



# CONNECTED CONVERSATIONS

Community Living Belleville and Area Newsletter

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## Community Living Month Celebration Hits a Home Run: Contest and End-of-the Month Party Delights All!

## Minister of Children, Community Social Services

Community Living Belleville & Area (CLBA) was excited to welcome Minister Michael Parsa (MCCSS) and MPP Ric Bresee (Hastings, Lennox & Addington) during their recent visit to the area. The gentlemen toured our main office and Community Participation Supports, meeting staff and people we support during their visit. Information was shared on the history of our agency. We spoke regarding the Supports and Services we provide and the challenges facing CLBA around recruitment of employees and the cost of living increases.



Mike Sullivan- MCCSS Program Supervisor, Michael Parsa-Ontario's Minister for Children, Community and Social Services, Darlene Dale-Executive Director, Ric Bresee MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington.



The community came alive as people celebrated with their families, friends, and support networks as local community members joined forces to commemorate Community Living Month with an unforgettable celebration. From an engaging contest that fostered unity and participation, to an epic end-of-month party complete with mouth-watering food truck delights and live music. The event left everyone with cherished memories and a renewed sense of togetherness.

### Driving Success: Mayors' Challenge Golf Tournament Raises the Bar on Fundraising Goals:

The event was filled with excitement, camaraderie, and friendly competition as participants gathered for the highly anticipated 39th Annual Mayors' Challenge Golf Tournament. Local business leaders, community members and golf enthusiasts came together on the green to raise over \$30,000.



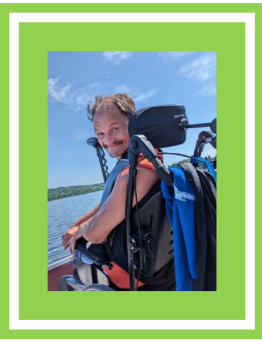
*Darlene Dale (Executive Director) presenting the Mayor's Trophy to Mayor Neil Ellis and his Belleville Team.*



**Honouring Our Legacy:** As we bid farewell to four remarkable employees, we pause to reflect on their incredible commitment and dedication to the organization. With a combined total of 140 years of service, these retired employees left an indelible mark on Community Living Belleville and Area by shaping its growth and success. Join us in celebrating their unwavering loyalty, tireless work ethic, and invaluable contributions during their tenure. Their legacy will forever be cherished, and their impact will continue to inspire us for years to come. Thank you Janet Chouinard, Karen Van Norman, Tina Forster and Ron Lessels for your immeasurable dedication!

Ian Acton, President of the Board of Governors addressed members of the Board and others attendees at the Annual General Meeting on June 22nd, providing updates on the organization's progress and goals. Mr. Acton's speech emphasized the importance of collaboration and transparency in achieving mutual success with MCCSS "Journey to Belonging".





The Community Participation Supports Program (CPS) enjoyed the summer months exploring their community. Participants in the FishAbility program had the opportunity to ride a pontoon boat while fishing and exploring Rice Lake in Bewdley Ontario. Other fun adventures included visits to the Ostrich farm, The Quinte Museum of Natural History, Port Hope Capital Theatre, and the Kingston Pen Tour.



## Summer Days, Drifting Away...

Nothing says summer like riding an ATV! Children had the opportunity to learn about small vehicles, fire trucks, and police cars during the summer months. Local fairs, sunny picnics, sandy beaches, petting zoo's and numerous visits to the bowling alley, made this a summer to remember! In particular, one family visited the zoo for the first time ever and is now planning their next big adventure.



## EMBRACING THE JOURNEY—Submitted by Jenn Parks-Wannamaker



George and Dave visited Brockville and explored the Aquatarium despite the rain. They enjoyed the vibrant fish and feeding otters. The next day they ventured into the tunnel, marveling at its history. On their way back home, they had a scenic picnic when the sun was shining. Despite the rain, they had a memorable adventure with Allison and MaryEllen, embracing the journey.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

- ◆ United Way Campaign;
- ◆ Rights Awareness Month;
- ◆ Holiday Festivities;
- ◆ Save the Date Spring Dance 05/11/24
- ◆ 40th Annual Mayor's Challenge booked for 06/04/24.