

everyone belongs



Fort St. John Association
For Community Living

What's Up!

Spring 2014

Upcoming

Pay It Forward Day is on June 13, 2014

AGM/Community Living Awards Gala in September

Community Living Month is October

Of The Vine on October 18th

Mark your calendars!

Representative for Youth and Young Adults

Chris Wagner, an advocate with the office that represents children and youth is touring the province to inform service providers of their services and will be visiting Fort St John Later this month.

The representative for Children and Youth is an Independent Officer of the Legislature who supports children, youth (up to 25 yrs of age) and families who need help in dealing with the service system.

For more information:

1-800-476-3933 or www.rcybc.ca

Thank you John Cunningham & DGS

We would like to very sincerely thank John Cunningham and DGS Astro Paving for their many years of support. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the many wonderful people who are the faces of this very generous, Community minded organization.



Last year's Of The Vine was another huge success. A great time was had by all and through the generosity of the sponsors and the people who attended we raised over \$30,000!

A huge thank you to all that sponsors who support this event and we look forward to the next one on October 18th, 2014.

NEW On Our Website

We have a new link on our website where you can provide your feedback on our services.

Please let us know how we are doing!

www.fsjacl.com

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Supported Employment



John Parenteau

“always eager to work and has a very positive attitude”

John attends the Fort St. John Association for Community Living Community Connections and Supported Employment Program a few days a week. He has recently started working within the FSJACL to discover what his job strengths are.

The Supported Employment team started him with a janitorial position where he has been restocking items, doing light cleaning around the building and other odd jobs when required. John is always eager to work and has a very positive attitude. He also looks for other ways to help out above and beyond what is asked of him. Support staff who work alongside John say he is very personable, extremely motivated and loves to help out. John quickly

mastered the necessary employment skills, not only for his janitorial position, but also for filling in on the Green Team recycling program.

When working with the Green Team he is friendly with his co-workers and motivated to get the job done well. He stays focused throughout his shifts and finishes on time. John’s co-workers often comment on how reliable and cheerful he is to work with.

Everyone loves to run into John when he’s working because he is such a friendly and welcoming person. Having someone with such a great attitude and work ethic would be a great addition to any business team.

Real Work for Real Pay

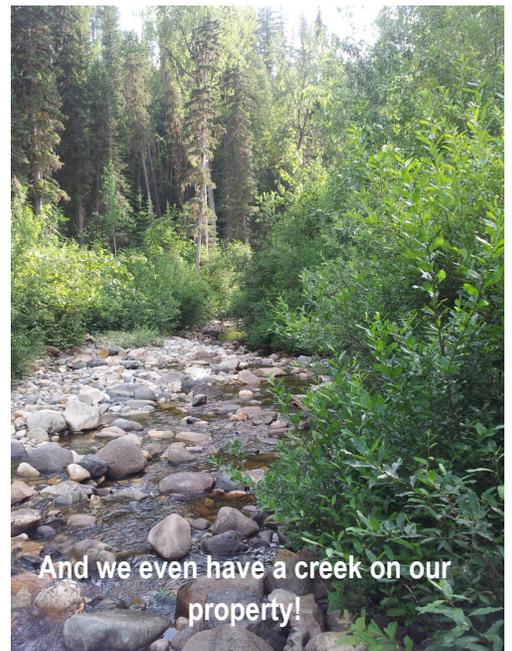
Equal Opportunity in the Workplace is important to not only the people we support but to the businesses that hire them. If you are interested in hiring someone with a disability or just have questions, please call the Fort St John Association for Community Living’s Employment Coordinator, Sheri Ashdown at (250) 787-9262, ext 234 or e-mail her at sheri.ashdown@fsjacl.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

A Note from Cory

This will be my last FSJACL Newsletter. I have purchased land in Hixon BC and will be moving at the end of April. I would like to sincerely thank the community of Fort St. John for all you have done for the FSJACL and I encourage you to continue to keep contributing and being involved in the lives of people with disabilities.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my position with the FSJACL and will miss being here. I not only thank the FSJACL for making my job wonderful but for all they do in enabling people with developmental disabilities to have a good life.

I will keep in touch and I encourage people that know me to stop in and visit us in Hixon!



And we even have a creek on our property!

What's Happening

The FSJACL operates 4 residential homes, a home share program, a day program and a supported employment program. Each home is considered a home and not a program, and the supervisor and staff endeavour to support each person in the home to live the life they choose. Life is busy in each home, with people going to activities, events, and work.

The day program, called Community Connections, operates Monday to Friday and has a variety of activities. Weekly yoga with Sheri Anderson, Lettuce Be Healthy workshops with Northern Health, Sign Language classes, Arts & Crafts, Cooking and Shopping, and outings such as Billiards at the Casino, Soup & Bannock at the Friendship Centre, Aqua Fit, Walking Track, and community walks, just to name a few.



The Supported Employment program has had huge success. Many businesses in Fort St. John are now on board and have either hired or are ready to hire a person with a disability. Almost every person on our waiting list that wants to work, now has job.

Healthy Advocates

The Healthy Advocates was started to promote a more healthy and active lifestyle for people with disabilities. People we support can apply for items such as gym, bowling and swim passes. So far this has been a great success.

FSJACL Cooking Club



Kelsey Stevens having a laugh during Cooking Club

The FSJACL started a Cooking Club for people with developmental disabilities who live on their own in the community.

Funds to start this group were provided through a donation from The Legion, but it's kept going through other funds raised through "Of the Vine" and also donations received from DGS Astro Paving from their Annual Golf Tournament.

The group meets once a week to make and share a meal, with enough left-

overs to take home for another meal or two. Most of the recipes they use come from the Looney Spoons cookbook, of which 10 copies were donated by the lovely Looney Spoon ladies.

Its a great evening of friendship, fun and nutritional food, that prevents isolation for some living alone and mentors healthy cooking skills.

The FSJACL Board

The FSJACL has a board of 8 members who give direction to our Executive Director.

Our present board members are: Jennifer Snider, Angela Telford, Sharon Doerksen, Patti Ternier-Smith, Ryan Taylor, Amanda Huhn, Ilona Amstutz, and Kevin Marques.

We would like to thank the board for volunteering their time and expertise to the FSJACL.



Board—2010



The FSJACL introduced a new way to communicate and support individuals with a disability and their families. It's a tool called TYZE Personal Networks. TYZE was created by PLAN and is a secure on-line private network system.

Another great example of our fundraising dollars at work!

ed by PLAN and is a secure on-line private network system.

But TYZE is much more than this—it's a place to celebrate, a way to stay in touch, and a chance to feel connected in a whole new way!

To learn more about TYZE, Log onto:

www.tyze.com

To set up a TYZE site for a person the FSJACL supports:

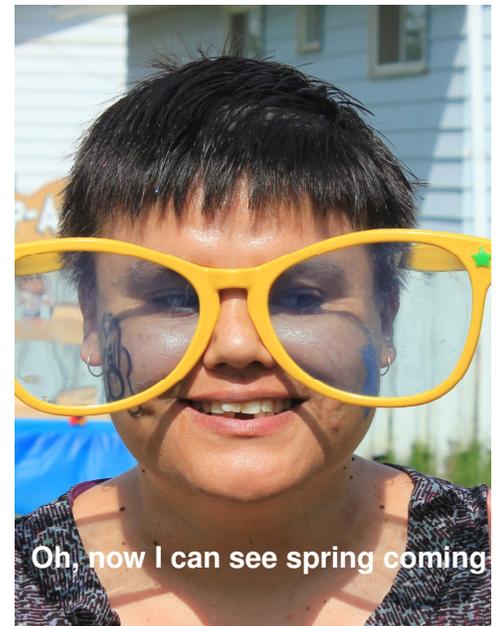
Don't take life too seriously. You'll never get out of it alive.

Elbert Hubbard

At the Fort St. John Association for Community Living, we actively and progressively involve individuals with developmental disabilities in the community to the best of their abilities, giving them a safe environment to grow, develop, and reach their potential so they can live full lives in their community - by celebrating their abilities, successes, gifts, and dreams, we can help people reach their potential.

Providing quality services to adults with developmental disabilities for over 50 years

RDSP
(Registered Disability Savings Plan)
 A way for people who receive the Disability Tax Credit to save money for their future. It can include the Canada Disability Savings Grant and the Canada Disability Savings Bond.
 To find out more:
www.disabilitysavings.gc.ca
 Or contact Kathy Lube at Investor's Group at 250-785-4312



Oh, now I can see spring coming

Everyone Belongs!



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