



Out & About!

The Newsletter about the CSCL

January 2011

Volume 3, Issue 1

Did you know...

- December 3rd, 2010 commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- CSCL's 2nd Annual Biggest Loser contest kicked off January 5 and 6, 2011
- CSCL's Children Services is hosting a fundraiser by selling Chilliwack Bruins tickets for a Saturday, March 19th, 2011 Game against the Everett Silvertips. For more information contact Natalie Karam at 604-858-6261

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People First at Whistler

Four members of the **Chilliwack People First** group attended the **CACL/BCACL Family Conference** at **Whistler** in **October**.

Sarah Bried, Joanne Bunnin, Gerald Oesch and **Rob Battis** went for the three day conference and stayed at the **Whistler Chateau**.

Gerald and **Joanne** were presenters at two of the sessions; the **SASI Project** and the **BC People First (BCPF)** session. **Gerald**, who is on the **BCPF** board, spent the first morning preparing for their presentation; Caring



Gerald, Joanne and Sarah pose for a photo in front of a Whistler creek side

for Each Other, Caring for Ourselves. Both **Gerald** and **Joanne** did excellent jobs speaking in front of audiences of over **100** people.

The group also attended sessions on Real work for Real pay, Climb every Mountain (about fulfilling your dreams), the Impor-

tance of Friendship, and the closing plenary where three mothers spoke of their experiences getting their children included in their communities.

This was **Sarah's** first conference (she is also a **CSCL Board** member) and she met a lot of people and enjoyed herself.

On the last day, the group had a chance to do some geocaching and see some of **Whistler**.

Funding to help pay for the trip came from the **Chilliwack People First** group, **BCACL** and **CSCL**.

CSCL Winter Gala

The **CSCL Social Committee** hosted a staff appreciation **Winter Gala** on **December 4th, 2010** at the **Atchelitz Hall** in **Chilliwack**.

A delicious meal was provided by **Cookie's Grill**

and entertainment was provided by **Star Babies DJ & Karaoke**.

Several exciting door prizes were awarded throughout the evening such as home décor items, tools and gift cer-

tificates.

The **CSCL Social Committee** would like to thank **Jim Quick** for his bartending services and for all the staff and guests who attended the event.

CSCL Hope Children's Services

Over the past two years, **CSCL** has been providing a **Summer Program for Youth in Hope**.

This service has been beneficial to youth and their families in that community – providing a local service, where youth can connect with peers in their home community.

Through recent discussions with **MCFD's Children & Youth with Special Needs** service the **CSCL** has been assured that funding for this **Summer**

Service will now form part of our ongoing contract. Families can count on this service being available in **Hope** each summer!

"**Hope** is in the **Society's** catchment area," says **Julie Unger, Director of Children's Services**, "It's a natural progression to have a consistent presence in that community."

Additionally, we have been able to organize our annual supports to children and youth in such a way as to provide for a one day

per week **Saturday** service in **Hope**.

This **Saturday Teen Club** will begin on **January 8th, 2011**, and will follow the school year schedule. "These are programs that are needed for our kids" one **Hope** family told the **CSCL**. We are excited to now offer these services on an ongoing basis.

A special thanks to the **Grace Baptist Church in Hope** who readily make their space available for us to use as a program base.

Diversity Works!

CSCL's Supported Employment Program hosted an **Employer Appreciation** event at **Vegas Billiards** to honour their "**Champion Employers**" for their outstanding policies and practices in hiring and employing people with developmental disabilities.

Invitees included **Rocky**

Mountain Chocolate Factory, Starbucks, The Chilliwack Landing Lei-



Bill Brooks from BC Bed Frame Supply and Ryan Kuester

sure Centre, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, The Brick, BC Bed Frame Supply, Value Village, the City of Chilliwack and The Chilliwack Progress.

This year's theme was promoting **BCEmploynet's** publicity campaign of "**Diversity Works**".

"CSCL's Supported Employment Program (SEP) provides opportunities for individuals to obtain real work for real pay."

A Self Advocacy Story

David Crey wanted to do something different for his birthday this year.

The idea of **Dinner and a Movie** sounded fun but what his friends didn't expect was that **David's** plans were to rent an entire movie theatre!

Supported by staff at the **Alexander, David's** next step was to rent the **Paramount** in downtown

Chilliwack for the day.

David was responsible for opening/closing the entire movie theater. **David** could not believe that he was able to rent the **Paramount** all by himself and to have the Birthday that he dreamed of.

David had lots of fun with his friends while watching the movie and having popcorn/pop and, of course,

a big birthday cake at the end.



CSCL wishes "Happy Birthday" to David Crey



Staff Recognition Awards - 2010

CSCL recognizes that its staff are an extremely important part of what we do as a Society.

As a result, **Staff Recognition Awards** are given out every year based on years of service.

Congratulations to the following **CSCL** staff for their ongoing commitment & dedication.

20 Year

Cathy Hultman
Corrie Webb
Glenn Caulfield
Julia Manthei
Mary-Lee Tondreau

15 Year

Blaine Cross
Heather Faucher
Nigel Page
Wendy Collins

10 Year

Angela Ray
Carol Barratt
Kami Edwards
Natalie Karam
Laura Caminiti
Shirley Lunn
Teresa Stoney
Vince Zastre

5 Year

Amber Gilbert
Becky Metcalfe
Brittany Page
Bryce Bennett
Joe Batt
Karen Pedersen
Leanne Tschritter
Lisa Regensburger

Luke Pranger
Rebecca Pruden
Wanda Dartnell

**"Staff are the cornerstone of our organization."
- Brenda Gillette
(CSCL Executive Director)**

What's Happening! (Jan-Mar)

Jan 1 - New Years Day	Feb 7 - Board Meeting
Jan 5 - Biggest Loser Contest Begins	Feb 10 - Valentines Dance
Jan 10 - Board Meeting	Mar 5/6 - CSCL Strategic Planning Weekend
Jan 25 - 1st Aid/CPR	Mar 14-25 - Spring Break
Jan 26 - Great BC Shake Out	Mar 19 - CSCL Fundraiser Bruins Hockey
Feb 3 - Combined Meeting	Mar 29 - 1st Aid/CPR



"Coffee & Jam Friendship Club happens every Monday morning at the Broadway Church from 10:00am to 11:30am."

Board Update!

The **CSCL Board of Directors** was fortunate this year in having all **12** members remain on the **Board** for the current year. This provides substantial stability during some difficult times. Over the past months the **CSCL** has been working closely with **CLBC** to review the sustainability of its services. This is a difficult and challenging process

for many and resulted in the closure of **Carleton** and the laying off and bumping of many employees. The **Board** was aware of this process and, although not happy about the prospect of closing a residential service, felt that this was the best solution to assist in creating a long-term sustainable future for the individuals we serve.

The **Board** also spent a considerable amount of time over the fall reviewing its own governance policies and revising its **Ends (Goals) Statement**. The members have also focused on reviewing all plans and reports together with establishing a Housing Committee to review housing needs for individuals supported by the **Society**.

"The Board of Directors is elected by the general membership at the annual meeting."

“Joanne began working with the CSCL in 1990. Wanda Dartnell has now resumed her duties.”

Joanne's Retirement

In **November** the **CSCL** said good-bye to its long-term payroll administrator, **Joanne Larson**.

Joanne had worked for the **CSCL** for over **21** years. She started her career in **Children's Services**, working with children in the **After-School Activity Program**. When a full-time administrative assistant position was posted, **Joanne** was the successful candidate and moved into that position. While her duties changed over the years, she really



Joanne Larson

was the “face of payroll” for all **Society** employees for the past **20** years. **Joanne** was also a **Society** volunteer and spent

many hours at **Bingo** and preparing for other **CSCL** events including the annual **Community Living Celebration** and many **Volunteer Banquets**.

Joanne's retirement celebration featured a “bingo” theme with many tributes to her outstanding contributions to the **Society** and all of those it serves. We will all miss **Joanne** but want to take this opportunity to wish her well in her retirement and know that she will still be part of the organization.

“The Mathieson Centre has been the home of CSCL's Children's Services since 2005.”

Santa Claus Visits Again...

Once again, **CSCL's Children's Services** hosted the annual **Children's Christmas Party** at the **Mathieson Centre** on **Saturday, December 18th, 2010**.

It was a good turn-out once again! The **1st Act Drama Club** performed their rendition of “**Shrek The Halls**”, a singing Elf

showed up and sang **Christmas Carols** with the audience and...



CSCL's Children's Services is located at the Mathieson Centre

the **Big Jolly Guy, Santa Claus** himself, even took time from his busy schedule to make a special appearance at the party.

Many thanks to **Children's Services Manager, Natalie Karam** and her team for putting together such a fun event.

It was a great time had by all!

“CSCL's naturally aligned **COR** partner is the **BC Municipal Safety Association**.”

www.bcmsa.ca

CARF & COR

CSCL will be subject to two **HUGE** external reviews this year.

Later this month, **CSCL** will attempt to be **COR**-certified. This **Certificate of Recognition** by **Work-SafeBC** recognizes and rewards employers who go beyond the legal requirements of the **Workers Compensation Act** and the **Occupational Health**



and Safety Regulation, by taking a best practices approach to implementing safety management systems in **Occupational**

Health and Safety programs.

CSCL will also be surveyed by **CARF** in **May 2011**. This will be the organization's third 3-year cycle and as always **CSCL** will be looking forward to another successful accreditation review.

Stay tuned in the days ahead for more updates!

The Great B.C. "Shake Out"

At **10:00 a.m.** on **January 26, 2011**, thousands of **British Columbians** will **"Drop, Cover, and Hold On"** in **The Great British Columbia Shake-Out**, the largest earthquake drill in **BC** history!

CSCL will join other non-profit organizations that have been encouraged to participate in the drill by event organizers.

This provincial wide initiative event is tailored to explore the safety concerns and procedures of a

catastrophic earthquake scenario. Organized by the **Provincial Emergency Program for British Columbia** and the **British Columbia Earthquake Alliance**, this



On January 26, 2011 all of CSCL will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On".

event is a copy of the **California Shake Out** event that has been an annual exercise since **2008**.

All **CSCL Programs** that are operating at this time will be required to complete a full **Earthquake Drill** at their locations.

CSCL's Emergency Preparedness Committee will be hosting the event. Other details will be announced in **ShareVision** in the days building up to the big event.

"For more information, please visit their website at

www.shakeoutbc.ca

Parading in the Christmas Spirit

CSCL's Children's Services made a last minute decision to enter a float in the annual **Chilliwack Christmas Parade of Lights & Sound** on **Saturday, December 4th, 2010**.

With the help of **Children Services Teens, Parents** and **Program Staff**, and the assistance from **Chil-**

dren's Services 4th Year Child & Youth Care Degree Practicum Student, Dale Anderson, the team was able to pull it off - with **Lights & Sound!**

The weather held out for the team (it didn't rain) and it was a fun team-building experience and a great way to get everyone in the **Christmas Spirit**.



CSCL's Children's Services group poses for a photo on their float

"Pre-parade entertainment began at Five Corners with the parade being marshaled from Evergreen Hall."

Snoezelen Room

CSCL in partnership with **Autism Speaks Canada** has been awarded **\$24690.00** to build and develop a **Snoezelen Room** at the **Mathieson Centre**

A **Snoezelen Room** involves exposing individuals to a soothing and stimulating environment. The room is specially designed to deliver stimuli to various

senses, using lighting effects, color, sounds, music, scents, etc. The combina-



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

Autism Speaks is an international non-profit organization with a Canadian

tion of different materials on a wall may be explored using tactile senses, and the floor may be adjusted to stimulate the sense of balance.

"The renovations will begin early this year," says **Natalie Karam, Children's Services Manager**, "We are thrilled that **Autism Speaks Canada** has awarded **CSCL** this grant."

"Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism."



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CSCL

Providing Options for
Individuals with
Developmental
Disabilities

WWW.CSCL.ORG

CSCL Vision

"Full Lives in
Communities"

Mission Statement

The Chilliwack Society for
Community Living provides
quality, individualized
supports for people with
developmental disabilities
and their families.

"Your Voice!"

Did you know past editions of **Out & About** can now be accessed and downloaded through CSCL's new look website? Go see it by logging on to www.cscl.org and clicking the Newsletter link.

Do you have something to say? Let's hear from you!

Please contact jeff.gilbank@cscl.org for your email subscription, comments, editorials, and/or newsletter ideas or send through the mail to the address on the left - Attn: "**Out & About**".

A special thank you to **Brenda Gillette, Shelby Hagel, Cristina Staciu, Shaaron Enright, Gizelle DeBad, Stephen Peters, Natalie Karam, Al Niemann, Joanne Bunnin, Sarah Bried, Joanne Larson, Julie Unger, David Crey** and **Rob Battis** for their contributions to this issue.

Look for the next edition of **Out & About** to be available in **April 2011**.

Note: CSCL sadly said good-bye to Adam Reimer on January 11, 2011. An article about Adam will appear in the Spring edition of **Out & About**.

"Meet The Board"

Al Niemann is a CSCL Board member and a realtor for Remax here in Chilliwack. Al was been a realtor for 21 years. Father to Bre-Ann and Justin and husband to Laurie the family have been closely associated with the Society for many years. Laurie is a former CSCL Board member and has recently become an employee of CSCL working in Residential Services.

We asked Al a few questions in a forum we call "Meet the Board"

Q: Before becoming a realtor, I understand you used to be a professional chef.

A: I was a chef at the Black Forest Restaurant in Whistler, and in Harrison. My signature dish was Rol-laden mit Speck.

Q: As an avid outdoors-man tell us the best places to camp, hunt and fish.

A: The best camping would have to be canoeing along the Dease River in North-

ern BC; the best hunting is in Clinton, and the best fishing is in the Caribbean.

Q: What is your best hunting or fishing story?

A: Well, most of my stories are not for public consumption...but, there was a time last year I went hunting with a bunch of guys. After consuming a few adult beverages, someone brought out the "Elk call" and started sounding it off. This was answered by other Elk Calls from other hunting camps in the area. Before long, all camps in the area were sounding their Elk, moose, any other woodland creature calls. The *real* animals in the woods must have been up all night.

Q: Great story Al, you should write a book of your adventures.

A: Actually, a bunch of my friends are featured in several camping stories in books written by Bernard



Al Niemann has been on the CSCL Board for the last two years. Al's son, Justin, is currently attending one of CSCL's Day Services.

McKay. Coincidentally he's my favourite author—especially like his book "Crooked River Rats".

Q: Finally, Al, what is the best thing about the CSCL?

A: The staff at the CSCL are great—their dedication and commitment are amazing.

Thanks Al, for participating in our forum! We think you're pretty great too!