

Verve

Dynamics in our Vaughan Community!

From Anna Baldussi Lato: Community Support Coordinator

IT'S TIME TO PLAN FOR THE SUMMER...

Even though we are still battling the winter snow, it's time to plan for your child's summer camp. Pre - registration will be accepted for Community Living York South Vaughan summer program. For more information, contact Anna Baldussi Lato at (905) 264-7262. Application deadline is March 31, 2006.



WILLS TRUST AND ESTATE PLANNING

Community Living York South in Association with Graeme Treeby from The Special Needs Planning Group invites you to attend an information session. "Create Peace of Mind Through Exploration" will address the following issues: funding your child's lifestyle with Wills & Henson Trust, building a life plan for you family member, providing support for trustees after you are gone, discovering how ODSP enhances your child's quality of life. Please attend this informative workshop on Wednesday March 8, 2006 at 136 Wings Road Unit #6

7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.
Contact Anna Baldussi Lato to reserve you spot today at (905) 264-7262.
For information visit www.specialneedsplanning.ca

New Special need autism swim program

In cooperation with the City of Vaughan and the Russo family, children/youth between the ages of 3 to 18 with autism can enroll in this swimming program at chancellor community centre. All participants must be accompanied by a parent/volunteer. For more information contact Rose or Domenic at (905) 303-7902



Community Living York South

"ALL ABOUT ME" WORKSHOPS ARE BACK!

YSSN and Community Living York South have partnered once again to provide "All About Me" workshops to the community of southern York Region.

Through a grant, 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. This is a 2 day workshop.

Vaughan will be hosting this workshop on April 12 and 13, 2006 at the Community Living-Vaughan office located at 136 Wings Rd, Unit #6.

For further details and to register your attendance, please contact Keren Troyna at **YSSN 1-800-887-3679 ext 230**

The Jenny McWilliams

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.

The Jenny McWilliams Memorial Award...con't

Previous recipients of the award have used the money to achieve their goals in the following ways:

- to provide a job coach, transit instructor, or support person to facilitate participation
- to purchase augmentative communication devices or other equipment
- to cover the cost of educational or other program fees / textbooks / training materials and additional uses as approved by the committee

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

International Multicentre Trial of Vitamin E in Aging Persons

Sponsored by Surrey Place Centre

We are looking for people with Down Syndrome who are 50 years age or older to take part in an international study, funded by the U.S National Institute of Aging, to see if vitamin E might help to preserve their memory and daily living skills. Thorough health exams, **f r e e v i t a m i n s ,**

remuneration for participants and caregivers. For more information contact Ann Lovering at (414) 484-6598 or Marie Percy at (416) 925-5121 ext 353.

DONATION AND MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN 2006

Throughout the month of January and February, families were provided with an Association membership form.

Thank you to all who have sent in their membership. Remember, it's never too late to sign up. Our campaign will run until the end of February so help us achieve our goal. Become a Community Living member today. For more information contact Brenda Crouse (905) 884-9110 ext. 227

ART inspirations...

C r e a t i v i t y ... can be found in all that we do.

Georgia O'keefe once stated:

' I found I could say things with color and shapes ..that I couldn't say any other way -- things I had no words for'...

I have found that is to be a truth for many people. They have something to express, and some use words, theatre, or music. If the visual idea they have in their minds is strong enough, they can find ways to express themselves, using art as a vehicle to speak out...to others.

"The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."
-Aristotle..

Take some time, and look at what surrounds you. The chair you are sitting on for instance, was designed by a designer, an artist of form and function. Expression through the arts, can make an impact in our emotional well being. It brings out an awareness, of ourselves our lives, and can help express, heal, and allow for the discovery of amazing talents that lie within all of us.

..So, listen to a wonderful music...

..Bring your family out to see the latest, at the Art Gallery of Ontario,

..Go to the Theatre, and watch a live performance!



It will give you an interactive and greater appreciation of how Art, ...is part of all of us!

Now at AGO...Fernand Leger Modernist, outstanding draughtsman, printmaker & film maker. Until March 12

www.ago.net

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 support-

ing 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."

REMEMBER....MAY IS COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH!!

EACH YEAR, COMMUNITY LIVING YORK SOUTH PREPARE FOR COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH IN MAY. LOTS OF ACTIVITIES HAPPEN DURING THIS BUSY MONTH SUCH AS OUR ANNUAL MAY DAY EVENT, OUR WALK A THON, A DAY AT THE JAYS, A DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE AND MUCH MUCH MORE. KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR

OUR MAY 2006 EVENTS!!! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE OR VOLUNTEER AT ANY OF THESE EVENTS, CALL ANNA BALDUSSI LATO AT (905) 264-7262.

SPEAKERS CLUB

Would you like to form a speakers club in your community? Well here is a good opportunity to get together with others to develop one. What are the benefits? Increase your self esteem and self confidence, develop skills for self advocacy, empower people from abuse prevention, develop skills for work opportunities and much much more. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!! Contact Anna or Josie at the Vaughan office for more information.

Upcoming Highlights...

- **ACTout! comes to Vaughan!**
- **Taking It Global comes to Vaughan!**
- **How many walkers did we have?**
- **Creative Theatre Workshop...what arte they doing now?**
- **Community Living Youth Forum update and the City of Vaughan Youth Conference**

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