



INSIGHT

Executive Director's Comments

"Out with the old, in with the new." How many times have we heard or used this expression? Now that Spring is here, finally we hope, we can get on with planning and enjoying new or different activities.

Within that context, our fiscal year ended March 31st and we are now into the 2008/09 fiscal year. And, for the first time in many years, I can say that the Agency is in a positive year-end situation. This is due to a variety of reasons, beginning with:

- the diligence of both management and front line staff managing our resources well;
- decreased costs of training; however, increased opportunities, professional development and case consultations due to our participation as a host videoconference site through the Southern Network of Specialized Care and Regional Support Associates;

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- lower than expected annual premiums (ie. Property, Liability and Vehicle insurance, Employee Benefit Package);
- financial support from the Ministry to fund last summer's contingency plan costs;
- ongoing fundraising by the Board of Directors. Last year's proceeds from the 1st Annual Goderich & District Golf Classic, combined with this year's proceeds, will be used along with accrued Ministry dollars to purchase a new accessible van to arrive in April.
- the willingness of our Board of Directors to provide grants to people to purchase items they are unable to afford and not covered by ODSP or in our budgets;
- additional program dollars through the Ministry (ie. Foundations Huron, Passport and Respite).

Some highlights experienced over the past year have included:

- a successful Proposal to the Autism Spectrum Disorder Initiative, submitted cooperatively from our Agency and the Huron Respite Network to coordinate respite services for the region;
- continued advocacy for appropriate supports and services for individuals as they experience transitions in their life;
- welcoming new individuals to the Activity Centre, SIL Program and Residential Services;

- implementation of Phase 2 of VOICES training for people supported through Foundations Huron; a worthwhile program that focuses on such topics as honesty, friendship, relationships, communication, problem solving and team building;
- "Band Jam," a Music Therapy Program, through Foundations, continues to provide people supported with a regular social and learning experience;
- successful placement of a Media/Community Mentor summer student who completed many tasks (ie. updating Agency and Program brochures, supporting fundraising activities and with respect to Community Support For Families newsletter, setting up their Newsletter and creating a link to the Agency website);
- the Agency's ability to absorb the costs associated with Ontario's Family Day this past February.

I am very appreciative of everyone's efforts and hard work. It is with great anticipation that the Agency looks forward to a new fiscal year. We will continue to nurture the positive gains made over the past twelve months and participate in new ventures and partnerships. All contribute to the enhancement of people's lives, whether it be physical or increased community and social involvement.

With the support of the Board of Directors and all staff, volunteers, people supported, families and caregivers, let's look forward together for opportunities.

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Rosemary.

Last Light & Photo Show:

Community Living-Central Huron, in partnership with the Huron Camera Club and the Goderich Library, is pleased to host the 2nd Annual Last Light Photo Show & Sale in memory of Sarah Mann. The deadline for photo submissions is Friday, April 25th, 2008. Photos can be delivered or mailed to the Goderich Library, 52 Montreal Street, Goderich. Judging and awarding of prizes will occur at an Open House, Saturday, May 3rd, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Photos will be for sale and remain on display at the Library until May 17th. The categories this year include: Nature's Vista, Rockin' Out and Kindred Spirit. Prizes will be awarded for each category, as well as a Viewers' Choice and Grand Prize. For more information, call event Coordinator, Jenna Ujiye, at 519-525-1627 or visit the website at www.huroncameraclub.com. Community Living-Central Huron is indebted to Jenna for her tireless efforts in organizing and promoting this wonderful tribute to Sarah. Please take a few moments to stop by the Library and view the photos on display. You'll be glad you did!



Get snap happy and submit your entry asap!

Membership Renewal Time:

Just a reminder Agency memberships expired March 31st. If you haven't already done so, please stop by the Central Admin. Office to complete the membership form for the 2008-2009 year; cost is \$5.00.

Spring Raffle:

Bluewater Youth Centre Staff have generously donated 3 items to be used as raffle prizes with the proceeds directed to Community Living-Central Huron.

The prizes include: a quilted throw and pillow valued at approximately \$200; two wooden planter boxes with lattice, valued at approximately \$200; and a \$65. gift certificate for a one hour massage at Hands on Health. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, and are available at Central Admin. and from Board Members. Your support of this fundraising venture is appreciated.



Thank You!

To Staff, People Supported, Board Members and Volunteers who assisted in various ways with the 20th Annual Heartwarming Lunch held Friday, February 8th. All proceeds will assist individuals receiving support.



Congratulations:

- ~ To first time parents, Amber & Ryan Riehl on the birth of their son, Nolan, on December 22nd, weighing 4 lbs. 13 oz.
- ~ To big sister Sabrina, on the birth of her baby brother, Tristan Corbin Grant, who arrived Sunday, March 9th and weighed 6 lbs, 3 oz. Proud parents are Audrey and Murray.



With Sympathy:

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to:

- ~ Family, friends and caregivers of Larry Pigeon who passed away April 3rd, 2008. Larry will be truly missed and fondly remembered for his upbeat attitude and famous phrases, such as "Hey, it's Friday!"
- ~ Jeff & Jane Warnaar on the passing of Art on March 19th. Mr. Warnaar was well known for his mechanical abilities particularly with farm equipment. He will be greatly missed by his children, grandchildren and many friends in the Goderich and Barrie communities.
- ~ The family of Mary Walker-Thiel who passed away February 19th, 2008. Mary will be missed by many families, Staff and friends and remembered as a caring, empathic individual who always had time for anyone in need of help.

May treasured memories bring you comfort during this difficult time

Comings & Goings

Welcome to:

Team A – Ashley Anderson and Amber Riehl

Team B – Rolland Eurig, Becky Martens and
Debbie Newcomb.

Team C – Stephanie Root and Shannon Doogan.

Farewell to:

Sheila Fisher, Tony Beach, Juanita Shiels and
Catherine Frayne.

Best of luck to all!

Comings Events:

~ **2nd Annual Last Light Photo Sale & Show**
Deadline for submissions is April 25th. The
Show runs from May 3rd – 17th at the
Goderich Library, 52 Montreal Street.

~ **Annual General Meeting – June 18th**
at North Street United Church, Goderich.
Dinner reservations are limited – cost is
\$10/person. Call Central Admin. if
interested in attending or for more info.
Entertainment provided by the Almost
Famous People Players' Group from
Wingham & District Community Living
Association.

~ **2nd Annual Goderich & District Golf
Classic** at Sunset Golf Club.
Thursday, June 19th (practice round)
Friday, June 20th (tournament)
Tee off time is 12:00 noon. Call Central
Admin. for more details.