

THE CITIZEN

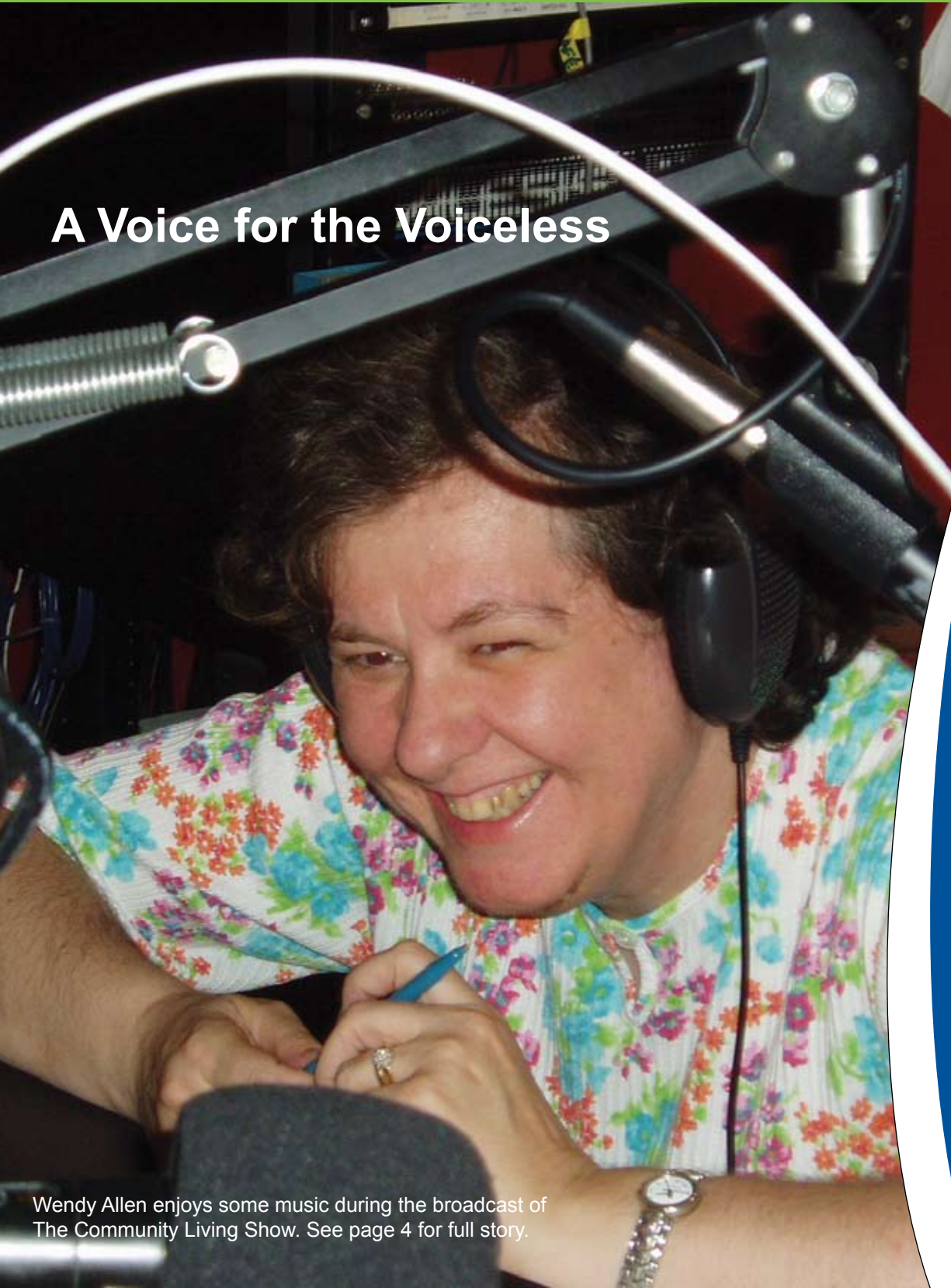
Connecting People with Their Community



CLBC Newsletter - July 2006

Volume 2 Issue 4

A Voice for the Voiceless



What's Inside

Open House a Hit



One Determined DJ



Calling All Shutterbugs



Funding Announcement



A Delicious Surprise



Wendy Allen enjoys some music during the broadcast of The Community Living Show. See page 4 for full story.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Lois Hollstedt



It has been one year since Community Living BC was created. The time has been full of change. Staff have been learning new jobs and beginning to work in different teams, some new offices have been opened and new policies are guiding the everyday work. Our community stakeholders are just starting to feel the changes and individuals and families are adjusting to new people in new roles in new locations.

Our first annual report has been sent to the minister and will soon be posted on our website. The report describes the objectives we set for this first year and indicates how well we met our targets. I believe the list of achievements is impressive as we moved the system toward change, while continuing to provide uninterrupted service to the thousands of people we work with every day.

There have been many people and organizations who have contributed to CLBC's success this year. Everyone inside CLBC has been hard at work to make this transition year a success. The individuals and families we serve have also been incredibly patient and supportive in this time of change. Our community service provider partners have been managing our change as well, and have provided much appreciated feedback on how to improve our work. Finally, Minister Hagen and his staff have continued to be supportive. They are experiencing our changes as well, and we appreciate their cooperation.

The next year will bring about the final transformation in our way of work. By the fall we want our provincial advisory committee and community councils up and running. They will provide added voices and ideas to ensure we live our vision of *good lives in welcoming communities* for all the people we serve.

This fall will see the first individualised funding contracts developed now that we have found the ways to resolve direct payment challenges. And as our waiting lists are clarified, we will begin to have better information available about the needs of people across British Columbia, so we can better make the case to government about resources.

The review of adults living in staffed residential situations will give people living in those settings a choice to make a change to another kind of residential living. We expect that many will choose to stay in their residential option, but for those who want something different, we will help to make that possible.

And by the end of 2006 we expect to see families receiving funding support from the Family Independence Fund, administered by the Vancouver Foundation to help with the capital costs to keep family members at home.

It has been a very busy year since we were created on July 1, 2005, and the year ahead will be equally challenging. The board and I look forward to continuing the progress in the months ahead. ✨

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WELCOME TO THE CITIZEN!

As you know, Community Living BC is going through a number of changes, which includes this newsletter. *The Citizen* was launched with our readers in mind. We've made the newsletter easier to read, increased the number of photos and are including more stories that matter to you.

We hope that you enjoy the changes and welcome any comments or suggestions. However, what will really make *The Citizen* engaging

and relevant are stories from the people who matter the most – you.

We encourage families, self-advocates, service providers and staff to send us story suggestions or write an article themselves. Why don't you tell us about an amazing initiative, person or group in your community? How about some personal challenges or triumphs in your life? Or maybe you just took some great photos that you'd like to share?

Part of building a community includes sharing stories and knowing you're not alone – and that's what *The Citizen* hopes to achieve with this publication.

Submission guidelines are posted on the CLBC website at: www.communitylivingbc.ca/newsletter/guidelines. Story submissions can be sent, along with stories ideas, to editor@communitylivingbc.ca. 🦋

Remember: no idea is a bad idea!

A DELICIOUS SURPRISE

North region managers Aileen Kerr, Mary Parkin and I were at the Quality Inn Northern Grand Fort St. John, part way through the third of 12 community meetings in our transformation process, when we were made a delightful offer.

The hotel catering manager approached me and asked, "How would you like to invite a couple of dozen people to a prime rib dinner that will be ready in three hours?"



Self-advocates, family members, service providers and Fort St. John CLBC staff enjoy a spur-of-the-moment dinner.

"No problem," I said. The dinner had been pre-arranged for a resource company, Burlington Resources. Their plans had changed, but the buffet was prepared and the hotel didn't want the food to go to waste.

We were very happy to invite self-advocates, family members,

service providers and local CLBC staff for a wonderful buffet. We had a wonderful time sharing food, laughter and hearing about their community over dinner, dessert and coffee. The food was great, but getting to spend time with our guests was the real highlight. 🦋

By C. Elizabeth Bulmer,
Transformation Manager, The North Region

RADIO SHOW GIVES A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

COVER STORY

When Hazel Smeltzer approached Vancouver Co-op Radio with an idea for a show about people with disabilities, she was surprised to find they already had one – and it had been on the air for more than 10 years.



Vicky Dhensaw comments on the story during the broadcast of the show.

She also didn't realize that the day she contacted the show's producers, they were about to throw in the towel.

But thanks to a little luck and perseverance, along with fresh blood and ideas, the Community Living Show was reborn.

It all began in 1992 when current producer Dave Sherritt was involved with the Lower Mainland Community Based Services Society. They were looking for a new way to have their voices heard, when a summer student suggested pitching a program to Vancouver Co-op Radio.

"I wanted to give self-advocates a voice," Dave said. "I didn't think they had a voice."

Vancouver Co-op Radio, a non-commercial, community radio

station, provides a space for under-represented and marginalized communities. It was the perfect outlet for Dave's group.

They quickly put together a demo tape and took it to the station where, "it went over like gangbusters," said Dave.

Called the Self-Advocate Show, it was mainly a forum for individuals with disabilities to talk about issues that were important to them.

For the first five years, Dave said, they would pre-tape the show and have it played in their timeslot the following day. But then they thought, "Why can't we do it live?" and approached Co-op Radio staff. Because they were doing such a good job with the pre-taping, the programmers saw no reason for the show to be broadcast live.

After several years, Dave began to focus his attention on the small business he was running, and left the show. But in 2004, he decided he couldn't stay away, and re-joined the group.

However, as time went on, the show started to lose its momentum. By March of this year, the group felt the show wasn't moving forward. People weren't calling in anymore and they were running out of ideas. Nobody really wanted to quit, but they weren't sure what to do.

As a last-ditch effort, Dave's wife, Lorie, submitted a proposal to Co-op Radio to change the show from the Self-Advocate Show to the Community Living Show. Shortly after the proposal, Hazel Smeltzer approached the producers.

"We haven't really looked back since," said Dave.

Hazel, a private service provider in Langley for the past 30 years, changed the direction of the show from the negative to the positive. She wants to highlight all the good things happening in the community and makes sure the self-advocates are involved with as much of the show as possible.

Even though she comes up with many of the ideas for the guests and



Lorie Sherritt (left) and Hazel Smeltzer take a break while a piece of music is played.

The Community Living Show producers and hosts: (clockwise from top) Wendy Allen, Lorie Sherritt, Vicky Dhensaw, Dave Sherritt, Hazel Smeltzer. Missing: Richard McDonald.

topics, she ensures that Dave and the others have the final say, as she wants the self-advocates to direct the show's content.

The show, which runs every Friday from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm, involves four self-advocates: Dave Sherritt, producer; Lorie Sherritt, co-host; Richard McDonald, host; and Wendy Allen, radio controls. One of Hazel's co-workers, Vicky Dhensaw, has also recently joined the group.

They have recently moved to a larger, more modern studio, where everything is controlled using computers. Dave and Wendy have completed their operator training "We're trying to let the community know we are not how people perceive us to be"

for the new studio and have recently taken their exam to be licensed. The show covers a whole range of topics – not only focusing on disability issues, but also what

is of interest to their community. Sometimes they have musical guests who have released a CD, as Dave enjoys showcasing local artists.

Hazel admits that there can be problems, but that is to be expected for any radio program. "Sometimes there are glitches, but that's OK, because they are still running the whole show themselves. There aren't even people without disabilities who can do that," she said.

Dave Sherritt ensures all the technical components of the show run smoothly.

Getting guest speakers can also be a challenge, Hazel said, so sometimes the show is put together at the last minute.

Dave would agree, adding that it's all a part of the fun. "We never know what we're doing from one minute to the next – it's kind of like improv," he said.

Both Hazel and Dave see the show as an educational tool for the public, and hope that as a result, people will become more compassionate towards the disabled.

"We're trying to let the community know we are not how people perceive us to be," said Dave.


Dave said trying to change the public's view can be difficult and is their biggest hurdle. One day, Dave said, he was walking to an appointment when he stopped and asked a girl for directions. Her mother ran up, grabbed her hand, crossed the street and continued



along the same path on the opposite side – just to avoid him. He hasn't encountered that sort of thing in a while, but those negative perceptions are still there, he noted.

But with the new format, Dave hopes to reach as many people as possible. He would like to eventually broadcast the show province-wide and perhaps someday, across Canada.

The Community Living Show can be heard on Vancouver Co-op Radio, 102.7 FM, each Friday from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm. If you are outside the Lower Mainland, you can listen live via the Internet by going to www.coopradio.org.

If you have topic ideas for the show, or would like to be a guest, please contact Dave Sherritt, producer, at 604-415-4503 or davesherr@shaw.ca; or Hazel Smeltzer, host/researcher, at 604-513-8647 or hazela@shaw.ca. 



\$40 MILLION IN GRANTS PROVIDE MORE OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Thanks to two new funds, BC families will now have a better chance to keep their children with a developmental disability at home.

Stan Hagen, minister of children and family development, announced the establishment of the Family Independence Fund, for adults and children with developmental disabilities, and the Child and Youth with Special Needs Supports Fund, at Community Living BC's one-year celebration on June 12.

The grants, managed province wide by Vancouver Foundation, will help

"We are committed to choice and opening up opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and special needs" families buy equipment, convert vehicles and renovate homes so loved ones will remain at home and gain greater access to their communities.

"We are committed to choice and opening up opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and special needs," said Hagen. *"Our partnerships with Vancouver*



Stan Hagen and George Fulcher catch up after the announcement.



(left to right) Robert Fairweather, Stan Hagen and Lois Hollstedt present two new grants at CLBC's open house.


Foundation mean more families can, among other benefits, adapt their homes to provide an opportunity for their children or family members to remain in, or return to, their homes."

The Ministry of Children and Family Development will provide the \$10-million Children and Youth with Special Needs Supports Fund, while the \$30-million Family Independence Fund will be provided by CLBC.

"The Family Independence Fund will help families stay together," said CLBC Board chair Lois Hollstedt. *"It will assist individuals to have rich relationships with family and friends, and realize full participation in community life."*

Building on its provincial mandate and successful grant-making

processes, Vancouver Foundation will create a volunteer advisory committees to review requests for funding. During the summer, the foundation committee will develop the funding guidelines and granting criteria, and the advisory committee will begin to review grant applications in the fall.

"Vancouver Foundation is uniquely positioned to effectively deliver these grants to families throughout British Columbia," said Robert Fairweather, Vancouver Foundation board member. *"We have proven expertise in managing similar funds, we are involved with communities across the province, and we can bring attention to the important issues of community support for children and adults with disabilities and special needs."* 

INSIDE VOICE

The self-advocate's perspective.

THE GOOD PEOPLE IN MY LIFE

By Amanda Lennard

I had an aunt named Auntie Esther, my mom's sister. If it wasn't for my Auntie Esther, I would have had more problems in school. She gave me encouragement and motivation to apply myself, to learn as much as I could and to do the best I could to feel good about myself.

Another good person I had that helped me a lot at school was a teacher I had in grade one, Mrs. Manfield. One December, we had a Christmas party. The students at the school exchanged names to do gift exchange. Everyone was to get one gift each. I had two gifts. Wow! I thought they made a mistake. But both gifts were mine. One gift I opened was a colouring book from a student; the other gift was a doll from my teacher, Mrs. Manfield. I was very happy and pleasantly surprised and a little embarrassed.

Another teacher I had at Enderby School in a special class was Miss Durich. She helped me learn to read better by using the phonics method. At first it was really hard to understand, but it helped me a lot in the end. The next thing I knew, I could read really well, even hard words, and my spelling improved. I

was a happy girl. I read many kinds of books such as history, science and mystery novels.

Then there was a lady I lived with when I first moved to Vernon named Lillie and her husband Nels. I just started going to Venture Training. Lillie and Nels were Danish. Each year, they would go to Denmark for about six weeks or so. I had a young woman Connie stay with me while they went to Denmark. I was happy to stay at Lillie's.

Another person that was good for me was Ole, a man who looked after me. He said I was just as good as other people even though it's hard to believe that about me. I think it's because I am honest and try to do things right. And I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for Ole. He helped me to believe in myself and take charge of my life. I don't let people tell me I'm not as good as others.

Ed Nedjeslski, Ole's neighbour, helped me to believe I can try things that are new to me. If I made a mistake, or was unsuccessful, I could try again and maybe do it differently.

And the most recent people in my life that are good for me are Garry Molitwenik and everyone at CLBC. They give me more confidence. I can go to Vancouver to CLBC Board meetings and conferences,



take a cab to a hotel, and meet my friends at CLBC. I've gained a lot of confidence and the ability to believe in myself as I try new things. Thanks to Garry and CLBC, I hope I'll have more new opportunities in the years ahead. ✨

Inside Voice is published in each issue of The Citizen. If you are interested in writing for this column, please call Karin at 604-664-0187 or email editor@communitylivingbc.ca to discuss.

A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE CLBC BOARD

Get to Know Colleen Hay

This past March, Colleen Hay was appointed to the CLBC Board of Directors. Colleen is a registered nurse who has worked in the health-care field for 35 years. Her experience has been in acute care, in a variety of specialties with positions ranging from staff nurse to nursing management. Colleen is currently with the Northern Health Authority and has worked in the region for 25 years. She has held board positions locally with the Registered Nurses Association of BC and her local golf course.



Colleen is married with two adult children: a son, John, and daughter, Erin, who has a developmental disability and transitioned from home to her own apartment with support, three years ago. Colleen enjoys golfing and curling. ✂

REGIONAL UPDATE

By Nancy McNeill,
Transformation Manager, CLBC

Surrey/Delta/Richmond, Vancouver Coastal, and Simon Fraser regions all began transforming to their new roles as of May 1.

The North Island, South Interior, and North Interior all started their transformation as of June 1. In preparation for the changes, the managers have been busy holding community meetings and letters have gone out to families to let people know about the changes.

The staff in Victoria received training in PARIS, our new information management system, in May and by the beginning of June they were “live” in the new system. Since then, the North region and

the three Lower Mainland regions have all had their training in PARIS and by June 22 all four regions were using the new system.

Many staff members have moved to different offices, as they have taken on new roles as analysts and facilitators, and some offices have moved into different buildings. All of the offices have staff who are busy scanning documents from our paper files into our new electronic file system, which is a big job.

A random sample of individuals and families will be receiving a request to complete a survey on their satisfaction with CLBC

services. This is something we will do on an annual basis to ensure that we are providing effective supports and services. If you receive the survey please take the time to fill it out and return it to us. We have contracted with an independent person to summarize the survey results. All individual answers are confidential. ✂



INNOVATION

NEW FUNDING ENCOURAGES CREATIVE OPTIONS

Young adults with developmental disabilities who have left school in the past three years will now receive some extra support. Community Living BC has set aside \$300,000 to provide funding to innovative projects that encourage employment opportunities or engagement in meaningful community activities.

The Young Adults Community Options Initiative will enable creative approaches not typically part of more traditional service systems.

“CLBC is committed to increasing choices, promoting community inclusion and enhancing quality of life for individuals and families,” said Lois Hollstedt, CLBC Board chair. “To support these goals, CLBC is working to raise awareness about, and increase the use of, more innovative support options as an alternative to traditional program-based approaches.”

Budgets and funding arrangements will depend on the nature of the ideas, and the financial requirements to establish and sustain the innovative option over time. Implementation guidelines will be negotiated on a project-by-project basis to help reduce roadblocks. Selected applicants may be required to comply with CLBC’s policies and service standards. Priority will be given to projects that require one time only “seed money” to help establish the option in the local community.

Applications for funding, which should also include a complete description of the agency or group submitting the proposal, will be accepted until September 15, 2006. More detailed information about this initiative, including application guidelines, can be found at www.communitylivingbc.ca/Innovation. ✎

INNOVATION WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

Families, service providers, staff and self-advocates now have an online resource for CLBC’s Innovation project. The new portion of CLBC’s website, which is solely dedicated to the initiative, was launched at the end of June.

The website outlines the framework of the project, includes links and resources, and describes the Innovation Support Network. It also features examples of innovation in BC, including a housing project in the Okanagan, a social connections group in Langley, a recreation program in Kelowna, and a work experience program in Richmond. ✎



This apartment complex is being built because of a need for affordable housing for the residents in the community.

These three apartments, built above stores in Oliver, are rented to adults who can live fairly independently, but need a staff member close by.



AWARD WINNING EVENTS PROMOTE COMMUNITY LIVING

The Mission Association for Community Living (MACL) was recently acknowledged for organizing two annual September events known as Celebration of Community and Illuminaria.

accomplishment award at the District of Mission Council/Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce annual awards ceremony on May 11.


The goal of Illuminaria is to put a focus on community living and the

**By Robert Keys, Executive Director,
Mission Association for Community Living**

In 2005, Kids on the Block, life-size puppets who look and act like real kids, taught the crowd what it's like to have a disability. The characters interacted in an open and often humorous manner. They shared their experiences of using a wheelchair, coping with a learning disability, and many other issues. Their candid discussions helped create awareness and promoted sensitivity – part of what community living is all about.

Another highlight of the event is the 1,400 candle-powered Labyrinth of Light, a creation of MACL's Training and Support Services Department. It leads people on a maze-like path to the centre and out again. "The idea is each person comes in uniqueness, and often departs with a greater sense of connectedness," said Cyndie Anderson, MACL president.

This year a troupe of talented, actors who are developmentally disabled called Stage Door will perform improvisation and comedy theatre. The goal is to entertain while raising awareness of the people the community living field supports.

The event will be held on September 16, in Fraser River Heritage Park, Mission. For more information on Stage Door, please visit www.mapcl.org/Brochures/Stage-Door.pdf. For information on this year's Celebration of Community and Illuminaria, please visit www.macl.bc.ca. 



Kids on the Block keep the audience entertained at Mission's Illuminaria, last September.

Celebration of Community, which has occurred for the past six years, is an afternoon of outdoor entertainment and networking designed to enhance community spirit. By providing information about Mission activities and organizations, exhibitors demonstrate how citizens can get involved in their community.

Illuminaria, which started eight years ago, is a day-long lantern festival. Participants spend the day building a lantern, and the night closes with a lantern procession and fireworks display.

The association received this special

message that everyone belongs. Individually, we might carry one light, but together with hundreds of lanterns, we actually create something new and better. This leads to inclusion for people of all abilities and a better, stronger community.

The event celebrates the last person leaving Woodlands – BC's former institution for people with developmental disabilities.

Illuminaria continues to be very popular and last year's event attracted more than 2,000 people. It begins at dusk with live music and stage entertainment.

NEW POSITION WILL PROVIDE GREATER SAFEGUARDS

Get to Know Jule Hopkins

CLBC is pleased to announce the appointment of Jule Hopkins as the new director for service accountability and safeguards.

Jule has worked in the field of community living, human services and recreation for people with special needs since 1971. She has worked as the executive director for the Richmond Society for Community Living and the BC Centre for Ability. She has also held positions in recreation management for numerous Lower Mainland municipalities, where she focused on creating inclusive experiences for people with disabilities.

CLBC is thrilled to have Jule assist us in the development and implementation of a broad network of formal and informal safeguards to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the individuals it supports. Although a number of quality assurance processes and mechanisms already exist to support CLBC in this role, they will review these processes to help develop a comprehensive strategy. This will set standards and mechanisms to ensure the health and safety of the people it supports and continually improve service quality.

Along with her extensive experience, Jule brings energy and passion to this position. "I believe all people need to be able to live in our communities with dignity and respect and to feel welcomed and acknowledged for their unique contributions," she says. "I have an opportunity to develop strategies; the ways and means, to build capacities in self-advocates and their families to identify and create their own safeguards," she adds.

Through improved education and understanding of both formal and informal safeguards, Jule believes we can create the attitudes that are needed to help those we support to enhance their own personal safeguards.



During this one-year term, Jule's primary focus will be to develop a multi-year plan to implement a comprehensive safeguards strategy. Components of the strategy will be based upon dialogue with key stakeholders, and with input and guidance from Dr. Michael Kendrick, who will act as a consultant to this project. It will also attempt to capture the input of numerous self-advocates, families, community partners and CLBC staff. It will aim to flesh out both informal and formal safeguards, as well as multi-dimensional approaches and tactics to ensure the safety, well-being and full citizenship of those individuals and families CLBC supports.

Jule looks forward to travelling the province meeting with many of you and working with the advisory committee that is being established to provide input and feedback to the accountability and safeguards project. ✨

NEW COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE INSIDE VOICE

Family members and self-advocates now have a greater opportunity to influence CLBC decisions, thanks to a newly created advisory committee.

The committee, which will be comprised of five self-advocates and five family members, will provide the board of directors with a provincial point of view on activities of the agency. This will include stakeholder satisfaction,

service effectiveness, policy and planning recommendations and the exploration of long-range issues that may impact CLBC. They will then recommend solutions to the board.

At least one member will be Aboriginal, to be appointed from the province at large. Members of the committee, which is a requirement of the Community Living Authority Act, will be representative of CLBC's nine

quality service areas. The CLBC self-advocate advisor will be available to assist self-advocate committee members. Applications will be accepted until September 15, 2006.

More detailed information, including the membership application form, can be found on the CLBC website at:

www.communitylivingbc.ca 

SELF-ADVOCATE LEADER BRINGS WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

Get to Know

Aimee Morry


Aimee Morry joins CLBC in the newly created position of self-advocate advisor, a position that will:

- provide leadership and support so the voice of self-advocates is included in all of CLBC's activities and projects
- work with self-advocates to raise awareness about, and address issues faced by, self-advocates
- provide practical support to ensure the effective participation of self-advocates who sit on CLBC's Board of Directors and the advisory committee to the board, or other self-advocates who participate on CLBC sponsored committees

Aimee and her husband Graham are parents to five children, two of whom have a developmental disability. Aimee has a wealth of experience supporting self-advocates and families and has

facilitated the mid-Vancouver Island self-advocacy group. She has also participated on many different boards and committees.

Aimee is excited about her new role and welcomes the opportunity to work with self-advocates, families, and community partners and to be part of initiatives that seek to create more inclusive and welcoming communities for people who live with developmental disabilities.


Aimee enjoys writing, outdoor activities and spending time with her family. She is currently completing her social work degree at the University of Victoria, with a focus on community development. 



OPEN HOUSE A HUGE HIT

Community Living BC's headquarters opened their doors on June 12 for an afternoon of food, fun and great people to celebrate their first anniversary of being an official Crown agency.

The event coincided with Minster Hagen's announcement of the establishment of two new funds which will assist families in keeping their children at home.

More than 100 people enjoyed the spread of ethnic foods which represented the diversity in the community. Families, self-advocates, service providers and CLBC staff reconnected with each other in the new head office and celebrated the success of CLBC's first year. 



Narinder Sundur (left), accounts payable clerk, and Shirley Lippmann, policy and practice analyst, enjoy the food at CLBC's first open house.



(top, left to right) CEO Rick Mowles and Laney Bryenton, executive director of BCACL, share a laugh; Marsha Goldford, director of human resources, presents a door prize to Cathy Grant; Carol Goozh, vice president of quality service, takes a break from the festivities. (bottom, left to right) Lynn Rolko, CLBC board member, and parent Bill Hustler chat after the grant announcement; CLBC receptionist Cheryl Fryfield and Lois Hollstedt, CLBC Board chair, at the celebration.

RESEARCH TEAM NEEDS YOUR INPUT


A research team based in the School of Social Work and Family Studies at UBC wants to hear about your experiences with community living services in BC and your hopes for the future.

The purpose of this research is to learn from individuals and families about what has worked, what has not worked, and what they would

like to see in terms of community living supports. Interviews will take place this July and August.

Interviews will take about two hours. Refreshments and snacks will be provided to those who participate. Travel costs will be reimbursed and a honourarium of \$10 will also be given. Upon request, child care will be available,

as will support for participants' teenage and adult family members.

If you would like more information or wish to participate, please contact Leah Wilson, project coordinator, at 604-827-3494 (toll free: 1-877-827-3494) or clrs@interchange.ubc.ca. 

DJ WHEELS SPINS TO SUCCESS

Some might have thought Joe Rikley's dream of becoming a commercial DJ would be impossible to achieve. But Joe refused to let anything – let alone physical, social, or economic barriers – get in the way of his goal.

And because of his fierce determination, he received the "Against the Odds" Award at the District of Mission Council/Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce annual awards ceremony on May 11.

Joe started DJ'ing five years ago when the MACL needed someone

"If you put your mind to it, you can do anything you want to." because they asked me again."

Before he knew it, he was DJ'ing one dance after the other. He liked it so much that two years ago, he decided to start his own DJ business.

Joe, a long-time Mission resident, made his dream come true through hard work and dedication. And without much money, he had to be mindful of his spending to save for DJ equipment.

But he also knew he couldn't do it alone, and sought help from the Mission Association for Community Living, his friends, Bryce Schaufelberger and Tracy Martin, his family, and the HOMES Society, who helped design his web page. They knew – or would find out on his behalf – where one could buy affordable sound equipment, how to develop a website and how to market his business.

Joe has since DJ'ed at the MACL Christmas party, the Spring Fling self-advocate fundraiser dance in Abbotsford and has two dances booked for the fall. He hopes his business will continue to grow and is available for a variety of events.

Joe Rikley, aka DJ Wheels, His won an award for achieving his dreams "Against the Odds."

By Robert Keys, Executive Director,
Mission Association for Community Living

friends at the association say Joe is a humble person who doesn't realize what an inspiration he is. They nominated him for the award so others can see what perseverance and determination can accomplish.

Joe was shocked when he received the award, but said it made him realize that, "if you put your mind to it, you can do anything you want to."

Joe graduated from Mission Secondary School and shares an apartment with a friend. For more information about DJ Wheels and the DJ services he provides,

please visit www.djwheels.org. 



CLBC OFFICE GURU A MASTER JUGGLER

Get to Know Aman Gill



Community Living BC recently moved from Burnaby into its new headquarters in Vancouver. Planning the layout, overseeing renovation, coordinating phones, computers and furniture and moving more than 50 employees from three different locations to one new consolidated space was a huge operation – one that required an extraordinary amount of coordination, patience and an eye for detail.

Meet Aman Gill, our manager of administration and facilities, who accomplished this feat of logistics and kept everyone happy while doing it!

You'll find Aman most days with a cell phone attached to her ear, answering calls from staff and solving a variety of problems, from hooking up new printers to instructions for the new telephone system, questions about furniture placement to parking privileges. Aman is a wealth of information and is the "go to" person at CLBC.

Aman grew up in Kamloops and moved to the Lower Mainland after graduation to take advantage

of the greater career opportunities in the "Big City".

Since joining government about 17 years ago, she has worked in the Ministry of Children and Family Development and, before its creation, the Ministry of Social Services. Aman came to the Interim Authority two years ago and is still excited about working at CLBC and in the community living sector.

"This is an exciting time, both for headquarters and for the field, as we're now proceeding with physical moves after a lengthy, but necessary, planning process," says Aman. "I appreciate everyone's patience, staff and the community, as office moves can add a lot of stress and pressure. I hope we can create a welcoming environment, whether you're visiting one of our offices, or working in one."

Aman was married last summer and is looking forward to a European honeymoon this September, with her new husband, Jim. ✨

STAY CONNECTED WITH CLBC

It is a major priority of Community Living BC to communicate with the people they serve, their families, service providers and stakeholders. We promise to provide the most up-to-date information in a timely and consistent manner.

But we need your help. In order for us to provide better communication, we need to collect your contact information. If you are interested in receiving the latest news from CLBC, please visit our website at

www.communitylivingbc.ca, fill out the contact form that is linked to the front page and provide us with all of your contact details. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call 604-664-0101, to provide our receptionist with your name, address, phone numbers, affiliation, and email address.


Free access to the Internet is available at all public libraries across BC. You can also sign up for a free email address at www.hotmail.com or www.yahoo.ca. ✨

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!

Summer is all about good times with family and friends, enjoying the outdoors and making the most of the longer days. And what better way to remember the lazy days of summer than on film?

The Citizen is now accepting entries for its very first photo contest. The contest is free and is open to anyone with a camera. We are looking for photos that best capture the people in your community.

Winning photos will be featured in a photo spread in the September edition of *The Citizen*, and top winners will also win fabulous prizes. Please visit www.communitylivingbc.ca/newsletter/photocontest for full contest rules and regulations.

So when you head out the door this summer, don't forget your camera – the winning photo might be right before your eyes! 



Photos courtesy of
Wioletta Okwieka-Reduch.

CONTACT US



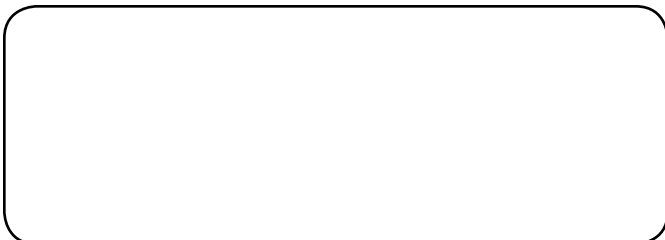
The Citizen is published every two months by CLBC's Communications Department. It is your information source for news that's relevant to the individuals and families CLBC supports. We are always on the lookout for inspirational stories about people in the community. If you know of an event that others might like to know about, an issue that invites debate, or news worth reporting, let us know. While we appreciate story ideas and submissions, *The Citizen* reserves the right to edit content for accuracy, grammar and space, but strives to maintain the integrity and voice of the author.

If you have a story suggestion, feedback on the newsletter, or would like to subscribe to a paper version of *The Citizen*, please email: editor@communitylivingbc.ca

To receive a link to a PFD version of *The Citizen*, please email: newsletter@communitylivingbc.ca

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

For the most up-to-date information on CLBC, please visit our website at: www.communitylivingbc.ca



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