

Mayor Susan Fennell Officially Opens BCCL's Newest Site

On April 20, 2004, Mayor Susan Fennell cut the red ribbon to officially open 19 Rutherford Road South, BCCL's latest and newest day support site. Also present for the ceremonies was Michael Collins, President of the Brampton Board of Trade.

About 150 people were in attendance to see the Mayor and visit the new site. Mayor Fennell commended BCCL for its services to citizens with an intellectual disability and its contributions to the community. Michael Collins congratulated BCCL for the work it does in the business community and finding employment for people with a disability.

Jane Cerdic, Manager, said that this newest day program site provides participants a brighter and more enhancing environment than the previous site that was located on the outskirts of the city. "Nineteen Rutherford Road is more convenient and accessible for participants and their families. It also means increased opportunities for people to access and participate in the community."

One participant and his mother commented on the change. "What a difference. It's been a wonderful change for both of us."



Andrew Doherty and Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell

Ontario Budget does Little for People with an Intellectual Disability and their Families

ODSP To Be Increased By 3%

It has been 11 years since people with disabilities have received any increase in income support under the Ontario Disability Support Program. After 11 years of neglect, the 3% increase announced in the Ontario budget is grossly inadequate.

ODSP benefits have fallen behind the cost of living by almost 20% since 1993.

Garry Cooke, President of Community Living Ontario, acknowledged that a 20% increase would not be possible in a single budget. He noted, however, that the government committed to multi-year plans for other priorities and he expected it to apply the same long-term approach to the desperate income needs of people with disabilities.

The income of a single person who depends on ODSP income support has been increased by a maximum of \$27.90.

Continued on page 2

Inside

BCCL and CLM	
Withhold Their Support of Peel Board's Special Education Plan	2
7th Annual Caledon Spring Dance Most Successful Yet!	3
Brampton Civitan Club: Living Their Creed	3
A New Home for the Future	4
Ah, to be Young Again! Youth Quest: A New Respite Initiative for Young Adults	4
Upcoming Events	5
Resources	5
Foundation To Be Established for BCCL	6
Portrait of a Working Man	6
Out-of-Home Respite Initiative	6
Subway Stores Have An Appetite for Awareness	7
A Hole In One for BCCL's 5th Annual Golf Tournament !	7

...Continued from page 1

The maximum annual benefit for a single person will now be \$11,495, still leaving people up to \$8,000 below the poverty line, depending where one lives.

“We recognize that the government had some difficult financial decisions to make,” said Mr. Cooke, “but compared to the commitments of \$1 billion to transit, \$2.1 billion to schools and almost half a billion dollars each to public health, long-term care, drinking water and home care, what happened to the Finance Minister’s declaration in his speech that ‘we must not forget the challenges faced by the most vulnerable’? We don’t question the value in investing in any of these important priorities. But, in budgets year after year, in good times and bad, governments have neglected the income support needs of people with disabilities. Surely it is time for this critical issue to be an equal priority.”

Little Attention Paid to Developmental Services

Keith Sooknanan, President of Brampton Caledon Community Living, says that although it’s encouraging to see new monies for child care and children’s mental health, it was disappointing to see little attention to developmental services.

Jim Triantafilou, Executive Director of Brampton Caledon Community Living, noted that there was reference made in the budget for housing spaces for people with a developmental disability but it appeared that this was a hold over from an announcement made from the previous government. Said Triantafilou, “without a commitment to a long term funding model for social services, and one that recognizes the funding inequity of Peel as well as other regions, we will always be playing catch up in response to the tremendous growth and demand in Peel.”

The BCCL BEACON is published by
Brampton Caledon Community Living.

Editors: Kathryn Smith, Iain Lowe

HEAD OFFICE 34 Church St. W. Brampton, ON L6X 1H3

Tel: (905) 453-8841

Fax: (905) 453-8853

Email: info@bcclnet.com

FINANCE OFFICE 46 West Drive Brampton, ON L6T 3T6

Tel: (905) 453-8833

Fax: (905) 453-8834

Email: info@bcclnet.com

CALEDON OFFICE · 33 King St. W. Bolton, ON L7E 1C7

Tel: (905) 857-9691

Fax: (905) 951-2303

Email: info@bcclnet.com

BCCL and CLM Withhold Their Support of Peel Board’s Special Education Plan

Brampton Caledon Community Living and Community Living Mississauga through its Special Education Advisory Committee representatives will not be supporting the approval of the Peel District School Board’s Special Education Plan for the 2004/2005 year. In a joint report submitted to the Board, CLM and BCCL say they cannot support the Board’s plan because it calls for the segregation of more students with a developmental disability in contained classrooms.

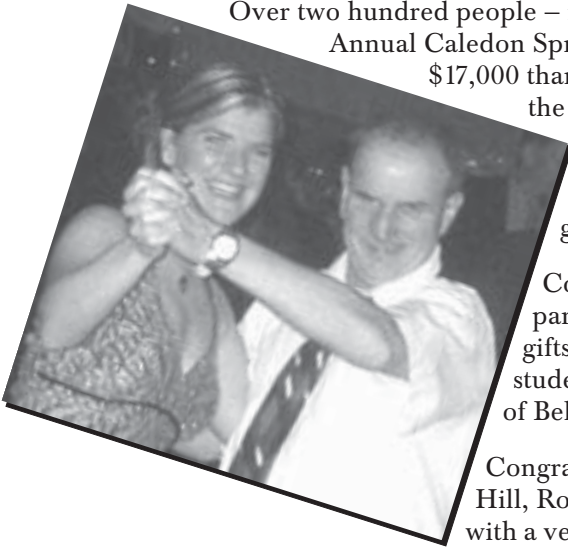
The 2004/2005 school year will see another six contained classrooms added to the six contained classrooms added in the previous school year.

The joint report notes that the plan is not only contrary to the vision held by the two community living associations but contrary to the vision articulated by the Peel District School Board in its own document called “*The Future We Want*”. In this document, the Board reiterates its commitment to fairness, respect and inclusiveness and working towards a world where everyone feels included, valued and empowered.

Brampton Caledon Community Living and Community Living Mississauga remain committed to working with the Peel District School Board to achieve equity, fairness, respect and inclusiveness for all students, including students with a developmental disability.

7th Annual Caledon Spring Dance Most Successful Yet!

Over two hundred people – including the Mayor of the Town of Caledon – turned out for BCCL's 7th Annual Caledon Spring Dance on Saturday, April 24, 2004. This year's event raised a record \$17,000 thanks to the work of the committee, the participation of the community, and the generosity of the Caledon business community.



A special thank you to Domenic Virgilio, of Bel Air Lumber. In addition to making a donation to BCCL and serving as the event sponsor, Domenic got other businesses to join in and help the cause.

Committee members Carm Crudo and Alice Blaser Hill said that community participation was tremendous. "The silent auction table was full of wonderful gifts and unique items donated by local businesses and citizens. We also had students from Caledon Central High School help out and, of course, Domenic, of Bel Air Lumber, was very helpful getting other businesses involved this year."

Congratulations to committee members Carm Crudo, Frank Crudo, Alice Blaser Hill, Robert Tremblay, Connie Tremblay and Rick Jessup for ushering in spring with a very successful and enjoyable evening.

BCCL Needs Special Education Advisory Committee Representatives

Brampton Caledon Community Living is seeking two individuals to represent our association on the Special Education Advisory Committees of the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) meet once a month and make recommendations to the school board in respect of matters affecting special education programs and services for pupils with special needs.

Brampton Caledon Community Living currently has no representative serving on the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and we are in need of an alternate representative to serve on the Peel District School Board.

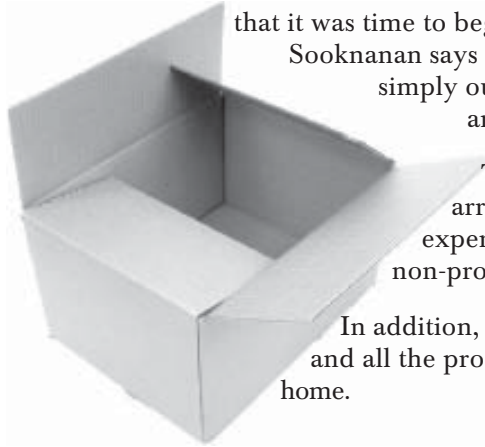
Brampton Caledon Community Living believes that children with an intellectual disability have the right to attend classes with like-aged children, receive appropriate supports in the regular classroom, and receive assistance in all transitional phases of their educational life. If you believe in these principles and want to make a difference in the lives of students, please call or write to our Executive Director, Jim Triantafilou.

Brampton Civitan Club: Living Their Creed

"My motto, builders of good citizenship" Civitans say when reciting the Civitan Creed. On June 22, 2004, Bob Pearson of the Brampton Civitan Club presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Jim Triantafilou, Executive Director of Brampton Caledon Community Living. Jim said that the Brampton Civitan Club has been a great supporter of BCCL not only financially but with their time as well. Brampton Civitan members have developed relationships with some of the older individuals supported by BCCL, going out to events and participating in social activities together. Says Jim Triantafilou, "this has provided wonderful social opportunities for fellowship and friendship for the people we support."



A New Home for the Future



After careful deliberation, the Board of Directors of Brampton Caledon Community Living decided that it was time to begin the process of securing a new home for the organization's future. Keith Sooknanan says that the organization has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years and has simply outgrown the house at 34 Church Street West. "It is no longer efficient. Space and parking is completely inadequate and we have no more room for staff."

The Board of Directors has engaged the services of C.B. Richard Ellis to arrange the sale of the property. Says Sooknanan "C.B. Richard Ellis has the expertise to respond to our needs and a successful track record working with other non-profit organizations."

In addition, says Sooknanan, BCCL does not have a budget line for administrative offices and all the proceeds from a sale, should that come to be, will all be invested in our new home.

Ah! To Be Young Again!

Youth Quest: A New Respite Initiative for Young Adults

When Pam Wepler and Tracy Edmonds were putting together a brochure to describe Brampton Caledon Community Living's new respite initiative, they decided to use the following quote: "*Youth is the opportunity to do something and to become somebody.*" The quote is apt. BCCL's newest respite initiative, *Youth Quest*, not only provides parents with respite opportunities on week evenings and weekends but also provides young adults 18 to 21 years of age and who are attending school a variety of social, leisure, recreational, and educational opportunities to promote their skills and participation in the community. Pam and Tracy are the support workers who are heading up this initiative. Both of them are enthusiastic and excited about working with youths.

Margarette Guerra, Acting Manager of Respite Supports, says that *Youth Quest* fills a gap in respite services to families and will serve as a good foundation for the young adults who will be transitioning into the community when they graduate. "There are limited respite opportunities for families during week evenings and weekends. When the Ministry made some funding available for what is known as out-of-home respite, we wanted to provide parents with some options during the week and on weekends and we wanted to be strategic about this investment. We know there is limited support to students with a disability in school who will soon be graduating." Providing these opportunities and experiences now, while students are still in school, Guerra says, will help with their transition down the road.

Days of Caring

On Thursday June 10th, volunteers from companies across Peel Region shared their time, talent and a little bit of elbow grease to clean, paint and rake yards to help agencies supported by United Way. Days of Caring provides volunteers and companies the opportunity to see their donations at work.

At Brampton Caledon Community Living, 13 volunteers from Daimler Chrysler, Frito Lay, Region of Peel and IKON Office Solutions painted and manicured yards at homes of individuals supported by Brampton Caledon Community Living. The event was a great success and we want to thank all of the volunteers and their employers for their time and effort.



For all the latest news, events, and information from BCCL, visit our Web Site at <http://www.bcclnet.com>

Upcoming Events



October 18: Integration and the School System

October 18, 2004 7p.m. to 9p.m.

19 Rutherford Road South, Unit B

Join **Ed Mahoney**, a teacher in the Hamilton school system as he talks about the success of their inclusive education model

November 15: Stress Management

November 15, 2004 7p.m. to 9p.m.

19 Rutherford Road South, Unit B

Join **Dr. Justine Blainey**, Doctor of Chiropractics and well-know hockey player in a workshop addressing stress in our day to day lives.

Resources

Associations and Organizations

Caledon Community Services	(905) 951-2300
Community Care Access Centre of Peel	(905) 796-0040
Down Syndrome Association	(416) 966-0990
Easter Seals	(905) 522-5171
Epilepsy Ontario	(416) 229-2291
Erinoak	(905) 820-7111
Family Services of Peel-Intake	(905) 453-5775
Geneva Centre for Autism	(416) 322-7877
India Rainbow Community Services-Peel	(905) 275-2369
Kerry's Place	(905) 457-1130
Learning Disabilities Association of Peel	(905) 459-8840
Muslim Community Services of Peel	(905) 790-1910
Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy	(416) 244-8003
Peel Behavioral Services	(905) 848-7279
Peel Infant Development	(905) 564-7485
Peel Pre-school Speech and Language Program	(905) 820-7111

Funding

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)	(905) 567-7177
Assistive Devices Program (ADP)	(905) 963-1959
Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit	1-800-277-9914
Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) ...	(905) 897-3100
Special Services at Home (SSAH)	(905) 567-7177
Trillium Drug Program	(416) 314-5518

Around BCCL

Foundation To Be Established for Brampton Caledon Community Living

At the direction of the Board of Directors of BCCL, a committee comprised of parents, former board members, and staff of Brampton Caledon Community Living was struck to establish a foundation for the organization. Donna Kirk, chair of the committee, and committee members have been working with a legal firm specializing in non-profit law for the past year to establish sound groundwork for the Brampton Caledon Community Living Charitable Foundation.

Says Kirk “application has recently been made to the Canada Revenue Agency for charitable status for the foundation. This process could take about 8 months.

Upon acceptance we will have an arm’s length charitable foundation that will raise funds, hold funds and transfer funds to BCCL. This foundation will be a vehicle which will generate revenue, promote the work of BCCL and will afford greater liability protection for BCCL.”

A presentation will be made by the committee at BCCL’s Annual General Meeting in September 2004.

Portrait of a Working Man

Steven Lake worked at Norpak Custom Packaging – a sheltered workshop – for over 15 years. In May of 2003, Steven decided he would like to find a different job, and applied to the Ministry of Community and Social Services Ontario Disability Employment Supports Program (ODSPES). Steven’s application was accepted, and he chose Alliance Personnel, a division of Brampton Caledon Community Living, to help him find competitive employment. Steven enjoys cleaning, and although he thought about several different career paths, he decided he would like to be a cleaner.

Steven and the Job Developer began a job search and found a position with Menardi Iron Design Inc. In July 2004, Steven celebrated his first anniversary at Menardi, marking an important personal achievement. His successful first year at Menardi is a testament to his hard work and dedication.

Steven enjoys going to work and the people he works with. In his first year, Steven has become an integral part of the team at Menardi, and the mutual respect between Steven and his co-workers is obvious. Steven attended the 2003 Menardi Iron Design Christmas Party and is also included in all other work functions.

Steven is very proud of his achievements at work.

Out-of-Home Respite Initiative

The out-of-home respite initiative for children who are medically fragile and technologically dependent offers children from birth up to and including 18 years of age an opportunity to be actively involved within their own community. The Community Integration Worker ensures that each child is supported physically, emotionally, and socially so that full inclusion can take place.

The children have made great friendships and are pleasantly greeted by other community members. Putting Edge, YMCA, Ontario Early Years Centres, and the Community Archery Club are just a few things that the children take pride in accessing on a weekly basis. During each visit into the community, Community Integration Workers strive to promote the individual’s growth and development. This initiative also enables parents to have some short-term relief, which gives them a chance to involve themselves in other aspects of their own life.

We have received some wonderful feedback from all of the families on how these supports benefit their child and family as a whole. Parents have noticed remarkable gains in their child’s development and feel that the supports provided by BCCL have had a positive impact on that change. This initiative has proven to be invaluable. Without it parents have said that they feel their child would not be able to experience life in their own community the same way they do now.

The future holds many possibilities for these children and we look forward to continuing to provide these much needed supports.



Subway Stores Have An Appetite for Awareness

On Saturday May 15, 2004, Subway held its second annual Appetite for Awareness event in support of Brampton Caledon Community Living and Community Living Mississauga. On this day 51 Subway stores in Brampton and Mississauga gave a dollar from each sale to Community Living and helped to promote awareness about Community Living. We would like to thank Steve Barker and Adam Grant, from Subway, for organizing this event, and all of the storeowners for their support and participation.

A Hole In One for BCCL's 5TH Annual Golf Tournament !

May 28, 2004, Lionhead Golf & Country Club, Brampton

The sun and a gaggle of golfers were out for Brampton Caledon Community Living's 5th Annual Golf Tournament. Friends and supporters of BCCL took out their clubs and took up the cause and sold out this year's tournament. \$20,000 was raised—a record—to provide respite support to families caring for a family member with an intellectual disability.



Keith Sooknanan, President of Brampton Caledon Community Living summarized the day. "Each year our tournament has grown bigger and better and so has BCCL. It's wonderful to see service clubs, the business community, volunteers, and friends come out and have a great time while contributing to the good work of our organization."

Congratulations to BCCL's Golf Committee, whose collective swing really swung for BCCL! Thank you to co-chairs

Linda Russell and Jo-Anne Stevanov, and Chris Bournakas, Brad Goodison, Marilyn Connolly, Dan Greene, and Pali Kanani.

Thank you, as well, to Lionhead Golf & Country Club, who did a terrific job hosting the event, and to all of our sponsors.



Brampton Caledon Community Living



Serving the
communities of
Brampton
& Caledon

OUR VISION

... A community that respects the dignity and inherent value of each of its members and supports its members to participate, contribute, and share in all elements of living in the community.

OUR MISSION

... To support people with a developmental disability, in partnership with their families and the community, to lead enriched and meaningful lives.



Member of
United Way of Peel Region

BCCL Membership Application

(covering the period from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005)

Please detach and return with membership fee (cheques may be made payable to BCCL) to:
Brampton Caledon Community Living

Attn: Marilyn Connolly

34 Church Street West, Brampton, Ontario L6X 1H3

New Membership

Renewal Membership

- General (1 person) \$10
- Family (2 or 3 people) \$15
- Circle of Support (5 people) \$25
- Business Friend (1 business) \$25
- Corporate Sponsor (1 business) \$1500
- Employee (1 person) \$10

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Donations are gratefully accepted. Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued. (Charitable Registration #10680-5880-RR0001)

I wish to donate \$ _____ to assist in the work of BCCL.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for your support.

Join the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Brampton Caledon Community Living is inviting applications from members and citizens to serve on its Board of Directors. We are seeking dynamic board members who wish to contribute their time, talents, and skills to promoting our goals and values as an organization.

We are a volunteer, policy governance Board of Directors. We meet on the first Thursday of each month for approximately three hours. Board members are involved in a variety of activities, including: fundraising, promoting inclusive educational practices, working with our provincial association or our regional partners and representing our organization to community groups and leaders, and government officials and political representatives.

Our vision is a community that respects the dignity and inherent value of each of its members and supports its members to participate, contribute, and share in all elements of living in the community.

If this vision resonates with you and you wish to make a contribution, please submit your resume to: Jim Triantafilou, Executive Director, 34 Church St. West, Brampton, ON, L6X 1H3.