

## Executive Director's Comments

We've (almost) made it through the Winter of 2007; even though it came late, it gave us terrific travelling weather for Christmas. I think we'll remember February and March as our area was shut down with road and school closures, hydro outages, etc.; however, we're now officially into Spring. Warmer temperatures, crocuses and daffodils will help us to forget the cold, windy days and nights of the Winter of 2007.

Like the weather, Community Living Agencies are hoping for better days ahead. Community Living Agencies during the winter months endured with government relations by attending the pre-budget consultations and personally meeting with local Members of Parliament. Agencies delivered a consistent message to government regarding challenges facing service providers and individuals receiving ODSP. Community Living-Central Huron, along with representatives of other Huron and Bruce Agencies, met with Carol Mitchell. Our agenda included challenges facing the Developmental

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Services Sector, support for the Transformation Agenda and the need for additional multi-year funding for the Sector. With the March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 budget announcement, new dollars were allocated to developmental services - \$200 million over 4 years; \$7 million in new capital funding for community agencies and a 2% increase to the ODSP Benefit. It was reassuring to learn all efforts were not in vain. Since the budget announcement, Community Living-Central Huron, along with other local and provincial organizations, has written again to local MPP's urging that the vast majority of funding be made available immediately. Increased Staff compensation is a priority item. These efforts will continue with "a day at the legislature" on May 16<sup>th</sup> where Community Living will be recognized.

For your information, I have included in this newsletter, "Where the Money Goes" on page 2. The Agency continues to direct all possible funds toward Staff compensation (87%), as Staff are valued for their work and support provided to individuals. The Board of Directors of Community Living-Central Huron is proud of the fact it can offer a very generous benefit package, not only to Full-Time Staff but also Part-Time, Category 1 Staff (those who are guaranteed 20 hours/week); when most Agencies have no or a very limited package for Part-Time Staff. As Staff, I think sometimes we forget about this benefit and the costs incurred on our behalf. As an example, the average costs through RWAM for a Full-Time Staff with family coverage is \$4,127. annually; while the average costs for a Part-Time, Category 1, Staff with family coverage is \$3,488; therefore essentially the same costs.

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## E.D.'s Comments (continued)

Congratulations to Staff who have successfully completed refresher training in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI), First Aid/CPR and to Cathy Pennington on the completion of the Basic Certification for Health & Safety. Staff have had opportunities to attend various other training events focusing on such topics as: dual diagnosis; respite; autism; advance care planning; safe winter driving; inclusion; abuse; supports for people with higher needs, medications, WHMIS, etc. As well, materials were purchased to assist with WHMIS and CPI training.

As our current fiscal year draws to a close, everyone's contributions and efforts have made for a productive and successful year.

*Rosemary.*

## Membership & Annual General Meeting:

The 2006/07 fiscal year is quickly coming to an end which means it's time to plan for the new year. To purchase or renew a membership, please complete the back page of this newsletter and return it with your payment to our Central Administration Office. Information regarding the Annual General Meeting is enclosed.

## Video Conferencing:

Community Living-Central Huron is excited to announce that over the next several months, we will see the installation of video conferencing equipment at 267 Suncoast Drive, East, Goderich, at no cost to the Agency. This partnership with Regional Support Associates (RSA) will allow the Agency to participate in training opportunities and the capacity to access clinical services. We will keep you posted!

## Where the Money Goes Community Living-Central Huron

## Thank You!

To Staff, Board Members and Volunteers who assisted with the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Heartwarming Lunch held Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who sold tickets, helped in the kitchen/dining area, cut pickles and carrots, bagged lunches, provided music and to our volunteer drivers who did not let the inclement weather deter them from their duties. And last, but not least, a special thank you to those who purchased a lunch.



## Coming Events:

### **New! Last Light Photo Sale and Show**

(Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Goderich Library – 52 Montreal Street)

The Goderich Photo Club is hosting the “Last Light Photo Sale and Show” in memory of Sarah Mann – a founding member of the Club. The theme is “The Last Light” – photos from the end of the day. Individuals interested in participating must submit their photo (5” x 7” or 8” x 10”) by April 27<sup>th</sup> to the Goderich Library; photos will be on display from Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Prizes will be awarded for “Best Photo” and “Viewers Choice.” Proceeds from this fundraising event are being directed to Community Living-Central Huron.

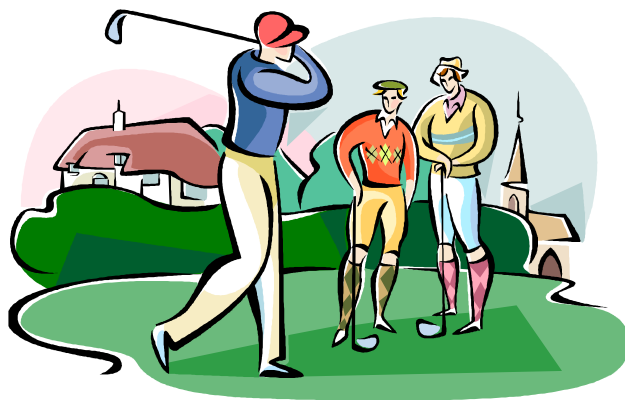
Please support this event and help us to honour Sarah’s memory.



### **New! 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Goderich and District Invitational Golf Classic** (June 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunset Golf Club).

Community Living-Central Huron is thrilled to announce the launching of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Goderich and District Invitational Golf Classic. Organizer Tom Morris has taken the lead in organizing a men’s only, golf tournament to be held at the Sunset Golf Club, Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> (practice round) and Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cost is \$200/person (includes green fees, golf cart for both days, t-shirt, and dinner on tournament day). A live and silent auction is also being organized. If interested in participating or for more information, please contact Mr. Morris at 519-524-2810. Note, spaces are limited. Proceeds from this event are being directed to Community Living-Central Huron.

Over the course of 2007, the Agency is directing proceeds from various fundraisers toward the purchase of a replacement wheelchair van.



## Comings & Goings

*Welcome* to Nicole Cascagnette, Tracy Chambers, Loni Vanderburgh & Katherine Kinzie.

*Welcome back* to Kim Heroux-Robinson, Lisa Middleton, Barb McNee and Alicia Kerr from their Parental Leaves.

*Farewell* to Lisa Black, Connie Bogoros, Carrie Courtney, Kandice Austin, Michelle Hakkers and Amber Riehl.

*Congratulations* to Donna Crawford on her retirement!

*Best of luck to all!*

## Congratulations

To Christine Lapp & Corey Haylow and Derek Quinlan & Jessica Wallace on their upcoming weddings.

To Janice & Wayne Pritchard on their recent marriage.



