



INSIGHT

Executive Director's Comments

A welcome back to all after a busy summer! I'm sure we're all going to miss those long, lovely warm days and great times with friends and families. A special welcome to new staff and Board Members.

When you see members of our Board of Directors, please don't hesitate to say "thank you" for their work and support. Our volunteer Board Members commit timeless hours over the course of a year carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the Agency's By-Laws, developing and ensuring compliance to policies and procedures, promoting our philosophy and public awareness, overseeing all financial matters, providing guidance and direction to staff, and organizing fundraise events to enhance the lives of people supported. Let's, all of us, make a commitment to sanction and when possible, lend a hand to attend and assist with Board activities. After all, we can all recognize the benefits when people supported are able to purchase special aids, equipment, experience new opportunities and programs,

and items that are expensive and not affordable without a grant or loan from the Board.

Most of you will be aware of the possible disruption in services that could have occurred in August. We were thankful the Ministry of Community & Social Services allocated additional funds to provide for increased wages for Bargaining Unit Staff. Because of the additional funding, the hourly rate for all Support Workers was increased by \$1.40 effective April 1, 2007; a further \$0.60 increase in 2008 and again in 2009 will occur. To date, retroactive payments have been made to Bargaining Unit Staff and amended Wage Grids are in effect. I appreciate everyone's understanding during that time; we know what a valuable service we perform in our community on behalf of the community's most vulnerable citizens. Throughout the past few months, the well-being and safety of people supported proved to be at the forefront and the prime consideration of all parties. A number of families also called and offered their assistance should an interruption have occurred. Extensive and well thought out planning was in place to allow for the least amount of disruption to people's daily routines. For this, I extend a sincere thank you to staff, families and volunteers.

To continue on a positive note, as we complete the first half of our 2007/08 fiscal year, expenditures are running within the anticipated budget. To date, the Agency has not received a Service Contract from the Ministry; however, as usual, monthly funding is provided based on last year's Contract. New Ministry dollars have also been made available in the County for children with mental health needs; along with funds for children with Autism.

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E.D.'s Comments (continued)

As a result of this investment, more children will have access to Intensive Behaviour Intervention Therapy; as well, additional families will have access to much needed respite services.

I am pleased to advise we are getting closer to the completion of the installation and operation of Video Conferencing, another initiative funded by the Ministry.

Board Committees have begun their work for the 2007/08 year. The Finance Committee has recently given approval for the acceptance of a tender to obtain a new wheelchair accessible van (thanks to the tremendous success of the Golf Tournament). The ACTION Committee is gearing up for wreath making and seeking donations of greens and volunteer time. This Committee has also confirmed arrangements for the Annual Christmas Party at the White Carnation, Holmesville, for Friday, November 30th. The Quality Review and Planning Committee recently met. Through reports from the Coordinator of Adult Services and myself, the Committee monitors the delivery of services to individuals involved with Adult Services to ensure compliance with the Agency's Philosophy, Mission, Guiding Principles and Ministry Acts and Regulations.

2007/08 is off to a good start. Let's do our part every day to make a difference in the lives of people supported! And please know, your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Rosemary.

Remembering Mrs. Carroll

Members of the community were saddened by the passing of Mrs. Evelyn Carroll on July 29th, 2007. Mrs. Carroll was well known for her volunteerism and in particular her longstanding commitment to individuals supported by

Community Living-Central Huron, previously known as the Goderich & District Association for the Mentally Retarded (GDAMR).

Mrs. Carroll's involvement dates as far back as the 1950's when she volunteered as a teacher's helper at the Queen Elizabeth School located in the lower level of MacKay Hall. It became evident a day program or "workshop" was needed as students weren't able to remain in the school system after turning 18. But where would these students go?

After exhausting nearly all possible resources, two local service clubs offered assistance. With the generosity of the Rotary and Kinsmen Clubs, the Adult Training Centre opened its doors to 4 young ladies in the Fall of 1965. As a Supervisor had not yet been found, Mrs. Carroll agreed to volunteer for a 3 month period. Little did she know this was the beginning of her 20+ year commitment.

As a paid employee of the Association, Mrs. Carroll supervised a day program attended by 25 individuals five full days weekly. The Program included life skills, ceramics, woodworking and crafts. Piecework for local businesses such as Sheaffer Pen and Champion, as well as janitorial and lawn-care jobs, now provided a source of income for many individuals.

On July 28, 1983, a sod turning ceremony was held marking the beginning of construction for a workshop which became known as Suncoast Enterprises, and, as the saying goes, "the rest is history."

Mrs. Carroll retired from the Association in 1987 after more than 30 years of service and witnessing many changes. Her efforts were recognized with the bestowal of a lifetime membership. Where would we be today without dedicated volunteers such as Mrs. Evelyn Carroll?

Thank You!



To Staff, Board Members and Volunteers who assisted with the 1st Annual Goderich & District Invitational Golf Classic. A very special thank you to Tom Morris and his Committee for their fine efforts and commitment to this project. **More than \$12,000 was raised** toward the purchase of a new wheelchair van.



~ To Staff, Individuals receiving support and Volunteers for assisting with two yard sales this past summer. A total of **\$942.94** was raised, allowing us to purchase a vcr/dvd for the Activity Centre and have a computer repaired.

~ Also, **\$195.00** was raised at the Annual Coffee Break held September 20th in support of the Alzheimer Association.



Mary, Sharon and Kevin pose for the camera before drawing the winning ticket on the basket of goodies. The lucky winner was Dale Brandon!

Coming Events:

~ Annual Christmas Party will be held **Friday, November 30th** at the White Carnation from 7 pm – 11 pm. Please rsvp to Central Admin. before Friday, November 23rd. Transportation also available to individuals receiving service. More info to follow later.

~ The annual Christmas Collection in support of Blessings Unlimited will soon be underway. Donations can be dropped off at Central Admin. Please be generous and remember those less fortunate.



~ The ACTION Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with making Christmas wreaths again this year. Workshops will be held Saturday, November 24th and Saturday, December 1st at the Activity Centre – potluck lunch. Please contact Central Admin. if you can spare some time. More information to follow.



Remember to mark your calendar with these dates!

Comings & Goings

Welcome to:

Team B – Juanita Shiels, Sara Beasley and Catherine Frayne.

Team C – Lisa Culbert and Tony Beach.

A fond farewell to Amy Simonato and Sonya Spaling.

Best of luck to all!

Thinking of You:

Sincere sympathy is extended to the following Staff and their families on their recent loss:

Nancy Anstett, Sharon Allison, Sharon Scruton and Kristina Ward.

May fond memories comfort you during this difficult time.