

Winter 2020 OUT & ABOUT Newsletter

Issued January 2020
Community. Connection. Belonging!



Chilliwack Society
for Community Living
est. 1954



**Maple Leafs vs. Chilly Wackers
Get Your Tickets Today at cscl.org!**

Toronto Maple Leafs

The Chilliwack Society for Community Living (CSCL) is thrilled to welcome the Toronto Maple Leafs Alumni to a game at the Chilliwack Coliseum on Saturday, February 22, 2020! Puck drops at 7pm. The Maple Leafs will play a group of local hockey players, the Chilly Wackers, in a game consisting of three 15 minute periods. All proceeds go to CSCL to help support adults with developmental disabilities and children and youth with special needs. "The support we have received by the community and everyone at CSCL has



been outstanding," said Jeff Gilbank, one of the organizing members, "People are really excited about this event." CSCL would like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers and supporters of the big event—without you this does not happen! Supporters like Lori Eckstein (below) who volunteered to become "posterized" and promote the game just like Shelley and Mel (cover) did when they stopped by the home office for a photo. Thank you to everyone for helping out but most of all, thank you to everyone that has a ticket! See you at the rink!

Do you support
the CSCL Chilly Wackers?



See them take on the
Toronto Maple Leafs
Alumni on Feb 22, 2020

Get your tickets now!
at cscl.org



CSCL Hero Award

Faye Allen (left) receives CSCL's inaugural Hero award from CSCL Executive Director, Julie Unger



On October 28, 2019, CSCL staff Faye Allen was the first ever recipient of the “CSCL Hero Award”.

Earlier in the year, Faye went over and above for an individual who had been hospitalized. Health professionals were at a loss as to what was happening. It was Faye’s persistence and dedication that led her to determine the individual had been given the wrong medication, the discovery, likely saving her life.

According to her manager, Ellen Peters, things might have looked very different if not for Faye and Senior Support Worker Caren

Davies’ tenacity. “It would have kept happening. There’s no telling how much more of that medication she could have handled.”

When asked what sets the employees apart, Peters said, “They took the initiative to figure it out themselves when no one else could. Instead of just carrying on with their day, they truly cared about the best interest of the individual. It’s not just a job; it’s genuine interest and care for the individual they’re supporting.”

Peters continued, “These are the people who are the cornerstones. If we have people like that who build the foundation, and that have the

tenacity and the philosophy of support, those are the people that set the standard for the people around them to aspire to. We would hope that other staff would pick up on that commitment.”

When asked about the importance of advocating for the people we support, Faye stated, “For people that can’t speak for themselves...if it’s for the best interest of the individual I’m supporting I will fight for what’s best for them.”

Faye was also the recipient of a NAOSH BC award for Health/Social Services Champion for 2019.

IMPACT Youth Employment Project

CSCL is one of eight organizations from the BCEN (BC Employment Network) that have partnered together and successfully received funding for three years from the Youth Employment Project (Jan 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2022). CSCL has recently hired, Megan Borondy (pictured below), as a Vocational Counsellor in the BRIDGE Youth Employment & Transition Service. Megan will begin her new position in early January 2020 and will be involved with research and data collection (working closely with UBC's Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship); and will help to determine the future developments and importance of early intervention for employment services for Youth.



Here is the official government announcement: “The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will distribute funding to support the IMPACT youth employment research project, which will see eight members of the British Columbia Employment Network (BCEN) study the impact of youth employment interventions for youth with developmental disabilities. The project will partner researchers from the University of British Columbia with Chilliwack Society for Community Living along with seven other agencies supporting people with developmental disabilities including Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion, Community Living Victoria, Delta Community Living Society, Inclusion Langley Society, PosAbilities, Richmond Society for Community Living and Semiahmoo House Society. The participating agencies are all members of the BCEN, a consortium of local and regional service providers delivering services to youth and adults with intellectual disabilities. Total funding for the three-year research project is projected at just over \$1.6 million.

The IMPACT project will kick-off in January, 2020. UBC researchers will study and determine the advantages of and best practices for early employment interventions for transitioning youth with developmental disabilities. With the funding for the IMPACT project, BCEN partner agencies will provide a consistent conduit to youth with developmental disabilities to explore different kinds of employment and to engage in activities such as community involvement that are demonstrated predictors of future labour market participation. And the research at the end of the three-year project will help each of the agencies determine if there are certain employment activities that work better than others to help each agency build its youth employment activities in the future.”

Accessibility Improves at the Mathieson

CSCL History

Accessibility
by Brenda Gillette

“Accessibility”



As the “history keeper” for CSCL, the example about accessibility that immediately comes to mind is the Sunshine Drive Pool. The pool was built in 1973 in order to ensure accessibility for supported individuals to have opportunities to swim. Previously they were driven to Aquadel Acres which had a private pool or subsequently to the Rotary Pool when it opened. Both of these were outdoor, unheated facilities, required special booking and didn’t provide the desired access. The Sunshine Drive pool was hailed as a major step forward. It was heated, covered and had a lift for those unable to use steps and gave year-round swimming opportunities for individuals. The interesting thing about this is how our definition of accessibility has broadened over the years to include not just accessibility to a specific venue but also inclusion as part of the broader community. Over recent years efforts are focused on ensuring that the accessibility issue is addressed for all community members ensuring that the individuals served by CSCL have opportunities equal to those enjoyed by all.

- Brenda Gillette is CSCL’s first Executive Director and is currently the Executive Director of the BCCEO Network.



BEFORE



AFTER

In early 2019, CSCL received a \$10,000.00 grant from the Government of Canada – Enabling Accessibility Fund to assist with improving the overall accessibility of CSCL’s Mathieson Centre.

In December 2019, the accessibility renovations and improvements to the Mathieson Centre were completed.

The funding allowed for the following improvements to happen:

- A new front counter that is wheelchair accessible
- New door handles on all exterior doors that are easier to use
- Improved and expanded walkways around the Mathieson Centre to make it more accessible
- Installed visual fire alarms in the three main/public washrooms

Staff News!

NADSP/iConnect Update

CSCL is now a member of the NADSP and has struck a task force to look at ways of implementing the NADSP competencies and code of ethics into our practices and procedures.

CARF is Coming!

CSCL has been a CARF accredited organization since 2005 and will experience its' 6th straight survey in April/May. CARF Canada is an independent, non-profit organization that reviews and grants accreditation services nationally and internationally on request of a facility or program. Their standards are rigorous, so those services that meet them are among the best available.

Service Updates!

- Nicole Sydor is now managing all of the Gillette residences
- Wanda Dartnell is the new manager at Jasper
- Jesse Lang is the new manager at McNaught and the Alexander
- Craig Yendall has moved into a new position for PBS supports
- Danielle Marcotte will temporarily be the manager of CYS as will Kathleen Dyck at Bordas and Carleton while Rene Atkinson helps out with CARF prep
- Jen Kennedy is the new manager at ILP
- CSCL welcomes our new payroll coordinator, Julie Orobko to the Admin team

Social Capital Update

In September 2019, Ashley shared with her vocational counselor at SES that she was interested in learning some self defense skills.

It was decided that they would try out a couple of classes at Hiscoe Jiu Jitsu to see if she liked it. Ashley liked it so much, she signed up right away for the twice a week classes. On



December 17th, Ashley did her

first belt test and successfully passed it. She now wears a yellow belt! Ashley has made new friends and has also shown herself that she can take on a new challenge and achieve her goal. Way to go Ashley!

Accessibility Forum

CSCL was pleased to recently host a community consultation on the framework for accessibility legislation in BC.

Participants were invited to provide feedback into legislation and to explore ways to build a better BC for people with disabilities. Using funds from a grant received from SPARC BC (Social Planning and Research Council of BC) CSCL welcomed participants to the evening meeting at the Coast Hotel Chilliwack. Meeting participants represented the following demographics: Seniors, Parents of children with disabilities, Parents of Young Adults with disabilities, Youth with a disability, Parents of adult with disability, Self-Advocates, Post-Secondary Education representatives, and Community Living Service Providers. Some themes that emerged included barriers to accessing existing services:

1) difficulty in accessing various services; systems and ministries

with different mandates not working collaboratively around a single client; 2) Reliance on electronic applications; especially difficult in the case of seniors who might be lacking knowledge or access to computer/internet; 3) Funding and support that is diagnosis based vs need based; 4) Lack of sensitivity training for front counter service personnel; 5) Lack of supports for unpaid family caregivers; multi-layered challenges on families who can't access adequate supports, can't work because of family member's care requirements; 6) Not knowing how/where to report concerns and lack of follow up when reports are made; and 7) Lack of Plain Language – complicated and confusing ministry forms.

We are grateful to all the participants for sharing their experiences.

CASE Awards

The Canadian Association for Supported Employment (CASE) honours Inclusive Employers each year at its' annual conference.

The CASE - Mark Wafer Award for Business Excellence recognizes outstanding businesses that have made significant contributions to the promotion of full citizenship and personal capacity for persons with disabilities through the facilitation of increased labour market



participation and outcomes, within Canada. This award is presented annually at the CASE conference and this year CSCL's Supported Employment Services has nominated Chilliwack's own eCycle Solutions as a candidate for that company's excellent inclusive hiring practices.

Board Update

CSCL's Board of Directors is comprised of members of the Society elected by the General Membership each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board had a busy fall, meeting as a full board in October, November and December, with additional meetings for Property Planning and Finance



CSCLs 2019-2020 Board of Directors

committees in December. The Membership and Nominating Committee also met in early January to review membership applications and discuss board succession planning. In addition to its regular business the board continues to discuss plans around

property development; assessing feasibility of building new administration offices as part of a bigger project that would also see the

construction of new residential units. An architect has been approached to create some concept drawings that could then be used in further stakeholder engagement (consulting individuals, families, members, staff and community).

Child & Youth News!

Christmas Spirit!

In early December, CSCL's Child & Youth Services Department received a generous donation from the local Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge of 6 brand new children's bicycles and 6 new children's bike helmets. Families were informed about this donation and given the opportunity to enter their names into a random draw to receive one of the six bicycles for their child. On December 17th, CSCL randomly drew the names of the 6 winners and the winners were notified that they had been selected to receive one of the 6 children's bikes and helmets. A nice early Christmas gift for six children!



CSCL By The Numbers:

1 2 3

As of January 1, 2020

of
Individuals

Supported:

569



of
Employees:

372



of
Active
Caregivers:

148



39%



61%



0-18
30%

19-29
35%

30-49
22%

50-64
10%

65+
3%

Serving Communities in:

- Chilliwack
- Sardis
- Hope
- Yarrow
- Agassiz
- Harrison
- Deroche
- Greendale
- Cultus Lake
- Sunshine Valley



CSCL Reports

Measuring Up!

A random survey of progress updates from CSCL's official Plans and Reports:

Accessibility Report:

Issue: Self-Advocate support to organize and lead the self-advocate movement in Chilliwack.

Solution: CSCL to be intentional in providing support, resources & guidance to People First Group.

Issue: Individuals served by CSCL, living independently in community, are challenged to find safe, affordable, accessible housing .

Solution: CSCL will develop a building plan and/or partnerships with other organizations that begin to address access to safe & affordable housing

CSCL is
100%
Non-Profit

7

Services

54

Service/Program
Options

ONLINE PRESENCE:



1375 Likes



708 Followers



289 Followers



3641 Views



Caregiver Award



Congratulations to Adel Klassen who received the latest CSCL Caregiver Award for excellence in her supports as a CSCL contracted caregiver.

Adel's nominator wrote this about her:

"Adel Klassen has been a CSCL careprovider for 13 years. Adel has provided respite and homeshare services for a number of CSCL individuals. She was nominated by one of the homeshare managers for her contributions including a glowing review from another CSCL caregiver that said: "Over the last year I have had the privilege of working with Adel in the care of a medically complex young lady in a CSCL homeshare situation. During the year I have been repeatedly impressed with the skill and level of professionalism that Adel has shown in a sometimes complex and often challenging situation. I am extremely impressed with Adel and would be willing to share more of my experiences if anyone would like to hear them!" Message sent PROUD & CLEAR!

STAR Award

Congratulations to Bonnie McAvoy (centre) who received the latest CSCL STAR Award for excellence in her job as a CSCL employee.

Bonnie (pictured with CSCL Associate Director, Mary-Lee Tondreau and CSCL Director of Services, Brenda Alexander, was presented with a STAR Certificate, a Letter of Recognition and a \$100 cheque.

Bonnie's nominator wrote this about her:

"Bonnie comes to work each day with a ray of sunshine! She is cheery and supportive, and has a positive, passionate energy. She is prompt and efficient and goes above and beyond and then some!

Bonnie will stop everything she is doing to ask "How can I help you?". If we have an individual in need she will research, think outside of the box for new innovative ideas, and she commits to her tasks. She completes the huge job of administrative tasks and keeps us organized and efficient. Big or small, Bonnie is attentive. Bonnie always has new ideas to offer our team and embraces the ideas we have."



CSSL Events...



Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce Awards

January 18, 2020

CSSL will once again be sponsoring and presenting the Most Inclusive Employer Award at the 24th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala



CSSL is thrilled to host the

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS Alumni Tour

Saturday, February 22, 2020—Prospera Centre
GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



Employer Appreciation Luncheon

February 2020

CSSL will be hosting employers for an appreciation lunch at the Best Western....

Employee Awards Brunch



CSSL Service Awards Breakfast

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

CSSL will be honouring employees who have achieved 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service at an award ceremony



Transition Fair

April 2020

More details and information to be announced soon!



CARF Survey

April 2020

More details and information to be announced soon!



COR Audit

May 2020—BCMSA/Work Safe BC

CSSL's 9th consecutive COR audit will take place in May of this year conducted by an internal COR-certified auditor

Bowls of Hope

It was the season for giving, and not just of gifts, but also in giving back to the community. CSCL supports and encourages volunteering within the community, and many of the people we serve are active volunteers with various organizations. One such organization is Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society, who provide hot lunches to 21 schools within the Chilliwack School District.

According to their website, over 850 children in need receive over 17,000 bowls of soup each month. Bowls of Hope has been serving Chilliwack since 2005. Recently, CSCL's Leadership team volunteered their time

with Bowls of Hope as a team building activity. Together, the Leadership team spent an evening processing 494 pounds of celery. This celery eventually made its way into soup, which was served to children in schools by volunteers like Megan Roger (pictured

below), who volunteers for the program at GW Graham School. Megan, who also receives supports from CSCL, says she likes volunteering because it helps kids have lunch. Megan's pride in her volunteering is evident. She enjoys giving to the community and especially her independence in doing so. Megan has developed many relationships at the school and is always eager to tell people in her support network who she saw and talked to while volunteering. Megan's volunteer job with Bowls of Hope is her favourite part of the week. When asked how it feels to volunteer, Megan just says, "I love it!"



Chilliwack Society For Community Living

Supporting adults with developmental disabilities, children and youth with special needs and their families since 1954.

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"Our Vision is for a community that welcomes and includes everyone."



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Your Voice!

Many thanks to Dan Celella, Julie Unger, Brenda Gillette, Danielle Cross, Ellen Peters and Natalie Karam for their contributions to this edition.

Do you have something to say? Let's hear from you!

Please contact Jeff Gilbank at jeff.gilbank@cscl.org for your comments, editorials, and/or newsletter ideas.