



October 2024

# Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

### Community Dinner:

**Mon, Dec 2/24**

All are welcome at the United Church Community Dinner, hosted by CLSMA!

### Holiday Celebration:

**Thurs, Dec 5/24**

This year's celebration will be held at the St. Marys Golf & Country Club, \$15/ticket. Stay tuned for more information coming soon

### All Staff Meeting:

**STAY TUNED FOR DATE**

CLSMA looks forward to presenting another engaging all staff meeting in 2025

## A note from our Executive Director, Becky Huffman

As we admire the beautiful colors of fall, I wanted to take a moment to express how grateful I am for the amazing community we have here at Community Living St Marys and Area. This season encourages reflection, and I can't help but appreciate the hard work of our staff, as well as the amazing connections we are fortunate to have with the people we support and their families.

Speaking of connections, we are soon heading into the holiday season which always gives us a chance to come together and celebrate! I have heard that the elves will be returning to St Marys for the month of December, so please stay tuned for some opportunities for Holiday Fun! On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, we would also love for you to join us at our Holiday Celebration on December 5th! It should be a wonderful evening and a great opportunity to celebrate the season together.

Wishing you all a fabulous fall season!  
Thank you for all that you do!



## Punny Corner

What does James Bond's doorbell sound like?  
*Dong. Ding, Dong.*

## Spin to Win Contest!



### Find the Icon



Somewhere hidden within this newsletter is a tiny version of the gift box image you see above. Find it for a chance to win this month's spin-to-win contest!

To enter:

1. Locate the tiny version of the gift box in the newsletter.
2. Email the specific location of it to Laura at: [lcannon@clstmarys.ca](mailto:lcannon@clstmarys.ca) no later than Oct 30, 8am!
3. You will be automatically entered into the spin-to-win for a gift card prize!

## 2024 Summer Supports

CLSMA was able to hire summer workers to provide supports to 8 local youth in 2024





## CONGRATS 2024 Service Award Winners!

Paul Williams- 40 years

Tamie Robertson-Coward - 35 years

Darren Ackersviller - 25 years

Peter Morgan - 25

Maureen Flanagan - 20 years

Elaine Primeau - 15 years

Susan Graham - 10 years

Lisa MacDonald - 10 years

Lizzie Weiler - 5 years

Sheri McDonald - 5 years

Sherri Cox - 5 years

Lisa Laughton - 5 years



### Happy Retirement, Jackie Doherty!



Best wishes to Jackie on her well-deserved retirement! Jackie has been a dedicated Support Worker with Community Living St Marys and Area for the last 14 years. Jackie's committed and compassionate support has left a lasting impact on the teams she has been a part of and the individuals she has supported. We have been so fortunate to have Jackie as a valued member of our team, and we are grateful for the positive influence she has had on our organization. Wishing Jackie all the best in her retirement adventures!

### 40 years for Paul Williams!

Paul began his four-decade career at CLSMA in April 1984 as an overnight support worker at 111 Queen St. He also provided transportation to people living outside of St. Marys who worked at the sheltered wood shop for six years. Paul served the agency in many other ways including as a board member of Citizen Advocacy, chairing Joint Health and Safety committee since 1990 and helping to revise the by-laws. He has not missed a single Annual General Meeting! Paul's personal values are closely aligned with those of CLSMA and in his off time he has volunteered 18 years with the United Way including on the Social Planning Council and leading the St. Marys Community Network gatherings since 2003. Paul shared that he has always felt that CLSMA was "a good place to work." His wish is to see the agency continue much the same and adjust to what the future brings. Thank-you Paul for your dedication! You carry the history, continuity of values and the "big picture" of CLSMA!!

As many know, Paul also loves a good joke and he shared his favourite of all time – "What's big and red and eats rocks? - A big red rock eater."



## Committee Updates

CLSMA Committees continue to do amazing work!



### DIW

#### *Diversity, Inclusion & Wellness Committee*

The DIW committee is excited to present a 'Creating Safe Spaces at Work,' an interactive presentation to destigmatize transgender people!

Topics covered will include:

- Pronouns 101
- Safe Spaces
- Intersectionality with Neurodivergence

Presented by Stevie Bees (they/them/him) on Nov 14 at 6pm at JPC. This is a free event, and open to all!

To register, email Don at [ddingwall@clstmarys.ca](mailto:ddingwall@clstmarys.ca)



### EMRC

#### *Employee Management Relations Committee*

Join the EMRC as a Support Worker and be part of creating a collaborative and productive work environment!

Attend 4 meetings per year, each lasting around 1.5 hours, and experience the empowerment that comes with being part of a proactive team working towards positive change!

For more information, contact the EMRC's co-chair, Beverley Belcher-Besenyodi, at [emrc@clstmarys.ca](mailto:emrc@clstmarys.ca)



Your Committee Members:

#### **Diversity, Inclusion & Wellness (DIW)**

- Kelly Arbuckle
- Gwen Carter
- Don Dingwall
- Carly Geiger

#### **Employee Management Relations (EMRC)**

- Beverley Belcher-Besenyodi (co-chair)
- Jenn Costello
- Carly Geiger (co-chair)
- Sierra Graansma
- Becky Huffman
- Kim Melville

#### **Joint Health & Safety (JHSC)**

- Nick Fardy
- Becky Huffman (co-chair)
- Kim Monden
- Lynne Roberts
- Paul Williams (co-chair)

#### **Quality Assurance Measures (QAM)**

- Elia Forte
- Becky Huffman
- Ruth Lamond
- Jennifer Leslie
- Alice Mainland (chair)
- Kim Monden
- Pam Robson

We thank all our past and present committee members for giving their time, expertise and input to help CLSMA be the best it can be!





## CLSMA Strategic Planning 2023-2026 \*\*Year 2 Updates\*\*

### EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

A second employee survey will occur.



Development of an agency training plan.

Trial the use of “stay interviews” with employees.

Review internal processes for onboarding, coaching and mentoring.

### SERVICE EXCELLENCE

The Quality Assurance Committee will begin to use the three standards of service excellence identified in Year One:

1. Everything starts with the person
2. Healthy service structure and processes
3. Roots in the community



The Quality Assurance Committee will trial an interview tool with people using services and families based on the standards.

### QUALITY OF LIFE

Planning project continues and expands to include more people supported by CLSMA.

Internal planning will support people to develop goals and track progress



Be sure to follow our Social Media!



## Welcome!

### Support Services Manager, Mallory De Leon

Mallory has joined our team as the newest Manager of Support Services for Community Living St Marys and Area!



Mallory brings with her over a decade of experience in developmental services, administration, leadership, and strategic planning. She has a passion for the DS sector stemming from both professional expertise and personal lived experience. We are so grateful to Jenn Costello for her leadership within Support Services as we have navigated this transitional period, and are confident that Mallory's skills and abilities will compliment Jenn's nicely as they unite to make up the Support Services Management team. Please join us in welcoming Mallory De Leon to the Community Living St Marys and Area team!

### Team Leader, Gwen Carter



Support Services is excited to announce that Gwen Carter has accepted the full time contract Team Leader position! Gwen will transition from her current role of Support Worker, to her Team Leader role on October 28th 2024. We welcome Gwen to this journey!

## walkathon

# 20th Annual

The 20th Annual Create-A-Smile walkathon raised \$34,724.00 this year! The official ribbon cutting for the new accessible dock was held on the same day and a portion of funds supported this popular community project!





## Ontario Disability Employment Network

Community Living St. Marys and Area is proud to announce that the Town of St. Marys Council proclaims the month of October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in St. Marys.

Pictured here is Kelly Boudreau, CLSMA Employment Facilitator, who approached the town as part of ODEN's (Ontario Disability Employment Network), Light It Up campaign.



# OUR

*To nurture the ability and willingness in our community to welcome and support all people as valued and contributing citizens.*

# MISSION

