

Newslink

May 2016

Community Living St. Marys and Area
"A community where everyone belongs."



After 30 years of service, Nancy Marriott is retiring from her position as Office Administrator

Join Us for a Celebration
Wednesday, June 8th from 2-4pm

Join us again on Friday, June 17 from 2-4 to Celebrate the retirement of Support Worker Dianne Brown



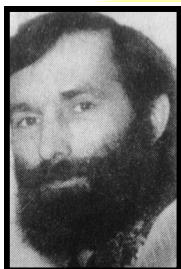
COMING EVENTS

2016 Annual General Meeting
Monday, June 20
Meeting 4:30
Dinner 6:00
(Invitation enclosed)



Celebration of Life

In memory of Allan Bennett



For more than 43 years, Allan Bennett gave his time and many gifts to people with disabilities and their families, our community and our organization, Community Living St. Marys and Area.

Through the years, Al has worn many hats with our Association. In the 1970s, he was one of the first sheltered workshop managers. He held this position for several years before retiring in 1979 just after the new James Purdue Centre was built.

In the 1980s, Al could be seen fixing and repairing for the Association. Many of us remember him driving his motorcycle with his tool box on the back and sometimes one of his kids. Al never hesitated to help and we all knew he could fix anything.

Al joined the Board of Directors in 1987 and again, he filled many roles including that of President. One of his greatest contributions in his recent years had been to tell stories. We often refer to him as the 'Association Historian' for he always remembered what something was used for, special birthdays and anniversaries of people supported and volunteers.

Of course, Al's dedication and investment in Community Living was supported by his wife Jill and their family. In June 2013, Al was made an Honourary Life Member by the Board of Directors to recognize his outstanding contributions.

Al made an extraordinary commitment to improving the lives of others. Al died on Saturday March 19th, 2016. He will be missed.

In memory of James 'Jim' Archer (November 30, 1960- February 20, 2016)

Remembering Jim, is remembering a man who could tell a tall tale and was always ready with a joke. Jim comes from a long line of great story tellers and a family with a great sense of humour.

Jim was born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario in 1960 a second child and only son to his parents, Russ and Evelyn.

The family would later move to Clinton, Ontario where Jim spent most of his younger years. From there Jim lived in Exeter and finally to St. Marys where he has lived for many years.

He was a man who took great pride in talking about his nieces and nephews. He was always ready to share a story of past or present with a sprinkle of embellishment for added excitement.

Jim will be greatly missed by his family and friends, and fondly remembered by those who knew him.

In memory of Robert 'Bob' Jenson (Nov 2, 1933—May 17, 2016)



It is with sad hearts that we say goodbye to Bob.

If you live in the town of St. Marys or frequent the coffee shops, you were sure to know Bob. He will always be remembered for his warm smile and his great sense of humour.

Bob had a passion for collecting hats and pens from all over the world and was always willing to lend one. He was up to date on the latest news, had a keen eye for tractors, heavy equipment and most anything with a motor. A great man who will be missed by many.

When you think of Bob, remember his joyful nature and share a smile.



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Central Admin

Health Spending Account: A reminder to employees on the benefit plan that the health spending account (HSA) requires all funds from 2015 to be used by December 31st, 2016.

Email: We've had questions about opening pay stubs and reimbursement advices. Please access these pdf forms by logging into your clstmarys email via Execulink webmail (www.webmail.execulink.com). The attachments should open properly in that environment. If you are having trouble you may need to download Adobe Reader DC.

Stay in Touch

Remember to check your email



**COMMUNITY LIVING ST. MARYS & AREA
RAISED \$740.00!!**

**THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO
SPONSORED AND PARTICIPIATED!**

Breaking News on Round Two of Class Action Lawsuits

The Ontario court just approved in April 2016, a \$36-million-dollar compensation deal for 12 more institutions in the second round of class action lawsuits. The first happened in 2013 and involved Huronia, Rideau Regional and Southwestern. The suit states that people who lived in these institutions were "emotionally, physically and psychologically traumatized" and that the province "failed to properly care for and protect." Despite this the province does not admit liability. It is estimated that over 7,800 people lived in these institutions during the timelines that have been outlined and could be eligible for compensation payments. Community Living St. Marys and Area know of 10 people who will be part of the claim and there may be more people in our area. The three closest institutions to us were Oxford Regional Centre in Woodstock, Bluewater in Goderich and Midwestern near Palmerston.

If you would like more information contact Mirjam Schut at (519)284-1400 ext. 227, e-mail at mschut@clstmarys.ca or check out Community Living Ontario's page <http://communitylivingontario.ca/blog/class-action-settlement-involving-former-residents-12-institutions-approved/>

We are looking for people to be featured in our "Humans of CLSMA" on our Facebook page. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Laura Cannon at ext 242

Check out the inspiring short interviews with leaders in the disability movement at **Conversations That Matter** (link is on our website)

www.communitylivingstmarys.com

THE GIFT CORNER

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The Lesson of the Butterfly by Paulo Coelho

A man spent hours watching a butterfly struggling to emerge from its cocoon. It managed to make a small hole, but its body was too large to get through it. After a long struggle, it appeared to be exhausted and remained absolutely still.

The man decided to help the butterfly and with a pair of scissors, he cut open the cocoon, thus releasing the butterfly. However, the butterfly's body was very small and wrinkled and its wings were all crumpled.

The man continued to watch hoping that at any moment, the butterfly would open its wings and fly away. Nothing happened; in fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its brief life dragging around its shrunken body and shriveled wings, incapable of flight.

What the man out of kindness and his eagerness to help had failed to understand was that the tight cocoon and the efforts that the butterfly had to make in order to squeeze out of that tiny hole were nature's way of training the butterfly and of strengthening its wings.

Sometimes our attempts to help another person can actually do more damage than good. When we "cut open the cocoon," we interfere with a process that is essential for their self-growth and learning about gifts.

What have you learned about how and when to help others?

What experiences have you had of asking or being asked about what might be helpful?

What happens when we trust others to find their own answers?

If you are interested in learning more about gifts or would like to have a core gift interview contact Jennifer at (519)284-1400 ext. 228 or e-mail jleslie@clstmarys.ca



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As many of you know, our lives turned upside down after we lost our home to a fire on March 1st. Thankfully our family is safe, which is the most important thing. This time has been very surreal, but with all your generosity, care and support we are able to gain strength to continue on. To all of our family, friends, neighbours, firefighters, volunteers, co-workers and everyone else who has reached out, thank you!

With Love,
Bob and Michele Rourke
and Family

"If you're not intentionally including, you're accidentally excluding"



Voices Perth provides a way for people to learn to speak up, feel strong and feel connected to others. Whether that is together in advocacy, support groups, or as an individual. Voices provides Leadership Training, Community Information Forums, Development of Community Resources and works to create Inclusive Opportunity. Check out our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/VoicesPerth and Twitter @VoicesPerth

We have so many great Support Workers that we really want to recognize your efforts this year at the AGM in June. If you work with a colleague who excels in one of the Core Competencies, please considering nominating him or her! The competencies are:

- Advocating For Others
- Collaboration
- Creative Problem Solving & Decision Making
- Fostering Independence in Others
- Initiative
- Resilience

Contact Laura at lcannon@clstmarys.ca for a nomination form.

NOMINATIONS
ARE OPEN

WHAT DOES WARM WEATHER BRING? CONSTRUCTION!



The ramp and stairway at JPC is getting a beautiful facelift and should be fully accessible in the next couple of weeks. Thanks for your patience!



The Joint Health & Safety Committee

Paul Williams, Jackie Haycock, Kim Conard, Carol Ackersviller, Linda Munro, Kim Monden, Marg McLean. Items of interest, dealings of the Health & Safety Committee and the minutes are posted at JPC in the photo-copy room. Any concerns of a health and safety nature can be forwarded to the Chair Paul Williams at pwilliams@clstmarys.ca or (519) 284-3620