



For people with intellectual disabilities

THE SPARK

Spring 2016 - Issue #01

Igniting the unlimited potential of all people

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The April/May Thought of the Month is **Participation**. SCS supports people to participate in the life of their community. Find out on Sharepoint about the Simcoe Community Services Participation Challenge, and how you can win with this card.



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According to dictionary.com, a spark is defined as *the light produced by a sudden discontinuous discharge of electricity through the air*. A spark can also mean *anything that triggers or stimulates inspiration*. It's this latter meaning that so aptly describes the SCS spirit of **Igniting the unlimited potential of all people**. Please welcome back your SCS newsletter and the first edition of The Spark.



And we're thrilled to congratulate Kayla Hall, SSW at 12 Ferguson Drive. Capturing 47% of the vote, Kayla's entry **The Spark**, was by far and away your favourite on Sharepoint in the recent Name the SCS Newsletter contest. We hope you enjoy your new SCS hoodie, ball cap and coffee mug Kayla. And thank you for helping to spark a place here which celebrates the acceptance of all people with different abilities in our community.

Please help us spread the word and share your digital edition of The Spark. We look forward to growing our subscription base with the people we support, their families, donors to SCS, our volunteers, and to the public. May The Spark burn brightly for countless editions to come for Simcoe Community Services.

THE SPARK

Message from President David Barber

SCS has undergone profound changes in the past six months as we rediscover our commitment to our community at large. We have rededicated ourselves to reaching out to our partners, colleagues and associates in Simcoe County. Transformation and change are all around us and we at SCS believe that more than ever, we have a significant part to play in the lives of people with an intellectual disability.



We are committed to extending our expertise and resources in the face of new and challenging subsidy methods that will fundamentally alter dynamically, the way new parents are able to direct and allocate the assets they are provided with by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). We see ourselves not as a business but rather as part of a humanitarian effort to provide service and support to people seeking to be recognized as valued, contributing members of society. The NEW WORLD will require us to demonstrate to families that SCS is the pre-eminent developmental service organization of the highest standards, well trained, educated and committed to quality assurance measures,

accredited and the place where their family member will be safe and able to fulfill their full potential.

We will need to compete with other service providers in order to attract new people into our service as MCSS and Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) will not automatically be directing parents to SCS. They will be free to take their resources and spend them wherever they please. This is our brave new world and this is the fundamental change that we as an organization must make in order to embrace and ignite the future.

David Barber
President



On April 16th, the Barrie Examiner's Cheryl Browne participated in the Media Taptix Challenge at the Boardwalk Gaming Centre. Cheryl is a member of our Public Awareness Committee. Representing SCS as the charity of her choice, Cheryl went up against 8 other not-for-profits and came out the big winner winning \$1000 for the Simcoe Community Services Foundation.



Whether we'd won or not, it's wonderful to have such terrific community partners who advocate for people with intellectual disabilities.

Congratulations Cheryl and thank you for playing on our behalf!



THE SPARK

A new home for children and parents to grow

On February 27th, the Takagi family, along with Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte M.P. Alex Nuttall, SCS CEO Bill Silk, Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman, SCS Preschool Manager Michele Kapteyn, Barrie M.P.P. Ann Hoggarth, and SCS President David Barber, officially cut the ribbon welcoming the Barrie Ontario Early Years Centre to its new home at 129 Ferris Lane. Congratulations to the OEYC staff on all their hard work in making the transition to a wonderful new space that supports all children, parents and caregivers in their roles.



Listen [here](#) to SCS Preschool Manager Michele Kapteyn's KOOL-FM radio interview about the Grand Opening of the Barrie Ontario Early Years Centre .

107.5 KOOL FM

FASHION SHOW 2016

Saluting SCS's Community Champions

To the strains of We Are The Champions by Queen, the models from the 21st annual Simcoe Community Services Fashion Show took their final bow and waved back jubilantly to the standing ovation crowd at The Ranch. From Special Olympians to superstars in employment and volunteerism, this year's show on April 21st highlighted the best in Community Champions.

According to model and SCS President David Barber, "This year's show was filled with excitement, enthusiasm and good fun. This event is what SCS and the SCS Foundation are all about."



Clockwise from top left: Annemarie Coughlin with Mom Karen and Dad Dennis, Allison Bobbette waves with Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman looking on, Rebecca Semmens busts a move, as does Paul Ferris with the Barrie Examiner's Brian Rodnick.



In case you missed it, see CTV's coverage of the SCS Fashion Show by clicking [here](#).

FASHION SHOW 2016

Who else was rockin' the runway as SCS Community Champions



Clockwise from top left:
Tracy O'Connor and
Angie Hinton receive a
Firefighter escort, P.J.
Gallagher salutes with
Barb Caicco, Emcees
Tara Dawn and Matt
McLean of Fresh Radio,
dapper Brian Waring
with CTV's Alastair
Connolly, Jenny
Addison and Kevin
O'Halloran of Starbucks,
James Taylor with the
Barrie Baycats, Thomas
Marsden-Jones shows
off his ride with Dana
Quinn of Motion
Specialities, and J.F.
Picard entertains the
crowd at the Ranch.



YOUTH RETREAT 2016

Contributed by SCS Youth Worker Rebecca Pilgrim - The 2016 Youth Retreat was a great success! Over 50 youth attended this year's retreat held at the YMCA Geneva Park, from Wednesday March 16th - Friday March 18th. Some of the highlights included the "Night at the Oscar's" on Wednesday and the "Let Your Light Shine" Dance on Thursday evening, as well as the two guest speakers: *Johnny Henderson* on Thursday and *Matt Tod* on Friday. Again this year, the Youth Program partnered with the Therapeutic Recreation program at Georgian College, who truly made the retreat a success. The students made a significant contribution as they created and facilitated fun and engaging activities throughout the three days. When asked if she would attend next year's retreat, **Mackenzie Campbell** replied, "Yeah! 100%, for sure, it was the best!" and **Zach Truen** agreed, saying "That was a fun trip." Everyone went home with a smile on their face and can't wait until next year's retreat!



(Pictured clockwise top left) MacKenzie Campbell, Zach Truen, and Shelby Cookson.

SCS EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

The Secret to My Success - Katrina Kelbert

What is the secret to my success? I have a lot of work experience that got me this job like working at Shopper's Drug Mart, the Hair Salon, the Horse farm, the Country Dog House and now Bruno's. To work at Bruno's you need kitchen and cooking experience. When I went to school, I worked in the cafeteria and in the classroom kitchen. I also learned about how to use a knife safely. I also participated in some baking with the YAK program. When I first started working, I was slow, but the more I worked the quicker I would get. I learned new stuff every time I worked, like mixing the cooked vegetables with garlic. It smells and tastes so good. It also helps to be on time or to be a bit early. You have to be friendly all the time to the customers and especially your boss. You need to follow the rules, like putting your hair up in the kitchen and washing your hands. I sometimes stay late when they need me. I also do extra work by helping with catering outside the bakery. You need to call your employer and your worker when you aren't going to be in.



Why did I get hired? It's because I am nice and friendly and I like to try new things. My favourite thing to do is helping out the pastry chef. I like putting holes in star cookies, cooking them and placing jam in the middle and icing sugar. I like baking and would like more time learning about baking.

Everyone at Bruno's is very nice, I feel comfortable around these people. If you don't feel comfortable, you don't like your job. They understand even when I don't feel well and need to take my time. My family has been very supportive. They help me with getting to work, my money and reporting my income. They also like to hear about my day, even when I don't feel like

talking to them.

Simcoe Community Services helped me with providing a job coach to help me learn about food safety, knife handling, customer service and learning about working in the kitchen and in the restaurant. With the experience at Bruno's, I now have bakery and cooking experience to use at a different job, like in a bigger bakery or restaurant.

I love baking and doing something with my hands. When I'm in the bakery, I am having so much fun and feel like a kid again with "flash backs" of being in high school decorating cookies. One day I would like to be a Baker or a Baker's Assistant so that one day I could own my own bakery business.

Katrina on the job with Sylvia Alonzi, owner of Bruno's Bakery Café in Innisfil



FOUNDATION UPDATE

How a green thumb can help Simcoe Community Services?

When you're out getting your garden and lawn ready this spring, 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.



Thank you Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery...and may your garden bloom for you this spring!

Save the date!

The 21st Annual Simcoe Community Services Golf Tournament is scheduled for **Friday June 17th** at Hawkridge Golf and Country Club in Orillia. Contact Jamie for sponsorship opportunities and to book your foursome at jhall@simcoecommunityservices.ca.



Simcoe Community Services Foundation significantly raises funds to 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

Let's play ball with the Barrie Bay Cats!

As part of Community Living Month, join us **Thursday May 26th** at 7:30pm for **Simcoe Community Services Night** with the Barrie Bay Cats. The Intercounty Baseball League Champ Bay Cats take on the Toronto Maple Leafs at Coates Stadium in Midhurst and Simcoe Community Services will be featured all evening helping throw out the first pitch, with player introductions and with singing the National Anthem. Who knows, there might be some cool prize giveaways too!

For tickets, contact Jamie at communications@simcoecommunityservices.ca.



And the Winner is....

The OEYC loves to read! Research tells us that children who grow up in a print rich environment have better literacy outcomes. That's why we're happy to announce that Liz Gorzo was the lucky recipient at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Bradford of a hand selected basket of books appropriate for children ages 0 – 6 years of age.

Liz's name was drawn from all of the participants who filled out the 2016 OEYC biennial survey, either electronically or in paper format. Thank you to all the participants who took the time to fill out the survey. Congratulations again Liz!



Liz Gorzo left, receives her basket of books from OEYC Preschool Supervisor Stephanie Rowbotham

Simcoe Community Services strives to provide quality supports and services. We continually gather information and evaluate the services we provide. We do this in a variety of ways and rely on the people and families accessing our services to share with us how they think we are doing.

Some of the ways we gather this information is by listening to you, completing Personal Outcomes Measure Interviews, Surveys, review of the Complaints Hotline, and through ongoing Audits of supports and planning processes. In the upcoming months tune in here to see what we have learned and our efforts to move forward.

We want to hear from you! We are always looking to hear your thoughts about the services we provide. Please visit www.simcoecommunityservices.ca and click on the feedback tab to share your thoughts and ideas.

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, and Robyn Pugsley.

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