

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

Habitat Build

386 Northridge Place in Petrolia was a “sea of pink” over the summer as construction of the Habitat for Humanity home has been underway in Sarnia Lambton’s Inaugural “Women’s Build”! LCDS’ second partnership with Habitat for Humanity Sarnia-Lambton is creating a new home for friends Sharon and Karen, both supported by LCDS. The sod turning ceremony took place on April 24th – pictured are Debbie McNeil of RBC, lead sponsor for the build, Karen and Sharon, David Butler, Board Chair for Habitat for Humanity Sarnia Lambton and Adrian Vermeiren, Board Chair for LCDS.



The framing blitz was completed by a team comprised of the captain of each women’s team. 99.9 the Fox FM was broadcasting live on location, and Karen and Sharon are pictured below being interviewed by Sarah Woodley.

LCDS was offered a women’s team spot and LCDS ladies were up for the challenge! (Sarah Woodley and Stephanie Lindau from Blackburn Radio were also recruited to the LCDS team!) We chose a hot and sticky evening in July to paint the house in the colours Sharon and Karen had chosen.



This being a women’s build, the project was completed by 13 volunteer teams of women. Each team was scheduled a day of building and would come out ready to work. Another responsibility of these teams was to



fundraise for the build; the women (approximately 150 in total) were the other lead sponsor raising over \$40,000!

After the sod turning, the digging began; a foundation was built and the framing was done. Pictured above is the captain’s team bringing up the first wall.



Pictured are the ladies from the LCDS Quality Assurance Department Lori Wilcocks, Katherine Williams and Carla Alway with Sharon and Karen.



Work is nearly complete on Sharon and Karen’s home, and will be celebrated with a Dedication Ceremony on September 17th at 5:30 pm at 386 Northridge Place. All are welcome to attend the celebration. All ladies who participated on a build team are encouraged to come and to wear their pink shirts!

Message from the President and Executive Director



Adrian Vermeiren
President

Developmental Services in Ontario were definitely heading for crisis with long waiting lists, families in crisis, lack of planning for students after school, families needing to re-apply for funding, etc. There had been no significant investment in response to these issues and many families were

“hanging on by a thread” or forced to abandon their children because they could no longer cope. We heard about these stories in the news. Now there is some hope - what a difference a couple of months and an election can make! The Liberal majority government was able to pass its budget on July 14th, 2014. For the first time in years, a significant investment of \$810 million dollars will be made into developmental disabilities in Ontario. This money will help address waiting lists for passport and special services at home funding. Respite, planning, and some other services should improve for families. This is all good news as long as efforts can be coordinated and families have user-friendly access to the services they need.

Unfortunately, five years of past freezes and now continued freezes are going to inhibit any services that families may want from agencies. Workforce stability, especially with over 100 labour contracts expired, is at a critical stage and has not been addressed with the provincial budget. Few sectors have had no increase in five years and are expected to endure more. The fall is going to bring some interesting negotiations and likely some labour unrest.

The long awaited Select Committee Report was also presented to the Ontario legislature recently. The report is titled *Inclusion and Opportunity: A New Path for Developmental Services in Ontario*. This report contains 46 recommendations and, with inter-ministerial collaboration, could lead to change for Ontarians with disabilities and their families. There is much hope and potential if action is taken as outlined.

Despite the uncertainty and potential crisis with the provincial picture over the past months, the perseverance and resiliency at LCDS has continued. As you can read about in this newsletter, a lot is happening and the summer is flying by. You will read about the Trillium grant for the kitchen at CSD.

This grant is welcomed and appreciated but it did not come easy. It was not the first time that funds were applied for to complete this project and is a perfect example of trying again and again. Perseverance and resilience were key. Plans were perfected and revised – the people working on the grants did not give up! With the Habitat for Humanity project, an opportunity was taken when it presented itself. Since Karen and Sharon found out they would be moving to a new home, they have been the models of “positivity” which has gone such a long way in making the project successful. The golf tournament, a fundraiser that has persevered over several years, ensures the LCDS weekend respite program continues. This event has continued to have many loyal supporters over the years. The positive stories could go on and on at LCDS, and as mentioned, you will see many of them in this newsletter.

Times are very interesting; there is potential for crisis provincially which LCDS is not immune to. However, recent action is leading to hope for the developmental services sector. And, as always, LCDS is meeting the challenges and triumphs with perseverance, resiliency and optimism.



Candie Burchart-Etienne
Executive Director



OASIS Update

By Jane Joris and Wilma Arthurs



New OASIS Board Member

We are happy to introduce Wilma Arthurs, one of OASIS' newest board members. Many of you in Sarnia-Lambton will need no introduction to Wilma. She is a member of LCDS and

Board Member of Community Living Sarnia-Lambton. She will be joining Jane Joris, Board Member of LCDS and Past President of OASIS in keeping our LCDS members updated in this newsletter with highlights about the work of OASIS.

Wilma is a parent of a beautiful 23 year old daughter with a severe intellectual disability. Wilma has become a very effective advocate, ensuring her daughter and others have what they need in their lives. She has had experience at the provincial level as the Chair of the Provincial and Demonstration Schools Council and was also involved with Human Rights mediation and the struggles that surrounded union strikes that closed the Provincial Schools in Ontario. Wilma then sat on the local Adult Developmental Services Planning Group, sits on the local Teen Transition Planning Group, and as mentioned, continues to sit on the Board of Directors for Community Living Sarnia-Lambton.

In 2008, Wilma started an advocacy campaign for families on wait lists for services called the "Real People Campaign". It was an avenue for families to advocate to government and the public about their needs. Through this campaign, Wilma met with many government members including the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Finance. She also attended many consultations on the Developmental Services Act.

In 2012, Wilma's family went into crisis when her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer and Wilma was no longer able to cope with her daughter at home on her own. In December 2013, Wilma presented to the Select Committee on Developmental Services talking about families in crisis. It was a difficult thing to do, but helpful in showing what crisis looks like.

Wilma has attended one Board meeting in her new role and is already getting involved in OASIS sub-committee work and advocacy. Future editions

of the LCDS Focus will likely be talking about some of her work.

Since the last newsletter, Ontario has been through an election with some surprises in the results! (Thank you to OASIS for the role it played in the election. It seemed all parties became more aware of issues in developmental services through the "End the Wait" Campaign. Many members, including LCDS, ensured that candidates were well aware of the issues that were outlined in the materials provided by OASIS.) In a press release after the election, the President of OASIS said "We look forward to working with the government of Ontario to implement initiatives that will substantively improve the lives of countless Ontarians with developmental disabilities".

With a Liberal majority, it means the budget that was tabled in May was passed on July 14th, 2014 with very few changes. The most significant part of this budget for developmental services is that \$810 million will be allocated over the next three years. Waiting lists of people for passport funding and special services at home funding are to be eliminated. This is great news as families have been waiting two to four years. Other service initiatives around respite and person directed planning were also referred to and we are hoping that there will be consultation with these processes so that families can easily find and access the services they need and want. The issue that has not been directly addressed is workforce stability. It is a concern and needed to ensure a holistic solution to developmental services in Ontario.

Since our last newsletter, OASIS has a new president, David Barber, Board President of Simcoe Community Services in Barrie. David was elected to the Board of OASIS four years ago. He has also been President of Community Living Ontario and President of Ideal Child Service Group, a not-for-profit group of day care centres in Toronto. He is Past President of The Independent Financial Brokers of Canada. He has received the Ontario Medal of Citizenship and the Community Action Award from the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the fifteen year pin for volunteer service from the Government of Ontario. He is looking forward to his term as President of OASIS.



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OASIS Continued...

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With the new session of the Ontario Legislature, the final report of the Select Committee was presented on July 22nd, 2014. This report has been long anticipated and has 46 recommendations! The ones that are specific to agencies include dealing with the issues around pay equity, evaluating QAM (quality assurance measures), safety of staffing ratios and multi-year funding commitments. While these areas were specific to community agencies, many of the other recommendations will also affect agencies and the people they support. The full report can be found in the newsfeed section of the LCDS website or on the Ontario Legislature website. The bottom line is that these recommendations are a response to the crisis in developmental services and need to be addressed. The 100,000 to 200,000 people with disabilities in Ontario and their families

have waited too long for action so that they can lead healthy and happy lives of purpose and dignity.

The Ombudsman's Report on the investigation into services for adults with disabilities that began in the fall of 2012, has not yet been released. We anticipate many similar recommendations and hope it is released soon.

OASIS continues to work on several other projects and its subcommittees are always very active. Their reports and more information and news can be found on the OASIS website www.oasisonline.ca. OASIS can also be followed on Facebook and Twitter.

The work has not slowed down over the summer and we anticipate the fall will be no different. The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on September 10-11, 2014 in Ottawa.

Trivia Night



On May 1st, LCDS held our 3rd Trivia Night at the Petrolia Legion. 24 teams were registered to compete in this 10 round trivia event, with bonus points being awarded to teams who brought canned goods for the Petrolia Food Bank. Nearly 250 cans of food were donated! Although the undefeated champs, The Missing Links, put up a good fight and dominated through most of the evening, a new team of champions emerged! Pictured are Brian Clarke and Davey's Scholars, who won that evening with an impressive score of 80. Trailing were the Know-Brainers in second place and Trivia Newton John in third. All proceeds from the Trivia Night are dedicated to enhancing IT resources at LCDS.

Pedal to the Pines

The 2014 Pedal to the Pines Bike Race took place on Saturday, June 14th with excellent weather conditions and over 150 cyclists! The annual ride begins in Sarnia with a stop in Forest where LCDS volunteers provide a pit stop of snacks and refreshments. Riders can return to Sarnia at that point to complete the 80 km ride, or continue on from there to the Pinery Provincial Park in Grand Bend and then back to Sarnia for the 150 km ride.

A special thank you is extended to all of the volunteers who helped make this event possible and to Doug McClintock and Melissa and Paul Theriault and the rest of the Pedal to the Pines team for once again choosing LCDS as the recipient of this year's proceeds of over \$4000!

Also a warm thank you to: Forest Foodland, RBC Bank, Real Canadian Superstore and Heidi's Independent Grocer in Petrolia for their generous donations, which contributed to the refreshment stop coordinated by LCDS.



Ride Into Summer Fun Day



Lambton County Developmental Services would like to send out a big thank you to the wonderful volunteers and donors who organized and ran the first ever "Ride into Summer Fun Day." On Saturday, June 20th, people supported by LCDS, families and support staff were invited for a day of fun to celebrate an early Father's Day with their families. The food was plentiful and the donated desserts were delicious. The live band kept everyone entertained while others enjoyed riding around the Brigden Fair Grounds on a horse drawn wagon or the specialized wheelchair accessible wagon. Audrey, one of the horses, was there for petting and picture taking. Many great moments were captured of everyone having a terrific time. The spirit of the day was phenomenal!

We are very thankful for the many volunteers and donors who pitched in to make this first time event so successful. Special thanks to Beaver Meadow Stables, Wayne McCormick and family and Janet and Oliver Smith for coordinating this fun packed day of wagon rides, music and a delicious BBQ.



AGM & Volunteer BBQ

On Monday June 23rd, 2014, Lambton County Developmental Services (LCDS) held their Annual General Meeting. Following the meeting, LCDS recognized its volunteers and donors at the Annual Volunteer and Donor BBQ. Due to inclement weather, Community Skills Development (CSD) provided ample space for the dinner to be held inside allowing for both staff and visitors to remain in good spirits and out of the rain. This year's dinner was catered by Kitchen Creations, who prepared delicious pulled pork along with a variety of salads and desserts. This night would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers, staff and donations made by local businesses. LCDS would like to extend a special thank you to all of the individuals involved in the success of this night. A warm thank you goes to the Lambton Youth Choir who performed beautifully after dinner with a selection of songs and well-choreographed routines.

Trillium Funding for Kitchen

As was shared in the last FOCUS newsletter, LCDS worked with the William Standen Company to design a safe and accessible training kitchen in the Community Skills Development (CSD) building, a project which has been on the "wish list" for many years. In the Spring, a proposal was submitted to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for consideration for funding. LCDS is excited to announce that Trillium has granted the funds required to complete the project! Work will begin on the CSD Kitchen in September and it is anticipated that it will be complete by the end of November. The renovation 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, opening the LCDS doors to an even wider segment of the public.

LCDS has also received financial support for this project from the Petrolia Rotary, the International Order of Alhambra, Algarva #168 and the Carruthers Foundation as well as LCDS stakeholders.

Alhambra Fun Day

"The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We didn't let a little rain dampen our spirits; we adapted the plan and had a very successful and fun-filled 12th Annual Alhambra Fun Day. On June 18th, there were 31 teams from all around the Southwest, close to 350 people, that met again at the Legacy Centre in Thedford for a day of fun, friendship, activity, entertainment and (most of all) delicious food. We want to thank the International Order of Alhambra, Algarva #168 for all of their support for this much loved yearly event. If you would like information on next year's event, please contact Jerry Knight (jknight@lcsd.on.ca)



Pictured at right are:

Top Picture—Bill, Colin, Bryan and Ryan enjoying the day.

Bottom Picture—Anna-Marie making some music.

Huron Cove Serves up Proceeds for LCDS

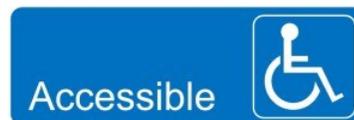
Every year, Huron Cove owners Bill and Angela Salaris choose a special day to graciously donate the entire daily proceeds from their restaurant to LCDS. On Tuesday, July 8th, Huron Cove restaurant in Forest raised \$2,200! The success of this day is made possible with the help of the Huron Cove staff, restaurant patrons, and volunteers from LCDS. Thank you Bill and Angela and the staff at Huron Cove for your generosity and commitment to LCDS!!



Pictured above are: Bill Salaris from Huron Cove, Trevor from LCDS, Adelle Stewardson-Manager of Fund Development and Nick Salaris-Property Manager

Accessibility Day in Forest

The 4th Annual Accessibility Day was held on July 5th at the Kimball Hall in Forest. People were invited to use a mobility device to navigate through Forest. Kenya, Charlotte and Shelly attended this year's accessibility day. Two of the ladies rode the Ricksycle to the event and joined the tour to the Legion and back. People were excited to see and try out the Ricksycle. People spoke about the barriers in our community that need to be recognized in order to make it easier for people with disabilities to get around. The ladies were very happy to meet Olympic Sledge hockey player, Tyler McGregor, and hear his inspirational story.



"It's not what's missing, it's what's there" (2014 Paralympic Motto)

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@lcsd.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!



Annual Golf Tournament



Pictured above is the Woods Pearson & Associates team: Todd McNeil, Ken Williams, Don Pearson and Dave Mallick

On July 17th, 2014 the LCDS/Woods Pearson & Associates Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held at Widder Station Golf Course in Thedford.

This year 140 golfers were blessed with beautiful weather and perfect conditions for a day filled with golf, 50/50

draws and lots of prizes.

The Charity Golf Tournament is held every year to raise money for the LCDS Weekend Recreation Program which provides recreational and leisure opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and much needed respite for over 40 families within Lambton County. The tournament was extremely exciting this

year, with some returning golfers and some brand new golfers; all of whom had a great time.

Golfers were kept busy with activities ranging from 50/50 draws, a challenge to beat the Banker (Andrew Warder of RBC) and two chances to win \$10,000 with a hole in one courtesy of RBC Bank and a putting contest courtesy of Fabien Jagoo of the Cooperators. There were many opportunities to bid on prizes at our silent auction, which included tickets to the Victoria Playhouse, a Detroit Tigers game and many fine crafted decorative pieces donated by local businesses. This year's golf tournament raised over \$20,000 for the Weekend Recreation Program. Sincere thanks goes to our title sponsor Woods Pearson & Associates, and to all of our other sponsors and golfers whose support is vital to our success with this event every year!



Pork BBQ

On Wednesday August 13th, the Lion's Club of Petrolia once again partnered with LCDS to host their Annual Charity Pork Barbecue. Guests from all over Lambton County came together to enjoy delicious local pulled pork, corn on the cob and a variety of salads, vegetables, homemade pies made by Catering by Kitchen Creations and cookies donated by Karen Wilson, the "Petrolia Cookie Lady". The musical stylings of Chris Molyneaux and Mike Blackmore provided the guests with a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere while eating their dinner.

LCDS would like to thank Lambton County Pork Producers (LCPP) for their generous sponsorship of this event. Another huge thank you goes to the Lion's Club of Petrolia, for without all of their tireless effort this event would not be possible. Every year the Lion's Club of Petrolia donates their time and energy to plan this event and we are extremely grateful for all of their help!

5th Annual

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Please present this coupon for \$2 off admission at Fusion on Friday, November 7th, 2014 or Saturday, November 8th, 2014.

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**New location for 2014!!*

DEGROOTS | 1840 London Line | Sarnia, ON

Friday, November 7th, 2014 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Saturday, November 8th, 2014 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Tickets \$10 and are available online, at Degroofs Nurseries or at all RBC Branches in Sarnia Lambton, LCDS and Agoya Fitness Studio.

All Proceeds to

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One person at a time.

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2015 is the 60th Anniversary year for LCDS!

Watch for announcements of exciting events and activities in 2015 to celebrate 60 years!

Forest Community Connections proudly presents...

CARNIVAL

Annual Banquet
Friday, September 26, 2014
at the Forest Legion
58 Albert Street
Doors open at 5pm & Dinner at 6pm



- ◆ Roast Beef Dinner
- ◆ Door Prizes
- ◆ 50/50 Draw
- ◆ Live Entertainment with *Second Wind*

Tickets: \$17.00 (adult)
\$9.00 (children 6-12 yrs.)
Children Under 6 Free
\$5.00 (dance only)

Tickets Available at:
339 Centre Street Petrolia
or by calling
519-882-0933



New Interim Executive Director

Executive Director, Candace Burchart-Etienne is currently off work on an extended medical leave of absence. On August 18th, 2014, the LCDS Board of Directors announced that Maureen MacSorley had been appointed Interim Executive Director until Candace is well enough to return to her duties. Maureen is well qualified to lead the organization with over thirty years of experience at LCDS most recently as Director of Operations. Maureen's commitment and passion for LCDS are evident in her work and in her interactions with agency stakeholders. Maureen will continue to work closely with and be supported by the LCDS Leadership Team. The Board is confident that Maureen will continue to lead LCDS in the strategic direction that has been established.



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