

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A group of five people are posed in a room decorated for Christmas. In the foreground, a woman with white hair, wearing a red and white Santa suit, sits on the floor with her hands clasped. She is holding a large, white gift bag with red and green polka dots. Behind her, four people are standing or sitting. On the left, a woman in a grey shirt and black pants wears a green elf hat and a Santa belt, making a peace sign. Next to her, a man in a grey shirt and black pants also wears a green elf hat and a Santa belt. In the center, a man in a grey shirt and blue jeans wears a red elf hat and a Santa belt, sitting in a black chair. On the right, a man in a grey shirt and black pants wears a red elf hat and a Santa belt, holding a brown paper bag. The room has a bulletin board with various papers and photos, a potted plant with yellow flowers, and a sign that says "Dreams" in cursive. A small Christmas tree is visible on the left side of the frame.

160 Hespeler Rd. Cambridge, ON
www.communitylivingcambridge.ca

People empowered through opportunities
and supports to realize their dreams.



Journeying together, we create opportunities to support people with developmental disabilities to realize their citizenship and aspirations.

Pause and take time to appreciate ...

"I join with the Board of Directors to express our heartfelt thanks to all who are part of this family we know as Community Living Cambridge".

The first real snowfall is happening as I sit and ponder the season. It serves as a reminder that beauty is found in the simplest of things and the strangest of places.

During this season where our lives tend to speed up and our attention is needed in ten places at once, it's important to pause and take time to appreciate the joy and blessings found in our days.

We have had much to celebrate through this fall!

Our ninth successful Fashion Show proved to be a beautiful gala event with crowd pleasing models, rocking live music and enthusiastic patrons. This night also raised some much needed funds and donations. Thanks everyone!

For the third year in a row CLC SEEDS Committee was invited to partner with the sponsor AMJ Campbell to create a float for the Cambridge Santa Claus parade. 'Whoville' came alive through the willing work of many helping hands. And, for the second year

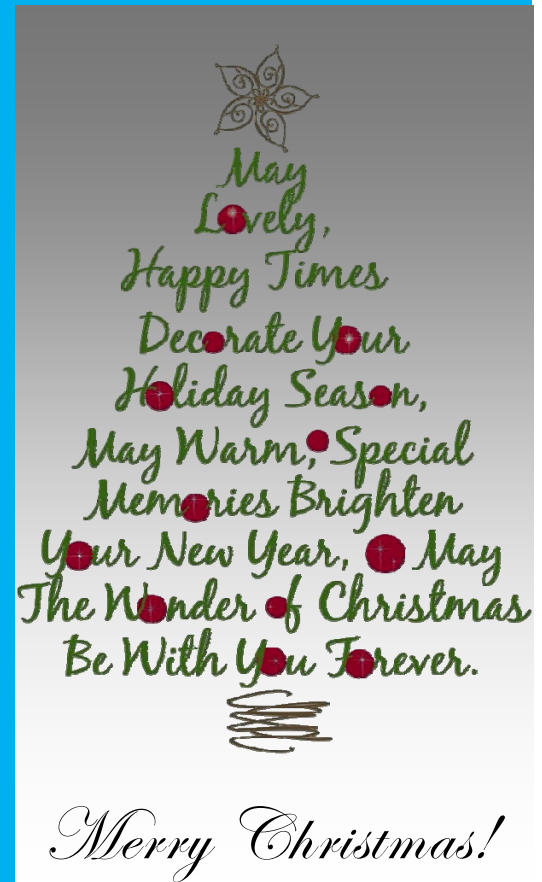


in a row, this float won the award for the Best Community Entry! The amazing duo of AMJ Campbell and CLC will once again join their creative forces for a float in the 2018 parade! Well done everyone!

It is also my pleasure to share that the team at Franklin Centre was nominated for an award at the recent Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Awards hosted by the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce. This was in recognition of the amazing transformation this team implemented in the modernized Franklin Centre. Although not the ultimate winner of the award, it was an honour to be nominated and recognized by our community. Congratulations to the Franklin Centre Team and as well to all the businesses, agencies and individuals who were recognized in the evening.

I join with the Board of Directors to express our heartfelt thanks to all who are part of this family we know as Community Living Cambridge. There are so many arms of this 'family tree' ... participants and families, generous donors, selfless volunteers, dedicated staff, a welcoming community, and the truth is each person is necessary to the success of our association.

My hope for each person is that you experience the peace, hope and love that is part of this holiday season.



Denise Gruber, Executive Director

NEWS FROM FRANKLIN CENTRE

Program Update:

We are just past the half way mark for our last session of the year! We are going to offer three sessions per year, each session will be 16 weeks. Our transition week will be Jan. 2 to 4 and the program will start on Jan. 8 and run until Apr. 27th. By extending the time we will have fewer transitions to make and we hope that this will make things easier for people. We will be sending out a full year calendar of program session dates, transition weeks and closures within the next few weeks.

We have had a great time this session with some new programs. Cards with Carla has been a big hit and we thank Carla Bentley for all her hard work in making this such a success. We also want to thank Mike Chapman, from Breathe into Motion for his yoga program- another very popular activity. Our photography group and our pallet creation group will be taking a brief rest over this session but don't worry they will return in Session 2 .

Our Open Art group had a fun time helping with the agency's float for the Hespeler Santa Claus Parade held Dec. 2nd. The theme was 'Whooville' and the staff and volunteers did a great job!



Our Special Events Group did an amazing job with organizing the Monster Mash Event. A big thank you to them and all the staff at Franklin for making it such a fun and festive afternoon! They are planning a Christmas Pizza Lunch and Cookie Decorating Event for Dec. 22.

Work Update:

We have made the decision that as of Dec. 22, 2017 we will be ending the work portion of our program. With new legislation and the anticipated increases in minimum wage it is no longer something we can sustain. We are reviewing options with those who were in this program and will be offering a Job Skills development program in the next session to assist those who wish to work in the community to prepare.



What is happening with the Sign?

We love our new sign and all "technical difficulties" have been fixed.

Winter Weather Reminders:

As we approach that time of year again just a reminder that should we need to close Franklin Centre due to weather - an announcement will be made on CHYM FM 96.7 before 7:00am. As a rule our program closes if schools are closed (not just bus cancellations but full school closures). We will also make an announcement on our Facebook page. If we are open but you feel it is unsafe for you to travel please call us at 519-621-0680 to let us know you won't be in.

Christmas Closure will be closed starting Mon. Dec. 25 & will reopen on Tue. Jan. 2nd.

Look at what we accomplished together! Thank you!



FRANKLIN CENTRE'S



WHAT'S ON CONVOY'S MIND?

Penmanship is my talent I possess more or less.

Such talent was only discovered but truly not found. Left out for paper.

You could say I am the paper mate.

Quite the interesting cause poetry at my own will.

A new found love and passion for sure but in the end these words have possessed my life.

Written by Dave Convoy

SENDING OUT THE TROOPS

Bountiful lilies to my left
an army of weeds to my right.
Together they all fight for the
same reason and
play on the same team.

The roses sprout up like the king
of the jungle
but in the end they harmonize
for the very same sad reason.
That is such a beautiful silhouette
crying down to make up for
another full-fledged day compact
pressed and complete.

Written by Dave Convoy

Santa Claus Parade 2017

Best Community Float goes to CLC! (We won again!)



The Whos' of Whoville gathered together in Franklin Centre to accept the 2017 Best Community Entry award! Thank you AMJ Campbell, SEEDs Committee of CLC and all the Volunteers.



The Steele Group were the designated judges of this year's floats. SEEDs Committee and AMJ Campbell accepting the plaque from The Steele Group.



The Whos' worked tirelessly to prepare the Whoville float in time for the 2017 Cambridge Santa Claus Parade held on Sat. Nov. 18, 2017. Not even the Grinch could steal the spirit and camaraderie of the Whos'; made up of the SEEDs Committee of CLC, Volunteers and AMJ Campbell Staff. Once again, thank you AMJ Campbell for designating Community Living Cambridge, this year and next year's, partner in the Santa Claus Parade float. We are thankful and look forward to next year's float!



From One Parent to Another...

"I believe the government needs to be educated and we need to be listened to help them understand. I'm not sure how it can be achieved, but we need to try to explore new ways to get our voices heard."

It's that time of year again where we busy ourselves with all that is Christmas and reflect on the year that has just whizzed by. It's the time of year that makes me smile and gives me a break from the sense of always being on call to deal with the serious issues of meeting the needs of supporting a family member with special needs. It is the time of year to revel in the perks of having a family member with special needs that nobody tells you about when you are first informed of your family member's diagnosis. Every Christmas is magical as you share the holidays enjoying time with wonderful people you have met throughout the years, that you would have never crossed paths with if you had not had a family member with special needs. It's that infectious feelings of excitement and happiness that your family member inspires with their enthusiasm for the season. And how they teach you to appreciate the important simple things and not get caught up in the hoopla of the holidays.

It is also a time to reflect on the events of the year that affect our loved ones quality of life and to review our plans for next year. This year there have been significant changes that have had huge impacts on the lives not just for our family member but for the families as a whole. The closures of sheltered workshops without supports or government funding has a huge negative impact. No new funding to develop fresh options for job skill training or jobs that provide equal and inclusive opportunities in a safe environment for people who would like to work and be a productive member of their community is difficult to fathom.

And then on top of that comes Bill 148! The government thinks they know what is best for our family members but they do not understand all the fine details involved in the daily lives of those who live each day supporting a family member with special needs. They do not fully appreciate the life changing impact these sweeping changes create. We need more options and support, not less. More over, the families being directly affected do not always understand the issue as they are frequently operating in survival mode and have little energy or time to invest in translating the legal lingo or reading pages of data. The sense of frustration, exhaustion, information overload and confusion can be paralyzing.

I believe the government needs to be educated and we need to be listened to help them understand. I'm not sure how it can be achieved, but we need to try to explore new ways to get our voices heard. It truly does take a village to raise a child and as they say "the squeaky wheel does gets the oil".

I will be talking with the Waterloo Regional Family Network (a group of over 1000 members!) to discuss ways we can join together with one clear voice and message. After the business of the holidays those interested in joining with me in this journey can contact me.

Paula Surdin, by a concerned Parent (pms24@sympatico.ca)

Franklin Centre won the hearts of many!

This fall, the Franklin Centre team was nominated for a Cambridge Chamber of Commerce Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Awards for their work on the transformation of ARC Industries into the new Franklin Centre.

The team has done a tremendous amount of work in a very short amount of time to create an exciting and a welcoming program in our new building. While they weren't selected for the award at the award ceremony on November 28th, the rave reviews of many participants and families and the many letters of support show the Franklin team are clearly winners in our books.

By Danny W. Dir. of Community Participation Supports

Tired of waiting for services?



VISION
People empowered through opportunities and supports to realize their dreams.

MISSION
Journeying together, we create opportunities to support people with developmental disabilities to realize their citizenship and aspirations.

COMMUNITY LIVING Cambridge

Passport Funding? STEP this way...

Community Living Cambridge offers unlimited possibilities for those wanting participation supports, and are in a position with Passport funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services or other financial means, to design and purchase services.

CLC provides services to well over 500 individuals in Cambridge. We offer a full range of established day programs to suit individual needs, ages and areas of interest. Have a look at our listing of current STEPS modules available on our website.

Feel free to contact **Christa Moniz** 519-623-7490 for further information or to design a personalized program to meet your needs and your budget.

COMMUNITY LIVING
Cambridge

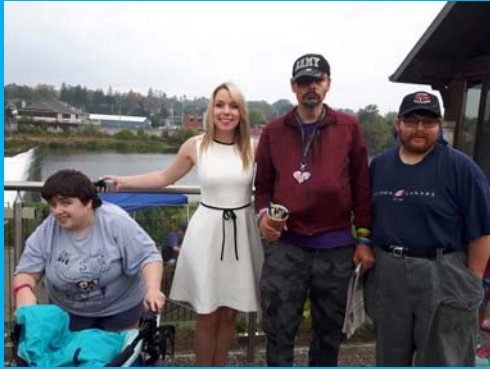
Celebrating our 60th year of Inspiring Possibilities

Let Community Living Cambridge show you the way today!

www.communitylivingcambridge.ca
519-623-7490 ext 2233 Christa Moniz
CMoniz@clcambidge.ca

CTV's 'News at Five' broadcast from the Cambridge Mill

"Tiffany was impressed that Marc took time to talk to her."



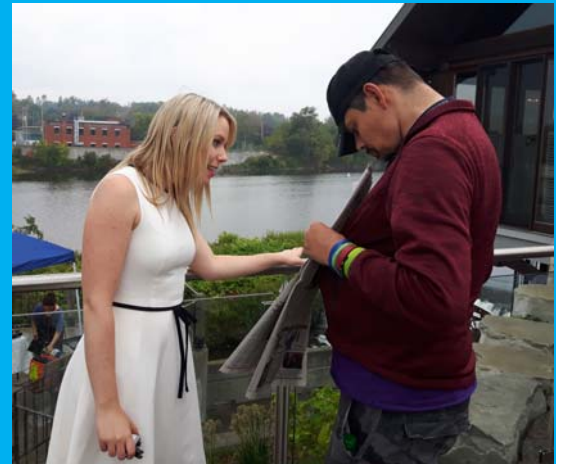
On Sep. 19, 2017 Elliott St. participants; Tiffany, Joe and Greg had the opportunity to attend a live taping of CTV's News at Five broadcast from the Cambridge Mill.

The program hosted by Lyndsay Morrison, Marc Venema and Rosie Del Campo featured news of the day as well as showcasing the city of Cambridge.

The performances we enjoyed most were by Highland dancers, a martial arts group and the Butterfly Conservatory. Joe found the operation of the TV cameras interesting.

Tiffany was impressed that Marc took time to talk to her and ask her name, and Elliott's own resident meteorologist Greg couldn't wait to compare weather forecasts with Lyndsay.

By: Kathy Crossman



A check off the bucket list!

"Joe's favourite stance was leaning forward over the Union Station looking down at all the trains."



Joe desired to go and experience the CN Tower Edge walk. Tickets were booked and on Nov. 10th Joe and I set off to the CN Tower. Once we got there the reality hit us but the adrenaline rush quickly took over. We were suited up and safety checked numerous times and even had to do a breathalyzer!

Once we took the elevator to the "Secret level 5" of the CN Tower the realization that there was definitely no turning back set in. We underwent more safety checks and then out to the ledge we went. We met 2 fellows from South Korea and 2 women from New York who did this crazy event with us. We had an amazing tour guide who was fun and reassuring.

At first, I was scared but Joe encouraged me and I did it! Joe was a natural up there with no fear (at least none he showed!). Joe's favourite stance was leaning forward over the Union Station looking down at all the trains. We saw a plane land on the island. We could see the mist of Niagara Falls as well! We walked around the tower and leaned out. It was an incredible experience until we reached the other side of the tower where the wind was whipping us in the face and it was so cold! Still it was an amazing experience. Joe said, "This was a great bonding experience for me and my Counselor Jen". By Jennifer Bennett

Community Connection's Employment Highlight

Farewell to the Grass Assassins for Another Year

Community Networks



"Great work this season Grass Assassins!"

As the summer came to an end and the leaves began to fall, our dedicated GRASS ASSASSINS team never failed to keep up their hard work. This year's Grass Assassins team members were; Eric, Meghan, Ezekiel, Joe, Alex and Nick. They worked hard to maintain the grass cutting and leaf collecting at the Operations Center and the Galt Veterinary Hospital next door. Each member of the team was able to bring their various levels of experience to the table while working together and learning more skills. As the season came to a close their dedication and hard work continued to show around the grounds. Great work this season Grass Assassins!

Submitted by: Kim Seed, Community Options
Job Coach



Community Connections and Cambridge's Country Girl Restaurant Salute Graeme Flynn

"I find it very rewarding to be a part of the employment process and giving back to our community."

The Country Girl Family Restaurant is busy. The kitchen is a whirlwind of activity and employee Graeme is up to the challenge. Owner-Chef Jeff B stated "It's great to give someone a chance. And it's awesome when that individual exceeds your expectations. Graeme has done just that on multiple levels. I find it very rewarding to be a part of the employment process and giving back to our community." Congratulations to Graeme on a job well done!

Submitted by:

Jane Spina, Community Connections
Job Coach



Graeme with Country Girl Owners
Jeff Bespalko and Cathy Megalla



Action Squad: Volunteers

"I love my job and seeing all the people here at the office."



What is an Action Squad? If you haven't heard, they are teams of four individuals who require some extra help to volunteer in our community.

With the support of a job coach, three Action Squads volunteer several hours of their time on a weekly basis.

The Actions Squad is full of fun, learning and new experiences! As Action Squad volunteers, individuals are mentored by other volunteers at the community site. They develop new friendships, learn new skills and develop team work. We believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to engage their community and reap the benefits of participation.



By: Nicole Fraser, Community Connections Job Coach



Action Squads are teams of four that volunteer with various organizations within the community. We have action squads at Rare, the Cambridge Food Bank and Community Support Connections doing a variety of activities from weeding and maintaining the trails to packaging food into individual portions. If you are interested in volunteering in a group, let Community Networks know.



May you always
FIND REASON TO
Smile
COMMUNITY LIVING
Cambridge

FRANKLIN PERSON CENTRED PROGRAMS VOLUNTEERS

For inquiries on Volunteering please contact our Volunteer Coordinator: Sandy Caple for more information.

Sandy Caple can be reached at Franklin Centre Monday-Thursday between 9am & 3:30pm 519-621-0680 or by email: scaple@clcambridge.ca

Volunteer News

It has been a busy Autumn and we are planning on an even busier Winter! We welcomed many more students from Conestoga College in need of volunteer service hours this fall.

We called on our existing active volunteers for Bingo, fundraising, special events, the parade committee, and for our recent Participant's Christmas Dance.

Volunteers are very important to us. They are critical to all our programs. We try very hard to ensure that they know how much we appreciate the time and effort they give to our agency. So please join me in saying "Thank you" to our volunteers whenever you have a chance.

Volunteer Highlight

Meet Melanie Robertson....



Melanie has been a volunteer with Community Living Cambridge since February of 2013. Her quiet demeanor and sincere concern for the individuals she is working with was visible from the start. She began her journey with CLC as a Lutherwood placement in our evening rec Games night program back in the Winter of 2013. Since then she has been a regular volunteer taking on Volunteers for Volunteers placements, Leisure Buddies, Christmas Party events, and now she is a regular volunteer at the Franklin Centre day program.

She is reliable, responsible, hard-working, motivated and dedicated to all placements she takes on. She

shows sincere empathy, is patient and kind towards our participants, volunteers and staff alike.

Melanie assures me that she will continue volunteering with our agency in the future. Please join me in thanking her for all the support he has provided to us in the past 5 years. Thank you so much Melanie!!

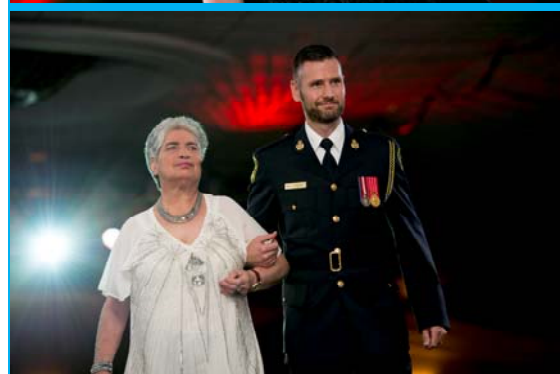
VOLUNTEERS WANTED: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! INSPIRE POSSIBILITIES TODAY

Bingo Volunteers: We are now recruiting for 2 more Bingo fundraising volunteers to help with various fundraising bingo events. We need YOU to become a bingo volunteer! If you are available on Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons for 2.5 hours let us know.

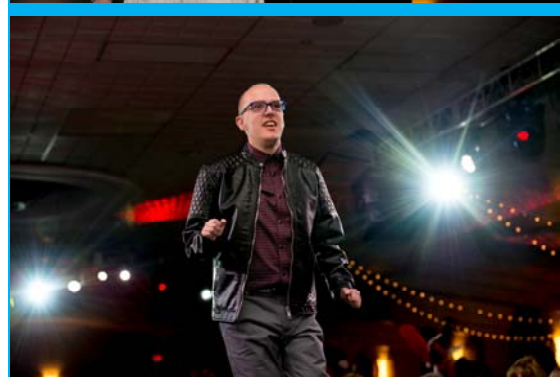
Bingo volunteering is fun, low stress, and above all, easy! You can do it with a friend or co-worker. The bingo hall offers 3 training sessions each month at various times.

Enhanced Day Programs: We are looking for volunteers help in the Franklin Centre Day programs. Support or facilitate music programs, exercise classes or many other programs. If you have the ability to sing, play the piano or guitar, if you are a certified trainer or if you are an artist let me know. Share your talents with us one morning or afternoon. It's guaranteed to be a lot of fun!

9th Annual Fabulous Fashion Show was spectacular!



Special thanks to Anbe Photography for these beautiful photos they are works of art!



The fundraising gala was held at Bingeman's Marshall Hall on Nov. 9th and it was a big hit! A special thanks to all Volunteers, Sponsors, Auction Donors, Stores and all the patrons that joined us!



Next year, will be a special year for the Fashion Show Gala as we will be celebrating 10 Years! The fundraising gala this year raised \$28,000 for Community Living Cambridge's unfunded programs. More details to follow about next year's event so stay tuned!



9th Annual Fabulous Fashion Show photos by Anbe





**Ways to
give and
make a
difference
today!**

With your help, we will create opportunities to support people with developmental disabilities to realize their citizenship and aspirations!

1. A donation by mail or in person or over the phone.

Our reception staff is available at 519-623-7490 to process your donation over the phone.

2. A donation online via CanadaHelps.org

3. Enroll in our monthly giving program

4. Give a lasting gift by way of a Planned giving or Endowment

Agency News Winter Edition ISSUE: Dec. 2017

Community Living Cambridge
wishes you

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Keep a Warm Heart and
Spread the Joy Around You.**



Connect with us!

160 Hespeler Rd.
Cambridge, ON
N1R 6V7

Phone: 519 623-7490

Fax: 519 740-8073

E-mail:
info@clcambridge.ca



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NEWS ARTICLES ARE PRECIOUS:

The next edition will be our **Spring edition** which will be released in **Mar. 2018**. Please send your articles in as soon as you have them ready. We are always looking for content related to:

- Events
- Fundraising
- Program offerings
- Milestone Birthdays and Candid photos
- In Memoriam
- Advertise with us - ask for rates
- Feedback

Any content that Inspire Possibilities are greatly appreciated!
Send your articles to gsantosgould@clcambridge.ca Thank you!

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Join our team!



If you're looking for a rewarding job with great co-workers and competitive pay, then look no further.
We are hiring part-time weekend staff. Students welcome.

Send resume to mbugaja@clcambridge.ca

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