



# The Patchwork

FEBRUARY 2016

ELMIRA DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY LIVING

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## Wayne Martin - 23 Years of Volunteering

On November 17th the Board of Directors of Elmira District Community Living hosted a volunteer recognition dinner at the Elmira Legion to honour Wayne Martin. Over the last decade or more Elmira District Community Living has created, in partnership with the Elmira Developmental Support Corporation, a variety of residential housing options and supports that are unique in the Province of Ontario. Wayne has been involved with the Association since 1993 and during that time he served on the EDCL Board for 12 years and on our Housing Corporation EDSC Board for 8 years.

During his volunteer time with our Association Wayne has been involved in the building or renovation of all of our Group Homes, the Project Manager for the building of the Assisted Living Centre, Snow Goose, the Field of Dreams Apartment Complex and most recently the addition to Reidwoods. Wayne has volunteered over 5000 hours in the construction of these homes, in one instance taking an 8 month leave of absence from his company to oversee the building of the Assisted



Living Center. His combined volunteer time on these projects is the equivalent of two and a half working years. All of us at EDCL are sincerely grateful to Wayne and his contributions over the years to this organization.

## Paul Bruder 1952 - 2016

On January 6<sup>th</sup> Reid Woods lost our friend Paul Bruder. Paul was celebrated at a private Funeral Mass at Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Paul was loved at home until the age of 14 years, when he moved to Southwest Regional Centre, Blenheim, Ontario. Paul came to live at the Reid Woods group home in 2007.

**Paul's favorite things included** going on vacation with his friend Donna, visits from his family, enjoying the beautiful Reid Woods property and eating the occasional twinkie.

**We will miss Paul's** laugh, his delight in movies and his piercing blue eyes.



# Christmas Door Challenge



Julie, your inspirational challenge to staff to bring the meaning of Christmas to many with decorated entrances and doors is amazing!

Managers, staff, helpers and volunteers – thank you, such enthusiasm is further acknowledgement of what warm and caring people help ensure this association is family.

Deb and I were hard-pressed to choose winners, especially with such enticing incentives! Each stop made decisions difficult. All receive honourable notes and awards.

ALC: The harmonized staff carol singing sounded heavenly – look-out Menno choir, Tenors and KW symphony choral groups! Magical singing such as yours will surely ensure Grinch leaves that tree alone! This was a double entry piece of art with Christmas decorations and poinsettias abounding and a rare sight – SNOW. Speaking of poinsettias- so beautiful!!

215: Who needs a front door when the back door undulates with red foil wrapping, ribbon, bows and spotlights accessorized with evergreen planters?

Eagle: Your stockings were hung with care for easy accessibility – Santa will surely notice them – the photos also speak to Santa. The decorated door was inviting to all.

Raising Mill Gate: The entrance was decorated with care. Yes, Snoopy joined the celebration. I've been informed Donna Fulcher has a soft spot for Snoopy. Was this addition intentional? Warm and welcoming entrance with preparations in full bloom for the family Christmas cele-

bration in the evening. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening we would anticipate.

Lifeskills: What a heart-squeezing welcome! Candy and a quartet plus **three, singing carols. Doesn't get much better** – warm Christmas smiles, hugs and happiness!

ARC: And I mean ARC at 146 Church Street West!! Bombarded with flattery, goodie bags, carolling, hugs and squeezes! What a Christmas spirit – people greeting people from all directions! Windows, with snowflakes, photos, art, lights, piped Christmas carols, happiness and joy bouncing off one-another, windows, doors and pavement. No scrooge anywhere!

Center: So innovative – this handsome tree is full competition for Benjamin Tree Farm! All the doorway decorations and the tree-skirt complimented this wonderful display.

Respite: This is the first time ever, learning what really happens inside a snow-globe! A large welcoming Christmas card with a photo of a real person on top – hello all! A log fire with care. A welcome home clothed table offering short-bread cookies with sprinkles on top. Soft carols to entice one to come and sit awhile. Christmas arrangements. Coloured confetti lights floating around. This is surely the makings of another Christmas song!

Riverside: Decorated entrance as well as three decorated apartment doors! Wonderful welcome. An inviting way to welcome family and friends inside to share in Christmas time.

Reidwoods: Such a welcome to winter wonderland and candy land all in one! The quiet country setting bursts to life with colour and decorations – trees included. Christmas everywhere! So much creativity with lollipops and presents nestled among Christmas decorations! You would be amazed what each present and lollipop contains. Oh, in the event you may have missed the location, a wood-burned sign leads the way. Many elves at work here!! The girls came outside greeting us with carols and goodies, dressed in Christmas attire! And they sang

every verse of Frosty the Snowman. Heather, thank you for the yummy home-baked cupcakes – excellent **competition for 'Let's Eat Cake'!**

Christmas, Christmas everywhere! Have I said amazing,



awesome, wonderful, heart-warming, enthusiastic? Christmas is in the air.

For a relaxing tour to reignite the quiet wonder of Christmas, the true meaning – the celebration of life through the birth of Christ – take the time to view these masterworks of innovative art. After dark is the recommended perfect viewing time.

Oh, did I mention – we toured with a photographer from the Woolwich Observer? Watch for photos.

Photos of all entries will be or already are posted on the website. Each site is a winner!

Merry Christmas!

Donna Haid  
President, Elmira District  
Community Living

## CONGRATULATIONS

Best Door: ALC

Most Enthusiastic: ARC

Creative: Reidwoods

Honorable mention for:

Most Creative: Respite

Best Door: Centre

Most Enthusiastic: Lifeskills

Also Honorable mention is:

Riverside

Ruth

Andrew

Chris

Eagle

215

Raising Mill Gate



For the first time ever, all of the First St guys went to Anna Mae's for Christmas dinner!



215 and Eagle Dr at the Elmira Santa Parade



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Assisted Living Centre



Christmas at Centre St and making Gingerbread cookies.



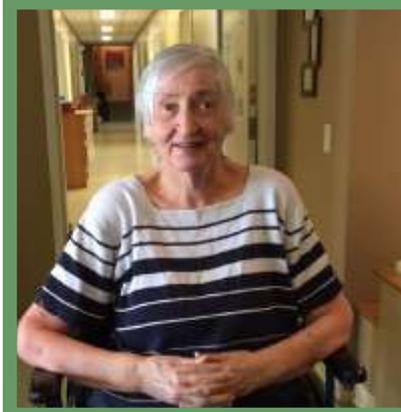
## January Birthdays at the Assisted Living Centre



Happy Birthday Bevis. Congratulations to Bevis turning 65 on Sunday January 24th 2016. An open house was held at ALC from 2-4pm to celebrate her birthday and many people from the community sending good wishes and celebrating with Bevis.



Frank Biesinger celebrating his 58th birthday January 30, 2016.



Myrtle Schneider celebrating her 79th birthday January 24th, 2016.

Linda Gerig celebrated her 61st birthday January 12th, 2016. Happy Birthday!!



# BeCool Workshop Update

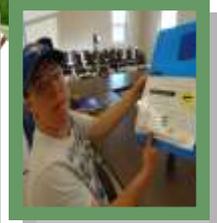
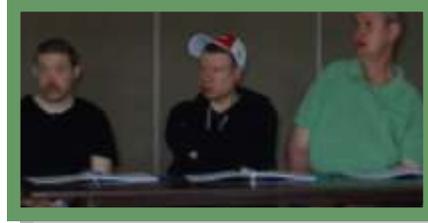


We completed the “BeCool” workshop recently after 12 weeks filled with learning, fun and friendship.

Our previous newsletter outlined the first two parts of the “BeCool” workshop namely, “BeCool” focusing on the three primary responses to difficult situations or people (COLD, HOT and COOL); and “Losing It-Talk Yourself Out of It” focusing on not inflating a problem but using the 1 – 10 Problem Scale to keep the problem to a realistic and manageable size, so that we can focus on solving the problem and not blaming and hurting others.

The final part of the “BeCool” workshop was entitled “Give and Take – Negotiate!”. This session participants focused on using the strategies learned in “BeCool” and “Losing It – Talk Yourself out of It” to negotiate a W.I.S.E. Agreement for themselves when faced with a difficult problem or situation. Participants learned how to use negotiation instead of demands, intimidation, threats and insolence. The focus was on WIN/WIN for both parties.

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding this workshop and we were very excited to offer the “BeCool” workshop! This was our largest workshop to date and we are grateful to our wonderful participants and all who made it possible! Thank you and “BeCool”! *Michelle, Trudy, Jeanette (Facilitators)*



Highlights of the BeCool Workshop





Eagle cheering for the Blue Jays



Donna and Muriel from Reid Woods visited Ripley's Aquarium and bravely met some ocean wildlife.



Muriel and Bill had a great time at the Bingeman's Oktoberfest party.



Scary Stuff at 23 Centre Street



Eagle Enjoying the Fall



Bill, Muriel and Paul were all able to participate and use their votes in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Federal Election on October 19<sup>th</sup>! Thank you to Heather Slade, Chris Kehl, her son Tyler and Marjorie Beranger for facilitating involvement in this important community event.



Best buddies **Ryan and Enver**



Steven delivering papers with Mary Jane Berry.



Eagle and Raising Mill Gate at Snyder Family Farm

# Local News



Wilma and Mary enjoying lap quilts, donated by the ladies group of Bloomingdale.



Ruth riding at Pride Stables. She loves riding and would like everyone to see her in The Patchwork.



Above: Don volunteering for Woolwich Community Service Poinsettia Drive. Don has volunteered for this great fundraiser for a few years now and he thoroughly enjoys helping out in his community.

# First Home Safety and First Aid Course

*submitted by Donna Fulcher.*

On Wednesday December 2nd was our first attempt at having a Basic Home Safety & First Aid Course for our individuals. We had a total of eleven participants. Terry from The Casualty Care First Aid Company was the instructor and he said that everyone did really good and they had no hesitation in participating. I'm hoping to run another one in the Spring of 2016 so if you missed out this time you will have another chance.



# Third Annual Dessert Café at Life Skills



Thursday Dec 3, the Recreation Committee hosted our 3rd Annual Dessert Café at Life Skills. Delicious treats and hot chocolate were served with Christmas Cheer. Carol singing, and visiting with friends happened effortlessly. New this year was the candy jar guess, and ALC won the candy kissed, and Crane Dr. won the gummy bears!! Good guessing. Special thanks and mention go to Donna (for set-up) Julie (for serving year after year), Sue (for her yummy calorie-filled delights) and Mary Turpel for her donation of gingerbread men!! Merry Christmas All!!



Happy Birthday Kathryn



Andy sharing his new hair colour and style with readers

## Our New Van



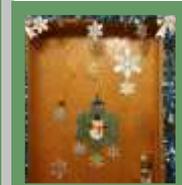
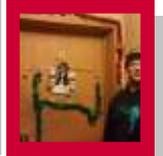
Appearing from left to right: Erinn Bergey, Michelle Ingram-Smith, Casey Wolfe from Sparrow Hawk and Joanne Olson

The Coffee Club



## Christmas Door Challenge

Congratulations to all that participated in the door challenge! Everyone did such a great job and put so much work and enthusiasm into decorating your doors. **The results..... Winner of the Best Door goes to the ALC. Winner of the Most Enthusiastic Group goes to ARC Industries. Winner of the Most Creative goes to Reidwoods. Honorable mention from the judges for the following: Most Creative – Respite. Best Door – Centre. Most Enthusiastic – Lifeskills. Also in the Honorable Mention category is: Riverside, Ruth, Chris, Andrew, Eagle, 215 and Raising Mill Gate. Certificates were available for everyone that participated and gift baskets presented to the 3 winners. Congratulations everyone and thank you!**



## “GOODNIGHT IRENE”



It is customary when one of the elders of our Elmira District Community Living Family leaves us, that we remember their contributions. While trying to encapsulate in a few paragraphs all that Irene meant to us, it occurred to me that she had served this Association for all of its existence, some five plus decades. There are many people qualified to share their sense of the contributions Irene made to our Community Living undertaking. Each person I am sure would bring a unique perspective as to the significance of her service. These too few lines are my sense of what Irene has meant to our Association and how she made a difference to the families of her day and the foundation that she and her peers laid that continues to serve the families of **today so well. She was of the “Golden Generation”.**

If you read the obituary in the newspaper or were able to attend the service for Irene at the Church she was baptized, married in, christened all of her children and where we said goodbye, you would know that she was a founding member and President of the Ladies Auxilliary. The Ladies Auxilliary was the first fundraising body of the Association and served the undertakings of the Association back to the days of the Guiding Light School, known now as Lifeskills. One of my favourite memories of the Ladies Auxilliary relates to a fund raising decision made for one of the first Maple Syrup Festivals held to support our Association. In preparation for the opening of the Assisted Living Center I was researching the history of the Association and read all the Board Minutes from beginning to current day. The Ladies Auxilliary had decided to invest a thousand dollars in novelty items to sell at the Festival. A thousand dollars was no insignificant sum in those days and I gather from reading the minutes, that the sale of the novelty items did not go well and there were many items left over. In the minutes of the Board meeting there was much discussion as to investment of funds and that **“money for trinkets”** would not be forthcoming in the future. Given that the Board of the day was comprised of not so many Ladies and the Ladies Auxilliary was comprised of not so many Men, that decision and descriptor of the investment in the fund raising material may have made for some nights on the couch for some. Oh to be a fly **on the wall for that one. The Ladies Auxilliary was active into the 80’s and through its efforts** raised funds to support many of the earliest projects of the Association including Guiding Light, ARC Industries and the building of Reid Woods. In modern day its nest egg has been used to assist with the funding of summer camp and holidays and most recently helped with the purchase of furnishings for the new addition at Reid Woods. The work of the Ladies Auxilliary continued to assist persons with an intellectual disability for many years after its members had retired. Its efforts will be recognize by a plaque in the new addition at Reid Woods.

Irene continued to serve the Association as a Board Member over several decades and well into her eighties. It was in her last term as a Board member, in this current millennium that I got to know her personally. Irene had given up night driving at that time and so I would pick her up to come to Board Meetings and take her home at the end of the evening.

*Continued on next page*

## “GOODNIGHT IRENE”

*Continued from previous page*

During those nighttime drives we would talk about the early days of the Association and how far things had come. Irene taught me valuable lessons as to service and commitment through those stories. This time with Irene strengthened my resolve and sense of service to the **work of this Association that began back in the late 50's**. It influences me still.

Perhaps her greatest legacy of the many that one could site is DNA in nature or as I call it “**The DietrichNA**”. The commitment to service and support of our Association and to persons with a disability is rooted deeply in her children. They continue to be supporters of our Association with Liz, Anita and Julie being active in various roles. They are members of our Board, volunteers at our Quilt Auction and the newly formed hockey team the Elmira Sun Rays. **The Sun Rays would not be playing their first game this weekend if not for Julie's efforts** to make this team a reality. The work begun by Irene all those years ago, going back to the days of the Guiding Light School, is continued through her family. Thank you Irene for your many gifts over the years. Your commitment and work to make the world around you a better place for all, has made a difference then and now and for years to come.

PS Irene, please give our regards to Ray the namesake of the Elmira Sun Rays, tell him for me that I said “**it is a good thing he has eternity ahead of him because that is how long it will take for the Leafs to win their next Stanley Cup.**” If he would like to see it sooner he may need to chant like he did at a Leaf's game years ago, this time from the bleachers on high, “**Hey, wake up out there!**” God Bless Irene you have earned your reward!

*Submitted by Greg Bechard*