



Summer 2003

Issue 6

The Elmira & District Association for Community Living



The Patchwork

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Summer Fun Days

by: Justin Hunter-Bechard

The Elmira Association for Community Living is trying to spice up the summer with a new day program. This program, run by Carlie McGhee and Justin Hunter-Bechard, is aimed at providing local high school students with an opportunity to get out of the house and make the most of their summer vacation.

Over the course of July and August this program has provided for its participants a wide variety of events and activities which have been the source of many good times and fond memories. This summer's highlights include trips to the movie theater, park outings, mini golf, the Elmira pool, and even the African Lion Safari. Participants also busied themselves with crafts, the construction of a miniature city, baking, outdoor games, water fights, video games, theme days and a barbecue.

On top of all the opportunities,

numerous outings, and activities the program has provided to the participants, it has also given these students a chance to familiarize themselves with the comings and goings of Arc Industries as well as the staff and people who work there. Although bumping into old acquaintances and meeting new ones has been a positive experience for those involved in the program, the friendly rapport which the students have established with the staff at Arc Industries will ease the transition from school to work in the future. This program has also allowed many of the home clients who work at Arc to get involved with some of this summer's programs and activities. This new summer program has been a wonderful addition to the already numerous selection of programs being offered by the Elmira and District Association for Community

Living. The program, while providing fun-filled opportunities for individuals to be involved with their peers and their community, has also helped build confidence, develop social skills and other tools they will need along the path to personal success. It is our hope that this program will build on this year's success and that we will be able to provide it again next summer. We will be contacting families in February or March to let them know of our plans and hope this advanced knowledge of our intentions will result in greater participation. We need to bridge the gap between the families with school age children and our Association. Together we are our collective futures.

Upcoming Events

- 30th Anniversary Quilt Auction Sat. October 25th
- Client Halloween Dance October
- Staff & Committee Christmas Dinner Sat. December 13th
- Client Christmas Party December 23rd



The Summer Program at African Lions Safari



Summer Fun Gang



Tropical Theme Party

Blue Ribbon Winners!

by: Amy Habermehl



Woolwich Special Olympics

The Woolwich Special Olympics played in their first ever slo-pitch tournament in Brantford on July 26th.

The team was nervous, having never played in a slo-pitch tournament before, but their love of the game paid off. The Woolwich team won all three games in their division and took home the blue ribbon. Their games included a 9-5 victory over Brantford, a 11-0 win over Woodstock, and a 7-1 victory over a combined KW/New Hamburg team.

Baseball isn't the only sport that the Woolwich Special Olympics belongs to as they also provide floor hockey and bowling.

If you would like more information regarding the Special Olympics in this area call;

Mary Jordan at 669-1875 or email her at jordankm@golden.net

Team members of the slo-pitch team, include (front row, from left) Kevin Ertel (coach), Karen Weber, Ron Martin,

Joyce Weber, Mary Cook, Marg Martin (coach); back row: Ryan Martin, Ian Moore, Margaret Moser, Elizabeth Moser, Raymond Moser and Joel Martin. Absent from the photo are Ruth Wedman and coach Ron Martin.

The Woolwich Special Olympics are always looking for volunteers if you are interested or would like more information call Mary Jordan.



Jim Plein presenting a Recognition award to Sgt. Knechtel of the Elmira Police Detachment

Annual General Meeting

by: Amy Habermehl

This years Annual General Meeting took place on June 19th at ARC Industries. We had a wonderful turn out and even better food.

A presentation was made by Laurie McAndrew from Community Living London. She spoke about the trial and tribulations that Community Living London went through to build their Seniors

Residential Support Program.

Larry Biesinger and Jim Plein presented a recognition award and gift to Sgt. Merv Knechtel from Division 3A of the Waterloo Police Department for all the support they've given to the Association. Two other special recognition awards were given to outgoing board members. Osiah Bauman and Alvin Martin.

The newly elected Board Members are Marie Brubacher, Martin DeCorte, Ken Walter, and Wayne Turpel.

The general membership meeting schedule for 2004 is as follows: Thursday October 16th, Thursday April 15th, and the Annual General Meeting will be held on June 17th.

Spotlight on Esther Bauman

by: Sue Lehman



Esther Bauman

If you ask who is the happiest, friendliest participant at Life Skills, chances are the answer would be Esther Bauman. Esther has been involved in Life Skills and ARC Industries for more than 20 years. Esther has worked on contracts at ARC and been involved in various programs at Life Skills.

She has taken part in pre-vocational training, craft programs and the horseback riding program, to name just a few. She also enjoys word search puzzles and books. Esther loves using her Bliss symbol board and photo albums to show special events and new additions to her family. Next

time you are at Life Skills, if you hear laughter, chances are that Esther will be close by.

Apartment Complex One Step Closer

by: Greg Bechard



New site for Association Office



Proposed Building Site For Retirement Complex

The Board has been very busy this past year and the acquisition of a property to be the site of the new Association offices and proposed Apartment Complex have occupied a great deal of their time. In August the Association acquired the property next to the Leisureworld Complex and this will be the location of the new Association Offices and the proposed Retirement Complex for 16 adults whose accommodation support requirements are changing as they get older.

The proposed building will consist of 16 bed/sitting apartments. The layout of the building will allow for individuals to live independently or receive total care including palliative care. The concept of this complex is to provide residential support as the needs of the individual change and continue to support them in their home and their community while being surrounded by friends

and family and caregivers that they have known since they have left their family home or institution.

The support format and building layout will allow the residents a choice in how they are supported. They can be independent in their apartment or choose to be supported in small groups of two or four. The central common area will allow for the provision of day supports and group functions at their leisure. Large fully equipped washrooms will augment personal care needs that may not be possible to provide in their apartment. Similarly common kitchens will be able to provide meals where the individual is no longer able to manage for themselves. The apartment complex supports will provide a menu of services that each individual will select from to design their residential lifestyle.

We are currently preparing a proposal to submit to the Government of Ontario to fund the increased operating

costs of this new service that reflect the cost of the changing levels of service required by our aging residents. The proposal deadline is September 26th and we hope to receive support and begin construction in the spring or sooner if possible. The capital cost of the new complex and renovations to the existing house, the future Association Offices, will be provided by the Association from its fund-raising monies.

I would close by saying that we need your support and it is an election year. A phone call to the office of our MPP Ted Arnott (787-5247) could only help in advancing our cause for the construction of this complex and the provision of this much needed service. We will be contacting our membership in the future and requesting their assistance in the advancement of this proposal. If you have any questions as to how you might help please call Greg Bechard at 669-3205 and I will be glad to answer your questions.

Staff Volunteer for Palliative Support

by: Greg Bechard

The Caring and dedication of these volunteers coupled with the staff of the home will help us ensure that we keep our promise to care.

In the spring of this year we received some bad news regarding the health of one of our residents. The deterioration of the individual's health and the inevitable need to provide palliative care if the person was to remain in their home proposed a real challenge to the Association.

A letter was sent in the early spring requesting volunteers to assist the staff as they continue to provide day to day support to the residents of this home

through the months ahead.

We received responses from 20 individuals, 17 staff from across our programs and 3 persons from the community. We formed 4 teams, one for each week of the month. Each team would co-ordinate, through a team leader, with the staff of the house where and when they would provide support in their scheduled week. A separate weekend schedule is prepared every two months, coordinated by one person.

Since mid July we have provided approximately 63 hours of additional support to the home through the week. This represents on average 6 to 9 hours each week. We have also provided approximately 21 hours of weekend relief. In total the volunteers have provided 84 additional hours of support.

The caring and dedication of these volunteers coupled with the staff of the home will help us ensure that we keep our promise to care.

2004 Knotty Stokers

by: Laurie Thomson

After being away from Dragon Boats for a year, the Knotty Stokers came back with a team of enthusiastic participants pulled together at the eleventh hour. As usual, the day was great! Co-captains, Laurie Thomson and Julie Martin-Jansen, had the shirts ready, the practice times organized, the snacks ready and the drinks cold. Everyone supplied the skill and enthusiasm and together it was a fun filled event. Not only is it an excellent fundraiser for the Elmira Kiwanis Club, but it is a great for the staff to be able to socialize away from work.

For those of you unfamiliar with Dragon Boating, it consists of a team of 20 rowers, a steers person, and a drummer. The drummer's purpose is to keep the beat and yell encouraging directions to his/her team-mates.

After having promising finishing times in the first and second heats, our wayward steersperson set us on a course directly into the shore! By the time we backed out and were repositioned in the race lane, we were no longer able to even come close to being in the finals. Disappointing yes, but when you're sitting in the sunshine on a beautiful day

with great people around you, the last race quickly became a distant memory. It made us all the more determined to win next year!

Speaking of next year, we will be sending around sign up information in the spring. Be quick...we already have almost a full team of committed rowers. Our reputation has preceded us!

*Watch for
early
registration
in Spring*

30th Anniversary Picture Quilt

by: Amy Habermehl

It's hard to believe that this is the 30th Anniversary of the Elmira Charity Quilt Auction. Over the years plenty has changed and this year is no exception. Our Auction will be taking place on October 25th at the Riverdale Poultry Express. We will be having the regular events such as the bake table, silent auction, used and new furniture and of course the always popular quilt auction. There are some new things popping up at the Auction this year. We will be having a craft section, so if you know anyone who would

want to donate crafts just call the office. For this special occasion the Auction sale Committee has come up with a very special quilt to be auctioned. The clients have had the opportunity to draw pictures that represented the Association to them. Let me tell you some very interesting drawings came from this. These pictures were then scanned onto a computer and printed onto special fabric. The patches were ironed to seal the pictures on the fabric. This picture quilt was put together by a committee

member and her friends and family. We want to thank them for taking the time to piece and quilt this very unique and special item. This is definitely a one of a kind piece so make sure that you come out and see it. If you have any items that you would like to donate please call the office to arrange for pick up. The support of this community is a very large reason our Auction has made it 30 years. We are looking forward to seeing you on October 25th!



30th Anniversary Picture Quilt

Recreation Update

By: Louise Ellis

What a busy summer season the Recreation Committee has had! We have been here, there and have had a great summer despite the heat. The summer started off with our much anticipated trip to Toronto to see Mamma Mia. What fun we had. The show, music and dancing was awesome-we almost danced in the aisles. Even when our van was towed away, we all managed to have a laugh while waiting outside the theatre. Thanks to our bus driver, EDACL staff person Chris Black for navigating a school bus through T.O. traffic to our impounded van!

Our 4th annual Carnival was another success. Held on the 1st Friday of July, the 30 plus temperature did not seem to affect the attendance. Games, prizes, face painting, water fights, and the cow roping contest were some of the highlights. Lots of treats were enjoyed along with a BBQ supper with pop, chips and candy. A great time was had

by all.

The rodeo held in Maryhill this year was also a success. Another hot summer day enjoyed by all of our cowboys and cowgirls. Meeting some of the veteran one to one cowboys from years past was a highlight for many of our participants.

The Recreation Committee continued to fundraise throughout the summer selling Canada's Wonderland tickets, holding a 50/50 draw (won by Sue Lehman) and the profitable cheese fundraiser from the Springbank Cheese Company. Thank-you to everyone who helped the committee with this cheese fundraiser particularly our top sellers Andrea Taggart and Joyce & Karen Weber.

We are still compiling the first ever EDACL cookbook. So exciting, we received numerous recipes from our residents, staff, and families. Many thanks to everyone who submitted a family favourite.

It is our hope to have the cookbook ready in time for the Quilt Auction in October. We are so looking forward to the completion of this book. What wonderful gifts they will make. A big thank-you again to Wendy Vandenberg for her tireless efforts putting this book together.

The Recreation Committee is also looking forward to the fall/winter season with the annual Hallowe'en Dance to be held in October. The much anticipated Client Christmas Party will be held on December 23rd at Woodside Bible Chapel. We will have our annual visit from the Beirido Brothers as well as from our favourite -Santa Claus. So much fun to look forward to and the Recreation Committee will continue their commitment of providing fun and leisure to the people we



"Where's the Bus?"



Cow roping at the Carnival



Maryhill Rodeo

Congratulations Amy!

By: Laurie Thomson

Please join us in congratulating our administrative assistant, Amy Bridge, on her marriage to Grant Habermehl on July 5th. It was a beautiful wedding in Bolender Park, followed by an elegant candlelit reception at Carriage Hall. Best wishes to

both of you for a wonderful life full of health and happiness!





The Elmira & District Association
for Community Living

*13 Industrial Drive
Elmira, Ontario
N3B 2S1*

Phone: 519-669-3205


Fax: 519-669-3444

Email: edac@elmiraac.com

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.elmiraac.com

Board & Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee:

Larry Biesinger - President

Wayne Turpel

Wayne Martin

Gordon Bauman

George Pfanner

Osiah Bauman - Alternate

Henry Weber - Alternate

Greg Bechard - Executive Director

Board Members:

Larry Biesinger

Wayne Turpel

Osiah Bauman

Ken Walter

Elmer Brubacher

Henry Weber

Colin Brubacher

Sam Martin

Monika Landoni

Alvin Martin

Wayne Martin

George Pfanner