

Vision

Community Living Walkerton and District envisions a community where all people are welcomed, accepted and included.

The Mission of Community Living Walkerton and District is to nurture inclusion; supporting children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families, promoting their full participation as valued and contributing citizens."

In The Public Eye....

Bidding Farewell and saying 'Hello'

November 20, 2020 marked the last day of work at Community Living Walkerton and District for Support Services Manager, Kathy Kieffer. Her almost 35 years of work at CLWD were acknowledged and well celebrated during her last week of work. Kathy initially worked with the Extend-Family-Program, which, for a number of years, helped to match children and adults receiving support with a family or friend in their community. Many of those relationships were very long lasting, to the benefit of all involved. In more recent years, Kathy served as Support Services Manager, overseeing supports provided at the Hub and Supported Employment, as well as supports provided for daily living to those who live with 24 hour support and others who live with Supported Independent Living.



While we will miss seeing Kathy in the office, we know she will be enjoying more time with her family. For that we are glad!

Congratulations on your retirement, Kathy!

Following Kathy's retirement, we have welcomed Mary Fee to the position of Manager of Support Services. Mary has 18 years of experience working with CLWD in a supervisory capacity. She began in her new role with CLWD effective November 30, 2020. Mary has the depth and breadth of knowledge of our supports and services and she is warmly welcomed to her new position and her new office!

Successful recruitment in late 2020 enables us to welcome Stephanie Alberts, CHRL, who began her employment with CLWD as the Manager of Human Resources on November 24, 2020. Stephanie has an impressive professional career in human resources, working in the hospital and private sector. We are very pleased to have Stephanie join CLWD, as a valuable member of our management team.

*Congratulations Mary
and welcome Stephanie to your new positions!*

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Congregate Day Supports – Building on Common Ground

by [Community Living Ontario](#) December 11, 2020

To reduce the risk of infection during the pandemic, the traditional 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday congregate day supports, have ceased. Support organizations have stepped up in a myriad of ways, adapting through virtual and socially distanced supports. Some people have adapted very well. Others have not.

Going forward, how are we to provide these supports? Once everyone is vaccinated, will it be back to business as usual?

I believe we should seize this opportunity to re-imagine what day supports could look like.

If you asked people who have an intellectual or developmental disability, “In your ideal world, what would you like your daily life to look like?”. I believe most would want the same things as you and I.

They would hope to feel included, have a purpose and contribute meaningfully to their community. People want to explore their potential, have dreams, learn new things, and feel safe. Like you, people who have intellectual disabilities want a social life they can choose, not be told how to spend their days and who to spend it with.

If we asked parents what they want for their sons and daughters, I believe most would provide similar answers.

The same goes for most direct support professionals, managers, and Board members.

If we can all agree that these are typical of the things we all want in our lives, the question then becomes “How might we support “typical” for all?”

What would it take to move towards individualized, community-based supports?

When we attempt to answer these questions, we must also bear in mind that nobody should ever be the victim of another’s good intentions. This will be a shared decision process. We must take the time to listen and respond to each person’s questions: Can I still see my friends? How will you keep people safe? Will I still be able to count on the same hours of support? Then, a support plan must be developed for each person that is flexible to their needs and interests. It will be gradual. It cannot be rushed.

To support this transition, Community Living Ontario and its Executive Directors’ Committee, is hosting a Community of Practice. This will provide a forum for agency staff from across the province, to consider these and other questions. They will collaborate to examine the opportunities and challenges and to learn from others who have travelled this road, including families and people who receive supports. They will build upon the common ground of those good things in life to which we all aspire.

Government, unions, support organizations, families, people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, and people in all communities will need to step up and play their part.

There is evidence. We will be profiling people’s success stories in the coming weeks, of how they are living their lives in community and how they did it.

In this together.

Chris Beesley, Chief Executive Officer, Community Living Ontario

Check it out! connectability.ca

Run from Community Living Toronto, this is a website with a great deal to offer, including:

Friendly Connections

a way to stay connected through fun deliveries, such as a postcard, a letter or just a simple email to say ‘Hi’!



- * You can sign up for Friendly Connections once every week
- * Friendly Connections is intended for the residents of Canada only.
- * Anyone under the age of 18 will require parental consent



P4P Network

It is never too late to start planning for the future of a child living with a disability.

Recognizing this, Community Living Ontario, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and Partners for Planning have collaborated to produce a FREE, dynamic resource hub for parents and caregivers.

Check out the new revisions on the site.

Look for the banner with this logo on our website!

www.clwalkerton.org

It all worked! Hosting Virtual Christmas Was Fun....



The traditional dinner and dance for Christmas hosted by Walkerton Action Committee went on-line this year! Thanks to everyone who found a way to participate. Well appreciated were the greetings from the President of CLWD, Sharon Sewers, Executive Director of CLWD Michele Bell, the Mayor of Brockton Chris Peabody, and the M.C.s for the event, Crystal Wales and Jessica Forsyth. Sing along Christmas tunes were popular, and so were photos from some parties in the past. The wheel of names told who won the door prizes ...thanks to CLO for the idea! According to the feedback received, best of all was seeing each other on the Zoom screen.



Christmas BINGO on Zoom was popular December 18, 2020. This was another virtual event hosted by the Action Committee. In January, similar bingo events are being coordinated with the calendar from Hub. We keep learning and growing and finding good ways to connect with everyone, even though we can't meet in person.

Special Olympics South Saugeen reminds us to:

...visit www.specialolympicsontario.com and click on 'Healthy @ Home' to stay healthy, informed, positive and active.



In Memorium

Richard "Wayne" Sovereign
Wayne passed away at Walkerton Hospital on October 26, 2020 at the age of 70.



When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight. ~Kahlil Gibran

Many friends, including those he met at the arena or ball diamond while watching games, will remember and miss Wayne. In his quiet unassuming way, he touched many lives.

Wayne Miller

Wayne passed away at the South Bruce Grey Health Centre, Walkerton on January 18, 2021 at the age of 64.



When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

Missed by family and friends, Wayne (and the twinkle in his eyes) will remain in our hearts and always bring a smile to our faces each day when we remember how he touched our lives.

From The Hub comes some great news....

The Hub is going live!!!

Virtually, that is!!



As The Hub is closed right now due to COVID restrictions, we are getting creative with ways to help people feel connected to each other.

We have been doing Zoom meetings over the past months each week to help people stay connected to their friends. These weekly "meetings" have been a great way for people to catch up, see each other and have a chat!

This has become the way of the world, so we may as well get on board!

The Hub support team have been working diligently at getting our tech skills up to par so we can help others get in on the action. We have had Zoom Bingo for the past 2 weeks, and are planning to add some more fun Virtual activities to the schedule.

Activities like Music, games, exercise, Book Club, Crafter's Club will all be part of our Virtual calendar over the next few weeks. When The Hub is able to re-open, we will still be offering Virtual activities so that we can still reach out to all of you.

If you would like to be included in our Virtual activities, please send an email to Charlene Hays at chays@clwalkerton.org or call 519-881-3713 x 207 so your name can be added to our email list. If you are not sure how to connect, let me know, one of us would be more than happy to help you, show you the ropes! (or should we say the links... 😊)

Until we Zoom again.....



Featured Book!



WE'RE AMAZING 1,2,3!
A STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP
AND AUTISM (BIG GOLDEN
BOOK) By Leslie Kimmelman
and Beth Nelson

If you've watched Sesame Street recently, you might have noticed a new character, Julia. Julia has autism, and when Elmo introduces Julia to Abby, Abby doesn't know why Julia behaves the way she does. On an age-appropriate level, this book explains what autism is, and that kids with autism do things a little differently. The first Sesame Street storybook to focus on autism... because all kids want love, friendship, and to have fun! See amazing in all children through the Sesame Street Autism Resources Page:
<http://autism.sesamestreet.org/>

Featured Show!



YOU CAN'T ASK THAT is a documentary series that confronts prejudices and breaks down taboos in our society in an authentic and relatable way. The show returns January 21 on AMI-tv. Each episode asks a group of Canadians with different disabilities to respond honestly to the awkward, inappropriate or uncomfortable questions they hear all the time, offering them a platform to speak candidly for themselves.

Mark Your Calendars



- **Free webcasts from P4P Network:** <https://www.planningnetwork.ca/#>
- Feb. 4, 2021** Intro to ODSP
- Feb. 23, 2021** Intro to RDSP
- Mar. 4, 2021** Designing Your future
- Mar. 23, 2021** Wills and Estate Planning

This poster was found on



A Hub for Resources, Knowledge Exchange, Collaboration and Learning in the DS Sector.

TOP 10 SIDE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 VACCINE:

1. **Gratitude** that I am one of the first to get the vaccine
2. **Pride** in being at the forefront of an historic medical milestone
3. **Confidence** that I have a shield to help fight Covid-19
4. **Empowerment** from being proactive about my health
5. **Comfort** from being able to help protect my community
6. **Relief** that I am helping to protect vulnerable people
7. **Hope** that real life hugs will happen once again
8. **Resilience** to overcome daily challenges that come my way
9. **Resolve** that our global effort will build herd immunity
10. **Optimism** THAT TOGETHER, WE WILL BEAT COVID-19

extraordinary shot.
PIC IMPACT.

February is Inclusive Education Month

This is a time for members of the Community Living movement to promote and raise awareness about inclusive education. In addition to breaking down myths about inclusive education, this feature month provides educators, students and parents an opportunity to share ideas on strategies to enhance inclusion and successful school experiences for every child.



Searching for good resources for COVID-19?

Offered by P4P Planning Network:



Many helpful resources were developed In conjunction with HCARDD (Health Care Access Research and Developmental disabilities) and CAMH (Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre), and all are available on the internet <https://planningnetwork.ca/resources/coping-with-stress-and-anxiety>

Offered by HCARDD:

Their new easy read guide on the COVID vaccine and more: <https://hcarddcovid.com/info#vaccine> For example, on that page you will find:

- [Easy Read Information About the COVID Vaccine](#)
- [About COVID](#)
- [Managing Stress & Mental Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Blog Posts](#)
- [Health Care and COVID-19](#)
- [When you Can't Wear a Mask](#)

Easy read, mental health, and health care resources

For people with developmental disabilities, Autism and their caregivers

Visit hcarddcovid.com/info to learn more

World Down Syndrome Day

March 21, 2021

Pull on bright, polka-dot, striped or your favourite knee high socks... March 21st. Celebrate the incredible members of our community who have Down Syndrome!

March 21st is

Down Syndrome Awareness Day



...and welcome 2021!

This is a perfect time to renew our commitment to inspiring possibilities, and remaining engaged with our vision and our mission.

OUR VISION - Community Living Walkerton and District envisions a community where all people are welcomed, accepted and included.

OUR MISSION - The Mission of CLWD is to nurture inclusion: supporting children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families, promoting their full participation as valued and contributing citizens.

Keeping in touch....



During these 'stay at home' days, continuing since the start of this pandemic, the members of the Walkerton Action Committee have weekly messages with shared jokes and announcements, sent from their executive members. Everyone on the committee seems eager for news, but the weekly jokes are especially popular. These are being recorded in the Action Committee Newsletters...one published in January, and issues planned for February and March by editors Dave Benninger and Helen Clancy.

A virtual event in celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities was held Dec. 3, 2020.



Craig Harrison, Doris Weber and Marion Last were requested to present and made an awesome video to explain the beginning days of the Speaking Out Conference for Self Advocates.

As part of council of CLO, Jess Forsyth presented at the same event with a video she made about living in Walkerton during the pandemic.



Thanks for bringing Walkerton to the international stage!

Watch for the winning submissions

to be announced in February 2021

Community Living Ontario's



Open to elementary school aged children in Ontario, between kindergarten and grade 8, creating videos, stories or poems that show how **"Together We're Better"** because students of all abilities are included!

The contest challenges individuals and classes (virtual or in-person) to explain why classrooms that include students who have an intellectual disability are better.

Classes were encouraged to submit videos of five minutes or less offering their explanations, while students are also able to send in individually written responses of under 250 words.

The contest deadline is Friday, February 5, 2021. Winners will be announced on Monday, February 22, 2021.
www.communitylivingontario.ca



Notes Of Interest...

About Mental Health

People First of Canada is working with CAMH to do an online course for self-advocates starting on Feb 8th. The topics are on how to maintain good mental health, especially in a pandemic. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to monica@peoplefirstofcanada.ca



The Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre at CAMH is inviting self-advocates to join a 6-week course on mental health, developmental disabilities and COVID-19 starting **February 8, 2021 (1:30-3:00pm EST)**.

Interested? Email Irfan.jiwa@camh.ca or call Irfan Jiwa at 416-535-8501 x 37832

For information about programs and services at CAMH, please visit www.camh.ca or call 416-535-8501 (or 1-800-463-6273)



About MAID Medical Assistance In Dying

Inclusion Canada is clearly advocating against Canada's Bill C-7 which "introduces a pathway to death for people who are not dying as long as they have a disability or a disabling medical condition." From their appeal Jan. 29, 2021, "We need your help so government hears us loud and clear - people with disabilities deserve access to supports in life, not death." The Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs will resume its discussions of Bill C7 on Wednesday, January 27, with hearings scheduled to begin on Feb. 1. Over the course of the next 2 weeks, Inclusion Canada will be actively communicating the highlights of the proceedings during the Senate study and Third Reading. The most recent statement from Inclusion Canada can be found on their website www.inclusioncanada.ca and is titled THE WORLD IS WATCHING: A STARK WARNING ON CANADA'S BILL C-7 LEGALIZATION OF ASSISTED SUICIDE ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY.

About Aging in Place

In an Op-Ed for Community Living Ontario on January 22, 2021, CEO Chris Beesley focused on the issue of people who have intellectual disability, being placed into long-term care (LTC) facilities, well before the age of 65. After explaining 5 ways we seem to have normalized this, Beesley urged that new guidelines be created that will allow people to age in place. His article went on to highlight 4 steps regarding what should be done, concluding with "...we must redouble our efforts to inspire possibilities and raise expectations for lives in community that are typical for all, regardless of label. We should all be offered the choice and the matching supports that allow us to age in place in our home for life."

Read the Op-Ed in full here: <https://communitylivingontario.ca/en/op-ed-ltc-developmental-disabilities/>

Please note:

Along with the CLWD Accessible Customer Service Policy and Accessible Customer Service Feedback Form, now available on the website of Community Living Walkerton and District is the CLWD Service and Support Feedback Form.

Reference:

Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008

Legislative Authority: Section 7(1) 1

Effective date: June 1, 2012



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Check in regularly
to see what's new
and inspiring!

www.facebook.com/clwalkerton

