

WINTER|2019
 happenings
Community Living
Oakville

A Monumental Employment Achievement

Jason McLaughlin is a proud employee of Sobeys Glen Abby. He has been a valuable team member in the Produce Department and takes pride in what he does.

On October 19, 2018, Jason celebrated 20 Years of Service with Sobeys in a party that included his friends and co-workers.

Store Manager Greg Currie, says that “Over the 20 years, so many things have changed at Sobeys, one thing that has stayed the same is Jason”. “If you have

bought potatoes, carrots or onions over the last 20 years - Jason has stocked it”. Sobeys Glen Abbey has been a consistent supporter of Community Living Oakville’s employment candidates. There are currently three members happily employed and several Job Smart participants have completed their work trials at Sobeys. Leading by example, they continually promote inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

Jason truly enjoys his job and his responsibilities. He is a dependable, loyal and hardworking employee.

If you bump into Jason at Sobeys on 1500 Upper Middle Road West, do not expect to speak to him for too long. If you occupy too much of his time Jason will let you know “I have to get back to work!”

Please join us in congratulating Jason on this monumental milestone. We wish him many more years of employment success!



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*We believe
in people!*

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We are pleased to send some news from Community Living Oakville in this edition of Happenings.

The past several months have brought some changes, as well as progress in a variety of areas. We continue to work collaboratively with our community partners and government to address local pressures, and plans are under way to open a new home. The CLO 2.0 Committee is well into the process of identifying initiatives to increase capacity, and position us to provide supports in better ways.

To continue incorporating Personal Outcome Measures as a tool used throughout our services, investments have been made in training as well as a full time position. We are excited about the anticipated impact on person-centered services, and measurable progress.

A number of new Board Members who bring a wealth of expertise in a variety of areas, were elected at the Annual General Meeting in September. We are fortunate to have competent Board leadership and support as we move forward.

We will miss two of our Senior Staff members, Nancy Steptoe, Finance Director, and Irene Cvetkovski-Dukic, Director of Services and Employment. We wish Nancy many wonderful years of retirement, and Irene the very best in her new endeavours. We sincerely thank them both for their many contributions to Community Living Oakville. Bob Holmes and Alexandra Hoeck-Murray will carry on the work of Nancy and Irene, and both come to their positions with extensive experience and proven track records.

The following stories that people have chosen to share will tell you more about what has been happening at Community Living Oakville.

Yours very truly,

Janet Lorimer
Executive Director

Casting Call: You Can't ask that

'You Can't Ask That' is a show about breaking down stereotypes and offering genuine insights into the experiences of people whose lives are often marginalized and misunderstood. The show's format is simple: naive, bold and/or uncomfortable questions are posed and responses; given direct to camera are raw, enlightening and often surprising.

The series, originally launched on Australia's ABC network in 2016, has won multiple awards including three UN Media Awards for Promotion of Disability Rights and Issues, Promotion of Social Cohesion and Promotion of Empowerment of Older People.

This past fall, our In The Loop Media team reached out to Pixcom in regards to their upcoming Canadian production. Pixcom informed us that they were looking for non-actors for their documentary series and invited our media team to their Skype casting call. Erinn Bursey and Katherine Thomson were two of the finalists selected for an upcoming episode based on the lives of people with Down Syndrome.

Erinn and Katherine, along with other finalists who had travelled all across Canada, arrived in Toronto at the studio prepared and confident for the filming of this series.

The show will be first broadcast online and then will air on television stations such as CBC and AMI. Please follow our social media channels for updates as we will post further details when they become available.

Season one will spotlight those living with a disability. Each episode will feature up to eight people with shared or similar disabilities, who do not always agree or share the same outlook on life.

Congratulations to Erinn Bursey and Katherine Thomson! We look forward to watching your debut on CBC and AMI!



LETS GO LEAFS!

Joe Whiting is quite possibly the BIGGEST Toronto Maple Leafs fan. He has always watched the games from the local pub or from his home. Joe has been constantly telling those around him that he "must go see the Leafs!" However, if you have ever tried to purchase Toronto Maple Leaf tickets you have seen the price tag that accompanies them. This year Joe knew exactly what he wanted to do, he immediately started the New Year off by purchasing tickets to watch his beloved Toronto Maple Leafs.

It was Joe's first time to the Scotiabank Arena (formerly the Air Canada Center) so he enjoyed a commemorative bucket of popcorn; beer and a first game certificate -on the house, while watching his team tear up the ice against Colorado Avalanche.

It was an action packed game and although the Leafs lost 6-3, Joe left a winner with memories and stories to tell!



RAISE YOUR VOICE COUNCIL

Since the publication of the last Newsletter, the Raise Your Voice Council has been busy organizing exciting opportunities to facilitate the making of friendships and encourage inclusion within our community.

On June 25th the summer was kicked off with Kool Refreshments and music being served up by members of the Raise Your Voice Council in the gardens of 301 Wycroft.

On September 8th the eagerly awaited 2nd Annual COVE Conference and Dance: Spring Fever in September was held at the O.E Banquet Hall. Advocates were welcomed from Halton and as far afield as Guelph and Cambridge. This all day event had been postponed from April due to bad weather and was organized by COVE, Community of Voices Everywhere. This group is comprised of the Raise Your Voice Council plus three other self advocate groups from Community Living Burlington, Community Living North Halton and Central West Specialized Services. Members of these groups met together regularly over the prior year to plan the event. The Conference had a combination of advocate led workshops, fit dancing, crafts, dinner and capped off the day with a talent show and dance.

In October the Council was incredibly grateful for the wonderful support of Rattlesnake Point Senior Golf League that donated \$5,000 to the Raise Your Voice Council. This donation will assist the Council to continue its role in organizing social, recreational and learning opportunities.

For the first time the Raise Your Voice Council jointly co-hosted the annual Halloween Dance Party with their self advocate peers from the Voice Committee, Community Living North Halton.

This joint venture originated as friendships had been made between the groups during the organization of the COVE Conference. It was a wild success with over 260 self-advocates, volunteers and staff enjoying dancing to spooky D.J music, a photo booth and taking part in the very popular decorated pumpkin competition.

On November 29th a new event, the Holiday MarketPlace, was held to kick off the holiday season. People from various Community Living Oakville day services, houses, special interest programs and those with artistic talents were invited to set up tables in the cafeteria at 301 Wycroft Rd. Participants of each table were responsible for making their wares, setting prices and selling and each table retained all their proceeds. There was a wonderful array of goods from handmaid cards, jewelry and Christmas decorations to baked goods and other treats. There were so many guests from within the agency, family and our local community, including a crew of firefighters, that this event is sure to be bigger in 2019. Special thanks to Tim Hortons-Bronte for the donation of Hot Chocolate for the beverage table, manned by Carole Forster.

The annual pizza and movie night was held at Film.ca on December 18th. This has become a holiday tradition and everyone enjoyed watching and singing along to Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody.

Members of Raise Your Voice Council are planning the next events for this year. Save the date for the Valentine Party on Friday February 15th at the O.E Banquet Hall. COVE Conference 2019 is also in the planning stages with a date to be determined. Watch out for other monthly opportunities such as the Loft Longos Cooking Class and Glow in the Dark Golf. Check out the Raise Your Voice Council Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/raiseyourvoicecouncil/>) for the latest information and photos from past events. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the events.

Lastly, members of the Raise Your Voice Council would like to thank all the volunteers that have assisted them over the last few months. These have included families, staff, high school and college students.

For more information email Stephanie Butcher (stephanie.butcher@oakcl.org) or check out the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/raiseyourvoicecouncil/>



RAISE YOUR VOICE COUNCIL

Honorary Achievement- Gerry Sutton



We want to congratulate Mr. Gerald Sutton who will be receiving the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Queen's University. This honour is to be given in recognition of his tireless efforts as a pioneer in creating and fostering the venture capital industry in Canada, his business leadership, his belief and generous commitment in higher education, and for the countless hours as a volunteer championing the needs of the developmental services sector. The Senate has also invited Gerry to give an address to the graduating students at the 2019 spring convocation ceremony.

At Community Living Oakville, we know Gerry is a brilliant, gentle, humble man and philanthropist. He has lived a life of commitment to building strong communities, excellent services, and quality of life for all citizens. His name is seen far and wide recognizing his many contributions to education, arts, and a vast array of charities.

Gerry has a long history with our agency, and the organization has benefited greatly from his volunteerism, leadership, wisdom and generosity over the last several decades. His actions and words clearly demonstrate his personal commitment to all people who have a developmental disability. He served

on the Board of Directors, and held the role of President in 1991 to 1992, and then again from 1997 to 2001. When the Executive Director left due to health concerns in the early 1990s, Gerry stepped into the role of Executive Director without pay, until a suitable successor was hired.

All areas of this agency have been recipients of his generosity. He contributes significant funding for a day service location on Church Street where participants attend Monday to Friday, and enjoy the opportunity to be within close proximity to many interesting places. He made a significant contribution to a house for five people to call home, built a beautiful garden with picnic tables at 301 Wycroft, purchased the equipment to build a snoezelen multi-sensory room, and funded a state of the art database for Community Living Oakville which has had a tremendous impact on our data management and communication. Gerry funded a Coordinator position for a project called Housing Alternatives Network Directive, which provided support to families in planning innovative residential models of support for their sons and daughters, and funds a university scholarship program for the sons/daughters of Community Living Oakville employees.

Over the years, Gerry has worked tirelessly to create awareness in the developmental service sector at a local and provincial level. His involvement with Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs as a Board Member, and later, President contributed greatly to the growth and provincial impact of OASIS. His belief in the importance of education is evident in his own academic

achievements. His vision and creation of the opportunity for OASIS member agencies to take part in the Queens Executive Education Leadership Program for the Developmental Services Sector has provided unprecedented opportunity for leaders in the field, and agencies across the province have benefited.

Prior to moving to Oakville, Gerry contributed to the developmental services sector, and served as President of the Montreal Association, the Quebec Association and served as Director for the Canadian Association. He was the President of the Child Guidance Centre, Island of Montreal.

After arriving in Oakville, he was an active member of the Peel, Halton, Dufferin Regional Council of Community Living Ontario, was a volunteer representative on the Halton Developmental Services Planning Group as well as a family representative on the Halton Critical Services Committee.

This unselfish, and compassionate man has made an extraordinary difference to Community Living Oakville. His calm and focused leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropy have touched the lives of many, and helped direct the path of the organization. His knowledge, beliefs and values have had a profound impact on the evolution of quality services.

Mr. Sutton has our deep respect, and appreciation. We sincerely congratulate him on this well- deserved honour.

The Great Outdoors

After a long cold winter, many look forward to the warmth of summer and promising adventures. One such adventure is camping – getting away from the modern comforts and hitting the pause button in our everyday lives. What better way to experience nature and the great outdoors – of which Canada has much to offer!

Those who have not stepped away from the busy city do not know the tranquility of spending a night under a blanket of stars, sitting around a cozy campfire with good company. That is exactly what Michael, Zack, Jason, Chanel and Tim experienced over the summer at KOA,

Toronto. It was everyone's first time camping together, and it will definitely become an annual tradition!

The crew left with anticipation making it seem like years to get to the KOA site. Everyone was excited to press pause on daily luxuries and enjoy nature. Well... maybe just a little bit of "glamping" was involved around the BBQ.

Waking up to birds chirping and the still of nature was relaxing for all. Then followed by a day of hiking and exploring the great outdoors! Everyone relished the experience.

After following Ontario's warm summer sun and sightseeing, it was time to fire up the grill for dinner. The evening was flavoured with enjoyable beef, chicken and pork skewers. With vegetable accompaniment of course. Everyone sealed the night around a campfire building smores and serenading the darkness with campfire songs. Next trip can only get better as we grow in experience and confidence in this new avenue of celebrating life in the magnificent North.



12 Days of Giving

Community Living Oakville has a Health and Wellness Committee that leads initiatives within the organization to focus

on both physical and mental wellbeing. The committee members wanted to bring a feeling of gratitude and sharing during the holiday period so they ran a 12 Days of Giving campaign, an advent calendar – in reverse! For 12 days before Christmas there was a different theme of giving for each day. We collaborated with two organizations, Oakville Fare Share Food Bank and Safetynet Children and Youth, who took our donations of food and non-food items.

Items such as carefully used coats, school supplies, breakfast items and canned goods were divided and taken to the respective organizations who support vulnerable people within our Oakville community.

Each day emails went out across Community Living Oakville thanking everyone for their donations along with a reminder on what the theme was the following day.

The 12 Days of giving campaign was a tremendous success and the committee was delighted with the generosity of people we support, their families and employees.

Thank You to all who participated!

<https://www.safetynetservices.ca/>
<http://www.oakvillefoodbank.com/>



HARRISON VOLUNTEERS

Harrison Volunteers And Makes Time to Support Others

Volunteers are passionate about improving the lives of people and helping. In this time of busyness, overabundance of choice and instant gratification few people have time to make a difference by helping through offering their talents and skill.

Increasing demands in our world did not stall the kind spirit and desire that Harrison held within. Flowing first from housemates then progressing to his community, his generous gentle spirit needed to be shared, challenging Harrison's support team to find an outlet for his aspiration.

On November 28th he explored new opportunities to add facets to his life and contribute in his community, a place he loves, when he started volunteering with Food4Kids Halton in Burlington. Food4Kids is a non-profit organization providing packages of healthy food for children 4-14 years with limited or no access to food on the weekend. Harrison and other volunteers package and prepare healthy food which can be delivered to

schools every Friday. This vital service ensures children access to nourishment over the weekend when not in school. Imagining the alternative... is unthinkable.

Harrison heads to Food4Kids every Wednesday morning. He is responsible for organizing cases of food, opening packages, then reassembling custom food package bags including allergy bags, and labeling them before they are sent out to school children in the Region. His day does not end there, after volunteering he shares his other passion, cooking at the Community Living Oakville Cafe.

Harrison makes a tremendous impact as a volunteer, he is hardworking and enjoys what he does. The organization relies on his help since they work as an intimate team of two or three people fulfilling a vital mission.

A true community is a place of belonging for people. Harrison has not only achieved that outcome in the community he so

loves, he is making his community a place he belongs by actively giving back. He is passionate about improving lives of people. We all live in this time of busyness and instant gratification, he has found a balanced life by making time to be involved, and help the younger generation in his community.



A ROAD TRIP

A road trip – even a local one, is an opportunity to step into a different world to explore sights and familiarities that we often take for granted but that people come from around the world to see and experience. To ensure full appreciation of home and community, Elizabeth, Deborah, Lorette, Fran and Mandy chose to visit Niagara Falls late in November.

The friends, arrived in Niagara mid-morning and spent the day together connecting, learning and experiencing all that Clifton Hill had to offer. They toured the ‘Ripley’s Believe it or Not’ museum and enjoyed activities that were engaging and required teamwork! There was a trick door calling for everyone’s cooperation and concentrated effort for 30 minutes to find a way to open it.

Next everyone explored gift shops and then a 4-D movie. A relaxing dinner with the sounds and ambience of three different rain storms at the Rain Forest Cafe was an awesome way to kick back, laugh and take in a new experience shared together.

Niagara Falls and the tourist area offered so much to see, hear and enjoy. A wonderful day spent together was finished with an evening at the spectacular Niagara Winter Lights Festival. A walk along the path to look in awe and marvel at the endless different light creations against the majesty of Niagara Falls lit up for the holiday season!

What a wonderful way to connect, grow and nurture friendships and start the holiday season- and no further away than our own back yard!



PERSONAL OUTCOME MEASURES ®

In the months ahead, Community Living Oakville will be starting the exciting journey of introducing, educating and living Personal Outcome Measures with the people that we provide support to and their support network. What are Personal Outcome Measures you may ask? Personal Outcome Measures (POMs) are a valid and reliable tool for person-centered discovery and organizational change. In a Personal Outcome Measures interview, we will explore quality of life outcomes for people receiving support, surrounding issues involving: choice, health, safety, social capital, relationships, rights, goals, dreams, employment and more. It also looks at the supports in a person’s life, to better understand what effect particular services are having on the presence of those outcomes. The purpose is to enhance and customize the way in which we provide support, how we see each person and to change the way that we think. We do not want to mold the person to fit the supports that we offer but mold our supports to each individual person, their goals and their dreams. We aspire to listen to their voice.

In 2018, a group of four managers and one director received their initial 1 week training on the introduction of Personal Outcome Measures. Later in the year Jennifer Dance, Manager, received her certification as a reliable interviewer from C.Q.L. (The Council on Quality and Leadership). In December of 2018, 40 of our front line staff, managers, directors and board members received a one-day training from Tina Williams of CQL. These educational experiences were met with positive feedback and enthusiasm. All of these trainings were made possible by the Trillium Quality

of Life grant. This opened the door to creating the position of a Quality Enhancement Manager. In the months ahead, Jennifer will be starting the process of conducting interviews with the people we support and their staff; working to educate teams and create exciting new person driven goals.

Through the initial interviews, we have already started to see exciting changes. The people that have been interviewed feel empowered and heard. The staff have felt inspired to see the person through a different lens and change the way that they provide support. People have had life changing experiences that may not have happened had we not asked the right questions. People have been reconnected with family, taken trips, acquired possessions that they had always wanted but never thought possible and this is only the beginning.

We are excited to start this journey together. We welcome each person and their support network to enthusiastically join us as we embark on this new path. We look forward to sharing your great successes in the months and years ahead.

If everyone is moving forward together, success takes care of itself. – Henry Ford





A YEAR IN REVIEW

It has been a busy year for our two In The Loop Media teams. We create exciting content in which we upload to our social media channels (Youtube, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter) every week to share with all of you!

With each reporter's aspiring goals and interests, we learn media fundamentals and collaborate together in order to prepare for upcoming interviews and news features.

The following are a few highlights from 2018!

Hire Higher conference - Our team's desire to create more inspiring content led us to Maralyn Ellis; ED, Autism LifePath + Facilitator, Autism Job Club who was responsible for organising the Hire Higher conference. We were asked to be the exclusive media outlet to cover the event, which was our largest assignment to date and we were up for the challenge. We met and interviewed Maralyn Ellis, David Beresford; caricature artist, Mark Wafer;

disability rights advocate and Dr. Temple Grandin who is a consultant in the the livestock industry on animal behaviour and is a world-renowned Autism spokesperson. The media team had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Temple Grandin in an intimate interview. Her

message was clear: "find out what you're good at and focus on that." She further shared insightful recommendations such as "stretch yourself, try something new; you never know, you might like it!" Dr. Temple Grandin motivated us all to reach for our goals.



MP Pam Damoff - Another highlight this past year was interviewing MP Pam Damoff, who spoke to us in regards to International Women's Day. We also met and interviewed Staff Sergeant Susan Biggs and local firefighters at Station 5 in Oakville who had wonderful insights on what International Women's Day means to them.



Retired CFL Pro Athlete Andre Durie - Joel Layne; In the Loop Media reporter, interviewed retired CFL pro footballer Andre Durie who spoke to In The Loop Media about how he overcame major physical barriers due to a past injury. Despite the odds, Andre strived further and through determination and never giving up, he was able to continue in the sport he loves. Andre played for 10 years in the CFL and won a Grey Cup in 2012!



Bell Media Studios Tour – In the Loop Media had the opportunity to tour and go behind the scenes of a professional broadcast facility. This allowed everyone to learn about the inner workings of an official broadcast and all of the logistics involved. The team also were able to meet, speak to and take photos with Ben Mulroney and Danielle Graham from E-Talk, CP 24’s traffic reporter Mika Midolo, as well as CP 24’s Nathan Downer!



Entripy Tour – The good people at Entripy welcomed us at their 50,000 square ft Oakville facility to see how and why they are Canada’s leader for custom printed t-shirts. As Entripy does everything ‘in house’ they are able to provide superior customer service and quality. We were excited to be provided with a tour and were able to interview Manny who shared with us the history of Entripy, as well as the detail that goes into making each one of their products.



Chad Owens (CO2) - Professional athlete and CFL Grey Cup Champion for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Chad Owens took a moment to talk with us after his inspiring speech about attitudes of a champion. CO2 spoke to In The Loop about ALOHA Adversity.Love.Ohana.Habits and attitude. His positive speech and valuable words to live by inspired us all. As an added bonus, he even rapped a few bars with reporter Joel Layne!



Ahuri Theatre- In November, Ahuri Theatre along with Oakville Centre For The Performing Arts, invited our media team to take part in a play touring throughout Canada called ‘This Is The Point.’ The In The Loop Media team was asked to create alter egos and disguise themselves in costume. Once in character, Katherine Fleitas did a professional photo shoot to capture each character. Each participant further shared two truths and one lie about themselves. Ahuri Theatre then created a truth/lies photo exhibit in the halls of Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre which is on display ahead of the Feb 22nd and 23rd performances.



Julia Hanna - Erinn Bursey interviewed Julia Hanna (Owner and Chef at Ritorno restaurant in Oakville) about inclusive employment and overcoming adversity. Julia is also an avid community activist and former mayoral candidate who shares in our vision for an inclusive community and staying positive despite adversity. Videography and behind the scenes

preparations were done by Brett Garrod, Anna Merola and Adam Spicer.

Our plans for the New Year are more ambitious than ever, but we aim to grow, learn and have our voices heard! We will continue to support the community that supports us and bring awareness to good news for a change. We are looking forward to 2019 and to sharing all the great things people are doing to make their communities and world a better place!

That’s not all! To see all of our media coverage follow us on our social media channels and make sure to STAY IN THE LOOP.

www.facebook.com/Intheloopmedia | <https://www.instagram.com/intheLoop>
<https://twitter.com/Inthelooper>

LIGHTS, CAMERA, DANCE



The Christmas Dance was a Red Carpet theme event held at the Unifor 707 Galaxy Banquet Hall. Over 250 people gathered to celebrate the start of the holiday season.

Guests were welcomed with music from DJ Dwayne, door prizes, appetizers and a popcorn buffet. Tricks and slight-of-hand magic was performed by Magic Mike throughout the evening. This year the dinner was family style catered by Familia Fine Foods of Burlington followed by selection of desserts.

The photo booth was in action and after dinner the DJ ramped up the tunes and the dance floor was packed until it was time to draw the night to a close.

Thank you to our donors whose contributions towards the cost of the evening enabled greater participation. Also thank you to our student volunteers from Appleby College and the CLO staff, their families and friends who volunteered their time to make sure each of our guests had the best time possible. A special thank you to Marlyne Van Exan, her help on the evening was a powerhouse of action!

