



# Community Connections

## NEWSLETTER



### In This Issue:

- Participating In The Community
- Community Living Month
- Upcoming Events
- Announcements
- Service Anniversaries

### Community Living Ontario Day At The Legislature

*Pictured Above*

Representatives from Community Living Chatham Kent with Chatham-Kent-Leamington MPP, and Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness the Honourable Trevor Jones, at the annual Day At The Legislature for Community Living Ontario

## Message from our Executive Director



Community Living Chatham-Kent's 70th Anniversary Gala was on May 24th, at the Everest Convention Centre.

One hundred and seven (107) attendees, celebrated the agency. The venue, food, music, photo-booth, and Leaders Within speakers (Jackie C., and Sam R.) were terrific. Troy Calaezzi was an excellent Master of Ceremonies.

A big thank-you goes out to the following:

North Kent Wind, Photobooth Sponsor, Lana Downer-Arispe  
South Kent Wind, Photobooth Sponsor, Ashley Church-Crawford  
European Construction Trades Group, Table Sponsor  
Optimist Club of Chatham, Friends of Community Living Sponsor, Steve Tuinstra

It was wonderful to have Mayor Darrin Canniff and his wife Christine, Municipality General Manager Bruce McAllister and his wife Lisa, current Board Members Liz Zantingh, Tony Carrington, and Gary Oriet, past Board Members Michele Rice, Val Oriet, and Doug Toland, former Executive Director Lu-Ann Cowell, and Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce CEO Rory Ring and his wife Michelle in attendance.

I extend great appreciation to the 70th Anniversary Gala Committee, Bridget Tuinstra, Ashley Unger, Candise May, Jenny McGregor, Angela Corso, Brittany Emery, Amber Huffman, and Erin O'Brien.

An incredible milestone for an agency that is a leader of leaders.

Sincerely,



Ron Coristine  
Executive Director  
Community Living Chatham-Kent





# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY GALA





## PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY



Tammy and Drew enjoyed an evening out at the *Blue Suede and Rhinestones: Dolly Meets Elvis* performance at the Capital Theatre. The duo loved the music and waited after the show for a meet and greet!



Stewart, Tracey, and Stephanie took a trip to Petrolia in June and enjoyed the music, delicious food, and beautiful weather at PizzaFest 2025. A slice of summer fun!



Charlie had a blast during the Military Heritage Day event at the Chatham-Kent Municipal Airport. He loved watching the planes soar high and do flips mid-flight!





## PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY

Craig celebrated twenty-three (23) years of employment at Foodland Tilbury. Craig's journey began as a co-op student. With the support of JOBWORX-Employment Services, he built strong job skills and confidence in his role. Congratulations to Craig!



Doug and Gerald had a great time exploring the history and culture at Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. The Village is a recreated longhouse village that reflects the lifestyle of the Haudenosaunee people from around 1,000 years ago.



Batter up! Tod, Todd, Randy, and James had a great time cheering on the Chatham-Kent Barnstormers at the game, and getting their photo taken with mascot, Lefty!



## PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY AKTION CLUB



In a first for Pet and Wildlife Rescue (PAWR), a very appreciative bunny accepted a cheque from the Aktion Club of Chatham! The Club raised funds, and collected beds and blankets to help animals at PAWR.

*Great  
job*

In June, the Aktion Club of Chatham hosted a Car wash and BBQ and collected donations to support their initiatives.





## COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH



Community Living Month 2025 was filled with many memorable moments. As this year marked the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Community Living Chatham-Kent, we decided to celebrate in a big way! These are just some of the highlights...



## COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

### Flag Raising

The month began with a flag-raising ceremony, which included the presentation of the Rob McLandress Make a Dream Come True Fund to Jim C. and Daniel K.

Jim, who loves wolves, will have the opportunity to visit a wolf sanctuary in Timmins, while Daniel will fulfill his dream of visiting the Toronto Zoo. Maple City Bakery was also presented with the Joyce M. Carr Award for their inclusive employment practices.

We extend our sincere gratitude to OPSEU Local 148, Maple City Bakery, Schinkel's Gourmet Meats, Councillor Brock McGregor and our Leaders Within speaker Teanna J. for their invaluable contributions to the event's success!

### Library Café

Thanks to a generous donation from Postma Heating and Cooling, the Library Café served over 600 complimentary beverages throughout the month of May! Thank you to Postma for continuing to support this initiative.

### Box Lunch and Box Lunch for Kids

Community Living Chatham-Kent's Box Lunch, and Box Lunch for Kids were a great success. This year, we partnered with Fuel 4 You+ who prepared 1,263 box lunches, and 811 box lunches for kids, marking an increase of 395 lunches from last year!

A special thank-you to Fuel 4 You+, Enbridge, Enbridge Fueling Futures, DKI-First Choice Disaster Restoration, North Kent Wind, South Kent Wind, and our amazing volunteers who helped to pack and deliver over 2000 meals!

### Chatham-Kent Barnstormers

To close out Community Living Month, The Chatham-Kent Barnstormers hosted CLC-K for a special home game on May 31st. Lisa M. and Bill L. had the honour of throwing the ceremonial first pitch. Thank you to the Barnstormers for hosting us for this milestone celebration.



# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS



FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
VISIT  
[CLCK.CA/EVENTS](http://CLCK.CA/EVENTS)



# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### ANNUAL VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST

In April, we had the honour of celebrating our volunteers at our Annual Volunteer Breakfast. It was a wonderful morning full of memorable speeches from Mayor Darrin Canniff, Leaders Within speaker Craig, and our special guest speakers Harry Muir from the Chatham-Kent Barnstormers.

A special congratulations to Joe Pinsonneault of the Dover Rod and Gun Club and Leon Leclair, who were presented with the Joan Olive Risdon Award of Distinction—named after a dedicated volunteer and person supported by CLC-K.

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers. Your contributions create a more inclusive, connected, and caring Chatham-Kent.



### BILL LABADIE BOWL-A-THON

In May, Bill Labadie, a former Special Olympics gold-medal bowler, returned to Bowlerama in Chatham to host his 4<sup>th</sup> Bowl-a-Thon, after a six-year hiatus. The community of Chatham-Kent rallied around Bill for this inspiring event that showcased the power of inclusion and community spirit.

This year, Bill raised a record-breaking \$7,000, bowled for seven hours straight, and had over 80 strikes! The funds raised are earmarked for camp experiences for children who have diverse abilities.

A special thank you to Bill, Lorie and Greg Gore and Doreen Furness for their support in making this event possible!



# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our annual golf tournament returned to Willow Ridge Golf Course raising over \$12,000 for CLC-K. Thank you to all those who made this event a success including our 24 teams, and the following:

**Presenting Sponsor:** Waste Connections of Canada

**Meal and Hole-In-One Sponsor:** Chatham Honda

**Gold Sponsor** Mathews Dinsdale & Clark LLP

**Cart Sponsors:** Optimist Club of Chatham

**Hole Sponsors:** JOBWORX, KPMG, Linton Family Alexander & Houle and Baker Tilly Kraig Quagliotto, Cascades Casino, Green Shield Pharmacy, Ben Corso, Bayside Brewery, Chatham Barnstormers, Red Barn Brewery, and St. Clair College.

**Prize Sponsors:** OPSEU Local 148, Sons of Kent, Top Shelf Golf Simulator, Surf Canada, Sandbagger, and Triple Bogey Brewing Co.

**Volunteers:** Angela C., Bridget T., Denise E., Bill L., and Judy M.

**Leaders Within Speaker:** Tod K.



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who attended our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on June 24, and helped us reflect on our accomplishments over the year. A special thank you to our guest speakers: Craig W. from our Leaders Within Program, MCCSS Program Supervisor Nathalie Grenier, Board Member for CLO Nicole Canzoneri, Chatham-Kent Leamington MP Dave Epp and Mayor of Chatham-Kent, Darrin Canniff.

Thank you to our outgoing board members Leon Leclair and Dr. Kayla Murphy for their service, and a special welcome to our new board members, Joe Pinsonneault and Doug Toland.



## CLC-K RECEIVES DIVERSITY AWARD FROM CHATHAM-KENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Community Living Chatham-Kent was honoured to receive the Diversity Award at the 137th Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce. This award recognizes organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion within the community.

The Business Excellence Awards ceremony was a night filled with celebration and recognition of the outstanding contributions made by local businesses and organizations.

For over 70 years, Community Living Chatham-Kent has been a steadfast advocate for people who have diverse abilities, championing their inclusion and participation in all aspects of community life. Our work has always centered on the value and dignity of each person, regardless of their ability, background or circumstance. Even when it was not widely accepted, we stood by our belief that inclusion is not optional; it is essential.

Receiving the Diversity Award is not just a recognition of past achievements, but also a motivation to continue striving for greater inclusivity. We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with local businesses and community partners in creating a more inclusive Chatham-Kent.





# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 July 2025

## RECENT WORK ANNIVERSARIES



### MAY

Jackie Caza - 35 years

Christine Casier - 15 years

Carolyn Lavigne - 15 years

Megan McDermott - 15 years

Amanda Kelly - 10 years

Sandy Morrow - 10 years

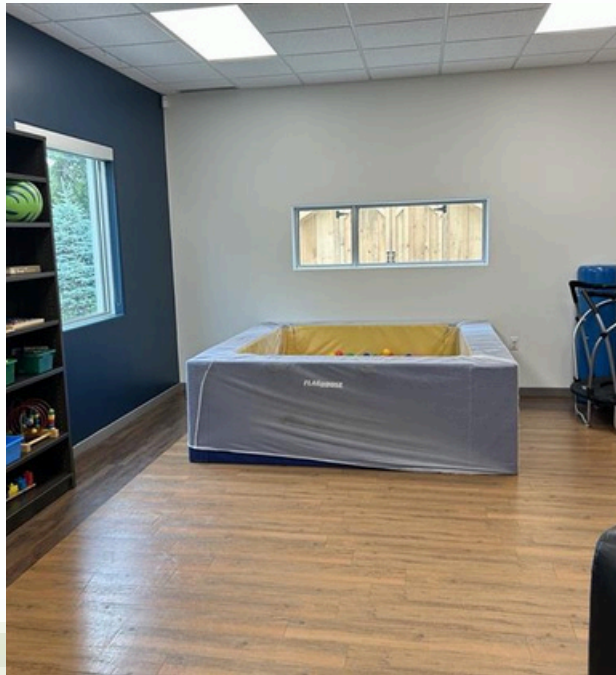


*Congrats!*

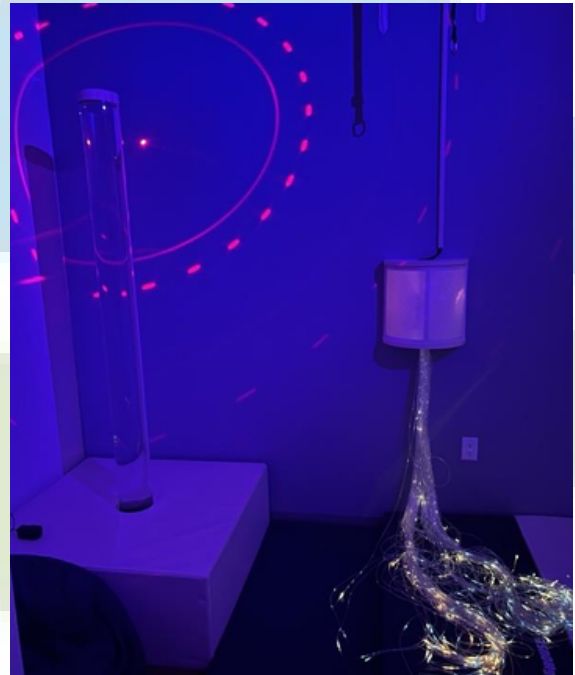


# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

## ACCESSIBILITY



**Multi-Functional Recreation**



**Snoezelen Room**

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, one of our locations was renovated to accommodate the relocation of the Children's Respite Program. This new location is barrier-free, featuring larger, more accessible rooms, all situated on one floor. Pictured above are two of the new spaces.





# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 July 2025

*"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*

**Mary Devereux  
Jonathan Daniel Stone  
Scott Paine  
Kevin Van Dyk  
Anthony Fraser  
Gabriel Trepanier  
Alfred "Andy" Kenny  
Tim Hare  
Marie Le Tourneau**

*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.*



# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

**From all of us here at  
CLC-K, have a safe and  
enjoyable summer!**

