

In This Issue

- Strategic Plan
- CLASS Vision
- Our Mission
- Our Values
- Class Picnic & AGM
- Social Assistance Review
- Developmental Service Ontario
- Thank you
- Auction Update
- Virtual Room
- Babies
- Memorials
- Greetings from Human Resources
- Mission Trip
- Celebrations
- Volunteering
- Become a member of Community Living Access Support Services

Strategic Plan

Yes it's official! At the CLASS Annual General Meeting, June 26, 2011 the CLASS membership formally approved the Strategic Plan. The Board of Directors appreciates the effort so many of you, our stakeholders, made to attend meetings to discuss your ideas, so thank you very much. It is important to know what you are thinking so "we" have a common vision.

Community Living Access Support Services Highlights of the Strategic Plan

Vision

To Inspire Possibilities!

Our Mission

To Promote Choice for People with Disabilities

Our Values

In all the work we do we strive for excellence

Accountability
Integrity
Dignity
Respect
Creativity

we will be mutually responsible
we will be open and honest with each other
we will respect each other
we will be considerate of each other
we will be imaginative, inventive and innovative

Contact Us

89 Culver Street
Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 2V5
t - 519-426-0007
f - 519-426-9549
access@kwic.com
www.communitylivingaccess.ca

Board of Directors

President
Posie Ross
Vice-President
Jennie Chanda
Treasurer
Heidy VanDyk
Directors
Amy Chanda
Patricia Stengel
Jennifer Baic
Paula Herr

Strategic Directions: The Plan for Class for the Next 3-5 Years

1: Develop a Communications Plan

CLASS needs to improve communication throughout the organization and in the community.

#2: Conduct an Operational Audit

CLASS will find new ways to improve efficiencies and use resulting resources to support people and technological development.

3 Implement a People Development System

A People Development System (PDS) will be established which will focus on learning and development in order to support qualified, engaged and capable teams.

4: Review Service Delivery

Interactions with people receiving supports need to be improved and people need to have access to more opportunities and choice.

CLASS will keep you up to date with the activities it is taking to strengthen the organization based on what you have told us.

If you have any questions about the plan please contact the Board of Directors at 519-426-007, ext 203

Posie Ross, President

Funnies!

Two clowns eating soup, one looks over to the other and says..
"does this taste funny to you?"

Two antennas meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The
ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!

Our New Website is Live!
Come visit us at www.communitylivingaccess.ca



CLASS PICNIC & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) JULY 26, 2011

It was a beautiful sunny day for the CLASS picnic and Annual General Meeting held at The School, St Williams. Ninety two people attended and the KFC, salads, and desserts caused many of us to return for seconds...and some of us thirds!!

The CLASS picnic is always a family event and the Steeper family were out in full force as seen in the picture....

The AGM was special this year because CLASS is celebrating its twentieth anniversary. Certificates were given out recognizing the length of time various people had either been supported or employed by CLASS. It is amazing, and a tribute to the organization, that there are twelve people supported and thirteen people employed who have been involved since CLASS started in 1991.

The membership was presented with and approved the CLASS Strategic Plan. On behalf of the Board, thank you to all of you who contributed your suggestions and comments.

Three of the four vacancies on the Board of Directors were filled when the membership re-elected Jen Chanda and Patricia Stengel to a second term and elected Paula Herr to her first term. It is a delight to welcome Paula to the Board. She brings a lot valuable experience and will be a real asset to our work together.

If you have suggestions for next year's picnic or are interested in becoming a Board member please feel free to contact the CLASS Board of Directors by calling 519-426-0007, ext 203. Your ideas and input always make things better!!

Posie Ross, President





Social Assistance Review

A Provincial Commission has been established to review social assistance, which includes Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The purpose of the review is to consider all aspects of social assistance to identify ways it can be improved. There are two opportunities for public comment.

- “A Discussion Paper: Issues and Ideas” was released in June and comments were due by September 1, 2011. The discussion paper and a workbook are available online through www.socialassistancereview.ca;
- An “Options Paper” will be released in the fall 2011 and comments received on this will be the basis for the recommendations to the government.

While summer is a difficult time to bring people together for consultation, both Community Living Ontario (CLO) and the Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS) will be forwarding comments to the Commission. You can review their input through www.communitylivingontario.ca and www.oasonline.ca respectively.

Locally the Self Advocates in Norfolk & Haldimand (Voices Unlimited) met August 15, 2011 to discuss concerns with social assistance. Most of the issues identified relate to ODSP including:

- The current ODSP benefit of \$1,053 is too low to cover the monthly expenses people have. It is not indexed to inflation and so people receiving the benefit actually have less money each year;
- The OSSP system is not user friendly and often causes undue anxiety by sending letters to ODSP recipients saying they are cut off, when the problem is really the ODSP staff have made a mistake;
- People on ODSP find that professionals, such as dentists, will not take them as patients because of the amount of paper work ODSP requires;
- When a person on ODSP works, they need to be able to retain more of their income before the government claws back some of the ODSP benefit. It is difficult when people work because there is no consistency in what they receive monthly from ODSP, so it is hard to budget.

ODSP staff have accepted an invitation, from the Self Advocates, to come in the spring and provide an ODSP information meeting. Notice will be given when dates and locations are known. CLASS will notify you when the second opportunity for input is announced.

Posie Ross, President



DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES ONTARIO

HAMILTON-NIAGARA REGION

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) Hamilton-Niagara opened July 4, 2011, and is one of nine agencies recently set up across Ontario. The purpose of the DSOs is to help people with intellectual disabilities and their families to access services in their communities more easily including:

- residential supports;
- caregiver respite;
- community participation supports (like recreation, volunteering, employment, or in-home supports);
- professional and specialized services;
- person-directed planning;
- supports to help people become more involved in their communities.

The DSO Access Coordinators provide people requiring support and their network with:

- information;
- recommendations on support options;
- support to apply for services.

In Haldimand and Norfolk the Access Coordinator is Christine Harrop. Her telephone number is 1-905-296-0124 or toll free number as below to have your call transferred to Christine.

Service Locations

The DSO Office for Haldimand Norfolk is located at:

Haldimand Norfolk REACH, 101 Nanticoke Creek Parkway
P.O. Box 5054, Townsend ON, N0A 1S0

The DSO Hamilton –Niagara Region’s main office is located at:

140 King Street East, Suite 4
Hamilton, ON L8N 1B2

Phone Numbers

Haldimand Norfolk: 1-905-296-0104

DSO Hamilton- Niagara Toll free: **1-877-376-4674**

DSO Provincial Website

There will be a provincial website for the DSO which will link to each of the nine regional DSO websites. Until this is developed information is available through www.contacthamilton.ca. This site provides links to a variety of information including updates from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.





Thank You



On May 27th and 28th Blue Star Ford Lincoln in Simcoe held its Charity Test Drive. Community Living Access Support Services (CLASS) was fortunate enough to be one of the charities invited to participate in this fun event. As a result of people participating in this event, Blue Star Ford has donated \$110.00 to CLASS.

We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to go and drive a Ford. Again, thanks to Blue Star Ford for arranging this great opportunity. We hope to be part of this event again next year.



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our local Mark's Work Wearhouse for their generous donation of clothing. So far we have been able to raise over \$1,600.00 through sales of the items.

Auction Update

The "Indulgence Auction" has been the major annual fundraising event here at Community Living Access Support Services for the past 13 years. We are currently exploring other fundraising opportunities. There will be no formal auction this year; donations gathered will be used in various mini fundraising events throughout the year such as raffles and silent auctions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make the auction possible.

Cathy Ryan, Volunteer Coordinator

Virtual Room

The Virtual Room continues to be available at two locations:

- The School, St. Williams
- CLASS office, Simcoe

If you would like to book a time or want more information please contact Cathy at 519-426-0007 ext. 111.



Babies

Ten Little Fingers, Ten Little Toes, The sweetest of smiles, and a cute little nose...All these add up to the same precious thing. A Baby, the greatest gift life can bring.

Congratulations to:

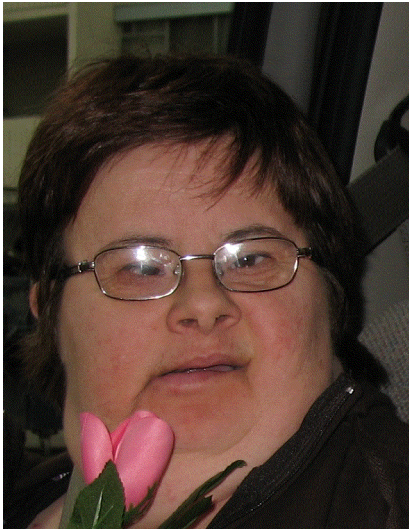
Damara McKenzie
Meghan Bari
Krista Gallagher
Hofleen Thompson

Ashley Follington
Chantel McDonald
Mary Carpenter
Connie Priddle



Memorials - In Loving Memory

*Janice Weatherston
August 27, 1949 – May 27, 2011*



*Gayla Jackson
October 7, 1962 – December 17, 2010*





Greetings from Human Resources!!!

Well, 2011 has been a busy year so far. As CLASS is celebrating its 20 year anniversary, I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate some milestones in the organization.

We have 12 staff who are also celebrating 20 years with the Agency. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment and shows a strong commitment towards the principles that CLASS upholds. Congratulations to Jen Bootsma, Linda DaSilva, Jody Dedrick, Michele Druiett, Bonnie Edwards, Vivian Fuller, Louise Goos, Tricia Morris, Sandy Pond, Patti Ransom, Karen Sinnesael, and Kim Slavinsky.

Lisa Varey is celebrating 10 years with CLASS, another significant milestone.

Five years of committed service has been provided by Meghan Bari, Ashley Follington, Krista Gallagher, Nicole Lightheart and Ken Misener. Congratulations to all of you.

Celebrating one year of service are Mary Farkas, Terry Helmer, Greg Joannette, Courtney Kozicki, and Cheryl Wilks.

Finally, a warm welcome to new staff who have joined us in 2011. Welcome to Tammy Ayres, Amanda Baskerville, Carrie Butler, Vicky Grondin, Michelle Hazen, Hope McDowell, and Janet Thickins.

And to the 77 other staff who work tirelessly promoting the Vision, Mission and Values of CLASS, I thank you as well.

We have again had the wonderful opportunity of hiring summer students through the Canada Summer Jobs program. Andrew Newton returned for another summer to assist with multiple projects in the office, lending his expertise to all of us in a calm, professional manner. Melissa Lyne worked at The School in St. Williams operating summer programming and assisting with setup of programs to run throughout the year. Melissa was always upbeat and outgoing in her role. Congratulations to both Andrew and Melissa and I wish them the best in their upcoming school year.

Our own Michele Druiett has also had a year of hard work and education, returning to school to complete a DSW program, while continuing to work full time. Michele even used some of her vacation time for her student placement at Norfolk Association for Community Living. I applaud Michele's approach to continual learning.

The remainder of 2011 will be full of training and growth for the organization. Our annual "Ketchup to CLASS" training days will be held between September and December, providing 2 full days of training to all staff. Staff will be trained and updated on topics related to Quality Services and Human Resources. This will be a great chance to "catch up" with each other and ensure everyone is aware and updated on exciting changes around Core Competencies, Strategic Plan, Quality Assurance Measures, AIMS database, Policies and Procedures and new legislation. I look forward to seeing everyone again at these sessions!!

Bruce Robinson, Director of Human Resources





My Family's Mission Trip

I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to our mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

As a family we worked at two different work sites:

Cangrijo – worked at the School, building a storage shed and painting the interior.

Agua Negra (“Black Water”) – worked in a Village building a house for an elderly gentleman.

Your donations went to the school and the village to help the poor in the Dominican Republic.

Thank you! Sincerely, Sandy Pond



Celebrations!

Art Exhibit & Open House

In July, Theresa DeSerrano displayed her art at the Simcoe Public Library.

I wanted to know where else I could show my work besides the Norfolk Fair and they recommended that I show my art at the Simcoe Public Library. Lynn Tremblay and Marg Rock helped me do a portfolio of my art. My support staff helped me number and safely pack my art and we took it to the library and hung several of my paintings. I am very proud of my work.

In July we had an Open House to show our new renovations and to introduce everyone to our new housemate, Justin. About 60 people came throughout the day, a lot of Justin's family came to visit. We had punch and fruit and veggie trays. I showed off my studio. Justin showed everyone his room and the new kitchen on the main floor. Sheila and Jan ran the tour of their downstairs apartment. We all had a good time. We think the visitors were impressed by our renovations and enjoyed meeting Justin.

Theresa DeSerrano.

Robert the College Student

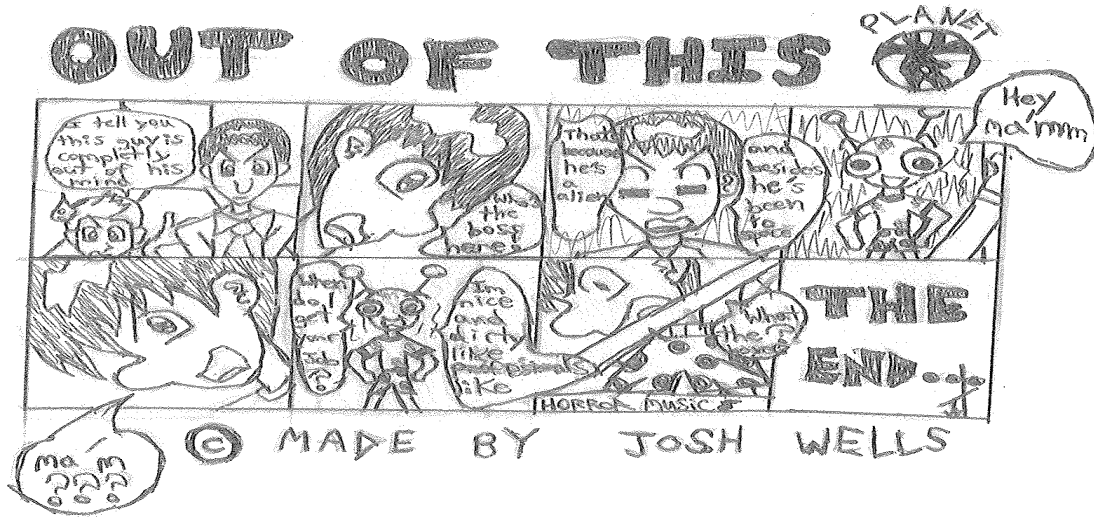
Finally, I am moving on with my life, something I've been wanting to do for a very long time. This summer I will be leaving Simcoe and moving to London taking 'Fine Arts Foundations' at Fanshawe College.

I will be continuing with my current position as cartoonist for a local paper. I am looking forward to life in the city and even more, to a better quality of life for myself and a better future.

Robert Catherwood



Celebrations - continued



Visiting Family

My sister, Sheila Walker, has been supported by NACL and CLASS for many years. One of Sheila's goals has been to visit my husband and I in Cow Head on the west coast of the island part of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2007, Sheila was escorted here by Lisa Mason, and again in 2010 by Patti Ransom, both staff members worked with Sheila through supports of CLASS. These wonderful women left their families for several days in order to help accomplish my sister's fondest wish, and I am very grateful to them.



During those visits, Sheila and her companions were immersed in the majestic scenery of the Long Range Mountains, the spruce and birch forests, and the rugged Atlantic shoreline. We watched live theatre performances, enjoyed a boat cruise in fiord- like Western Brook Pond with Patti, visited local historic sites and a beautiful seaside garden, met some of Sheila's friends from previous trips here, dined on marvelous meals, and sat on our patio to chat.



Lisa started a photo album of Sheila's visit, and Patti added pictures from the second trip, so now Sheila has a permanent memento and we all have fond memories.

My humble thanks to NACL and to CLASS for their selfless work that makes the lives of supported persons and their families that much richer.

Karen Bennett





Volunteering

This is the house that Kevin and Michele redecorated. This is the before picture. As you can see Kevin's cat Honey thinks she has found a new home.

Kevin had told us that he would like a volunteer to help him build a doll house that he could give to his niece. We had two staff members come forward offering doll houses they already had.

After generous donations of paint from Simcoe Paint and Wallpaper and fabric from Ann's Gifts and Home Accessories also of Simcoe as well as some furniture from a generous donor, all that was left was to find a volunteer. Michele Silverthorn offered and the renovations began.



If you are interested in making a difference in someone's life by volunteering please give Cathy a call at 519-426-0007 ext. 111. We are always looking for volunteers.

Looking for a deal? Check out the following websites

<http://www.123inkcartridges.ca>
www.pgeverydaysolutions.com

www.save.ca
www.vistaprint.com

www.pgbrandsampler.ca
www.wagjac.ca

CLASS NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter contact Shelly at shellym@kwic.com.

Presented by the CLASS Newsletter Committee

If interested in being a part of our committee, or you have a submission for the next issue, please contact Shelly at 519-426-0007 or email shellym@kwic.com

Become a member of Community Living Access Support Services

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM

Please Print

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Telephone: _____ (home) _____ (business)

Please check each that applies to you

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Relative/Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Supported Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> other Agency |

Representative

General Membership

Open to any person who supports the purposes and objects of the Organization and who pays annual membership dues, except persons employed by this Organization, any similar organization or acting as a representative of such organizations.

Associate Membership

Open to any person who supports the purposes and objects of the Organization and who pays annual membership dues, and are employed by this Organization, any similar organization or acting as a representative of such organizations.

We shall issue your receipt and membership card once we have received your payment.
 Annual Membership Fee of \$5.00 is due each January 1st.

Please check the membership you wish to purchase:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|

Please check the areas which would be of interest to you:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Committees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer (support enhancement) |

Preferred method of contact?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Would you like to receive your written correspondence by e-mail?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If yes, e-mail address to be used _____

Can we add your name to our Community Living Ontario mail out list?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Can we forward your e-mail address to Community Living Ontario?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If you require any further information, please contact
 Community Living Access Support Services
 519-426-0007

Thank you for considering a membership with our Organization