



Executive Director's Update September, 2018



September will forever feel like New Years to me. It is the time that I set goals for the next 12 months, mostly related to getting back to the gym and eating healthier. (Translate that to not eating ice cream so regularly) and looking at what I would like to accomplish in the next twelve months from a learning/growth perspective in both my personal and professional life. September always brings with it change. And change is exciting. For people we support this September also brings change. The new building at 339 Mary Street is almost completed and nine people are preparing for significant and very exciting life changes. It is exciting, scary and emotional and represents an opportunity for greater independence for some. We are so very excited about the new building and for having the opportunity to support people to live more independent lives while still providing 24 hours supports each day.

We are hoping that we will have the occupancy permit in the very near future and can then set actual dates to move in.

In the meantime, people are completing all the tasks that one does when preparing to move, purging unwanted clothing and household items and purchasing new and necessary items for their new apartment.

In addition to the occupancy of the new build, we have many activities planned for the fall. Community Participation's new fall activity schedule is about to begin, we are embarking on a Strategic Planning project, Karaoke starts back up monthly, Monday and Wednesday sport nights will begin, and the annual Halloween dance in October. So many projects and events to look forward to as the season changes.



2018 Summer Students Extraordinaire!

BPACL was so fortunate to have been granted four Canada Summer Jobs positions. Four wonderful students spent their summer months working in positions that we would not have been able to fill without the funding from the federal government grant.

Bruce Grey Shores Employment Services (BGSES) was fortunate to have Noah work along side Eric to support people to be successful in their employment throughout the summer months. People supported have greater opportunities to work seasonal jobs during the high tourist season and the addition of Noah provided more opportunities for those we support to be successful in their work. Noah was very successful in his approach as an employment support worker as he had a very understated presence that allowed people supported to be recognized as the employee.

Hallie and Emily enhanced the Community Participation program schedule by coordinating recreational and leisure activities for people who are not MCSS funded. This included a camping trip, late afternoon hub events, some pretty challenging hiking and biking trips as well as weekly visits to the surrounding beaches. Hallie and Emily brought a fun lighthearted approach to their work everyday and it was very clear that they loved coming to work every day. They were instrumental in putting together the amazing slide show for the AGM showcasing all the wonderful activities in Community Participation as well as creating a cookbook that includes step by step instructions for each of the simple recipes.

This will be so very helpful for the new tenants of 339 Mary St. Apparently, there are a few other people interested in the cookbook!

Miranda, working in the Admin office, took on the challenge of sorting through all the old files that were boxed up in storage. Miranda, with a sense of humour, patience and excitement, spent her days reviewing document after document and identifying what could be shredded and what needed to be retained. I believe there are upwards of fifty boxes awaiting shredding. Miranda was a joy to work with and a joyful addition to the admin team during the summer months.

We are going to miss all four of our fabulous and talented summer students. We wish them all great success in the upcoming school year and hope that we may see them next year!



Family Support – Cathy Irving, Senior Family Support Worker

Autism Support Group for Parents

New this fall, BPACL Family Support Program and Bruce County Preschool Resource Program will be hosting a monthly coffee group for parents of children with Autism. The group will provide an opportunity for parents to come together, network, share ideas and support each other. One of the highlights of the group will be that Thames Valley Children's Centre will deliver some of their education modules in person right here in Warton at the monthly gatherings. Other ideas in the works are: updates on the Ontario Autism Program and guest speakers based on the parents interest.

This is a new group to the Warton area, one that we hope will lesson the travel time to other communities for a similar parental support group environment. The feedback from the initial meeting was very positive from the families who were in attendance. By partnering together BPACL and Bruce County Resource Program hope that families will experience a smoother transition as they navigate between different service providers.

If you have a child with Autism and are interested in joining the group please contact: **Cathy Irving at 519-534-0553 ext 121**. The drop in group meets each month at The Peninsula Hub-Bruce County Social Services building at 268 Berford Street, Warton. **Next meeting is on Sept 21, 2018 10 am to 12 pm.**

We look forward to meeting you!

Strategic Planning

The Board of Directors has undertaken the task of developing a new strategic plan for BPACL. A strategic plan is a tool that provides guidance to the agency in order to ensure that the agency fulfills its mission. The last review of the strategic direction of the agency occurred in 2013. The landscape in the sector has changed significantly since 2013, including significant changes to

A Wonderful New Addition to our Fleet!

With the generous funding from MCSS, our funder, BPACL was fortunate to acquire a brand new 2018 Dodge Caravan that has been converted to accommodate a wheelchair. Having an additional vehicle and one that can accommodate a wheelchair will provide greater flexibility with our transportation needs. We are so very grateful for the opportunity to expand our ability to transport people to all the various activities and events on any given day. A big thank you to the Ministry.



Ministry oversight and expectations. It is an excellent time to begin to think about the future and our mission, goals and priorities.

The Board of Directors has contracted with People Minded Business, a consulting firm with significant experience and knowledge of the development services sector, to assist us with the Strategic

Planning Process. Part of the work of People Minded Business will be to obtain feedback and input from all stakeholders as well as facilitating interactive sessions to develop the strategic

direction goals and priorities. We look forward to having your feedback and input in the process as we plan for the future together.

Fishing Derby

Sunday September 9th was the perfect day for Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living's 2018 Fishing Derby hosted by the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association. Plenty of fish were caught and a lot of fun was had by those that attended. The Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association provided a delicious dinner and the music of The Midnight Blue Band, Dave Nixon, Rob Ritchie and Steve Ritchie added to the festive atmosphere.

Any angler will tell you that every day is a great day for fishing, but this annual event is very special for everyone involved. It was at least 36 years ago that the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association launched this derby in partnership with Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living. It's never been cancelled, going ahead rain or shine.

The annual derby is a highlight for people supported by Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living, families and the community as a whole.

