



Community Living York South
50 Anderson Avenue, Unit 8
Markham, Ontario
L6E 1A6
905-294-4971

The MARKHAM CONNECTION

March 2006



March Break Camp 2006

Fun filled activities for the kids – and some creative time to the parents.

A fabulous program for children, youth & adults ages 7-25. It will provide an opportunity to enhance communication skills & build friendships with an emphasis on fun & community outings!

Dates: March 13 - 17, 2006

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$100 (12 & up) ; \$90 (under 11)

Location: 8700 McCowan Road, Markham (Community Room at Markham Police Station)

For information, please call 905-294-4971 ex 67 or email aleung@ysacl.on.ca

Workshop on “Wills & Trusts”

March 15, 2006 @7pm

Community Living York South in partnership with Graeme Treeby from The Special Needs Planning Group invites you to attend an information session: “Create Peace of Mind Through Exploration”. It will address the following issues: funding your child’s lifestyle with Wills & Henson Trusts, building a life plan for your family member, providing support for trustees after you are gone, discovering how ODSP enhances your child’s quality of life. It will be held at the Community Room at the Markham Police Station at 8700 McCowan Road. **Space is limited, please RSVP to Darlene (905)294-4971 ext. 43**

A Home Training Program for Parents

“Louis Program” program is designed for parents or caregivers dedicated to implement home training for children with autism. The course will include techniques and methods used in a home setting. Through classroom sessions and group discussions, participants

will learn to design a suitable training program for individual children. Parents will be able to discover the potential abilities of their children and gain better understanding of their needs. This will help in the development of the children and family bonding will be strengthened.



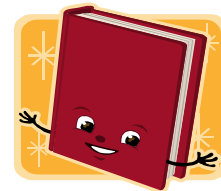
The training program is as follows:

- 1) **Louis Program Course:** A total of six sessions from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (March 29, 30, 31 and April 3, 4, 5, 2006). Fees for all six sessions: \$150 for parents and \$250 for non-parents.
- 2) **Louis Program Group Learning:** Participants of the seminar can join a 2 ½ hour small group workshop. This is to help parents plan training methods for their children individually. Successful applicants will be asked to attend one of the afternoon sessions (March 30, 31 or April 3, 4, 5, 2006) from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Fees: \$50.
- 3) **Basic Curriculum Design:** Participants of the seminar can also join a one-day workshop on basic curriculum design on Saturday, April 8, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fees: \$65 including lunch.

Jenny McWilliams Memorial Award

The **Jenny McWilliams Memorial Award** was established to assist young adults with developmental disabilities to make personal choices in their own lives. This award is intended to facilitate their transition from secondary school to a post-secondary career of their choosing. For example:

1. post-secondary education
2. vocational and/or life skill development
3. employment
4. volunteering
5. other creative choices



Who is Eligible: In addition to being identified as having a developmental disability, applicants must currently be enrolled in their final year of a secondary school program and be a resident of York Region.

Value: A maximum value of **\$5,000** per person is available.

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **Friday, May 31st, 2006.**

For Further Information on the Award

or How to Apply, Contact: Ann Fudge Schormans or Jeff Schormans

The Jenny McWilliams Memorial Fund

81 Cambridge Ave,

Toronto, Ontario M4K 2L2

Phone: (416) 461-9735 or Fax: (905) 428-3308



The "ALL ABOUT ME" Workshops Are Back!!!!

Through a grant from the *Community Mobilization Project* from the *National Crime Prevention Strategy*, a series of workshops on **positive self image, self care and healthy relationships** will be offered to **men and women with an Intellectual Disability** for the prevention of abuse.

. Please note that this is a 2 day workshop.

Date: **April 5 and 6th, 2006**

Time: 10am - 3pm

Location: Markham's YR Police Community Room, 8700 McCowan Rd.

For further details and to register your attendance please contact:

Keren Troyna at York Support Services Network

905-305-7440 x 230 / 1-800-887-3679 x 230

ktroyna@yssn.ca

Weekend Respite



There are still weekends available in our weekend respite program, located at the Holiday Inn - Markham.

For more information, please **contact Darlene at (905)294-4971 Vm 43**.

Mark Your Calendars!



Watch Our Website for More Details

Sat. May 6th - MAY DAY returns Memorial Park Stouffville

Sat. May 27th - Community Living Day with the Toronto Blue Jays

McGuinty Government Helping People With Disabilities Find Jobs And Increase Their Income

Changes Mean A Higher Quality Of Life For Social Assistance Recipients And Their Families

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is helping people with disabilities gain greater financial independence and increase their standard of living by improving the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Minister of Community and Social Services Sandra Pupatello announced today.

As part of its plan to restore integrity to Ontario's social assistance system, the government is introducing changes to ODSP supports and services to make it easier for recipients and their families to find jobs, keep more of what they earn and, for those who are able, move toward financial independence from ODSP.

"It's time our social assistance system did a better job of supporting people with disabilities who want and are able to work, and rewarding those who are trying," said Pupatello. "Having a job brings more than financial benefits – it gives people an opportunity to contribute to their communities and helps them fulfil their potential. That leads to a higher quality of life for our clients and their families."

Currently, more than 18,000 ODSP recipients are working. Many more are able and willing to work, but need the right supports. In the coming months, the government will implement a number of improvements that will help ODSP recipients and their families:

- Find work – such as improving access to employment services, like job placement and retention support, to help recipients and their families find and keep real, sustainable jobs
- Keep more of what they earn – such as replacing the current set of complicated earnings exemption rules with an easy-to-understand 50 per cent flat rate exemption combined with a new \$100 monthly work-related benefit. For recipients this means that only half of their income will be deducted from their ODSP payment, plus they will receive an extra \$100 per month – and as a result, the vast majority of current earners will automatically see an increase in their disposable income
- Move toward financial independence – such as providing ongoing health-related benefits to recipients who find employment and leave ODSP until they receive employer health coverage, so people don't have to worry about how they will pay for their prescription drug, dental and vision care expenses.

"Our plan to help more people with disabilities get into the workforce will result in a stronger economy, stronger communities and a stronger Ontario," said Pupatello. "By investing in our people, we're investing in the future prosperity of our province."

At Community Living York South's strategic planning day, families indicated that they wanted to have an opportunity for "Meet and Greets" with other families therefore we are extending an invitation to you.

Would you like to come out to talk with other members from families who have a son or daughter, brother or sister with an intellectual disability? Share your experiences about the issues that you are facing and your ideas about how families could be better supported in our community...

...About innovative approaches to creating communities, schools, workplaces and public policies that support families in securing a good life for your family member with an intellectual disability as well as yourselves?

.... About advocating for yourselves and with other members to make changes with governments, community leaders and employers?

Youth Forum 2006

Community Living York South offers a variety of ways to become involved within our community. In May of 2005, we started an initiative bringing youth together to work on projects within their communities. The goal is to build partnerships with a variety of community members so as to increase the inclusion of youth, create friendships, and foster the involvement of all youth.

On **April 28**, Community Living York South will be hosting Youth Forum 2006 as the final phase of our youth initiative project.

Markham Speakers Club

The Markham Speakers Club is accepting new members who would like to get together once a month to develop speaking skills for self-advocacy. It is definitely a fun way to increase one's self esteem and help empower people. For information, please contact Anita Leung or Darlene Brown at Markham office.

Basketball Interest and Support Group



Thursday evenings
(excluding holidays and December 8/2005)
8:15pm – 10:00pm
\$5 per session

This basketball program is open to all interested teenagers and adults who enjoys basketball. This program takes place on every Thursday night at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School. Please remember to bring your "indoor shoes".