

PENINSULA PERSPECTIVES

The Newsletter for Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living



Celebrating 60 Years of BPACL: A Legacy of Inclusion and Support

Pictured: Michele Bell CEO and Paul Sutter Board President with Community Living Ontario's Jo-Anne Demick at the BPACL 60th AGM June 20th, 2024 at the Wiarton Propeller Club.

On June 20th, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living (BPACL) and reflected on our remarkable journey of providing meaningful inclusion and support for the Wiarton community and the greater Peninsula. Founded in 1964 as a family-run organization, BPACL has grown into a cornerstone of our community, dedicated to addressing the unmet needs of valued community members.

BPACL's story began with a simple yet profound vision: to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all community members. Families who recognized the need for dedicated services and supports for their loved ones with developmental disabilities spearheaded the initiative. Their commitment laid the foundation for BPACL's community-driven advocacy and support.

Over the past six decades, BPACL has worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities. The organization's efforts have not only improved the quality of life for countless individuals but have also fostered a more inclusive and compassionate community.

BPACL's programs and services have evolved to meet the changing needs of the community, reflecting our ongoing commitment to excellence.

The special event was punctuated by the presence of Jo-Anne Demick from Community Living Ontario (CLO), marking another milestone in BPACL's journey.

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Celebrating 60 Years of BPACL: A Legacy of Inclusion and Support (continued)

This celebration also tied into the 70th anniversary of Community Living Ontario, which has been a significant advocate for inclusion and support for people with intellectual disabilities across Ontario. As part of a network of 122 Community Living agencies, BPACL continues to benefit from the collective strength and advocacy efforts of Community Living Ontario.

As BPACL celebrates this milestone, we continue to look forward, planning new initiatives, and expanding services to better serve the community. We remain steadfast in our mission to promote inclusion and provide meaningful supports, ensuring every individual has the opportunity to thrive and live their best life.

The success of Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living is a testament to the power of community and the importance of advocacy. As we celebrate 60 years of BPACL, we also celebrate the community that has supported and believed in its mission. Together, we look forward to many more years of inclusion, support, and community spirit.

Getting Social: First Annual Spaghetti Supper & Social

We are thrilled to share the success of our first annual Spaghetti Social and Supper, an event designed to bring together our wonderful community, foster new friendships, and celebrate with familiar faces. The evening was filled with laughter, delicious food, and the warmth of community spirit.

Held in a festive atmosphere, our Spaghetti Social and Supper saw a fantastic turnout. It was heartwarming to see everyone enjoying the meal, sharing stories, and creating new memories. The event perfectly encapsulated our vision of community—where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and connected.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who joined us. Your presence made the event truly special. We look forward to hosting more social suppers in the future, continuing to strengthen our bonds and create lasting memories together.

Thank you for being a part of our community and for making the Spaghetti Social and Supper an unforgettable evening. Here's to many more joyful gatherings!





Getting Social: First Annual Spaghetti Supper & Social



Honoring Ross Davidson: A Lifetime of Dedication to Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living

In the heart of Bruce Peninsula, the name Davidson is synonymous with dedication and service to the community. For Ross Davidson, receiving the Lifetime Membership Award at BPACL is not just a recognition of his contributions, but a celebration of a family legacy deeply intertwined with the organization.

Ross's journey with BPACL was almost predestined. His father, Dan Davidson, was one of the founding members of BPACL six decades ago, laying the foundation for the organization's commitment to serving individuals with disabilities and the broader community. Ross's sister, Carolyn, has been an integral part of the Supported Group Living program for over 40 years, embodying the spirit of community support BPACL champions.

After leaving the Peninsula for work, it was upon Ross's return to Ontario with his young family his active involvement with BPACL truly began. Over the past dozen years, Ross has played a pivotal role in the organization, serving as Board President for nine years and actively participating in numerous committees. His passion for housing and building for BPACL has left an indelible mark on the community.

Reflecting on the challenges of recent years, Ross credits the strength of the board and the strategic decision to hire Michele (Bell) as pivotal moments. Looking forward, Ross's vision for BPACL is clear and ambitious. He envisions the organization effectively demonstrating its credibility, reaffirming its commitment to exceptional service delivery, deepening community involvement, and securing its place as an integral and active part of the Peninsula community for generations to come.

Ross Davidson's dedication to BPACL is not just a commitment to a cause; it's a testament to the power of community, family, and legacy. His tireless efforts have shaped BPACL into what it is today—a beacon of support, empowerment, and inclusivity.

As Ross receives the Lifetime Membership Award, let us celebrate his unwavering dedication, his profound impact on BPACL, and his enduring legacy in the Bruce Peninsula community. Here's to Ross Davidson—a champion of compassion and change.



Community Moments: Celebrating at the 60th AGM Dinner & Dance





Celebrating Joy's 99th Birthday with a Community Drive-By Celebration



On June 4th, the community came together in a heartfelt celebration for Joy's 99th birthday. Friends, family, and neighbours were encouraged to drive by her home, honking their horns to mark the occasion. This unique tribute highlighted a life well-lived and supported, with Joy's spirit of resilience and joyfulness shining brightly.

The turnout was awesome, reflecting the meaningful connections Joy has cultivated over nearly a century. Cars went down the street, adorned with balloons and signs, creating a festive atmosphere that could be felt in every honk and wave. Joy, seated comfortably on her porch, beamed with delight as each well-wisher passed by, showcasing the power of community and shared happiness.

Adding to the celebration, members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) joined the fun, their presence underscoring the importance of community solidarity. Their participation added a touch of official recognition to Joy's milestone, making the event even more special.

Here's to Joy and the vibrant community surrounding her—may the coming year be filled with health, happiness, and anticipation for the big 100!





CELEBRATE 99 YEARS OF LIFE!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL DRIVE-BY CELEBRATION FOR JOY AT HER HOME.
DATE: JUNE 4TH
LOCATION: **CONFIDENTIAL** STREET

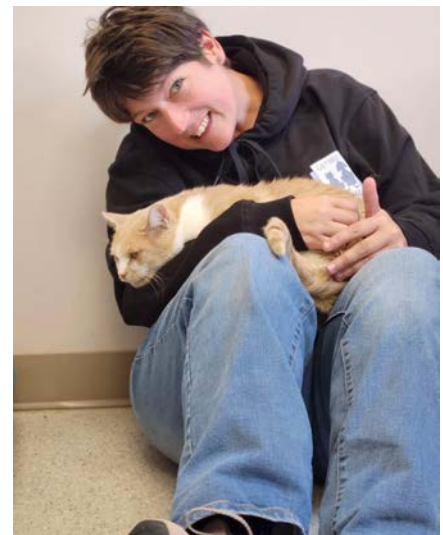
DRIVE BY PARADE STARTS AT 2PM- JOIN THE CROWD. HONKING IS ENCOURAGED!

Walk bys are also welcome! Stop in for quick happy birthday and Cupcake



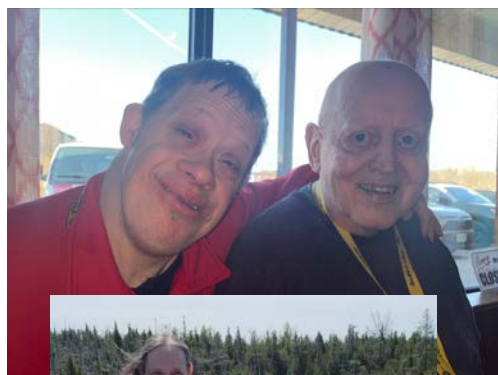
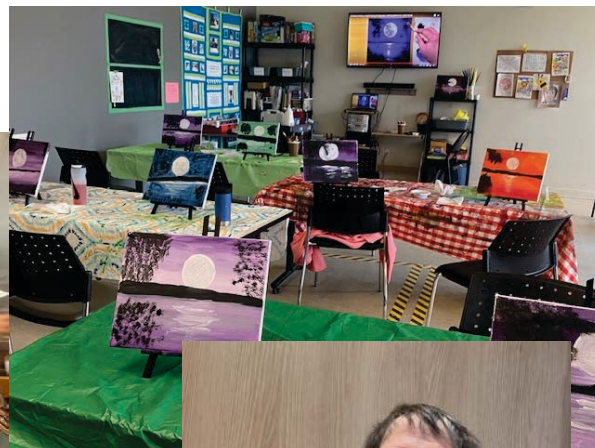


Community Moments: Snapshots of community & connection





Community Moments: Snapshots of community & connection



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COMMUNITY LIVING

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