



the profile

A Free Publication of
COMMUNITY LIVING
Essex County

...in support of people with an intellectual disability

A Labour of Love

Anne-Marie Brockman was a wonderful and vivacious young woman, who graduated from St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School and worked for Community Living Essex County in the Gosfield House in Essex. She was also an in-home respite worker for the Brazeau family. Sadly, she passed away very suddenly on September 30, 2007; July 26th would have been her 24th birthday. To celebrate her short, but full life, her parents, Doug and Wendy Brockman, her friends Alison Balind and Melissa Dumouchelle, and her large and loving family organized a memorial fundraiser in her memory with all proceeds to benefit Community Living Essex County. The event held at the Brockman home on Saturday evening, July 26th boasted county-fair and "Jack & Jill" style games, door prizes, 50-50 draws and lotteries, karaoke, a buffet and a bar. Approximately 170 people



Anne-Marie Brockman

were in attendance. Many thanks go out to the countless people who helped make this event a success, including, **the Balind Family, Julie Bezaire, Bill and April Brazeau, Tom and Karen Gagnon, Darryl Hicks, Rick and Robin Marshall, Sean Meunier, Megan Quick, Jeff and Paulette Shepley, Scott Sutton, Sue Price, The Sutton Family, Active Burgess Mould and Design, Colasanti's Restaurant, Festival Tents and Party Rentals, Rizzo's Crossing and Italian Eatery, Sutton Creek Golf and Country Club, Talbot Trails Day Spa, Wendy's Family Creations,** and all the guests who traveled from far and wide to help celebrate and raise money for this worthy cause. A total of **\$3,107** was raised from this memorial dinner and proceeds will be utilized to support programs in Essex



Members of Community Living Essex County receive a donation from the Brockman family; from left to right: Rick Bensette, Wendy and Doug Brockman, Craig Demers, Jim Boose, Executive Director, Nancy Wallace-Gero and seated, Tom Chevalier.

where Anne-Marie worked.

Community Living Essex County was delighted with the generosity. "I think it speaks to what kind of family this is, said Executive Director, Nancy Wallace-Gero. "This is a family that cares about the whole community and

that's what Anne-Marie was about".

The Brockman family has expressed an interest in making this an annual fund-raising event for Community Living Essex County in memory of their daughter, Anne-Marie.

3rd Annual Breakfast with the Mayors Promotes Inclusion

Over a period of four consecutive weeks, in May and June approximately 240 people, including representatives from a cross section of diverse groups from Essex County including members from many local organizations such as minor hockey to Girl Guides, to

service clubs and schools participated in the 3rd Annual Breakfast with the Mayor public awareness events. Hosted by Community Living Essex County, Mayors and representatives from each municipality, even Pelee Island, joined members of the community to listen to the importance of promoting inclusion and accessibility.

Participants were treated to a series of speakers including 12 year old **Nicholas Harris** of Kingsville. As the youngest member of the Kingsville Accessibility Committee Nicholas spoke candidly about his disability- he is confined to a wheelchair- and the fact that it does not stop him from getting involved in his community and from dreaming of one day becoming an Air

traffic controller.

The theme of building inclusive communities was further enhanced by passionate presentations by speakers **Ron Dzombak**, Manager of Recreation Services with the Town of Amherstburg and Ivan Petkovic who spoke from a parent's perspective. Ron provided examples of how his employer; the Town of Amherstburg, was promoting inclusiveness with the opening of the new inclusive playground, promotion of summer sledge hockey and wheelchair accessibility to the Lions pool. As a parent of a child with a disability, **Ivan Petkovic** shared how he moved his family from Sault Ste. Marie to Amherstburg because the Windsor-Essex County region boasted many community-inclusion initiatives, including those involving Community Living Essex County. "Essex County is doing a great job of inclusion." explained Ivan. He added, "The soul of any community is its service clubs, organizations and volunteer spirit".

Community Living Essex County wishes to express our thanks to all of the

Mayor's in each of our municipalities who support our efforts each year and to our passionate speakers including: Nicholas Harris of Kingsville, Ron Dzombak with the Town of Amherstburg, Ivan Petkovic of Amherstburg and Melynda Outram of Windsor Vistas Gymnastics for their time and efforts in making the 2008 Breakfast with the Mayor events such a great success.



Rom Dzombak addresses Mayor's Breakfast.

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profile

"2007 Community Living Ontario Overall Newsletter Recognition Award Recipient"

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A message from the Executive Director

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and taking time to enjoy some rest and holiday time. Community Living Essex County recently celebrated its 47th Annual General Meeting. It was an opportunity to look back at our achievements to recognize the challenges that we overcame, and to honour our dedicated staff and community volunteers.

Ensemble received a great honour from Community Living Ontario as they were the recipients of the James Montgomery Community Award for Leadership. This is a tremendous achievement and reinforces the importance and value of Ensemble's work and partnership with CLEC.

Many people we support received Light Your Future bursaries compliments of Anne Stafford and Community Living Ontario, which will help cover expenses to meet career goals.

We recognized individuals from all four areas of the County for their outstanding

contributions to Community Living and their community. In addition, we saluted many of our employees who reached milestone anniversaries with Community Living Essex County.

Debbie Rollier, a Lawyer with the firm Reid, Collins, Ricci, Enns & Rollier, is the new President of our Board of Directors. We're very fortunate to have another very capable leader taking charge of the organization.

We want to thank outgoing President Mike Groot. He did a fantastic job, guiding us successfully through a period of change and growth.

Throughout 2007 we worked diligently on projects to help people we support move from institutions back to their home communities. In total, we have helped over 40 people move out of the institutions. Currently, we are working on projects in Kingsville and Leamington. We hope to start an additional project in Essex.

Work continues to ensure that proper support and services are available to all families in the county that are waiting for assistance. The list of families waiting for support is far too large. Many of the families are aging and require support now! We are meeting with local MPPs and will continue

to meet with them to address this very important issue.

You may have noticed that we now have a new logo and tag line, developed by Community Living Ontario leadership. The new tag line is, Inspiring Possibilities. The new logo and tag line will be adopted by all Community Living organizations in Ontario, giving us a unified image and strong, recognizable brand.

On July 23rd we played host to our annual golf tournament and raised a record total of \$20,000! Congratulations to our staff and volunteers for a doing a great job in planning and organizing this event. As well, thanks to our golfers, local businesses and generous sponsors for their support. We are now gearing up for the annual Ruthven Apple Festival. As always we enjoy strong community support with these events. We are very fortunate to have so many community volunteers helping us out.

I realize that volunteers, staff, and board members have worked extremely hard over the past year. I am very grateful for all of the support, energy, and commitment shown to Community Living. It has really made a difference to a lot of people. Community input and donations to enhance the lives of those we support and their families is amazing. It is very humbling.

Continue to enjoy the summer!



Nancy Wallace-Gero

Awards Presented at 47th Annual General Meeting

The 47th Annual General Meeting of Community Living Essex County was held on June 19th and highlights of the evening included the presentation of several awards: Among the winners was **Ron Giofu, Editor of the Amherstburg Echo** newspaper who was recognized with the 2008 Media Award for his journalistic excellence in coverage of Community Living events. The Community Inclusion Award was presented to **Woodslee Credit Union** for making significant contributions towards the development of a welcoming and accessible community. Thirty-one employees were recognized for 10, 15, and 20 years of service to Community Living Essex County. Sue Grando, Director of Supports for the North Area was recognized for her 25 years of service.



From left to right: Stephanie Ludwig of Leamington, Steven Kwasnycia of Lakeshore, Tim Wilson of Essex and Rosemary Donaldson of Amherstburg were presented with Outstanding Achievement Awards by Community Living Essex County in recognition of the contributions each has made in their community.

Bill 77 - An Opportunity To Modernize Supports For People Who Have An Intellectual Disability

Proposed legislation to improve upon Developmental Services Act

Community Living Ontario officials say there are several aspects of Bill 77, proposed legislation to repeal the existing Developmental Services Act, that will go a long way towards improving supports and services for people who have an intellectual disability.

The bill was introduced May 15 as part

of Community Living Day at the Legislature, by Community and Social Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur.

Community Living Ontario has been working with its members, affiliates and other community partners to understand the implications of Bill 77 and how it will impact the lives of people who have an intellectual disability.

The first major change stemming from Bill 77 is the removal of provisions, which

existed under the Developmental Services Act, with respect to the operation of large institutional facilities. As it stands, Ontario's remaining institutions are scheduled to close their doors by the end of March 2009.

A second major change is the introduction of direct and individualized funding. "This is something that families and people have been calling for," says Tyler Hnatuk, social policy analyst with Community Living Ontario. "We were quite pleased to see that included in the bill."

Individualized funding means the costs of supporting an individual are not included as a portion of the budget for operating a site such as a group home. Each individual living on site would have their own budget.

Direct funding is where the individual and their family or support circle can have the funding flow directly to them as opposed to an agency. Executive Director Keith Powell says this represents a considerable paradigm shift because it places the person

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family forum

by the
Ensemble
Team

Ensemble renews their vision "Parents as Partners"

New website and first annual partnership award

On June 4th the Ensemble team of Lisa Raffoul, Jackie Barraco and Jane Welsh launched their new website by hosting a breakfast event for their community partners. The event, which focused on the team's renewed visions "Parents as Partners", celebrated their model for family leadership and the partnerships they have formed with community support organizations and families. Lisa Raffoul, one of the founding members of Ensemble stated "the network of support has become "us" rather than "we vs they".

The event was also a way to say thank you to their partners by way of the first annual "Partnership Award" which will be given to an organization and an individual each year that has demonstrated an understanding of family leadership and has demonstrated a commitment to it. This year's award for the organization went to Community Living Essex County. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, Nancy Wallace-Gero, the organization has supported the vision of family leadership and has offered on-going assistance to establish Ensemble as a leader in their field.

The recipient of the individual award was Linda Nagle, the former Executive Director of Children First, an organization that supports children aged 0-6 and their

families. Linda has recognized that helping families beyond the diagnosis of their children and that it goes beyond a treatment plan. She understands that there is value in families inspiring strength in one another and that for this kind of support, families are the most appropriate leaders.

Jane Welsh and Jackie Barraco, the other members of the Ensemble team both stated the importance of offering choice and options to families and that it is crucial that families receive support at their journey at their own pace and based on their own individual need.

Ensemble also celebrated their many successes and achievements from the past several years, but they say that their real success comes from witnessing the success of families as a result of their connection to Ensemble.

Family leadership guides communities to be more welcoming and accessible; it strengthens organizations and the support they offer; and it offers inspiration for the future. The Ensemble team is looking forward to connecting with families and the community through their website and other partnership opportunities.

Visit the new Ensemble web site at www.ensembleunderstands.com.



Linda Nagle former Executive Director of Children First receives the individual Partnership Award from the Ensemble team: Pictured above during the presentation are Lisa Raffoul, Linda Nagle, Jane Welsh and Jackie Barraco.

Crossing Cultural Barriers a "hit" at Community Living Ontario Conference

Our communities are increasingly diverse, with families from many cultures. Many families also have sons and daughters who have disabilities or special needs. The Ensemble team, along with their mentor moms who are part of the *Crossing Cultural Barriers* project presented their ideas for reaching out to families at Community Living Ontario's Annual Conference this past June.

Liliana Chavez, Tina Schmitt, Priya Sivakumar, Bai Ling Zhang, Jackie Barraco and Lisa Raffoul offered the audience a feel

for some of the challenges that families experience as newcomers who must learn a new language, new traditions and new social values. "There is a lot of stigma about people who have disabilities in my culture and our families are not always supportive" stated one of the moms.

The audience enjoyed the real life stories that were shared and offered comments like "this was absolutely wonderful!" One of the mentor moms said that participating in these events and sharing her story "gives her strength."

Ensemble reaches out to families with Create a File Workshop

This Spring, Ensemble, along with the Children First Parent Council launched the *Create a File* workshop for families that have children who have been diagnosed with an extraordinary health care concern or a special need. We were extremely pleased to work in partnership with the Children First Parent Committee to initiate the first series of the *Create a File* workshop and resource for families. Together we combined our resources and expertise to create a product that reflected both a family and a professional perspective.

The outcomes for families were greater than anticipated. Certainly the families who participated went home with a valuable resource tool in the *My Story Journal* but

there was more. Families had the chance to share stories, information and even a few laughs. They became connected with further resources by signing up to the *Ensemble* email roster. As a result, two grandmothers that are supporting their grandchildren were connected and within a month have started their own business together. Another mom had the opportunity to attend a day at the Ontario Legislature where she learned about Developmental Services and met others who could assist her with her family situation.

The possibilities for the future are many and we hope to continue with this valuable support to families.

Ensemble-Recipient of 2008 Montgomerie Community Award

Ensemble was awarded the prestigious James Montgomerie Award for demonstrating leadership and innovation in promoting an inclusive community. The award was presented on Wednesday, June 11th, 2008 at Community Living Ontario's 55th Annual Conference held in Markham.

As recipients of the 2008 Montgomerie Award, Ensemble is being recognized for their commitment to the needs of children and families. The work done by Ensemble is also in keeping with the many goals and visions of Community Living Ontario,

including the belief in a society where everyone belongs, has equality, respect and acceptance.

Ensemble works tirelessly to share a family's perspective with staff and professionals in social services and health and education in an attempt to improve the inclusion of children and adults who have an intellectual disability in school, work and communities. As well, Ensemble continues to increase family leadership, strengthen families and develop partnerships with the broader community.

Ensemble Team on the Road Again

Once again the Ensemble team was on the road to share their expertise. This time they traveled to Parry Sound and Peterborough to offer tips on strengthening families and increasing family leadership. These events gave families the chance to

reflect on their own situation and all that they have learned through their personal experience. The families realized the importance of family leadership in strengthening the outcomes for their sons and daughters at all stages of their lives.

Partnership for a Meaningful Life

Preparing and planning for your life is not an easy task. Add a disability to that and this assignment gets even more difficult. Ensemble got together with New Day, Community Living Essex County (CLEC) and Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports to assist families with planning for their sons and daughters.

Families and individuals shared their stories to offer ideas to families whose sons and daughters are leaving high school and

about to enter the adult world. Al Hendry from Brokerage provided information on funding applications, where and how to apply. Patty Neufeld, Manager of Planning and Intake at CLEC, gave families a simple and practical approach to planning for their sons and daughters using the "Personal Outcomes" (CQL) process.

Families said that the information was practical and would be very helpful when assisting their sons and daughters in planning for their future.

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PLAN hopeful investment in RDSPs could reduce poverty for people who have a disability

While disability coincides with poverty for many people, a British Columbia-based advocacy group sees an opportunity to break the cycle.

If people invest in Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs), there's a chance to change what has become a norm for too many people, says Jack Styan, Executive Director of The Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN).

He says people who have a disability "are going to be able to get ahead." "For most people (who have a disability), poverty has been part of their reality. This suddenly begins to change that."

Styan is referring to a 2007 federal budget announcement that allows people who have a disability, their families and friends to make contributions for their future through an investment plan similar to Registered Retirement Saving Plans. Styan says modest investments over a lifetime can help people who have a disability live better lives. PLAN estimates the RDSP will help as many as 700,000 Canadians who have a disability and the federal government has budgeted \$115 million in matching Canada Disability Savings Grants and Bonds for 2008-09.

"The real key is to build that financial security" for people who have a disability. PLAN, which led an eight-year effort to create a RDSP, is hopeful people will be able to invest in RDSPs by the year's end. The primary purpose behind RDSPs is to provide people with an easier, more affordable tool in which to invest, says Styan. As well, PLAN pushed the federal government to create a RDSP that allows people who have a disability and/or their families to determine how to spend the money and the chance to make withdrawals as necessary.

In B.C., the provincial government has exempted RDSPs as assets in determining eligibility for disability benefits. They have also exempted all income from RDSPs, allowing people to use the plan in whatever way they see fit without any penalties.

While other provinces, with the exception of Newfoundland which has similar legislation as in B.C., are still working out the details, Styan is hopeful other provincial governments will follow suit. "This is a bit of light at the end of the tunnel for a lot of people."

To learn more about RDSPs, bonds, grants and other details visit www.plan.ca/SocialPolicy_PolicyUpdates.php "Reprinted from Community Living Leaders, an online news service of Community Living Ontario. www.communitylivingontario.ca."



29th Annual Ruthven Apple Festival

Saturday, September 27th and Sunday, September 28th, 2008

This year, the 29th annual Ruthven Apple Festival begins on Saturday morning, September 27th with a special buffet breakfast from 7:30 am to 10 am served up by the Ruthven Oddfellows and friends at Colasanti's. Several members of the Ruthven Oddfellows have been participating in the festival from its beginning, twenty eight years ago.

The annual parade begins from Clifford Produce in Ruthven at 10:30 am and leads to Colasanti's for the opening ceremonies. Once there, several local dignitaries including local politicians and town Mayors will compete in the annual Apple Peeling contest.

The Apple Festival Car Show will be held on Sunday, September 28th from 10am to 4pm. Enjoy live entertainment on both Saturday and Sunday as you visit the 100 arts and crafts vendors, food booths and select from the best produce in Essex County at the Farmer's Market. Children of

all ages can enjoy the exciting midway filled with games, rides and inflatables.

Come enjoy this local tradition of great family fun for everyone in a country fair atmosphere, where admission and parking is free.

The Ruthven Apple Festival is pleased to introduce their new and improved lottery fundraiser with an outstanding prize list that includes: a 42 inch Plasma TV, a \$500 Gas Card, a Broil King Barbeque, \$500 in cash and a Nintendo Wii. Only 1,200 tickets will be available at \$10 each, or 6 tickets for \$50. Tickets can now be purchased at the offices of Community Living Essex County in Essex, the SEARS authorized dealer store in Leamington, and at Ernie's TV in Kingsville.

All proceeds from the festival benefit Community Living Essex County, a local not for profit organization that supports people with an intellectual disability and their families throughout Essex County. Thanks

to the support of the local community, the festival has raised a total of \$519,000 to date.

For more information about the Ruthven Apple Festival, please contact Tony DeSantis, Manager: Community Relations and Resource Development with Community Living Essex County at 519-776-6483, extension 246, or visit www.communitylivingessex.org.



For the best selection in local produce, be sure to see Dan Zompanti, a volunteer with the 2008 Apple Festival at the Farmer's Market.

Funding Creates a Place They Can Call Home

This past spring, Community Living Essex County was the recipient of capital funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services as part of investments aimed at helping community agencies build or renovate buildings to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, improve health and safety and upgrade security. The funding covered the capital costs of building a home in LaSalle which will be home to four young adults in partnership with their families and the Windsor/Essex Children's Aid Society.

"I'm honoured to be a part of this funding initiative," said Essex MPP Bruce Crozier. "Community Living Essex County gives much needed support to people in our community and I only hope the funding can

help enhance the lives of those who benefit from these services."



Residents Jeremy Hart and Donald Malette, look on as MPP Bruce Crozier reads a thank you card they presented to him in appreciation of the capital funding initiative he announced that created their new home in LaSalle.

18th Annual Golf Classic Raises a Record \$20,000 for Community Living Essex County

Community Living Essex County played host to their 18th Annual Charity Golf Classic at Fox Glen Golf Club in McGregor on July 23rd. Although participation was down from last years event, a record total of \$20,000 was still raised for Community Living Essex County largely in part due to the generous support of local corporate sponsors from across Essex County.

Eighteen holes of golf were followed by a reception where a delicious steak dinner was served and awards and prizes were presented to the participants. Congratulations to the best overall team of Aldo DiNardo, Grant Garrow, Michael Werstein and Steve Bradie.

Community Living Essex County wishes to acknowledge and thank the many area busi-

nesses and organizations throughout Essex County for their generosity in donating prizes for the golfers, silent and live auctions items and for serving as hole sponsors for the event.

A special thanks goes out to the following 2008 Charity Golf Classic sponsors: Lead Tournament Sponsor: Woodslee Credit Union, Hole in One Sponsor: Dave Hitchcock Chev-Exsex Golf Cart Sponsor: Lakepoint Homes of Tecumseh, Dinner Sponsors: A-Lift Industrial Truck Repair, CAW Local 444, Green Shield Canada, Hometown Family Pharmacy-Harrow, On-Site Services. Finally, a big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who worked hard to ensure another successful event.

BILL 77

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at the centre of the resources. It allows the eligible recipient to determine whether funds are flowed directly to them, or whether they can direct that funding to a transfer payment agency on their behalf. The act says the individual may opt for a combination of the two.

Another major difference between the existing act and Bill 77 is regarding the introduction of new powers related to the government's responsibility to be accountable for how public money is used to support people who have an intellectual disability.

Powell says the legislation works to achieve that accountability and clearly state how it will be exercised.

Because transfer payment agencies are contracted by the government to provide services, the bill proposes giving new powers for government to intervene and take over operations should they feel the terms of the contract are going unfulfilled by the service provider.

The final major difference between the Developmental Services Act and Bill 77 is the introduction of application centres — mechanisms responsible for a wide range of services including determining eligibility to receive supports, administering the application process, assessing people's needs and the allocation and distribution funds (restricted to direct funding), to name a few.

"The government's objective here is fair and easy access to services for people," Powell says, adding the federation does not want to see that single point become the driver of the plan for supporting people with an intellectual disability, thus displacing the natural engagement and supports that a person should have within their community. Powell notes this is one of the most complex aspects of Bill 77 and raises some concerns for Community Living Ontario's members.

As part of the legislative process, the standing committee on social policy has announced a series of public hearings on Bill 77 beginning in August at Queen's Park.

For more information on Bill 77, visit www.ontla.on.ca

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Upcoming Events... MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, September 21st, 2008
Ruthven Apple Festival-Apple Bowl
Bowling Times- (11am or, 1pm) -
Empire Lanes, Ruthven
Call 519-776-6483, ext 246 for details.

Saturday, September 27th and Sunday, September 28th, 2008
29th Annual Ruthven Apple Festival
Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, Ruthven
Call 519-776-6483, ext 246

Sunday, November 16th, 2008
14th Annual Ken Knapp Ford Jingle Bell Run/Walk and Wheel
390 Talbot Street North, Essex, Ontario
Call 519-776-6447, or 519-776-6483, ext 246

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