

CDSCSCL Newsletter

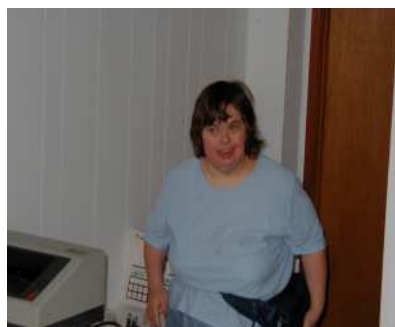
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NOVEMBER 2006

Crestonites Attend Annual Conference

Five self-advocates, two CDSCSCL employees and three Board Members attended the Annual Kootenay Region Association for Community Living (KRACL) in Rossland BC from September 29th to October 1st. The Conference was hosted by the Trail Association for Community Living and was held at the



Mary—One of the Conference Attendees

Prestige Inn in Rossland. Attendees had a great time of socialization, education, fun and more socialization. The opening wine and cheese event on Friday September 29th kicked off the weekend with a declaration of October being Community Living month, followed by an interactive presentation by Vancouver Playback Theatre, an improvisation group from Vancouver that uses drama to help people identify and deal with their feelings. It was both entertaining and therapeutic for the self-advocates who attended. Saturday was a full day with workshops and activities for all. The keynote speaker was Jane McKay, who spoke on the Conference theme "Making it Work.", challenged everyone in attendance that the only way we can "make it work" in our lives is to make ourselves the "it". Sessions throughout the day included workshops on improvisation and creative expression through art as well as sessions on Supported Employment, Developmental Disabilities and Concurrent Disorders, and Advocating for Your Agency. The weekend concluded with a breakfast and the KRACL Annual General Meeting on Sunday morning. Next year the conference will be held in Cranbrook. Those who attended this year encourage everyone to think about going next year. You'll be glad you did!

CDSCSCL Receives Accreditation Award

CDSCSCL received an award from the Ministry for Children and Families at a presentation held in Richmond on November 1st. Executive Director Peter Feltham received the award from Carol Goozh, Vice-Chair of Community Living BC. Awards were given to all Social Service Providers in BC which had successfully achieved Accreditation status through one of two Accrediting Agencies. CDSCSCL achieved the maximum three-year level of Accreditation in October 2005 through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Accreditation was achieved by demonstrating conformance to an extensive set of standards established by CARF as best practices for Social Service organizations. This was a major accomplishment for the organization and establishes us as the only accredited Community Living organization in the Central Kootenay. All Contractors in BC providing support to individuals with a Developmental Delay and which have an annual budget of over \$500,000 are required to obtain Accreditation status by December 31, 2006.

2006/07 Board of Directors a Full House

The Annual General Meeting of the Creston and District Society for Community Living was held on Monday August 27, 2006. Elections for Directors were held and resulted in a full Board of twelve members. The new Board of Directors for 2006/07 is:

Peter McIsaac, Chair

Pat Chapman, Vice Chair /Accreditation & Education Rep

Jean Lazar, Secretary-Treasurer/Advisory Com. Facilitator

Alex Nilsson, Past Chair/Advisor to Executive Director

Todd Dixon, Self Advocate/Advisory Com. Representative

Bill Mackie, Labour-Management & Policy Representative

Michelle Whiteaway, Therapeutic Riding Representative

Irene Rand, Policy Committee Representative

Bunny Barrett, Advocacy & Health Representative

Angela Eckersley, Advocacy & Education Representative

Rita Petrich, Staff Appreciation & Policy Representative

Bob Meredith, Accreditation Representative



CDSCL Chair Peter McIsaac at a Board Strategic Planning Session

Board members attended orientation sessions held November 3rd-4th to learn about the organization, its Philosophy, Mandate, Policies, Procedures and direction and to get to know each other. Board members are excited to be a part of this organization and to help provide guidance and strategic planning over the next two years.

Farewell to Friends

Individuals, staff, Board members and friends met for a small celebration to say goodbye to three employees who have recently left CDSCL. Approximately thirty people gathered together on November 23rd at the 10th Avenue Day Program to enjoy a light lunch and cake while reminiscing about good times at CDSCL. Darryl Dewald, Helena Green and Darren Charman, who have all been employed by CDSCL for over ten years, left CDSCL this year to engage in other pursuits. Earlier this year we also bid a farewell to long time employees Ellen Fredericks and Carol Cherowka who have moved out of the area. We wish them all well in their endeavors. We'll miss them!

Breathing Room Acquired

CDSCL is now renting the property next door to the Administration Office, 219 10th Avenue North. The building will provide CDSCL with a larger space for meetings, workshops and events as well as extra parking. Individuals, family members, advocates, staff and visitors to the office are welcome to park in the parking spaces or in the alley between the two buildings.

CDSCL Mission Statement

To provide options and alternatives for persons with developmental disabilities to maximize their potential in the least restrictive environments while safe guarding the rights and quality of life of each person supported.

Big Plans for Riding Program



More than just a pony ride!

The Therapeutic Riding Program has had a successful year, holding sessions in the Spring, Summer and Fall as well as a summer day camp in August. We have received incredible support and encouragement from the Creston community and whole hearted endorsements from riders and their families.

We are now setting our sights on long term planning. Therapeutic Riding Program Director Sarah Schmidt will be working on a Five-Year Development Plan to present to the Therapeutic Riding Steering Committee in the new year. The plan will include acquiring property, hopefully at our current site, and building a new indoor facility with features to include an enclosed riding ring, meeting room, kitchen facilities, washrooms, spectator seating, lounge and classrooms. This will allow us to expand our program so that we can run year-round and offer a variety of sessions, activities and events. Once the five-year plan is approved by the Board of Directors, application will be made to various Foundations in order to access Capital grants.



Gerry and "Blue" Trotting

Riding Program Seeks Funding



More than just a pony ride!

The Therapeutic Riding Program has been operating for a year and a half, mostly on a wing and a prayer, relying mainly on seed money from CDSCL, several small local grants, local fundraising events and personal donations from members of the community as well as hundreds of hours of volunteer time. Volunteer hours included helping in the ring, horse care, clean-up, site preparation and organizing and working at events. We even have high school students constructing a shelter for one of the horses. We have applied to the Province of BC to access gaming monies for ongoing operational costs and capital expenses for 2006, and are confident that we can obtain a fairly large amount of money for 2006. This year's request was for a total of \$60,000. We were only able to apply this year, as



Volunteers Diana and Michelle helping Jeanette and "Annie"

a program must run for at least a year before it can access these funds. It is our hope that we will receive funding from Gaming monies on an ongoing basis. We will, however, continue to rely on the generosity of local donors and volunteers in order to keep Therapeutic Riding going in the Creston area for years to come.

**Help support people with disabilities in your Community.
Keep CDSCL in mind when considering supporting Charitable Organizations. We now have Charitable Status and can issue Tax Receipts for any amount over \$10.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual Open House
Thursday December 14th, 2006
223 10th Avenue North—Lower Floor
Everyone is Invited to Drop In!

CDSCL Day Programs
Closed from Thursday December 21st, 2006
to Monday January 1st, 2007
Reopening on Tuesday January 2nd, 2007

CDSCL Office Closed
Monday December 25th/06
Tuesday December 26th /06
Monday January 1st/07

Cresteramics Closed
from Noon on Friday December 15th/06
to Monday January 1st, 2007

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**We're on the
 Web! cdscl.com**

CRESTON AND DISTRICT SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
 223 10th Ave N . PO Box 1820 Creston BC V0B 1G0
 Phone: 250-428-2296 Fax: 250-428-2297
 e-mail: office.cdscl@shawlink.ca

CHECK IT OUT!

Community Living BC (CLBC) is inviting members of the community to have a voice and make a difference in the lives of people with Disabilities in their community by becoming members of the East Kootenay Community Council.

For more information, contact the CLBC East Kootenay Community Living Centre at 250-426-1282 or 1-800-426-1282 or check out the CLBC web-

Excerpts from 2005 Assessment Survey

"The commitment of the Board of Directors and the dedication, compassion, enthusiasm and skills of the staff members are evident. This level of professionalism is found throughout the organization, from upper management to the direct care staff members."

"Homes are attractive, clean and decorated according to individual preferences."

"Input from the stakeholders of the organization, including the persons served, the families and staff members, is valued and used in the improvement of the organization."

"Creston and District Society for Community Living has earned a Three-Year Accreditation. The Board, Administration and staff members are complimented for the positive efforts they have made in the pursuit of accreditation."

CDSCL Woodshop Debt Free

The mortgage for the property at 105 8th Avenue South is now completely paid off. This property is home to the CDSCL Woodshop and acts as a base of operations for the Recycling Program, the Grounds Crew and the Maintenance Department. A small "Mortgage Burning Party" was held at the site on Monday November 27th with CDSCL members, Board members, staff, friends and Program participants attending. The monies previously used for the mortgage payment will be allocated to a Capital Reserve Fund to cover the costs of replacing the roof and for a planned addition to the building within the next few years.