

CELEBRATING



YEARS STRONG.  
WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS.

Volume 1 April 2025

# Community Connections NEWSLETTER



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**HAPPY SPRING  
FROM  
COMMUNITY LIVING  
CHATHAM-KENT!**

# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

## PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY



**Special  
Olympics  
Ontario**

### #ChooseToInclude

Community Living Chatham-Kent (CLC-K) was proud to support Special Olympics Ontario by purchasing #ChooseToInclude donuts!

These treats were not only delicious, but also a meaningful contribution to a great cause.

100% of the proceeds from the sales of these donuts go directly to supporting Special Olympics' daily community sports programs.





## PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed annually on March 21st. It's a global awareness day that aims to raise public understanding about Down syndrome, promote inclusion, and advocate for people's rights, well-being, and dignity. The date was chosen to symbolize the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome, which causes Down syndrome.

"Funky Sock Day" is often celebrated in conjunction with World Down Syndrome Day. Wearing brightly colored, mismatched, or funky socks has become a symbolic gesture of support for people who have Down syndrome.

The idea behind wearing funky socks is to promote uniqueness and inclusivity, as each sock, like each person, is different in its own way.

Community Living Chatham-Kent was proud to rock our socks in support of **World Down Syndrome Day**



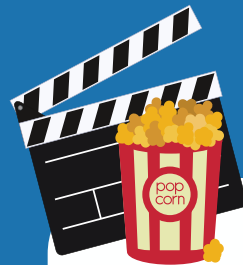
## PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY



Samantha, Kelly, Amber, Trevor and Marius had a blast making Valentine's crafts with Natasha from The Co.!



Outward Bound had a slam dunk of a time at the Harlem Globetrotter's game! What a great way to score some fun!



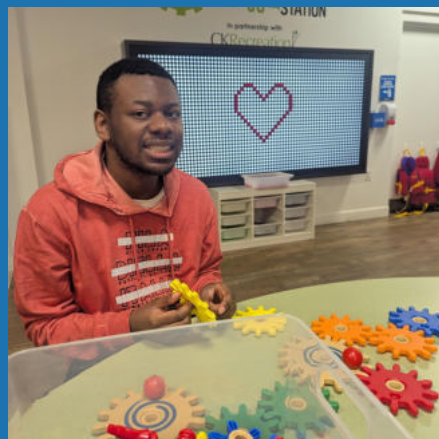
Lynn went to see Paddington in Peru at the movie theatre, and ran into a few characters from another one of her favourite movies!

## PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY

As a part of David's goal to bake once a month, DSP Michelle assisted David with baking heart-shaped sugar cookies for Valentine's Day!



A rainy day didn't stop Toko from enjoying the Imagination Station at CK Museum.



A special thank you to the Cornell School of Irish Dance for their St. Patrick's Day visit and performance!







## UPCOMING EVENTS

# COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

VISIT CLC-K FOR MORE INFORMATION!



## BLUE AND GREEN DAY

May 1 DON'T FORGET TO WEAR BLUE AND GREEN, AND  
LIGHT UP YOUR HOME AND BUSINESS!

## FLAG RAISING AND BBQ

May 2

JOIN US AT THE CIVIC CENTRE AT 11:30AM  
FOR OUR FLAG RAISING FOLLOWED BY BBQ



## BOX LUNCH AND BOX LUNCH FOR KIDS

May 8 and May 9 PURCHASE YOUR LUNCHES AT CLC-K.CA

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

May 24

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 70 YEARS! TICKETS  
AVAILABLE AT CLC-K.CA



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BILL'S BOWL-A-THON

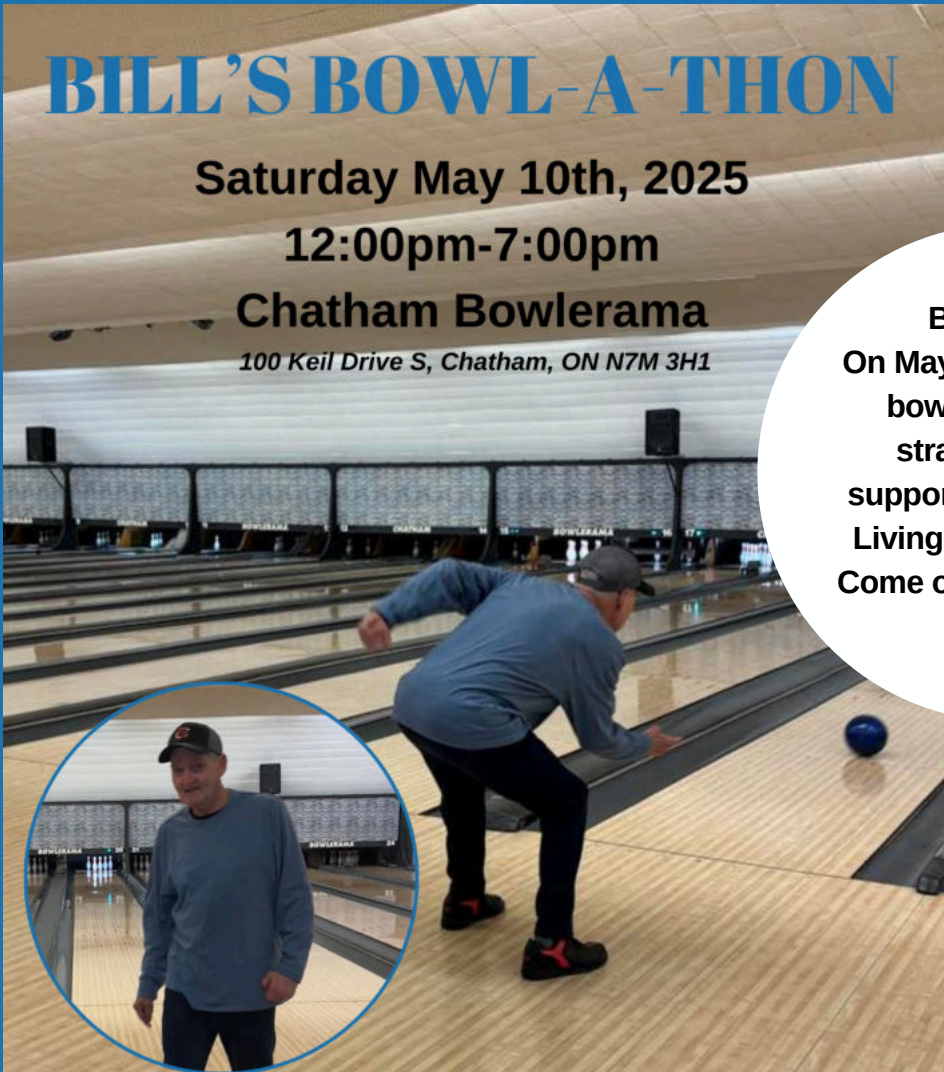
Saturday May 10th, 2025

12:00pm-7:00pm

Chatham Bowlerama

100 Keil Drive S, Chatham, ON N7M 3H1

Bill is back!  
On May 10th, Bill will be  
bowling for seven  
straight hours in  
support of Community  
Living Chatham-Kent!  
Come out and cheer him  
on!



Bill Labadie, an avid bowler, is thrilled to host his **4th BOWL-A-THON** in support of meaningful and inclusive opportunities for children who have diverse abilities through Community Living Chatham-Kent.

If you are interested in donating to Bill's fundraiser, please  
contact Doreen at (519) 359-9798



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**  
presented by Waste Connections  
Canada, is back at Willow Ridge on  
**June 14!**

Join us for a day on the green, a chance  
to win a brand new car, and enjoy a  
delicious burger buffet.

Father's day weekend plans solved! ✓  
Book your foursome at [clc-k.ca/events](http://clc-k.ca/events)



**We know you love it!**  
**Food Crawl is back, and we are travelling**  
**the world in one evening!**

Join us as we visit Yardie Vibez, Thai  
Kitchen, Gurkha Lounge, and Mamma  
Maria's (for Albanian food) with a landing  
back in North America at Boston Pizza!

We want to see your tackiest tourist outfits  
this year, as we explore the sights!  
**Tickets on sale early May!**





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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### AKTION CLUB

The Aktion Club, a community service group supported by the Kiwanis Club of Chatham-Kent and Ridgeway, recently gathered to celebrate an incredible 20-year partnership!

While enjoying a delicious pizza luncheon, the group reminisced, shared proud moments, and reflected on the impact they've made together. Congratulations to the Aktion Club on this monumental occasion!



### ROB MCLANDRESS MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

The Rob McLandress Make a Dream Come True Fund was made possible through a bequest to Community Living Chatham-Kent by the late Father James Williams. Father Williams was an ongoing supporter of the work of Community Living Chatham-Kent and his bequest was made in honour of Rob McLandress, whose family he was very close to.

**The application period is open until April 11.**

For more information visit:  
[www.clc-k.ca/our-impact/](http://www.clc-k.ca/our-impact/).



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## WORK ANNIVERSARIES



# Congrats!



### Anniversaries

January:

Cassidy Swackhammer – 5 years

February:

Ron Coristine – 35 years

Amanda Cartwright – 10 years

Lawrie Maris – 10 years

Candace Dunn – 5 years

March:

Donna Benoit – 20 years





# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

## ACCESSIBILITY



The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) is intended to reduce and remove barriers for people who have diverse abilities, in hopes that Ontario can become more accessible and inclusive for everyone. Collaboration among businesses, organizations, communities and all levels of government is key to reaching this goal.

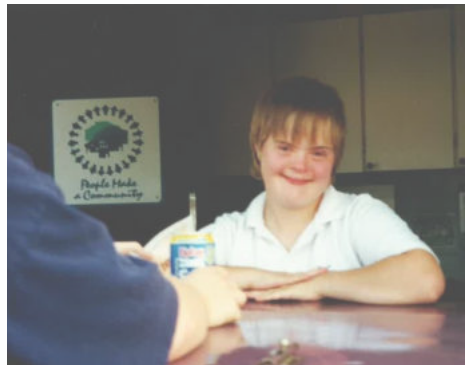
Community Living Chatham-Kent attains the highest standard to meet accessibility achievements to accommodate people who access services, employees and visitors. Recently, a new fully accessible vehicle was purchased for one of our locations. This vehicle can accommodate three passengers using wheelchairs or up to ten passengers without wheelchairs.

This addition underscores our commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that everyone can access our services comfortably and safely.



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## 2025 Everybody Campaign

As we proudly celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> year at Community Living Chatham-Kent, we reflect on our journey since 1955, and the evolution of our organization.

Our commitment to promoting inclusion, providing essential services, and advocating for the rights of people who have diverse abilities, is always at the heart of our efforts.

This milestone is not just a celebration of our progress, but a call to action for our future. We invite you to join us in making a lasting impact. Your generous donation will help us:

**Bridge the digital divide by improving access to technology for people living in rural communities.**

**Enrich lives by enhancing our recreational and social opportunities to foster a sense of community and belonging.**

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you and continuing to promote inclusion and empowerment in our community. Together, we can create a brighter future for everyone.

**To donate to the Everybody Campaign, please follow the link on our homepage:  
[www.clc-k.ca](http://www.clc-k.ca)**

Interested in making a gift to Community Living Chatham-Kent in your will?  
Visit: <https://www.willpower.ca/charities/community-living-chatham-kent> for more information.





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*"Those we love don't go away,  
they walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near.  
Loved, missed, and very dear."*

- Alex MacLean

*in  
loving  
memory*

**Ann Beatty**

**Mary Devereux**

**Jonathan Daniel Stone**

**Scott Paine**

**Larry Moore**

**Keegan Wright**

**Kevin Van Dyk**

**Anthony Fraser**

**Gabriel Trepanier**

**Alfred "Andy" Kenny**

*If you are interested in donating in memory of a loved one, please contact Jenny at [jmcgregor@clc-k.ca](mailto:jmcgregor@clc-k.ca).  
Donating in memory of someone special is a meaningful way to honour their life, create a lasting impact,  
and ensure that their influence continues beyond their lifetime.*



# THANK YOU CHATHAM-KENT FOR



## YEARS OF SUPPORT!

**Purchase tickets for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at [clc-k.ca](http://clc-k.ca)**

