Kristen Watson CLGW staff, Community Living Manager George Wilson, Colin, CLGW Executive Director Bob Butella, and Wilf Reik, President of the CLGW Board of Directors. The building will be 5,000 sq. ft. and will have a community room that can be used by other groups.

Photo, Tristan Clark



Thursday was a very exciting day for supporters of Community Living East Wellington – it marked the launch of their one million dollar fundraising campaign. The group has purchased land on Thompson Crescent at the north end of Erin Village. The money will be used for the land purchase, and the construction of "ARC Industries East Wellington."

Since 2003, Community Living has been operating out of the rented former Erin Hydro building just across the highway from the new site. The new building will give the security of an owned building specifically constructed for its purpose, that will meet current and future needs.

Currently, the program supports 16 people with a developmental disability, but 12 people in East Wellington can't access their services due to lack of physical space. An additional 17 people are on waiting lists for services in East Wellington. Services include work, education, leisure and recreation.

A drawing of the proposed facility was done by Nick Weller of Erin District High School. The building will be a 5,000 sq. ft. wheelchair accessible single storey building. It will use sustainable construction where possible and will include a kitchen, laundry, appropriate wash-room facilities, a computer lab, a virtual reality room, a workshop and craft areas. There will be potential for a future addition. Construction is expected to begin late fall 2011 or early spring 2012.

"ARC Industries-East will also have a large community room that can be used by other community groups and clubs. This is a needed, but costly venture. We are asking for your help to make this dream a reality. Please help if you can!" says Marvin McDougall, Capital Campaign Chair. There will be naming opportunities and donor recognition, with more than 99% of donations going directly to the project.

You can show your support for the project and have some fun at the same time, on Saturday, June 25th. Proceeds from the "1st Annual BHA Show & Shine" Charity BBQ will be going to ARC Industries-East. The event takes place from noon to 4pm, at Boothill Auto, 27 Erinville Dr.

There will also be sports celebrities from the NHL and CFL, and musical guests.

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