



Connections

Where choices change the lives of people with an intellectual disability

FEATURED STORY

What a great Summer!

We hope that everyone has had as good a summer as we did!

In this issue of the Connections Newsletter, you will learn about the sprOUT Toronto group, about our wonderful Council Members, a special surprise backyard BBQ, Viola Desmond Park Naming Ceremony coverage, what the Self Advocates have been up to this summer, and one of our summer students, Jessica, had the honour of meeting MP of Scarborough Rouge Park, Gary Anandasangaree who actually sponsored the Canada Summer Jobs application.

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On page 8 you will find information about our upcoming Community Rocks! You can purchase your tickets at www.communityrocks.ca.

Hope to see you there!



For the over 10 years, Patron Council Chair, Duncan Jackman, has hosted Duncan Farm day for many people in service. It's a day full of fun, BBQ's , painting, swimming, and more! Here is the gang posing for a group photo. -"Let's see those jazz hands!"

sprOUT Toronto Group



sprOUT Toronto Group at Cherry Beach: August, 2018

By: Michelle Grimley

SprOUT Toronto is a group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning (LGBTQ) adults (18 years and over) living with intellectual disabilities. SprOUT Toronto meets on the second Monday of each month between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm at Foster's Clubhouse.

Since 2007, Griffin Centre's sprOUT project has been focused on building community with LGBTQ adults with intellectual disabilities and their allies. SprOUT Toronto conducts skills and awareness building activities that promote self advocacy, anti-oppression and diversity. The group creates opportunities for community engagement and increased visibility, as well as peer support.

In 2008, Community Living Toronto established the Bridging Diversity committee to help close the gap between the developmental services sector and the diverse community groups in Toronto. One of the goals of the Bridging Diversity Committee was to identify and work to better support the needs of LGBTQ people living with intellectual disabilities.

In 2010, Vita Community Living's Pride Committee organized the agency's first participation in the Annual Pride Toronto Parade March. Based on a strong turnout, the agency initiated a support group for LGBTQ adults who are labelled with an intellectual disability.

Currently supported by the Griffin Centre, Community Living Toronto and Vita Community Services, sprOUT Toronto is a safe space for LGBTQ adults with intellectual disabilities to socialize in a non-judgmental atmosphere, share stories and, most importantly, to support and learn from one another. The group attends outings of their choosing (Centre Island and Cherry Beach most recently) and invite guest facilitators to deliver educational workshops on a wide range of topics.

New members are welcome to join a monthly meeting (details in Events section below)!

For further details please contact:

Onar Usar at 416-347-0795 or

Shayen Henry at 647-523-7063

Upcoming Central Events

Central Region Dinner Club

Every Wednesday

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

30 Birch Ave

sprOUT Meeting

Monday September 10, 2018

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

40 Birch Ave

Central Region Easy Walk

Saturday September 8, 2018

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Meeting Point: Union Station -
Great Hall at Information
Counter (By the big clock)

Central Region Council Meeting

Tuesday September 11, 2018

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

20 Spadina Rd
Meeting Room 1
All are welcome!

Downtown Parent Share

Monday September 10, 2018

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

38 Regent St, Second Level

For information contact:

Bonnie Heath at

416-645-6000 ext. 1311

bheath@woodgreen.org

Education Consultation

Tuesday October 9, 2018

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

20 Spadina Rd

Meeting Room 1

By Appointment Only

Contact: Tracey O'Regan at
416-371-3162 or

toregan@cltoronto.ca

For information on any of the above events, contact Michelle Grimley

at 647-729-1210 or

michelle.grimley@cltoronto.ca

Exceptional Volunteers with an Organization

By: Georgina Stergiotis



Etobicoke/York Council and Borys Wrzesnewskyj - Liberal MP Etobicoke Centre

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on June 10, 2018, Community Living Toronto's Etobicoke/York Council were honoured and celebrated for Exceptional Volunteers with an Organization by Borys Wrzesnewskyj, Liberal MP for Etobicoke Centre.

All Council members are parents of children with a developmental disability and all face daily challenges with their children. They are compassionate, caring parents and passionate about improving supports and services for individuals with a developmental disability. Collectively, Council have volunteered over 600 hours, this past year at Community Living Toronto. They work tirelessly to ensure that Community Living Toronto a thriving and leading agency in the community.

Council have raised thousands of dollars through fundraising, such as: the Annual Easy Roller Bowl a Thon, Wine and Cheese Social and Lunch to Go. All proceeds raised from the fundraisers support various social/recreational programs, Holiday Hampers (providing gifts and assistance to over 20 families, 55 children, and 25 individuals support by APSW program). Each year, Council also sponsors a school bus for the Annual Fun Fair, host information sessions, and their Annual Holiday Party. The Holiday party is an evening

enjoyed by individuals supported by Community Living Toronto, all members and staff.

Most importantly, Council relentlessly advocate for improvements to social service programs, an increase to income supplements, and affordable housing.

The following Council members were honoured: Ann Marie Fierro (Chair), Joan Karout (Secretary and Government Relations), Mary Byne (Secretary), Susan King (Treasurer), Laura Parsonson (Board Rep, Nominating Committee), Ruth Nagy (Quality Assurance), Gaston Karout, Zdenka Bilic, Stefica Skof, Christine LeClair, Janina Coulthard, and Mary Pawson.

Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

Etobicoke/York Council Meeting

Creative Village Studio

4895 Dundas St. West

Tuesday September 11, 2018

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Contact: Georgina Stergiotis

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca or 647-294-6906

Etobicoke Parent Share

295 The West Mall, suite 204

September 20, 2018

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Contact: Karla Galves Del-Rio

kgalvez@cltoronto.ca or 647-296-6890

Educational Consultation

295 The West Mall, suite 204

September 25, 2018

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

By appointment only contact: Tracy O'Regan

toregan@cltoronto.ca or 416-371-3162

Friendship Group

Come out and enjoy an evening with friends!

295 The West Mall, suite 204

Wednesday September 26, 2018

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

For Information Contact:

LauraLee Edminston

ledminston@cltoronto.ca or 416-371-3426

NORTH YORK

A Picnic at Shane's Home with Friends from SWACA

By Carlotta Carmichael



Shane is all smiles visiting with his SWACA friends

On Thursday July 27th support workers Carlotta, Mike and nine SWACA participants, many whom are close friends of Shane, went to his home for a picnic.

Shane has been ill and unable to walk. He has been anxious to return to the day program and has called several times to talk to his friends to tell them dates of his return but he was unable to return. Shane loves to join the annual picnic and was hoping he would have been able to attend. As this wasn't possible, the supervisor Wilma and support staff Carlotta decided to take a picnic to Shane's home.

Staff barbecued burgers and hot dogs for Shane's picnic. There were fruits, and yogurt, just as we had at the annual picnic at Earl Bales Park. Drinks were provided by Shane's family and participants were given a take away bag of chocolates and cookies.

Shane's nephew provided the entertainment, by playing music and music videos all afternoon.

A special thanks to Shane and his family and his friends, Kissandra and Josephine, who welcomed us into their home to make this picnic possible for Shane and his friends from SWACA.

Memorable Summer Moments



North York SWACA visited a fire station this summer! Here they are posing in front of a Fire Truck!

Upcoming North York Events

North York Council Meeting

Monday September 10, 2018

1:00 PM– 3:00 PM

North York Office Boardroom

1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 18

RSVP Wendy Dyke 647-274-9281

Need help setting up your profile account for MyCommunityHub.ca

One on One sessions

Between 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

1122 Finch Avenue West, unit 18

September 12 and 19

October 10 and 24

By appointment only contact: Wendy Dyke at 647--274-9281 or wdyke@cltoronto.ca

North York Parent Share

1122 Finch Ave. W

September 13, 2018

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Contact: Karla Galves Del-Rio

kgalvez@cltoronto.ca or 647-296-6890

Educational Consultation

1122 Finch Ave. W, unit 18

Family Meeting Room

Thursday October 11, 2018

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

By appointment only contact: Tracy O'Regan 416-371-3162 or toregan@cltoronto.ca

SCARBOROUGH

Viola Desmond Park Naming Ceremony

By: Alina Nasturas and Brenda Gore



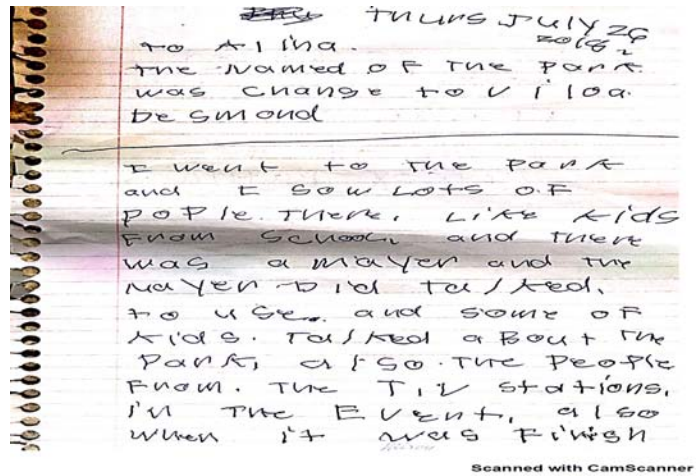
Brenda, Sue, Vanessa, Karen and Isabel at the Park Naming event.

On the morning of June 25, 2018 Brenda Gore and housemates from Wilcox Creek Residence were invited to participate in the Viola Desmond Park Naming Ceremony.

Brenda Gore wrote: I went to the park and I saw lots of people there (like kids from schools). There was City Councillor Neethan Shan that talked to us and some of the kids about the park. There were also people from the TV stations at the event. After the speech ended they uncovered the Park New Name.

Councillor Neethan Shan of Ward 42 Scarborough-Rouge River invited the local residents to participate in this event. The park formerly known as Hupfield Park was renamed for Viola Desmond. In 1946, Viola Desmond made history by challenging segregation at a film theatre in Nova Scotia.

It was a lovely ceremony on a beautiful day, enjoyed by all present. The park is a lasting tribute to be experienced by all in the community.



In Brenda's own words and writing

Upcoming Scarborough Events

Council Meeting

October 1, 2018
6:30 PM
1712 Ellesmere Road
All are welcome!

Healthy Cooking Class

Starts September 24, 2018
For 10 Mondays 5-8 PM
\$150 for the session

Bingo at Lawson

September 21, 2018
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
1712 Ellesmere Road
\$5 for a snack
and prizes

For more information on all of these events and to register contact
Felicita Zanatta at
647-729-1635 or
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Connections Dance

Friday September 28, 2018
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM
1712 Ellesmere Rd.
\$8 admission
Call Lester at
416-566-7252

Educational Consultation

1712 Ellesmere Rd. 2nd Floor Boardroom
Thurs. Oct. 4, 2018,
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
By appointment only
contact: Tracy O'Regan
toregan@cltoronto.ca or
416-371-3162 to 5:00 PM

Parent Share

Cedarbrook Community Centre
91 Eastpark Blvd.
September 13, 2018
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
for information contact:
Janet Dunne
jdunne@cltoronto.ca or
647-729-1631

Self Advocates Council and Toronto Police Working Together

By: Sue Hutton



The Self Advocates Council begins work with the Toronto Police

SAC member Mark Miller recently suggested the SAC meet with Toronto Police to talk about respect and the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. Mark has witnessed Police being a little heavy-handed with people with disabilities in the past, and thought it would be great to have a conversation to help police understand the communication needs of people with intellectual disabilities better. Then when Francie Munoz came to the SAC to talk about her experiences with two Toronto officers, she spoke with optimism and hope about improving things with the police. Francie believes that officers want to work well with people with disabilities, and the two officers she encountered that were disrespectful to her were not the norm of the Toronto Police Services.

When we reached out to Toronto Police Vulnerable Persons Unit officer Jason Peddle, he was super eager to come meet with self advocates. He brought along with him Sargent Charles Zekeres, who is in charge of curriculum development for training for Police. Sargent Charles (Or Chaz as we called him), took a lot of notes and listened to the SAC's suggestions on how people need to be treated. Francie Munoz was in attendance and shared her feelings with them also.

It was a really powerful discussion! We are very thrilled to be working together.

Charles and Jason were really approachable and friendly. Also with them was another officer who Nelson Raposo was excited to meet. Officer Eddie told the SAC the story of being in a pretty serious accident when he was a new police officer, which left him in a wheelchair for life. Nelson and Eddie swapped notes on accessibility issues. He was very excited to work with the SAC, and was incredibly saddened when he learned about the officers who spoke in a demeaning way about anyone with a disability.

The meeting with police and the SAC was so fun, that nobody wanted to leave! The officers hung out with the group for a good long time after the meeting, chatting, telling jokes.

The SAC is meeting with the officers again in September to continue working together. Starting off, the SAC will speak with Sargent Zekeres about the training for police. What a thrilling partnership!

For more information on the Self Advocates Council contact:

Sue Hutton shutton@cltoronto.ca ,

Michelle Grimley michelle.grimley@cltoronto.ca

Tara Bates tara.bates@cltoronto.ca



MyCommunityHub is an online registration space where people with a developmental disability and their families can find activities and programs that reflect their interests.

Outreach Assistant Meets Scarborough MP

By: Jocelyn Inaldo

Our summer student, Jessica, had the honour of meeting MP of Scarborough Rouge Park, Gary Anandasangaree who sponsored our #CanadaSummerJobs application, so we could hire Jessica as an Outreach Assistant. Thank you Government of Canada.

Over the past couple of months, Jessica has been connecting with our current volunteers and getting to know many of the residents in our Wilcox Group Homes. Two of the individuals that Jessica had the pleasure of meeting specifically, were Brenda and Vanessa.



(Left) Jessica, Brenda, Gary, Sue (right)

Jessica has been keeping in contact with the ladies there, with friendly visits and comprising lists of events that are happening around the Greater Toronto Area.

For the time that I have been working with Community Living Toronto, I have learned many things about the organization and the many programs and Initiatives that it has to offer.

A space that really caught my eye was the Creative Village Studio. From the time I was a little kid till now studying at Sheridan College for Interior Design, has created a special place in my heart. Being able to personally relate to the wonderful space that Community Living Toronto has created for many of its individuals, to learn, have fun and to enjoy arts as an outlet of expression.

It's been such a wonderful opportunity to have met and worked alongside with many of the people here at Community Living Toronto. I hope to volunteer my time with Community Living Toronto in the near future.

NEWS

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation Session Dates

North York Office

September 19th, 2018

5:30-7:30

Central Office

October 17, 2018

10:30am-12:30pm

Upcoming Volunteer Refresher Training Dates

Central Office

October 22nd, 2018

5:00pm- 6:00pm

Central Office

December 12, 2018

5:00pm-6:00pm

Register for any of the Orientation or Refresher trainings at communitylivingtoronto.ca/volunteers/

For more information about any of these sessions, or any questions relating to volunteering feel free to contact Karla at karla.galvez@cltoronto.ca

Party with a Purpose!

At Community Rocks!



Saturday November 10th

Queen Elizabeth Theatre

190 Princes' Blvd., Exhibition Place

Doors: 6pm

To Purchase your ticket, visit

communityrocks.ca

Get your dancing shoes ready to dance at the DISCO!

Navigating the Education System

Individual Educational Consultations

- Private consultation support regarding all aspects of the education system for school aged children.
- Consultations may include IEP reviews, IPRC preparation, and any other school concerns.

For more information and to arrange for your personal appointment Please Contact:
Tracey O'Regan, Inclusion Coordinator and Education Liaison

at [416-371-3162](tel:416-371-3162) or email toregan@cltoronto.ca

Etobicoke

295 The West Mall
Suite 204
Room 2

Tues. Sept. 25, 2018
10: AM to 3:00 PM

North York

1122 Finch Ave. W.
Unit 18
Family Meeting Room

Thurs. Oct. 11, 2018
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Scarborough

1712 Ellesmere Road
2nd Floor Boardroom

Thurs. Oct. 4, 2018
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Central

20 Spadina Road
Meeting Room 1

Tues. Oct. 9, 2018
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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