



Spring 2002

Issue 2



The Patchwork

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Dates To Remember:

Annual General Meeting Thursday June 20/02

Dragon Boat Races July 20, 2002

Help Us Grow

by: Sue Lehman

In the spring, the Elmira Association gears up for another fundraiser. The Help Us Grow campaign raises donations that assist with the purchase of specialized equipment needed to help with the care of our clients in their homes. Included with the envelope you receive in the mail is information about the Association and a request for a donation, as well as a package of

mixed flower seeds. These seeds are symbolic of our growth and commitment to support people in our community who are differently-abled. Charitable tax receipts are available on request. We, at the Association, appreciated the generous support of our friends in the community. You really have Helped Us Grow.



Recognition Awards

by: Amy Bridge

The Elmira & District Association for Community Living would like to recognize our dedicated staff who have hit the milestones of 5 year, 10 year, and 20 years with us. Geri Reid has celebrated her twentieth year at the Association, she works as an Instructor at ARC Industries.

Louise Ellis, Anne Rogers, Joan Goncalves, and Cheryl Weber have all been with the Association for 10 years. Louise works as the Enrichment Seniors Instructor at Life Skills. Anne is the Overnight Attendant at our Eagle Drive group home. Joan also

works as an Overnight Attendant at our Riverside group home. Cheryl works part time at our Respite Program which is located in the lower level of our Centre Street group home. This year we also had two employees who have been working here for 5 years. They are Lynne Morgan-Canning and Nadine Rhodes.

Lynne works at Life Skills as a Personal Care Aide and Nadine works part time at Reid Woods.

These people have all made their mark in the Association. Thank you all for all the hard work and dedicated time you

have given to the Association for Community Living. Keep up the good work!



Congratulations Geri!

Welcome to A.R.C. Industries

by: Laurie Thomson



Jeanette, Laverne, Jody, Laurie Venah, Geri, & Buffy

Welcome to A.R.C. Industries! Come on in and take a look around. Meet the staff, who, with the exception of our newest member, Jody, we have all been here for many years. A sure sign that we enjoy what we do!

When everyone is here, there are 58 clients working at ARC. Of course not everyone is usually in at the same time, as some are out on work experience placements or at part-time

jobs, while others have seniors activities to attend or participate in the Life Styles program.

We do a number of contracts for companies in the Elmira area, as well as for some as far away as Mississauga. The work involved is also very diverse so not only do we have the opportunity to help the clients to learn a number of skills, but also there is very little chance for anyone to become bored!

At ARC we also have a small

bridal business. Decorations and table favors are made on location and include hand made chocolates, mint favors, decorated candles pom-poms of every colour, and 'Just Married' hearts. So come in and see us! We will be happy to show you around or answer any questions.

Here Comes the Bride

by: Geri Reid



Planning your wedding is a very busy time, and there never seems to be enough time in the day to do all the necessary things, especially the little things that mean so much. At ARC Industries we would like to help you with these extra special touches for your wed-

ding day. At ARC we do everything from mint filled favors, chocolates and a variety of other specialty items such as bubbles and candles. The colour selection and variety in all our lines is a must see! Each order is custom made to your wishes, and the prices are un-

beatable - \$1.10 - \$2.25 each depending on your choice. We also offer the plastic (polyfilm) pom poms for your car and hall decorations. Come and see our variety of colours and excellent prices. Please come by ARC Industries to see us and our Bridal wares.

Elmira Maple Syrup Festival

by: Amy Bridge



Thank you again for everyone who volunteered at the 38th Annual Elmira Maple Syrup Festival. It was another record year. The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival would like to let you know, that thanks to all the volunteers efforts these past years, the Festival has reached the \$1,000,000 mark.

Over the last 38 years the EMSF has collectively donated one million dollars for local charities. We have been fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of that money from the start of the Festival in 1965. The Association is very proud of the never-ending help and support that we receive from all of our employees,

membership and family members. We as an Association thrive because of your support which is offered whenever needed. Thanks again for joining in on Festival day. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves. See you next year on April 5th., 2003 on the E.D.A.C.L. Pancake Line.

Gail Bartlett

by: Cheryl Heimpel



Gail Bartlett joined the Administration team as Financial Officer on November 19, 2001.

She comes to us with much experience. She worked in a small office and was responsible for Receivables, Payables, Payroll and monthly financial reporting. She has been the Treasurer of the Jazz Festival in Guelph since February 2001.

Gail has completed her MBA—concentrating in Finance and has her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

She has volunteered at St. Joseph's Hospital and Home in the Experience the Garden programme working with patients with Alzheimer's.

Since she has started working here, she has shown her strengths in all the practical

aspects of her job. Gail is a team player and is fun to work with! We are very glad to have her on board.

Welcome Gail!

Leisure Options

by: Sue Lehman

“Special Olympics offer floor hockey, baseball and bowling here in Elmira.”

Are you looking for new activities that are appropriate for people with needs? There are lots of options if you know where to look. Special Olympics offer floor hockey, baseball and bowling here in Elmira. For more information, contact Mary Jordan at 669-1875. The Sunbeam Centre in Kitchener offers Drop-in activity Centres Tuesday from 10 am to 11 am and Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Activities include bingo, bowling, swimming, dances and seasonal activities. For more information, contact Amy or Michelle at 893-6200 extension 239. Sunbeam also

has an accessible gym for leisure and recreation activities and an accessible pool for therapeutic and relaxation purposes. For more information, contact the Facility Supervisor at 893-6200 Monday to Friday from 10 am to 2 pm. Music Therapy Services are also available at Sunbeam or through Wilfred Laurier University. Music Therapy is provided by a trained professional to restore, maintain and/or improve individual's physical, emotional, social, cognitive and psychological well-being. For more information on music therapy at Sunbeam, contact Jennifer

Belleth at (519) 539-3809. For information about music therapy at Wilfred Laurier University, call 884-1970, ext. 2658.

The Central Ontario Developmental Riding Program offers therapeutic horseback riding for people with physical and developmental delays. There is a ramp to assist people to get on the horse and special saddles so the riders can hold on securely. For more information about the riding program, call 653-4686. There are more activities available but there just isn't enough room in one article for everything!

Client Christmas Party

by: Sue Lehman



Doris Oakes with Santa

Its one day a year that everyone at ARC and Life Skills anticipates. It's the Day Program Christmas Party. On December 21st the day programs shut down and everyone goes to the Elmira Legion. It's a fun day for everyone. We get

to socialize with people we don't often get time to chat with. There is a great lunch provided by the ladies of the Legion. Everyone's favorite musical guests, the Beirdo Brothers came by for our singing and dancing enjoyment.

And, of course, who could forget our special guest! Santa made an appearance with gifts for everyone. After the day long party, everyone went on to enjoy their own holiday festivities at home. It's a great way to spend the last day be-

Preschool Resource Program

by: Karen Marche

The Preschool Resource Program is an early intervention program that has been up and running since 1988. The purpose of this program is to provide support to families with preschool age (2-5) children who have a developmental delay. The program has one full time Resource teacher on staff. Referrals are made to the program by parents, the Infant Development Program, the Rotary Centre, Preschool teachers, friends or family with

the permission of the parents.

Home visits are in place to encourage and monitor the child's development and to be a source of information and support for the parents. Developmental assessments are completed on an annual basis and appropriate goals are determined with the parents. Support is also provided to the children when they attend a Preschool. The role of the Resource Teacher in the Preschool setting is to assist the

child to follow the routine and to work on developmental goals and therapies. The Resource teacher works closely with all the therapists (physio, occupational, speech) that are involved with each child. The Preschool Resource Program is fortunate to have the full support of the Community Preschools in this area, the Elmira Cooperative Nursery School, the Wellesley Co-operative Preschool and the Children's Place in Conestogo.

"The purpose of this program is to provide support to families with preschool age (2-5) children who have a developmental delay."

June of ARC

by: Sue Lehman

December was a sad month for the Elmira Association. Long time employee and good friend, June Martin, decided to retire to give her more time to pursue other interests. June started working at the Elmira Association in 1979 as a temporary part time staff. To

prove her dedication to the program, June took a cut in pay when she was hired on full-time. June saw many supervisors, counsellors and clients come and go. She was always there for the clients and staff whether they needed a shoulder to lean on or a kick in

the behind to get motivated. Her enthusiasm and team spirit set a standard that we all do our best to live up to. Although June is now just down the street at Country Candles, she is greatly missed at ED-ACL.



Six Star Maintenance

by: Louise Ellis

Six Star Maintenance is aptly named. Under the supervision and direction of Maureen "Moe" Phillips and Brian Delahay, Six Star Maintenance "shines" at every opportunity. Established in 1995, after the closing of Elmira Wood Products, Six Star aims to provide service to the community as well as employment opportunities for several adults supported by E.D.A.C.L. Six Star Maintenance is made up of John Bish, Chris Beisel, Wayne Howes, Ron Martin, Margaret Moser, and Don Vandenhooen.

Serving all of the group homes of EDACL, ARC, Life Skills, Admin and the community as a whole, Six Star provides a wide range of services. These include snow shoveling, leaf raking, and collection, yard maintenance, janitorial, and general clean up. Arriving in their new (1999) GMC Savannah van full of equipment, pulling a trailer with even more equipment, Six Star is able to tackle almost any task. When I had a problem at my "new-to-me" first home, Six Star showed up, tools in hand and saved my day, literally.

They had my home cleaned up in a flash, cleaned out my eavestroughs and did several trips to the dump removing garbage. They were great, efficient, enthusiastic and very professional. Several times I was asked - by more than 1 Star - if there was anything else for them to do to help out. It would be great if everyone showed such eagerness for work. Maybe Six Star Maintenance is a company you should think of whenever you need a crew for a job. Six Star can be contacted at 669-3205. Ask for Maureen or Brian.



In Memory of Rosemary Schill

by: Geri Reid

Rosemary worked at ARC Industries for 29 years. She originally started working in the kitchen. She spent many years fluffing pom-poms in the Bridal area, but as her skills developed, she worked on a variety of contracts. Although Rosemary was quiet, she would show her desire for attention by touching you on the shoulder and saying... "I like you." Anyone knowing Rosemary will remember that her favorite expression or sentence was, "Can I talk to you later." Her

co-workers and staff will remember these words well. Rosemary always talked about her family and especially about her dog "Sheppie." Rosemary always remembered the names of all the staff at ARC as well as their children. I would like to share our most memorable story of Rosie. About 10 years ago at home-time (3:30 pm) there was a loaded skid of boxes blocking the hallway. Rosemary had climbed to the top of this 6-7 ft high skid and by the time the staff had real-

ized that Rosemary wasn't in the locker room, she was descending down the other side. Rosemary was of very small stature but this did not waiver the will and determination of what she could accomplish. Rosemary will be greatly missed by staff and her co-workers at ARC Industries. Cherished memories will live on. A tree will be planted on the grounds of ARC in the spring in memory of Rosemary.



***Our Friend
Rosie Schill***

Recreation Update

by: Louise Ellis

Well, is it Spring already? Does the weatherman know that yet? The E.D.A.C.L. Recreation Committee does and is preparing their spring and summer schedule of events to entertain and wow the clients, staff and volunteers. In April, the Rec. Committee will host a Spring Fling Dinner and Dance to be held at the Legion in Elmira. The Dinner will be catered by the Wok Wagon, which cooks Chinese food on the premises and brings it to the door. It's a fun experience and will be followed by our Dance DJ'd by John Bish. Door prizes and spot dances included.

May will be a busy month with

a trip planned for May 3rd to the Famous People Players Dinner and Theatre show in Toronto. This is our third trip to F.P.P. and it promises to be as excellent as ever. The meal is always hot, delicious and served with enthusiasm. The show: "Shake, Rattle and Roll" with black lighting effects, music and magical life size puppets is spectacular.

Also in May, the Rec. Committee will be hosting an evening BBQ picnic and fire pit at Life Skills. There will be games and prizes and of course marshmallows and wieners to roast over our fire. This event will be supervised by Elmira Fire-

fighter Keith Fulcher.

In June, the ever-popular Rodeo returns. Venah Bishop is again the co-ordinator of this event, which is to be held in Milverton. Buckaroos and Buckarettes will have the opportunity to spend the day with their own cowboy. Events such as cow roping, horseback riding, doggies and chittlins make the day one not to miss.

Further on into the summer, the Rec. Committee will be looking into a Dinner Cruise on the Grand, possibly a day trip to Centre Island in Toronto, and planning for the fall again. Wow is it fall already?



The Elmira & District Association
for Community Living

Our Mission

*13 Industrial Drive
Elmira, Ontario
N3B 2S1*

Phone: 519-669-3205

Fax: 519-669-3444

Email: edac@elmiraad.com

“The members of the association recognize and support all persons in need of our care living within the townships of Woolwich, Wellesley, and Peel, in order that they may live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively.”

If we can help don't hesitate to call

We're on the Web!
www.elmiraad.com

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Larry Biesinger - President

Abner Metzger

Geoff Downie

Theresa Campbell

George Pfanner

Greg Bechard - Executive Director

Osiah Bauman - Alternate

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