



# RYGIEL NEWS

Spring 2016

## Transitions and Traditions

***“Every person we support will have a full and meaningful life, which means having a home, relationships of all kinds, and a variety of socially valued roles.”***

As we enjoy the season of spring we witness transformation—the awakening of our gardens, our birds, our trees. New life is seen all around us.

This symbolism is carried into our work within the Developmental Services sector. Throughout our history, individuals and families have challenged themselves, their communities, government to a vision of community belonging. More than ever, we have social policy that recognizes the dignity of each person, the right to full citizenship and promotes the social inclusion of everyone.

It is the experience of belonging which really brings transformation – the new life of human spirit. When we belong in family, in a circle of friends, in our workplace, in groups, in neighbourhoods, we have inner satisfaction, we have opportunities to experience, to give, to be supported. It is all these elements that give personal satisfaction, forms our individual identity and ultimately gives us true meaning.

While we have good social policy, the impact on a person comes from the support they receive – putting principles into action. Throughout our agency, we continue to intentionally support folks in a way that leads to a good life. There are many wonderful stories to share – some you will find in this edition of our newsletter.

In the winter edition, we announced the “Siena” project, the acquisition of the former St. Catherine of Siena School which

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## Donors Making the Difference

As with any large project, the support of donors is essential. We would like to thank the following early donors for their contribution to our new building:

- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Federal Enabling Accessibility Grant
- LoPresti Pharmacy
- Dalton Timmis Insurance
- Manulife
- Al Minakar
- Margaret Shields
- Kay O'Sullivan
- Donna Marcaccio

We are still in need of your contribution. You may be able to help us by connecting us with suppliers for donations of the following:

- Landscaping supplies
- AV Equipment—sound system, projector, sponsorships to modify computers for use by people supported
- Kitchen appliances
- Furnishings for the Family Resource Centre
- Financial Donations

Contact John Baxter at [jbaxter@rygiel.ca](mailto:jbaxter@rygiel.ca).

will be transformed into a community hub. At the time of writing this article, I am pleased to say that the renovations are well underway. The parking for use by Gilkson Park will be limited this summer but, there will be many more parking spaces next summer.



We continue to work tirelessly on our fundraising efforts. If you are able to assist in any way with this project, please contact our office.

In addition to all our regular work, we are active in some provincial work that is assisting with some of the changes being planned.

Specifically, we are contributing to provincial efforts on the renewal of family engagement. In addition, Rygiel is a member of a working group developing a policy paper to assist with the implantation of Individualized and Direct Funding, a funding model that the Ministry is committed to growing.

Not only are these pieces of work gratifying as we contribute to the ongoing transformation of our service system, these are also wonderful learning opportunities which can then bring ideas back into the agency, thereby, further enhancing opportunities to people we support.

As summer approaches, I hope everyone can find some time for relaxation, to restore one's energy and enjoy nature's transformative elements that are around us.

***Donna Marcaccio, Executive Director***

# 9th Annual Golf Tournament

Here's your chance to get out of the office and support some wonderful people in our community.

On **July 14, 2016**, Rygiel Homes Housing Corporation will host its 9th Annual Golf Tournament. This year it will be held at Glendale Golf and Country Club in Hamilton. Part of the Clublink group, Glendale is one of the grande dames of golf in the Hamilton region.



Your golf day will help us ensure that individuals with a developmental disability along with other handicapping conditions have safe, appropriate, and affordable

barrier-free homes in which to live.

In addition to golfing, there are still great opportunities to support the Golf Tournament with your sponsorship. Whether you sponsor a tee, choose to be a platinum sponsor or pick any level in between (including some exclusive sponsorships), your support will help make this a successful event.

For more information, visit the Rygiel website (events page) or contact Viola Galamini at [vgalamini@rygiel.ca](mailto:vgalamini@rygiel.ca) or 905-525-4311 extension 223.

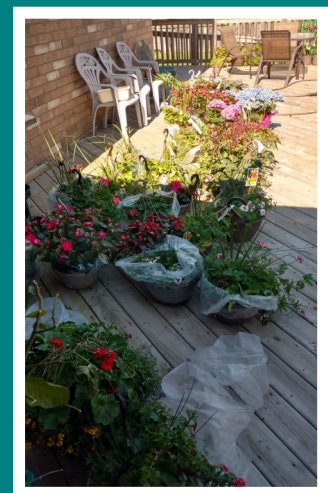


## Our Thanks to Bonanza Gardens

We are pleased to announce that for the third year, Bonanza Gardens, located at Costco in Ancaster brings colour to our homes.

Thanks to Tony Perrone and Randy Chapple of Bonanza Gardens. The gift of nature and all its beautiful colours are gracing the homes in which we support folks.

Bonanza Gardens has provided planters and flowers that our residents can care for at their homes. We thank them for being a tremendous community supporter who understands the importance of providing hands on opportunities for residents, having pleasantly esthetic homes and contributing to enhancement of the neighborhood.





# Pasta Supper

What's for dinner? On March 10th, it was pasta and meatballs. 1000 meatballs to be exact.

Thanks to Vanda Sciuolo and her volunteer team of 15 friends, all of them seniors, more than 200 people were treated to a great dinner. Most ate in but take out was also available. Either way, the food was delicious and filling. No one went hungry.

In addition to the great food, dinner guests were treated to a caricature artist drawing portraits and a



chance to win one of several door prizes. A 50-

50 draw and raffle rounded out the fundraising evening.

\$3,000 was raised to contribute to services for those supported by Rygiel.



Vanda Sciuolo and volunteers at the Pasta Supper

## Dalton Timmis Insurance Raffle



Our thanks to Dalton Timmis Insurance Ltd. for holding a Mother's Day Raffle to support Rygiel. The staff raised over \$400. The insurance Brokers Association of Hamilton (IBAH) matched the donation and the Dalton Timmis Social Committee donated an additional \$200. A cheque for \$1,000 was presented.

## Partnership with Social Planning and Research Council

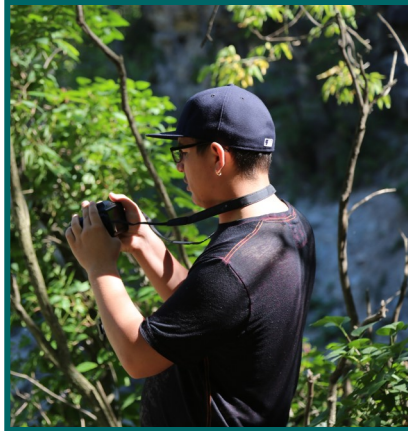
Rygiel is excited to announce that we have engaged in a partnership with Social Planning and Research Council whereby their community development staff who is working with five of our homes. The goal is to become familiar with the assets of the neighbourhood, to meet others in the neighbourhood and work to building relationships.

The lessons learned by all parties will be shared with others in our agency, with other projects within the Social and Research Council and other interested groups.

The overall framework is to improve neighbourhood engagement. Rygiel, people supported and their staff have will be participating in a number of community events to offer their insights.

## Passion for Photography

Two years ago, Jordan Schmidt was struggling to find activities he enjoyed. He didn't like art, wasn't really interested in music, and scrapbooking wasn't his thing.



Then Tracy Perrin from the Day Program put a camera in his hands, and Jordan was hooked.

From that day forward, Jordan's world has changed. He has discovered his talent for capturing the world through a lens. He says, "Pictures speak louder than words."

As Jordan's interest in photography grew, he wanted to develop his skills. He started taking photos at events for Rygiel and family members, self learning. However, his growth was limited.

With the help of Rygiel staff, Jordan decided to pursue a college diploma at Mohawk College in photography. He is now enrolled at Mohawk in the Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) program and expects to graduate in 2017.

When asked what he likes about attending Mohawk, Jordan said, "I like that I have met new friends and that I get to learn more about photography. I am also very excited to graduate and have everyone there who as supported me."

Rygiel staff continue to support Jordan's passion. In addition to taking photos at events, Jordan is being given homework and one of his home staff members, Marco, will assist him.

As Jordan gets ready to enter his second year at Mohawk, he is beginning to plan for his future in photography. "My goal is to open up my own photography business", says Jordan.

Rygiel will be there to support Jordan in reaching this goal. Thoughts are already leaning toward a development of a social enterprise that will provide service and employment in the community.



Jordan's journey into the realm of photography is exciting—for Jordan and for those who support him.

# Drum Circle With Cell Phones?

Dean Gagnon, who leads our drum circle, has started to incorporate Tablet and Smart Phone technology into the drum circles. As crazy as this may sound, Dean's concept is making a difference.

Here is how it works. A dub-step app was loaded onto a cell phone and the phone was amplified. Participants at the program were given a chance to use the app rhythmically along with the drumming.

The results couldn't have been better. The amplified phone provided a level of interaction with the group that wasn't limited by dexterity or ability. It allowed the participant to be heard clearly within the circle, giving them a heightened sense of presence and belonging.



The only issue after the trial was how to economically get more phones into the hands of the participants at the Rhythm Factory. Thankfully Donna Marcaccio stepped in at that point and donated the current cell phones used by the Rygiel office once they upgrade to newer phones. This was serendipitous, because the program can now take the next step in the integration of this technology.


Dean, and everyone at The Rhythm Factory, is very excited to bring new technology and techniques to the help the Drum Circle participants expand their means of expression. If you are interested helping the program, Dean needs smart phones (android or Apple based) and tablets of any kind.

If you are interested in helping the program or want to learn more, contact John Baxter at 905-525-4311 or [jbaxter@rygiel.ca](mailto:jbaxter@rygiel.ca).



**You Are Invited ...**

The graphic features a background of green rays radiating from a central point. At the top, a white box contains the Rygiel logo and tagline. The word 'AGM' is written in large white letters in the center. A blue banner at the bottom contains the event details in white text.

**Rygiel** 

SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

*Inspiring possibilities.*

**AGM**

**June 27, 2016 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Nicholas Mancini Centre**  
**44 Hunt Street, Hamilton**

In addition to the meeting, we will be presenting a number of awards  
RSVP to Serena at [sbignani@rygiel.ca](mailto:sbignani@rygiel.ca) or 905-525-4311



**Mark Your Calendar**

Rygiel Supports for Community Living

## **4th Annual Holiday Bazaar**

**Saturday, December 3rd**

*First time at our new location*

**Vendors**

**Pancake Breakfast**

**Refreshments from the Blossom Cafe**

**Crafts**

**Baked Goods**

**Raffles**

Rygiel Supports for Community Living is a registered charitable organization that supports people who have a developmental disability and other handicapping conditions. We are located in Hamilton, Ontario and serve the Greater Hamilton community.

**Charitable Registration #119130425RR0001**

**Email: [info@rygiel.ca](mailto:info@rygiel.ca)**

### **Contact Us**

For more information or to make a donation, call us at:

**Rygiel Supports for  
Community Living  
905-525-4311**

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.rygiel.ca](http://www.rygiel.ca)