

## Community Living Oakville



### Golf Tournament 2017

*“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world” -Desmond Tutu*

The kindness that the community showed in support of Community Living Oakville’s Annual Golf Tournament was overwhelming, and led to the most successful tournament yet! Mother Nature was in a good mood and shared her sunny skies for the two tournaments – a nine hole shotgun in the morning for ladies only and a mixed 18 hole round in the afternoon. The tournaments were held at the amazing Royal Ontario Golf Course in Milton, ON. This course offers challenging holes, service that is second to none and a spectacular outdoor patio that overlooks the greens.

Almost 250 people played a round of golf, followed by a lovely meal in the clubhouse, and some fabulous auction prizes. Both Katherine Thomson and Natasha Sidhu shared stories of the impact that the support from Community Living Oakville has had on their lives. Their words were heartfelt and helped the guests to truly understand the difference that the

agency can make in someone’s life. Many of our previous sponsors lent their support once again and we are incredibly grateful. A huge thanks goes out to:

- Ace Sponsors: Skyway Canada, Mars Petcare, Godin Productions
- Eagle Sponsors: Match Marketing Group, Metropolis, Cheney Windows and Doors, The Petrus Fund
- Birdie Sponsors: Mercedes of Oakville, Abbey Animal Hospital, Lockwood Kia, The Whelan Family
- Hole/ Wine Sponsors: Oakville Sight and Sound, The Thomson Family, SmartMeds, Brukar Inc., Allworth and Associates, O’Connor MacLeod Hanna LLP, Willow Landscaping, Girard Inc., Great Aunt Claire, Beayni Group, Robertson Eadie and Associates Ltd., Clinton Jr. & Christopher Justice, Daemar, Cowan Insurance Group, The Sutton Family, The DiFonzo Family, Canadian

Hospital Specialties, Budds, DHR International, Lun Labenski, Greenrock Capital Partners, The Telfer Family, Investors Group and Merritt Insurance

The hard work of our volunteers ensured a seamless process throughout the day, from registration to the auction to clean up – they made it seem so easy. Thanks to our golfers, donors, contributors and sponsors who helped us surpass our goal of \$50,000 once again. Thanks to all of you, there are two new vehicles in the agency that provide more opportunities for people to participate more frequently in the community, doing the activities that interest them. We hope to see you again next year.

If you would like information on how to sponsor, register or volunteer for the golf tournament, please contact Amber Hughes via email at [amber.hughes@oakcl.org](mailto:amber.hughes@oakcl.org).



PROUD SPONSORS OF THE  
2017 WINTER NEWSLETTER

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# OCTOBER 2017

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Welcome to our summer/fall edition of Happenings. We hope you enjoy reading about what is happening at Community Living Oakville. People are happy to share some stories about the things they have accomplished and enjoyed.

In April 2017, we embarked on our new three year Strategic Plan, which was developed through twelve stakeholder sessions to gather input and explore the current priorities, challenges and opportunities for Community Living Oakville. We continue work on five main areas, Programs and Services, People (employees), Infrastructure (Housing and Transportation), Community and Outreach and Financial. This plan identifies a number of initiatives and steps to assist us in achieving meaningful goals for the people we serve and care about. The wrap up of our 2014 – 2017 Strategic Plan spoke to the many advancements made in all of the goal areas. We were extremely fortunate to have received well over five hundred thousand dollars in grant funding which made possible some of the new initiatives. As we work on our current Strategic Plan, we will again pursue all

funding alternatives to access resources that will support and further our goals. Our sector faces many challenges. In light of the calculated minimal cost of fifty six million dollars per year for the agencies in Ontario, a submission was made to government regarding the financial impact of Bill 148. While, it is agreed that the goals of the Act are admirable, non-profit agencies are not in a position to absorb the costs in the absence of base funding increases.

Our staff and Board remain committed to listening to families and people we support and finding solutions and resources to facilitate quality services, community engagement, and meaningful lives. We hope you have had a wonderful Fall season.

Yours very truly,

Janet Lorimer  
Executive Director

# Happenings

PROUD SPONSORS

Best Pack, incorporated in 1984, is owned and operated by Community Living Oakville. Best Pack is a provider of customized, flexible, high quality co-packing services with a reputation for completing projects on time and on budget. The labour force and processes are ideally suited to jobs that require significant attention to detail and a “hands-on” approach. In a recent survey, 100% of respondents said they would recommend Best Pack. Best Pack operates out of a 30,000 square foot facility fully equipped and staffed to handle the co-packaging needs of small businesses and large corporations.

Notable customers are:

- Ford Motor Company
- Newell Rubbermaid
- Sanford
- Canadian Hospital Specialties
- Hills International Pet Food and many more

Best Pack is more than a co-packaging service provider. It is a social enterprise that supports Community Living Oakville's effort to provide quality services and support to people who have a developmental disability as well as to provide employment opportunities for people so they can live active, rewarding and fulfilling lives.

### Kitting Assembly

The many capable hands at Best Pack can make short work on large collation runs and can also assist with sourcing of the appropriate packaging.

### UPC Generation and Application

Best Pack supports all UPC bar code types, and uses a triple check system to ensure checks as labels are printed, and checks again at time of application.

### Design and Printing

Whether it's a brochure, poster, banner, display, POP or a label, Best Pack can also provide full services and fulfillment.

*“When companies do business with Best Pack, they give back to the community.”*

*“Best Pack takes care of your co-packaging needs... you make a difference in people's life.”*

*“To have a co-packer that you can rely on and you do not have to hand hold them ... big advantage ... huge advantage”*

### CO-PACKING SERVICES

#### Shrink Wrapping

Shrink wrapping can be performed manually or automatically depending on the size and shape of the item. Shrink bands can also be used to hold two or more items together without shrinking the complete product.

#### Blister Forming and Sealing

Blisters are used in packaging for a wide variety of products: cosmetics, batteries, electronic devices, and hardware and plumbing items. Blisters can be clamshell or open style and sealed to a card.

### Point of Purchase Displays

Displays are constructed in all shapes and sizes of high quality printed corrugate and are assembled and filled to customer specifications.

### Bagging and Heat Sealing

We offer horizontal and vertical high quality sealing for a wide range of specialty needs. We provide outstanding performance of any size and type bags.



Please call Ivan Bogdanovski at 905-825-0611 ext. 258 for a free consultation.

We are here to help!!!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Best Pack

Happenings  
November 2017

www.bestpack.ca

# RAISE YOUR VOICE COUNCIL

The Raise Your Voice Council has enthusiastically continued to organise its popular activities since the fall.

The biggest and most exciting event so far in the Council's history has been the "Heart of the Team" Conference and Valentine Dance, held on February 11 at the O.E. Banquet Hall. This was the culmination of much planning and co-operation by the newly formed joint self advocate group COVE (Community of Voices Everywhere), which the Raise Your Voice Council was instrumental in forming. This full day event brought together 260 people from across Ontario to enjoy a very full schedule aimed at the importance of team dynamics.

Highlights included:

- Four workshops including STOP the Bully. Congratulations to Jason Camacho, Andrea Cervin-Lawry, Joel Layne, Jan Macdonald, Hans Schonrock and Katherine Thomson who were passionately involved in writing the script and presenting.
- A very popular Talent Spot Light where people embraced the opportunity to perform on a full stage.
- Guest Speaker Kai, who shared his story of the challenges and successes of leading adventure tours into the wilderness.
- A rocking performance by the CLO Rep Band after a full dinner provided by Luncbox Café.
- A Valentine Party with Sound Obsession DJ and a photo booth to mark the end of the conference.

COVE thanks the many volunteers, including students from Appleby and Sheridan Colleges, who enabled the smooth running of the Conference. We would also like to thank local companies such as Panago Pizza, Metro, and Fortino's for their donations.

The Council also organized other exciting opportunities.

- Pizza at Film.Ca in December was followed by the movie Rogue One: A Star Wars Movie.
- In April 2017, four teams battled it out at Putting Edge glow in the dark mini golf and then relaxed with dinner and some arcade games.
- May saw a group of eager chefs learn how to cook a Mexican Fiesta at the Loft, Longo.
- Individual Council members were busy promoting the Council at different venues such as at the Inspire Accessibility Showcase held in April.
- At the CLO Christmas Party they also sold fund raising raffle tickets and announced winners of the door prizes.

The 3-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that enabled the Council to grow and reach out to so many with its activities ended in June. To celebrate this, a BBQ was held on June 22 at CLO. The torrential rain did not dampen anyone's spirit as they enjoyed the BBQ served from the new kitchen as well as a visit from MP John Oliver's office. Thanks to Jan Macdonald and Chris Dobell for flipping burgers and hotdogs in the downpour!

Members of the Raise Your Voice Council are excited to announce the receipt of a one-year grant from the Oakville Community

Foundation. This will permit the Council to continue organizing social, recreational and leisure opportunities. Of course, this grant application would not have been successful without the hard work and dedication of each and every member of the Raise Your Voice Council team. Congratulations to you all!

Would you like to be part of the Raise Your Voice Council?

If you want to be part of the team, watch out for information in September on how to stand for a 2 year executive position on the Raise Your Voice Council. The Council encourages people from any daytime opportunity to stand for elections. No experience is needed, just enthusiasm to assist in organising events and a commitment to attend monthly meetings (usually held on the 3rd Monday of the month from 4 to 5 pm at CLO). The Council also welcomes volunteers from families and friends to enable the Council's visions to materialise into fun and interesting opportunities that are open to all.

For more information email Stephanie Butcher (stephanie.butcher@oakcl.org)

Don't forget to like the Raise Your Voice Council Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/raiseyourvoicecouncil/](http://www.facebook.com/raiseyourvoicecouncil/)



## WHO WE ARE

Connected Families is a parent support/resource group for families caring for a special needs child or adult.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Connected Families is a Parent's Group for families caring for someone with a developmental disability that will inspire, encourage, educate and empower families.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED...

Housing Information? Information on accessing funding and services?  
Employment services? Engaging programs and social opportunities?

## WE WILL CONNECT FAMILIES THROUGH:

workshops, information sessions, mentorship with other families  
Website and Facebook, Bi-monthly meetings, Parent Liaison

## CONNECTED FAMILIES IS HERE TO HELP YOU

### We Will Offer:

Workshops, Seminars, Relevant community information, Peer support

## REGISTER ONLINE WITH US AT:

[www.connectedfamilies.ca/participate](http://www.connectedfamilies.ca/participate)

EMAIL: [info@connectedfamilies.ca](mailto:info@connectedfamilies.ca)

There is no fee to participate

## To inform & to inspire

## TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE

## SPI STUDENT MELANIE

Melanie Duhaylungsod is in the Developmental Service Worker Program at CRD College of Health Care. Since the start of her placement in July, Melanie has been a fast learner, always taking initiative, and is eager every day to help the staff and PWS with production, gardening, and cooking programs. Within the short amount of time she has been here, we have valued her hard-work, positive attitude, and her willingness to help out in any situation.

Melanie is well liked by everyone and we will miss her when her placement is over!



# Brent Fera and Oakville Fare Share Food Bank

The Oakville Fare Share Food Bank is a non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers and has been helping needy families of Oakville since 1988. They recently welcomed Brent Fera to their volunteer fold.

“Every Tuesday and Thursday you will find Brent at the Food Bank doing the most physical and nit-picky job in the place” says Jennifer Russell, Director of Fare Share Food Bank (Canada), Inc. Brent is willing to try new things and is a pleasure to work with!

Some very important aspects of his job are ensuring there are no damaged cans, proper labelling, and boxing small cans vs. large cans to guarantee stacks do not collapse. Brent also moves the full boxes to the staging area. Brent does an amazing job and has received a glorious reference.



## Katherine engaged at Senaca Day Service.

Looking to make a real, lasting difference in the world. Katherine engaged in a volunteer opportunity at Senaca Day Service. It was easy for her to get inspired with a cause she truly cares about.

Katherine starts and ends the day with enthusiasm. She brings her vibrant personality wherever she goes which is especially appreciated among the senior community at Senaca. Katherine loves sitting down with the participants and chatting about any topics of their interest. From

sowing aprons to answering phones, Katherine puts her many talents to good use.

Katherine has a valued social role as a volunteer at Senaca. Her contribution to her community makes a difference in the lives of many seniors she meets. Volunteering has also broadened her social network.

Katherine wants everyone to know that doors open when you volunteer and you may even stumble across your dream job along the way.

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Jeff Harris' sister Lori Harris is a committee member of the St. Andrew's Christmas House Tour and she has succeeded in her nomination of Community Living Oakville to be a recipient of proceeds raised through the tour!!!

The St. Andrew's Christmas House Tour is a long standing tradition in Oakville and is an exciting way to get into the Christmas spirit! The tour will present an interesting mix of historical, waterfront and architecturally unique homes. Each home is decorated for the Christmas season by talented local designers, offering visitors an opportunity to soak up the holiday vibe and be inspired

to decorate their own homes for the festive season.

The Tour, which will be held on December 1st & 2nd, will premier with an evening Candlelight House Tour & Reception on Friday, December 1st. Tickets for this event are limited. On Saturday, December 2nd, the Tour begins at 9:30am and runs until 4:00pm. Ticket prices range from \$40 for the Saturday Tour to \$100 for Friday's Candlelight Tour.

All proceeds for this year's tour will support St. Andrew's Church, Community Living Oakville, Kerr Street Mission, & Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Halton.

[www.standrewshousetour.ca](http://www.standrewshousetour.ca)



# Town of Oakville Lyons Lane Gardens and Community Living Oakville

Did you Know the Town of Oakville has community gardens with plots available for rent from May 7 – October 31! Currently they offer 4 locations and we were lucky to get plot #49 at Lyons Lane Gardens! This summer Rob, George, Elizabeth, Marie and Karmila planted a garden full of carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage and basil!

Just imagine eating what you planted and harvested; fresh coleslaw, which included green and red cabbage, carrots and sweet banana peppers, topped off with a red wine vinaigrette!

The great harvest is the result of tending to the garden three times a week to water and weed.

Keep watching as we continue to harvest and you will see some of the fresh vegetables in our Wednesday Café salads. We are already thinking of the what to plant next year. Thank you to Andy Murkovic, Parks Administrator for your help.



## PLAYING PIANO - CAROL FORSTER

Carol Forster has been taking weekly private piano lessons since Oct. 13, 2016 at the Academy of Music in Oakville. Carol has a great rapport with her teacher, Jennifer. Carol has really enjoyed learning to play the piano, and has made great strides since last October. She is very proud of herself and will often ask other people who work in the building to come into her room and listen to what she has learned that day.

Every 3 months Carol has to perform for her teacher and can earn certificates and

bracelets for her achievements. So far she has earned 3 certificates and 3 bracelets. Way to go Carol! She has also earned a trophy - in the shape of a musical note with her name on it - to indicate she is now at the 'songbird level'.

Carol loves to play the piano for her friends at Community Living. She uses this time to practice between lessons and have fun! Her friends love it and encourage Carol to work hard. She is practicing for her upcoming recital in December. Good luck Carol!!



## A FINE EVENT FOR HIGH TEA

Teddy Howald and Elizabeth Panning wanted a chance to experience a bit of refined elegance over a cup of tea! They were able to do so by visiting The Tea Room in Streetsville on Friday, August 4. The quaint tea room boasted delectable mini sandwiches, sweet cookies and mouthwatering homemade scones all on a silver three tier plate! And that was just the beginning! The Tea Room offered the coziness of a home with a splash of charm. Presented with a long list of different types of tea, Teddy opted for a Cream Earl Grey while Elizabeth went with a classic Orange Pekoe. Teddy tipped the wait staff off that it was her 73rd birthday.

The waitress placed a candle in one of her treats and softly sang Happy Birthday while presenting her sweets. The small room of people took notice and all began to sing to Teddy. The smile on Teddy's face lit the room with happiness. Many of the people in the room came up to Teddy and wished her a happy birthday. After a filling lunch, Teddy and Elizabeth browsed the little shop attached to the room. It was a wonderful time to enjoy the finer moments of life!





# WORKING TOGETHER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Pam Damoff, MP for Oakville North-Burlington, recently held an Inclusive Employment Roundtable to promote inclusive employment for people who have a disability. Some of the matters discussed were accessibility issues and barriers, ways to address them, and implementation. Also on the agenda was raising awareness and community support to entice the government to develop new accessibility legislation. This will create equal opportunities and increase the inclusion and participation of Canadians living with disabilities.

Ms. Damoff, together with the Hon. Karina Gould, MP for Burlington and the Hon. Kevin Flynn, MPP for Oakville, spoke with nearly 40 employers, agencies, and non-profit groups and employees about the challenges people living with a disability face when looking for meaningful employment, and the value employees who have a disability bring to a workplace.

Four main recommendations emerged from the roundtable discussion:

- Attendees agreed that having an inclusive employment strategy is good for business and the Federal Government can illustrate this through a communications campaign
- The Federal Government can assist by connecting businesses, all levels of government, and organizations to agencies that will connect them with potential employees and advise them on best practices in retention

- The Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities can work with the Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Transportation to ensure that physical barriers in our communities are removed and transit is arranged to allow persons with disabilities to access the workplace
- The importance of connecting employers with resources that can help them accommodate employees who may develop a disability during their working career.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Pam Damoff, the Hon. Kevin Flynn and the Hon. Karina Gould for engaging with agencies to help people who have a disability to find meaningful employment.

## SENIORS FOR SENIORS

The Oakville Community Foundation generously came through with some funding that made the Seniors for Seniors project possible for Community Living Oakville. This project began as an attempt to eliminate the barriers faced by all seniors, regardless of their abilities. The main focus of this initiative was to be inclusive of all community seniors. This project was enhanced as we partnered with St. Luke's Anglican Church to implement and expand services for seniors who have a developmental disability as well as seniors who do not. Since the senior population at Community Living Oakville has increased significantly over the last 10 years, it was important to empower seniors

to work together and create programs that encouraged full community participation.

Last year, we had some wonderful opportunities to meet new people, socialize and develop relationships. Members from St. Luke's joined us for many events including: Pottery Design, Drumming, Apple Picking and Elvis's Rock and Roll Christmas event. This year, we were set on exploring new and exciting opportunities. We started the year by visiting Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto, attending a tea party hosted by St. Luke's and taking part in a private tour of Niagara Falls. These were some amazing experiences!

The most exciting event that was well received by all members was Speckles Art

Studio. At first, some were skeptical, but all were up for the challenge. With step by step instruction, the end result was something all were very proud of. It was an incredible afternoon that provided everyone with an opportunity to learn basic painting techniques and create beautiful art together.

The Seniors for Seniors program is a great way to bring seniors from Community Living Oakville together with other seniors in the community as a way of developing lasting relationships in a social setting. It has proven to be very successful and everyone looks forward to getting together and sharing their experiences.



# PLEASE DON'T STOP THE MUSIC

*"Ah, music," he said, wiping his eyes. "A magic beyond all we do here!"*

J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

It is hard to believe that we are going into our 3rd year of music at CLO. In two years the program has grown from a small, modest group to a hugely popular program with state of the art equipment. The past two years have been both a pleasure and constant source of awe.

For many of the people at CLO the music program has become much more than just a place where they go and make cool noise, it has been a source of pride, inspiration and new identity. One of the people who both embody and exemplify this is Michel Mariner.

Following the first two rehearsals, Michel earned the nickname 'Survivor' after striking the drums with such ferocity that his hands bled. Rather

than taking a break, which he wouldn't hear of, Michel got a band aid and went back to drumming. This was the start of a very cool journey for Michel. Two years later he is easily the most advanced drum student at CLO. Michel is now reading music and has his own electric drum kit at home on which he practices an constantly amount. He has played with the CLO Rep band, done more concerts than either of us can count and most importantly - he has a new skill which he is, rightfully, extremely proud of.

I can't wait to see what this third year will bring and the talent that we will uncover. If nothing else, CLO is a place that is full of surprises!



## PEER NOMINATIONS

### AKUA NKRUMAH

Akua started with Community Living Oakville on June 25, 2009. Akua has worked in several residential locations including Victoria, Rebecca, 298 Pinegrove, 1083 Pinegrove and currently Nelson. Akua's work is driven by the belief that all individuals deserve to be treated with respect and that they are entitled to every opportunity life can afford them. Akua does not settle for the status quo and sees opportunities for growth in everyone, individuals supported, herself and Team Members alike. Akua takes absolute joy in the successes of the individuals she supports. She can quickly assess a situation, determine where enhancements can be made and set forth on a path to see it through.

Akua, you have been recognized for going Above and Beyond in the area of Enhancing the Quality of Support.

### CYNTHIA LUCKESE

Cynthia started with Community Living Oakville on April 2, 2014. Cynthia is part of the original Team that opened up 1083 Pinegrove. Over the last three years she has been directly involved in both executing and developing programs for individuals and teaching new Team members how to provide quality supports to those with complex needs. Cynthia is both a role model and a Leader on her Team and she provides a superior level of support to the individuals who reside at 1083 and their families. Cynthia's smile and positive attitude are infectious. She is someone who makes the service delivery meet the specific needs of an individual and doesn't take "no" for an answer.

Cynthia, you have been recognized for going Above and Beyond in the area of Enhancing the Quality of Supports and also Team Building and Leadership.

### MAISS ABU-GHOSH

Maiss started with Community Living Oakville on July 12, 2016. Although relatively new to Community Living Oakville, Maiss has already made an impression on the individuals she supports, their families and her Team at 1083 Pinegrove. From very early on it was evident that Maiss' support style is one that leads with compassion and empathy. Maiss works tirelessly to ensure that individuals are being supported respectfully and that their lives are filled with rich experiences and meaningful activities. Maiss has an incredible work ethic and is a great example to her Team.

Maiss, you have been recognized for going Above and Beyond in the area of Enhancing the Quality of Supports and also Team Building and Leadership.

# JOB SMART

Community Living Oakville has successfully run its second session of the Job Smart Program! With hard work and dedication, this session's participants have learned some invaluable skills to help them on their future job paths.

The goal of the program is to assist participants to gain employability skills and confidence needed for paid employment. Job Smart participants spend some time in the classroom learning about topics including: meeting employer expectations, attitude, hygiene, resume writing, job developing and interviewing skills. The participants share their prior experiences and their hopes for future employment. Following the in-class learning, participants sample several jobs in the community, based on the interests of the individual when possible, followed by a multi-week unpaid job placement.

This session's participants secured placements in a variety of entry-level positions throughout Oakville. Participants learned on-the-job skills such as travelling to work, being on time, dressing appropriately, signing in, and were coached through their individual job tasks. One participant, Kelly, completed her job placement at Burger King. She was enthusiastic about her job tasks, always looking for new things to do and learn, and happy to help customers. When asked about her placement, Kelly said "I looked forward to go and work at Burger King especially on Wednesday Whopper to help the customers and make the dining room clean!"

At the end of their placements, participants were assessed based on all aspects of the program. Successes, areas of improvement, and suggestions for future employment opportunities were given to all individuals. Congratulations to all our recent graduates of the Job Smart Program! A big thanks to Ali and the employment team. Their hard work resulted in employment and opportunities that wouldn't have existed without working tirelessly to see the Job Smart participants succeed! Also, a special thank-you to our funder Trillium, for the grant that has allowed this program to be possible.

## MICHEL MARINER

Michel has always been a car enthusiast, and when he started his job search journey he told his Job Placement Coordinator, Ali Ibrahim, that he only wanted to work with cars and boats. Ali headed off to search for possible positions for Michel in the Oakville area, letting Michel know that he would try his best to find a position working with cars but Michel may need to be flexible. With some time and searching for the right employer Ali connected with Nabil Stephan, who was willing to give Michel a chance. Michel secured a job placement with Car Lounge through the Job Smart program. Before starting his placement, Michel was a very active participant in the classroom training sessions of Job Smart. He always had questions to ask, and ensured he understood the materials discussed. This attention to detail and willingness to learn spanned into his weeks in placement with the Car Lounge. Michel displayed the drive and ambition that was required to do his job well. Michel says "the goal is to do a perfect job, quickly." At the end of his placement, Nabil offered Michel a part-time job with the Car Lounge! Michel is thrilled about his new job, arriving to work early every day. "I really like working at Car Lounge and the expensive cars" Michel says, adding in with a smile "the boss gives me an espresso coffee at my break every time I work there." Michel's enthusiasm for working with cars make his days enjoyable as he loves looking at the exotic cars, his favorites being Porsche, Ferrari and Jaguar convertible.

## BILL HICKSON

To the staff of Community living Oakville's Employment Services Team, Bill is known for being a hard worker. After many years working in the printing industry and packaging Bill knows what it means to have a deadline, and what it takes to meet it. When Cindy Nicholls from Sodexo asked Job Placement Coordinator Tracey Morrow if she knew any candidates that could work part-time in the Sodexo Business Service Centre, Tracey knew just who she would ask.

During the interview, Cindy could tell that Bill was the right fit for the job. Bill has a strong work ethic, sometimes volunteering to stay later at work when they are short-staffed and need the extra support. Bill has also taken it upon himself to go through all of the policies so that he is up to date. Judy Hazzard, who works in the Business Service Centre with Bill, says "Bill is a real self-motivator, we could learn a lot from him. He is a pleasure to work with."

Bill truly enjoys his job. He says "learning how to deliver mail to 300 people is a good experience" and "it's an awesome job working here at Sodexo, and the people I work with are awesome."

## MICHAEL MARCHETTI

Michael is currently a student at Mohawk College where he is learning skills to prepare him for his future, including his employment future. Michael's eventual goal is to work at a hotel, but in the meantime he was happy to continue building his resume and gaining employment skills. When Michael started looking for a job this summer he was looking for a workplace that would accommodate his desire for summer work with only weekends come the fall, a tricky thing to find.

The timing worked out however, as Julia's Ristorante and Community Living Oakville had recently been in talks regarding a partnership between their organizations. Julia's Ristorante owner Julia Hanna, runs HealthyFam, a not-for-profit organization that aims to educate families of the benefits of healthy eating. Of course, healthy eating comes from healthy food! HealthyFam grows an array of fresh vegetables in their community garden for the classes they provide. Michael interviewed for the position of Gardener with HealthyFam, which is a convenient walk from his home. Michael's experience and charming personality landed him the summer position. Michael says "I like to work outside. I worked at a garden sometimes at home and school."

Best of luck to Michael in his future endeavors!

# MUSIC AND SUN... ELVIS AND RIDOL...



Michel Mariner

In acknowledgment of the oldest person being supported by Community Living Oakville...! At eighty one, Ridol is frail, but determined as a Northern Canadian winter. He walks with a delicate shuffle that vaporizes when Chris Matthews brings his guitar and strums an Elvis tune. Or when Lance blares Elvis on the way home at the end of the working Day. Ridol's calm gentlemanly demeanor shatters and he transforms into Superman.



Ridol's bedroom (described with consent) is a shrine to Elvis. All about Elvis. Anyone meeting

Ridol recognizes his connection with 'the King'... it's important for people to understand because speaking the word 'Elvis' is like a performance enhancing drug – though perfectly legal with no side effects.

Bedroom walls are personalized with prodigious laminated posters - set on shellacked wooden backboards or framed – along with a trademark guitar. His bed is covered in an Elvis blanket and on his nightstand rests a pair of trademarked Elvis sunglasses. To the left of his bed, a curio cabinet bursts with memorabilia of 'the King' – purposefully placed to be the first thing he sees in the morning and last performance at night. Ridol's ideal way to start and end a day.

Looking closer draws one deeper into the shrine – on his windowsill the snow white ledge contrast with two random guitar pics. Looking on, one wonders when Ridol first heard Elvis sing or speak because that moment inscribed a lasting unbroken unyielding impression. In a world of struggles – health challenges and change – that moment would remain one constant passion sustaining him.

Even bathing involves Elvis, as the iPad or even a personal cell phone is the first essential item set up in the bathroom. Elvis is tuned in as loudly as the volume will permit and the King is there singing along through every shower. Everyone just wants Ridol to be happy, surrounded by his main and undiluted passion.

If Elvis does revisit this physical world at times – we doubt it's to Graceland – Tupelo Mississippi or even Memphis Tennessee - he calls on 319 Sherin Drive in Canada where his biggest and most dedicated fan lives.

Understandably Ridol's annual goals involve Elvis – a trip to the Collingwood Elvis festival when it was just a budding idea, to excursions with live performances. (The gentleman in his seventies clad in pajamas and slippers - dashing across the dark field from his hotel to the band shell is another story). But at eighty one he is growing delicate and planning needs to be more attentive. This year Ridol splurged and 'put on the Ritz' by checking into the Ritz Carlton hotel in Toronto for the weekend. The highlight of this humble gentleman's lavish adventure was hiring his personal Elvis impersonator to entertain him – live – for several tireless hours.

The singing started in the hallway and Ridol's eyes stretched as he recognized the approaching music and voice. Then the show started – Ridol of course requested 'All Shook Up' many times. He is conservative with his emotions but it was the



first time Melany heard Ridol clap and express his approval. The adventure was well worth the effort put into making the experience a success.

Ridol remained in rapture – bliss as he fashioned one of his most memorable weekends away. The glue that links the relics, memories and icons he collected over years.

When I see people's champions – the Beatles, Elvis... I wonder, if modern celebrities will have that enduring appeal to people, as the icons from decades ago still do.

- David Charles, Compliance Officer – Ministry of Community and Social Service – During a recent compliance audit.

*Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away...* Elvis Aaron Pressley.

[www.insidehalton.com/news-story/2988121-birth-certificate-makes-75-year-old-a-king](http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/2988121-birth-certificate-makes-75-year-old-a-king)



Bill Hickson



Michael Marchetti

# SUTTON SCHOLARSHIP

Joshua Finnegan, the son of Elena Navarro-Finnegan is this year's winner of the Sutton Scholarship.

The Sutton Scholarship is a \$5000 renewable (up to 4 years) scholarship donated by Mr. and Mrs. Sutton which has been in place for 4 years now. The scholarship is open to children of staff who have dedicated 8 years or longer to the company, and is awarded to individuals who display dedication to their community, education, and volunteering. The Suttons' generosity is helping ease the financial burden of postsecondary education on the staff of Community Living Oakville.

Joshua will be attending Sheridan College for Pre-Health Sciences in the fall, and he is extremely grateful to the Suttons for providing such a wonderful opportunity.



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