

April 2016

## Executive Director Report - Laura Hanley

It's beginning to look a lot like Spring out there!! I love this time of year as it reminds me of new beginnings, new adventures and new possibilities!

The Agency completed the annual MCSS Compliance inspection in February 2016. This process involves on-site program visits, file review and policy/procedure review by a Ministry compliance officer to ensure we are providing the best possible service for the people we support, and to confirm that our quality level meets the Ministry's ongoing requirements. We are pleased to announce that we were compliant with 289 out of 298 key requirements! That is a wonderful 97% outcome indeed! We have already dealt with the outstanding issues and have received our letter of Ministry compliance for 2016. Much appreciation goes out to Debb Young for her leadership with this process, as well as the management team and the staff who were involved.

Our Annual Spring Fashion gala will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> this year. Our Committee is working hard this year to make sure this will be a truly amazing event – our committee members include: Tiffany Borges, Fern Donaldson, Helen Garton, Heather Grimes and June Sutherland – thanks so much for all that you are doing to organize this event! A special thank you needs to go out to Donna Schmidt-Kirk from Expressions by DSK for all of the time and energy she is devoting to the show again this year. Without these folks, we wouldn't have an event like this. We hope to see you all there!

Volunteers are the roots of strong communities....this year National Volunteer Week will be held April 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> and it will be a special time to honour the many volunteers that devote their time and energy to our agency. From Best Buddies to Bike Riders to the M.A.U.D.E. Squad to Pet Therapy and Music Therapy providers, to name a few, we are blessed to be able to offer such rich experiences for our clients. Thank you all for all that you do! We will be focusing our energies on expanding our volunteer program over the coming year so stay tuned for updates on this exciting initiative.



## In Loving Memory



**Robert "Bob" James Grasby;** Passed away at the Louise Marshall Hospital, Mount Forest on Thursday, March 3rd, 2016 at the age of 75. He was predeceased by his parents, Harold Royden Grasby (1983) and Alice Helen Gracey-Hunter (1996) and his brother Royden Harold Grasby (1978). He is survived by his older brother Andrew Grasby of Durham and his 4 nieces and nephews; Larry of Fenelon Falls, Debi of Ajax, Mark of Maple Ridge, BC and Chris of Little Britain. He was also a grand uncle of Kimberly, Michael, Jason, Julie, Angela, Joshua, Natasha, Mariah, Genaya, Crystal and Jeffery. Finally, he was a grand grand uncle to Cole, Hudson, Arnica, Alexis, Dante, Samara, Keona, Maleah, Kaiah, Natalia, Ethan, Adalaine and Emmett. Bob spent the first 40 years of his life on a farm in Holstein, 3 years on a hobby farm in Varney and the remaining 32 years in Mount Forest where he was supported by the Guelph Wellington Community Living group. Bob's extended family would like to express our deep gratitude to the GWCL personnel for the great job they did

making Bob's life enjoyable. He had nothing but great things to say about the support he was getting which allowed him to maintain an independent life. He was truly a person that maintained a positive, easy going view of the world and the people in it. Bob will be missed.

### "Our Gentle Spirit"

Bob was a part of the Mount Forest SIL program for 28 years. Since being a part of CLGW, Bob worked at the Mount Forest Co-op, and the Arena. Bob was employed by both for many years, until he retired at 65.

The joys of Bob's life were his many cars, his interest in farming and the land. And his large collection of belt buckles! Bob was a thoughtful, kind and gentle man, and was never known to be in bad spirits.

Bob will be missed by those who supported him, those who worked with him and those that loved him.

### "Till We Meet Again"

**Arthur Duncan Piper** ~ at Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville, on March 25, 2016 in his 78th year.

He was predeceased by his sister Myrtle Reynolds, and will be sadly missed by brother-in-law Joe (Margaret) Reynolds of Harriston, as well as by his nieces and nephews Marie (Charlie) Pearson, Ron Reynolds, Bill (Carol) Reynolds, Dave (Marian) Reynolds, Ken (Iris) Reynolds, Glenda (Brian) Marshall, Rick Reynolds, Pat (Chris) Reynolds and Jeanette (Kevin) Hill, and by their families.



## In Loving Memory

**Susanne (Susie) Smook**  
**May 21, 1924 – December 17, 2015**

Community Living Guelph Wellington recently lost a long-time supporter and strong advocate for those living with a developmental challenge.

Susie had a long and remarkable life. She was born in Prague, capital city of the former Czechoslovakia, in a time of upheaval and unrest. Susie rarely spoke of those dark and terrible years, but nevertheless those years shaped the woman Susie would become.

There was a great need for trained nurses during those years and Susie trained to become a registered nurse. After the war Susie found her way to England, where she was able to again find a job in a hospital caring for others. Later she moved to Vienna, Austria to continue her studies and was given a job within her church. That job provided her with an opportunity to meet a young American student who was travelling through Europe while continuing his studies. That young American student was Roger Smook. Susie and Roger were married in Vienna in November of 1964. Susie and Roger celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in November, 2014.

Susie and Roger and their son David moved back to the USA shortly thereafter and settled in Washington, D.C. Susie again worked as a nurse, while Roger completed his doctorate in Philosophy. A position at the University of Guelph brought the Smook family to Guelph.

After settling in Guelph, Roger and Susie decided to add to their family by adopting a little girl named Lisa. Susie didn't want to take a job outside of the home and leave her small children, but she did want to contribute to the family's income. She decided once again to put her nursing skills to good use by taking in foster children; not just any foster children but children with special needs.

The last foster child to receive Susie's care was Paul and he too became part of their family. Paul loved Susie and Roger as his parents and a few years ago decided to change his name to officially become Paul Smook.

Paul is the reason that Susie became involved with Community Living Guelph Wellington. Susie became a member of the association and joined the Mother's Auxiliary. She was later elected to the Board of Directors and served a term as Vice-President.

Susie supported the ARC Open House each year, she attended the Poor Boy luncheons as they transformed from wieners and beans to spaghetti and salad and she was there for the first Fashion Show. Susie seldom missed a Fashion Show, and was able to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> Fashion Show last spring.

Susie was feisty and strong willed, especially when advocating for something she truly believed in. She found pleasure and joy in the simple things in life. Her husband and children were treasured. She was a loyal and supportive friend and maintained life-long friendships.

Susie was my dear friend, and she is truly missed.

Myrna Donaldson  
 Past President



## SIL Silver Linings

Submitted by Sandi Giesel

Recently at one of our staff meetings, our co-ordinator Darlene praised our team for getting through what was a very difficult month. I was quick to remind her that it has been a difficult year in the Supported Independent Living program here in Guelph. We have faced many challenges that we were previously not accustomed to. Two of the individuals we support had babies. We have had people admitted into nursing homes or long term care. We supported many people during some very trying and difficult times. A few individuals lost family members and close friends. We have had to navigate the court, police services and probation systems on many occasions. Our roles as staff have taken on a new element in the day to day support we provide to over 60 S.I.L. individuals. We have had a few new younger people come into S.I.L., meaning establishing rapport and trust while helping them become independent. We watched many of our members deal with aging and the health issues that surround that. We lost one of our senior ladies, Dorothy Rammage, last year. We also lost 2 of our male SIL members Doug Bridges and David Jamieson quite unexpectedly. Our struggle to find or to be approved for affordable housing is always challenging. We had to say goodbye to one of our part time staff members Colleen Payne, as she took another job within the agency. We rejoiced with Luke van Pelt with the birth of his daughter Kennedy last spring. We welcomed a new part timer Sarah Channer to our team. We continue to operate the Grocery Assistance Program (GAP) out of ARC monthly, and have at least 6 to 10 SIL members utilizing this service. With all the struggles we have to face sometimes it is easy to get frustrated and down in the dumps. It is nice to know that every now and then we do have a Silver Lining story..... Here is Chuck Frasers' story:



Chuck and his girlfriend had a baby boy named Norman last May. Services from our community helped teach the young couple parenting skills. Chuck had taken the Family Connections course that Victoria Szucs helped teach also. Over time, Norman had overnight visits with his parents. In December, Chuck moved into his own apartment and his visits with his baby increased over time as he showed that he was a capable and responsible parent. On March 14 Chuck was awarded full custody of his son. He was over the moon with happiness. Chuck continues to amaze everyone by taking his role as father quite seriously. Parenting is never an easy task, but Chuck has shown his dedication to his son over and over. We are so proud of what Chuck has accomplished. We were overwhelmed with the help and support that Chuck's peers from SIL and also the wonderful ladies at ADS gave to him when he was moving. They helped with donating furniture and household supplies and lots of baby stuff too! We wish Chuck all the best with his future and know that there is always a silver lining to every story.



## Taking Care of Business



Top: First shift working at Arkell United Church in Arkell, Ontario!

Left: Jerrett enjoys his new experience at Salvation Army on Thursday mornings. The staff are very friendly and supportive.

Right: Second Chance and Community Living, working together to help Brandi secure her second job in the community at JC's Hair Design on Silvercreek.

## January 2016 Community Living Guelph Wellington Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament

Lynn Frost-Arcand and Chris Clark would like to thank all the people who came out to support our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament. Once again, it was a successful fundraiser, raising \$3614.00.

It was held on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Guelph Curling Club and a fun day was had by all.

The prizes were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$1100.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$680.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$390.00
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place - \$320.00
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place - \$260.00
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place - \$190.00



It was great to see that 2 of our own placed in the top 6.

Thank you to the McElderry Community Group for their donation of \$20.00.

Thank you to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner for their donation of \$100.00.

Thanks again for your support and we hope to see you at the next one we have.

## Best Buddies Year in Review



On March 13, 2016, The Best Buddies program had their final event of the year. Best Buddies and Best Buddy Peers celebrated with fun games, cupcakes and a special performance by The King himself, Elvis. While having Elvis perform his greatest hits for everyone was the exclamation on a wonderful year, it was by no means the only fun event from this Best Buddies season.

Buddies and Buddy Peers were first introduced to each other at a Halloween meet and greet in October. Everyone dressed up in their best costume, we played games, Buddies and Buddy Peers enjoyed learning about each other and made all kinds of exciting plans for the upcoming year. In December, we celebrated the Christmas season with a massive pot luck that required four long tables to hold all the food people brought. We caroled, made Christmas crafts, but most importantly, we ate, and ate, and ate some more. In the New Year, we got together for movie day and pyjamas. Everyone sported their favourite comfy clothes as we watched the movie Tangled and enjoyed popcorn. And as mentioned, our last event was celebrated with the one and only Elvis. Everyone was on the dance floor wearing 1950's inspired *Grease* outfits and strutting their dance moves as Elvis rocked out. It was a fun day had by all.

A special thank you to Amanda Lopreiato, Best Buddies Chapter President, and her amazing team for doing such a wonderful job this year. Amanda, along with Marisa Figura, Nicole Gastle, Hailey Hoffman, Savannah Massimo and Reaghan Neill worked tirelessly at planning all of these events. Without their efforts, such a successful season of Best Buddies could not have happened.

If there is interest in the Best Buddies program, please contact Jonah Lunod, [jlunod@gmail.com](mailto:jlunod@gmail.com).

**See you all next year Buddies!**



## Modernization Plans

Submitted by Cheryl Bourque-Turner

There has been lots of buzz about the modernization plans in the last few months.....

The Supported Employment Team has been very busy. Here are just a few highlights.....

- Staff and people we support attending sessions of RISE at 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Employment Agency
- Updating modules for our community readiness program so we can teach people about resumes, employment, interview skills, likes and interests etc
- Sue has approached new employers in the city and is working on building relationships for hiring our population
- Job Fairs coming up early May for people to attend to learn about employment opportunities in the City of Guelph
- Setting up a tour of a local employer to see behind the scenes of a fast food restaurant to see how it is run and the specifics around what people do there

Stay tuned next time for lots more highlights...

### Save the Date



**39th Annual  
Norm Jary ARC Industries  
Golf Tournament  
Monday, July 11, 2016**

COMMUNITY LIVING  
Guelph Wellington



Steve Burton was proud working his first day on the job as a crossing guard at West Minister Woods in Guelph.

Second Chance and Community Living working with the City of Guelph to help Steve with training and supports.



## Campus Friends



Campus Friends takes a gap in the community, and a University campus; and combines them to make something great for all involved. When those with an intellectual disability graduate high school, a place filled with friends, learning, activities, and a trusted routine, next steps are not always obvious or available. Campus Friends allows participants to tap into all the resources of a University Campus to determine if it's the natural next step. Participants go through an intake process to ensure that their goals are properly identified and matched with all available activities on campus (academic and social). University students work as mentors with participants who, after high school, still want an opportunity to be around people their own age; still wanting to progress in athletics, learning, and socializing. U of G students commit 1.5 hours a week (Wednesdays: 9am - 10:30am; 10:30am - 12pm; 12pm - 1:30pm; or, 1:30pm – 3 pm) to guide a Campus Friends Participant through an hour and a half of their customized schedule.

If you are interested in participating or knowing more about this program, please contact the program coordinator by email: Tiffany Borges – [Tborges@clgw.ca](mailto:Tborges@clgw.ca)



From Left to Right: Diane, Lorrie, Marian, Scott, Kelly, Mary Ellen, Dan, Billy, Kelly and Jane.

This is a picture we took on February 14th, while celebrating Valentine's Day at the SIL Program. It was nice to see everyone to get out on this cold day and have fun. Our program is enriching and empowering the people we support in all aspects of their lives, including celebrations. - Submitted by Victoria Szucs

## Special Olympics Track and Field Meet 2016 – VOLUNTEER TODAY

On May 18, 2016, all primary and secondary schools from the Upper Grand District School Board, and Wellington Catholic District School Board will be participating the annual Special Olympics track and field meet. We are coming up on our 16<sup>th</sup> year hosting this event. This is an exciting day where we celebrate our students with special needs as they participate in fun sporting events.

Founded by former Volunteer Coordinator of Community Living Guelph Wellington, Mary Strimas, and a small group of dedicated members of the community, this event has seen its numbers grow from a handful of participants to over 500 student athletes this year. Our students set goals, develop skills and improve their overall fitness through training for and participating in this meet. The focus on friendly competition and companionship makes this day a truly special sporting event.

As in years past, the success of this great event is largely dependent on the dedication of our hard working volunteers. We have people looking after setup, manning the food tent, helping out with all track and field events, handing out water, directing cars where to park, but most importantly, rooting on and encouraging our athletes.

Again, our track and field meet happens May 18, 2016 at St. James Catholic High School Sports Field, 57 Victoria Road North, Guelph ON.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jonah Lunod, [jlunod@clgw.ca](mailto:jlunod@clgw.ca). Fans are also welcome, so please consider joining us to cheer on our athletes.



## Upcoming Board Meetings and AGM

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>April 13</b> | Fashion Gala 2016                             |
| <b>April 27</b> | Now at 106 Thomas St. Harriston On            |
| <b>May 25</b>   | Community Living Centre, Erin 10 Thompson Cr. |
| <b>June 22</b>  | ARC Cafeteria ( <b>AGM</b> )                  |



## New People

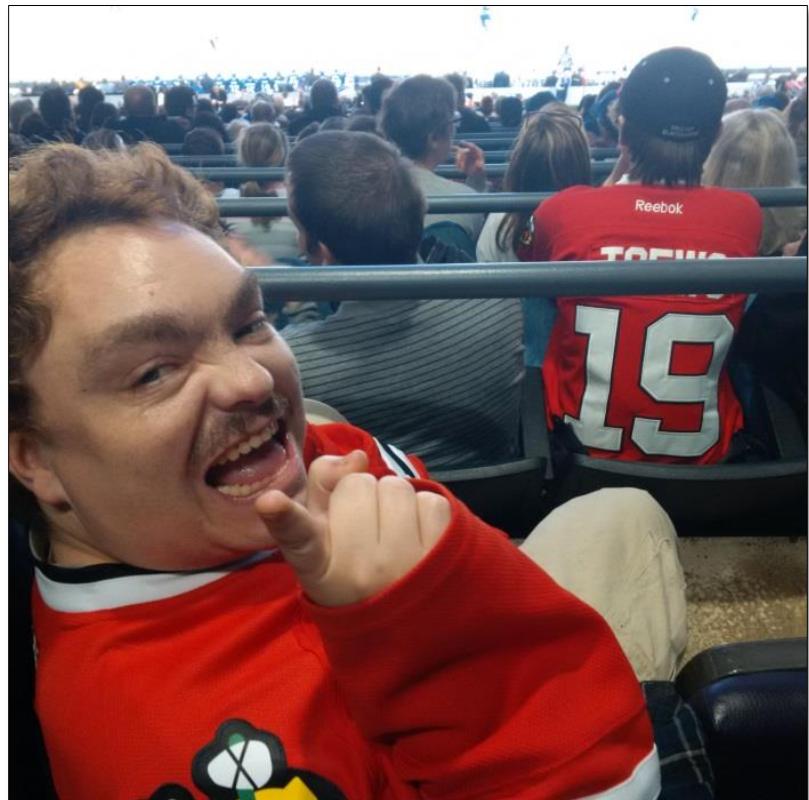


Graham worked in the IT department of General Electric in Mississauga for over 10 years before being made redundant in 2015. This gave him the opportunity to find a job in the city he loves, Guelph, and he's worked at Community Living since July 2015, part time at first but from April 2016 he's a full-time employee. Because of his IT skills, you're most likely to bump into him when you have an IT problem and he comes to fix it. The first thing you'll notice about Graham is his English accent. He was born in Windsor (the United Kingdom version) and moved to Canada in 2004. He's now married to a Canadian and has two "anchor-kitties" [CATS] even though he became a Canadian citizen in 2007. He was a Leafs fan before he moved to Canada, though now he's a Guelphite he'd rather see the Storm lift the Memorial Cup than the Leafs lift the Stanley Cup. Graham is a published author and loves to write, and enjoys writing documentation for the various IT systems in Community Living. He says that this is his dream job; working so close to home, with awesome people, doing what he loves, and being part of an organization that gives back to the community. His plans for world domination have therefore temporarily been put on hold. His heroes are John Harrison (which explains his car's license plate), Jimmy Carr (which explains his sense of humour), and Douglas Adams (which explains life, the universe, and everything.)

Ryan LOVES the Chicago Blackhawks. If you ask Ryan about hockey, the only team he thinks that can play are the Chicago Black Hawks. Ryan has a variety of names for all those other teams. For example the Toronto Maple Leafs are the Toronto Maple Loafs. When I met Ryan he expressed the desire to see an NHL game.

He explained that he understood it probably couldn't be his beloved Black Hawks game, but just to see a game would be amazing. On Jan 18<sup>th</sup> Ryan's dream came true - he went to see an NHL game. He went to see the Black Hawks kick the Toronto Maple Loafs' butt!!!!

WOW was he thrilled!! A trip to Toronto, dinner out and then to the Air Canada Centre, for an amazing hockey game of a lifetime!!!



Submitted By Kimberly MacGregor



Submitted by Kimberly MacGregor

Under the sea, what could be better than under the sea!!! Tabitha couldn't agree more!! Going to the Ripley's Believe it or Not Aquarium is the perfect place to experience being under the sea, without having to get wet! One of Tabitha's goals is to do more inclusive activities; to be out and about doing the things every 19 year old is doing, adding to her life experience and being able to say "Hey I've been there, I've done that"!! This is a door that the Passports program has opened for Tabitha.



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If you would like to be heard through this newsletter, contact the Admin. Office  
at 519-824-2480 or 226-314-0829.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to facilitating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to realize their potential and dreams in their communities.