

SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO LIVE A MEANINGFUL *life*

Auction 2014

On February 8, 2014 LCDS held their Bi-Annual Valentine Charity Auction at the Brigden Fairgrounds. The house was packed with over 300 attendees and an overwhelming number of donated auction items. This made for an exciting evening of bidding and fellowship. Catering by Kitchen Creations, an ice sculpted punch bowl, a chocolate fountain and chocolate covered pretzels

(a new favorite!) were enjoyed by guests while auctioneer John Stevens worked his magic. With hundreds of items from signed hockey jerseys to bird houses, handmade quilts to butter tarts, combined with our guests' generous bidding, this year's auction brought in over \$53,000. We are still in shock!

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Pictured clockwise from top left: Adelle Stewardson, Chair of the 2014 Auction Committee with the winner of the Hat Box raffle grand prize donated by Brian Davis Jewellers; Janet Smith congratulating friends from Integra on being the successful bidders of a beautiful curio cabinet; Volunteer Judy Cull holding the balloon in place for Maureen MacSorley, as she takes a pin to it to win a prize at the Balloon Table; Trevor of 'Catering by Kitchen Creations' serves appetizers to guests.

Message from the President and Executive Director



Adrian Vermeiren
President

It has been a long, rough winter, but there are small signs that spring is just around the corner. With spring, we hope lots of new and innovative possibilities are coming to LCDS that will build on our solid foundations. It would be easy to complain about how the lack of funding and no increases in five years is going to erode some of the quality and services that we have worked so hard to establish at LCDS. (Sadly, if good news does not come within the next few months, LCDS will have to make cuts somewhere, because five years of absorbing costs without increases is just not sustainable. However, that will be a different communication.) Politics, elections and labour unrest in the unionized agencies are going to dictate what is going to happen with funding over the next couple of months. So, instead we want to focus on two very important things that will keep us moving forward and ensure services and supports continue to meet the unique requirements of each person.

First, internally, LCDS spent much of last year consulting with all stakeholders and determining where we should strategically focus our efforts. This has led to the creation of a simple and short document that outlines our directions. This document is being circulated at all levels of the organization and will be distributed at almost every event this year. Feel free to call the administration office if you would like a copy. It allows for the unique services, supports and businesses to set their own goals while working within the parameters that are set out in the document. There are four main areas that we see a need to move forward with:

MEANINGFUL LIVES

We will work to create more meaningful lives for the people supported by LCDS.

We are dedicated to exploring what a meaningful day looks like for each person.

We strive to meet people's unique needs, discovering how they wish to fill their days.

We achieve this, in part, by connecting them with competitive work, social engagement and valued volunteering.

RELATIONSHIPS

We will continue to place high value on relationships with our community, stakeholders and outside organizations.

We believe that building relationships is key to affecting long-term change and working toward the greater good. This begins with our stakeholders and local communities and extends to our involvement in provincial umbrella groups and their lobbying and advocacy.



Candie Burchart-Etienne
Executive Director

SUPPORTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT

We will nurture a culture of communication and shared leadership.

By creating intentional opportunities for people to share their learning, ideas and stories, we hope to cultivate a deeper sense of community and inclusive participation amongst people with disabilities, their families and friends, employees and volunteers.

FUNDING

We will evaluate, improve and re-imagine how we approach our financial sustainability.

Drawing upon the energy and creativity within the LCDS community, we will explore innovative strategies to raise funds for the continuing needs of our organization. This will require a collaborative approach and a clear and dynamic communication of the LCDS name across Lambton County.

Over the next few weeks, each area of LCDS will be setting their strategic goals according to the above directions. Summaries will be shared every six months. As mentioned, please call for your copy of the document or with any questions.

Secondly, and more externally is the work of the Select Committee on Developmental Services. Jane has mentioned the work of this Committee briefly in her article but we would like to expand on it slightly. A full report can be found at <http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/committee-proceedings/committees> or you can just search on the legislative assembly of Ontario website under Developmental Services Select Committee. The Committee has released the

OASIS Update - Jane Joris



It is very exciting but tumultuous times for Developmental Services in Ontario. Much is happening and listening to some stories could get us depressed, but it seems much more optimistic to say that issues are finally being raised and we hope to be on the brink of change for people with disabilities, their families and the agencies that provide support to them.

One of the most significant highlights in Ontario is that the Select Committee on Developmental Services has finished its consultations across the province and produced its interim report. OASIS made a submission to the Committee on January 20, 2014. This interim report is basically a summary of what was heard from all stakeholders across the province. As I said in my press release, "We have seen first-hand, countless families struggling to make ends meet and having to make decisions that most Ontarians would never have to contemplate." The next stage of the Select Committee's work is to produce a final report for parliament that will set out recommendations for a provincial strategy on developmental services. This report is scheduled for release in May 2014. We hope it meets the goal of ensuring that the 100,000-200,000 Ontarians living with an intellectual disability are able to lead healthy and happy lives of purpose and dignity.

The Select Committee heard about many of the same issues that the Ontario Ombudsman heard starting in the fall of 2012. The number of complaints filed with the Ombudsman was so great that his report is delayed once again and we hope to hear his recommendations by the middle of this year. This will be two reports on Developmental Services in Ontario in a very short period of time this spring and summer.

While a lot of attention has been given to the Select Committee's work, OASIS continues its efforts in other areas. On February 3, 2014, representatives from the OASIS Board were involved with pre-budget consultations with Finance Minister, Charles Sousa. Work continues on several funding issues including no increases in five years, unfunded pay equity obligations and imminent labour unrest with over 100 contracts across the province expiring on March 31, 2014. We are hopeful that the government will see the urgency and desperate need to work together to fix the broken system.

The looming possibility of a Spring Election also has us working on an election readiness campaign. When an election is called, OASIS and its member agencies want to be sure that developmental service issues are heard with a uniform voice.

A recent presentation from Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) Network updated OASIS on the development of the DSO's and the challenges they are facing. OASIS will assist where it can with any of the issues so that a better access system for Ontarians will evolve.

OASIS has also heard a couple of presentations from a group out of Ottawa who is just starting some exciting work exploring ideas for a National Disability Insurance program for Canada. They have researched the program in other jurisdictions – especially the one currently in place in Australia. At this point, the presentations were for information only but as an early idea it seems very exciting.

OASIS continues to work on several other projects – there is more information and news on the OASIS website www.oasisonline.ca and we can also be followed on Facebook and Twitter.

On a personal note, this is likely the last article that I will be writing for the LCDS Focus as "president" of OASIS as my term will be up in May 2014. I want to thank the LCDS Board of Directors for having the confidence in me and my abilities to recommend me for this position and I am proud and humbled to have been able to represent LCDS in this important role in the Developmental Services Sector. I will remain on the OASIS Board as "past president" and still look forward to serving agencies like LCDS in that capacity. As mentioned it is a very "tumultuous" time to be leaving such a busy position, but I am very optimistic that developmental services (through the various agencies and umbrella groups like OASIS), has a very strong voice and change has to be coming.



Habitat for Humanity Partnership

LCDS is very excited to report that Habitat for Humanity has approached us to partner in another build this spring in Petrolia. After careful review by the Board of Directors and the Strategic Leadership Team we decided to graciously accept their offer. Ground breaking for this build will begin in late April, with the Sod-turning Ceremony taking place on **April 24th at 4:30pm** at 386 Northridge Place, Petrolia. All are welcome to come that evening to help us celebrate this exciting venture!

LCDS will again be required to provide “sweat equity” in the form of volunteering on-site and/or at the Re-store on the Golden Mile and providing meals/breaks on site for volunteers. If you are interested and available to volunteer on behalf of LCDS in any capacity, please contact Adelle Stewardson at astewardson@lcds.on.ca.

An exciting new opportunity has presented itself during this build as the home has been designated a “Woman Build” – meant to empower women (but not to ignore men!). Teams of 15 Women from 12 different businesses and community groups have committed to work onsite on an assigned build day



as well as raise \$250 per person to be part of the build (simple math is $12 \times 15 = 180$ women \times \$250 = \$45,000 towards this home).

LCDS has a team of women participating who are very excited to represent LCDS on the build site and will be collecting pledges between now and April 24th. If you would like to support this initiative by making a pledge to the LCDS team or have any other questions about this project please contact Adelle Stewardson at astewardson@lcds.on.ca.

Olde Post Office Gift Shoppe

**Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday
10am-5pm**

- Primitive Décor and Recycled Furniture Pieces
- Cheese/Cutting Boards
- Candles featuring the distinctive Olde Post Office Scent
- Birdhouses and SO MUCH MORE!



4189 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

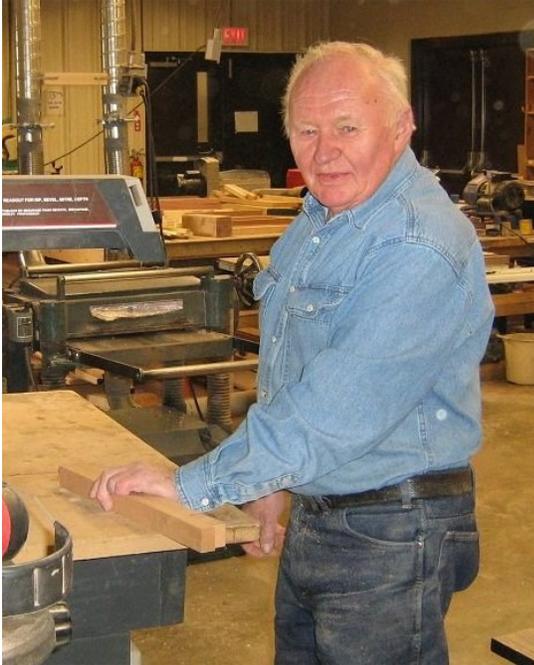
519-882-0747

www.petroliaenterprises.ca

It's Coming!.....May 1st



Andy's Retirement



LCDS would like to congratulate Andy Gelinas on his retirement! Three and a half years ago, Andy approached LCDS with the desire to donate his successful and long-standing woodworking business to LCDS, which led to the merger of Petrolia Enterprises (PE) and Gelinas Enterprises. Along with his business, Andy donated his equipment, inventory, tools, time and knowledge to help grow PE's business and expand their opportunities. Since Andy's donation in 2010, he has continued to work at PE as a volunteer and will now enjoy a hard earned and well deserved retirement! A celebration was held on March 26th in honour of Andy and all that he has done for Petrolia Enterprises and his community. Andy's contributions to LCDS will never be forgotten!

Smart Board Donation

LCDS extends a special thank you to the Marriott Global Sales & Customer Care Centre in Sarnia for their generous donation of 3 gently used SMART Boards to the LCDS Learning and Development department. For anyone that is not familiar, a SMART Board is an interactive white board that helps improve learning outcomes. It combines the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer and lets you deliver dynamic lessons, write notes in digital ink and save your work – all with the simple touch of a finger.

The SMART Boards will be used to enhance the learning experience for both employees and people supported by LCDS. It will increase interaction, collaboration, flexibility and engagement for all the participants. For many of the people in our services, literacy plays a key role in the achievement of their dreams. Literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning and an instrument of empowerment to improve one's health, one's income and one's relationship with the world.

We especially want to acknowledge John Johnston, Manager of Reservation Sales for the Marriott, and former employee of LCDS, as well as Jeff Searson, Support Worker at LCDS, for initiating this incredible donation.



Pictured above are Laura, Susan and Karen from LCDS receiving the Smart Board from Marriott employees John Johnston, Manager of Reservation Sales and Marianne Gibbs, Director of Human Resources.

2015 is the 60th Anniversary year for LCDS!

Watch your August FOCUS newsletter for announcements of exciting events and activities in 2015 to celebrate 60 years!

President and Executive Director Continued...

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interim report and Community Living Ontario has just hosted an information and feedback session across the province. The final report of the Select Committee is due in May 2014. Depending on how the recommendations are laid out and how much parliament responds to these recommendations, it will be an exciting time for Developmental Services. It is a unique time and we have the ear of all three parties like we never have had before. The main themes they have pulled out of the reports and feedback are:

- Recognize the high degree of frustration and stress experienced by people with disabilities and their families; take action to address these core issues.
- Increase funding to the sector that will address the enormous waitlists; provide some funding as an entitlement.

- Ensure that investments are individualized and give people control over their lives.
- Look at Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) and fix the problems; ensure people get connected to what they need without additional barriers being placed in front of them.
- Provide continuity in funding as a person transitions through different periods in their life.
- Provide planning and facilitation services to people and ensure that there are appropriate resources and funding to ensure that people can plan; make sure supports and services are inclusive and individualized.

Let's hope the government hears these recommendations and finally steps up and does what is right for some of Ontario's most vulnerable people.

Save the Dates

Thursday May 1st

LCDS Trivia Night

7 pm, Petrolia Legion

Call Heather at 519-882-0933 to register your team



Thursday, July 17th

LCDS/Woods Pearson & Associates Annual Charity Golf Tournament

9 am shotgun

Widder Station, Thedford



Saturday, June 14th

Pedal to the Pines Annual Bike Race

8:30 am start, Sarnia

www.pedaltothepines.com to register



Wednesday, August 13th

CHARITY PORK BBQ

Hosted by the Petrolia Lions

5-7 pm, Petrolia Arena

Tickets go on sale in June at 339 Centre Street, Petrolia



Monday, June 23rd

LCDS Annual General Meeting & Volunteer and Donor Recognition BBQ

5 pm, 339 Centre Street, Petrolia



Friday, September 26th

LCDS Annual Banquet

5 pm, Forest Legion

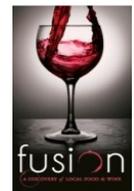
New location



Friday, November 7th
& Saturday, November 8th

Fusion: a discovery of local food and wine

RBC Centre, Sarnia



LCDS is Going Green

In an effort to go more **green** we are now promoting the option of receiving our newsletter electronically rather than in paper form. If you wish to receive your newsletter by email, please send an email to hwillemse@lcds.on.ca with "newsletter" in the

subject line. In the body of the email please provide your name. You will receive a verification email, and your next FOCUS newsletter will come to you by email!



CSD Kitchen Project

As was reported in the last FOCUS newsletter, LCDS has been working with William Standen to design a safe and accessible training kitchen in the Community Skills Development (CSD) building. After completing a thorough needs audit and design survey, in addition to consultations with a building code specialist, William Standen Co. has prepared a complete project design. The proposed plan takes into account both current and future needs of LCDS, ensuring that the space is fully functional and will accommodate a variety of new and exciting training initiatives, exposing LCDS to an even wider segment of the public. The predominant goal is to create a healthy, safe and accommodating workspace by

employing barrier-free, ergonomic and eco-friendly design principles.

LCDS has applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to fund the majority of the cost of this project and will hopefully receive news of funding in June. The financial support contributed by our stakeholders has increased our credibility in this request to OTF by leaps and bounds. The Petrolia Rotary and Alhambra groups have generously offered their support as well. Completion of this project will create meaningful opportunities and empowerment for the people we support through education. Watch for updates on this project in the August Focus Newsletter!



Above are renderings of the kitchen as it will look when it is complete.

Some exciting features of the design include:

- A barrier-free, touch-less Kohler sink allowing comfortable usage for persons in wheelchairs and addressing limitations of reach or grip.
- Two islands with durable, food-safe stainless steel, one of which will be portable to allow for increased accessibility and will also be “nesting table” style to offer 3 different counter heights of working space to accommodate seated and standing food preparation.
- An accessible desk area will be created to function as a meal planning or recipe browsing station.
- An A/V wall featuring a smart TV to be used for teaching and training.
- Appliances which have been chosen for their ergonomic and accessibility characteristics, which include an adaptable induction cooktop which can be raised or lowered to accommodate the needs of the user.

Corporate Appreciation



Lambton County Developmental Services (LCDS) hosted their 2014 Corporate Appreciation on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at Victoria Playhouse. Among many businesses in attendance, LCDS honoured three in particular for their generous support in 2013.

Pictured at left are: Mellissa Proulx of LCDS, Heidi Soudant of Heidi's Independent Grocer, Brian Clarke of LCDS, Gail Tanner of the Petrolia Lion's Club, Adelle Stewardson, LCDS Manager of Fund Development, David Mallick of Woods Pearson & Associates, Doug Smith of LCDS, Laura Taylor of Woods Pearson & Associates and Richard Rochon of LCDS.

Auction Continued...

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We would like to thank this year's outstanding and hardworking Auction Committee, Janet Smith, Maureen McKellar, Erin Allensen, Elaina Burr, Kim Shelley, Don McGugan, Adelle Stewardson and Debbi Potter as well as all the individuals and businesses that contributed to this event through donations or sponsorship. A special thank you to our major sponsors:

Enbridge
Stevenson & Hunt
Integra
Armstrong Construction
Motion Specialties
Shelley Machine & Marine
Brian Davis Jewelers
VIA Rail
Agris Co-op
Lakeside Grain and Feed
Lapier's Flowers

Field Trip to the Oil Museum

Some of the participants from the Resource Room enjoyed a field trip to the Oil Museum of Canada in Oil Springs. The field trip was part of the science curriculum on energy. The group enjoyed exploring a replica of the first oil well, touring one of the oldest oilfields in the world and learning about Canada's Oil Pioneers.



Pictured above are: Bryan Baxter, Resource Worker and participants Andre Greeff, Robert Snopko, Shane Montgomery, Dan Shepherd, Jamie Passenier & Colin George

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