



CONSTRUCTION

The James Purdue Centre had a facelift on the outside last spring. This year, the inside will be undergoing some changes to better make use of the space.

Construction started May 12th.

Thanks for your patience.

COMING EVENTS

2017 Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 19

Meeting 4:30

Dinner 6:15

(Invitation enclosed)

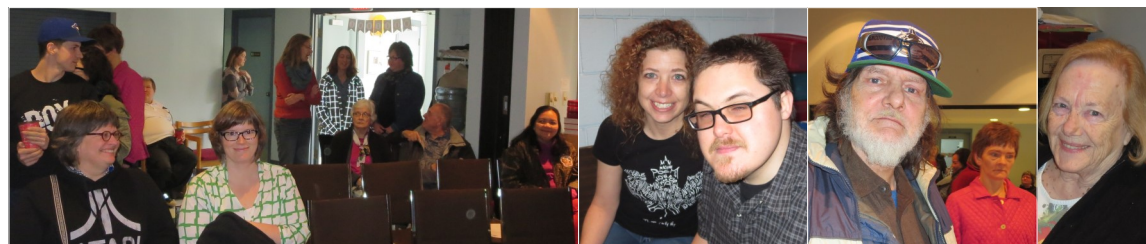


Town of St. Marys Heritage Festival is Sat, July 8th, 2017. Community Living St. Marys will be hosting a Photo Booth! Please contact Stephanie Lee if you are interested in volunteering slee@clstmarys.ca or 284-1400 x226. See you there!



Stories Project Launch

It was truly a red carpet event for the launch of nine videos made by Community Living St. Marys and Powerline Films. Close to 100 people showed up on Saturday April 22, 2017 to watch the films for the very first time. Each of the videos tell stories about the lives of people with disabilities, about the Association and the community. The "stories project" has been over a year in the making and continues with a tenth video still in production that will tell the history of the Association. Project coordinator, Marilyn Haywood worked closely with Simon Brothers of Powerline Films to capture many powerful moments. The emotion was evident at the video launch party with many laughs and even some tears! The videos will be released individually on our new You Tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPKQxbVgk1MIJa8wKVpLZnw>



Thankyou First to Community Living St. Marys and Area for persevering with this project. Their strength is something about perseverance. How are we going to figure this out? Or maybe Try Try Again! Your belief in capturing and sharing stories is important now and in the future to your organization and to our entire community! Thank you!

To Elizabeth Davidson who also believes in the adage Try Try again! Thank you to Elizabeth for her referral to Powerline Films! We made her try one more time before we took her good advice!

To Janelle Philips-Muir, one day a phone call led to an offer to help. Today you see the results of her offer, her talents and she has a new baby Ella, who joined us – maybe following in her mother's footsteps!

To all of the Volunteers who came Friday to set up the room complete with posters, balloons, white covered chairs and a red carpet. Then they stayed to put the church back to its original look. Thank you so very much!

To the St. Marys Salvation Army Church – thanks for letting us use your lovely space and perfect big screen!

To Simon Brothers, filmmaker Extraordinaire! And to his whole Team; Luke, Mark, Stew and Nathan, you deserve our heartfelt thanks! We were unsure of our direction, not at all knowledgeable about much of anything to do with filmmaking. Simon held our hands and walked us through the process. We knew the stories, Simon and Luke breathed life into them. We should mention that Simon always has good questions at the end of every interview. If I ran out of questions, Simon always had more creative and insightful questions!

To the Editors, whom we have not met, we are convinced that they are magicians. Hours of film condensed to a few minutes of beauty! Thank you from our hearts, you are each so very talented!

Finally, the biggest thank you of all! To those of you seated in this room today, who volunteered your time, overcame your jitters and sometimes your terror and made this project come to life. Thank you! You shared your stories, opened your hearts and you are to be congratulated on your best efforts! No one said "NO," everyone said "YES," And that is why we are here today! You have contributed to make the Stories Project a treasure that will be appreciated for years to come. Thanks to each of you and to your supporting casts!

Please stand and take a bow and we will all cheer, whistle and celebrate! - Marilyn Haywood



Simon Brothers & Marilyn Haywood

A reminder to staff to access the **STAFF LOGIN** on our website. Some of the benefits include information on the Family Services Employee Assistance Program and Conversations that Matter as well as multiple downloadable forms including timesheets, staff travel, consent to share, vacation request etc. If you need assistance logging in, please contact Candace O'Hearn or Laura Cannon at cohearn@clstmarys.ca or lcannon@clstmarys.ca respectively.

Thank you to **fseap** for presenting the informative and interactive workshop, "Riding the Wave: Building Resilience in Times of Change" at our general staff meeting on March 29th. Everyone who attended came away with techniques for 'stress busting,' while acknowledging that change is inevitable and it is our ability to transition that is important.

Break'n DCVI

In the fall of 2016 a local youth, Cameron Stanger, gathered interested students at St. Marys DCVI to consider the idea of hosting a Community Change Project at his school. Community Change Projects are an initiative of Re:Action4Inclusion. Re:Action4Inclusion is a youth lead initiative that seeks to empower youth to take action individually and collectively to make our schools and communities more inclusive spaces.

Cameron became involved with Re:Action4Inclusion in the summer of 2016 while attending the movements first Summer Institute. In October 2016, Cameron represented Re:Action4Inclusion and Canadian Youth at the International Inclusion Conference hosted in Orlando, Florida. Cameron is a youth leader with Re:Action4Inclusion and has been a part of organizing the provincial Re:Action4Inclusion youth conference held in the fall.

A handful of students joined Cameron's efforts and applied for a grant to host a Community Change Project at DCVI. Cameron teamed up with student Bailey Wiffen to lead the team. They were successful. With Tawnya Basisto (teacher adult ally), Stephanie Lee (Community Living community adult ally) and Emily Branje (Re:Action4Inclusion adult ally) on board the students began to plan.

The projects goal was to push students outside of their established social groups and comfort zones and get to know other youth. Youth that may not know each other, might get along with each other, so we wanted to give them the chance to meet each other.

They launched their project by giving out hundreds of pencils to the student body. On the pencils is the hashtag #Breakn. This encouraged students to seek more information on Twitter and Facebook about the project by searching #Breakn.

They did this by hosting a 'social activity day' including all students. The vision included hosting a full student assembly (grades 7-12) with a guest speaker Blake Fly, who talked about breaking out of your existing social circles and getting to know other students including those from other countries and those with an intellectual disability. After the assembly students divided into groups (divided ahead of time by student leads, teachers, community partner) to ensure that different social groups of students were divided. Groups then broke out into activities. This gave students a way to come out of their shell and get to know each other better in a fun way.



Congratulations to the BREAK'N TEAM AT DCVI

For more information about Re:Action4Inclusion visit their website at www.reaction4inclusion.com or contact Community Living St. Marys and Area, Youth Facilitator, Stephanie Lee at slee@clstmarys.ca



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)

THE GIFT CORNER

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Gift Corner

Spring has arrived and the gift wall is getting a makeover! We have more gifts than space and so we need to change how they are displayed. We also want to begin showcasing more than just people's core gift statements. We want to know how they are using their gifts. Stay tuned to see the 'reveal' and in the meantime please let Jennifer know if you have a story to share around your gift. We'll help you capture it for the wall. We also have some newly trained core gift interviewers who are looking to practice their skills. Now is the time to have your interview! Contact Jennifer at (519)284-1400 ext. 228 or jleslie@clstmarys.ca



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

Welcome Krysta!

We are pleased to announce that Krysta Clark has accepted the position of Team Leader. Krysta will begin on May 15, 2017. She is looking forward to learning more about our organization and meeting lots of new people! If you run into Krysta please introduce yourself and welcome her to CLSMA.



COMMUNITY LIVING ST. MARYS & AREA RAISED \$935.00!!
THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO SPONSORED AND PARTICIPATED!
IT WAS GREAT THAT MOST OF US WERE ABLE TO ENJOY SOME FOOD AND DRINK ALONG WITH SOME GREAT STORIES AT THE CREAMERY

Heart & Stroke
BIG BIKE RIDE
 A Ride to Remember

Margaret (Margie) Grace Taylor

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Margie Taylor on April 14, 2017. Margie was someone who had an infectious smile and would tell stories of her life growing up on the family farm. She had a love of cats and often talked about a particular cat named, Stinker.

Margie was always interested in knowing about others and often asked about your children ("the kids" as Margie would say). She had a passion for gardening and was proud of her own flower and vegetable gardens. Margie loved people and mingling with folks, often at the Friendship Centre or at the community suppers.

Margie will be missed by all who knew her!



How to reach our office: 519-284-1400 ext.

Marg McLean	225
Jennifer Leslie	228
Kim Monden	222
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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically or purchase a membership, you can sign up on our website at www.communitylivingstmarys.ca or you can send your email address and request to: centraladmin@clstmarys.ca



A \$5.00 membership entitles you to:

- * vote on policies and bylaw changes at our Annual General Meeting
- * receive newsletters, annual reports, financial statements (on request only)
- * receive invitations to planning retreats and workshops
- * serve on our Board of Directors or one of its committees

If you would prefer to mail in your request please send it to:

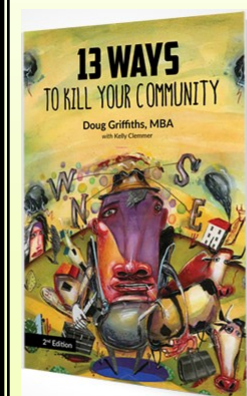
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If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Candace O'Hearn at 519-284-1400 ext 221 or email cohearn@clstmarys.ca

Visit our website: www.communitylivingstmarys.ca

A reminder to all employees, that peer nominations for Core Competency Awards will continue to be accepted for this year's award presentation at the AGM in June. Ask Laura for a nomination form!

Doug Griffiths calls himself a 'Community Therapist' and he offers many tools to build thriving communities. He also offers the alternative...ways to kill communities. An invitation from St.Marys Town Councillor Don Van Galen brought Griffiths to Mitchell where he spoke to people passionate about rural communities including business owners, community leaders, and politicians.



Don't let the title of this book keep you from reading it. Doug's talk and the book are full of practical ways to engage all citizens. Highlights include thoughts on welcoming communities, affordable housing, engaging youth and shopping local.

We have a copy at JPC or borrow it from the St.Marys Public Library.



The Joint Health & Safety Committee

Paul Williams, Jackie Haycock, Carol Ackersviller, Linda Pickering, Kim Monden, Marg McLean.

Items of interest, dealings of the Health & Safety Committee and the minutes are posted at JPC in the photocopy 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