



For people with intellectual disabilities

THE SPARK

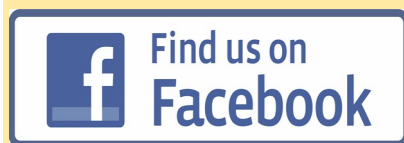
August 2016 - Issue #02

Igniting the unlimited potential of all people

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The SCS August/September Thought of the Month is *People Realize Personal Goals*. Visit Sharepoint to tell us what you're proud of. The Realized Goals - What Really Matters SCS Challenge needs your video and photos!



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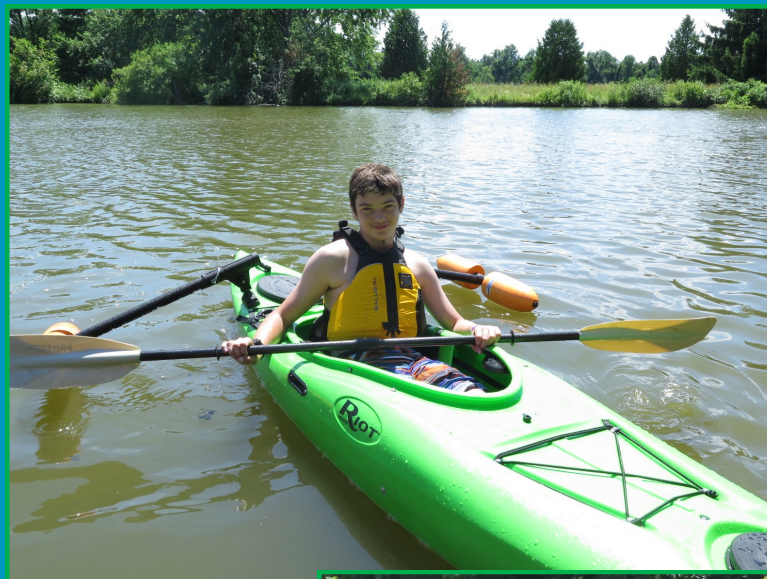
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Summer for many of us is the sweetest of all seasons. It's about taking your time and rejoicing in lazy afternoons. It's day trips, picnics, camping and celebrating being outdoors. This edition of **The Spark** is dedicated to those easy, breezy few months where sharing special moments with family and good friends become cherished memories for the rest of our lives.

Whether it's the spark that ignited your Canada Day fireworks, or the first campfire at the cottage, thank you for helping to spark a place which celebrates the acceptance of all people with different abilities in our community.



SCS Summer Youth Camp couldn't be more fun! Having a blast kayaking at Earl Rowe Park with Abilities in Motion is Sam German and Joy Hollosi with CHAP worker (Community Helpers for Active Participation) Linda Hall.



THE SPARK

Message from President David Barber



I will never forget our first cottage. The smell of kerosene at night, the wood burning cook stove, hot days and swimming, fishing, camp fires, wiener roasts, corn-on-the cob roasts and marshmallows, cold soda pop in bottles cooled over ice and game boards when it rained all day. I never stopped running.

Every child deserves to have a camp, cottage experience, to breathe fresh clean air, to walk or ride the tree shrouded trails and marvel at the flora and fauna, to catch a glimpse of a deer, a fox and even a skunk. This is a time to make new friendships and to bask in the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

Simcoe Community Services extends their deep appreciation to those donors who have made it possible for children whom we support, that might never have had the opportunity to be part of this annual summer ritual, to enjoy a camping holiday. Thank you.

David Barber
President, Simcoe Community Services

I Had the Best Time! By Caresten Crane

I came to Youth In Action this summer wondering what was in store for me. I've gone to camps before where they treat me like a child. I was expecting the same here, but was wrong. I honestly had the best time here than at any other day camp. We went many places this summer. Everywhere we went we learned something new, and had fun doing it. I made some new friends the last couple of months, and they made the camp even better! I'll definitely be coming back next year, that's a promise.



Caresten pictured with some of the SCS Summer Youth team, from left to right, Deanna, Rebecca, Spencer, and Alex



Making Summer Camp dreams come true

Simcoe Community Services thanks The May Court Club of Barrie for its generous contribution in helping send youth with intellectual disabilities to camp this summer. Pictured from the May Court Club are past presidents Beryl Woollett and Lise Valiquette, with left to right: Braydon Simmons, Cameron Jones, Josh Goodman and Josh Sears.

THE SPARK

June's picnic in the park with the OEYC

A little unexpected rain and cooler June temperatures didn't dampen the spirits of over 550 children, parents and caregivers who attended the 16th annual Ontario Early Years Picnic at Sunnidale Park. From face painting and crafts, to blowing bubbles and catching the big one in the fish pond, thank you again to the OEYC's many community partners who made the day so much fun!



Welcome back! All OEYC main program sites in Barrie, Innisfil and Bradford region re-open on Tuesday September 6th. You can find more information [here](#).

THE SPARK

A night out at the ball park with the Barrie Bay Cats!

Batter up! During Community Living Month in May, it was Simcoe Community Services Night with the Intercounty Baseball Champ Barrie Bay Cats. Celebrating the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, SCS was there on the field to help with player introductions, sing O Canada, and throw out the first pitch. SCS brought some good luck too, as the Bay Cats entertained all with a 13-7 win over the visiting Toronto Maple Leafs.



Clockwise from top: SCS' Sam Williams grooves a strike with the ceremonial first pitch, Tracy Pfrimmer's home run rendition of O Canada, Emily Healey helps out with player introductions, and Paul McDonald and Shelley Best having fun in the stands.



GOLF TOURNAMENT 2016

June 17th was a great day on the links as sunny skies and warm temperatures greeted golfers for the 21st annual SCS Golf Tournament at Hawk Ridge in Orillia. Close to 100 teed it up to help raise over \$25,000 for SCS youth programs. Thanks to all golfers, sponsors and volunteers who made it such a special day!



Clockwise from top left: the CSS Orillia team of Mike Nicholson, Brad Sears, Bill Fritzley and Mike Turner, volunteers Kirsten Goodman and Jamie Ellis, fun on the greens with Angie, Kim, Laurie and Jacquie, Dale Smith from KOOL-FM with Youth Leader and dinner speaker Carter Meeuwisse, 14 year old Beat The Pro Josh Fowler who proved very tough to beat!



Hear Carter Meeuwisse's radio interview about SCS Youth Programs [here](#) on 107.5 KOOL FM

107.5 KOOL FM

STREETS ALIVE

The Streets Are Alive! By Lyndell Oldfield

The Streets are Alive with art in Orillia! Community Supports Orillia is again proud to be a part of the Streets Alive art scene in Orillia's downtown. Sculptures made their debut on June 18th, however there were months of preparation to get to that point.

Thank you to CSS staff Heather Hauck who took the lead once the theme *Story Poles* was announced by the Streets Alive committee in February. A tree was suggested by Heather, and with many weighing in with their thoughts and ideas, the tree soon became our *Tree of Life*.

CSS Orillia began shopping for supplies, and assembling all that was needed for this project, but the really fun part was painting the tree, and developing all the whimsical bits and



With the 2016 CSS Orillia *Tree of Life*, from left to right, Jenny Cork, Stephen Wells, Maggie Chackasim, Jim Harrison, Bill Fritzley, Doug Harvey and Karen Bungay.

pieces that went into creating this one of a kind art piece. Big decisions had to be made, like where should the lady bug go? On the tree spirit's eyebrow of course, which meant repainting the eyes to reflect his consternation at finding a lady bug there. Research into the life cycle of a butterfly contributed to blobs of spray foam becoming cocoons in various stages of development. And of course there must be caterpillars! Building upon the idea of the Fairy Garden that has been developing at CSS this year, it was deemed necessary to have both a Fairy Door and Fairies delicately lounging on a wind chime, hanging from the tree. Every day new ideas were contributed and worked on until we ran out of tree space and time!

In all, 20 people worked on the project in some manner. As things came together, it became routine for many people to pop into the room to see the progress and offer suggestions and encouragement.

Thanks again to the DH Gordon Foundation for their generous support of this worthwhile community building project. All who participated warmly invite you to drop by to see the Tree located in front of the Brownstone on Mississauga Street East near Front Street. Take time to see all the other fascinating sculptures along the street. Be sure to drop into Jack and Maddy's Children's Store, just up and across from the Tree to vote for your top 3 favourites or visit the Streets Alive website [here](http://www.simcoecommunityservices.ca).

SCS SUMMER FUN

Go Big or Go Home By Brenda Pascoe

The motto at 232 Steel Street for Bob Miller is *Go Big or Go Home*. Bob is the type of guy who can't wait for the first crocus or tulip to pop out of the ground. This is the start of a new adventure he's now experiencing as an outdoorsman.

During his life, Bob has come to love nature by growing and taking care of his own vegetable garden. A local woodworking teacher was asked if he could build a garden made for someone in a wheelchair. Not only was the garden built, but it was beautifully made out of cedar with a removable screen so rabbits can't get in. The screen can be put down so Bob can have the pleasure of watering his garden and taking care of his plants. Last year Bob's dill was used for many dinners at Steel Street. Bob has now doubled the amount of dill he grows and is looking for more recipes to put his bountiful crop to good use. As a generous, kind hearted man, Bob is always thinking of other people. When his garden is ready for picking, he bags up his tomatoes, dill, carrots, peppers and whatever else he is growing and gives it out to his mom, friends and to another mother of an individual who lives at Steel Street. Bob, however doesn't stop there.



Bob has always loved to be outdoors, whether it's camping, going to the cottage, fishing and attending SCS summer camps. Last year Bob stayed in his backyard in a one person tent. It was a great time, but Bob then wondered, "what can I do now?" He knew he wanted to invite friends for a sleepover, wanted more technology in his tent like his laptop, an oscillating fan for those hot nights, lighting, and more extension cords, but his one person tent just wasn't big enough. With the help of SSW Lindsay, they did an online search and found a great website that has tents which would provide Bob everything on his camping wish list and more.

The tent was ordered this past winter. According to Bob, it was a long winter. Every day looking out his window at the snow covered yard, he would say, "I can't wait for the tent." Then the day finally came. It took many staff to set up his 12 X12 tent, and as the foreman, Bob made sure everything was in its proper place. A great team set up a patio path from the ramp to the tent so Bob can independently access his outdoor space anytime during the day, sip on a beer, listen to music on his lap top, call friends to come over, and work on his vegetable garden.



One final wish from Bob Miller, "I hope you've enjoyed a great summer. If you're ever around 232 Steel Street, drop by and come join me for drink. CHEERS!"



Toasting summer with Bob Miller from left to right: Amy Parker, Robert Tress, Brenda Pascoe, Marjorie Tress, Margaret Miller, Katie Marshall, Rusty Reindl, Courtney Zgud, and David Farquhar



SCS SUMMER FUN

The Toronto Blue Jays' biggest fan By Rhonda Vanata



How's this for a birthday party? SCS' Gary Black recently celebrated his 65th birthday with a train trip to Toronto. Gary visited the CN Tower, stayed overnight at the luxurious Sheraton Hotel with complimentary cookies and chocolate milk on ice, and then capped it off by cheering on his beloved Blue Jays to a win over visiting Baltimore.



Seeing your name on the Jumbotron and having one of the J Force girls present you with a Jays t-shirt will bring a smile to anyone's face.

Happy Birthday Gary!



The Board of Directors of Simcoe Community Services invite you to attend our 63rd Annual General Meeting **Wednesday September 14th**, at 39 Fraser Court, Barrie. For more information or to RSVP please contact vellerton@simcoecommunityservices.ca

The 2015/16 **Gift of the Heart Award** recipients will also be announced, honouring those who selflessly give of their time and energy to improve the quality of life for people with an intellectual disability.

SCS SUMMER FUN

Merry Christmas in June By Amy Bigelow

What a better time to reconnect with friends than over the holidays! Erica Bowes loves to celebrate all of the holidays, especially Christmas. 119 Johnson Street in Orillia provided the festive backdrop as the backyard gazebo was decorated in Christmas lights and ornaments for a late afternoon June BBQ with good friends. The party was complete as all enjoyed singing Christmas carols with presents under the tree!



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from left to right: Maude Dawson, Erica Bowes and Terry O'Connell.

SCS Loves Marineland By Sunny Ighani-Lightfoot and Katherine Harris

On June 29th, 263 Anne Street and 104 Bayview set out for a trip to Marineland in Niagara Falls. The King Waldorf Theatre was the first stop where everyone enjoyed a show featuring beluga whales, walrus, the comedic sea lions and everyone's favourite, the acrobatic dolphins. Full of smiles and laughter, it was next off to the rides where Sara, Deborah and Adele had a blast. Everyone loved the Killer Whales and enjoyed being able to watch them in the underwater viewing area. It was amazing to see how smooth they move in the water. Next was a short walk over the boardwalk to see the bears who were cooling off in their large swimming pool, enjoying the food that was being thrown in to them. The final stop was the deer where all loved petting the friendly animals feeling how rough their fur was and how soft their antlers felt. It was a terrific day finished off with a stop at McDonald's for dinner before relaxing on the long drive home.

Thank you Marineland. We hope to be back soon.

Clockwise from top left: Martha Thompson, Kim Brown, Sara Wynne Jones, Stacey Heeley, David Carder, Adele Helleman, Sunny Ighani-Lightfoot and Deborah Bremner



SCS SUMMER FUN

Try and keep up with these guys! By Meghan Baron



The men of 41 Johnson Street in Orillia have been keeping busy this summer. There is never a dull weekend in this household. All enjoy a long scenic drive followed by checking out what our surrounding communities have to offer. Here are some photos that represent only a few of the day trips they have taken within the last couple of months. Clockwise from top left: Stephen Wells, David Macdonald, at the Peterborough Zoo, John Trounsell, Douglas Harvey, Robert Oldfield, and David MacDonald.

SCS SUMMER FUN

Funnel cake never tasted so good! By Maggie McCarthy

I want everyone to know I had a goal for 2 years to visit Canada's Wonderland and eat funnel cake. This was put on hold because I was diagnosed with breast cancer in the spring of 2015. I had chemo treatments, surgery and ongoing medical appointments.

So my last treatment was June 30th and I celebrated with a Dairy Queen blizzard! I was then able to plan my trip to Wonderland. I went July 7th. We got wet on the Wilderness Adventure ride and then enjoyed the water park. I had funnel cake with ice cream. It was yummy. Thank you to CSS Orillia for helping me save for this trip!



Under the Circus Big Top By Corey Pearson

On Saturday August 6th, I went to see the circus at the Bayfield Mall in Barrie. My friends Corey L. and Paul M. went with me and we were accompanied by my staff Jessica. I thought the horses were really good and the people riding them were really, really awesome. I liked the atmosphere and the audience and the food people. I saw a bumble bee and another guy dressed up as a robot. I also saw a bubble guy who was blowing bubbles like he did last year. We enjoyed some popcorn and lemonade. I got my face painted by the face people and I thought the clowns were very funny. I really enjoyed the show. I would really enjoy going again next year, in August of 2017. I want to thank **The Spark** for letting me tell my story and thank you for reading it. I will see you again next year.



FAMILY RELIEF

For Peter, the Sky's the Limit!

The Family Relief Program at Simcoe Community Services has been connecting people with CHAP (Community Helpers for Active Participation) since launching the Simcoe chapter of respiteservices.com in 2007. CHAP assist children and adults to be more independent, participate in recreational and leisure activities and create opportunities to reach their potential. Peter was connected with CHAP, Kylie through the program. Peter's mother Maggie tells their story:

Our story begins 3 years ago when we were fortunate enough to meet a CHAP by the name of Kylie. She was a University student completing her studies in social work and seeking hands on experience in her area of studies.

At the time, Peter was not able to easily leave the house and participate in everyday activities (going in a car or bus, shopping, going to the mall, restaurants, library, and other types of recreational activities and venues). Kylie took her time to get to know Peter and gain his trust and confidence. Her kindness, patience, understanding and approachability made this task seamless. She worked diligently with Peter each summer going here there and basically everywhere to get him comfortable in all different types of environments and situations. Now, Peter enjoys going out into the community (sometimes even by himself) and actively participating and enjoying what life has to offer. We have Kylie to thank for this transformation in Peter.



Kylie and Peter with Breakfast Television's Jennifer Valentyne



As you can see it is crucial to find the right fit between a person and the CHAP chosen to support them, and when this is accomplished the "sky's the limit". We are so blessed that Kylie came into our life.

For more information about how you or someone you know can connect with a CHAP, visit respiteservices.com/simcoe, or contact Respite Coordinator Carolyn Harris at 705-726-9082 ext. 2259, or at charris@simcoecommunityservices.ca

INCLUSION EXCELLENCE 2016

Saluting the 2016 Inclusion Excellence Award Winners

At the end of June, Simcoe Community Services applauded the exceptional efforts of both students and staff members in Education in Simcoe County who exemplify inclusion by seeing possibilities and opportunities for those who have an intellectual disability. Showing a genuine desire to see all students become contributing members of their school community, please join Simcoe Community Services in congratulating the **2016 Inclusion Excellence Award winners**.

Kids Belong Together!



Simcoe County
District School Board



Stephen Bertelsen, Special Education Area Consultant of the Simcoe County District School Board, pictured in the middle with left to right: SCS Stakeholder Relations Manager Jamie Hall and SCDSB Superintendent of Education Chris Sammis. You can read more on Stephen's award [here](#).



Pictured with Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Superintendent of Education Ab Falconi and SCS' Jamie Hall (second from the left) Sister Catherine Donnelly Catholic School Grade 8 students: **Julia Shannon, Caitlin Truscott, Kaedri Miles, Jazmyn Jackson** and **Emily Peacock**



Our Lady of Grace Grade 8 teacher (second from the left) **Katie Blasko** and Education Assistants **Laura Daniel, Jani Borton, Julie Lapierre**, and **Barry Collins** (not present)

INCLUSION EXCELLENCE 2016

Saluting the 2016 Inclusion Excellence Award Winners



Pictured in the middle, **Kelly Jacob** the Chairperson of the Special Education Department at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School



Jenny Keogh (second from the left) Education Assistant at St. Bernadette Catholic School



Pam Pike (second from the left) Special Education Resource Teacher at Mother Teresa Catholic School.

Simcoe Community Services salutes all educators and students who foster a school culture of respect and belonging for people with intellectual disabilities. Please visit our [website](http://www.simcoecommunityservices.ca) to download the 2016/17 SCS Inclusion Excellence Award nomination form.

THE SPARK

Back to school with Simcoe Community Services looks and feels great

Thanks to Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte MP Alex Nuttall, heading back to school will be a breeze. Mr. Nuttall recently donated backpacks filled with school supplies to the Getting Ready for Kindergarten program at the Ontario Early Years Centre. OEYC grads can hardly wait to start wearing them. Fingers are crossed our new students don't get too much homework to carry home after the first week of school. Thank you MP Nuttall!



Pictured above, MP Alex Nuttall at the Barrie Ontario Early Years Centre.

Summer is a great time to catch up with good SCS friends



Above, Simcoe North MPP Patrick Brown flashes the SCS colours at his constituency office in Orillia with SCS President David Barber.

Below, SCS Preschool Manager Michele Kapteyn and CEO Bill Silk stop by Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth's office with a thank you for her participation in the 2016 SCS Fashion Show.



ACCREDITATION 2016

The Road to Accreditation

Since 2007, Simcoe Community Services has been accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership. CQL is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to the definition, measurement, and improvement of personal quality of life for people with disabilities. Their Vision is: A world of dignity, opportunity and community for all people.

Their Mission is: Dedicated to the definition, measurement and improvement of personal quality of life for people receiving human services and supports.



CQL Accreditation focuses on continuous improvement in 8 factors and 34 indicators identified in What Really Matters: A Guide to Person-Centered Excellence® and personal quality of life as measured by the Personal Outcome Measures.

This is an exciting time for Simcoe Community Services. Throughout November 29th – December 2nd, SCS will host two CQL consultants, working in collaboration toward the achievement of another term of accreditation. We look forward to sharing and celebrating the stories of how we support people of all ages and abilities to realize their full potential. Through the accreditation process SCS continues learning about ways we can improve upon and develop even stronger systems and practices to support people with intellectual disabilities enhancing their personal quality of life.

Green thumbs up to Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery



This summer has been dry and hot and certainly provided many challenges for maintaining a green healthy lawn and vibrant backyard garden. With cooler autumn temperatures and more precipitation promised, those colourful fall mums will be looking to make their debut for another season. Don't forget, when out shopping for your garden, make sure you stop at Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery (Barrie and Bradford locations). Just tell the cashier prior to inputting your sale that you support Simcoe Community Services. A percentage of your purchase will be issued to the Simcoe Community Services Foundation.

By shopping at Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery, you're helping to raise funds that enhance the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.



Ed Muir gives the thumbs up in the Discovery Garden at Community Support Services Barrie

FOUNDATION UPDATE

The future is bright for Emma Paisley

Congratulations to Georgian College's Emma Paisley; the recipient of the 2016 Simcoe Community Services Foundation Award. Having completed her first year in the Developmental Services Worker Program, Emma demonstrates academic excellence, leadership, a sense of professionalism and a caring and sincere attitude towards others. "I can't thank SCS enough for such a generous award and for being a valued community partner with the DSW program at Georgian," said Emma.

Emma certainly got to know more of SCS over the last few months as a Community Support Worker summer student. Best of luck Emma with your studies this fall at Lakehead University!



Stakeholder Relations Manager Jamie Hall presents Emma Paisley with her 2016 Foundation Award

We give thanks to good friends!

As the annual presenting sponsor of both the Simcoe Community Services' Fashion Show and Golf Tournament, we're extremely grateful for the generous and on-going support of **RBC Dominion Securites**. RBC Dominion Securities has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Thank you for being such a great friend to Simcoe Community Services.



From left to right: RBC Dominion Securities Associate Christine Scharf, VP, Investment and Wealth Advisor Ron Ptasiuk, Branch Manager David Fonseca, and Associate Jennifer Rayner.

Simcoe Community Services Foundation raises funds to significantly improve the day to day quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities. For more information and to discuss additional ways to contribute, please contact Jamie Hall at (705) 726-9082 ext. 5280, or at communications@simcoecommunityservices.ca.



THE SPARK



Mission Statement

We support people of all ages and abilities to realize their full potential and to enhance their quality of life.

As a community, not-for-profit, multi-service organization we provide:

- Services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families;
- Programs that promote the healthy development of children of all abilities;
- Services that respond to community needs

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Raising funds to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities

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When you make a financial contribution to the Foundation of Simcoe Community Services you will make a difference in the lives of those you care about today and in the years to come. Consider making your donation today. For more information and/or to make a donation, please contact the Foundation of Simcoe Community Services at (705) 726-9082.

The Spark promotes acceptance of people with different abilities in our community. We celebrate successes and embrace new ideas, approaches and opportunities.

Editorial team: SCS Stakeholder Relations Manager Jamie Hall, Robyn Pugsley and Vanessa Ellerton.

Have a comment, question or story idea?
Contact: Jamie at (705) 726-9082 ext. 5280, or at communications@simcoecommunityservices.ca