

Community Living North Halton
 725 Main Street East, Milton, Ontario L9T 3Z3
 Tel: 905-878-2337 Fax: 905-878-5413
 Web: www.clnh.on.ca

- I would like to become a member of CLNH and receive a copy of The Link newsletter. Membership fees are \$15.00 for a single person household and \$25.00 for households with more than one person. Membership terms run annually beginning each March 31.
- Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____.
- I'm interested in becoming a volunteer.
- Could you please send me more information about your organization.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

*A receipt for income tax purposes will be provided upon request

OUR MISSION

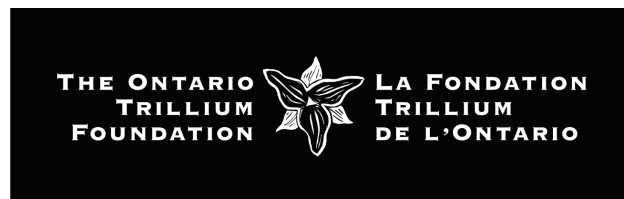
Community Living North Halton, in partnership with families and the community, supports the choices and personal growth of individuals with a developmental disability.

OUR VISION

A community where everyone belongs and is valued.



United Way of Milton & United Way of Halton Hills



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SPRING/SUMMER 08



FAMILY FINALLY UNITES AS SECRET SHATTERED WOMAN'S DETERMINATION THE BRIDGE FOR SISTER-IN-LAW WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME

For years, the fact that her husband had a sister with Down's syndrome was kept quiet like a deep, dark secret. In fact, when Jeanne Robinson met her husband-to-be, Bob, he told her he was an only child. The truth didn't come to light until after they were married. It's a day Jeanne will no doubt remember forever. Out of the blue, on the way to their cottage, Bob said he had a sister who lived in an institution not far from where they were driving. Naturally, Jeanne was shocked. The irony is that Jeanne had worked with special needs kids for years. So it certainly wasn't as if Bob thought she wouldn't understand. Jeanne now realizes that Bob grew up in a time when children with special needs were looked upon differently than they are today. He was simply following his parents' lead by pretending Lynn Robinson didn't exist. Fast forward a couple of decades. Last year, after spending her first 50 years in an institution, Lynn's life changed dramatically when she was moved to a group home in Milton. She's now part of Jeanne's family, right where she belongs. **A TRYING ORDEAL** But the road to Milton was a long one, filled with many obstacles and pot-holes. For Jeanne, the journey involved disagreements with family members, many long drives up to the institution in Huronia, and heartbreak over what could have been.

Fortunately, it also involved seeing firsthand a family get a second chance at being complete, and two parents and a brother finding peace before they died. **This is Lynne's story.** Nineteen fifty-six. That was the year Margaret Robinson gave birth to a baby girl but came home crying and empty-handed. As was typical in those days, Margaret was advised by doctors to put Lynn in an institution and leave her there. She was told her baby girl would be a vegetable, and that the best thing she could do was forget about her and move on. On the outside, that's what it looked like she did. Lynn, it seemed, was forgotten. Lynn lived in a facility with no signs that she had any family at all. No photographs added warmth to her room, and seldom did her parents visit. The first time Bob met his sister, he was 10. But Jeanne



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- Upcoming Events**
- Please contact our Central Office at (905) 878-2337 for more information on any of the following events:
- June 7- Bowl-a-Thon
 - June 22- Community Picnic
 - June 25- CQI Celebration
 - July 12- Georgetown Book Sale
 - August 16- Milton Book Sale
 - September 16- 13th Annual Golf Tournament

Continued from page 1... knows that in the recesses of Margaret's heart, it was a different story.

"You can never make me believe my mother-in-law didn't spend every waking day thinking about her." When Jeanne told Margaret she knew about Lynn, her reaction proved that her daughter was never far from her heart.

"She started to cry and said, 'You must think I'm a terrible mother,'" Jeanne recalled.

What occurred over the next few years was a reluctant forging of relationships.

Margaret and her husband, Russell, were hesitant to change things, and when Jeanne first asked them if she could take Lynn home for a visit, they refused. Reaching a compromise, Jeanne arranged for them to visit Lynn with a cake on her birthday. It was awkward, but it was a start, and Lynn gradually won them over.

NAMESAKE TRIBUTE

In 1987, Jeanne and Bob had a girl they named Calley Lynn, after her aunt. They often brought Calley to see Lynn, who loved to hold the baby and change her diapers.

Calley was also doted on by her grandma, who couldn't stop holding her, Jeanne said.

"I realized that she was the baby girl she never got to bring home."

The past few years have been difficult ones for Jeanne and her three children -- Calley and her twin boys, 30.

In 2003, Jeanne's father-in-law died. In 2004, her husband Bob died, and a year later Margaret passed away.

But they died knowing they'd made peace with Lynn - and themselves -- Jeanne said.

"My only regret is that my husband Bob (nor my in-laws) did not live long enough to see Lynn in our community and see how happy she is," Jeanne said. "But I am grateful that Bob and his parents got to know Lynn for the time they did and they were able to forgive themselves for a decision they made so many years ago."

It was with the help and support of Community Living North Halton (CLNH) and the Ministry of Community and Social Services that Lynn was moved to a local group home.

Five days a week, Lynn goes to work at CLNH's Horizon Packaging.

It's obvious Lynn's happy with her new life. During a recent visit to Jeanne's house -- Lynn's second home -- Lynn proudly showed a reporter her bedroom.

With 28 years experience working with special needs students -- she's been the events co-ordinator at E.C. Drury School for the Deaf for the past eight years -- Jeanne doesn't think it's a coincidence Lynn ended up her sister-in-law.

"She couldn't have landed in a better place."

Reprinted with permission from the author, Stephanie Hounsell, The Milton Canadian Champion April 1, 2008

sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com



Community Living North Halton and Horizon Georgetown would like to congratulate Jeremy Crocker on his medals in snowshoeing with the Special Olympics. Jeremy represented Team Ontario named the SnoCats. Jeremy received a Gold medal in the 200m race and a Bronze medal in the 400m.



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New Installations, Repairs, & Quality Service Specializing in Panel Changes and Upgrades. Custom Homes & Renovations, Data & Communication Installations Available.
Phone: (905) 814-7998

CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL is looking to open a chapter in North Halton; for more information on becoming a member, please contact Floyd at civitanfm@aol.com, (416) 317-5238 Or for more info: civitancanada.org



Community Living North Halton
invites you and your family and friends to attend its
4th Annual Picnic
DATE: SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2008
TIME: 12:00PM - 3:00PM
LOCATION: MILTON FAIRGROUNDS
A GREAT FREE! FUN FILLED AFTERNOON FOR ALL!
For more information please contact Kathleen Hayward, Executive Assistant 905-878-2337 ext. 22 khayward@cinh.on.ca

BOWL-A-THON
Georgetown Bowl- 12 Mountainview Road. S., Georgetown
Saturday June 7, 2008 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
\$30.00 for the evening or FREE with a minimum of \$30.00 in pledges (prize for the highest total amount of pledges)
UNLIMITED BOWLING
Food by Community Catering
Door Prizes and Silent Auction
All proceeds to Friday Friends Program
Pick up pledge forms at Community Living
725 Main Street East, Milton or 12 Todd Road, Georgetown
Call 905-878-2337 ext 22 for more information

13TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY LIVING NORTH HALTON CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
... in memory of John Todd
Tuesday September 16, 2008
Eagle Ridge Golf Club
Golf: \$175 (dinner and lunch inc.)
Dinner only: \$45
If you require further information, please contact Kathleen Hayward, 905 878 2337 ext 22

Functional Communication

In March 2008, Darlene Magito McLaughlin Ph.D. presented at the Vita Community Services Conference held in Yorkdale. Dr. Magito McLaughlin introduced the topic of Functional Communication... "Understanding behavioural messages sent to us from those in care, and working to increase their ability to communicate more effectively". Darlene discussed a variety of instructional strategies used by behaviour specialists like herself, to aid in dealing with extremely challenging behaviours often displayed by individuals needing support.

Some of the areas Darlene touched on during her presentation were, Communication Break-down, why it happens and what to do. The importance of developing a rapport, how to make it work for you, and what to do if it doesn't. Darlene also stressed the importance of finding your own motivation for those of us who are supporting these individuals. This can sometimes be very challenging. Remembering why you want to help others is a great reminder of why you continue to offer your services to assist in the needs of others.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about Functional Communication Strategies, please contact Sara MacLeod or Stacy Toney or you can learn more by directly contacting Vita Community Living Services.

CLNH'S 50'S DANCE!!

Community Living North Halton recently held a 50's Dance that was hosted by Roger Ashby of Chum FM. A great time was had by all. There were poodle skirts, jeans and tees and even an appearance from a member of the T-Birds. Elvis was there as well enjoying the dance. Pat's organizational skills were really appreciated. She brought everything together and kept everyone focused on their jobs.

Jeanne, Andrea and team did a great job decorating the hall and all who entered were taken back to a time of Hoola Hoops, Bubblegum and some great dancing by George.

The food was great, Dagwoods, Hotdogs, and all the fixings, and there was PLENTY to eat and everyone ate and danced and then ate some more and then danced some more and so on. So many snacks, including coffee and donuts from Tim Hortons. Leslie even managed to get us an old fashioned popcorn machine.

A silent auction room was watched closely by Kim and her team and many items went back and forth. Our thanks to all who donated to our silent auction with a special thanks to Roger Ashby for donating a morning for some lucky person to spend on the set of the Roger, Rick and Marilyn show. Over \$3000.00 was raised from the silent auction. Cheryl and Charlotte did a great job selling 50/50 tickets and Dave Bell the winner went home with an additional \$330.00 in his pocket. It's impossible to name everyone, but we would like to offer a very special thank you to all who helped make our plan come together and for all the hard work that was put into the dance.

It was a great success and the talk is that this was the 1st Annual Dance and therefore keep an eye open next spring for the 2nd annual Community Living Dance.



Roger Ashby with
Jen and Lynn

From the Executive Director's Desk

We are fortunate to live in a country that believes in, and embraces, multiculturalism. Wikipedia defines multiculturalism as, "...the ideology of including people of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds." At Community Living North Halton we have the Vision of "A community where everyone belongs and is valued." The term 'everyone' means people with disabilities. It means people with different cultural and religious backgrounds and it means people that speak different languages. It means everyone!

The communities in North Halton are growing at a tremendous rate and are becoming more and more diverse. Our staff members, the people we support and our volunteers and other stakeholders are becoming more and more diverse and bring with them many different cultural and religious backgrounds.

We are becoming multicultural and this is exciting. The Government of Canada website says that "... multiculturalism makes daily life more varied and interesting." They go on to say that "... employers recognize that diversity in the workplace promotes innovation, stimulates teamwork and creativity."

Working with, or supporting someone with a different culture or background is an opportunity to learn new ways of doing things. We have the opportunity to draw from others' experiences to find some new and creative ways to accomplish our work. We also have a wonderful opportunity to learn about and understand cultures from other parts of the world.

The Government of Canada website boasts that in Canada "...we show the world that different people can accept and respect one another, and work collaboratively to build one of the most open, resilient, creative and caring societies on earth." At Community Living North Halton we embrace multiculturalism and find that the opportunity it presents will enhance our Organization and how we do the work we do. As individuals, we have the chance to learn, understand and embrace the different ways of different people.

Submitted by Greg Edmiston, Executive Director

Come Join Our Celebration!!

The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) committee would like to invite you to join us in celebrating our first year of FOCUS accreditation. Come and see how we are continuing to strive for excellence in the services that we provide.

Why: To celebrate the work that we have done and to provide us with your ideas for the future.

When: June 25, 2008 from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: 725 Main Street, Milton Ontario L9T 3Z3

*if you can not make it then, make sure you check out our booth at the CLNH annual picnic, June 22

Thank You to our Volunteers

You make a world of difference
To the people we support.
You share your time, your heart,
your skills
And we couldn't thank you more!

Community Living North Halton
would like to extend our heartfelt
thanks for the generous
contributions of our volunteers.
Volunteers support us in our work
towards
a community where everyone
belongs and is valued.



'Chicken Soup' for the Support Worker's Soul

The Employer/Employee Relations Committee (EERC) has begun a program aimed to recognize the efforts put forth by CLNH's Support Workers. There are many instances where a Support Worker has gone above and beyond what is required to bring joy to the lives to the people they support, and we want to hear their stories!

Forms have been distributed to all of Community Living North Halton's programs and are available at the Milton Office, and can be forwarded to Kathleen (khayward@clnh.on.ca) or left in the 'Chicken Soup' mailslot at the Milton office.

The EERC Committee will vote on the most heart-warming story submitted. CLNH will award a prize to the first (\$100 gift certificate) and second (\$50 gift certificate) place nominees. Prizes will be awarded twice a year. With the permission of the nominee, stories will be compiled into a publication of the good things that happen within Community Living North Halton.

SIBSHOPS

Sibling workshops are geared for children who have a sibling who has a developmental disorder/disability. Workshops are for siblings from ages 7 up to 12. The workshops run for 3 hours with staff from partnering agencies co-facilitating. It is an opportunity for the sibling(s) to attend a workshop focusing on sharing experiences, to learn about other disorders/disabilities and also to meet new people. Sibling workshops are provided in a safe and structured environment. There is a fee of \$12.00 to cover the cost of dinner, drinks and arts & crafts supplies. Sibling workshops are offered to families that are connected with the following collaborating agencies: Community Living North Halton, Halton Support Services, Community Living Burlington and Autism Ontario Halton Chapter. The locations for the Sibshops rotate monthly between Autism Ontario Halton Chapter in Burlington at 560 Guelph Line and Community Living North Halton in Milton at 725 Main Street East. Workshops will be held once a month on a weekday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. To learn more about Sibshops, please contact: Valerie at 905 878 7656 ext 34.

Is there something you'd like to see in the next edition of 'The Link'? Send your submissions to jadams@clnh.on.ca OR khayward@clnh.on.ca

GIANT USED BOOK SALE

SATURDAY JULY 12 GEORGETOWN

SATURDAY AUGUST 16 MILTON

PLEASE SAVE ALL YOUR BOOKS (IN GOOD CONDITION) AND DROP OFF AT
COMMUNITY LIVING IN EITHER MILTON OR GEORGETOWN

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT AT EITHER OF THESE EVENTS-
PLEASE CALL PAT 905 876-3335 or 905 827 9885



ALL FUNDS COLLECTED GO TOWARDS

WEDNESDAY DROP IN CENTRE

CLNH BBQ "FUN" RAISER... HOTDOGS TO HOT RODS!!

A recent partnership between CLNH and Price Chopper has resulted in the first ever Thursday night CLNH Charity BBQ! Occurring the same night and location of the Classic Car Rally, this weekly BBQ event is gearing up to be a huge opportunity for community inclusion and skill development, both socially and work related. Supported Employment and Supported Independent Living staff and people being supported will be welcoming the community patronage to the BBQ Booth every Thursday night (weather permitting) from 5:30PM- 8:30PM from May to the end of August 2008.

An idea, spearheaded by Linda Gehl (CLNH coordinator of Business Events and Volunteers) is predicted to be a very successful spring/summer fundraiser and community awareness/development project for Community Living North Halton. The success will be equally matched by the enthusiasm and support of people supported by CLNH, staff and volunteers. Brian Bartlett, Price Chopper store manager, is also looking forward to this community partnership and fundraiser. Recently, Price Chopper has added the CLNH Charity BBQ to Mother's Day weekend and Victoria Day weekend so be sure to stop out between 11 AM and 4 PM for a bite and a beverage! For more information or to become a BBQ volunteer, contact Linda Gehl at (905) 702-4041 !!

