



Spring 2003

Issue 5



The Patchwork

30th Annual Quilt Auction

by: Greg Bechard

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With the eventual loss of the Elmira Raceway as a place to hold our upcoming Annual Quilt Auction, our Auction Sale Committee has been working hard to find a new location to hold our major fund raising event. We are pleased to announce that our new site for our quilt auctions will be the Riverdale Poultry Express. The Riverdale Poultry Express is located on Highway 86 north to Listowel in the old Freys Flowers location next to Stoltz Sales and Service. The search committee looked at many alternative locations over the past year and have concluded that the new location, just north of town will

be more than adequate to meet our needs. The accessibility of the new location will make it easy for all to attend. The parking will be more than sufficient and the existing buildings and the addition of a large tent will house all of our traditional auction sale events.

Please make note of our new location and mark on your calendars October 25, 2003 as the new date for the 30th Annual Quilt Auction. Tickets are now available at the main office for this years Double Wedding Ring Raffle Quilt. We look forward to your continuing support of our major fund raising event and

we hope to see you there.

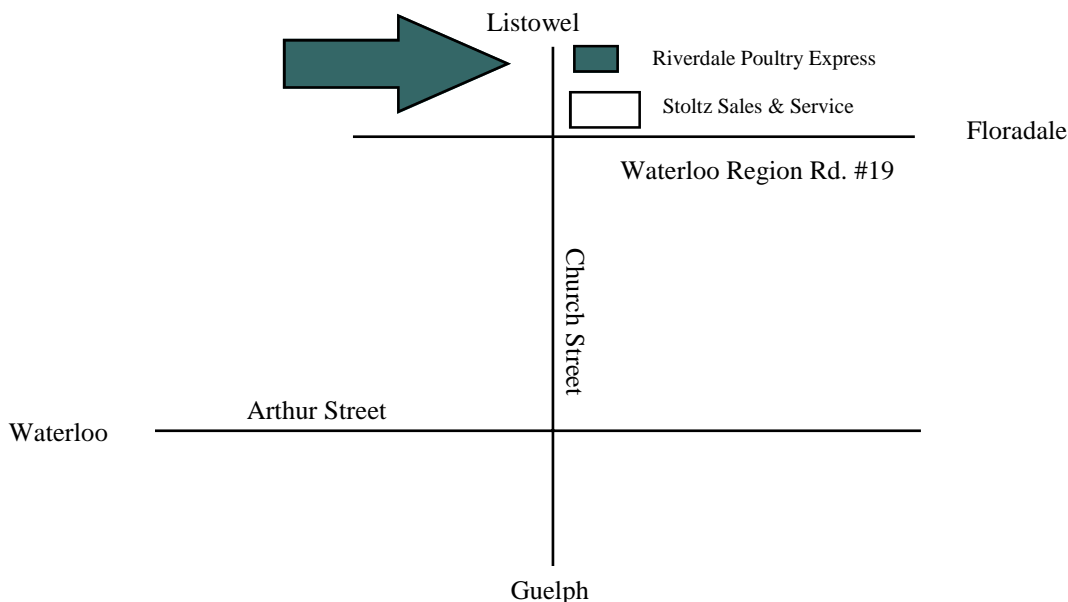
The Auction Sale Committee would like to remind you that if you have any items in good condition to donate please call the main office at 669-3205.

Come help us
celebrate
30 years!

Upcoming Events

- May Spring Fling Dinner & Dance
- June 18th Mamma Mia
- Annual General Meeting June 19th
- Quilt Auction October 25th

Our New Location



My New Job

by: Jim Plein



I have been asked to tell you about my new and exciting job. Once a month, my job coach Maureen Phillips sends me a memo to tell me when I am needed at the Elmira Police Office, to help Sgt. Knechtel.

I get a ride with overnight staff Sheri for 8:30 am. My work usually takes 2 - 3 hours. You

may ask what is the job all about? I am in charge of paper shredding. This is a very important job because all the information I am shredding is police business and is confidential.

Sgt. Knechtel helps me if I need anything; for example coffee. He is a wonderful boss

and my friend.

My time there goes very quickly and I work very hard to do my job well.

I am always anxious for the next memo to come as my new job makes me very happy and proud. This is my dream come true.

Lifting Spirits at R.M.G.

by: Brenda Johnston



If anyone ever wondered why this Association is in existence, all they have to is take a trip over to RMG and see the look of sheer joy on Bevis' face as she shows you how she can go up and down the stairs using the newly installed lift. Bevis only had to be shown how to use the new piece of equipment once and then she was able to use it independently. She enjoys going downstairs to visit and have coffee with her best friend Jane and is even dreaming of moving

downstairs if a vacancy becomes available. Wilma, Jean and Jane presently live in the lower level of RMG and are very happy to show visitors the new lift, however, they still like to use the stairs. The new lift was installed in March to allow access to the lower level to those residents who are unable to use stairs. The residents had been wishing for a stair lift for over three years until the Special Services Fund came through with the large amount needed to purchase, install, and license the equipment. It's an

amazing piece of equipment-large enough to carry an adult up and down the stairs in a comfortable chair equipped with safety belt and foot rest - and yet portable enough to fold up against the wall to allow foot traffic to flow freely up an down the stairwell.

Now the sun shines all the time at RMG and to see proof of this all you have to do is go to RMG and ask the ladies to show off their lift -the smiles on their faces will light up the room and warm your heart.

Spotlight on Ron Martin

by: Louise Ellis



Ron Martin

Ron Martin, or Ronnie as we all affectionately call him, has been a part of EDACL since 1994. Ron started at A.R.C. Industries in 1994 after graduating from University Heights High School.

Ron still lives at home in St. Jacob's with his parents and one brother. Ronnie is very proud of his family and often speaks fondly of his first nephew Kirby.

Ron has held many jobs since

joining EDACL all of which he does well and with pride. Ron started out doing contracts at ARC and was soon employed with Six Star Maintenance doing lawn care, and general clean up. Currently Ron works one day a week at Tim Horton's helping breakdown the boxes for recycling, stacking shelves, garbage runs and cleaning up the parking lot. Ron continues his job with Life Skills a couple of days a week cleaning and never fails

to brighten up the day. Ron does every job thoroughly and enthusiastically. We'd all be better off if we had Ron's energy and happy-go-lucky attitude towards our jobs.

Recreationally, Ron is very busy. He enjoys Special Olympics bowling, volleyball and baseball. Ron is a person we hope to have around for a long time to come. Here's to Ron ...our spotlight.

Apartment Complex Update

by: Greg Bechard



Rear perimeter of property next to Leisure World



View of new Association office from the corner of First Street & Barnswallow

Since the decision was made by the Board to undertake the building of an apartment complex that would support people with complex care needs and support changes due to aging we have been very busy. In December the Board chose the site for the future complex and we placed an offer to purchase on the property next to Leisure World. We have engaged the service of Brian L. Shantz Ltd. And Architecture Incorporated to assist us with our zoning change application, in resolving issues related to the development of the property and to assist in the design of the building and new office space.

There are many obstacles to overcome before this project

will become bricks and mortar and we have been working hard to overcome each one as they present themselves. We have been working with Ted Arnott our MPP and the Ministry of Community Family and Children's Services Brenda Elliot and our regional Ministry Office to obtain the necessary annual operating dollars to enhance the support needs of the future tenants. The staff are beginning to approach prospective residents and their families regarding the need and future benefits of moving to the new complex. Consultations are occurring with health care professionals to determine staffing structure and necessary nursing staff supports.

Ideally we would hope to have the zoning approval by June of this year and the property acquisition completed within the same time frame. A decision to proceed with the development of the project without a promise of operating dollars will require some consideration by the Board and this will determine whether or not we start this year or in the distant future. Keep your fingers crossed and if you feel strongly about this project and the need for government support call Ted Arnott at 1-800-265-2366 and tell him what you think. Community support will lend invaluable strength to our request.

We Shine at O.A.D.D.

by: Greg Bechard

During the past year the staff at our Reid Woods Residence have been very busy learning new techniques to support Richard, one of our residents. He could no longer take food by mouth and it was necessary to tube feed him with a GJ tube, which is inserted into the stomach and then placed in his upper gastrointestinal tract. His feeding is a very labour intensive process and takes up to 15 hours to complete every day. The staff from across our agency, including on call managers, day program staff and all counsellors full and part time at Reid Woods, were trained to feed Richard in this manner. It required a lot of collaboration to provide this support to him and if we had not been successful he may have had to move to a

nursing home or chronic care facility or even worse may not have survived the ordeal. This level of support is rarely if ever provided in group homes like ours. Richards doctor, the Chief of Staff at the Grand River Hospital, Sunbeam Residential Centre and their residential staff, nursing staff and nutritionist and speech therapist as well as the health care consultant from the Developmental Services Access Centre all collaborated to ensure that this care crisis had a happy ending. I am pleased to report that Richard is doing very well and has even gained weight. It was a story worth sharing and in March a group of staff from our agency including Rodger Hanna, Charlotte Morley and Greg Bechard collaborated with

Marg Alfieri a nutritionist from Sunbeam Residential Centre and Karen Klee the Health care Consultant from the Developmental Services Access Centre to tell Richards story and encourage other agencies, that where there is a will there is a way. It is also worth noting that Karen Klee was the worthy recipient of this years Professional Staff Award presented by the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities for outstanding support to people with a developmental disability. I would also like to thank Marg Alfieri and all the staff at Sunbeam Residential Centre for their contributions to improving Richards quality of life. Their collaboration makes the quality of service that we provide everyone that much more comprehensive.



Charlotte Morley, Rodger Hanna, Karen Klee & Greg Bechard

NVCI Training

by: Laurie Thomson



New regulations to the Developmental Services Act, regarding the use of physical restraints were passed in March 2002 and officially came into effect on April 1, 2003. What this means to us as service providers, is this: all direct care/program staff must be trained in a Ministry approved program by April 1.

NVCI (nonviolent crisis intervention) is a two day course that emphasizes early intervention and non-physical methods for preventing or managing disruptive behaviour before a situation escalates into a crisis. The physical restraint

and team strategies include some hands-on training and role playing segments. The overall focus of the program is to provide the best care, welfare, safety and security to the out-of-control person and all staff involved, even during violent outbursts.

This has been a large but very important process. First of all we had to arrange for two more staff to go for an intensive, four day instructor's course, bringing us to a total of three certified NVCI trainers. They are Julie Martin-Jansen, Cheryl Heimpel, and Laurie Thomson. Then we had to

review the prior certification status of all staff and schedule training sessions that would suit everyone. We offered four different sessions over weekdays and weekends and managed to get the 80 staff who were due for training, all certified! We also have refresher courses scheduled for May to provide 26 more staff with a review of the program to make sure that everyone is up to date. The Ministry also requires that any new staff hired be trained in NVCI within 30 days of their start date. This will therefore be an ongoing, but very necessary process.

Look how far we've come!

by: Angela Clayton



Cindy O'Connell, Angela Clayton
Andrew Wilson, Kevin Casler, Tony
Remers, & Jason Prange

In November 2001, I had the privilege of becoming part of the four gentleman's lives, who reside at the First Street group home. Together, over the past year and a half we have all faced many challenges, however, also made many achievements. Change and transition is never easy for anyone, especially on individuals with very unique personalities, to live and learn with each other is challenge itself. After a few significant counsellor changes, everyone at First Street has gotten to know each other and begun to have many new experiences.

One of the biggest achievements we have made is the participation in activities and tasks that are new and exciting, and sometimes a little

overwhelming! We have all enjoyed going on some fun outings like visiting African Lion Safari and going to the movies. With some extra staffing, some of us have had the opportunity to get out of the house more often and enjoy time going shopping, going out for supper and even going to the Toronto Raptors game! Everyone is enjoying the opportunity to participate effectively in the daily routine within the house. Every week someone chooses the menu using picture aids and a visual menu board, and we all take turns doing the grocery shopping. We also concentrate on working on three specific tasks/chores for that week, some of the favorite things to do are baking and cooking and preparing lunches for work.

This summer we're looking forward to many new experiences, going to a new camp in Orillia, cottaging up in the Muskoka's, horse back riding, and just relaxing at home and enjoying the warm weather out on our nice deck!

Every now and then we are faced with a challenge or obstacle. Health and medical issues sometimes prevent us from doing some of the things we would like to enjoy, however, every day is a new day. Everyone is constantly learning from mistakes and we are all learning from each other. We have all come so far and look forward to a healthy and exciting future!

Recreation Update

By: Louise Ellis

Spring has sprung! Finally! And the EDACL recreation committee is gearing up for another fun filled spring and summer season. We've spent the last few months fundraising for the season and we've had some good success. Our monthly 50/50 draws are increasing in popularity and profit with each month the "kitty" getting larger. Congratulations to our recent winners - Cindy Prince Briggs our first months winner and the Raising Mill Gate Residence as our second month's winners. Our Easter Raffle was another great fundraiser with two beautiful prizes being handcrafted by the talented Brenda Johnston. Congratulations to the winners Darlene Frede who took home the first prize Easter wreath and Glenn Biesinger who won the second prize of an Easter centre piece. Fundraising ideas always abound during our Recreation meetings so look for our cookbook fundraiser in the near future.

Thanks to everyone who submitted recipes and thanks to Wendy Vandenberg for her continued work preparing the book.

Next month will hopefully bring May flowers and so we will plan for a Spring Fling dinner and dance. Our monthly noon luncheons held at ARC will continue giving all involved a break from the brown bagged lunch.

The excitement is mounting for our trip to see Mamma Mia in Toronto. We have a full bus of Abba fans and Wednesday June 18th cannot come quickly enough for us. It should be a great experience. Also in June is the Milverton Rodeo. Again, Venah Bishop, our very own "cowgirl" is co-coordinating this event and more information will follow. Once the summer holidays hit and staff and clients take off for vacations, we will plan events around this. Possible ideas for Recreation events are outdoor BBQ's, a trip to Toronto shopping or to Centre Island

and it won't be long and we'll be planning for the end of the summer carnival. The Recreation Committee is once again selling Canada's Wonderland tickets. The tickets will be sold from the main office and will be available the beginning of May. The price this year for tickets is \$35 with \$3 from each ticket going to the Recreation Committee. The Recreation committee is looking forward to a warm and wonderful summer and wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.



*Easter Raffle Winners
Darlene Frede & Glenn Biesinger*



39th Annual Maple Syrup Festival

by Amy Bridge

Thank you to all volunteers who came out to the 39th Annual Elmira Maple Syrup Festival. This year was a cold year for the festival but the EDACL pancake line was cheery and helped the day seem less dreary. E.D.A.C.L. has been involved with the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival from the very

beginning and the support that we get when we are looking for volunteers really makes it run smoothly. This year Mother Nature wasn't very kind to the Festival but next year is the 40th Anniversary and I hope that the volunteers are ready to come out and celebrate this wonderful festival and all the good it does for EDACL and our community.

Thanks again for all your hard work and hope to see you on April 3, 2004.



Ruth Remers
Long time flipper



Lori Hoelscher &
Doreen Hunter



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Our Mission

“The members of the association recognize and support all persons in need of our care living within the townships of Woolwich, Wellesley, Peel, and Mapleton 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.elmiracl.com

Board & Executive Committee Members

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Larry Biesinger - President

Wayne Turpel

Henry Weber

Gordon Bauman

Osiyah Bauman

George Pfanner

Wayne Martin

Greg Bechard - Executive Director

Board Members:

Larry Biesinger

Osiyah Bauman

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Sam Martin

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