



For people with intellectual disabilities

THE SPARK

August 2017 - Issue #06

Spark the unlimited potential of all people

The Spark features inspirational stories of accomplishments people have achieved and the Personal Outcome Measures related to these achievements. Personal Outcome Measures are the foundation of everything Simcoe Community Services does to support people.



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Simcoe Community Services at Kempenfest

Ranked as one of Ontario's Top 100 Festivals, the Kempenfest weekend is the biggest weekend of the year in Barrie. On Thursday August 3rd, people and families receiving services through Simcoe Community Services, their Support staff, as well as all SCS employees and their families enjoyed the Kempenfest midway free of charge. Thank you Robertson Amusements and Kempenfest. We had a blast and can't wait to do it again next year!



Clockwise top left: Shawn Ladouceur and Justine Bull can't wait for their ride to begin, Nick Cunningham with his sister Meaghan give the thumbs up on the Merry Go Round, Holly Sanders is about to win the next midway stuffed animal, and Kempenfest Sponsor Chair Tom Aikins and Robertson Amusement's Chris Patrie - thank you from Simcoe Community Services!

Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Message from President David Barber



The cycle of history is such that each new generation brings a different perspective to the table based on their education and social interaction relative to the improvements in science and technology of the day. This is not however, as predictable as the theory of four which says that a multiple of generations each spanning twenty years in length will have four different approaches, four different impacts on society obviously, with much overlapping and with a dominant approach different in each case as each succeeding generation becomes ascendant. This is why Churchill said that each new generation is doomed to repeat history over and over again making the same mistakes, if they do not study history and look to avoid them. Even with this warning we find that the prevailing attitude of each new generation will spring from a different set of references, a different perspective that will not place the same value on the principles that came from the generation before them.

For the purposes of the Developmental Services Sector this can mean one of two things, The first is that we have built something over the past 70 years of which we are very proud but that for today's generation, does not meet their expectations. It means that like Oliver Twist, "Please Sir, I want more." It means that we must continue to evolve and recognize that the expectation of the new generation is that they take what we have accomplished to date for granted (as they should) and that on this foundation, they want more; more inclusion, more rights, more freedoms, more expectation of acceptance, more housing options, more educational opportunities, more jobs.

The second is that we run the risk of the slippery slope where due to economy of scale and in the interest of serving the widest number of people we make sacrifices that take us back to where we were. That we lose the civility and engagement of the general population by making unrealistic demands for which there are insufficient resources in relation to the needs of the greatest number of people.

Public discourse in our places of higher learning and within public institutions must allow for freedom of thought and speech without the fear of retribution from the politically correct. The confines of these freedoms are outlined within federal and provincial law and it is in our interest as members of the Developmental Service Community to encourage the people we support to tell their stories openly, freely and without undue influence. It is important that the people we support be recognized as citizens of Canada with all of the inalienable rights that entails. It is important that the people we support see themselves as citizens of the world, a larger community of people who wish to live with self-respect, in dignity, as active participating members of society.

At SCS we commit to continue the journey together generation after generation.

David Barber
President, Simcoe Community Services

SCS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2017

The 22nd Simcoe Community Services Golf Tournament held June 16th at Hawk Ridge Golf and Country Club, was a resounding success! A warm, sunny day greeted our golfers, sponsors and volunteers who helped raise close to \$40,000 to support programs for youth with intellectual disabilities in Barrie and Orillia.



Clockwise top left: A bum pat for good luck with Larry Tebby and friends, John Bobbette's foursome puts its best foot forward, SCS golf carts are at the ready, Golfers and volunteers gather with smiles before dinner, volunteer Nicole Miller is looking good in the shade, and 2017 Simcoe Community Services Tournament winners Tom Davies, Paul Davies, Ron Ptasiuk and Gary Greason with a score of 61.

Outcome - People participate in the life of the community



SCS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2017

We're grateful for the support of our 2017 SCS Golf Sponsors! Thank you for making it one of the best tournaments yet.

Presenting Sponsor



Special thank you to our Gold, Silver and Event Sponsors.



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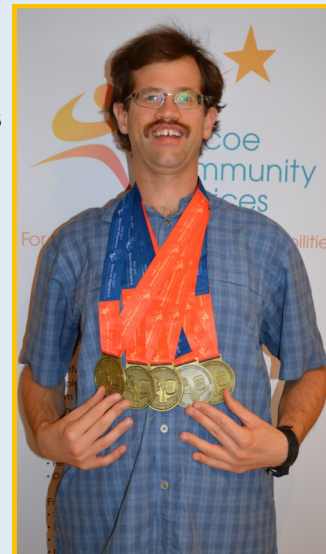
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THE SPARK

All is Golden! by Brian Waring

On July 13-16th I represented the Central Region of Ontario at the Peel Provincial Special Olympics Games. I participated in 5 Events and received the gold medal in all five. This was for the 10k, 5k, 3k, 1500m and 4x400 relay. At least 9 people from Barrie went to represent our region and all of us won medals! I am now looking forward to the regional qualifying for Snowshoeing next winter, and am currently training for these events. Previous times I have participated in the Snowshoeing events I have received medals. My main goal is to one day head to worlds for Snowshoeing or Track and Field.



Outcome - People realize goals

Simcoe Community Services on the radio



Simcoe Community Services was proud to be featured in July on Barrie radio stations 107.5 KOOL FM and ROCK 95. Have a listen [here](#) to our KOOL to Care/ Our Community Rocks ads featuring Simcoe Community Services HR Manager Kim Stephens and Niki Chaltas.



THE SPARK

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, welcome to Barrie!



July 19th, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau paid a visit to Barrie and Gary Black was one of the first in line to meet him. Always up on his politics and current affairs, Gary greeted our Prime Minister with a firm handshake and glowing smile on behalf of everyone from Simcoe Community Services.

Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

THE SPARK

Simcoe Community Services Night with the Barrie Bay Cats

Let's play ball! The first place Barrie Bay Cats played host to Simcoe Community Services Night on June 20th at Coates Stadium in Midhurst. SCS was there to sing O Canada, throw out the first pitch, and grab some photos and an autograph or two with their favourite Bay Cat. A little rain didn't dampen the spirits of those in attendance who cheered Barrie on to a 10-3 victory over the visiting Burlington Herd. Thank you Barrie Bay Cats!



Clockwise top left: Another great rendition of O Canada from Zach Truen, Fiona Fryer gets her autograph, Paul, Shelley and Bruce have the best seat in the house, Jeff Bassel throws out the first pitch, Dave and Mike hang with Bay Cat outfielder Glenn Jackson, enjoying the game with Bob Ames, and Joe Braden and Bay Cat pitcher Enerio Del Rosario share a little pregame strategy.



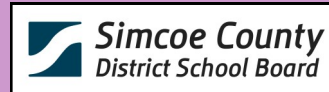
Outcome - People participate in the life of the community



SCS INCLUSION AWARDS

Saluting the 2017 Inclusion Excellence Award Winners

Simcoe Community Services applauds 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 **2017 Inclusion Excellence Award winners**.



Kathy Chapman (centre), Central Consultant on Special Education for the Simcoe County District School Board received the 2017 Simcoe Community Services Inclusion Excellence Award from SCS Stakeholder Relations Manager Jamie Hall (left) and SCDSB Superintendent of Education Chris Samis (right). Kathy, along with Briar Galloway (not present) were honoured during the SCDSB's monthly special education department meeting.



Simcoe Community Services also congratulates the students and educators from the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. These 2017 Inclusion Excellence Award recipients foster an atmosphere of inclusion within their school environment every day and show compassion and respect for students with intellectual disabilities. [#kidsbelongtogether](#)

**Outcome -
People live in
integrated
environments**

STREETS ALIVE

The Streets are Alive in Orillia!

O Canada for Community Supports Services Orillia and Streets Alive! This annual summer long, outdoor art exhibit in downtown Orillia attracts locals, cottagers and tourists to Orillia's downtown streets; stimulating the local economy and getting people excited about Orillia as an arts-friendly city. This summer to mark Canada's 150 birthday, fifty glorious Maple Masterpieces have been on display making Mississauga Street an explosion of colour and creativity that stretches all the way to the port of Orillia.

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 and see the Community Supports Services' sculpture in person. Click [here](#) to see all of this year's sculptures.



Left to right: Maggie Chackasim, Lisa Marshall and Jim Harrison proudly show off this year's Community Supports Orillia Streets Alive maple leaf masterpiece.
Photo: Greg James Thomson

**Outcome - People perform
different social roles**

THE SPARK

Simcoe Community Services is excited to host Dr. Leighton Jay on September 25th at the Barrie Country Club.



Based in Perth, Western Australia, Leighton also assists individuals, families and organizations to develop and implement personalized approaches designed to enable all people to have a good life. He is personally committed to facilitating the empowerment of people who are often marginalized and who live with significant challenges in their lives. He is passionate about enabling all people to have meaningful roles in society, exercise self-direction in their lives and develop social connections and deeper friendships.

Dr. Leighton Jay, Sotica's Principal, works mostly with human and community service organizations to assist them with strategic projects. His organizational dynamics knowledge, expert facilitation skills and well-developed thinking skills have evolved over more than 20 years in leadership positions and in a career as a Management lecturer and researcher at Curtin University in Australia.

Leighton is actively involved in the life of his oldest (adult) son who has significant disability-related challenges and lives in his own home in the community. He also has life experience of mental health recovery both personally and in supporting several family members.

Dr. Leighton Jay will present three separate inspiring sessions on September 25th:

- **Claiming Full Citizenship** - How service provider organizations might think differently about what they do and where they put their energy and effort in order to better support the citizenship rights and opportunities of people with developmental disabilities, especially those with complex support needs.

Outcome - People exercise rights

- **Choice, Control and Supported Decision-Making (SDM)** - To explore together the practical challenges associated with SDM in the context of upholding the human rights of people with developmental disabilities, especially the right to make decisions that affect their own lives.

Outcome - People are respected

- **A Parent's Journey** – Leighton will share some of the pivotal and useful interventions that have helped him on his journey, there will be opportunities for other parents and family members to share their reflections, resonances and stories as well as ask questions and discuss implications.

Outcome - People decide when to share information

During the sessions he will share his insight and personal experience as a parent and leader in advocacy. The audience will be people and families receiving services, community partners, board members and employees. Seating is limited to 150 people per session. Simcoe Community Services looks forward to September 25th and hosting an event to support our ongoing efforts to spark the unlimited potential of all people.



THE SPARK

Meeting a Music Legend by Thea Farrell



Charismatic, sociable and a true music aficionado. That's a good way to describe Doug Harvey. So, you can only imagine how excited Doug was when he learned of the opportunity to meet country music legend Kenny Rogers during a VIP event at Casino Rama.

The evening of the concert began with Doug entertaining patrons with an impromptu Kenny Rogers sing-along at his favourite restaurant, Montana's Cookhouse. One appreciative patron so enjoyed the entertainment they picked up Doug's cheque and wished him a great time at the show. Now, that's singing for your dinner!

Upon arriving at Casino Rama, Doug and the rest of the backstage group were informed Kenny would be unable to sign any autographs due to his severe arthritis. Photos yes, but autographs no. You can imagine Doug's disappointment, however when Kenny finally entered the room, he immediately walked right over to Doug and shook his hand and said, "You must be Doug". Posing for his personal photo op with the country music legend, Doug's face lit up as he broke out into song and started to sing "The Gambler" to Kenny Rogers. To everyone's surprise, Kenny joined in the duet and sang his signature song in its entirety with Doug. What a thrill! After all the applause died down, Doug was then asked if he could join Kenny's manager in the hallway for a special surprise. As Doug waited in the hallway he was greeted once again by Kenny with a special gift, his own personalized copy of Kenny's new gospel CD autographed with the words "To Doug. I hope you enjoy this - Kenny Rogers".

What an amazing experience. Doug says he will truly cherish this memory for as long as he lives. Thank you Kenny Rogers and team.

Outcome - People realize goals

THE SPARK

For the Love of Bowling

Since 2009, children and youth supported by the Simcoe Community Services Family Support Program have enjoyed a summer of strikes, spares and the odd gutter ball thanks to the generosity of the Optimist Club of Barrie. Every Thursday morning, over the course of 8 weeks in July and August, the lanes come alive with laughter at Barrie Bowlerama.

According to Dan Petreman of the Optimist Club, "There's a need for children and youth to be active and have fun. It also gives parents a bit of break, it provides some physical activity and we see many new friendships being built. We're proud to partner with Simcoe Community Services to make this happen."

Thank you Optimist Club of Barrie. We like the way you roll.



Outcome - Children participate in the life of the community



Top: Optimist Club member John Martel and Brigitte Lindne attempt another strike, Jacqueline Cunnington and Brady Tonn (above) give thumbs up to their scores, and (left) happy to oversee all the fun are John Martel with Gwen and Dan Petreman of the Optimist Club of Barrie .



For people with intellectual disabilities

The Board of Directors of Simcoe Community Services invite you to attend our 64th Annual General Meeting **Tuesday September 26th**, at the Mady Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Dunlop Street, Barrie. For more information or to RSVP please contact vellerton@simcoecommunityservices.ca

The 2016/17 **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.

THE SPARK

Summer Adventures to Wonderland by Lyndsay Cleaver

Stacey and Ally are both thrill seekers and love everything about rollercoasters. This was the year they knew they just had to get season passes to Canada's Wonderland. Stacey's favorite rollercoaster is the Dragon Fire. One can climb to 78 feet, travel at speeds of 50 kilometers an hour through four inversions, a corkscrew and helix, however Stacey's favourite part is Dragon Fire's two gigantic loops. Full of smiles every time she's on it, Stacey is ready to line up for the ride over and over again. She's also proud of the stuffed Pokemon she won swinging a hammer at one of the park games.

Ally also loves a good rush. Maybe because it looks like an antique train, or perhaps because it's one of the original Wonderland rides, Ally's favourite is Thunder Run. As a true speed demon, she loves sitting in the front of the coaster. Hang on to your hat Ally!

It's been an exciting summer and both Stacey and Ally can't wait for many more fun-filled days at Canada's Wonderland.



Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

Build On for Simcoe Community Services



Simcoe Community Services was pleased to host Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth for the recent Ministry of Community and Social Services' Build On funding announcement. SCS will be receiving \$126,700 for repairs, renovations and upgrades to improve some of its facilities in Barrie as well as Minesing and Orillia. Simcoe Community Services is grateful for this investment from the province to improve safety and accessibility for people with intellectual disabilities in Barrie and Orillia. To read more about this funding announcement, click [here](#).

VOLUNTEER WITH SCS

5 Questions with SCS volunteer Anna Chapman

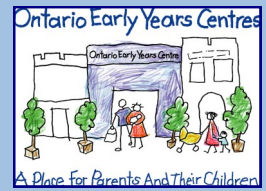


How did you come to be a volunteer with Simcoe Community Services?

I became a volunteer with Simcoe Community Services through my membership with the May Court Club of Barrie.

Describe some of the things you get to help out with as a volunteer at the Ontario Early Years Centre?

As a volunteer at the Ontario Early Years Centre, I get to help prepare the snacks and generally provide assistance interacting with children and caregivers as time permits.



What do you love the most about volunteering at the OEYC?

I love the happy environment at the OEYC. The children are so eager to play and learn, and the staff are very accommodating and welcoming.

What is your greatest strength and how does it help you when you volunteer?

As a retired teacher, my experience has provided me with an interest in volunteering and working with many different people.

Why do you like helping others?

I like helping others because it's very gratifying and fulfilling.

Outcome - People perform different social roles

THANK YOU ANNA on behalf of everyone at Simcoe Community Services and the Ontario Early Years Centre.



Providing Instruments for Excellence in Education

Thank you Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte MP Alex Nuttall and PIE Wood Fired Pizza for the generous donation of over 200 back to school backpacks filled with school supplies to families in the SCS Family Support Program and Ontario Early Years Centre. Left, sisters Renaya and Jazlyn can't wait to go back to school with their new backpacks after picking them up at the OEYC!

Outcome - Children and their families choose developmental, academic and vocational priorities

THE SPARK

FASD: REALITIES & POSSIBILITIES THE MYLES HIMMELREICH STORY

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES
FREE ADMISSION! NO RSVP REQUIRED!

BARRIE

Tuesday September 12, 2017
Barrie Ontario Early Years Centre
129 Ferris Lane

For more information contact Kathryn at
705-326-6502 ext. 3106

Presented in recognition of International
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
Awareness Day by:



SIMCOE COUNTY

FASD

PREVENTION COMMITTEE



Simcoe
Community
Services

For people with intellectual disabilities

Myles Himmelreich was adopted at three years of age and lives with a diagnosis within Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). In this movie, with humour and candor, Myles bravely shares the story of his life and experiences. Myles' story has inspired his audiences by revealing both heart-breaking events and his powerful inner spirit, a demonstration of hope for all individuals living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Let's Get Active Simcoe Community Services!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's SCS Let's Get Active Challenge. Congratulations again to our winners.



SCS' most active participant,
Senior Support Worker Lisa
Springhall.



Left: The team with the highest activity percentage - **Between a Walk and a Hard Place**, represented by the staff at Mary Street, Barrie. Congratulations to Tosha, Louisa, Lisa, Georgina and Angela (absent from photo). Enjoy your healthy lunch ladies!

Overall, 19 teams and 149 participants took part in the Let's Get Active Challenge. In total, we completed 656 hours of physical activity! On average, every single person completed 29 hours of physical activity over 4 weeks. Way to go!

In the Individual Competition, honourable mention goes out to Central Records Administrative Associate Sarah Berry, and Support Worker Lorie Compton who finished in second and third place. In the Team Competition, shout outs go to the 119 Johnson Street team, No Loose Ends (Central Records), Where's The Faith (Property and Procurement) and Body Breaker's (Family Services)

We hope you enjoyed this year's challenge and know you'll stay active!

Healthy Workplace Committee

myhealthyworkplace@simcoecommunityservices.ca

**Outcome - People have
the best possible health**

SCS MILESTONES

June 2017– August 2017 SCS Service Award Recipients

Maxine Johnson - Programs and Services - 35 years
Carol Steeves - Accommodations Orillia - 25 years
Sandra Childs - Accommodations Orillia - 25 years
Mike Turner - Community Support Services Orillia - 20 years
Nadine Laframboise - Accommodations Barrie - 20 years
Shirley Guitard - Accommodations Barrie - 20 years
Erin Davey - Accommodations Barrie - 20 years
Angela Bendo - Accommodations - 15 years
Katie Marshall - Accommodations Barrie - 15 years
Soulange Burrows - Accommodations Orillia - 15 years
Judi Benton - Preschool Services - 15 years
Miriam Torres - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Tim Loftus - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Tasha Martin - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Ron Cameron - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Lyndsay Cleaver - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Andrea Van Leusen - Family Support Services - 10 years
Brittany Trace - Community Support Services Barrie - 10 years
Kimberly Stillinger - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Cheryl St. John - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Keith Horkins - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Carolyn Harris - Family Support Services - 10 years
Michelle Baker - Accommodations Barrie 10 years
Julia Taylor - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years



**Outcome - People realize
personal goals**

Career Opportunities

Established in 1953, **Simcoe Community Services** now employs over 550 full-time and part-time staff in a wide range of programs and services, making it one of the largest employers in Simcoe County. Services are offered in Barrie, Orillia, Bradford, and surrounding Townships.

Simcoe Community Services is a respectful, caring and inclusive workspace. By embracing diversity, we gain strength through people and different perspectives.

Join Our Team. If you wish to be a part of this great organization, that believes in team work and individual growth, [you'll find it here](#). Applications can be delivered via mail, email or in person.



FOUNDATION UPDATE



Your SCS Foundation in the Community



We've got great friends at Old Navy. Manager **Paige Jones** (second from left) and her Old Navy Park Place team presented Simcoe Community Services Foundation President Ron Ptasiuk with this cheque for \$3000.00. Paige was one of a select few nominated throughout Canada for the annual Fisher Award for Store Excellence. The award recognizes Gap Inc. employees who embody the company's core values: innovation, integrity, community and store excellence. Along with her nomination, Paige was able to donate to the charity of her choice - Simcoe Community Services. SCS is honoured to partner with Old Navy, through our annual Fashion Show and Job Readiness Program. We congratulate Paige with this prestigious nomination and most generous donation to



Congratulations to **Graeme Thomas** for being named the Delta Gaming Centre Volunteer of the Month for July. Along with the Kiwanis Club of Barrie, Graeme is extremely dedicated to volunteering at Simcoe Community Services Foundation Bingo. His efforts have significantly helped to raise funds for individuals with an intellectual disability and their families. Graeme has also built close relationships with many of the Delta Gaming Centre staff and regular players, and everyone loves to see him. Congratulations Graeme, and thank you for all you do!

Outcome - People realize goals

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.



FOUNDATION UPDATE



Your SCS Foundation at work



SCS Youth worker Rebecca Pilgrim (far left) and Joy Hollosi recently accepted a cheque on behalf of the SCS Foundation in the amount of \$4000.00 from Alya Demiray (right) of the May Court Club of Barrie. It's another great summer for youth at Simcoe Community Services thanks to the May Court Club's generous donation that will benefit SCS Youth and summer campership programs.



Elijah Wilson (left) is currently supported through the SCS Resource Teacher Program. He and his family would like to thank the SCS Foundation for the special funding that allowed them to purchase this new car seat. It gives the Wilson family great piece of mind knowing Elijah can travel with the utmost safety and comfort. Enjoy the ride Elijah!

Outcome - Children are safe

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.

Simcoe Community Services Board of Directors

David Barber- *President*
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United Way
Centraide
Simcoe Muskoka



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

Simcoe Community Services Foundation Board of Trustees

Ron Ptasiuk - *President*
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Valerie Scott - *Trustee*
Miriam Villamil-Pallister - *Trustee*

When you make a financial contribution to the Simcoe Community Services Foundation 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 Simcoe Community Services Foundation 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