

FEATURED STORY

Our Valued Volunteers!

By: Sarah Winter and Yulia Prudova



Nick Macrae (Second from left), Arda Zakarian (Third from left), Brad Saunders (Far right) and Volunteer award winners.

On April 10th 2017 we celebrated our 37th Annual Volunteer Appreciation event, honouring Community Living Toronto’s outstanding volunteers!

The evening was a huge success, with an opportunity for volunteers to enjoy amazing food and entertainment!

Arda Zakarian (CP24 Reporter), who has deep roots and ties in volunteerism, did a wonderful job hosting the evening.

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Our very own Eric Laimer, Sue Hutton and her son Kai perform some musical numbers that set the tone for a truly memorable event!

The evening was a celebration of community, collaboration and the incredible work that our volunteers do to ensure inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities where they live, work and play! We are looking forward to celebrating with all of you next year!



Joshua Splude

Volunteer Services would like to thank Joshua Splude for creating beautiful and memorable origami art for the winners of the volunteer awards this year presented during our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 10, 2017! Thank you so very much for sharing your talent! Everyone loved those framed paper creations!



Some of Josh's Origami Creations



Teresa Harris Receiving her award.



CHRIS STRINGER

JIM TURNER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARISM, 2016

Chris Stringer's involvement with Community Living Toronto began in 2008 when the mission, vision and values of our organization resonated with him immediately. He soon began volunteering as a member of the Real Estate and Finance Committee where he enjoyed working with the staff, volunteers and people in service. He has since been an active member of the Finance and Audit Committee, chaired the Quality Assurance Committee and quickly assumed the leadership position as President of the Board of Directors in 2011. He has been instrumental in building relationships with community and corporate partners and has represented Community Living Toronto as an advocate and strong voice for our families. Chris thoroughly enjoys working with the staff and volunteers in our organization and believes that they are a capable, experienced and driven force for the betterment of people with special needs. Chris's exceptional voluntarism is evident through his roles as Co-Chair on TD Bank's Retiree United Way Campaign and Past President of the Children's Aid Society and Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Foundation.



TERESA HARRIS
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, 2016
CENTRAL REGION

Teresa is a current volunteer for Central Region, having started her work with Community Living Toronto in 2014. In this short period of time, Teresa has made an incredible impact by spearheading a brand new, engaging social group now known as the “Cookie Group”. Teresa coordinates and facilitates the sessions, using her incredible baking skills to prepare materials for this group on a regular basis. Teresa has also volunteered at Community Rocks and Function at the Junction and has also been involved with Person Directed Planning sessions. Teresa was inspired to volunteer shortly after moving to Toronto. She believes Community Living Toronto provides a much needed service to people with special needs and creates valuable opportunities for them to socialize. She believes that the social aspect is a huge part of improving people’s lives and promoting inclusion. Teresa’s commitment to voluntarism is also demonstrated through her active involvement with Kensington Hospice.



MARY BYNE
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, 2016
ETOBICOKE/YORK REGION

Mary Byne is a current member of Etobicoke Regional Council, having served as a volunteer for 20 years! During her time as a volunteer for Council, she has taken on many roles ranging from being Council Secretary to Council Chair over the years. She has taken part in fundraising through events such as the Bowl-athon, Wine and Cheese and Lunch-to-Go. She was inspired to volunteer because of the excellent quality of support that Community Living Toronto has been able to provide her son Adam; volunteering with us is her way of giving back. What she enjoys most about her experience is the friendships she has created; she likes being associated with other parents, learning from them and becoming more educated about the processes and policies in the social services sector. Outside of Community Living Toronto, she has put considerable time and effort into providing a Saturday bowling program for many intellectually disabled individuals, run by Mary and her husband, Fred.



*MORRIS JESION
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, 2016
NORTH YORK REGION*

Morris has been a volunteer with Community Living Toronto since 2005 when he started as a North York Council member and became a representative to the Board of Directors. In 2013 Morris joined the Board of Directors and its Nominating Committee. As both a Board member and Council member, Morris has contributed to discussions and provided perspective in advancing policy, services and programs. Morris has taken an active approach to fundraising for North York Council to provide meaningful programs to our members. Morris was inspired to volunteer because of his daughter who attends a day program in North York. He believes that Community Living Toronto is a great example of an organization that assists individuals with developmental disabilities in meeting all their goals and is led by professional, accountable staff. Morris is also actively involved with the Toronto District Health Council, Ontario Hospital Association, Reena and his local synagogue.



*DEBBY WHITE
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, 2016
SCARBOROUGH REGION*

Debby White is a current member of Scarborough Regional Council and started volunteering with Community Living Toronto 13 years ago. As a member of Scarborough Regional Council, she has held the role of Treasurer for 5 years. During this time, Debby has committed many hours to different programs and events including initiating and organizing the annual Bowling Fundraiser and volunteering at the Lawson Monthly Dances. She is an effective advocate, not afraid to fight for rights and fairness and excellent at educating the public. Debby's love for Toronto inspires her to be an active citizen and her volunteer work is representative of just that. She believes in the importance of inclusion, and ensuring that the City of Toronto is fully accessible for all. In addition to volunteering with us, she gives back to the community through her strong involvement and advocacy work in all levels of government.



MICHAEL EDSER
*KEN "SAM" SAMLER SELF-ADVOCATE
AWARD, 2016*

Michael Edser is a current member of the Self-Advocates Council and was elected to be on Council in 2015. Michael brings a creative element of self-advocacy to the Council. He likens self-advocates to super heroes in standing up for their rights. Mike's creativity inspires everyone on Council to think outside the box about how we talk about self-advocacy. Michael is a role model to other members on the Self-Advocates Council and advocates for the importance of hearing everyone's voice, promoting independence, and being punctual and respectful. Michael is inspired to volunteer so that he can be a strong voice to others and inform them about the great services provided by Community Living Toronto and those existing in the community as well. He believes that Community Living Toronto has been instrumental in guiding him to become more involved and independent and he hopes to pay it forward through his great advocacy work on Council.



ELLA ROBY-PEDEN
YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, 2016

Ella Roby-Peden is a current volunteer in the Public Relations and Fundraising Department. Ella has been a dedicated volunteer since 2012, having participated in numerous events including Community Rocks and the Annual Picnic. Ella also regularly volunteers at the regional head office by providing help and assistance in the Public Relations and Fundraising Department. In addition, Ella is a champion for Community Living Toronto, having done outreach in her school to gather more volunteers to support our programs. Ella is inspired to volunteer because she believes that Community Living Toronto is an inclusive organization in which the impact can be seen directly. She enjoys being able to work with professionals and gaining knowledge about real life experiences. Ella's involvement with other organizations such as the Annex Dance Academy, Essex Junior and Senior Public School and neighbourhood events demonstrate her true dedication to voluntarism.

Spring Fling Spectacular

By: Michelle Grimley



Excitement filled the air on Saturday, April 8th at Central Region's Annual Spring Fling Dinner & Dance. A seasonal highlight for Community Living Toronto, this year's memorable event was attended by 280 guests and volunteers at the beautiful Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. The space was brimming with people dressed to impress and faces lit up with joyous smiles.

A delectable buffet and sparkling conversations were enjoyed by friends and family near and dear to Community Living Toronto. Cheers rang out as the winning Raffle numbers were announced. The lucky winners enthusiastically collected their prizes, including glamorous beauty products, jewelry, and wine and chocolate gift sets. DJ Raptor Marc got the party started and brought the crowd to the dance floor with his high energy set!

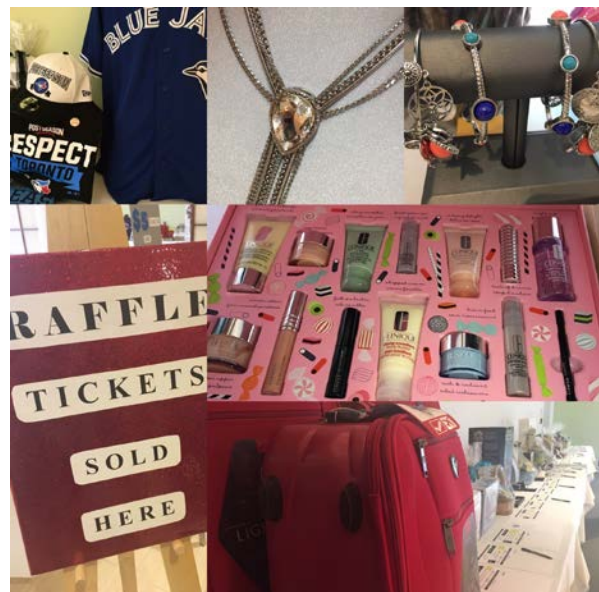
Guests bid on over 100 Silent Auction items, from an Autographed Toronto Raptors Team

Basketball to Treetop Trekking Zip Line Passes. The wide array of Silent Auction gift certificates, citywide experiences, and specialty baskets provided the unique opportunity for guests to treat themselves while making positive contributions to the many lives touched by Community Living Toronto.

The Silent Auction and Raffle alone raised over \$10,000.00 in support of Central Region programs and activities.

A big thank you to everyone who celebrated with us and to all the volunteers!

Be sure to save the date for next year's Spring Fling on Saturday, April 14th, 2018!



Upcoming Central Events

Central Region Dinner Club

Every Wednesday
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm
30 Birch Ave

Central Region Council Meeting

Tuesday May 9, 2017
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
20 Spadina Rd, Room 2B
All are welcome.

Health & Wellness Fun Run/Walk

Wednesday May 17 and May 31, 2017
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
20 Spadina Rd, Meet in Lobby

Scotiabank Rat Race for United Way 5K Run/Walk

Thursday, June 15th, 2017
Race start: 7:30 pm
Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St W

For information on any of the above events, contact Michelle Grimley at 647-729-1210 or michelle.grimley@cltoronto.ca

Central Region Parent Share

Monday, May 8th, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Regent Park Community Centre
402 Shuter St, 2nd Floor
RSVP: Yulia Prudova 647-729-1209, yprudova@cltoronto.ca or Bonnie Heath
416-645-6000 ext. 1311, bheath@woodgreen.org

Farewell to Vera!

By: Carolyn Chester



Vera Radoch's Retirement

Vera Radoch has retired after 30 years of working here at Community Living Toronto! Congratulations Vera!

Vera had started as a Support Worker II and then later got promoted to a support work III. She had run many art programs both at Supported Work and Community Activities (SWACA) and Creative Village Studio (CVS).

Vera has enjoyed creating and being part of programs that have enhanced and broadened the lives of the participants at SWACA Etobicoke. She is caring and compassionate and always addresses the needs of the participants first.

You will be missed by your colleagues and, most importantly, by the participants at SWACA Etobicoke.

Vera, congratulations on your retirement!

Farewell to Pearl!

By: Jessica Field



Pearl's Retirement Party at the Etobicoke Region Office

Congratulations, Pearl Sumner, on your recent retirement!

Pearl has dedicated over 30 years of service to Community Living Toronto in their Residential Group Home and Supported Independent Living Programs.

Those who know Pearl have described her as a dedicated and practical staff, whose first priority has always been the individuals and their families. Pearl has organized countless day trips, boat cruises and supported vacations for many of the people we support. Over the years she has volunteered to work weekends, evenings and holidays to assist in making these events successful. She is without a doubt a staff with high integrity and well-liked by all; individuals, family members, colleagues and management.

Pearl, congratulations on your retirement!

Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

Etobicoke/York Region Council Meeting

Tuesday May 9, 2017; 6:30 pm
4895 Dundas St. W. (Creative Village Studio)
All are welcome
RSVP: Georgina Stergiotis at 647-729-0445,
georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of the month; 6-8 pm
295 The West Mall, suite 204
Registration: LauraLee Edmiston at
647-729-0440 and ledminston@cltoronto.ca

Parent Share (TIF-Try it on for size presentation)

10 am to 12 pm
May 18, June 15, 2017
295 The West Mall, suite 204
For information contact:
Sarah Winter 647-729-1633
swinter@cltoronto.ca
Bonnie Heath 416-645-6000, ext. 1311
bheath@woodgreen.org

Note: Friendship Club and Parent Share park in the underground on P2

Theater Outings

By Colleen Mazor, Work Support III



Wade, Donald, Cristian and Colleen work on the set of the Little Shop of Horrors

Wade, Ricky, Donald, and Cristian are from the North York Supported Work and Community Activities Program. Almost every Friday, in the month of March, they got to assist in the building of the set for the (then) upcoming play “Little Shop of Horrors”, put on by The South Simcoe Theater in Cookstown, Ontario.

They had to do tasks such as moving plywood, platforms, and other items where the set builders had planned. They primed all the platforms, and also did the construction clean up at the end. Ensuring that the theatre be free of saw dust and other construction particles.

Each week that they came to help out, they were impressed with how the set had changed. Seeing what goes on behind the scenes from start to finish was a real eye opener.

Donald, Ricky, and support staff worker Dianne got to go to the Open Dress Rehearsal to see it all come together. They had a great time!

Upcoming North York Events

North York Council Meeting

Monday May 8, 2017
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
North York Office Boardroom
1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 18
Everyone Welcome!

Sibshop

Saturday May 6, 2017
10:30 am to 2:30 pm
Victoria Park Hub
1527 Victoria Park Avenue

Pizza/Bingo

Thursday May 18, 2017
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Victoria Park Hub
1527 Victoria Park Avenue

For More Information and to register for the above events

Contact: Wendy Dyke wdyke@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-3627

Jumpstart Literacy

Every Saturday
9:30 am to 11:30 am
1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 16
Registration fee: \$20.00 per person
Weekly fee: \$5.00 per person
To learn more and to register, please contact:
Sehrish Zehra at sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-1162

Parent Share

10:00 am to 12:00 noon
1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 18
May 4, June 1, 2017
For information contact:

Sarah Winter 647-729-1633
swinter@cltoronto.ca or
Bonnie Heath 416-645-6000, ext. 1311
bheath@woodgreen.org

SCARBOROUGH REGION

Bingo Bowling Extravaganza

By: Felicity Zanatta



A fun evening of bowling in 2016!

We are calling all bowlers, fun seekers and general enthusiasts. The 7th Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza will be held on Sunday May 7, 2017 at 2pm. Registration will begin at 1:30pm. This is a wonderful family event, enjoyed by all.

The event is held at the Parkway Bowl at 67 Ellesmere Road. There will be shoe rental, a lovely dessert table and a raffle for fabulous prizes! The cost is \$25 per person.

The Scarborough Region Council is behind this event. The funds raised will enable the Council to sponsor activities such as dances, literacy classes, drop in and cooking classes, etc.

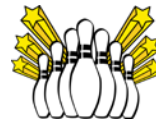
Please join us for a fun afternoon of Bingo Bowling. Come out just to find out how Bingo Bowling works and help the Scarborough Council raise funds to support great initiatives!

Gather teams of six to a lane or come out as an individual or with family or friends. Please contact Felicity Zanatta for information and to register at 647-729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Upcoming Scarborough Events

Regional Annual Council Meeting

Monday June 5, 2017; 6:15pm
1712 Ellesmere Road
All are welcome! Please RVSP!



7th Annual Bingo Bowling Extravaganza

Sunday May 7, 2017; 2-4:30pm
1:30pm registration and practice

At the Parkway Bowl, 67 Ellesmere Rd.
\$25 per person includes shoe rental, sweet table and fabulous raffle prizes!
Book your lane of six today!

Bingo at Lawson

Friday June 16, 2017; 7-8:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Road
\$5 for a snack and prizes

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

Tuesday Morning Drop in

10 am to 12 pm, \$4 each week
1712 Ellesmere Rd
RSVP to Sarah at 647-729-1633 or swinter@cltoronto.ca

Connections Dance

Friday May 26, 2017; 7:30-9:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Rd.
\$8 admission
Call Lester at 416-566-7252

Parent Share

9:30 – 11:30 am
May 11, 25, June 8, 2017
Cedarbrook Community Centre
91 Eastpark Blvd.
Contact Sarah Winter at 647-729-1633
or swinter@cltoronto.ca

Scarborough Cooking class is looking for a Stove to be Donated. For more details contact Felicity Zanatta at 647-729-1635

Self-Advocates Council

SAC Member Shineeca Meets the Prime Minister

By: Sue Hutton



Shineeca meets Justin Trudeau

Self-Advocates Council member Shineeca was invited to represent Community Living Toronto in meeting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. This was at an event in Scarborough in which PM Justin Trudeau announced a new credit to help

caregivers in Canada. This is called the Compassionate Care Benefit. More information is here:

<https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/supporting-caregivers/>

ELECTION YEAR FOR SELF ADVOCATES COUNCIL!

CALLING ALL SELF-ADVOCATES TO RUN FOR THE SAC!

The Self-advocates council would like to invite all people labelled with intellectual disabilities interested in rights and public speaking to think about running for the SAC.

If you are interested in a nomination form, please contact Sue Hutton at 416-963-8656 or shutton@cltoronto.ca to get your name in the list of nominees.

The SAC election will be held June 21, 2017 at Foster's Club House from 11am to 1pm.

People labelled with intellectual disabilities from all across the agency are invited to run!

People who are running will do a 1 to 2 minute speech about why they want to be on the self-advocates council. After this a vote is held.

Stay tuned for further information! Please contact Sue Hutton at 416-963-8656 or shutton@cltoronto.ca with any questions you may have. If you know someone who would like to come and learn more about what's involved, please contact us and we will come to you, or sit down and talk with you about the SAC.

VOLUNTEER VOICE

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation Sessions:

May 1, 2017; 5:30 to 8:30pm
Etobicoke Regional Office
295 The West Mall, Suite 204

June 5, 2017; 10 am -12
Central Region, 20 Spadina Rd

To register please visit cltoronto.ca/volunteers/

NEWS

SHADOW LAKE CAMP FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE AUTISM



This is a funded overnight camp for children between the ages of 12-17 who have a diagnosis of autism.

The camp is ideal for children who would like to try an overnight camp for the first time but may be experiencing some barriers. The children will be able to participate in a variety of both indoor and outdoor activities such as arts and crafts, swimming, playing in the splash pad, paddleboats, and canoes.

The ration will be 2:1 with behavioural supports if necessary.

There are only 6 spaces available so please apply soon if you are interested.

DATE: August 7-11, 2017

WHERE: 150419 9TH Line, Stouffville L4A 7X3

Phone: 905-640-6432

FEE: There is no fee for this camp

To apply please contact Shelly Greenberg at 647-729-1627 or sgreenberg@cltoronto.ca

Information Fair



A Free Event on
Wednesday October 18, 2017
1:00pm - 8:00pm
The Warehouse Event Venue
Downsview Park
35 Carl Hall Road. Unit 2

THE DAY INCLUDES:

Information from Toronto based agencies on services and supports for transitional youth (16 years of age and older) and adults (18 years of age and older) with a developmental disability.

- ✚ The opportunity to explore purchasing services with your Passport dollars.
- ✚ Information on fee for service programs.
- ✚ Agency and Community Partner presentations on topics such as:
 - ✚ Developmental Services Ontario, ODSP and Passport;
 - ✚ What you can do while you wait for services and supports;
 - ✚ Self-Advocates presenting Yellow Brick Road
 - ✚ DSTO Council.
 - ✚ Opportunity for families to speak to DSTO agency staff, self-advocacy groups and family groups.
- ✚ More information will be available on the Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) website as we get closer to the event. Please check in for updates at www.dsotoronto.ca
- ✚ Presentations from the Fair will be available for viewing after the event at www.connectability.ca

Hosted by:
 COMMUNITY LIVING Ontario
 Community Living Toronto

TUESDAY **MAY 9** 2017

COMMUNITY LIVING DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

Let's celebrate the achievements in making Ontario a more inclusive province!

WHAT'S PLANNED?

- NEW THIS YEAR, 30 minute tours of Queen's Park at 9AM and 2PM.
- At 12PM, join us for a lunch reception in rooms 228 and 230 of the main legislature building. All members and friends of Community Living are welcome to attend and meet with members of the Legislature.
- At 1PM, participants are invited to attend the afternoon legislative session in the House, where the work of Community Living will be recognized by MPPs.
- Schedule a meeting with your local MPP during your visit to the Legislature to discuss what's happening in your community with regard to the inclusion of people who have an intellectual disability.
- There is no charge to attend, but space is limited and registration is required. Lunch will be provided.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Visitors' names must be submitted in advance. Please email **Terri Meshwork** at terri@communitylivingontario.ca or call her at (416) 447-4348, ext. 228 by Friday, April 28, 2017. Please include attendee names, local association, whether wheelchair access to the Legislature is required, and the names of the people participating in the tours.

2017 Shine a Light on COMMUNITY LIVING

On Monday, May 8th, turn the lighting outside of your home **blue** and **green** in support of people who have an intellectual disability participating actively in their communities.

31 Days of Community Living

Every day in May we are Celebrating Community Living Month by posting a video!

You can find these videos on our FACEBOOK and TWITTER pages @CLTORONTO



Renew Your Membership

cltoronto.ca/membership/

Follow us!

@CLTORONTO

cltoronto.ca



Community Living Toronto FAMILY FUN FAIR

Saturday June 10th, 2017
 11AM-3PM
 Admission: \$4
 1712 Ellesmere Road

A short walk from McCowan Subway Station

Carnival Games
 BBQ
 BINGO
 plus More!

Additional Donations Welcome! Bring a lawn chair or blanket and sunscreen!

Pay Parking across the street Only Wheelchair-accessible parking on site

