

The Citizen

Connecting people with their community



COMMUNITY LIVING
BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Lois Hollstedt, C.M.

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AT THE END OF JUNE, SIX MEMBERS OF THE CLBC BOARD WILL BE

retiring and the search for candidates to fill these vacancies will be held over the next few months. The Province has developed an excellent set of best practice guidelines for governance of its Crown Corporations. The guidelines for Board composition and succession are comprehensive and have been used by CLBC to fill vacancies since our inception.

As outlined in the Best Practice Guidelines, "Most experts agree that a first requirement for effective governance is having the right people on the board. This means putting together a group of individuals who have the appropriate combination of competencies and personal attributes to support the organization's mission and contribute together as a highly motivated team. The particular competencies sought will vary depending on an organization's mandate and the skills needed to complement its management team."

CLBC has had Board members with skills that include financial and legal expertise, business management, human resources, technology, risk management, communications, social and community development expertise, strategic planning, change management, and governance experience.

These skills continue to be important as we are moving from creating a new organization to improving the day to day operations and ensuring the Board is effective in monitoring organizational performance. A significant requirement of members is a firm understanding of financial information and monitoring. CLBC's operating budget is \$692 million. The ability to review and monitor expenditure of resources to ensure high levels of accountability is critical for confidence and credibility.

CLBC contracts with thousands of organizations and individuals to provide services and board members are needed who understand contracting and monitoring process in the human services area.

IT systems support CLBC in every aspect of work life. Board members who understand system development and project monitoring will add value to the organization.

Human Resources and communications skills on the Board will ensure we operate with current best practices so we have strong dedicated work teams and are able to effectively communicate with the public.

Prospective board members must demonstrate personal attributes of integrity, teamwork, broad perspectives, good listening, strong reasoning and analytical skills and good judgment. They must do their homework and participate fully in the discussion of the Board. Family members of people with developmental disabilities, FASD and Autism, who would bring these qualities to the board, are encouraged to apply. A good understanding of the issues facing people with developmental disabilities is expected. If individuals are not knowledgeable in this area they will be expected to increase their awareness.

I have asked the members of the Provincial Advisory Committee to encourage people they know who are qualified to consider applying for these positions. More information is available on the CLBC website. ■

The joy of helping others

By Laura and Jerry Laidlaw



IN OUR LIVES, WE HAVE

had a lot of people who helped us along the way. We are always looking for different ways to do that for others. We love Mission and look for ways to be a support in our community.

LAURA

Jerry and I live with a wonderful caregiver. I got the idea of starting a women's group from her. I wanted to connect with other women who have a disability. I wanted to belong to a group of women who could talk about important things in our lives and also have some fun. I took some time to think about what I wanted from the group and what would be the best way to start one. I decided that I wanted a group that would talk about issues and solutions in a positive way. I wanted a group that would support me when I needed it and that we could support each other.

The first thing I did was invite three other women to get together and talk about the idea of a disabled women's group and then talk about whether they would like to take part in that group. Our group has now grown to include eight women and that is big enough.

We get together on the third Friday of the month. We get together in different places, sometimes we go out for dinner, sometimes we do a potluck and gab session, sometimes we just go to Tim Horton's for coffee.

The group is called Circle of Friendship Women's Group and our mission statement is:

"We are a group of women with intellectual and physical challenges. We overcome these challenges by gathering as a group to discuss issues regarding disabilities and other issues which are important to us. As well as discussing important issues, we participate in a variety of different activities which increases our everlasting friendship."

JERRY

I always want to be in a position to help other people. I enjoy it because I got a lot of support as a child. One way I give back to my community is to be a board member for different agencies like British Columbia Association for Community Living (Self Advocacy Foundation), Center for Inclusion and Citizenship, and the CLBC Community Council of the Fraser Valley.

Also, I am involved with a pilot project with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Mission. This project matches up adults with disabilities with high school students who have disabilities. We act as mentors, which means we share our experiences and knowledge with the students. We meet every Tuesday with other mentors and I get together with my "little brother" to bowl and do other things. I would like to get him involved in more sports – sports have always been a big thing in my life. I am thinking about track and field and also softball.

This is a chance for me to share my knowledge with someone and have someone to look up to me. This is one way to plan for the future of self advocacy – by mentoring young people. ■

Inside Voice is published in each issue of *The Citizen*. If you are interested in writing for this column, please call Chris Rae at 1-877-660-2522 or email editor@communitylivingbc.ca

Opening the door to home sharing



(left to right) The staff of Dengarry Professional Services: Vickie Pigeon, Corina Fransen, Roy Billingsley, Denney Delaney, Carol Delaney and Garry Delaney.

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, DENGARRY Professional Services Limited in Quesnel, under the leadership of Denny Delaney, has created a successful home sharing program in the North region.

Denny originally approached CLBC in order to request funding to renovate his six bed staffed residential home in Quesnel to accommodate the changing needs of the individuals who lived there, many of whom had previously lived in institutions and had significant physical challenges.

“There were individuals who required a different structure. Many had mobility issues with stairs and getting around,” says Denny.

Working collaboratively with various CLBC staff, Dengarry explored the alternative of a home sharing arrangement. “We began to get a picture of what the home sharing situation would look like,” says Denny.

Next, the families of the six individuals were consulted. Although some of the family members initially had concerns about this new model, they had faith that Denny and Dengarry would continue to provide high quality support for their loved ones, and consented to try the model. Plans were completed for the individuals by CLBC staff with input from the families and agency staff.

Beginning in May 2008, two individuals moved into their new home sharing arrangements and by July 2009 the final two had moved to their new homes.

Denny identifies the many benefits seen so far including more access to community, more individual support, and better communication. The families themselves describe home sharing as more flexible and more person-centred.

Linda Wesselink is now a home sharing provider for two of the individuals, Clay and John. She had worked with Dengarry for six years previously and says she had been interested in the home sharing model but had not considered it as an option before. “I thought it was for single people but not necessarily a married couple,” says Linda.

Linda has known and worked with John and Clay for several years before becoming their home sharing provider and says their new living arrangement has resulted in positive changes for them.

“John was very standoffish, and often didn’t want any interaction, but now he’s become a lot more engaged. He loves to see our granddaughter. Clay is using a walker now which he never did before,” says Linda.

“Their communication has also become excellent. Both are non-verbal but they’ve found ways to communicate. John used to use a picture book to express himself but now he’s using gestures and can make himself understood,” says Linda.

Linda is in regular contact with Clay and John’s families and had Clay’s parents over for a visit in December. “We’re like a typical family. We can’t imagine our lives without these guys. They just get into your heart,” says Linda.

“The result for the individuals has been more personal growth and independence,” says Denney. “It was a long process but definitely well worth it for everyone involved.”

Dengarry’s Quesnel home sharing program has expanded beyond the original six people and Dengarry now offers home sharing programs in other parts of the North and the Northern Interior region.

The success of this agency with the home sharing model has been a catalyst for others within the North to consider offering home sharing. ■



Clay (left) and John (above) have developed their confidence and communication skills in their new homes.

@ The Paralympics

ON MARCH 6, 2010, OVER 2,000 FAMILIES, CHILDREN, SENIORS AND PEOPLE OF varying abilities participated in the 2010 Paralympic Torch Relay event in Victoria. Victoria was one of 11 communities invited to host the Torch Relay, which began in Ottawa on March 3 and concluded in Vancouver on March 12 at the opening ceremony for the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

The Torch Relay in Victoria was held in the Inner Harbour at Ship Point, and included a resource fair, music, stories from athletes, a welcome by dignitaries, and the Relay event. The weather, normally wet and windy in March, was beautiful, warm and sunny, allowing the crowds, torchbearers and athletes to enjoy the day to the fullest.

The Relay began at noon with the flame arriving by boat from Esquimalt, and Premier Gordon Campbell welcoming participants. Victoria area MLAs Murray Coell and Ida Chong were there to hand out Paralympic pins, and encourage the torchbearers on their runs. During the two hour relay, the flame was transferred between 31 torchbearers of varying abilities, who carried the flame back and forth across the Inner Harbour in front of cheering crowds. While watching the Relay, people were entertained by musicians Joel Coughlin and Sarah Marrieros, and with other Paralympic-related activities. Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin and Olympic CEO John Furlong closed the ceremony, along with the final torchbearer, Paralympic athlete Stephanie Dixon, who lit the cauldron on stage.

CLBC staff Jule Hopkins, Shelley Nessman and Caitlyn Sassaman, along with self-advocates Cliff Stacey, Heather Porteous, Barb Goode and Kieron Forrester staffed a resource fair booth that focused on Start with Hi. About 600 people visited the booth to learn more about community living and how they can help build more inclusive communities. Start with Hi buttons, bracelets, and other prizes were distributed, and many people took Start with Hi posters to hang up in their workplaces.

Photos of the event are posted to the Start with Hi Facebook fansite at www.facebook.com/StartwithHi. More information about the event can be found on the City of Victoria's website (www.victoria.ca/paralymptorch) or on the 2010 Paralympic Games website (www.vancouver2010.com/paralympic-games). ■



(above) Cliff with Sumi, the official mascot of the Paralympic Winter Games.



(left) Heather Porteous and Jule Hopkins share information about inclusion and Start with Hi.

Canadian Ambassadors

FOR GERRY, LORRAINE, and Diane, three self advocates from Burnaby, the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games were a busy time that they'll never forget. Proudly sporting their bright blue jackets, the three friends were part of the thousands of Olympic volunteers who helped make the Games a success.

The opportunity came about through AccessWorks, an organization that supports inclusive employment for people with disabilities. Working with the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC), AccessWorks was seeking volunteers for the Games. AccessWorks connected with the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI), which supports Gerry, Lorraine and Diane.

They went through the interview process for volunteers and were given the good news that they had been selected. "We found out shortly before the games started that we would be involved as volunteers. When I heard I was surprised and honoured," says Gerry.

The three self advocates, along with BACI staff

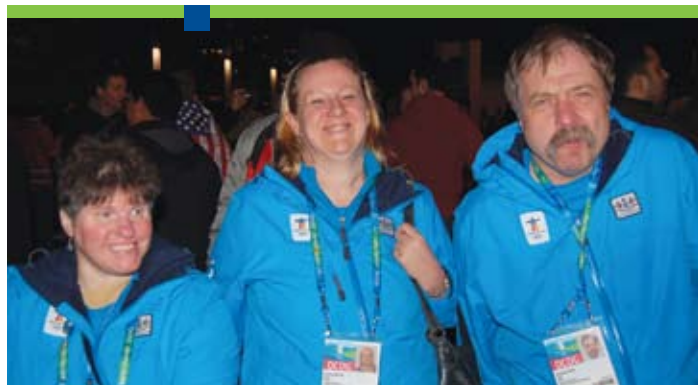
members Arlene Moore, Jake Keithley and Agnes Stefek, attended an orientation session to learn about their job duties. "We learned our job responsibilities before we had to do the real thing. It was very organized," says Gerry.

Once the Olympics began, they were volunteering at Vancouver Olympic Centre near Queen Elizabeth Park, where all of the curling matches were played.

Over the course on a shift, they would have many different job responsibilities. Among their responsibilities were checking the passes of athletes, coaches and media entering the building, assisting at the security check points for fans, directing people to the correct sections to find their seats, and directing athletes to the media zone to do interviews.

"I greeted around 3,000 people. It was great," says Diane.

For Lorraine, it was a particular thrill to meet the athletes from various countries. "I met people from different countries that I never thought I'd get



(left to right) Lorraine, Diane and Gerry proudly wear their bright blue Olympic volunteer jackets.

to meet. I met the French Curling team and said 'Bonjour' to them to make them feel welcome. I also met the team from Norway and I really liked their pants! I even got a pin from the USA Curling Association," she says.

After their final day of volunteering, they joined the crowds of Olympic fans in downtown Vancouver and paid a visit to the Olympic Flame which Lorraine liked to call the "Super Torch".

"It was amazing to be part of the thousands of volunteers. It would be a cool experience to do again," says Diane.

For Gerry, "It opened up an opportunity that people with disabilities may never have had before. The memories are great and something I'll remember for life." ■

We've got Game: Islander takes the torch

ON FEBRUARY 9, 2010, UNDER A BLUE SKY AND

surrounded by friends and family, a Victoria man, Tim, carried the Olympic torch in front of excited crowds in Tsawwassen. His run lasted for 500 meters and was “a bit nerve-wracking and one of the most exciting experiences of my life.”

Tim is an interesting, motivated and positive person. He has lived independently for over 12 years, but remains very close to his family. He has two part-time jobs: one at Safeway and one at Sears in their café kitchen. He's a Special Olympian, and has participated in events for field hockey, curling, swimming and softball. He is also an avid sailor, helping his father regularly with maintenance of the boat and participating in annual family trips.

Tim was one of 12 people chosen by secret ballot from the 210 Safeway stores across Canada, and the only staff person from the Island. Tim has worked for Safeway for eight years as a service clerk, bagging groceries, helping people to their cars and “doing whatever else they need me to do.” He is well-liked and respected by his colleagues who say Tim is punctual, positive and always sees the best in everyone.

“He embodies the Olympic spirit,” says his manager. “Staff and customers were excited to hear that Tim was going to represent Victoria because they understand what he brings to the store and his job.”

His father Roger was understandably pleased that Tim had the opportunity to run in the torch relay. “He has had a lot of challenges to overcome through the years, and has found a place and people that appreciate him. He feels honoured and I feel proud to be his father.”



Friends, family and Olympic fans cheers on Tim as he carries the Olympic torch.

Tim displays his Olympic toque, mitts and torch in his livingroom that overlooks the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The torch is singed, and still smells a little of the fuel that kept it lit for Tim's run. His warm-up suit that was given to him for the run is safely put away, but his experience will stay with him.

“I am proud that I had this new adventure. I had a chance to carry the torch and meet some of the other torchbearers,” says Tim.

If they were asked, those other torchbearers would probably say they felt proud to meet Tim too. ■

The courage to succeed

“There was a moment after the flame was passed to David, when he looked up and just caught the moment.”

—David’s Mother Jocelyn

JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 12, DAVID

Ratzlaff of Abbotsford achieved a personal goal by becoming a Paralympic Torch Bearer. A big sports fan, David had entered a contest to take part in the 24 hour Torch Relay that would lead up to the Paralympic Opening Ceremonies.

As part of his entry, David and his family submitted a letter explaining how he demonstrates the values of a torch bearer every day. “I do this by living in my purpose which is to encourage others. I am genuine. Every day I smile at others, I never hold back. There are usually a few good laughs throughout the day to share as well. I stay motivated to work hard at my daily activities and I rarely complain,” writes David.



David Ratzlaff receives the Paralympic Flame before carrying it on his section of the torch relay.

He also explains how he has been working very hard on an athletic goal of his own, to learn how to swim. He has been working towards this once a week for the last six years, and even though it may take a long time to achieve, he remains focused on his vision.

“I have courage to keep a healthy attitude and my perspective is to keep focused on the positive even during the difficult situations I face. I promise to cheer for all the Olympians,” the letter concludes.

When the final confirmation came that David had been selected as a torch bearer, his parents Jocelyn and Rudy made sure to tell everyone they could. The day before the relay, David had to register and pick up his official torch bearer uniform. Less than 24 hours later, the Paralympic flame was passed to him and he carried it along Robson Street on part of its final journey to BC Place for the Paralympic Opening Ceremonies.

“The other torchbearers were cheering David on. His cousins, aunts, uncles and caregivers came out to support him,” says David’s mother Jocelyn proudly.

“There was a moment after the flame was passed to David, when he looked up and just caught the moment. He turned to everyone watching and just gave us a huge smile. He was beaming,” says Jocelyn.

Later, on the drive back to Abbotsford, Jocelyn thought David would fall asleep, but he stayed awake the whole trip, “He was still basking in the glow of the experience.” ■

To see a video of David carrying the Paralympic Torch, go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and type in “David Paralympic Torch”.

Riding for community

By Greta Cooper, Team Assistant, Vernon Community Living Centre

TUCKED AWAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF Pritchard, 35 miles east of Kamloops, there's one event which is almost certain. Cody Chase is tuned into his favourite Kamloops radio station listening to music. A few months ago on a warm August morning 22-year-old Cody was listening to tunes. A community announcement by Marion Ogden of the Chase Rotary Club captured his interest because she was talking about the "Cops for Kids Ride." As he listened he got real excited when she said they were actually coming through Cody's area, "I wanted to help the kids."

Cody knows they go on a ride every year through the province to help families and kids. His mother Sharon chuckles as she tells the story, "He kept bugging me and wouldn't let up. He was insistent we drive to Kamloops RCMP station right away so we could get details about the route. When he had that information he decided he also wanted to be a part of festivities and volunteered to set up tables for the special September 18th luncheon."

The event was all Cody could talk about leading up to September 18th. He had gone ahead to set up tables and had brought along his three-wheel bike. Marion asked if he would be interested in riding along with the cops. She didn't need to ask twice.

After a trial trip down main street with the support of Marion's husband Mel, it was decided, Cody would participate in the ride. He was ecstatic.

Sharon laughed as she recalls arriving that morning and looking around for Cody. She noticed the procession was already moving down main street and that's when she spotted her son. He was out in front on his bike leading the procession of more than 30 riders, "Everyone cheered him on."

Between handshakes and pats on the back, Cody was given a t-shirt which he's very proud of. All this attention was really encouraging for him. When they finally arrived back home in Pritchard, ahead of the bike riders, they stopped at the general store. As they travelled through the community they spotted Cody, waved and personally called out to him. ■

Cody Chase rides along with Cops for Kids.



All in a day's work

ON THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH, CLBC HOSTED A SPECIAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

for two of the eight success story winners of the project "RESPECT Employment". This project, organized by the Provincial Networking Group Inc. (PNGI) as one of CLBC's Advancing Employment initiatives, honours individuals who have gained success in their real work in the community.

The RESPECT Employment project, which stands for Real Employment Stimulates Pride, Empowerment, Connections and True Inclusion, started with a contest which saw many great employment story submissions sent in from all corners of the Province. Eight stories were selected from three employees in the lower mainland, three on Vancouver Island and two in Northern BC.

Raman Dhese and Frances Flynn were on hand to accept their prizes, which consisted of their choice of an iPod Touch or a digital camera. The ceremony was attended by family and friends, and a round of applause was shared by all.

Raman works as a seasonal grounds keeper at Playland in Vancouver, and Frances is part of the team at Ricki's All Day Grill in Delta. Through their work, both Raman and Frances have gained a sense of pride that has carried into many different areas of their lives.

Chris Arnold, one of the PNGI directors, wanted to share their stories because "they can help people start to really shift their thinking and beliefs to the idea of advancing employment activities in BC."

Mr. Dhese and Ms. Flynn's stories will appear with six others in a special publication titled RESPECT Employment. The production of the booklets was completed at the end of March and copies will be available for distribution in April. For more information, contact Barb Penner at CLBC. ■



Raman Dhese and Frances Flynn are recognized for sharing their stories of employment.

Supporting Self-Advocacy

CLBC IS PARTNERING with the BC Association for Community Living (BCACL) to provide a boost to self-advocacy in BC. The Self-Advocacy Seeding Innovation Project (SASI) is an exciting new initiative that is bringing innovative ideas to life across the province.

SASI was developed to support youth with special needs and adults with developmental disabilities to:

- Bring people together for support and to share ideas;
- Organize training
- Be a powerful voice to others about changes self-advocates want to make in their communities
- Take action that gives back to community

The SASI initiative was developed by a working group of self-advocates and self-advocate advisors from around BC. The group first met in November, 2009

to develop an application process and a guide to developing projects, which they titled “Getting Started.” The guide encourages self-advocates to focus on their gifts and abilities and to take ownership of their projects. A call for projects went out in early December across the province.

The group created a mural of what self advocacy looks like in BC. This led to some ideas of possible projects and give confidence to groups as they began to create their own.

The SASI initiative will sponsor a number of projects throughout BC. BCACL staff will also be available to provide ongoing support into the spring and summer months as needed.

Recognizing the capacity of web-based communication to help build networks and connect self advocates, online forums for participation and communication are a critical piece of this project. Once projects are underway, individuals and groups will

be able to communicate their progress, share resources and provide support in an online environment.

The SASI initiative is about empowering people and communities to make change. The SASI initiative includes goals, objectives, activities and ongoing evaluation that will ensure that self advocates are not only involved in the process, but shape the process.

The project is coordinated by the BC Association for Community Living (BCACL) and is sponsored by The Community Living BC Innovations Committee. ■

Route to independence



Sherry is excited to be able to visit her Grandfather independently.

SHERRY IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG WOMAN WHO

wanted to have weekly visits with her Deda (Grandfather) who lives in an assisted living facility. However, Sherry, her family and support staff had to address a number of safety, mobility, transportation and other medical support issues before being able to make this happen.

Working with Sherry's family, Handy-Dart staff and care aids at Deda's residence, a plan was developed to use Sherry's own abilities, natural supports in the community and some additional family support to make her goal a reality. Sherry carries her personal ID in her purse and bus fare to give to the driver. Safety concerns were worked out with the Handy-Dart supervisor, in the event of a medical emergency a call to 911 would be placed.

Until recently, Sherry has always visited her Deda with the assistance of support staff, but now she is able to go independently to Deda's "house".

Sherry is completely familiar with the building where Deda lives. This enabled her to know her way around and recognize which room he is in.

Sherry is also familiar with the automatic door systems and uses them independently. On most occasions Sherry now meets her Mother at Deda's place of residence so they can all visit together.

We quickly discovered that Sherry was quite capable of using the Handy-Dart on her own. She now enthusiastically smiles and says "I did it! I did it!" when she gets off of the bus.

Sherry's new found independence is reflected in her daily life. Days before the scheduled visit, Sherry, in her own excitement, talks about her visit with Deda and riding the Handy-Dart. We smile whenever we hear Sherry say "I did it!" ■

Innovation leads to solutions

FINDING AFFORDABLE AND

appropriate housing is a challenge for people living with a developmental disability. Often they have low incomes, or do not have enough paid employment. For some, the need to find housing might arise suddenly if they are living with aging parents or if they are living on their own and become ill.

“Having a place of our own to call home is a natural expectation,” says Alice Sundberg. “People with developmental disabilities want to have the same kinds of options when it comes to housing.” Sundberg is the coordinator for the Langley Community Living Housing Coalition, a group of families that are working to find innovative housing solutions for their sons and daughters.

“We helped start the Coalition because we don’t want to see our son face a housing crisis if we get sick or when we pass on,” says Maggie Metcalfe, one of the parents involved. “We want to make sure now and for the future that he has a good, safe and secure place to live.”

The Coalition was formed in March 2008 by 10 families who were brought together by their mutual interests through the Langley Association for Community Living (LACL). From the beginning, the group was clear about their goal: to find housing options that meant their children would be part of their larger community, but they were unsure initially how they were going to get there.

With the help of Community Living BC, the group set out to research

what options might work in Langley and what actions or supports would be needed to make them a reality. It was through this exploration that they found a partner in developer Peter Warkington of Quadra Homes, who agreed to assist the group to purchase five units in his new Langley development, Paddington Station.

“We wanted to do what we can to help the Coalition realize its goal,” says Warkington. “It fits really well with the vision we have for Paddington Station, which is to have people from all walks of life living inclusively within the community.”

The group’s current challenge is to raise funds in equity to purchase the five units. They are reaching out to community members and organizations in the hope that others will see the long-term benefit of what they are trying to achieve.

“The rents for these units will be based on the mortgage. If we can reach our goal for raising the equity, it means people renting the units will have a monthly cost that is affordable and sustainable for the long-term,” says Sundberg.

The Coalition has realized other successes in the two years they’ve been working together. They’ve secured some additional affordable housing units for people with developmental disabilities living in the Langley area with the help of BC Housing. The families involved in the project are forming connections that help them to support one another and use their resources more wisely. The final



(left to right) Teresa Griffiths, Donalda Madsen, Maggie and Geoffrey Metcalfe at Paddington Station.

report on the work of the Coalition, expected to be released in spring 2010, will tell of their journey and what they’ve learned so others can benefit from their experiences.

“We’ve come further than we thought we could,” says Teresa Griffiths, the LACL lead on the project. “We will keep going after the report is done, and we hope to keep building on our progress.”

The Coalition is open to any families in the Langley area interested in exploring housing options for their family members with developmental disabilities. If you are interested in becoming involved, or would like to donate funds to help purchase the units at Paddington Station, please contact Teresa Griffiths at 604 534-8611, ext. 30, or tgriffithslacl@shaw.ca. ■

Talent on display

ON SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2010 L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER HELD ITS FIRST annual Art of Being Together - an exhibition of art inspired by the theme of community, sharing life, friendship and inclusiveness. The event celebrated community and inclusivity where everyone – regardless of ability, education, gender, race or religion – is valued for their gifts.

Emerging artists were invited to submit an original work of art to L'Arche that portrayed the theme of community and togetherness as its inspiration. A panel of judges choose finalists whose work was displayed in the Finalist's Gallery. The winner of the Judges' Choice was announced at the end of the day. Guests attending the event were also invited to vote "The People's Choice" which was also revealed at the end of the day.

Besides this Finalist's Gallery, there was an Honourable Mention Gallery of artwork by emerging artists. The third Gallery at the event will be entitled "Art Together" which displayed art produced collaboratively by teams of people with and without developmental disabilities from L'Arche Greater Vancouver.

Attendees were invited to create two Community Art projects guided by local artist Tara Croft Carmichael. The community art projects were presented to Community Living BC, one of the event sponsors and South Burnaby Neighbourhood House.

Accepting the original community-created art piece on behalf of CLBC was Board Member Mr. Rod Gunn.

Proceeds of the Art of Being Together benefitted L'Arche Greater Vancouver, a charitable organization where adults with developmental disabilities and those who assist them share life together in home and day programs. L'Arche supports people to realize their potential through meaningful work, on-going learning and companionship. ■

The Event's Winners:

Judge's Choice Award:
"Brothers" by Jessica Morgun

People's Choice Award:
A Tie between "Butterfly" by Jenny Jia and "Hands" by Jason Husmillo



(Above) Guests look at the art on display.

(Left) Patrick Byron with his piece "We're all in the Same Boat."

Provincial Assessment Centre



The staff of the Provincial Assessment Centre.

THE PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT CENTRE (PAC) PROVIDES MULTI-DISCIPLINARY mental health services for referred individuals ages 14 and up with a developmental disability and a concurrent mental illness, or behaviour issue.

PAC is a part of Community Living BC and provides inpatient assessment, support and planning for eligible individuals through a multi-disciplinary team approach. Community Liaison Nurses commence the assessment within the individual's home and then assist them with the transition back to community, including caregiver orientation and training to the PAC recommendations, follow up and evaluation for up to six months after discharge.

PAC recently held an event for CLBC staff and other guests to learn more about the facility, staff and supports available through the Centre. ■

CONTACT US

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If you have a story suggestion or feedback on the newsletter, E-mail editor@communitylivingbc.ca.

Questions

If you have a general question about CLBC, email info@communitylivingbc.ca

The Citizen is published every two months by CLBC's Communications department. It is your information source for news that's relevant to the individuals and families CLBC supports. The views and opinions expressed in *The Citizen* are not necessarily those held by CLBC. We are always on the lookout for inspirational stories about people in the community. If you know of an event that others might like to know about, an issue that invites debate, or news worth reporting, let us know. While we appreciate story ideas and submission, *The Citizen* reserves the right to edit content for accuracy, grammar and space, but strives to maintain the integrity and voice of the author.

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CLBC is a Crown agency of the government of British Columbia and is committed to being carbon neutral by 2010.

