

COMMUNITY VISION

The Newsletter for Community Living Walkerton & District



EMBRACING INCLUSION: JOSH'S JOURNEY AT THE WALKERTON LAWN BOWLING CLUB

by: Heather Travis & Tracy Plakholm

In the quiet town of Walkerton, the lawn bowling greens are more than just a place for sport—they're a community where everyone is welcome. Among the members, one young man has quickly become a beloved fixture: Josh, a new member whose story is a shining example of inclusion and community spirit.

Josh joined the Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club not long ago, bringing with him a warm smile and a genuine enthusiasm for the game. Despite being new to the sport, Josh has been embraced by the club members with open arms, proving that the Walkerton community values character and passion as much as skill.

He bowls regularly in the Monday and Tuesday night leagues, and his dedication is paying off. Josh recently came in third in a novice tournament at the club, an impressive achievement for someone so new to the game.

The members are not only thrilled with his progress but also inspired by his determination. "Josh has really taken to this sport and has a special enthusiasm for the game. The Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club is proud of the effort he has put forward," says Tom, a long-time member of the club.

Story continued...next page....



MEET JOSH: CONTINUED...

by: Heather Travis & Tracy Plakholtm

Beyond the greens, Josh's impact on the community continues. He volunteers once or twice a week at the club, helping maintain the greens and ensuring everything is in top shape for the other members. His willingness to contribute his time and effort shows his deep commitment to the club and its members.

But Josh's community spirit doesn't stop there. He also volunteers weekly at the Salvation Army in Hanover, extending his kindness and dedication to those in need. His passion for giving back is evident in all that he does. In addition to his bowling and volunteer work, Josh has a keen interest in cooking and dreams of a future in the food industry. He's already working towards this goal by gaining experience with Paul at New Directions.

This young man is also an entrepreneur at heart, running his own small business, "Kardboarders Cardboard Shop," where he crafts unique pieces out of cardboard. His creativity and drive will be showcased at the upcoming Christmas market, where he will sell his handcrafted items.

Josh's story is one of inclusion, community, and the power of embracing new opportunities. As he continues to grow both as a bowler and a community member, he's proving that when a community comes together to support one another, everyone thrives. With two more tournaments on the horizon—in August and September—there's no doubt Josh will continue to impress and inspire.

The Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club is lucky to have Josh, and his story is a reminder that inclusion enriches us all. Whether on the greens, in the kitchen, or in the community, Josh's journey is just beginning, and it's clear he has a bright future ahead.





CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Contributions by: Rachael Fritsch & Karen Elliott



Ella Bester is the winner of the 2024 CLWD Educational Bursary! Ella received the bursary from Wilf Lane, Treasurer of the CLWD Board of Directors. Ella is off to Conestoga College in the fall for Nursing.

On behalf of the entire CLWD Board of Directors, we wish Ella all the best in her future endeavors!



Special Olympics Ontario - South Saugeen has purchased a tree and a plaque for the community centre in memory of Helen Clancy.



Wearing RED to drive awareness of FASD.



Congratulations to the following Winners of the Community Living Walkerton and District Family Scholarship!

Keely Clarke – Receiving the Scholarship from Michele Bell, CEO, Nigel Kreager, and Ashlyn Beninger We wish them all the best in their future endeavours!

Shout out to everyone who applied and encourage them to apply again next year!





CELEBRATING THE Ei2 INITIATIVE: EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH INCLUSION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

by: Heather Travis & Sheryl Marshall

Welcome to the Ei2 initiative—Employing Individuals through Equity & Inclusion—a fantastic program brought to life by the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board. Ei2 is shaking things up by redefining success for students with disabilities, giving them the tools to become budding entrepreneurs right in their schools. At Community Living, we couldn't be more excited to celebrate this incredible journey!

Picture this: students designing and creating unique products that reflect their creativity and hard work. When you buy one of these student-made items, you're doing more than just making a purchase—you're supporting their entrepreneurial dreams and investing in a future where everyone's skills are valued in an inclusive workforce. Your support directly impacts their journey toward becoming confident, self-reliant professionals.

Jenn Lang, a teacher, project coordinator and consultant with Limitless Ventures, explains that Ei2 aligns perfectly with Community Living's mission. Many students involved in Ei2 are also part of the Community Living community. The program helps these students build valuable skills that not only enhance their resumes but could even spark their own start-up ventures! With backing from local businesses, Ei2 is helping create more job opportunities and meaningful inclusion in the workplace.

Right now, 30 students are actively involved in Ei2, working alongside peer tutors and supportive staff. But this program goes beyond traditional education—it offers real-life, hands-on experience. From learning CPR to earning Safe Food Handling certifications, these students are gaining essential skills that will serve them for life. Each school has its own hub where students can collaborate, create, and grow their talents.





CELEBRATING THE Ei2 INITIATIVE:

CONTINUED....

by: Heather Travis & Sheryl Marshall

The community has wholeheartedly embraced the products made by Ei2 students, leading to exciting growth. The program is now expanding into online storefronts, with a Shopify platform in the works! This success speaks volumes about the students' potential and the positive impact of the Ei2 initiative.

The Ei2 program is on the lookout for more partners and funding to grow into a province-wide model, with hopes to extend its reach to adults as well. By partnering with Ei2, you can help drive positive change and support diversity within the workforce. Together, we can create a future where everyone has the opportunity to shine, regardless of ability.

Let's celebrate inclusion, entrepreneurship, and the power of community by supporting Ei2. Together, we can make a difference!



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY



Huge shout out to Pitt's Produce (Cathy Cormack) for providing the corn for our corn roast. Delicious!!!!



A COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT ON SHORTT STREET

It's always amazing to see what can happen when a community comes together. This is exactly what took place on Shortt Street, where a beautiful transformation unfolded to create a safe and welcoming new home for its future residents.

It all started with a need for a fresh living space. After 15 years in their former home, it was clear changes were necessary to keep everyone safe. With some concerns about fire safety, it became essential to find a new place that could be updated to meet all modern safety standards. And so, the search began.

After months of house hunting, a cozy 3-bedroom bungalow on Shortt Street was found. This peaceful spot, with its mature trees and private backyard, seemed like the perfect fit! Of course, it needed a few updates to ensure everything was just right, so a dedicated team of professionals got to work.

From new floors to better laundry facilities, structural repairs, and even a brand-new fire sprinkler system, the house underwent a full transformation. Accessibility was a top priority, too, with wider stairs and smooth transitions throughout the main level. The result? A comfortable, safe, and stylish home that's perfect for its new residents.

This project was truly a group effort. Local carpenters, painters, electricians, fire prevention experts, and our own Jeff Hardman; Supervisor of Maintenance all played their part in making this home as wonderful as it is now. The new residents even got involved, picking out their favorite colours to personalize their bedrooms and make the space truly their own.

Shortt Street is more than just a place to live – it's a symbol of what we can achieve when we work together. With support from the entire community, the new home is ready to provide safety, comfort, and independence for years to come.

It's not just about bricks and mortar – it's about creating a place where people can truly feel at home. Thanks to the incredible efforts of everyone involved, Shortt Street stands as a shining example of how a little teamwork can make a big difference.

Community Collaboration

This project was a collaborative effort involving multiple contributors:

- **The Carpentry Guys:** Handled the majority of the renovations, including flooring, stairs, drywall repairs, and installation of the egress window.
- **Kendra Tiffin:** Provided painting services.
- **Miller Fire Prevention Ltd and AK Security Systems:** Installed the water sprinkler system and the monitoring panel.
- **Mazur 2 Electrical:** Managed all necessary electrical work, including hardwiring smoke detectors and preparing the electrical setup for the laundry closet and kitchenette.





THE ACTION COMMITTEE BARBECUES



With great weather, great food, and great community all together...what more could we ask for?! Thanks to the Action Committee for all the work in making this year's barbecues so tasty! And special thanks to Board Member Sharon Sewers for the incredible donation of an accessible picnic table for our back garden.



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



Congratulations Dash on an INCREDIBLE summer at the market with your business!



Congratulations Brett on your hole in one at the Walkerton Golf Course!





COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS





A WONDERFUL DAY IN WALKERTON WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

We recently had the honour of welcoming some very important visitors to our community. Minister Michael Parsa from the MCCSS, MPP Lisa Thompson, and Mayor Peabody spent a brief but impactful 40 minutes with our Action Committee. It gave us the perfect opportunity to highlight the incredible work, events, and advocacy happening in Walkerton and the surrounding area. Though the visit was short, we made the most of every moment.

The visit began with a warm introduction to design options for our brand-new Action Committee logo, a symbol of the vibrant community living we're all so proud of. Our guests were then treated to a tour of our beautiful back garden, which was all set up and ready to host a fun-filled movie night.

One of the highlights was their visit to Choices Kitchen, where they learned firsthand how we nourish not only appetites but also the hearts of our community through food and fellowship. It was a day filled with pride and inspiration, and we're grateful to our VIP guests for taking the time to experience what makes our community so special.

We look forward to continuing this important work, together with the support of our leaders and advocates, to make Walkerton an even better place to live, work, and grow!





A WONDERFUL DAY IN WALKERTON WITH SPECIAL GUESTS



Thank you to everyone who helped make this visit special.

Coming Soon

Join our upcoming events!



What: Halloween Karaoke Party
Where: Walkerton Legion
When: *October 25th*



What: Christmas Holiday Party
Where: Knights of Columbus
When: *December 6th*



Toe Tapping tuesday

What: Toe Tapping Tuesday
Where: The HUB
When: 10am - Noon
October 22,
Nov. 5 & 19,
Dec. 3 & 17

EDITORIAL TEAM

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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COMMUNITY LIVING WALKERTON & DISTRICT 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dan Sullivan **Past-President:** Sharon Sewers **Treasurer:** Wilf Lane
Members: Margaret Elliott-Niesen, David Benninger, Kathy Benninger, Dan Gieruszak, Craig Harrison, Debi Mortimer, Nancy Skiba

COMMUNITY LIVING
Walkerton and District

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