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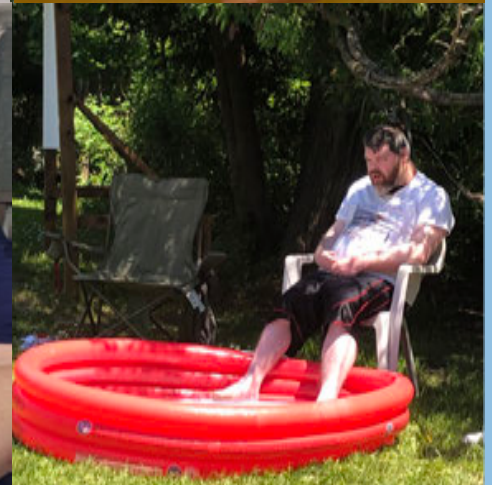
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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With the beautiful weather this summer, it has been lovely to be outside enjoying many of the refreshing outdoor activities that help to revive our spirits. It has been wonderful to see people going out for walks, going on bike-rides, gardening, or just enjoying the fresh air on their patios at home. While this season has been very different from other years, we have found creative ways to stay healthy and connected to our friends and families. Some of our best summer highlights include: the start of a new 'Community Food Program', and the launch of a new 'Cyber Community Participation' program. Both programs have been welcome additions to peoples' lives, providing opportunities to learn while reconnecting with friends.

The summer of 2020 was much different for the people supported by BPACL, the management team, and the staff, but despite the changes, we have all had an enjoyable summer. As always, we continue to monitor the guidance offered by both the Ministry and by Public health, and to do our best to ensure that we are implementing the most effective precautions possible while supporting people to live their best lives.



Michele Bell

CELEBRATING DIFFERENTLY THIS SUMMER!

Sandra (pictured bottom left) celebrated her birthday this summer with a socially distanced party! It was fun to organize a barbeque with a small group of friends and family, followed by an outdoor movie projected on a screen! Caitlyn celebrated her birthday earlier on in the summer by organizing a "driveby birthday" party in her neighborhood. She made a sign, and advertised her party through email and Facebook, (See a picture of her setup, bottom right.) There was a great response, lots of honks and waves and quick birthday visits at a distance!



WORKING HARD THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC



You may have seen him biking around Warton, ON and wondered, what he was up to, with a large basket on the front of his bike, and often a trailer attached to the back. This man is Jim, a valued member of his community, with a caring heart and a strong work ethic. He works long hard hours every day, while also taking time to give back to his community.

Some people know Jim as "Bicycle Jimmy" and he doesn't mind the nickname. Jim has had his own scrap collection/recycling business for over 30 years, and he uses his bike and trailer to collect various items. Every 2 weeks, Jim picks up cans from the homes of many community members to take back to the liquor store. Jim says, "they know I'm coming, so they leave stuff at the road". Jim also collects scrap metal and a friend drives him to take scrap metal to Scone. An inspiring man, who at the age of 82, works harder than many young people! When asked about his usual workday, Jim stated, "I usually leave home around 9am, I break for

lunch around noon, and I get home pretty late...sometimes not until 7 or 8!" Jim works through all seasons, continuing to bike, even in the winter months!

Originally from Kitchener, ON, Jim had a difficult family life, so he spent many years living with his grandfather. When his grandfather passed away, he was not able to stay in the home he grew up in, forcing him to live on the streets. "I had friends...but life was difficult." Jim remembers. He eventually moved to Teaswater, ON, and he met the Harris's, a family who he eventually lived with for many years. "I was a part of their family, and I'm thankful for that." Jim stated.

Jim enjoys helping out at the local Salvation Army, and has been awarded many certificates for the work he has done. He explains that he does this because he is so grateful for the help he received earlier in his life. While Jim lives on a very low income, he sometimes donates money from his recycling business to the Salvation Army. He is grateful to be a part of the senior lunches there, and to be a part of their church family.

At 82 years old, "Bicycle Jim" is a shining example of fortitude. He works hard, and is a strong, resilient, contributing member of our community.

BPACL'S 2020 TRAVEL RAFFLE RESULTS



**Winner of the \$4,000 Travel Voucher:
Judy Urbshott of Wiarton!**

Despite the global pandemic, we were able to sell all 2,349 raffle tickets for our first ever travel raffle, making this fundraiser quite a success! We are so grateful to be part of a caring and supportive community. Thank-you to everyone who purchased tickets!

Judy Urbshott of Wiarton won the 1st prize, a \$4,000 travel voucher. The second prize, an apple ipad, went to Angela Richard of Port Elgin, and the 3rd prize went to Brandie Cesar-Macdonald of Georgian Bluffs. Congratulations to all of our winners!

All proceeds will be used to improve food access/ food security for people supported through BPACL.

We look forward to next year!



**Winners of the Apple Ipad:
Eugenia and Angela Richard of Port Elgin**



**Winner of the Apple AirPods:
Brandie Cesar-Macdonald of Georgian Bluffs!**

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR STAFF



Leah Publuske, pictured left, has been a support worker with BPACL for over a year now. Leah received her Early Childhood Education diploma through Georgian College, and has a desire to expand her skills and knowledge relevant to her position at BPACL. Leah recently enrolled in the Developmental Service Worker Apprenticeship Program through Loyalist College, and is excited to get started this fall!

The apprenticeship program is for people who are interested in completing the Developmental Services Worker certificate while working in the field. The program allows for the flexibility to take courses without the requirement of classroom attendance, enabling students to earn money while working towards their certificate. In order to enroll, students must have an employer who is willing to sponsor them as a DSW apprentice, and to enter into an apprenticeship agreement with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD). BPACL is sponsoring Leah for her

apprenticeship, providing mentoring/coaching throughout the program, and ensuring all competencies set out in the program are completed.

After the program is completed, students receive a Developmental Services Worker Apprenticeship Certificate from the MLTSD. Students are then encouraged to continue their studies to obtain a DSW diploma, requiring the completion of additional courses and a work placement.

The Apprenticeship Certificate provides an excellent head-start to getting your diploma, allowing you to take courses and gain experience while continuing to earn employment income. Most classroom training costs are covered by MLTSD, and for students who wish to earn their DSW diploma, this is a great way to pursue it! If you are interested in this opportunity, you can find more information online at: <http://ontariodevelopmentalservices.ca/about-us/whats-new>. There you will find a DSW Apprenticeship Program Toolkit containing resources and information.

SUPPORT WORKER SHARES TALENTS

From March until August, many people in Ontario were desperate for the opportunity to visit their hairstylists. Many ended up giving themselves haircuts, which have been termed "Covid-cuts", do-it-yourself haircuts that many of us came to regret afterwards! Luckily, Sandy Arthur, a Support Worker at BPACL, and former hairstylist was willing to share her skills with the people she supports. Sandy brought her hairstyling tools with her on her regular shifts and offered people the opportunity to have their hair done at home! She was happy to help out at a time when people in congregate living settings were not able to go to the hairdresser. We are so grateful that you stepped up Sandy!



OUR FIRST ONLINE CYBER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM.

In March, 2020, our Community Participation program was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirements for social distancing. Normally the program provides support so that people can participate in activities in their communities, and provides learning and leisure/recreational opportunities when they are not otherwise available in the community. Amber McCartney, supervisor of the Community Participation program (CP) has been in contact with most of the people who have regularly registered for classes through CP, and while many were doing well, and forming new routines, people were missing connecting with others, and participating in community activities.

In August, after much preparation and planning, we launched our first online cyber Community Participation Program. Classes offered through zoom included an exercise class called 'Miranda's Bootcamp', a cooking class called 'Food Adventurers', Card Making with Karen's Creations, and a Coffee & Chat group. Each week, people signed up for classes, and supplies were gathered, packaged and delivered to their front porches. On the day of the class, registrants were emailed a 'Zoom' link, and they simply needed to click on the link to get to their class. In order to allow flexibility, these sessions were recorded and the private links were sent to all those who signed up for these sessions. Cyber CP was very successful, and was expanded in September to include a Book club, 'Zumba with BJ' and Music with award winning Pianist and entertainer, Ed Kelly!

In the photo below, the Zoom Food adventurers class learned about sprouts, made peanut butter and sprout sandwiches and enjoyed them together. Each week the "Food adventurers" learn about a new vegetable or fruit and several ways to prepare them. This class was a lot of fun, and people definitely were able to connect with one another throughout these sessions!



THE BEGINNING OF OUR NEW COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM!



Due to COVID-19, BPACL has seen a growing need to expand programs in order to improve food access and food security for supported people. In April, we applied for funding through Bruce County Social Services Relief Fund for the creation of a 'Field-to-table' program including; the planning and facilitation of community gardens, food preservation, healthy cooking, nutrition education, and outdoor and environmental stewardship activities. Our application was successful and we began the creation of our new 'Community Food Program' in June, 2020 with the hiring of a 'Community Food Program Facilitator' on a 5 month contract. This new program has been a welcome addition to people's lives this summer!

Many of the people we support have been learning to prepare the soil and to plant and care for gardens. As vegetables and berries are harvested, Amy, the Community Food Program facilitator, brings a basket around to the apartments and homes of people supported so that they can select items that they will enjoy. Amy often provides recipes with these vegetables and fruits, and offers preparation suggestions.

The program has seen such success in its first few months, and this is just the beginning! In July, 2020, another application was made to United Way of Bruce Grey's Local Emergency Community Support Fund for further funding to extend the 'Community Garden Program' to March 2021. We were very pleased to obtain another \$31,527 to make this possible! It is our hope to continue to grow and expand this amazing program throughout the next few years and to see its impact on the well-being of the people we support!

THANK YOU HURON BAY COOP!



Ange Macdougall,, office manager (left) and Phil Crivea, Warehouse Manager at Huron Bay Coop generously donated plants to BPAcl this summer. These plants were used in the gardens of people supported by BPAcl, and are greatly appreciated!



Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living appreciates and relies on donations from the community, and is sincerely thankful for the generous donations recieved this summer:

**Warton Marina
Huron Bay Coop
&
All who generously provide monthly
and individual donations**

To make a donation: Visit our website at www.bpacl.com and click on "make a donation now" , or click on "how to donate" to learn more

