



the 'Patchwork' newsletter



I am pleased to announce that the Snow Goose project is complete. The one million dollar project is also debt free! It has taken 10 months since we put the shovel in the ground and a lot of hard work and problem-solving along the way but by all accounts, 75 Snow Goose is worth it!

The scholarships have been awarded and the tenants have been selected. We had our group meeting which included the tenants, their family and staff to begin planning for move in day. The final and most important preparations have begun in earnest. During the construction of 75 Snow Goose we have conducted multiple tours of the four-plex and explained the concept to all who are interested.

family, our partners at the Department, Renison

of Community and service providers, that homework and we spacious, well amenities of the supports will afford for a home of their by all for years to that it's paid for?! The

invitations to speak to groups

mount. We will be presenting the Snow

in October and at the regional meeting for Community Living Ontario, which will be hosted by our Association in Elmira, where we will be providing an overview of the project and a tour.



The consensus is from tenants, their Region of Waterloo Housing

University College, the Ministry

Social Services and other

together we did our

got it right. The units are

designed and the shared

building, property and

people an opportunity

own that can be enjoyed

come. Oh yes, did I mention

requests for information and

about our project are continuing to

Goose concept to the Kingston Association

and are worthy recipients. 'Congratulations' to Stacey and Gabrielle!



The scholarship process began in February of this year and concluded in June. The two students who were selected for the scholarships were Stacey Reinsma and Gabrielle Gauthier. The two students are in their second year of the Social Development Studies Program at Renison and are worthy recipients. 'Congratulations' to Stacey and Gabrielle!

We are now busy finishing final details in preparation for the 'move-in' day. The students will move in late August to their new apartment and two tenants are scheduled to move in the first week of September, with each tenant thereafter moving in at one-week intervals. A staggered move in date allows everyone an opportunity to get acclimated to their new home and to one another. We are planning to have a grand opening the first week of November to celebrate our achievement and to allow for the people who live at Snow Goose to share in the joy of their new home. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Board of the Elmira Developmental Support Corporation and EDCL for their faith, hard work and willingness to take the risk in this new venture. The efforts of Brian Shantz and Lawrence Carter, our building consultant and architect respectively, have once again assisted brilliantly in making our concept a reality. Special recognition to Cheryl Peterson and Lisa Reitzel for their part in preparing the building to become a home and of course acknowledging that their work, the real work of making this concept a success, is just beginning. Lastly, special acknowledgement to Wayne Martin ... his past, present and future support (he's retired now) help to make our ideas a reality!

Greg Bechard – Executive Director





Maple Syrup Festival, 2010



The success of the festival is dependent on the weather and with the weather we had this year on March 27th, success was sweet! Success is also measured in community spirit. It is great to see the community come together; young and old help out wherever they can.

Thank you to E.D.C.L. volunteers who help out at the tent.



This year, we served 13,700 pancakes! That is a lot of cooking and syrup pouring! Elmira District Community Living receives 40% of the proceeds from the festival. This year, we raised \$20,000. Next year's festival is April 2, 2011.





Some colourful pics of Kathryn enjoying her cottage vacation. That awesome smile shows what a great time you had Kathryn! Thanks for sharing the moments with us.

Way to Go Team!!



The team is thrilled after a game at the Toronto Ball Hockey Tournament held April 10/10.

Community Living Ontario (C.L.O.) Conference Update ...

Recently, four people representing Elmira District Community Living attended the annual Community Living Ontario conference. These conferences are amazing learning tools to experience. Yearly, I learn over and over, not just as an EDCL Board member or on the parent level, but especially as a **fellow human being**.

The people we support are **us** – the difference is *we* have created barriers against them. This comes home for thought when someone says, “I like your top, where did you buy it?” “I love those shoes! I wish I could wear shoes like that.” They speak honestly about possibilities and impossibilities. We are the hesitant ones. Why should we, and do we, think – them and us? **We are all equals.**

A nineteen year old young man, his friend and support person and I were waiting for the elevator together. He said to me, “How’s my necktie? I don’t often wear one. It seems really tight.” I adjusted his tie to sit properly and he explained, “I have a date tonight and I’m really nervous.” I assured him his date was probably more nervous than he was. His friend asked, “How do you like his hair? I styled it for him.” Again, I assured them everything looked great. The nineteen year old explained, “I’m going to a dance and haven’t danced in a long time.” Here was a typical teenager on his way to a dance with a date. Never once did he mention the wheelchair in which he sat. Why are barriers created by society for certain people?

Elmira District Community Living is striving for **an inclusive community**; a community where all are included equally and **“welcomed in all aspects of society”** ... a community where uniqueness is an asset rather than a hindrance. The EDCL Community Development Initiative has made successful strides toward inclusion and a further quote from the mission statement includes **“value citizen participation based on interests not differences.”** What wonderful characteristics could we learn? Where could we be included?



Membership Meeting April 8th, 2010

EDCL Members at the April 8th, 2010 meeting were greeted by Michelle Pamplin and Ron Martin. Thank you both for sharing your time with us and greeting forty-two members and guests.

Michelle Pamplin has been a member of Elmira District Community Living for eighteen years. Michelle attended our Guiding Light School until the age of twenty-one. The friendly voice answering the telephone at ARC is Michelle. Michelle is a valued team player at ARC with co-workers and staff. Michelle's friendliness and her sense of humour have evolved into many friendships. Michelle shares a home with Salema. Lately she has been learning to cook and Michelle has also expressed an interest in basketball. Michelle is an avid Elmira Sugar King fan and she has been known to decline dinner invitations if it means missing a game. Michelle enjoys walking around Elmira.

Ron Martin attended University Heights in Waterloo and during the summer Ron volunteered at Life Skills doing light cleaning. After graduation, Ron worked with Six Star for a while and then came to ARC to do light cleaning and some contract work. Ron takes pleasure reading to the people at Life Skills and they delight in hearing him speak. Ron enjoys his volunteer position at MCC Thrift Shop in Elmira. Ron's church social circle is very important to him and Sunday is his time with this large circle of friends. Ron's

Ron Martin and Michelle Pamplin greet Ron's parents at the April 8th Membership Meeting!



HELLO!



Michelle and Ron looking relaxed before the meeting. Thank-you both for serving as greeters at the meeting!



Donna Fulcher, Manager of Day Support Employment Supports/ARC/Life Skills/Health & Safety/Transportation; Trudy Allen, Primary Case Manager of Avenues and Michelle Ingram-Smith, Employment Supports/Supervisor of Six Star. All in attendance found this to be a very informative evening. Thank you for the presentation. Donna Fulcher updated everyone regarding the progress of operations at ARC. Following the

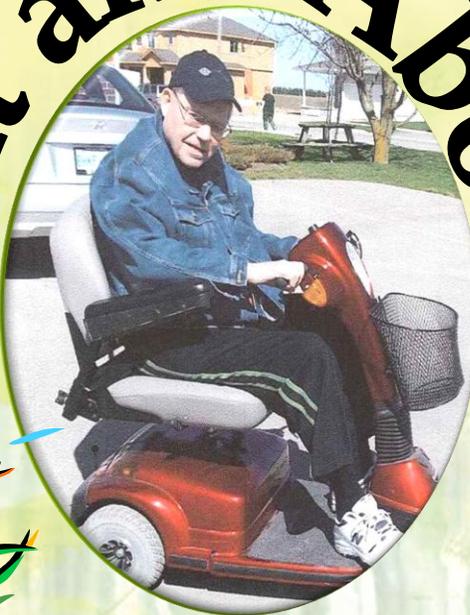
IRENE DIETRICH ~ Retirement at 85!

Loving, giving, selflessness, community-minded, deep faith, volunteer... these are a small number of adjectives that come to mind when one attempts to characterize Irene Dietrich. In May, 2010, Irene celebrated eighty-five years of living. At eighty-five Irene felt she'd like to resign her seat on the Elmira District Community Living Board of Directors and Client Services Committee. Irene's resignation was gracefully accepted with the reminder Irene is an Elmira District Community Living (E.D.C.L.) lifetime member and she is always welcome when she chooses to attend functions and meetings. Irene was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary founded by the mothers of the school students. Irene remembers ... "The Guiding Light School for children with intellectual disabilities opened in 1963 in the basement of the Mennonite Church. The school was built in 1968. The first teachers were Arlene Taylor, Trudy Klinck and Joan Moyer. The Ladies Auxiliary's first presidents were Salome Brubacher and Eileen Snyder. They held food booths at the Maple Syrup Festival and at local auction sales. Members supplied crafts, pies and various baked items for sale. Members manned the booths which were quite successful." Irene's legacy will live on with E.D.C.L. Her daughter Elizabeth is a member of the Auction Committee and her daughters Julie and Anita volunteered for the association's annual Quilt Auction. Irene's son, Raymond, shares a home here in Elmira. Irene, thank-you for the many volunteer years you have offered to E.D.C.L.

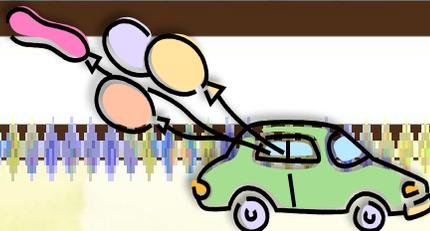


We wish you well as you continue your life's journey. Donna Haid ~ President

Out and About



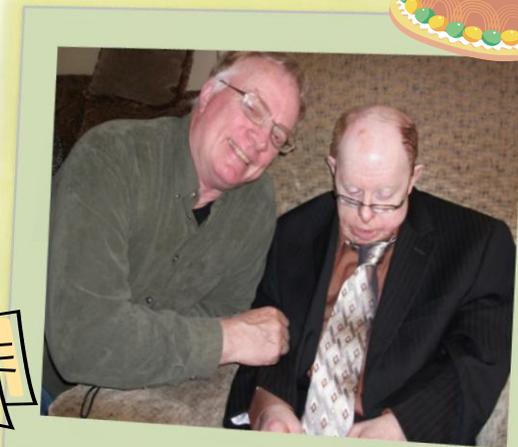
Mike Bracken travels on his scooter while taking in the nice, spring weather!



John Watts

turned 60 years of age on May 14th!
We celebrated the occasion with an Open House at Eagle Drive.

All of John's closest friends and family were in attendance.



Birthday boy John (r) celebrates with his brother Jim.



← Mary, Wayne and Sharon enjoying the

It was a 'Gala' time at the Assisted Living Centre ...

'Living the Life' at the A.L.C.

If you are in college, university or paying off your first car loan, 5 years may seem to go fast. If you live at the EDCL Assisted Living Centre, we would disagree. Five years seems to have gone by in the blink of an eye!

Opening in March of 2005, we were all nervous about what lay ahead. A new home, new staff team body and new residents all creating new dynamics within the walls of the freshly painted and decorated ALC, as the Assisted Living Centre affectionately became known. Sixteen residents moved in over a 2 day period, bringing their belongings and their eager attitudes for a new life in their new home. It took quite some time to get into new routines, but once that happened, the family at the ALC blossomed.

In our five years together, we have gone through a number changes in staff, in the building with the addition of the sunroom/hot tub room, and in the residents living here. We have been blessed by the relationships formed and saddened by the loss of several of our long time residents. In order of passing, we salute our friends; Isabel McGrady, Robin Martin, Doris Oakes, Rosie Hergott, Frank Kahl, Linda Davey and Douglas McCook. New people have moved in and one special resident back to his original country home at Reid Woods. (Yes Richard, we still miss you!) In the realm of people moving about, passing away and leaving us



Young's all

Michael B. checks out the trophy

Wilma's ready for cake!



Wayne and Laurie have a laugh!

for better pastures, the time has flown. We reached our five-year milestone by celebrating with a Gala Event held at the Assisted Living Centre. Dressed in our finest, we shared a time of food, good cheer and topped off the evening with our version of the Emmy Awards; the ALC Awards. Great thanks go out to all of the residents who showed their enthusiasm with abandon, and those of us here to support them in their moment of glory. Our group was thrilled to have as dignitaries at our Gala: Greg Bechard, Cheryl Peterson, Laurie Thomson and Julie Martin-Jansen. Thank you all for finding time to share a Friday evening with us. Special mention goes out to our beautiful assistants for the evening; Madison Jansen, and Olivia Ellis, who both served graciously and brought smiles to many. Our red carpet, balloons, decorations courtesy of Frey's Flowers, candles and table settings provided a great back drop for the evening. We also had the skills and talent of a local professional photographer come in to capture our



nts. And we did have a few. Some tears, much laughter, big hugs and wonderful speeches made meaningfully by. We hope that we are all together for another 5 years and that the next five don't go quite as fast as the last five have. Louise Ellis - ALC



ELMIRA CHARITY QUILT AUCTION & COUNTRY MARKET ...

Making Fun A Little More Affordable

there

Recreation for individuals with disabilities who require assistance from a support worker can be expensive when you are paying for both people. **To offset this cost are two programs: Personal Attendant For Leisure (PAL card), and Access 2 Entertainment.** The two cards allow the cardholder to be accompanied by a worker to a participating recreational activity, and the support worker's entrance fee is waived.



The PAL card is free! It takes about a week to receive, and it is accepted at designated facilities in Elmira, Waterloo, Kitchener, Guelph, and Cambridge. These facilities include (but are not limited to) various *festivals, organized leisure programs, swimming facilities such as Woolwich Memorial Centre, arenas and sports facilities like RIM Park, golf courses, and the Kitchener Auditorium.* There are also private attractions that will accept this card; *Bingemans, Chicopee Ski Club, Country Bowl, Dickson Bowl, Waterloo Regional Children's Museum, and the YMCA of Cambridge.* To confirm that these, or any other attractions take this card (as acceptance may vary year-to-year), it is advisable that you call ahead. Currently the card is not accepted at rented events such as Sugar Kings games at the Elmira Memorial Centre. For independent individuals who have a temporary health issue that requires more support for a short period, a temporary PAL card can also be obtained. An application form and more information can be found at the Township of Woolwich website, www.woolwich.ca (type 'PAL card' in the Search box), or contact Valerie Hummel, Deputy Clerk at (519) 669-6005.

of

The Access 2 Entertainment card has a one-time cost \$20. It is valid for 5 years and takes 4-6 weeks to receive. It is accepted at Cineplex Movie Theatres and attractions such as the Art Gallery of Ontario, Ontario Place, Casa Loma, Royal Ontario Museum, CN Tower, and Ontario Science Centre. An application and further information can be obtained through their website www.access2.ca.

Tami Schaafsma

Elmira District Community Living 'Patchwork' Newsletter



In Memory of ...



Doug McCook

May 22, 1963 – February 17, 2010

To say we were all shocked of Doug's passing is an understatement and even now, a few months later, it is hard to believe that he is no longer with us. Doug moved into the ALC in November 2008 so had only lived with us a short time, but during that time he became very special to us. If you talk to the people who lived with him, they will tell you that they miss his smile. When Doug smiled, his whole face lit up and if he was smiling at you, he made you feel very special. We didn't have long enough with you Doug and we miss you, but we are thankful that we did have the privilege of knowing you even for the short time we had.

*~ Your friends Cheryl
and the crew
from A.L.C. ~*



King Kemple

July 26, 1937 - May 19, 2010

It is with great sadness that we learned of King Kemple's passing on May 19, 2010 and it still hardly seems real. King was a person who would greet everyone, introduce himself if he didn't know you and try to charm you into being a lifelong friend. King was a dreamer, always talking about the travels he'd do, where he'd been, and things to come. He had many favourite times of year, including Christmas but one of his best was the mention of his birthday on July 26th. Always requesting mini-golf as his birthday treat, King would be gracious to invite anyone and everyone along. King was an integral part of the Seniors Program and he will be missed by his friends and 'family' of the A.L.C. Seniors and ARC Industries.

*~ Your friends Louise and the A.L.C. and
Donna and the ARC Industries crew. ~*



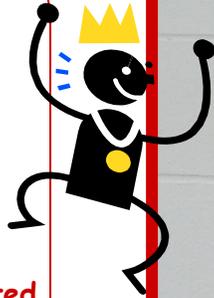
Elmira District Community Liv
2010

'Congratulations' to Taryn Mikjaniec

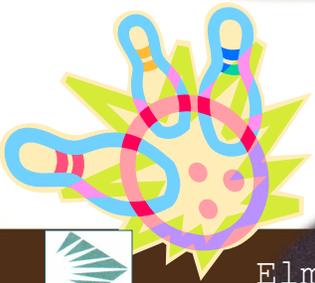


Taryn competed at the National Special Olympic games in London Ontario the week of July 11-18 in 5-pin bowling.

In order to compete in the National games she had to win a regional and a provincial tournament. The bowling team that she was a member of won silver and Taryn won a gold medal for Points Over Average in her division. She competed against other 5-pin bowling teams from all across Canada and got to meet many new friends and participate in the opening and closing Olympic ceremonies. Taryn has been a part of Elmira District Community Living since November, 2008.



Fun was had by all at the bowling banquet!



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It was a full ho

June 17, 2010!

Thank-you everyone,



Michelle DeCosta and Jon Webb were greeters for the evening. Thank you for your warm welcomes. **Michelle DeCosta** has been married five years to Jason, whom she met after high school at a workshop in Elmira. Michelle worked at ARC in the bridal area for a while. Now Michelle works at the Elmira District Community Living administration office under the direction of Susan Zantinge and at times wherever needed. Michelle and Jason enjoy boating, vacationing at the cottage, watching movies and spending time with friends. Michelle and her mom, Janette, share time together over coffee and watching movies. Michelle travels with her mom to Scotland periodically to visit relatives. Michelle would like the membership to know that people with learning disabilities can live on their own, work productively and participate in community events and activities. Michelle feels society should be more accepting of everyone and respect each other for their abilities, not their differences.

Jonathan Webb has been associated with Elmira District Community Living for a number of years and now considers Elmira home. Jon was born in Dallas, Texas and is very proud of the fact that he is a Texan, as well as a Canadian. Jon was officially given the title (and helmet) of "honourary fireman" by Chief DeHouge after almost three years working as the flagman for Station #2 Waterloo. Jon gives the administration and firefighters a monthly flag report in their boardroom and takes them coffee and snacks. If the flag is torn or in need of lowering, Jon is the one who changes the flag. Jon loves animals and worked for the Humane Society feeding the rabbits. He considers himself an artist in figurine painting and welding art. Watching a movie with Jon is an experience of uninhibited laughter that pales others attempts at enjoyment.

The greetings, conversations, interactions and joy shared between members and people supported created warm feelings of inclusion. It was wonderful so many were in attendance! We had the pleasure of meeting the students who received scholarships and a home to share while in university; along with the tenants at 75 Snow Goose. **Receiving the Geoffrey and Eleanor Downie scholarship and the Wayne B. and Dorene Martin scholarship are Gabrielle Gauthier and Stacey Reinsma. The tenants calling Snow Goose home are Judy Day, Mark Allison, Joel Martin and Janine Haid.** We wish everyone all the best in their new home! **Elmira District Community Living presented John and Pat Scherrer and Steve Menich and Mary Ellen Cullen with Special Recognition Awards** for their contributions to our Association. **Thank you to Hugh Robinson, Ministry Program Supervisor** for



ing the E.D.C.L. Annual General Meeting. The evening agenda included annual reports and elections for ing Board **Elmira District Community Living 20 Patchwork Newsletter** Thursday, October 14, 2010, Thursday, April 7, 2011 and Thursday, June 16, 2011.

Donna Haid – President

E.D.C.L. 'Accreditation' Date is Set!

For the past year our staff have been actively preparing for Accreditation by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). This has involved a great deal of extra effort on the part of our administrative/management and front-line staff. We have had to familiarize ourselves with all of the CARF Standards as they relate to the various services we provide and evaluate our policies, procedures and practices to bring them into alignment with CARF expectations.

This spring, we underwent a mock survey conducted by Peter Sproul from Community Living Kingston. Peter is a surveyor for CARF. Peter met with the staff of our Association to talk about what a survey will look like and he advised us on our current state of readiness for a survey, helping us upgrade areas of concern. Peter was here for four days and his support was appreciated by all. We learned that we knew a lot more about Accreditation than we thought and that we were well prepared for a successful outcome of an Accreditation Survey.

We recently submitted all the remaining material required to set a date for our survey. CARF surveyors will be coming to Elmira to conduct their support audit November 15 to November 17, 2010. We still have some work to do, but I am confident we will be well rewarded for our efforts and we can all take pride in the supports and services provided by our Association.

Accreditation is a process of every day; it is ongoing and our stakeholders can be assured that E.D.C.L. is committed to quality in the supports and services we provide and

Employee Recognition



Maureen P., Kim D., Donna B. and Karen B. are congratulated by President, Donna Haid on receiving Attendance Recognition Awards for having had excellent attendance of two or fewer sick days, with Kim having had PERFECT attendance throughout the past year. Way to go ladies! We appreciate your efforts and devotion to the job. Many thanks!

that our commitment will continue beyond the survey this coming November. Quality assurance is a never-ending commitment to excellence. You deserve nothing less from your Association!

'Congratulations' to Christine Kitching

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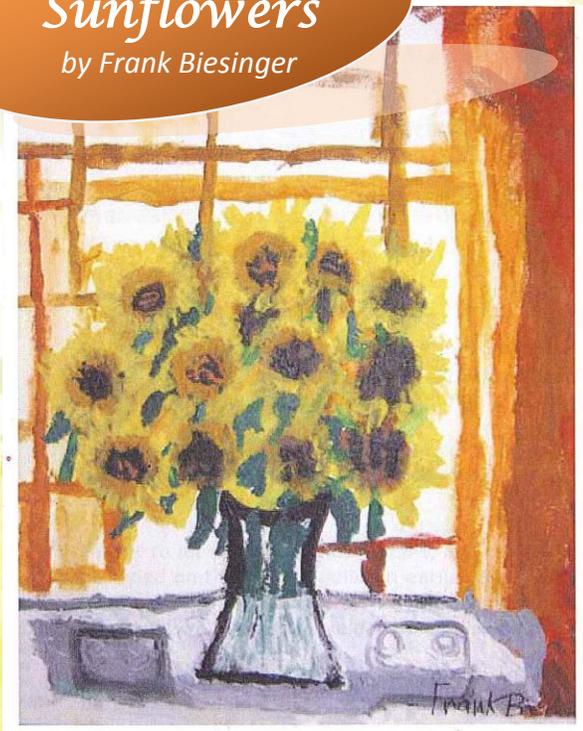
Christine divides her time between scheduling duties and assistant to the Finance Officer. For two years, Christine has been working on attaining her Certified Management Accountant (C.M.A.) designation. After a lot of evenings and weekends devoted to course studying and assignments,



Elmira District Community Living 'Patchwork' Newsletter

'Sunflowers'

by Frank Biesinger



'Friends'

of the Association ...

Over the past two decades our Association has dramatically, not only in the number of people we support but also the number of properties we now and have to maintain. It is getting increasingly costly contract out the maintenance of our lawns and flower beds and as a result, many of our lawns and flower beds are showing that they require some additional 't.l.c.' Our staff do their best to keep our properties presentable but attentions are spread thin.



The next two years will be lean times as our Association recovers from the most recent economic downturn. Our budgets are frozen and costs to operate are rising. We need to find economies so that the dollars we have continue to support our primary responsibility, the people who we support residentially and in our day programs.



Our lawns and gardens need attention periodically during the year, in spring, summer and fall in preparing the beds for spring planting/ seeding and fertilizing our lawns, a one-time summer tune-up and then a fall preparation for the winter

'Congratulations' to Frank Biesinger from Elmira who recently had his original painting featured in the Ministry of Community and Social Services' **Spotlight on transformation** newsletter. What a terrific job Frank ... you have produced an awesome piece of art!

Thank you Harold Albrecht, Member of Parliament –

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including bed maintenance and fall seeding of our lawns.

If you are interested (whether you are a person being supported by our Association, a family member, a member of the community or a staff person), please contact our office and let us know. We will plan for first work party this fall and of course at the end of day, we would come together for pot luck meal and fellowship. Call the office at 519-669-3205, ext. #232 to leave your name/phone # to reach you at more information is established. Many thanks for any time you are able to offer to help out!

