



CONNECTED CONVERSATIONS

Community Living Belleville and Area Newsletter

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People & Places

Staying Local



CAA Arena



Dorianna, Kristie, Ed and Ashley at their 1st Belleville Sens Game.



BASE 31



Kaleb and his friend Jeanette attended *Songs & Stories of Stompin' Tom Connors* at Base 31 in Picton. He met the band and danced the night away!



Primitive Designs



Julie and Jami



Museum of Natural History



Lucas and Frank



Quinte Mall



Jamal and Kaleb



Sager Conservation

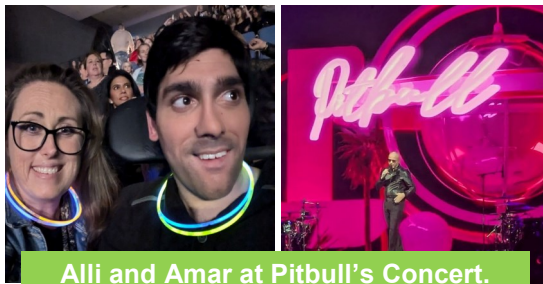


Mitch

Visiting the Big City



Toronto



Alli and Amar at Pitbull's Concert.

Home Sweet Home



Jeremy and Alex



Megan baking cookies in her new home.



Ottawa



Julie enjoyed the Mamma Mia Broadway Production at Mirvish Theatre.



Tala loved every moment at the Star Wars Concert, her seat was super close to the stage!

"It's not where you are, it's who you're with"

Fall Fun at Cricklewood Farm



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS



Harvey has been volunteering at Community Development Council of Quinte on a monthly basis to help unload the Good Food Boxes. CDC-Quinte stated that “Harvey is extremely hard working and it is a privilege to have his help. He always goes the extra mile and makes volunteering his priority.”

Submitted by: Volunteer & Information HPE

Thank you, Harvey and Bev, for your strong work ethic, passion for making a difference and dedication to supporting those in need within the community.



Julie loves volunteering with United Way because she likes to help people in her community and she enjoys the work as it allows her to engage with a lot of different people. Julie also enjoys drawing the names of the winners, as she usually knows all of them and she is able to celebrate their winnings.

Submitted by: Julie and Sara Stein

Thank you, Julie and Sara, for helping prepare the November/December UW Workplace Campaign!



Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Members at CLBA honored the survivors of residential schools and reflected on the importance of understanding their stories. We stood in solidarity.



CPS Halloween Party

The 2024 Halloween Porchfest



Autumn at the Big Apple



CPS Spooky Adventures to Spirit Halloween & Deadnersville



Jeremy and Debra had a great time judging the homes that participated in the Halloween Porchfest.

It was extremely difficult to choose the 3 winners, every display was unique and very well done.

Everyone did an amazing job decorating and had a lot of fun. Thank you to all that participated!

Submitted by: Angel Broadbridge



Sara, Tina-Rae and Wendy embracing Halloween at the CPS party.



Mary-Susan and Donna dressed up for Halloween at the office.



Genny, Julie, Jami and Frank went above and beyond with their Halloween Costumes!

CLO CONFERENCE 2024



A small but passionate group from CLBA had the incredible opportunity to attend the **Community Living Ontario Conference** in September and they left feeling energized and inspired!

The conference presented the opportunity to listen to leaders from the community, including families, advocates, and board members from across the province. In addition, groups participated in various breakout sessions which fostered collaboration and encouraged open communication and discussion.

The overarching message was clear: we need each other. By working with the voices of advocates and their families, we can create an environment of hope, confidence, and trust—all of which is vital for making changes and planning for the future.

Let's continue to ensure that everyone's voice is heard.
#WaitingToBelong #SharedVoices

Submitted by: Donna McKeown



Donna McKeown and Vickie Brandt joined the **Life Beyond School** event hosted by the Transition from School to Community committee on October 23, 2024.

During this event, students and their families were able to hear presentations from Developmental Services Ontario/Housing Navigation - Passport Funding from EAFK and CICE program from Loyalist College.



Rights Committee Members (L to R):

Theresa Somerton, Jeff Geen, Steve Casselman, Krista Aubertin, Greg Allen and Christine Semark.

The volunteers who serve on the **Rights Committee** play a vital role in protecting and promoting the human rights of the people supported by Community Living Belleville and Area. Their contributions help foster an environment of respect, equality and justice, both within the organization and throughout the broader community. The dedication and commitment of each committee member are essential to upholding the principles of dignity and freedom.

Submitted by: Donna McKeown

Voices with Meaning, the Self-Advocates Committee at Community Living Belleville and Area (CLBA), has been actively working on several impactful initiatives over the past few months including Emergency Services Education. During Fire Prevention Week in October, representatives from the Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services, Belleville Fire Department, and Belleville Police Services visited to share essential safety information.

Submitted by: Donna McKeown



Child and Family Services—Fall Update:

The Fall season is about embracing change, and our respite team at Haig Road has accepted that challenge and excelled! In collaboration with parents and youth, the respite team at Haig Road has created four *goal oriented, fun filled and life skill building* youth groups with a different theme each night. We have *The Cooking Club, Glitter Mermaids, Boyz Night, and Sports Club*, providing opportunities that are meaningful and fun! Through *The Cooking Club* you may see us at local grocery stores, purchasing ingredients from specific recipe for youth to learn how to shop, budget and cook meals. *Glitter Mermaids* has been designed for girls to build friendships and learn life skills while also participating in crafts, dancing, yoga and spa activities! At *Boyz Night* and *Sports Club*, children and youth are exploring different parks and community centres, and they have opportunities in the community to be active and learn skills for a healthy life.

Our Parent Group is also in full swing, with the goals being to enhance parent and child interaction, while providing opportunities for parents to establish informal social networks and supports. We are also guiding parents to actively participate in teaching their children valuable life skills as well as teaching healthy self care strategies for parents. As quickly as the Fall has come, Winter will soon be upon us and the team at Haig Road has also been busy planning for the upcoming Holiday Season. Connecting parents to Warm Coat Campaigns, Holiday Sharing Programs, and ensuring that all families have the support they need for the upcoming holiday – including the organization of an upcoming Holiday Camp for kids!

Submitted by: Darci Smith



Mya and Anna cooking together.



Isabella baking biscuits.



The Cooking Club in action.

Person-Centred Planning



Photo Above: Katrina, Tammy & Jim (Mom & Dad) with Donna and Anita.

Photo Below: Katrina, Tammy & Jim (Mom & Dad) with Kelly and Anita.



Community Living and Area provides personalized supports using Person-Centred Approaches to ensure people are receiving the best support possible. This approach helps people to identify their goals and aspirations that are meaningful and most important to them. Planning with people, their families and close friends focuses on how each person wants to live in both the present time and in the future. For more information about Person-Centred Planning, please email Donna McKeown at dmckeown@clbelleville.ca.

Spreading Holiday Cheer



Holiday Party Committee

To the people who made the magic happen—thank you!

The **Employee Family Holiday Party** at CLBA was a festive afternoon filled with joy and laughter, as employees and their families came together to celebrate the season. Guests enjoyed decorating cookies, creating crafts, the photobooth and sipping on warm apple cider. The highlight of the event was a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who spread cheer and added a magical touch to the celebration.



James and Frank at the Quinte Mall.



Jess and Amber at the Family and Friends Holiday Party.



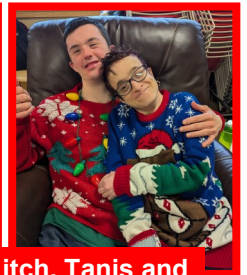
Music at CPS



Theresa and Jamyla participating in the Christmas Gift Exchange.



Christine, Mitch, Tanis and Genny feeling festive!



Decorating the Office.



Santa and Ed spreading joy at the Humane Society.



Jami Decorating Gingerbread Cookies.

CHANGES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION

Embracing Our New Managers!

Monica Gulati, Community Services Manager

Monica has an impressive background in Human Services as well as passion for our sector. She has worked as an ECE teacher of special needs children; was a program director with Ontario Family Group Homes; has worked as a Community Supports Manager with Community Living Oshawa/Clarington; and she was most recently the Volunteer Program Manager with the Northumberland Humane Society

Megan Taylor, Community Services Manager

Megan brings over 20 years of experience working in the fields of social services and education, supporting and advocating for diverse populations.

Donna McKeown has moved into the role of the Manager of Planning and Quality Assurance.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Board Member!

Maribeth deSnoo joined the CLBA Board of Directors in November 2024.

Maribeth has over 35 years of experience in executive and nonprofit program management roles, delivering effective and impactful programs that address the needs and priorities of diverse communities.



After 35 Years of commitment and dedication to the organization, Tom DeHaan has retired. He has made an everlasting impact here at CLBA and he will be truly missed.

Family, friends, co-workers and people supported by Tom gathered on December 3rd. Everyone thanked him for the all he has done and wished him all the best in his next chapter of life.



SAVE THE DATES!

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR **41ST ANNUAL**

MAYORS' CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT



Interested in Sponsorship?



Interested in Registering a Team?



2nd Annual **IN FULL BLOOM** *Gala*

SAVE THE DATE

**MAY 24, 2025
6 PM – 10 PM**

Contact TWells@clbelleville.ca for more informatio

Belleville Fish & Game Club
Hosted by Community Living Belleville and Area