COMMUNITY LINK

SPRING 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE 2

RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE 3

NEWS AND VIEWS
My Blueprint 4
Helen Lyle Annual Bonspiel 5

THE STAFF CORNER
Recent Promotions 6
Years of Service Announcements 7

THE VOLUNTEER SIDE
A Family Tradition 8
Still Having Fun 9
Because We Love Hockey 9

RESOURCE CONSULTANT UPDATE
Peyton's Transition to Kindergarten 10

HAPPENINGS IN COMMUNITY SERVICES
Birthday Tripping to Disney 11

OPENING DOORS
Budding Artists 12

FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM
Parents Meeting Parent 14
Family Room Open for Business 15
Family Support Monthly Drop In 15

SPARK CHANGE 16

2019 PROVINCIAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Mary Osman-Community Living Ontario

The following article is reprinted from the April 15th Provincial Budget Analysis published on the Community Living Ontario website (https://communitylivingontario.ca/en/2019-provincial-budget-summary/).

Finance Minister Vic Fedeli released the Government of Ontario's 2019 Provincial Budget on April 11th.

In a year with so much talk about financial constraint, perhaps the good news is that the developmental services sector received almost zero mention. There were no specific cuts for the sector announced in the budget, nor were there any funding increases.

The document did outline that the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services would see a decrease to its budget from $17 billion to $16 billion by 2021/22, but there were few details about how those savings would be realized. According to the budget, reductions would come from:

- Modernizing the youth justice system;
- Operational efficiencies through the integration of human services programs, such as income support, child care, affordable housing, etc;
- Streamlining transfer payment processes, aligning and integrating multiple service contracts, simplifying reporting requirements;
- Exploring ways to transform services to increase choice for people and families; and
- Evidence-based sector transformation, including developmental services and other programs.

Clearly, we will need to learn more about what the government has in mind with respect to these undertakings.

There was no commitment to increase ODSP income support in the coming year. The budget did repeat a previously announced commitment to increase the clawback from employment before ODSP income is impacted to $6,000 annually and to calculate this on an annual basis. After this threshold has been reached, however, the reduction of funding will be 75 cents for every dollar earned.

The main focus of the budget included a plan to eliminate the provincial deficit by 2023. Large investments for building new transit systems were included and have been covered in the news in the days leading up to the budget. The

continued on page 4

COMMUNITY LIVING Kingston and District
Inspiring Possibilities

From The Corner Office

AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT DESPITE CHANGING TIMES

Peter Sproul,
Executive Director

The past few years has seen a steady growth in services at Community Living Kingston and District. When I took over as Executive Director in February 2012, our annual operating budget was $11.8 million. It now hovers at around $21 million. That pattern was established long before I became Executive Director and it's one that is not likely to change soon. While the pace of growth often mirrors the pace of change within the politics of Ontario and the subsequent funding, there remains an undeniable trend of growth for CLKD and the developmental services system generally.

Our Board President, Dr. Robert Hickey, led the strategic planning process of 2014 that involved connecting with stakeholders from throughout the organization. Individuals supported, families, staff members, community partners and funders all contributed to setting overall strategic direction. The following service delivery goals were identified as key priorities for the five years ahead:

- Expansion of employment and volunteer opportunities for individuals we support;
- Development of innovative residential supports;
- Position the organization to respond to individuals and families with individualized funding;
- Development of flexible and alternative supports to meet the unique needs of individuals and families;
- Development of supports to meet the needs of an aging population.

Clearly, our strategic plan at the time did not identify organizational growth as a priority goal in and of itself. Not surprisingly, program expansion has been the result of our Association stepping up to the plate to deliver supports when called upon to do so. There has been a steady increase in our services that has included virtually all of our programs. Examples of this include:

- Compass and Bayswater programs for Transition Aged Youth;
- Employment Supports;
- Residential Services (opening of Davis Drive and Aberfoyle Road):
- CCRCS (French language Resource Consultant position);
- Respite Services (trip weekends organized).

> ***"There remains an undeniable trend of growth for CLKD and the developmental services system generally."***

That pattern of growth will certainly continue for the time being with the expansion of our Kwik Shred operation as well as our supports to transition aged youth. Kwik Shred has grown its revenue and adjusted its business model to enable the enterprise to pay individuals a competitive wage. We expect it to continue expanding and have secured a new location for the business at 758 Fortune Crescent. That location will also serve as the home base for all employment supports, assisting individuals to prepare for, search, secure and maintain employment in our communities. A similar expansion is underway with our supports for Transition Aged Youth. The ministry approached CLKD to discuss utilizing additional funds to hire a staff member to work with youth who are reluctant to accept traditional services and to further link those individuals with other resources in the community to establish safe and healthy lifestyles. The position will also be regional in nature, supporting other organizations interested in developing capacity to serve this clientele.

continued on page 6

PROJECT UPDATE-THE RECLAMATION PROJECT: THE VALUE OF LIVING LIFE AT THE HELM

Susan Jikelli

The Reclamation Project: The Value of Living Life at the Helm, which began production in February 2018, is almost finished! Community Living Kingston and District received funding to create The Reclamation Project from the Special Projects Initiative fund. This fund was created from money left over from a class action lawsuit against the government of Ontario to compensate people who experienced injustices and abuse while living in Ontario's three largest institutions: Huronia Regional in Orillia, Southwestern Regional in Chatham, and Rideau Regional in Smiths Falls.

The Reclamation Project is a comprehensive, three-part, multi-media documentary comparing life in institutions to life in the community. With a focus on the rights of citizenship, choice and autonomy, the project relays the important message of why we must never return to an institutional model.

The Reclamation Project includes a website, a power point presentation, and a video documentary. The website www.thereclamationproject.ca shares first-hand stories written by people who lived in an institution, their families, staff, planners and for comparison, people with disabilities who did not live in an institution. With a wide range of perspectives, these stories tell of the environment and personal experiences of institutional life, and the benefits of living in the community afterwards.

The Reclamation Project power point presentation is a teaching tool that shows the reasons for institutions, their history, the concurrent cultural, societal and medical attitudes, and the benefits in all quality of life measures after people moved out of them. Available to schools, agencies, and government, this presentation includes curriculum outcomes, instructional guidelines and recommendations for further study. The Reclamation Project documentary video, produced in collaboration with the Seneca College Media Department, is in the final stage of production. This video highlights the stories of many project contributors and leaves viewers with a greater understanding of why society must never again adopt the idea of congregating and segregating people with intellectual disabilities.

Community Living Kingston and District will announce a public presentation upon completion of the project, and welcomes inquiries from educators, agencies, and ministry employees wishing to discuss the use of T*he Reclamation Project: The Value of Living Life at the Helm* as a teaching tool.

For more information about The Reclamation Project, please contact Sherrill Boyes at **sherrill.boyes@clkingston.ca.**

THE RECLAMATION PROJECT
THE VALUE OF LIVING LIFE AT THE HELM

Inspiring Possibilities

Community Living Kingston and District promotes full participation for individuals who have an intellectual disability.

Become a Full Time or Respite Family Home Provider and help make community living a reality!

Enrich your life by sharing your home with someone who has an intellectual disability on a full time basis or for weekend visits and short stays.

As a provider you will receive reimbursement, person specific orientation and ongoing support.

For more information contact Hailey at 613-546-6613 or hailey.latimer@clkingston.ca

AN EXCITING NEW PLANNING TOOL

Diane Stewart

The Limestone Board of Education is introducing an exciting new online planning process for students supported through the Special Education programs.

The program is called "My Blueprint" (**www.myblueprint.ca**). It is an online comprehensive education and career/life planning program with the tools students in grades 7 -12 plus post-secondary programs need to make the most-informed decisions about their future.

The Family Support Program has been invited by the Limestone Board Spec Ed department to collaborate on developing and determining what transition planning tools/guides should be imbedded into the program for students.

Our first working group, which met early in April, consisted of Special Education teachers, Limestone Board administration, Family Support staff and our area Transition Planner. We examined existing planning tools already being utilized in our respective programs, processes used during the transition meetings and looked at what other school boards have already implemented within their districts. We developed a comprehensive list of what we think Limestone students will need in this program. Next steps are a full day group meeting late May with the point person from the board to begin organizing the information into a user-friendly, interactive format and to trial a few of the features.

Provincial Budget... continued from Front Page

government is also creating a new, refundable tax credit to help low- and medium- income families cover some of their child care expenses.

There were a few announcements that were of particular significance to people with disabilities including the following:

- A new program to cover dental care for low-income seniors;
- Investments of $174 million this year to support community mental health and addiction services;
- A reiteration of the previously announced commitment to fund the construction of children's treatment centres in Ajax and Ottawa;
- A reiteration of the previously announced plan to eliminate the 23,000-person waiting list for autism services;
- Launching of the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program to certify public buildings and businesses for accessibility; and
- A reiteration of support for the Federal affordable housing strategy.

Community Living Ontario was hoping that the budget would include a commitment to retain the funding announced in the 2018 Budget to provide a minimum amount of $5,000 to any person deemed eligible to receive Passport funding. While we have received verbal assurances from the ministry that this funding will remain in place, we have not yet seen a public statement to that effect.

In recent weeks, the government has also made public plans to increase class sizes and reduce the number of teachers in the education system by 3,500. The budget provided no further information regarding the specific impact this may have on students who have a disability, but such constraint is clearly of concern to Community Living Ontario and is an issue that we will be paying close attention to in the coming weeks.

23rd Annual Helen Lyle Memorial Curling Bonspiel

Many staff and friends came together on February 23rd, 2019 to take part in the 23rd Annual Helen Lyle Memorial Curling Bonspiel and Silent Auction. As usual, the event proved not to disappoint-with plenty of good food, comraderie and fantastic Silent Auction items available, there were smiling faces and good fun all around. Thanks to the many local businesses and community members listed below, the silent auction was a popular feature and once again raised over $2500 for our Sunburst Fund.

Pita Pit Kingston	*1000 Island Playhouse*	*Ambassador Hotel*	*Car Medics*	*Connect Fit Club*	*Kingston YMCA*
Black Dog Tire Craft	*Dar Bar Restaurant*	*Milano Pizzeria*	*Elgin Bowling Lanes*	*Gananoque Chev Olds*	*1000 Islands Wine Cellars*
The Glass House	*Rhian Jansen-Perfetta Esthetics*	*Wholesale Club*	*Heather Campbell*	*Digigraphics*	*Magicuts-Cataraqui Town Centre*
JE Agnew Foods	*Saralyn Morris*	*Samatva Yoga*	*Teri Wing*	*Steacy Powell*	*Shoppers Drug Mart-Strand Boulevard*
PharmaSave	*Mud Creek Creations*	*Lily Nails*	*Friends of CLKD*	*The Lyle Family*	

Thank you to all who contributed to our silent auction!

facebook

Be sure to check out Community Living Kingston's page on Facebook. Learn about upcoming events, share opinions and hear about how others are making community living a reality.

Check us out at: www.facebook.com/communitylivingkingston

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Dinner and Dance
Thursday December 5, 2019 Ramada Kingston
$35.00 per ticket
Tickets to go on sale Nov 4th —Details to Follow

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The Staff Corner

Jeff Harrison

RECENT PROMOTIONS

Several existing staff members have been promoted to new full-time positions over the past six months. Here is an overview of their new roles.

Employee Name	New Position	Program
Nicole Cotter	Community Support Worker	Family Home/Respite
Brooklyn Bertrim	Residential Facilitator	Smithfield
Chelsea McCallum	Community Support Worker	Parkway
Nicola Turcotte	Community Support Worker	Compass
Laura Lee Babcock	Direct Support Professional	Smithfield/Splinter
Dee Young	Direct Support Professional	Ringstead/Roosevelt
Kaitlyn Ferguson	Residential Facilitator	Roosevelt
Rob Amini-Vadeghani	Community Support Worker	Parkway
Nicole Wood	Home Facilitator	Dolshire
Jessica McGinn	Community Support Worker	Outreach/Community Services
Connor McLaren	Community Support Worker	Compass
Alysha Charbonneau	Community Support Worker	Compass

The Corner Office.... *continued from Page 2*

Despite a current climate of re-structuring and constraint in the human services in Ontario, these examples make it clear that Community Living Kingston and District will continue to stay committed to serving our community when asked and needed. Unmet needs in Kingston and Gananoque will remain a concern and efforts will not be diminished to serve those individuals and families. Regardless of the political party in power in the province, our first point of accountability remains to the individuals and families we serve and the community in general. Accountability to our funders, while critically important, is secondary to that of our primary stakeholders.

Our strategic plan will be renewed this fall that will undoubtedly reinforce and underscore our values and mission in this way. Goals and priorities will be articulated and established that will be driven by our determination to better serve our community and achieve our primary goal that "That all people with intellectual disabilities have every opportunity to participate fully in our community with dignity and independence." The job of the Executive Director, the Board of Directors and the management team is to build strength in the organization at all levels to allow for seamless adjustments to be made when constraints are applied, to anticipate adversity and shield the organization from its most damaging effects. Most importantly, we cannot let changes in government funding, policy and structure deter us from our mission and values. That will not happen even though we have not yet been provided details on funding going forward. Being willing, able and prepared to play the hand that's dealt to us by the recently installed provincial government is an ongoing consideration but it will not define our organization or detour its mission. The pattern of growth, of responding to unmet needs and to ensuring the delivery of the highest quality of service will continue to drive our efforts, now and in the future.

YEARS OF SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A number of CLKD employees have recently reached length of service milestones with the organization. Congratulations to all of the following and thank you for your dedication.

Five Years	Lindsay Crombach Community Support Worker Gananoque	Chelsea McCallum Community Support Worker Parkway	Maegan Phillips Community Support Worker Parkway
Ten Years	Sarah Enright Residential Facilitator Arbour	Derek Judd Administrative Assistant Operations/Scheduling	Rebecca Mangan Direct Support Professional McMichael
Fifteen Years	Alexandrea Wright Direct Support Professional CO2	Paula Brawley Direct Support Professional Parkway/Options	Wendy Weiss Resource Consultant Childcare Resource Consultant Services
Fifteen Years	Joy Nielsen Direct Support Professional Aberfoyle	Joe O'Neill Maintenance Assistant Options	
Twenty Years	Susan Corcoran Direct Support Professional Melanie		
Thirty Years	Helen Hawley Community Facilitator Options/CO2	Wanda Lloyd Community Support Worker Supported Independent Living	Lacey Acton Community Facilitator CO2
Thirty Years	Eleonor Egidio Coordinator Volunteer Services	Kelly Agazzi Coordinator Family Home	

Inspiring Possibilities Celebration

Monday June 24th 2019
5:30p.m. Reception---6:00p.m. Celebration Begins
Located at the Donald Gordon Centre
421 Union Street West, Kingston, Ontario
R.S.V.P. to Natalie Thompson by Friday June 15th
natalie.thompson@clkingston.ca / 613-546-6613 x 3157

The Volunteer Side

A FAMILY TRADITION OF VOLUNTEERING

Emma Spence

Starting first year university often involves adapting to living in a new city, making new friends, and adjusting to new academics. While the combination of these features makes for a distinctly exciting time in a young student's life, all the novelty can also be somewhat daunting. I certainly felt this combination of emotions when I first arrived at Queen's University in the fall of 2015.

Having just moved from Calgary, I was trying to figure out how to bring with me some parts of my life that I was passionate about, such as working as a Peer Mentor with Inclusion Alberta (formerly the Alberta Association for Community Living), while leaving other things I loved, such as family and friends, behind. This was when my older brothers - Sean and Christopher - who had both previously graduated from Queen's University, made it known to me that Kingston had a Community Living as well. In fact, they had both volunteered with Community Living Kingston with the same gentleman for a collective three years during their undergraduate studies. Without hesitation, I applied for a volunteer position, and was warmly welcomed by the volunteer coordinator who was excited to find a third Spence sibling engaged with their program. I was delighted to soon be matched with a young man whose interests matched my skillset. Suddenly, despite being so far from Calgary, I felt very close to home.

I had the privilege to begin working with and learning from a young man in his twenties. Our partnership initially revolved around my teaching French lessons, but over the last four years has included working toward several other goals such as getting a G1 driver's licence and optimizing job resumes. Meeting weekly, I always left our get-togethers feeling energized by his excitement about a new goal to pursue. Somewhere along the line, the partnership grew into a friendship that I look forward to continuing to foster.

I had previous experience working with children and teens with exceptionalities. Working with someone older than myself for the first time pushed me in new ways and helped me see a new perspective. Having the opportunity to work with someone at a more independent stage in life importantly reinforced to me how all individuals can contribute meaningfully to our communities.

Sean (2009-2011), Emma (2015 to present) and Christopher (2012-2013): The Spence Siblings, all of whom have volunteered for CLKD.

As a result of the great experiences my brothers and I have had working with the organization over the years, I love taking - and creating - opportunities to speak about Community Living and its wonderful programming which has given me great chances to learn and grow while doing something positive for the Kingston community. I have been glad to refer other well-suited friends to begin volunteering as well. I look forward to continuing to learn, grow and be inspired by the new matches and experiences that Community Living will provide me with in the future.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YouTube CHANNEL

Search "Community Living Kingston and District" or connect directly at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGpjw9KfYxOL0zzT59vs6GQ

STILL HAVING FUN AFTER THREE YEARS TOGETHER

Tatiana Hyde and Megan Cull

Three years ago, we met our Best Buddy Rob. We were excited to join the Best Buddies Program, as it provided us with the opportunity to make a positive impact in someone's life. We both had an idea of what the program entailed, however, we never expected to become so close with Rob over the years.

When we first met Rob, he was very quiet and reserved. We remember feeling nervous that we wouldn't have things to talk about with him or activities to enjoy together. Unsure of what to do on our first visit, we decided to meet Rob at Tim Hortons for tea and a treat. After a few visits and getting to know him better, we quickly noticed Rob's love of food. For this reason, we came up with ideas that incorporated his love of food, such as baking and decorating cookies, creating our own pizzas, and making ice cream sundaes. Early on, we also discovered Rob's enjoyment of movies and sports, so we planned events such as movie nights and attending Kingston Frontenacs hockey games.

Now that Rob has opened up to us, we have gotten to see his "jokester" side. He puts on little performances for us to show his deep passion for 70's music through impersonations of Stevie Wonder and Elton John, as well as rocking air guitar and keyboard solos. Unfortunately, our time as Best Buddies will eventually come to an end. For this reason, we decided to begin making a photo album for Rob filled with all our memories. We have included things like the holiday cards we make together, ticket stubs from hockey games, and silly photos from our fun photoshoots.

Rob is always excited to plan our next visit, he continuously tells us how much he likes to spend time with us. Both of us agree that one of our best university experiences was joining the Best Buddies program and meeting Rob. We have grown to love and care about him immensely and cannot imagine our lives without our bi-weekly visits. We hope to continue our friendship with him past our years in Kingston, and plan to visit him as often as we can. Being a part of Queen's Best Buddies has been an incredible experience for both of us, and we hope that everyone will be lucky enough to have a buddy as amazing as Rob.

BECAUSE WE LOVE HOCKEY

Allison Neville

I don't think Best Buddies could have found a better match for me when they picked Alan in 2013 when I was a Queen's student. Our friendship started very slowly but now I can't help but smile when he calls me almost every week. In the beginning, we were both a little shy towards each other. This completely changed the moment we discovered we both loved hockey. Alan is a season ticket holder and I am an employee of the Kingston Frontenacs so I get to see Alan before and during most of the Frontenacs' home games. I love being able to see Alan when he is most comfortable and happiest.

Alan and I love to chat on the phone but usually only for a few minutes. He regularly calls to update me on his day or how the Frontenacs are doing. Life can get very busy and you can't always talk on the phone with people but even in the busiest of times, I love to speak to him, even if it is only for 60 seconds. There have been a few times I have been having an especially bad day, until Alan will spontaneously call me. Our friendship has lasted through me living in other parts of Canada and the world, but no matter how long it has been whenever I talk to Alan again we can just pick up where we left off. I know that Alan and I will be friends for a very long time and I can't imagine having been paired up with anybody else.

Resource Consultant Update

PEYTON'S TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

Lori Barrie (Peyton's mom)

My son Peyton has a diagnosis of Autism and is non-verbal. Peyton attends Prince Charles Public School in Verona. I was very nervous for Peyton to start school, but Peyton was welcomed into the school just like all of the other children.

Peyton didn't like much contact with the other children at first but as time goes on he is becoming more comfortable being around his peers. Peyton loved school right away and the other children accepted and really like having Peyton in their classroom.

Last year when Peyton started Junior Kindergarten not all of his equipment had been purchased and put place due to lack of funding. His caring and amazing teacher and educational assistant took it upon themselves to purchase some of the equipment Peyton needed with their own money.

This year Peyton is in Senior Kindergarten. He has the same teacher and educational assistant. Peyton attends school five days a week. Last year he had attended two days a week at school and the other three days he attended the IBI program at the Maltby Centre.

Peyton took the school bus to Prince Charles but on his Maltby Centre days he had an amazing driver named Lynda who drove him into Kingston. Lynda has become like part of our family. This year, Lynda took the initiative and organized an event that raised funds for a Sensory Room at Prince Charles. This has greatly benefited Peyton and other children at the school.

As Peyton's mother I am so proud of him and how far he has come. This year at an assembly with all of the teachers and children, Peyton was given the "Perseverance Award" by his kindergarten teacher. He was given this award because he keeps trying and never gives up.

Peyton has come so far from when he first started school. I could not ask for a better school, teacher and educational assistant. They go above and beyond for my son and they will have a special spot in my heart.

Below is an excerpt submitted by his teacher at Prince Charles Public School in Verona summarizing a day in Kindergarten for Peyton:

"Peyton is a member of the SK/Grade 1 class here at Prince Charles Public School. He is integrated into the regular classroom, with one-on-one assistance from an EA. He has his own workspace in the classroom where he completes puzzles, matching activities and monthly calendars. Using hand-over-hand assistance, he completes art activities that the whole class partakes in. Peyton has taken steps towards being part of other whole group activities. He will sit on the perimeter of the carpet area for "read alouds" or shared reading lessons. With the help of some local businesses, we have put together a sensory room in the school and Peyton enjoys the activities provided in there, including watching bubble lamps, bouncing on the custom furniture and crawling through the ball tents / tunnels. Other students will often join him to join in the fun. Peyton loves to be in the gym. This is where he is the happiest. For short periods of time he will pass a ball back and forth with an adult or classmate. The other students in the room enjoy his company and pay attention to his needs and interests."

BIRTHDAY TRIPPING TO DISNEY

Jacqueline Wall

During the last week of March, I had the opportunity to explore Walt Disney World with Holly and Kyle, two individuals who receive support from the Bayswater program.

Although Holly had visited Orlando once before, she had a long term goal to go to the Disney parks by her 25th birthday. Planning for this trip was a blast thanks to Holly's incredible enthusiasm! What made this trip extra special was that Holly's new roommate was able to join us. Kyle had never been to Disney before, and he was excited about everything that we had planned.

We spent three days park hopping, and were able to visit all of the theme parks, including one waterpark. Our last day was spent shopping at Disney Springs and soaking up the sun by the hotel pool. The weather was great for most of the week. We all agreed that we weren't too excited to go back to the cold and rain in Kingston!

I asked Holly and Kyle to summarize how they felt about the trip and what they liked best about it. Holly said, "I have no favorite memory, I love them all! Even the "It's a Small World" ride. I liked everything including the water park, Rainforest café, fireworks at Magic Kingdom, swimming, and being with you and Kyle. I loved it all and I want to go back!". Kyle described his trip by saying, "I liked the trip. My favorite part of the trip was when we walked around all the different country pavilions at Epcot. I liked the waterpark and the animals that we saw on the safari. I also liked all the rides that we went on. My favorite part was also hanging out with you and Holly by the pool and all of the different food that I tried".

BUDDING ARTISTS, NICOLAS AND HAYDEN

Kelly Obery

Nicolas and Hayden are roommates and can be as different as night and day. Nicolas loves hiking, markets, and tasting and making while Hayden loves music, horses, swimming and relaxing at home to watch movies. However, they both experience and share a similar limitation in their life, which is their expressive verbal communication. They may be men of few words but they work very hard to find ways to make them themselves heard and understood in this world. One very amazing and unique way they have found to express themselves is through art.

Salmon River Studios is based on a 52 acre farm nestled on the banks of the pristine Salmon River- just across from the town of Tamworth. and is home to Gabriel Deerman (artist and educator) and his family. He started as art instructor for New Leaf Link in 2016 and discussed his interest in working in a mentorship role in his studio with participants with a keen interest in art. Artistic Futures: Visual Arts Mentorship for Adults with Special Needs was conceptualized and soon found its participants. There was only one other artist who joined before Nicolas and then Hayden joined a little later. All three artists are very different in their approaches to art making and their work is all very distinctively their own. Over the months (and now years) Gabriel has helped them in identifying techniques that they enjoy most and have challenged them to grow and develop approaches to art making that result in high quality art works.

Below are their Artist profiles from the Salmon River Studio websites:

Nicolas Steiner Bell is 32 years old and loves the natural world and has always responded to spatial configurations and colour. Nicolas' tendencies toward color field painting combined with his boisterous brush work has developed into complex compositions- at times featuring recurring motifs such as line and shape configurations, at other times more 'all over' compositional formats. These opposing approaches lead to work that falls somewhere between abstract expressionism and minimalism- a disjunct that gives his work an energy of back and forth, over and under and truly vibrates with his own personal character. Recent works have incorporated spray techniques which are bringing new directions and possibilities to his paintings offering a lightness that contrasts the heavy application of paint in his other works. Nicolas has been working with Artistic Futures for one year

Hayden Kaack is a 23 year old living with autism and Artistic Futures' newest artist! He is a keen observer of his natural environment and is most in his element when in the water- which finds its way into his work through his fluid and energetic mark making. Hayden's approach to painting swings between reflective restraint and exuberant, joyful outbursts with brushes, rollers and palate knives- leading to exuberant and dynamic abstract works that capture the spirit and energy of this very expressive individual. While Hayden struggles with speech he is rapidly finding his creative voice and gaining confidence as an artist. In the months since Hayden joined the program he has gained independence in his work and moved from frustration and appeals for direction to ecstatic engagement. This new artist has a world of potential and I think we can expect larger work in the future!

In addition to exhibiting at New Leaf Link open houses, the Community Living Kingston and District Inspiring Possibilities Celebration and at Kingston Art Fest, the artists have shared their work at The Tett Centre, where Nicolas held his very first Art Exhibition in 2017. Additionally, their art is currently on exhibition at Ian Arthur's office, MPP for Kingston and the Islands. Nicolas and Hayden have had their art work purchased and even commissioned through these exhibitions and have taken the first steps toward establishing themselves as artists and are as such helping to create a more inclusive arts community in Kingston.

They continue to pursue their goals and dreams as artists, where they attend art classes weekly and are already registered for a booth at this year's Art Fest. Nicolas is currently working to build his own website so he can showcase and share his art on a broader scale. The work of these artists and the program itself has been very positive in terms of public appreciation. People are generally impressed by the quality of the artwork and inspired by the idea that people with ASD can contribute to the arts community in such a genuine way.

http://www.salmonriverstudios.com/artistic-futures

Opening Doors Continued...

SALMON RIVER STUDIOS

Parents Meeting Parents

We are a group of parents with sons and daughters who have developmental disabilities.
We get together once a month to share advice, frustrations, and laughs.
We have speakers every other month on topics that we're interested in.

All parents and caregivers are welcome.

The Parents Meeting Parents group was established in late 2015 by a small group of parents who wanted a venue to share information, hear about community opportunities, and lend support to each other.
We are supported by one Family Support staff who acts as a resource to the group and facilitates the connection to the agency.

Some of the information sessions presented have been:

- *Legal and ODSP issues*
- *Disability Tax Credit & Registered Disability Savings Plan*
- *Guardianship, Powers of Attorney and other legal matters*
- *How to talk to your kids about sex*
- *KPD Vulnerable Sectors Unit, Kingston Police Force*
- *Dual Diagnosis*
- *Self-Care/Burnout*
- *Recreation and Leisure resources*
- *Funding*

For more info about the group contact:
Leslie at Community Living Kingston and District
leslie.moore@clkingston.ca 613-507-8460 ext. 2228
Join the Facebook group at: specialneedsparentsupportandfriendship

THE FAMILY ROOM IS OPEN FOR BOOKINGS!

Our Family Room is located on the main level at our new office location, 541 Days Road, at the Atrium Mall. It provides a cozy, comfortable environment for families to hang out, use as a meeting room and work. A call to either Natalie or Nicole at reception at 613-546-6613 is all that you need to book the Family Room. A key fob is needed to access the room and an office staff or a spare fob at reception can be provided. The room is equipped with wifi and ready to be accessed.

Family Support Monthly Drop-In

Every 2nd Thursday of the month

1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Located at our new office:

645 Gardiners Road, Suite#201

- Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins are welcomed
- We accept people dropping in and those with appointments until 6:00 p.m
- French Language Services are available by appointments only

Our team can assist you to...

- Complete government forms
- Complete referrals
- Provide advice
- Find out where to turn

WELCOMING FAMILIES LIVING WITH A PERSON WHO HAS AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

For more information please contact Diane Stewart

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SPARK CHANGE in your community

INSPIRING!
CREATIVE!
INCLUSIVE!
REMARKABLE!

THESE ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPARK...

THE SPARKS THAT IGNITE CHANGE ARE ALL AROUND US

Spark Change is a general awareness campaign to encourage people, employers, neighbours, community and family members, who see the abilities of all people, to be the Spark that ignites change for people who have an intellectual disability.

Sparks are inspiring people who advance inclusion in their own lives, the lives of others and in their communities.

They are people and organizations that demonstrate new thinking and new ways of caring which champion inclusiveness and dignity.

There are many remarkable stories. You can read and learn more at **www.sparkchangetoday.com**

We're on the look out for Sparks!

If you know a local person or organization that has impressed you with their inspirational actions to change the community for the better, please let us know!

publicrelations@clkingston.ca

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