



# Out & About!

The Newsletter about the CSCL

October 2011

Volume 3, Issue 4

## Did you know...

- The idea for the month of October to be designated "Community Living Month" started in B.C. This is now recognized by most municipalities nation-wide.
- It's Survey time again! CSCL will soon be issuing surveys to Persons Served, Families, Caregivers and CSCL Staff to solicit feedback for quality improvements. Your comments are most welcome!
- The Province is giving \$1 million to Special Olympics BC to host the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver, and to support B.C.'s Special Olympics athletes.
- At exactly 2:19pm on August 23, 2011 a CSCL staff from Jasper House entered the 250,000th Activity record into ShareVision. The Activity list is critical in formulating many CSCL reports.

## CSCL History...

- CSCL hosted its first Community Living event to support October's Community Living Month in 1999. The event took place at Evergreen Hall and the theme that year was a good ol' fashioned Hoe-Down!

## A Summer for Kids!

While the summer weather was slow in arriving, there was no lack of enthusiasm and excitement around the **CSCL's Children's Services Centre in Sardis**, formally known as the **Mathieson** building.

Over seventy-five children and youth participated in our **Teen Clubs**, summer teen program in **Hope** and **CSCL's** first ever **Summer'Scapes** program.

**Summer'Scapes** is an **integrated** day camp for children ages 6 through 12 years.

A number of the teens would tell you their highlight this summer was a guided white water rafting adventure on the **Chilliwack River**.



**Participants of CSCL's Teen Clubs hit the rapids on the Chilliwack River**

The **Work Wise Club Teen Club** hosted a **Carnival** at the end of summer. It was a fantastic day filled with entertainers, activities, face

painting and food!

The success of our **Summer'Scapes Day Camp** was most definitely the friendships that developed, and the promise of kids (and their families) that "we'll definitely be back next summer".

**Summer'Scapes** is available to children eligible for **CSCL** services, their siblings, and children of **CSCL** Staff. We'll be offering spaces to kids from our community in **2012** as well.

For more info or to register your children contact: [margaret.castle@cscl.org](mailto:margaret.castle@cscl.org)

## October is Community Living Month!

**CSCL** will be hosting our annual **Community Living Event** on **October 22, 2011** at **Tzeachten Hall** with a fun **50's Diner** theme.

Volunteer students from **Chilliwack Secondary School's** Leadership class will be serving up hot dogs and grilled bur-

gers followed by ice cream floats.

There will be many great prizes to win in the paper bag auction, and some **50's** tunes to get the dancing started!

This year's grand prize will be a **Raffle Draw** for a **Pegasus Scooter**

kindly donated by **MEDI-Chair Chilliwack**.

Proceeds from this year's event will be going to both **Imagine Ministries Respite** and **CSCL** non-funded programs.

For tickets to this event please call the **CSCL** at **604-792-7726**

## Debbie Greer

**"Debbie had a zest for life which came with a wonderful sense of humour. She will be missed"**

It is with great sadness to announce that **Debbie Greer** passed away on **July 1, 2011** at the age of **53**.

**Debbie** was a lifelong participant of the **CSCL** and lived at **Southlands Home** for the past **3** years with her roommates **Kay, Peggy and Lori**.

**Debbie** had a zest for life which came with a wonderful sense of humour.

Rug hooking, walking, bird watching and social settings were all some of her favourite activities.

**Debbie** loved talking about and spending time with her family especially visiting with **Mom** on a regular basis.

**Debbie** will be deeply missed but fondly remembered and loved by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.



**Debbie Greer  
1957-2011**

## The Giving Group

**"The Giving Group is a non-profit organization that distributes food in the Chilliwack area."**

Every **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday** morning, a special visit is being made to the **CSCL Mary Street** office building.

The **Giving Group** is doing what they do best! Distributing food to those who need it!

"We come rain or shine," explains **Mel**, an organizer for the non-profit organization, "**CSCL** is one



**The Giving Group - seen here outside the CSCL Mary Street offices**

of many stops we do in the **Chilliwack** area. Basically, we want to get food out to the people who need it

most."

Sometimes, this includes individuals and families receiving service from the **CSCL**.

"The food is of the finest quality and free of charge." says **Mel**, "All you have to do is bring your own bag and fill'er up!"

For more information contact **CSCL** at **604-792-7726**.

## Self Advocacy Corner

**"CSCL believes all people have equal rights and learning is lifelong."**

**David Crey** knows what it means to be "out and about".

**David** currently works two jobs as a janitor, one at the **Chilliwack City Hall** and another at **CSCL's Occupational Center**. As a bicycle commuter, **David** was able to make do, but he dreamed of something faster.

In **November** of last year, **David** announced his



**David Crey is Scooting Away!**

intention to buy a brand new scooter. After a few months of careful saving

he was able to realize his dream.

By **June, David** had saved the **\$2300.00** needed to get a brand new scooter, helmet and lock.

With a little training and practice **David** mastered those pylons and it was time to leave the parking lot and hit the streets. **David** has embraced his new freedom and loves to travel in style.



## Staff News

A tentative agreement has been reached between the **CSCL's** employees' union, **BCGEU**, and **CSCL's** employer's group, **CSSEA**, thereby averting strike action.

Congratulations to **Heidi Walde** of **Southlands** for winning the "What's Wrong with this Picture" Contest. As a result, **Heidi** received a Personal First Aid Vehicle Kit and a \$20 Tim Horton's Gift

Certificate.

**CSCL** appreciates each and every hard working employee and each year the **CSCL Social Committee** hosts a time for staff and their families to get together for a day of fun! On **Saturday, September 24, 2011** at **Cultus Lake Elementary School**, **CSCL** employees and their families enjoyed BBQing and playing games & races and jump-

ing on the bouncy castle. There was also face painting and prizes for all participants.

Congratulations to **Bonnie McAvoy** on her successful application for the temporary **CSCL Receptionist** position. **Nancy Johnson** is leaving that position and is currently in training to fill in for **Wanda Dartnell** when she goes on maternity leave later this year.

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

## What's Happening! (Oct-Dec)

Oct 3	Board Meeting	Nov 7	Casting Call for CSCL Video
Oct 15	Chilliwack Connect Community Day	Nov 7	Board Meeting
Oct 15	Community Garden	Nov 18	Flu Shot Clinic at the OC
Oct 22	Community Living Event at Tzeachten Hall - 45855 Promontory Road	Dec 2	Combined Meeting
Oct 22	Draw Date for Pegasus Scooter	Dec 3	Santa Parade
Oct 22	Day Services Halloween Dance	Dec 5	Board Meeting
		Dec 13	SEP Employer Appreciation Day

### Accessibility Update:

- **Issue:** Yarrow - Inadequate Housing; Bathroom requires renovation to accommodate and support the physical needs of residents. No funding available.
- **Solution:** Yarrow residents will move to a completely renovated new home in November.
- **Issue:** Children's Services - An increasing number of individuals are being diagnosed with the Autism Spectrum Disorder
- **Solution:** The Mathieson Snoezelen Room will be available to all CSCL individuals and their families and to the general public by appointment only

## CLBC Funding Crisis

The provincial funding body that funds the majority of the **Society's** services, **Community Living BC (CLBC)**, has been subject to many public criticisms lately. So much so that the minister in charge, **Harry Bloy**, was recently demoted from his job.

**CLBC**, the crown agency that provides support for people with developmental disabilities in **BC** and their

families, is experiencing a funding crisis.

In an attempt to recover a **\$22** million budget deficit, the agency has embarked on a "service redesign" that is resulting in drastic cuts to supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families and the rapid closure of group homes.

While **CSCL** fully supports

and encourages the assessment, evaluation and improvement of services, it has become clear that "service redesign" is driven and motivated by budget pressures and not the needs of community.

To this end, **BCACL** has issued a call for a moratorium on the current service redesign process and an external, independent and comprehensive review of **CLBC**.

**"For more information please visit [www.bcacl.org](http://www.bcacl.org)."**

## STAR Awards!

"STAR Award recipients will be chosen and prizes awarded 4 times a year.

Nominate your co-workers today by clicking the STAR Award link in the ShareVision Employees website."

CSCL's Human Resources Committee handed out the inaugural STAR Awards earlier this month.

The STAR Award program is intended to recognize employees who demonstrate exceptional service or contribution to the workplace.

Cristina Staciu of Alexander was the brightest



Cristina Staciu receives her STAR Certificate from Julie Unger

STAR this time around.

Cristina has formally presented her STAR Certificate by Julie Unger,

along with a Letter of Recognition and a \$100 cheque.

Other nominees included Gizelle DeBad, Suzanne Block, Martha Krossa, Trevor Engel, Heather Faucher, Patricia Thom, Sukhbir Gill and Patricia Reid.

All nominees received a Letter of Recognition and a \$10 gift certificate.

"Linda has written and directed over 30 short plays for children and adults. She has also directed large musical performances such as 'Annie', 'Music Man' and 'The Wiz'.

## "Acting Outright" with Linda McRae

We all know the benefits of Drama and how it improves self-esteem & self-confidence in individuals.

Drama allows individuals the opportunity to be silly, to be someone else for a moment and to be accepted for each other's uniqueness.

CSCL is proud to partner with Linda McRae, owner of "Acting Outright".



Linda has been an instructor of the performing arts for over 15 years; teaching for the Chilliwack Arts Council, Langley Young at Arts Studio and the Chilliwack School of Performing

Arts.

Linda is now instructing two drama groups with CSCL; an adult group from Adult Day Services and a children and youth group from the First Act Drama Club.

Linda will write and direct a play for both groups and each group will be performing their productions in December of this year.

## Cultus Camping

On August 8, twelve ILP participants went to the Cultus Lake United Church camp to spend the week with folks from another community living society.

The weather was perfect and activities such as swimming, boating, riding the tubes, doing crafts, watching movies, relaxing and eating great food were enthusiastically enjoyed.

During the week others from ILP joined for an afternoon or a night or two bringing the total to 18 people. The biggest turnout yet!

While there, a People First meeting was held since almost all the members were present. It was their first outdoor meeting and some important business was dis-

cussed. That night entertainment by Steve Elliot was performed. Lots of dancing and Muncie sang a solo.



People First members hanging around at Camp



"People First of Chilliwack meets on a monthly basis."

## Children Services Share Everything!

In fact **CSCL's Children Services** is so big on sharing, they have invited their funder and partner, **MCFD - CYSN (Ministry for Children and Family Development – Children & Youth with Special Needs)** to have an office space at the **Mathieson Centre**.

The **Mathieson Centre** is, of course, the exclusive home to **CSCL's Children Services**.

With an eye towards creating better access and ser-

vice to families, **MCFD** will have one or more of their **CYSN** workers on site at the **Mathieson**.

The office space is currently being set up and an announcement about the official "move-in" date will be made soon.

The **CSCL Children & Youth** department is excited about this opportunity to work more closely with **MCFD-CYSN Social Workers**.



**"MCFD-CYSN funds CSCL for a range of programs and services for children and youth with special needs and their families."**

## Fore!

**CSCL** was fortunate to have been approached by the **Chilliwack RCMP** to partner with them in hosting the **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Chilliwack RCMP Charity Golf Challenge**.

The event took place on **Friday, Sept. 16, 2011** with 9 teams competing for the coveted **RCMP Champion Shirts and Hats**.



**Welcome signs greeted golfers at each hole during the tournament**

While the competition was fierce, more noteworthy are the funds raised for

**CSCL's Children & Youth Services-over \$3,000.00** contributed by local businesses and corporations that will go directly to ensuring service access for the children and youth we support.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of this event! Look for next year's event to be even bigger!

**"Chilliwack RCMP have partnered with CSCL for the first time this year to be the main benefactor for their annual charity golf event"**

## Ryan's Gold Medals

**Chilliwack's own Ryan Kuester** recently participated in the **Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece** last **June**.

**Ryan**, who also receives supports from **CSCL's Supported Employment Program**, was the only athlete from the **Lower Mainland** participating with the **Canadian** delegation.

"The people in **Greece** were so nice," said **Ryan**, "I loved meeting all the volunteers."

**Ryan** participated in the swimming disciplines and came away with a whopping **2 Gold Medals!**

"The first race was the backstroke and I was thrilled to take gold" said **Ryan** excitedly, "and then I was lucky enough to win

again! I thought, Wow, this can't be happening!"

**Ryan** says he plans to represent **Canada** again in the **2014 Games in L.A.**



**Ryan Kuester shows off his Olympic Gold Medals**

**"I would like to thank everyone who supported me over the last four years. My family, my coaches and my community have all been a big help!"**  
- Ryan Kuester



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Community Living

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**CSCL**

**Providing Options for  
Individuals with  
Developmental  
Disabilities**

[WWW.CSCL.ORG](http://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!"

"Henny and Rudy Haars would like to send their congratulations to Brenda Gillette for the CLBC WOW award. We always thought she was a WOW person. Also to CSCL for receiving the CARF review for the third time and for the Commendation order. This proves that Brenda and her crew "Sail the ship with a steady hand". Well Done Folks! Even when I am a long distance member, the interest in the CSCL has never faded. Greetings to all and keep up the good work!" - Henny

Do you have something to say? Let's hear from you! Please contact [jeff.gilbank@cscl.org](mailto: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 **Julie Unger, Sarah Bried, Anne Brown, Ryan Kuester, David Crey, Linda McRae, Shaaron Enright, Cristina Staciu, Craig Yendall, Ellen Langton, Christine Beka, Natalie Karam** and **Rob Battis** for their contributions to this issue.

Look for the next edition of **Out & About** to be available in **January 2012**.

Note: It is with sadness that CSCL learned about the passing of Emily Coulter. Emily once received services from the Society and was a joy to be around. Emily, you will be missed!

## "Meet The Board"

Sarah Bried is a current CSCL Board member beginning her tenure in 2008. Sarah also receives services from CSCL and resides on the Society's Individual Services Committee.

**We asked Sarah a few questions in a forum we call "Meet The Board".**

Q. With all your commitments to CSCL, how do you find the time to do it all?

A. I really like to stay busy and I love working and being with people. The people at CSCL are very fun to be with.

Q. You also volunteer at the YMCA...

A. Yes, I really enjoy seeing my friends there too. The YMCA is a great place to volunteer.

Q. You also have a job at Southgate Medical...

A. Yes, I am a receptionist there. I work every Thursday and I really enjoy working with my co-workers. The people there are nice.

Q. You also own and operate your own business...

A. Yes, it's called Sarah's Business Cards Business. I customize and print personalized business cards for my customers. Call me if you need me!

Q. ...and you are a member of the Chilliwack chapter of People First?

A. Yes, I am the secretary. We meet once a month to discuss important issues such as the disability movement.

Q. ...and you are a member of the TLC group and Community Kitchen group supported through CSCL's Independent Living Program?

A. Yes, both groups meet



**Sarah Bried -  
shown here at work at  
Southgate Medical**

on a weekly basis. Many of my friends attend too so it gives me a good chance to catch up with everyone.

Q. Wow, Sarah, you really are busy. I guess I'll repeat the first question...how do you find the time to do it all?

A. I guess I find the time for the things that are important to me...friends, family...just being with people in general.