

January 2010

Community Connections

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Welcome to the January 2010 Connector!

Hello and Happy New Year,

I hope each of you was able to find some time for relaxation and reflection during this season.

We have had a very busy fall with many programs undertaking new initiatives and challenges and of course our Christmas Season is always filled with many activities from our Christmas Hamper Program to the Holiday Train to the many youth events which occur around the holidays.

We are making steady progress towards our next CARF accreditation and each program has reviewed pertinent standards to insure confirmation. The Board of Directors has done this as well.

I want to express my appreciation for your contributions to our organization and the incredible level of dedication and commitment I see from you on a daily basis. Thank you.

2010 here we come! Should be an interesting time for both our organization and the province we live in.

Cheers to one and all, Gayle

Community Living Month October 2009

The theme of this year's Community Living Month was Inclusive Education.

An inclusive education culture celebrates and embraces uniqueness, has appropriate supports and resources, and provides equitable access to lifelong learning

On Oct 9th CLSA staff and participants set up an information kiosk and photo display at Coopers Store. Tim Horton's graciously donated beverages and donuts for the event. School District 19 featured an article and photos depicting Inclusive Education in our district. CLSA followed through with this theme portraying the importance of education as it influences our various Adult programs today. Approximately 100 people perused the display. Following the Kiosk at Coopers the display boards and information pamphlets were moved to the foyer of the Community Center for the remainder of the month.

Loni Williams
Program Manager
Individualized Community Inclusion Program

Meet the Staff

C LS-C :

Staff Name: Geoff Stewart
Position: Supported Child Development



Please join me in welcoming Geoff Stewart to the Community Living Services for Children staff team. Geoff will be working in our Supported Child Development Program and the after school Community Connectors program. Geoff comes to us from Ontario. He has his Masters Degree

in Childhood Education (teaching in the Elementary School System) from D'Youville College in Buffalo New York. Geoff is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys snowboarding, camping, hiking and white water paddling. Geoff was drawn to Revelstoke's nonstop potential for outdoor adventure possibilities. He is very excited about working with the children in Revelstoke. Geoff will also be doing some work with Community Living Services for Adults

Housing Outreach Program

Housing Outreach Program

It's been almost a year since the Housing Outreach Program began at Community Connections and what a year it has been! The program is brand new for Revelstoke and the past year has been spent working to develop the program in a way that works for our community.

The Housing Outreach Worker helps individuals and families in Revelstoke who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to find and maintain suitable, affordable rental accommodations. This has included helping clients to write up a rental resume; helping them to search the newspaper, online ads, and bulletin boards for available rental accommodations in the city; helping clients in need to apply for Income Assistance; budgeting; opening bank accounts; and making referrals to other services as necessary.

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Housing Outreach Program

In the past 10 months the HOW has made referrals to a number of agencies including: Community Connections Food Bank, Social Justice Advocate, Clinical Services, Employment Centre, Revelstoke Women's Shelter, and Community Care Nursing. Referrals to the HOW in the past 10 months have come from the Revelstoke RCMP, City of Revelstoke, Community Connections Food Bank, Social Justice Advocate, PACT, Clinical Services, PACT, and the Revelstoke Women's Shelter.

The HOW is also available to support landlords who house HOP clients. The landlord supports help in fostering a healthy relationship with clients. The HOW is planning to host a workshop in the new year to further establish relationships with landlords in the community.

While the majority of the HOW's time is taken up working directly with clients to find and maintain housing, a significant amount of time has also been spent making presentations to various community organizations. It was identified early on that there is often a misconception regarding homelessness in Revelstoke and that community education could help to remedy this. The most recent presentations were made to the Revelstoke Employment Centre, and Erin England's Grade 11 Communications class.

The HOP in Revelstoke is part of BC Housing's Homeless Outreach Program, which is currently run in 49 communities in the province. The HOW is available to see clients from 1 – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. All appointments are on a drop-in basis. The HOW does street outreach in the mornings in order to interact with clients who may not come into the Community Connections office on a regular basis, and is also available at the Food Bank every Friday morning.

Melissa Jameson
Housing Outreach Worker

January 2010

Tenant Support Worker

MONASHEE COURT

BC housing has implemented a new program at various housing facilities throughout the province.

As the tenant support worker part of my job is to work with tenants to identify individual strengths and find available community supports to assist with goals.

On a daily basis I am helping tenants with the following services:

- Basic household management skills
- Assist with filling out of forms, providing motivation and encouragement for personal goals
- Dispute resolution between tenants and tenant/management, tenant issues and breaches of the tenancy agreement
- Advocating for needs and making referrals
- Accessing community services

Working to promote a supportive community environment

We are now trying a weekly movie matinee for the winter months and it is going very well with attendance.

We also have set up different activities for the tenants i.e. - card making, exercise class, barbecue, special projects (a) construct picnic table (b) winter cover for outdoor building mascot.

My working days are Mon to Fri 7 hours per day with early mornings doing emails and previous days paperwork, coffee room discussions with all who attend and then 1 on 1 discussions usually from noon till 3pm and when not in 1 on 1 discussions am doing online related research or setting up for future activities.

Doug Hulley
Tenant Support Worker

January 2010

CLS-C Program

January 2010 update

Closing of the two Provincial Advisor's Offices (Infant Development Program and Supported Child Development Program)

December 31st, 2009 saw the closing of the Provincial Advisor's Office for the Infant Development Program. The Provincial Advisor's Office for the Supported Child Development Program also closed on this date. The Ministry for Children and Family Development will now take over the responsibilities of these two offices. A small group of Child and Youth with Special Needs specialists within the Ministry has been identified to work through the many transition issues. Two of the "former" Regional Advisors for the Infant Development Program are working to assist these Ministry Specialists with the tasks of transition. In our last correspondence from our Provincial Advisors, we were advised to direct all inquiries (from parents and the community) to Jackie Behrens and Jane Cowell at

Jane.Cowell@gov.bc.ca

Any inquiries from staff for further clinical information or questions about additional and/or ongoing training are to be directed to the Ministry. Questions from the professional community, or for directions in locating programs, resources, linking families in rural and remote areas are also to be directed to MCFD – although no specific person has been identified to address these inquiries.

Kristal Bradshaw, MS

Program Manager

Community Living Services for Children

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CLS-A Program

On December 21, 2009 surrounded by love, Esther Irene Lachner passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer at the age of 68.



Left to remember Esther is her brother Ed Lachner of Alberta, her roommates Ian, Darlene and Michael, her friends from Community Connections and Moberly Manor Day program, and her many staff both present and past.

I would like to thank all the people who have supported and cared for Esther throughout her life in Revelstoke. She was truly loved and appreciated for the gifts she gave to each of us.

A special thank you, Marydell, Hugh/Kathy, Erika, Cathy/Ed, Stefani, and Andi, who shared stories, poems, and Esther's favorite music during her service.

Below is just one of the many stories from Esther's service written by Kathy Stuart and presented by Hugh Williams

Those who meant the most to you surrounded you on your final days. Their compassion and caring runs deeper than words can ever say. I'm hoping your journey finds you at peace, and I know you will meet up with those who passed before you. Your brother Gord is waiting inside the Pearly Gates to welcome you with open arms. His face is beaming that you are finally released from all your pain and suffering. He takes your hand and leads you down a path not too far away, where your friend Lilly is sitting in a golden throne her angel wings spread wide and smiling at you. She motions with her finger to "Come Here" and announces "I have a surprise for you". "Where" you say as your eyes widen with anticipation. She leads you to a giant white Christmas tree with so many shining lights and silver bells you need to cover your eyes. Underneath that tree is the largest, biggest present you have ever seen with your name engraved in gold letters. "Oh Goody" you exclaim and get busy unwrapping your gift.

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CLS-A Program

Inside is the tallest book you have ever seen. As you open the first page it magically comes to life and you stand there mesmerized by what you are about to see. Everyone is smiling and laughing and having a good time. They invite you to come along and see some highlights of your time on Earth....

The first thing you see is yourself dancing to some of the best Rock and Roll music ever made. There is Buddy Holly singing "Peggy Sue" and Elvis Presley singing, "All Shook Up". "How much is that doggie in the window" comes next, and there you are singing along. Next thing you see as you turn the page are balloons, lots of them floating off the pages and into the air, because this is a celebration. These celebrations are your birthdays, and they cover many, many pages of this book. There you are eating cake, chocolate cake, white cake, and ice cream too. There is lots of music, refreshments, good food, good friends, and presents, always lots of presents!!!! On the occasion of your 65th birthday your staff made you feel like you were celebrating in Hawaii. There you are enjoying Piñatas, palm trees, grass skirts, pineapple shiskabobs, meatballs and on and on. Everyone is having a blast!!!

Oops, in your excitement you missed a few pages, so you turn back a chapter and there you are at The Knights of Pythius Hall in the early 1990's celebrating the 10th anniversary of living at your group home in Revelstoke. Inside were the usual staff and friends but little did you know there was a special surprise awaiting you this day. The next thing you see are your brothers Gord and Ed coming through the front doors whom you have not seen since you were a young girl. There you are screaming in delight running towards them with open arms to give them the biggest bear hugs ever. There were many tears of joy that day and a memory that you cherished forever. Next in your story book come all the hand-written letters and photographs from your brothers, teddy bears they brought on their visits, and phone calls on Sunday nights. The annual visits were always joyful times for you to play catch-up, and there were many kisses and hugs on these special days you spent with family.

Your journey sees you spending many a day doing crafts or working on your puzzles. You found peace and contentment in doing these things and loved to have your staff or friends join you in creating something beautiful. You see yourself developing new social networks with seniors at Moberly Manor. You see yourself coloring pictures and finding an envelope to stuff them in once finished. You see yourself going to the post office and opening cards that you received in the mail and sharing the good news with your roommates, Lilly, Ian and Darlene. You see yourself sitting in the living room with you roommates singing along to songs being played on the piano and having a wonderful time. You see yourself teasing your roommates and on occasion giving them a stern blast when you felt they were behaving inappropriately. "You Behave!" you would say.

Next in your book are the holidays such as Valentines Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The excitement and anticipation of these events were an important part of your life, and you delighted in any occasion to get on your Sunday best and look pretty. You see yourself kneeling down in front of your dresser looking through your drawers deciding which beaded necklace would go with that special outfit. The final chapter of your book finds you surrounded by those who loved you most. There is a light unlike anything you have ever seen before, and it is calling for you to come forward. You are feeling safe and secure and hear the gentle voices and feel the warm embraces that prepare you for your final journey. You leave this world in peace knowing you were loved, cherished and cared for more than you ever dreamt was possible. Esther, you will remain forever in our hearts and minds and we will never forget you. Thank-you for being a part of our lives and we feel blessed to have known you. Rest in Peace my friend!

January 2010

Kent's Movie Review



- ★ Terrible
- ★★ Not terrible
- ★★★ OK
- ★★★★ Very Good
- ★★★★★ Totally Awesome

by Kent Planden

A Perfect Getaway

Written and directed by: David Twohy (Chronicles of Riddick, The Fugitive).

Starring: Timothy Olyphant, Steve Zahn, Milla Jovovich, Kiele Sanchez

Synopsis:

A newly wed couple travels to a remote Hawaiian island for their honeymoon. They embark on an adventure, hiking along an isolated trail that will lead them to a beautiful, secluded beach. Besides the dangers of the trail, they learn from some fellow travelers of a recent murder of another newly married couple. Despite being nervous, the couple decides to keep going on their adventure hike. Along the way, they meet up with two other couples, which they are not sure can be trusted. Their honeymoon all of a sudden becomes a horrifying battle to stay alive!

Kent and Geoff's Review:

"A pathological thriller that will keep you guessing throughout the whole movie."

The setting of the movie was absolutely beautiful. *A Perfect Getaway* would be very appealing to the outdoorsy, adventurous type of person. It may not be suitable for younger audiences, as there is a fair bit of gory violence and a bit of foul language. Although there was referencing towards sex and drugs, there wasn't that much of these things within the movie.

Overall, this was a very compelling and exciting movie. There is a strange connection between characters in this movie, which adds to the confusion and chaos during the newly weds' adventure. Each character's story was unique and intriguing. Throughout the entire movie, we were on the edge of our seats, guessing what would eventually happen to the main characters. There are definitely some suspenseful and surprising scenes, which will keep the viewer on edge the whole time.

I give this movie 4 out of 5 stars! ★★★★★