



Executive Director's Update



Spring is finally here, despite the fact that it snowed on Saturday night the 28th day of April. We are all hoping to shed our winter wear and bring out the shorts and T's. So before we embark on the new season it is a good opportunity to reflect on all the happenings in the past few months. Despite the long cold snowy winter, we have been very busy here at BPACL. I have asked the management team to provide an update on the exciting things happening in their programs. You will find their contributions in the next few pages.

In addition to all the exciting changes in Community Participation and the new building construction we have also been freshening up the main floor space at 550 Berford. It is our intention to create a more welcoming space for our Employment Services – BGESS, Family Support and our SIL program. Amazing what a fresh coat of paint will do. We are awaiting the arrival of new tables and chairs and two new work spaces that will provide the opportunity for group meetings, educational sessions for all departments, and additional working space for Senior Support Workers and Managers who need temporary working space when they come to the office. We will all appreciate the expanded work space and are excited about the possibility of additional meeting space.

339 Mary Street – The New Build Update: Laura Balint, Manager



Construction is getting close to being finished at 339 Mary St, the location of our new building. The new housing development project has been many years in the making and it is hard to believe that we are getting so close to its completion. We are in the last leg of the interior construction and the finishing touches will be completed over the next couple months.

We anticipate that everything will be completed and that people will be able to move in some time this summer. When completed the new building will consist of four self contained 2 Bedroom units with additional central common space. This new design will provide individuals with the opportunity to be as independent as they wish within a residential model.

As we proceed with the construction we need to begin to think about next steps in making plans for the tenancy of the building. Moving can be an emotional and exciting time. We understand that the move into the new building will present some significant life transitions. The move will allow people to live in their own space with just one roommate. For most people this will be a new experience and as with all new experiences we will face challenges, make mistakes and learn from them, celebrate successes and settle into a new rhythm of life. People will be able to engage in new responsibilities from planning meals, making calendars to keep themselves engaged and active and hosting visits with family and friends.

For families, this is an emotional time as well; a new experience that may evoke mixed feelings from happiness to anxiety. We have started the process by engaging families in conversations, looking at what would work from their perspective and what concerns they have.

During the last months we have been having conversations and listening to family members in order to strengthen our relationship and improve communication.

We look forward to future conversations that will be aimed at further improvements of our supports and develop creative supports that will benefit all people supported in our residential program.

In the next few months we will see more concrete plans made. Staff teams with the lead of our Senior Support Workers will engage in exciting new transitions and support people to express their needs, build hope and dreams and work towards transforming the beautiful new building into lovely homes.



Community Participation Update – Christi Ronholm, Manager

We have just completed the first year of a two year Ministry Funded Project to transform and modernize our Community Participation Program. In the last year we have transformed from a single location day program to a community based recreation and leisure program. The team has done a fantastic job at putting together an amazing schedule of activities that appeal to the many diverse interests of the whole group of core individuals supported by the program. Have built relationships with community partners, are using community space for activities and we have totally stepped up the activities being offered.

We will continue to move forward with the transformation in the next 12 months. The Community Participation team has been working hard to develop new quality programming activities. You can see the full list of activities by visiting our website at <http://bpacl.com/whats-happening/>.

Our spring session begins the week of April 23rd, 2018. To participate in our events and activities you must register by filling out our registration form that can be found by visit <http://bpacl.com/whats-happening/> and clicking on the event you would like to join. Spaces are limited.

One of the new programs that Community Participation ran this past winter is an Art program. Participants learn colour mixing and brush stroke techniques while creating several projects each throughout the 10 week session.

This session was enjoyed so much, that we have decided to continue the art program into the spring session.



Blair proudly displays his masterpiece.

Betty working meticulously on her painting.



Megan displays her beautiful painting.

Our new Curling Program was very successful. Volunteers from the Curling club instructed a beginner class. It was a fun and rewarding experience, as participants are very proud of the skills they have learned. Some have expressed interest in joining a league next year!



Left top: Shawn and volunteer Dave Waddington assisted Jennifer at the Curling club. Top Right: Joseph getting ready to make a shot at the Warton Curling Club.

The new creative drumming class was a fun addition to our Winter session. Different types of drums, rain sticks, and even xylophones were created in this class, and a great deal of fun was had learning simple rhythm techniques on each instrument.



Jennifer displays a drum that she is building in the creative drumming class.



Tom shows off rain sticks that he learned how to build at Creative drumming.

Community Living Month

May is Community Living Month. The Town of South Bruce Peninsula will be flying the Community Living flag for the month. Towns and cities across Ontario, will be a little brighter on the evening of May 4th, 2018. That's because buildings and structures in communities across the province will be illuminated in blue and green as part of the third annual *Shine a Light on Community Living* campaign. The nighttime spectacle, which includes the lighting of the CN Tower and **BPACL's Admin Building**, is one of many events taking place in support of Community Living Month that will foster awareness around the importance of inclusion for people who have an intellectual disability and their families.

Making Dreams a Reality – Update SIL Jeanie Finger, Manager

A DREAM written down with a date becomes a **GOAL**. A Goal broken down into steps becomes a **PLAN**. A plan backed by **ACTION** becomes **REALITY**.



Dax and Brian are both fans of the Toronto Maple Leafs, they dreamed of attending a game. After lots of planning and organizing, their dreams became reality when they travelled to Toronto to see the Toronto Maple Leafs play. While in Toronto they wanted to partake in everything hockey which included a visit to the Hockey Hall of Fame and a stroll past the old Maple Leaf Gardens. They shared the expenses and got to share this great experience together and make memories that they won't forget.

Membership

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living we would like to extend to you an invitation to become a member of our Association. At 55 years we are on a transformative journey to make our service vision even more authentic for the people we support.

We are pleased and proud of our accomplishments this year. A strong membership is a key component to a vital organization. Please extend an invitation, on our behalf, to any friends or acquaintances who may be interested in joining us in our journey to supporting and facilitating meaning, inclusion, development and contribution to the people we serve.

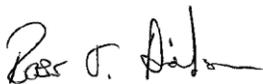
Our Annual General Meeting is held in June each year. Details of date and time will be published in the Wiarton Echo. It is a night of community fellowship, and the opportunity for you to learn more about Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living and our contributions. Members vote on Governance issues, elect Board Members, and offer community feedback to our Board and Operations Management.

Membership fees are \$10.00 per person per year (April 1st, 2018 –March 31st, 2019). These fees assist us in providing an advocacy voice in the Developmental Service Sector while promoting our vision, values and mission statement throughout the Bruce Peninsula.

We have moved into the modern era with enhanced electronic presence by Facebook and a regularly updated Website. Our Executive Director has been publishing a quarterly report about news and accomplishments on our website. Look also to see our Community Activation/Participation schedule! Please visit our website at <http://bpacl.com> to view these reports. (If you would prefer to receive the quarterly update by mail, please contact the office at 519-534-0553).

The following form can be completed and forwarded to: Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living, or dropped off at our administration office at 314 George St. Wiarton.

Best regards,



President
Ross T. Davidson

**BRUCE PENINSULA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$10.00/per person**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

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