


Inside The Patchwork:


- Message from Cheryl Peterson & Kelly Meissner
- Charity Auction interview - Threads of Commitment
- Get to know a person supported: Micheal Kuntz
- Open House recap
- Thank You to 2025 supporters
- EDCL at Multicultural Festival



Volunteers Needed!

Story Sharer – Got a favourite book or a knack for reading aloud? Pop in and bring a story to life.

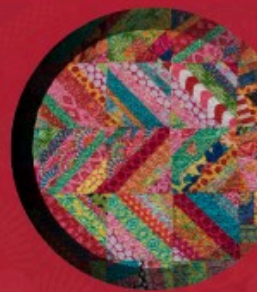
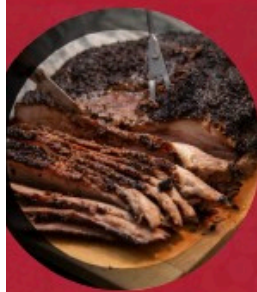
 Walking Friend – Stretch your legs and enjoy some fresh air while making a new connection.

 Conversation Companion – Sometimes the best gift is a good chat over coffee or tea.

There are many opportunities for you to get involved.

www.elmiradcl.com/careers/volunteer-opportunities

THE PATCHWORK



Save the Date!

CHARITY AUCTION

Elmira Produce Auction Cooperative - 7400 Reid Woods Drive, Elmira

OCTOBER 24TH

Beef Brisket Dinner
5:30-8pm
(Tickets available)

OCTOBER 25TH

Auction Day!
Outdoor auction - 9:30am
General Auction - 10am
Silent Auction - 9am - 12pm
New Furniture Auction - 12pm
Quilt Auction - 1pm

All proceeds go towards EDCL

charityauction.bid/edcl

WELCOME TO THE PATCHWORK!

Summer is always a special time — a chance to slow down, enjoy the outdoors, and spend time with friends and family.

The people we support made the most of it this year with trips to cottages, Niagara Falls, African Lion Safari, Canada's Wonderland, Ripley's Aquarium, and Medieval Times. Others stayed closer to home, exploring St. Jacobs Market and the Butterfly Conservatory. There were also picnics in the park, pizza parties, bonfires, and plenty of time with friends. You will see many of these moments captured in photos throughout this newsletter.

September always feels like the start of a new year — with routines, structure, and shorter days returning. This September, we had a booth at the Multicultural Festival in Gibson Park, offering rides on our VanRaam Rickshaw E-bike. It was a busy and exciting day that gave us great exposure and a chance to promote our upcoming 52nd Annual Charity Auction. The Auction takes place the last weekend in October and in this newsletter, you can read more about the commitment of our Charity Auction volunteers, who work hard to make it an amazing event every year.



**Kelly Meissner,
Board President**

**Cheryl Peterson,
Executive Director**

Our Board continues to be an incredible source of leadership and support. We are happy to add two more voices to the table:

- Liz Dietrich – Liz is no stranger to EDCL. She previously served on the Board from 2011–2016 and was a member of the Auction Sale Committee for more than 12 years. With a background in communications, she brings strong writing and messaging skills to the Board. Liz's ties to EDCL are personal — her brother Ray received support from EDCL, and her mother was a founding member of the Ladies' Auxiliary. She lives in Kitchener and is also active in community theatre.
- Randy Smith – Randy is a retired Social Service Worker and Addictions Therapist with decades of experience supporting individuals and families. He has been a committed member of the Elmira community, serving on several boards and volunteering his time for local causes. Randy lives in Elmira with his wife, enjoys cooking, and is passionate about advocating for vulnerable people.

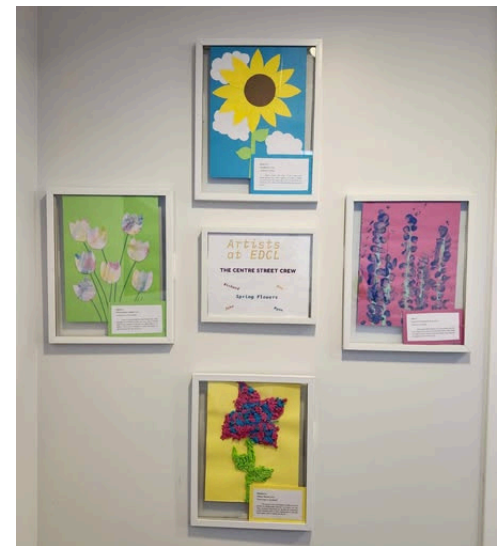
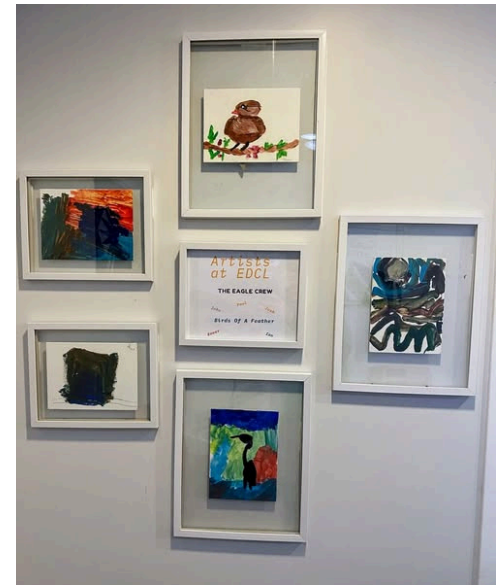
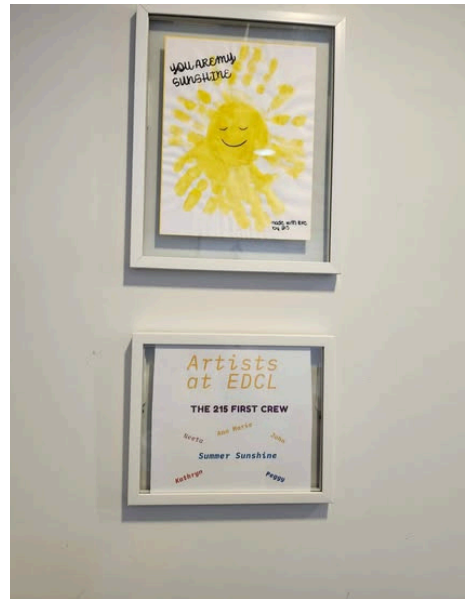
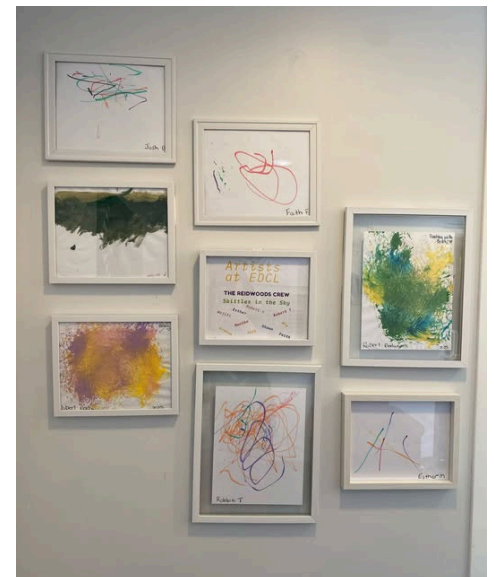
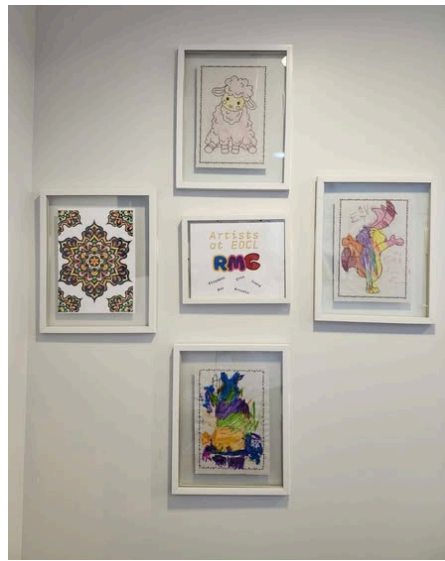
Looking ahead, we are starting our Strategic Planning process in October. We want to hear from you. Watch for surveys and invitations to focus groups this fall and winter. Your input is crucial in helping shape the future direction of EDCL so we can continue to be innovative and meet the needs of our community now and for years to come.

We look forward to seeing you at the Auction in October and connecting with many of you during the Strategic Planning process. Thank you for being part of EDCL's journey.

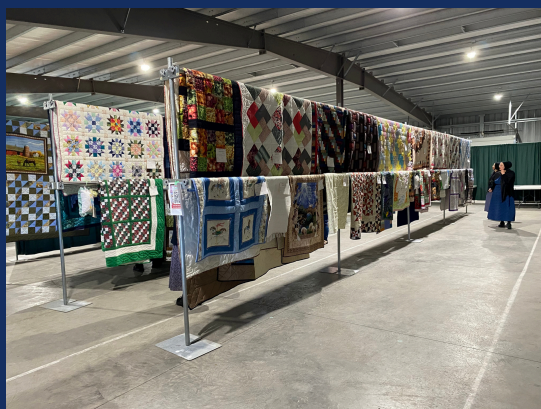
Cheers,
Cheryl and Kelly

ARTISTS OF ELMIRA DISTRICT COMMUNITY LIVING

Art has a special way of bringing people together. We're excited to feature artwork by the people we support in our Admin Office reception area. Drop in to see their wonderful creations!



Threads of Commitment: Roger Bauman & Elmer Brubacher's Legacy at the Charity Auction



For Roger Bauman and Elmer Brubacher, the Charity Auction is far more than a fundraising event; it's a living testament to community spirit, volunteerism, and the power of shared purpose.

A Journey of Service

Roger Bauman, current chair of the auction committee, has been involved with the auction for 13 years. His journey began with simple tasks such as helping with setup and logistics, but quickly grew into deeper involvement, particularly in canvassing for donations. "It can be time-consuming," Roger admits, "but it's worth it when you see manufacturers and community members give their products to support the cause."

Elmer Brubacher, who chaired the committee for a decade and was involved for nearly 27 years, shares a similar story of gradual immersion. "The first two years we helped with displaying quilts," he recalls. "Then for about 15 years, we served on the committee, and for the last 10, I was chair." His leadership included organizing meetings, coordinating volunteers, and introducing new fundraising ideas like the Friday night beef brisket dinner in 2014. "We were always looking for ways to raise more funds," he says. "In 2015, we hit \$100,000 for the first time. And in 2023, our 50th anniversary, we raised over \$128,000. That was our best year."

Leadership Through Change

Both Roger and Elmer navigated significant transitions with the COVID-19 pandemic posing one of the greatest challenges. "We didn't know how to proceed," Roger says, "but we adapted, and going online with the sale actually brought some improvements." Elmer agrees, noting that the shift helped streamline operations. "We had good results from a negative environment," he reflects.

Venue Challenges & Triumphs

Securing a venue has long been a logistical hurdle. Elmer recalls moving from Raceway Paddock, Lions Hall, Riverdale Poultry Express, and eventually the Elmira Produce Auction Cooperative (EPAC). "Each move brought new opportunities," he says. Roger adds that EPAC has provided much-needed stability, allowing the team to focus more on growth and outreach.

Both praised the generosity of venue hosts, many of whom donated space or charged minimal fees. "That kind of support makes a huge difference," Elmer notes.



QUILTS, COMMUNITY & FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Quilts have long been a cherished centerpiece of the auction, with beautifully handcrafted pieces generously donated by the local community—often created with love and care, without expectation of reimbursement. Elmer hopes that younger generations can fully appreciate the artistry and tradition behind these quilts. “There’s an opportunity to reintroduce their value,” he says, noting that with thoughtful outreach and storytelling, the legacy of quilt-making can continue to inspire and engage new audiences.

Roger, meanwhile, hopes to see broader community involvement. “I still meet people who’ve never heard of the auction,” he says. “We need to do more to make it a recognized event.” He also emphasizes the importance of rekindling the spirit of giving. “We need to refocus on why we’re here: to support Elmira District Community Living and connect as a community.”

Marketing and communications efforts are now exploring ways to expand the auction’s appeal, especially to younger audiences. Elmer, though retired from his formal role, remained involved in 2023 to support new leadership, underscoring his enduring commitment

A Shared Vision

Together, Roger and Elmer represent the past, present, and future of the Charity Auction. Their leadership, adaptability, and unwavering dedication have shaped the event into a cornerstone of Elmira’s community life. Whether through quilts, brisket dinners, or online innovations, their vision remains clear: an inclusive, vibrant auction that reflects the generosity and spirit of Elmira that will grow for generations to come.

Save the Date - 2025 Charity Auction

The 52nd edition of the auction will be held on Friday October 24th and Saturday 25th at the Elmira Produce Auction Cooperative (EPAC) on 7400 Reid Woods Drive, Elmira. The signature Beef Brisket dinner will be held on the Friday, with the bake table and auction held on the Saturday. The committee is hoping to surpass last year’s highlights: 253 bidders with over \$107,000 raised.

Special Thank You to Kindred Credit Union on their donation for advertising costs!



Written by Amrita Maharaj- Dube

AVENUES OPEN HOUSE

WAS A SUCCESS! THANK YOU!



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.....

Guiding Light School
1963



ARC Industries
1966



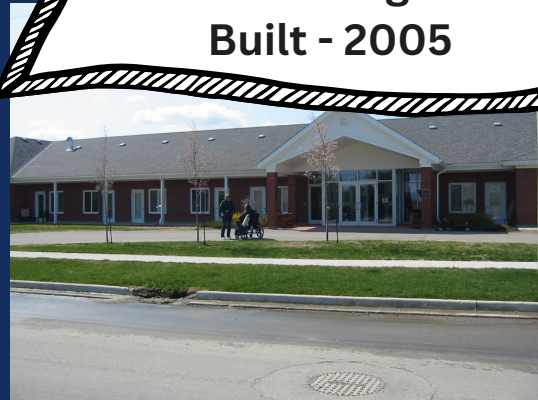
Reidwoods opened
1975



Start of Group Home living
1990- Crane Dr



Assisted Living Centre
Built - 2005



Purchase of 126
Barnswallow - 2024



Stay tuned to see where our
strategic planning takes us
next



Q & A with Micheal Kuntz



Tell us something we don't know about you??

"I use to drive when I was younger. My dad gave me 10 cars during the time I drove.

One time I drove to the store to get chips and a drink but left the car running. I came out of the store and the car was gone, someone stole it. I had to walk home.

Another time, my dad gave me a car and someone set it on fire!

But the other 8 cars were fine, just broke down."

My Favourite saying is:

"I don't like it, I love it!"

When family members and staff talk about Micheal it is he is the happiest and never been upset. He will always help a persons day and put a smile on your face. He has the biggest smile that lights up a room!

Activities in the community?

Loves going for walks, out with Rachel and going out for supper for greasy liver and onions.

He was just surprised with a dinner out to a restaurant in Alma and his whole family was there.

"I love Starbucks and any treats there but mainly the brownies."

Favourite Sports team?

He loves the Toronto Maple Leafs but only when they are winning.

He has gone to a couple games in Toronto, once with Rachel and with his brother.

What adventures did you do this summer?

"I went to a cottage in Peterborough and had some of my cherry whiskey.

Also went to Toronto to the Hockey Hall of Frame, Ripley's Aquarium and Spaghetti Factory for dinner"

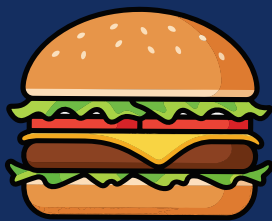
What EDCL means to me:

"I really like it, I don't have a bedroom, it's an apartment! I like sitting on the back patio with a glass of cherry whiskey and water but mainly whiskey."

"At Crane drive, I loved the backyard. We had campfires and roasted marshmallows."

Michael came to Elmira District Community Living in Dec 2021 living at Crane Dr. He moved to the Assisted Living Centre in July 2022

Ron's Burger Reviews



Donuts & Deli - Burger on a kaiser
This burger was nothing fancy but it was a good solid burger. I ordered it with the works and enjoyed the homemade patty and fresh homemade bun. I would have appreciated fries as a side but the chips did the trick. Service was good, I came in over the busy lunch hour and it still came out quickly. The atmosphere was nostalgic & reminded me of being at home. Great value for meal, totaling about \$12. Yes! I would recommend this burger.

★★★★★



HARVEY'S

★★★★★

"This was a great burger! I always enjoy getting burgers from Harvey's. The ingredients were fresh, and I like that I can choose my own toppings. I got takeout, so I can't say much about the restaurant itself, but I shared the meal with my family.

There's nothing better than enjoying a good burger together!"



THE LOOSE CABOOSE, ELMIRA ON

★★★★★

"I enjoyed everything about this burger. It was delicious. I ordered the Canadian burger which had a thick slice of Canadian bacon on it. The burger itself was huge! I would say it was a great value for my money. The fries were fresh cut and cooked to perfection. The only critique I would make is that the location and ordering could be more accessible.

I would highly recommend this burger!"

CANADIAN BURGER WITH FRESH CUT FRIES



A&W

★★★★★

"I ordered the Teen Burger with sweet potato fries and a root beer. The burger is a classic and tasted really good. It was seasoned well, and the ingredients were fresh. I liked having my root beer in a frosted mug. It was a nice touch. My meal cost about \$18, which I think is a good value. The restaurant was clean, and the staff were very friendly.

Yes! I would recommend this burger."

TEEN BURGER WITH SWEET POTATO FRIES AND AN A&W ROOT BEER



SMOKIN Q

★★★★★

"This is the best burger I've had so far! I loved everything about it. The brisket patty was seasoned just right, and all the other ingredients were fresh and locally sourced. My favourite part was the back bacon on top, it added so much flavour. The atmosphere was friendly and welcoming. At just under \$20, it was a great deal. I'd definitely give this burger a 10/10 and highly recommend it!"

BRISKET BACON CHEESEBURGER WITH FRIES & A COKE

Thanks for your support

**Thank you to
Rickshaw Pilots!**

**Virginia Greenway
Katie Goerzen-
Sheard
Jamal Malik
Marg Martin**



**Thank You
Jays Care
Foundation**

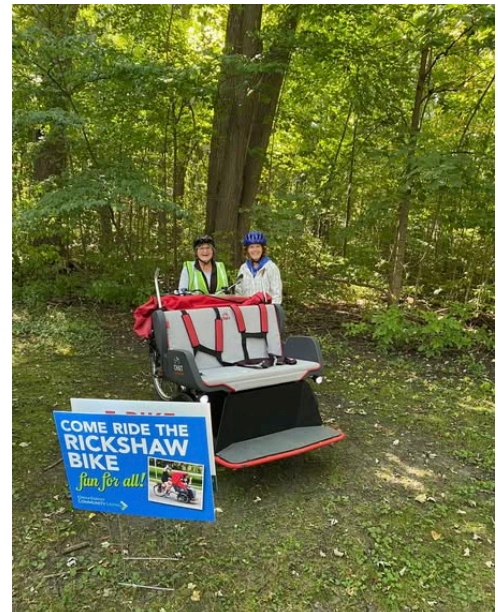
**Thank you!
Tim Louis and the 2025
Canada Summer Jobs Grant!**

**Our students:
Teagan Cadeau
Caela McLennan
Alyna Fernandez**

**MARY JORDAN - ADMIN GARDENER
THE GARDENS LOOK BEAUTIFUL!**

EDCL OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL





UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2025
ELMIRA CHAIRTY AUCTION
[CHARITYAUCTION.BID/EDCL](https://charityauction.bid/edcl)

APRIL 11, 2026
ELMIRA MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

WWW.ELMIRAMAPLESYRUPFESTIVAL.COM

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