

# Fall 2021 OUT & ABOUT

Community. Connection. Belonging!

Issued September 2021

## Newsletter



Chilliwack Society  
for Community Living  
est. 1954



*Did you know...*

**DSP Appreciation Week is held every September  
AND ...October is Community Living/Inclusion Month and  
also National Disability Employment Awareness Month**



# DSP Appreciation Week!

September 12-18, 2021 is Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week.

CSCL has been working on a project that will be shared with all CSCL's employees during this special week. The commitment and dedication that CSCL employees bring to work every day is something to celebrate and recognize. This past year and half, since



March 2020, employees have worked tirelessly during the global Coronavirus Pandemic to continue to provide optimal supports to the population we serve.

Individuals served and their families form the foundation of CSCL; and, CSCL's dedicated employees form the heart and soul of the organization. You are important, the work you do on a daily basis is vital and you make a difference!! CSCL thanks you and we hope you enjoy the special project, just for you that will be shared during DSP Week 2021.

## *Matt's story... Connection & gratitude!*

Matt Yeomans loves his life. "I haven't been this happy in a long time!"

Matt, who lives at Alexander, says the first year of the pandemic was hard on him at first. "It was hard to adapt. I was going through withdrawal. It was brutal. When I was in my addiction, I was kind of nervous to ask for help. Now I feel great and happy. Once I got on the right medication, I started getting my confidence back." Matt has been sober for over a year and a half and says his motivation for change was wanting a better life. While, he recognizes his hard work, he credits CSCL staff for supporting him.

"I want to do a major thanks to the staff here. They totally changed my life. I can't say thank you enough."

Matt is also grateful for the community connections he's built. "I've been dancing around my house, ever since I've been part of these groups!" He is part

of the editorial board for CLBC's "Diverse Abilities" magazine, the CLBC Upper Fraser Community Council, and Chilliwack People First.

"My editorial group has people from all over BC." "Its like close family and close friends. My whole life is coming together again. I have food in my cupboard, my bills are paid, I have a happy home."

Matt says his next step is employment. His dream job would be to be peer support for people with disabilities or people with addictions. He says he would be good at that because of his lived experiences.

He has been accepted into CSCL's Supported Employment Services and is excited for his intake.

"I want to say a huge thank you to my true friends, family, and support staff, CLBC, and People First."

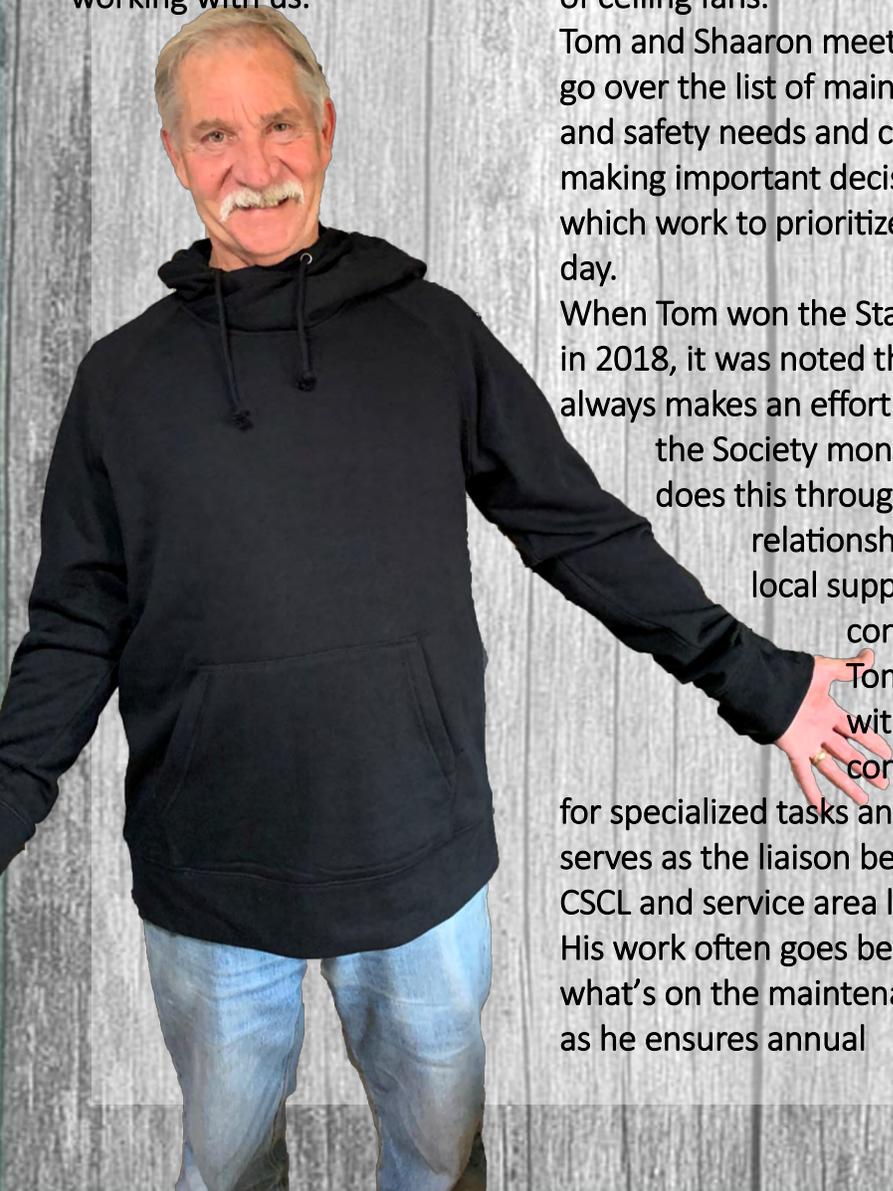


# Tom

## *The Maintenance Man*

CSCL is saying farewell to Tom Fleig, as he is set to retire this autumn.

Tom has been the go-to maintenance guy at CSCL for nearly 10 years, beginning in 2012. Admin coordinator, Shaaron Enright, works closely with Tom. She calls him a “jack of all trades”, and notes how fortunate we are to have him working with us.



When asked what skills Tom brings to the work, the list was long. “You have to know your way around construction, minor electrical, a little bit of plumbing, know how to change wax seals on the toilet...a broad knowledge of that type of industry. He’s done painting, toilet repairs and replacements, light switches, and installation of ceiling fans.”

Tom and Shaaron meet daily to go over the list of maintenance and safety needs and concerns, making important decisions for which work to prioritize that day.

When Tom won the Star Award in 2018, it was noted that he always makes an effort to save the Society money. He does this through his

relationships with local suppliers and contractors.

Tom works with local contractors

for specialized tasks and often serves as the liaison between CSCL and service area landlords. His work often goes beyond what’s on the maintenance list, as he ensures annual

inspections and routine maintenance are kept up to date.

Tom is also known for his friendly and kind nature. He says his favorite part of the job is getting to know people. He also loves getting things accomplished, while meeting the needs of individuals served by CSCL. “It’s nice to help out, taking care of their needs.” Tom says he wants to see people safe and comfortable.

When asked what he is looking forward to most of all about retirement, Tom said taking a vacation, fishing and walking on the Vedder River, where he knows he will bump into a lot of people he knows.

We wish you the best of luck in the future, Tom! See you on the Vedder!



# Sunshine Community Garden REV/Garden Story

Sunshine Community Gardeners Share their Bounty.

It all began with Jamie Thiessen's belief that everyone could use a little more garlic in their life. Jamie had a goal of growing and donating garlic for Ruth and Naomi's Mission.

Her generous attitude quickly spread like morning glory, as Janet Dodds and Ashley Willier began taking part as well.

Janet helped clean the

garlic. Ashley prepped a cooler of potatoes, kale, lettuce, and swiss chard for CSCL's Outreach services.

Soon many gardeners from Sunshine Community Garden were donating excess food from their plots, with coolers full of food being donated three days per week.

"It had a hugely positive impact on those we support, as fresh produce is extremely expensive and something a lot of people can't afford", says Nicola Ackerman,

manager of CSCL's Explore outreach service, calling it a great success.

Natalie Smith-Klassen, who helps coordinate the Sunshine Community Garden, looks forward to expanding the effort next year. "We'd love to get more people involved and we plan to dedicate one specific plot to donating to outreach."

And this all began with one person's love of garlic!

# FAREWELL

## Suzanne & Carolyn



This year CSCL is bidding a fond farewell to several valued employees. Suzanne May and Carolyn Leadbeater are beginning a new chapter in their lives, while turning the page on their time with us here at CSCL. They are leaving us with many happy memories, and wealth of contributions that have enriched the lives of the people they have cared for, the families they have supported, and the friends and colleagues they have worked alongside. Suzanne, having been with us since May of 1987, has seen many changes to CSCL over the past 34 years. She has supported individuals at Taylor house, stepping up as manager for a time, supported the ladies at Salish, helped them with the move to Vanmar, and most recently supporting the folks at REV. She has been a fearless

advocate, and will be dearly missed by all. Carolyn has been with us since September of 2006 supporting folks in Yarrow, before moving to Chadsey, and most recently to Lear as well. Carolyn has supported not only individuals and staff teams, but built strong relationships with the families, ensuring they felt heard, and respected. Earlier this year in May, we said goodbye to a dedicated vocational counselor, Craig Baker. Craig started out supporting individuals at Carleton back in 2013 before moving to Supported Employment where he has been a valued member of the team. We are so grateful for the many ways they have enriched the lives of those around them, and our best thoughts and wishes go with them as they start this new adventure.

# Meet The Board

*Aaron Hale*



Aaron Hale is a new Board member and is Store Manager of the Home Depot in Chilliwack.

“Home Depot currently employs 9 associates with diverse abilities, Aaron explains, “Having a diverse and inclusive workplace is an absolute game changer both from the associate and customer experience. A diverse workplace is a competitive advantage which I am passionate to share with other businesses in the community. You would not believe the amount of great comments we receive on a weekly basis from customers appreciating our hiring practices as well as the great service these associates provide.”

A workplace that is diverse/inclusive does not look much different than one that is not, other than the culture and the willingness to work with some small accommodations. All associates are treated fairly regardless of their abilities and the openness/teamwork that our culture emulates makes HD an amazing place for people of all walks of life.”

When asked what the best thing about CSCL was from his perspective, Aaron said, “The amazing staff who truly go above and beyond to support an inclusive/diverse workplace, I have never worked with a group with such passion.”

## NADSP E-Badge Academy

CSCL is thrilled to introduce the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) E-Badge Academy, an online learning curriculum which offers Community Support Workers (CSWs) and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) the ability to earn international certification through stackable electronic badges.

*CSCL is the First Canadian organization to adopt the E-Badge Academy once again leading the way in our field.*

Earn enough badges and a “DSP Certification Level” will be awarded to you along with a financial reward and other benefits. There are 3 levels of DSP Certification to achieve.

For more information visit:  
<https://ebadge.nadsp.org/>



# Staff News!

CSCL is pleased to welcome a few new faces to our management and leadership teams:

- CSCL is pleased to welcome Dan Bibby, Associate Director of Child and Youth Services (CYS), to our Leadership Team. Dan brings a wealth of experience to CSCL having worked with the Ministry of Children and Family Development for many years.
- CYS is also pleased to announce that interim management positions within CYS Residential were filled; Acting Manager is Ramona Sirbu.
- CSCL also welcomes Eunice Kapuno to our management team. Eunice is joining the Community Inclusion team managing the Vedder and WAVE services.

CSCL received our highest ever compliance rating with this year's external COR Audit at 96%! Although there will be several recommendations coming our way, this mark suggests our policies, processes and procedures in terms of Health and Safety are well-established and followed. This is a testament to all our employees and their dedication to making each worksite as healthy and safe as possible.

Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe Award Winners for the months of June and July and August are Neil McFarlane and Natalie Smith-Klassen. Congratulations!

## Mark Grimshaw

*Mark Grimshaw was a Woodlands survivor who lived as part of the Hegeman family for most of his adult life,*

a total of 34 years, until he passed away from cancer in July of this year. Mark is described by all who knew him as a kind and gentle man who loved to smile. Mark's home for the last 13 years was a farm in Ryder Lake, where he lived with Tony and Wendy Hegeman and their



who knew him.

children. Mark was a cherished member of the Hegeman family. Mark loved to talk about cows and dairy farming, and he loved Daktari videos. He attended the Opportunity Center and, later the OASIS service. He was loved and is missed by all

## Social Capital Update

*One of the biggest challenges of the pandemic has been finding ways for people to stay connected and to maintain social capital.*

Although CSCL's Supported Employment Services are primarily focussed on Employment Goals (pictured during a First Aid class), part of the holistic supports to individuals is to focus on certain aspects of goal planning that centre around



“Social Capital” goals. This is determined by goals benchmarked by the “Social Capital Goal?” field in the Goals list. As a result of the pandemic, SES was really struggling with getting Social Capital happening so they came up with a

Summer Bucket List Contest! SES staff and individuals met on Zoom and shared a list of ideas for each to make their own bucket list items. The RULES were: any list item could not be done with paid staff or family; Staff could facilitate, but individuals had to go with a friend or

meet someone at the chosen activity; and take a picture while doing their bucket list item. Goals from “Going to the Zoo” to “Going on a Date” were established and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive!

# Goals Report

CSCL presents a Goals Report each year that is based on each department's performance in terms of managing Goals for Individuals in each service area.

Goals for people receiving service from CSCL are a result of staff-assisted planning processes that ultimately result in an agreed upon, formalized plan – a GOAL. CSCL can evidence 1189 unique stories of people achieving their goals (some small, some big) through the support of CSCL



employees for 2020. An effort worth doing! The report uses 5 different indicators that address how to go about achieving success in the goal process. Of course, Bully the Goalie (pictured) is back again this year to announce his TOP and Bottom Goals of the Year!

## Board Update

CSCL's Board of Directors is elected by the Membership every year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

CSCL's Board welcomed new Directors elected at the June 8th AGM (held via Zoom), and then elected their executive at their first meeting on June 21st.



The current board members are as follows: Mike Robinson (President—pictured); Bill Turnbull (1st Vice-Pres); Al Niemann (2nd Vice-Pres); Jeremy Johnson (Treasurer); Tori Smith, Sarah Bried, Josh Hall, Jacqueline MacGregor, Ben Honeyman,

Samantha Tolmie, Aaron Hale, and Karen Steegstra. The board also assigned their committee members for the coming year (Finance,

Membership/Nominating, and Property Planning). New members participated in Board Orientation on July 27th and the full board will reconvene their meetings on October 4th.

# Child & Youth News!

CSCL's Child and Youth programs are gearing up for fall. We are excited to be offering some of our most popular and fun programs including Glee Club and Culinary Crew! The Children and Youth have lots planned from pumpkin patches to Christmas festivals.

Summer 'Scapes was full of fun and laughter this year. The children enjoyed going to the local parks, community trails and making great new relationships.



# CSCCL By The Numbers:

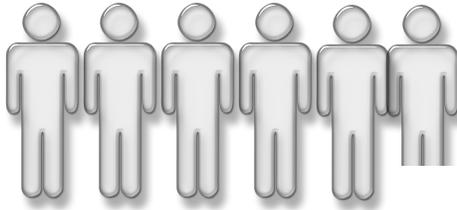
1 2 3

As of September 1, 2021

# of  
**Individuals**

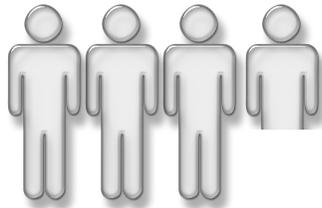
Supported:

**580**



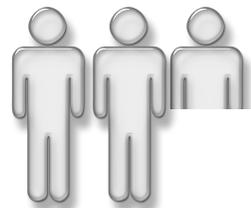
# of  
**Employees:**

**355**

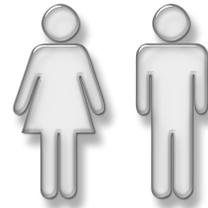


# of  
**Active  
Caregivers:**

**230**



39%



60%

1% Self Describe



0-18  
31%

19-29  
28%

30-49  
27%

50-64  
6%

65+  
8%

## 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:

## 2021 COR Report:

CSCL will ensure employees are aware of safety violations by including evidence of violations into the OH&S meeting minutes. Information will be non-identifying.

CSCL will need to ensure H&S items are discussed at every staff meeting. CSCL's OH&S committee will monitor for quarterly compliance with programs that are not covering H&S items at staff team meetings, with email reminders prior to cut off for each quarter.

CSCL's H&S committee will develop a written safe work procedure/policy for Weather Protection (heat/cold).

CSCL is  
**100%**  
Non-Profit

**9**  
Services

**56**  
Service/Program  
Options

## ONLINE PRESENCE:



**1444 Likes**



**729 Followers**



**538 Followers**



**7804 Views**



**404 Followers**



## Caregiver Award

*Congratulations to Tami Dodich, the latest CSCL Caregiver Award winner for excellence in her supports as a CSCL contracted caregiver.*



“Tami (pictured on the left) is an exceptional caregiver. She is such a strong positive advocate and always does what is best. Tami is helping navigate some complex relationships with the individual she supports and her parents, and teaching her about boundaries and to develop trust in safe people. From the moment she was matched, Tami has been thinking ahead and always looking to do more.”

## STAR Award

*Congratulations to Angela Vermeer (pictured middle) who received the latest CSCL STAR Award for excellence in her job as a CSCL employee. Angela’s nominator(s) wrote:*

“Angela has partnered with Chilliwack Bowls of Hope to give our ILS clients the opportunity to participate in a community cooking program. Angela picks up the



ingredient boxes and ensures they are delivered to all the participants. This takes excellent time management skills, and can be quite challenging during busy days at Outreach. Thank you Angela for all you do to provide our clients with opportunities not only to better themselves, but to access the community. Your efforts do not go unrecognized.”

# CSCL Events...



## BINGO Wednesdays!

### Did you know about ZOOM BINGO

Come join us for BINGO every Wednesday, hosted by the gang at Vanmar! Email them for more details!



## Financial Literacy Event

Wednesday, October 27 7pm-8:30pm

Learn how to protect yourself from fraud and manage your daily budgeting and expenses



## NDEAM

Thursday, October 21

"light it up for NDEAM" (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)



## DSP Appreciation Week

September 12-18, 2021

A video tribute to CSCL's Direct Support Professionals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZrMf6w03RQ>



## Services for Children & Youth

## CYS Fall Registration

September 2021

CSCL's Child & Youth programs for the fall are back. Registration dates to be announced soon!



## Sunshine Community Garden

September 2021

Get connected with the Sunshine Community Garden! Sign up for the 2022 growing season now!



## CSCL Staff Service Awards

Friday, October 1, 2021

At the Chilliwack Curling Club; by invitation only (RSVP required)

# Muncie Knutsen

"Rock and roll music, if you like it, if you feel it, you can't help but move to it. That's what happens to me. I can't help it." – Elvis Presley



It's no secret that Muncie Knutsen is an Elvis fan; anyone who attended "Coffee and Jam" at Broadway Church has likely seen him perform as Elvis at least once. Performing as Elvis is Muncie's great passion, something he's been doing since his early 20s. When asked about his love of Elvis, Muncie explains, "He had the rhythm that I never had until I heard him."

Earlier this year, Muncie and his partner Cathy moved into a HomeShare in a different part of town – a big change for the couple, who were well known and had many friends in their old neighbourhood. Knowing the importance of community and how Muncie was missing performing, their HomeShare provider Cecile came up with the idea of a block concert. The

concert date was set and invitations were delivered to everyone on the street. The event was a huge success, with people gathered on lawns and driveways, many dancing, as kids played in the street and Muncie sang and danced his heart out. Muncie proudly says everyone loved it and now he knows a few neighbours.

When asked what he likes about performing, Muncie is quick to answer, "It makes people happy" and add in "especially the girls love my performances". He goes on to say, when asked if there are more concerts planned for the future, "I'm hoping for it – as soon as I know, you'll definitely know! I'm looking forward in the future to continue doing it. I love performing for people!"

## 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."*



Follow us on Social Media:



## Your Voice!

Many thanks to Julie Unger, Natalie Karam, Dan Celella, Danielle Cross, Ellen Peters, Mary-Lee Tondreau and Aileen Mathews for their contributions to this edition. And to Mahalia and Simiran for gracing our cover.

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

Please contact Jeff Gilbank at [jeff.gilbank@cscl.org](mailto:jeff.gilbank@cscl.org) for your comments, editorials, and/or newsletter ideas.