



Out & About!

The Newsletter about the CSCL

July 2011

Volume 3, Issue 3

Did you know...

- STEPS Forward BC Initiative for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (www.steps-forward.org) supports adults with developmental disabilities to go to their local college or university regardless of their level of ability or designation label.
- The CSCL Auxiliary to Sunshine has disbanded after over 50 years of service. CSCL wishes to thank all former members for their dedication and commitment.
- A new magazine called "Special Families" premiered in B.C. in May 2011. Visit their website: www.specialfamiliesmagazine.com.

CSCL History...

- The Society operated its first summer program in 1978... before that the only day program (OC) shut down over the summer months. The early summer programs supported both children and adults together.
- The Society is a non-profit, registered charity and requires participation from its members in order to elect a Board of Directors that provides direction for the organization.
- The Mathieson Centre was originally School District 33's segregated school for children with special needs.
- Chadsey House was the first respite program outside the provincial institutions and was a Pilot Project for both the provincial and federal governments, opening its doors in May, 1962.

Forever Friends

Like most little girls, 5 year-old **Marissa Buchanan**, dreams of being a princess.

"I think she really likes the feel of the feathers," says mom, **Reta**, "It's a sensory thing. **Marissa** is autistic and she can really shine when she finds these connections."

Another connection **Marissa** has recently made is with **Darcie Prokop**, a caregiver with **CSCL's Children's Community Respite Program**.

"Our extended family live in **Nova Scotia**, so our support system is not particularly large here." **Reta** continues, "We heard about **CSCL** and applied. That's how we met **Darcie**."



Darcie contacted **CSCL** to become a caregiver about 4 years ago.

CSCL's Children's Community Respite Program matches approved, qualified caregivers with children of families who have asked for this service. The results can be amazing.

"She is wonderful." **Darcie** says of **Marissa**, "Each time I have her visit I can feel the connection growing. She is loving and so very sweet. The whole thing is so interesting and so rewarding for me."

"This has been a life-saver for us as a family." says **Reta**, "It still makes me teary eyed when I think about everything **Darcie** has done. She is amazing."

For more information on **CSCL's Children's Community Respite Program** please contact **Karen Pedersen** at 604-792-7726.

CSCL Earns CARF Accreditation!

CSCL received an excellent **CARF** review in **April** and was, for the third time running, awarded **CARF's** highest recognition - a **3 Year Accreditation Award**.

CSCL received its first ever **Commendation Honour**

from **CARF** as well.

The **Commendation** was in the area of **Information Management** mostly attributed to the **Society's** work with **ShareVision**.

"**The Society** has every reason to be extremely

proud," says **CSCL Executive Director, Brenda Gillette**, "Of the hundreds of standards **CSCL** has to meet we received only one recommendation for our work. This effort involves everyone and we all deserve a huge pat on the back!"

"A Celebration of Life for Chris was held on Friday June 10th at the Friendship House in Agassiz."

Chris Bouchard

CSCL is sad to say that **Chris Bouchard** has passed away at the age of **26** years old.

Chris attended the **ACE** day program since **2004** and has been involved with **Children Services** and **ILO HomeShare** as well.

Chris was a happy guy who enjoyed the company of others. **Chris** had many friends in his day program that he would often share fun times and activities.

Chris enjoyed bowling, skating, swimming, going out for drinks, working on art projects, baking and had a love for music. **Chris** loved to relax and listen to music in his spare time. **Chris** had a warm smile that would brighten up any room. **Chris** had a good sense of humor and brought laughter to all of us. **Chris** will be deeply missed by his family, caregivers, friends and staff at **CSCL**. Rest in peace **Chris**.



**Chris Bouchard
1985-2011**

"Food Matters Chilliwack is a citizen-led network with a vision of healthy food for all people in Chilliwack."

Community Garden

CSCL in partnership with **Food Matters Chilliwack** is proud to announce the opening of a **Community Garden** located on the **CSCL Sunshine Drive** property.

A public forum was held on **May 4** at the **Mathieson Centre** and more than **35** community members showed up.

Rachel Symington from

Food Matters Chilliwack facilitated the meeting that generated ideas from participants about the contents and design of the garden.



Three subsequent planning meetings were held in **June** and a **Volunteer Work Day** on **June 29**.

In addition to a **\$1500** donation of materials, **Home Depot**, provided **17** staff volunteers for the day.

For more information please contact by email julie.unger@cscl.org

A Self Advocate Story

My Path to Self Advocacy by **Muncie Knuhtsen**:



My success started at **RISE**.

RISE stands for **Real Integration through Supportive Employment**. Since I started with this program I've learned to be successful. I've come to meet good friends. I've dreamt of being independent since I moved from **Armstrong**. Being independent makes me feel

like I have control of my life. If it was not for the staff and friends at **RISE**, I might have not come this far. I feel real good about myself, knowing that I've got the support that is needed to get my career started. Independence means living on my own, getting a job and doing well at what I do. It also means going out with friends when I want to.



Staff News

An agreement on **Essential Services** levels between **CSCL** and **BCGEU** should be established by **July 22, 2011**. This move will be the last to be completed before legal strike action is possible.

CSCL's Human Resources Committee would like to introduce the "**STAR Awards**" program. The program is intended to recognize employees who demonstrate exceptional service or contribution to the workplace. Winners will

be chosen and prizes awarded 4 times a year. Nominate your coworkers by using the **STAR Award** link in **ShareVision**.

Congratulations to **Stephen Peters** from **SEP** on his nomination for a **CLBC WOW! Award**.

Congratulations to **Nancy Johnson** on her successful application for the **CSCL Receptionist** position.

Congratulations to **Ellen**

Langton on winning the **CSCL's 2nd Annual Biggest Loser Contest**. Other winners included **Dale Loewen** and **Rob Battis**.



Biggest Loser "Winners" Ellen Langton & Rob Battis

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

What's Happening! (Jul-Sept)

Jul 5	CSCL's Children & Youth Services - Summer programs begin!	Aug 27	Plant a Row/Grow A Row
Jul 30	Plant a Row/Grow A Row	Sep 24	Family Fun Day - Staff Family BBQ Noon - 3 pm Cultus Lake Elementary School
Aug 26	Saccomaniacs Golf Tournament	Sep 22	Combined Meeting
Aug 27	CSCL Children's Services Carnival	Jul-Aug	Community Garden Work Days - Look for ShareVision Announcements

Accessibility @Work:

Following a recommendation from the 2010 Accessibility Plan, CSCL formed an Accessibility Committee. This Committee holds the responsibility for reviewing information throughout the organization involving accessibility concerns and determining those that will assume priority for action in the next plan. The Committee is also charged with reviewing progress on the plan and providing quarterly updates to the Board of Directors. At its regular meeting in May, the Board of Directors approved the final report for the 2010 Accessibility Plan and approved the 2011 Plan. The 2011 Plan established actions to improve overall accessibility for the individuals served by the organization and their families in the following areas: financial barriers, employment barriers, communication barriers, transportation barriers and community integration barriers. In addition the Accessibility Committee identified two "other" priorities: a need for coordinated transition planning and support to youth with special needs and further development of the ShareVision accessibility tracking system to ensure inclusion of more comprehensive information.

Board Update!

On June 20 the Board held its last meeting before the summer break, welcoming two new members, Jeannine Walsh and Bev Keswick, holding elections for its Executive Officers and establishing Committee membership for the new Board year. The newly elected Executive Officers are: President - Helen Tolmie, 1st Vice-President - Pat Johnston, 2nd Vice-President - Brent Tolmie, Secretary-Treasurer

- Jeannine Walsh. The Board also recognized the hard work and commitment provided by Amy Brosinski over the past 6 years. Amy has now served 3 terms and, in accordance with CSCL By-Laws, is ineligible to run again without taking a break. Several of the Board members were involved with the interview process for the CARF (accreditation) site survey-

ors and also attended with the opening and closing information sessions. Work has continued on both the housing and succession planning areas and the Board was also involved in preparing for the Annual General Meeting held on May 24th. All reports for the current year have now been completed, reviewed and approved by the Board so their task for the upcoming months will be to monitor progress on the identified actions.

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

Wow!

CSCL's own, **Brenda Gillette**, was honoured on May 25, 2011 by **Community Living BC (CLBC)** as a recipient of this year's **WOW! Award**.

WOW! Awards acknowledge the important contributions people make in building and fostering community inclusion and full citizenship for adults with developmental disabilities.

"I have always felt it is important to give back to community and support



CSCL's Executive Director, **Brenda Gillette**

those who need support. Fortunately, I work in an

organization that does both.", **Brenda** said, "But it is nice to be recognized."

Brenda will also be featured on the **WOW!** recognition website at **www.WOWclbc.ca**, in **CLBC's** monthly newsletter, **The Citizen**, and on **CLBC's** social media sites.

Past winners have included **Langley Association's Executive Director, Dan Collins**, author and self-advocate, **Barb Goode** and self-advocate advisor, **Greg Schiller**.

"For more information on the **WOW! Awards** check out their website at www.wowclbc.ca



"CSCL's Children & Youth Services will be hosting its annual carnival on Saturday, August 27, 2011"

Children & Youth Services

CSCL's Children & Youth Services (CYS) have been busy these past couple of months planning and hosting a community **Youth Week Celebration Event** beginning on **May 3, 2011**.

The event could not have been such a success without the generous donations of **Domino's Pizza**

(**Kevin Dobb**) and **Phat Boyz DJ Music Services (Len Jones)**. Additionally, the **CYS Department** planned a "**Dinner & Karaoke**" fundraiser at the **Mathieson Centre**. The event sold out. Fun was had by all that attended the event and many commented that they'd like to attend more events like this. They were

able to raise **\$950.00** to go towards the **CYS Sponsorship Fund** and **Annual Summer Carnival**. The **Dinner & Karaoke Fundraiser** had many fabulous donations from local businesses. Without these very generous donations the event would not have been such an awesome and amazing event. Thanks to all for their support.

PEOPLE
FIRST
OF CANADA



"People First is of a movement of people who want all citizens to live equally in the community."

People First Employment Forum

On **June 23** **People First of Chilliwack** and **PosAbilities of Burnaby** co-hosted a community forum on **Employment**.

The event was facilitated by **Karla Vershoor** of **BCACL** and **Simone Brandl** from **PosAbilities**. There was a panel that included **Nancy Gauvin** and **Gizelle Debad** from **CSCL** and **Gerald Oesch**,

vice president of **People First** and board member of **BC People First (BCPF)**.

Gerald talked about his positive and negative experiences with different jobs. **Gizelle** introduced **Joanne B.** who had just gotten a job through **SEP** and **Tim D.** who has worked at **Cottonwood Mall** for **14** years.

"There were about **30** people attending from **Chilliwack** and **Burnaby**," said **Gerald**, "including several other **BCPF** board members."

There were lots of questions put to the panel members and much discussion about the difficulties gaining employment that people with disabilities face every day.

Panama!

Terry and Larry Smith recently experienced the trip of a lifetime!

Along with their **ILO/ HomeShare** caregivers they went on a 16 day Panama Canal Cruise!

On April 23rd their journey began with a drive to Seattle, a flight to Atlanta then on to Fort Lauderdale, Florida where they boarded the Celebrity Infinity. They visited the Port of Cartagena Columbia, voyaged through the Panama Canal to the Ports of

Costa Rica, Acapulco, Cabo San Lucas, San Diego then back to Seattle.

Some highlights included: The first "rocket" trip



Larry meets a "friend" during his travels

(airplane ride), the hotel swimming pool in Seattle, the Galley Tour of the cruise ship kitchen. In Costa Rica, Larry loved the Crocodile Tour and Terry enjoyed the Painted Carts Tour in Sarchi. They visited the San Diego Zoo. Terry hugged a sloth! Larry held an Iguana!

Their adventure was full of laughter and great memories. It will be interesting to know where they will choose to go next year!

"I LOVED my trip!" - Terry Smith

Community Living BC Funding Crisis

CSCL is a member of the **BCACL**.

BCACL has recently written a letter to the **Premier** asking for her urgent attention to the **CLBC** funding crisis, using **CLBC's** own projections to show what we need in terms of funding. The letter asks for the **Premier's** follow-up on specific cases of fami-

lies who have asked for her help.

BCACL have also asked the **Premier** to immediately address the increasing pressures being felt by organizations that provide supports and services to people with developmental disabilities and their families across **B.C.**

BCACL continues to hear from families, individuals and other service providers who want to make their voices heard. The **Premier** needs to know that we will do whatever is necessary to inspire her government to invest the funds needed to support people with developmental disabilities, their families and the organizations that support them.

"For more information about **BCACL**. Visit their website at www.bcacl.org."

Joanna's Walk for MS

On **May 1 2011**, **Joanna Martens** of **Salish House** put on her runners, slapped on some sunscreen, put on her **iPod** and then participated in the **ScotiaBank MS Walk** at **Strathcona Elementary**, an event hosted by the **Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada** to raise funds and awareness for this charity.



Joanna poses momentarily during her Walk for MS wearing her MS shirt

Encouraged by her support worker **Aaron Van Beest**, together they walked 5km.

Joanna spent most of **April** gathering sponsors in order to raise money for this big community event. Her final total was **\$201**. She is very proud of her achievement.

Joanna also proudly wears her **MS** shirt in honour of the event.

"MS Walk is a family oriented, community-supported event that makes a difference in the lives of Canadians living with MS."



Chilliwack Society for
Community Living

9535 Mary Street
Chilliwack, BC
V2P 4G9

Phone: 604-792-7726
Fax: 604-792-7962

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 **Karen Pedersen, Reta Buchanan, Brenda Gillette, the Staff at ACE, Muncie Knuhtsen, Nancy Gauvin, Julie Unger, Natalie Karam, Gizelle DeBad, Michelle Atkin, Joanna Martens, Donna Turenne** and **Rob Battis** for their contributions to this issue.

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

Note: CSCL sadly said good-bye to Debbie Greer on July 1, 2011. An article about Debbie will appear in the Fall edition of Out & About.

"Meet The Board"

Donna Turenne is a current CSCL Board member joining in 2008. Donna is also a Registered Nurse and has been working at Chilliwack General Hospital for the past 23 years. She presently works in the Intensive Care Unit.

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

Q: Your daughter, Camille, has received services from CSCL. What's that been like?

A: Our experience with CSCL has been literally "Life Changing!" (in the most positive manner of course). Camille has been welcomed with open arms and feels very loved and cared about through the CSCL. She has been involved in a few different teen programs throughout the years and has felt so accepted and so content with the staff, and her fellow teen friends. As a parent - I feel very comfortable dropping Camille off

at a program, knowing they will have her best interests in mind and that they will do their utmost to provide her with the experiences and acceptance as any other teen strives for. Over the years, CSCL has become like family to us (the wonderful staff at the teen programs, and the young ladies Camille has had for respite and youth support). They have all connected with Camille quite well, and we have so much trust in them. What is especially nice, is that even those who are not directly running the kids' programs, take the time and effort to know your child, and make them feel very important (I guess that's a big part of where her glowing celebrity status comes from).

Q. Why did you decide to become a CSCL Board member?

A. I became a CSCL board member because I feel it is important to support the very people who are sup-



Donna Turenne with her daughter, Camille

porting our child with special needs. They have given so much to our daughter, and I want to give back to them. I also like to keep informed about all the resources available and want to be a part of what helps our kids out there (continuing to get the things they need in order to feel accepted and as independent as possible).

Q. What is the best thing about the CSCL?

A. The people. They are all genuinely wonderful people - who work very hard and really CARE about the people they support.