

# New Directions

**Summer 2019**

GUELPH  
Independent **LIVING**

Quarterly Agency Newsletter

[www.guelphindependentliving.org](http://www.guelphindependentliving.org)



## Inside:

- Executive Director's Reflections
- Annual General Meeting
- Employee Service Awards
- Health Care Transformation
- Job Observation Reminder
- Loopwheels
- Medical Assistance in Dying
- 100+ Men Who Give a Damn
- 2019 Leisure Events

## Mark it in Your Calendar!

**Thursday September 12**

**St. Jacob's Market**

St. Jacobs

**Thursday October 24**

**Annie (the Musical)**

Hamilton Family Theatre, Cambridge

**Tuesday November 5**

**Play with Clay Pottery Party**

87 Neeve Activity Room

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The agency's utmost achievement was the development and release of our promotional video 'I am GIL' featuring accolades from clients, employees and the Board. Hearing the client testimonials is a powerful reminder of the purpose and success of Guelph Independent Living in providing choice for clients to remain at home with vital community supports. Many thanks go to everyone who shared their stories and to summer student, Alexa Matteis, for bringing this goal to fruition. The video is posted at: <https://youtu.be/rVxkcEgK4fc>

Our second main achievement was the settlement of a four-year Collective Agreement with OPSEU Local 203. The Employee and Employer teams worked diligently to negotiate a contract which values the front-line workforce as they support clients. This agreement will take GIL through March 31, 2021. Through the combined effort of all employees, GIL successfully balanced its budget without impacting on quality service delivery.

The past year has been one of transformation within the Ministry of Health. A new government elected in June 2018, under the conservative leadership of Premier Doug Ford, quickly established a Premier's Council to investigate and inform the future of Ontario's health system. Their first of a number of public reports, titled 'Hallway Health Care: A

System Under Strain' was released in January 2019 and the second, titled 'A Healthy Ontario: Building a Sustainable Healthcare System' in July 2019. In conjunction with these reports was the introduction of Ontario Health Teams (OHTs); a new approach of organizing and delivering services in local communities. Under OHTs, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and, home and community care) will work as one coordinated team. GIL looks forward to ongoing participation with other local health providers as the OHT reform unfolds; and to advocating for our client population and Independent Living services. Please see the article on pg 9 for more details about OHTs.

From our dedicated group of employees who support our agency's mission, providing valuable services to our many clients and tenants on a daily basis, to the commitment of a skilled Board of Directors; everyone's role is vital to our success. My deepest thanks go out to all of these individuals plus the network of community partners, funders and donors, who support GIL's ability to serve.

Sincerely,  
*Janet*



## GUELPH STORM 50/50 FUNDRAISER

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2019  
VS OWEN SOUND**

PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

(VOLUNTEERS TO ARRIVE AT 6:00PM)

If you would like to volunteer selling 50/50 tickets for GIL's fundraiser please contact Rowena at (519) 836-1812 x249 or [rowena@guelphindependentliving.org](mailto:rowena@guelphindependentliving.org) by September 18

# GIL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**The Board of Directors held meetings on May 28 and June 19, 2019; highlights include:**

- Approval of vendor for LED florescent bulb replacement, distribution of RFP for flooring replacement projects, annual unit inspections and stairwell refurbishment at Willow Place,
- Review of the year-end data submission to the WWLHIN, noting all programs met targets in 2018-19,
- Review of monies approved for GIL's Endowment and Transportation funds in 2018-19,
- Approval of Annual Information Return (Housing) and WWLHIN Schedule G – Declaration of Compliance (Health) for April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019,
- Executive Director's report with updates on health care transformation, client town hall meetings, Administration changes (hiring of interim Human Resources Manager and summer student) and reports submitted for the WWLHIN and United Way, and

**Approval of the Board executive for 2019-2020:**

- Chair – L. Warren
- Vice Chair – E. Ross
- Secretary – N. Smith
- Treasurer – D. Stanley

**The slate of Board members as announced for the 2019-2020 year:**



(Back row) Cindy Kinnon, Lindsay Sieben, Eleanor Ross, Leslie Eckel, Leanne Warren, Pamela Polfuss-Schmidt, Kala Flannery

(Front row) Mike Moore(out going board member), Mike Greer, Ravi Sathasivam(out going board member)

(Absent) Debbie Stanley, Nigel Smith

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On June 19, 2019, Guelph Independent Living (GIL) hosted our Annual General Meeting. Leanne Warren, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and delivered the Indigenous Recognition to start the meeting. We watched the agency's new promotional video 'I am GIL' developed in the summer of 2018; a moving reminder of the purpose and success of Guelph Independent Living in providing choice for clients to remain at home with vital community supports.

The Senior Leadership Team then provided an overview of the agency's activities for the 2018-2019 fiscal year including highlights of the Leisure program, Human Resources, Willow Place and Financial Reports. The Board completed the approval of the 2018-2019 Audited financial statements for both the Health and Housing portfolios, appointed the auditors for 2019-2020, ratified all activities of the Board of Directors over the past year and appointed the Board Executive for the upcoming year.

As part of the formal meeting, GIL announced the addition of four new members to the Board of Directors: Leslie Eckel, Kala Flannery, Pamela Polfuss-Schmidt and Lindsay Sieben. Their diverse skill set will be a welcome addition to the dialogue

and proceedings at the Board table during their first meeting on September 24, 2019.

Following the formal business portion, we congratulated two Board members who are resigning from GIL after having both completed the maximum allowed two 3-year terms. Michael Moore and Ravi Sathavisam have brought a breadth of skills to the organization and will be greatly missed. We applauded the achievements of fifteen employees receiving length of service awards this year for 5 to 30 years of work at GIL. Please see profiles of these dedicated and hardworking individuals in the newsletter.

To wrap up the evening, Melissa DeNardis from the City of Guelph Recreation Programs shared information about the city's programs with the audience. Melissa spoke about the variety of programs available to residents of all ages; highlighting programs which are accessible and funding supports available to those who might need it. Melissa can be reached at [melissa.denardis@guelph.ca](mailto:melissa.denardis@guelph.ca) or 519-822-1260 ext 2701 for more information.

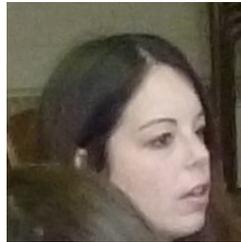


## EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

**Congratulations to all of these employees, GIL extends many thanks for your hard work and dedication to the agency and clients.**

### **Virginia D, 5yrs**

Virginia's quiet, thoughtful mannerisms always put the seniors at ease when providing care at our 85 Neeve program. She works as a casual employee, pitching in whenever she can.



### **Shawn W, 5yrs**

Shawn works with GIL in the position of Key Tenant, working closely with the Superintendent at Willow Place and willing to support additional projects in the building as needed.



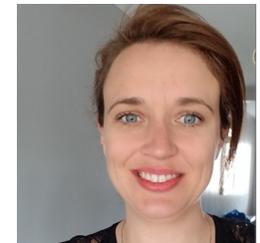
### **Sandi RB, 5yrs**

Sandi quickly became an anchor on our Night shift team always giving her very best to the clients at Willow Place. Recently Sandi resigned her night rotation to accept another work opportunity but thankfully stayed on with a smaller part-time rotation, allowing her to do both!



### **June B, 10yrs**

With an infectious smile and humorous personality, June brings exceptional positivity to the workplace. She is passionate about her work, striving to give the best of herself to the clients at all times.



### **Deby S, 5yrs**

Currently in a casual position offering assistance as available, Deby is always willing to offer support and suggestions to her team with some humour added in. Looking forward to what the next 5 years brings!



### **Cheryl M, 10yrs**

Cheryl is a passionate individual and leader who strives to help others reach their potential. She is always willing to provide her support and enthusiasm to any project; whether problem solving client needs or cheering on the Admin team during its FHT to Move challenges this past fall.



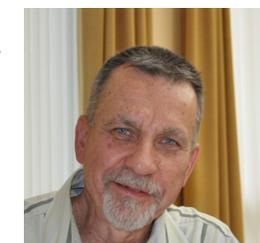
### **Winnie S, 5yrs**

Applaud Winnie's determination and effort demonstrated during her time with GIL. We look forward to seeing all of the great things to be accomplished in the upcoming years!



### **Victor M, 10 yrs**

Vic has been GIL's Manager of Finance and Administration since 2009. Vic is always meticulous; making sure the GIL financial books are precise and all LHIN and Ministry of Health reporting is submitted on time.



## EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

### Wendy O, 10 yrs

Wendy assists clients at both 238 Willow and 87 Neeve. Her great sense of humour and easy-going nature are appreciated by both employees and clients. Clients know when Wendy visits their homes; she will always provide their care to the best of her ability.



### Kim W, 10 yrs

Kim currently works full-time at the Willow Road program. Always focused on how to maintain client independence; coworkers look to Kim for her problem solving skills and sense of humour in encouraging clients to participate in their service direction.



### Catharine M, 15yrs

Catharine originally worked as a frontline employee and is now the Outreach Coordinator, a position she has held for 10 years. Catharine is a compassionate and resourceful person; qualities which make her a great supervisor who always has the needs of the clients and staff team in mind when making decisions.



### Kathleen F, 25 yrs

Kathleen began her career at GIL as an Attendant Services Worker. In 2009, she transitioned into her current position as the Assisted Living/ Special Projects Assistant. Kathleen's attention-to-detail and resourcefulness make her an exceptional member of the Admin team.



### Stacey J, 25 yrs

Stacey began her career at GIL in 1994 as an Attendant Services Worker. She then worked as the Human Resources Assistant until 2016 when she became the Coordinator for our agency's Seniors programs. Stacey's compassion for client independence is evident in all she does.



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“When we strive to become better than we are,  
everything around us becomes better too.”

~ Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist

## CLIENT MEMORIAL

**Alison Stewart** was a client of the Guelph Independent Living (GIL) Outreach program for a short time; she passed away on July 27, 2019 at the age of 68.

During her career, Alison worked as a Marriage and Family Therapist, and in her leisure time enjoyed art (drawing and admiring), reading, and walking her beloved dogs every morning in the Heartlake Conservation area.

Alison shared her wild sense of humour and inquiring mind with GIL attendants who had a chance to work with her. Some of her departing questions included- Is there a sock fairy? If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is it naked or homeless?

Thank you to Alison for allowing GIL the privilege of supporting her during her final months and hours.



## HIGH TECH BEDS AT GGH

Guelph General Hospital (GGH) recently purchased five (5) new specialized hospital beds through donations raised during the hospital foundation's Black Tie Bingo event. At a cost of roughly \$50,000 each, these new beds will be utilized in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to provide a safer environment for both patients and staff.

The Progressa System bed offers a number of innovative features designed to help prevent bed sores and allow those with limited mobility a safer way to be transferred in and out of bed. The mattress' slow oscillation settings, like ripples on a pond, relieve pressure points on bony areas where sores can develop. The ability for the mattress to twist and roll a patient on their side helps take strain off of staff. Additionally, the bed can raise the patient to a full sitting position with their feet at floor level making transferring safer for both the patient and staff.

This high-tech system also includes features like bed lighting so a patient can be observed without turning on room lights and built-in electrical outlets

to reduce the number of cords needed plus decreasing trip hazards.

Suzanne Bone, the foundation's CEO stated the beds are a clear example of how donations directly impact the hospital's quality of care.

The full article is available at:

[https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/donations-fund-five-new-high-tech-beds-at-guelph-general-hospital-1555340?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Email](https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/donations-fund-five-new-high-tech-beds-at-guelph-general-hospital-1555340?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Email)



SUMMER 2019

# ANNUAL AGENCY PICNIC



Everyone gathered at Riverside Park's large pavilion on a hot July 4th to enjoy a delicious BBQ complete with salads, watermelon and cake for dessert. This year, caricature artist, Cartoon Bob sketched portraits of many clients in attendance. We were pleased to have such a good turnout where everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a great opportunity for everyone to mingle with old friends and meet new ones! Thank you to the Admin employees for preparing and serving the tasty meal, to the Leisure Attendants for assisting clients, and to all who came out to enjoy this annual event!

# HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION

As shared in the previous agency newsletter, the Ontario government is currently in the process of transforming the provincial health system through the development of local Ontario Health Teams (OHTs). The goal of these teams is to provide integrated care delivery by each area's health care providers (doctors, hospitals, home and community care, etc.) working seamlessly to deliver care to patients, as they move through the health system.

On July 18, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health, hosted an audio town hall to announce that, out of 157 OHT self-assessments, 72 teams demonstrated the core components to become a successful Ontario Health Team. 31 teams have been invited to complete a full application and 41 have been identified as being 'in development'.

The Ministry described these teams as having strong elements of quality improvements, enhanced care coordination and patient navigation, strong engagement with primary care and clients, a governance model that included all partners, and the ability to incorporate the accountability of a single

funding envelope.

The Guelph and Area application was one of the 31 teams invited to complete a full application by October 9, 2019. These applications are expected to be reviewed by the Ministry of Health in October. Guelph Independent Living continues to engage with other Guelph and Area health providers throughout the OHT application development.

The 'in development' teams are being described as close to completing a full application and will receive support from the Ministry, in hopes of having a full application completed by December 4, 2019. The remaining teams have been placed in the 'discovery' phase with the need to expand the breadth of their service or explore partnerships with other potential teams. Additionally, a small number of teams who serve a specific population at either the provincial or regional level have been declared 'innovative' models. The Ministry will further explore these applications to see how they can best interact with the Ontario Health Teams.

The Ministry webinar can be found at: <https://livewebcast.ca/OHTtownhall/live.html>

# JOB OBSERVATION REMINDER

The 'Job Observation' process initiated by GIL in January 2019 is going well in assisting the agency to ensure our front-line employees are working in a safe manner! These Job Observation visits are designed for Coordinators to observe and measure workers' compliance with policies and safe work practices while on the job. Neither the worker nor the client is notified about the visit to ensure an authentic measure of work performance. Of the 17 visits made to-date, only 3 safety reminders have been necessary. Reminders have involved removing objects obstructing a worker's pathway, using a

turning sheet properly and changing gloves between personal care tasks.

Please note any one of GIL's Coordinators may visit to conduct the worker observation. Our three (3) Coordinators are Catharine Maxwell, Outreach, Cheryl Marett, Assisted Living and Stacey Jayne, Seniors Community.

Thank you for your ongoing support to keep everyone safe while at work. If you have any concerns or further questions, please contact your Program Coordinator.

# THE BOOKSHELF GETS AN ELEVATOR

A bookstore that shows movies • a cinema that serves dinner • a resto-bar that launches books

The Bookshelf, in the heart of downtown Guelph, has been a favourite gathering spot for residents since opening in the early 1970s. Now it will be a fully accessible location, thanks to a Federal Enabling Accessibility Grant.

In March 2018, the Bookshelf applied for this grant valued at \$100,000; later announcing that the grant was approved and the funds would be utilized to install an elevator in the building. Additional fundraising has occurred through its 'Friends of the Bookshelf' campaign, which supports the project. A recent \$50,000 donation from Stu and Kim Lang

has been a major contribution to the campaign. The business is pleased that renovations have begun, and once completed, will allow access to the licensed 130-seat cinema, eBar and Greenroom space on the upper floors.

*'When we complete our renovation, a cultural melding will take place. We will be moving our cinema concessions to the dining area of the eBar, thus creating a cinema lounge that will serve great food for movie goers and bar patrons alike'* said owner Ben Minett.

For more information about the Bookshelf, check out their website at: <https://bookshelf.ca/home>



## LOOPWHEELS



'Jelly Products' based in Newark, Nottinghamshire has developed a way to make life more comfortable for wheelchair-users with its innovative 'loopwheel'.

Jelly Products won a UK innovation grant in 2013 that allowed them to develop the loopwheel for wheelchairs. Additional grant money in 2017 provided the opportunity to improve the loopwheel to go faster and adapt for off-road or rough terrain surface use, such as cobbles and paving stones.

This innovative product replaces traditional spokes with a new interior that integrates suspension into the wheel; thus, removing vibration caused when travelling over uneven or bumpy ground. The loopwheel has a solid structure; however, an element of compression and springs within the wheel are made of a carbon composite material.

Co-founder and managing director Gemma Pearce

said, *'Loopwheels reduce vibration by up to 70% compared to a spoked wheel so the amount of vibration transferred into the person in the chair is significantly reduced. There is a lot of research to show that 'whole body vibration' is associated with fatigue and lower back pain, increased spasticity (muscle contraction), an increase in pressure sores, and a negative impact on bladder control.'*

Jelly Products is now manufacturing 100 wheels per month and sales are growing 50% year on year. It has distributors across the world including in mainland Europe, Australia, Japan, Brazil and South Africa.

For the full article see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/loopwheels-delivering-a-smoother-ride-for-wheelchair-users?fbclid=IwAR0gU3WpFYLSq6zGG6mKFGFK0zil8hM995AA0fTgm1Qq6LGELVdoAUHrm8Y>

## REMOVING BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

With almost 50% of adults having experienced a permanent or temporary physical disability, or lived with someone who has; accessibility is more important than ever. Providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces ensures that everyone is able to participate and live to their full potential.

The Government of Ontario is investing \$1.3 million over the course of two years through a new partnership with the Rick Hansen Foundation as part of their focus to remove barriers in buildings and make communities more accessible. Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, and Rick Hansen, Founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation, have announced 'The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification' (RHFAC) program will be launched this fall. The goal is to undertake ratings of 250 facilities in select communities across Ontario over the next two years.

The certification program will use trained professionals to evaluate the meaningful access of commercial, institutional, and multi-unit residential buildings and sites to provide accessibility ratings of either certified or gold level. A building's accessibility rating can be identified by displaying a window decal or plaque as well as listed on the RHFAC Registry at <https://rhfac.csaregistries.ca>. In addition, the program will assist property managers and owners determine ways to remove identified barriers.

Rick Hansen stated, 'I am very pleased and honoured to be collaborating with the Ontario government. The \$1.3 million will go a long way in providing meaningful access to buildings and communities, and will help make Ontario more inclusive where people with disabilities are living to their full potential'.



## HOME HELP PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

In May 2019, GIL distributed a satisfaction survey to all its Home Help clients. The survey was designed to evaluate our brokered Homemaking program which currently has 50 homemakers who support approximately 400 clients. The Home Help program matches eligible clients, seniors and adults with physical disabilities, with screened homemakers who assist with tasks including light housekeeping, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation all at a fixed cost paid directly to the homemaker by the client.

We are pleased to have received positive feedback from the majority of clients or the caregivers of someone receiving Home Help assistance. Results

demonstrated a high satisfaction rate for services; with clients describing their homemakers to be friendly, courteous, and respectful.

These survey results also validate how the assistance clients receive through the program allow them to live independently and remain in their own homes longer.

Many thanks are extended to the team of dedicated homemakers who keep client homes clean and tidy!

# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAiD)

Some of you may remember Sue Rodriguez; a Canadian activist in the 1990s. Diagnosed with ALS and given 2-5 years to live; Sue was quoted to say *'If I cannot give consent to my own death, whose body is this? Who owns my life?'*. She fought for the right to choose to end her own life all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada without success. In 1994, Sue made the unlawful decision to end her own life through the help of an anonymous doctor.

In 2016, physician-assisted death in Canada became legal as the result of a similar case to Sue's. The Supreme Court of Canada directed the federal government to formulate a framework to provide competent adults suffering intolerably, from grievous and irremediable medical conditions, with the right to end their own life. This is done with medical assistance provided by a Physician or Nurse Practitioner.

The specifics of the legislation include:

- The request may only be made by the person; not by an Advanced Directive or a Substitute-Decision Maker
- Eligibility means the person must qualify for publicly funded health care services; be 18 years of age or older; be capable of making health care decisions; and, have a grievous and irremediable medical condition.

*'Grievous and irremediable'* is defined as serious and incurable illness, disease or disability; advanced state of irreversible decline in capability; illness, disease or disability or state of decline causing them to endure physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable and cannot be relieved under conditions that they consider acceptable; and their natural death has become reasonably foreseeable.

Within the MAiD process, there are a number of safeguards to ensure the person is informed about the decision they are making. Safeguards include that the request must be in writing after discussion with a Registered Health Care Professional (RHCP); request is confirmed as genuine with two witness attestations; the person's eligibility is confirmed by a second independent RHCP; there is 10 days between the request and the action; and the person has the right to withdraw at any time and by any means deemed reliable. Please note a provider of personal support (PSW, Attendant) cannot act as a witness.

Understanding that not all health care providers will be comfortable with MAiD (i.e. not consistent with their beliefs and values), the Canadian legislation also provides safeguards to protect the Rights of Providers by not forcing anyone to provide or help to provide such assistance in dying.

In response to this new legislation, GIL has been diligent in drafting an agency policy to be prepared for the time when a client chooses to access physician-assisted death. Within our draft policy, there are measures for both clients and employees.

For employees, we have included measures for education; sharing any knowledge of a client's MAiD request and/or application; ability for their right to refuse to participate; processes for the Program Coordinator to work with client, medical personnel and workers to schedule care; and arranging for debriefing, bereavement and/ or grief support for workers before and after a client's death. GIL held several employee workshops in March 2019 to begin the education process.

For clients, the policy includes measures for education (discussing the MAiD legislation and GIL policy);

cont'd pg 12

understanding a client may or may not inform GIL about their decision to access MAiD; how to support both a client and employee(s) through the action; support for the client to speak with their RHCP about a MAiD wish; and arranging for additional information for clients as identified.

GIL welcomes any client feedback about the policy development and MAiD legislation as it relates to service delivery. Please contact your Program Coordinator or Janet Redman, Executive Director, for more information.

## CELEBRATING CANADIAN WOMEN



From now until October, Downtown Guelph celebrates Canadian Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through street light banners along Carden Street. As pedestrians walk by, they are able to learn

about female scientists and the range of their contributions on a local, national, and global scale.

These banners were inspired by local physicist and 2018 Nobel Prize Winner, Donna Strickland. Donna was a GCVI graduate and is now a professor at the University of Waterloo. She is a noteworthy inspiration to young women in Guelph who are considering or already involved in a STEM career; areas historically less represented by women.

The project aims to show how women have been adding to our knowledge and ways of life since Canada began. During the planning phase, it was recognized that work done by women in tradition-

ally male fields was not easy to trace. This is especially true 100 years after the fact, as their work was often downplayed or thwarted due to sexism. In addition, the project acknowledges many women who are making remarkable contributions today, including one high school student, Tasnia Nabil. Finally, it honours the potential of women unable to contribute to the sciences due to bigotry and hostility; remembering the female engineering students from Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique massacre in 1989 and the careers and contributions they could have made.

With fifteen (15) lamp posts to hang banners on, the project marks the progress and changes made in Guelph and in Canada by highlighting the considerable and often unacknowledged contributions made by female scientists and scientists-to-be.

For the full article:

[https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/banners-inspired-by-local-nobel-prize-winner-installed-on-carden-street-5-photos-1483324?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Email](https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/banners-inspired-by-local-nobel-prize-winner-installed-on-carden-street-5-photos-1483324?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Email)

# OAILSP SUMMER STUDENT

Hi there! My name is Joeanna Chung. As a recent graduate from the Health Office Administration program at Conestoga College, I was thrilled to be hired for an 8-week Summer Jobs contract to provide administrative support for OAILSP (Ontario Association of Independent Living Service Providers) through the GIL office. I worked closely with Janet Redman, OAILSP Vice-Chair & GIL Executive Director and Laura Visser, OAILSP Chair & Executive Director of PACE Independence in Toronto.

Most of the projects I completed involved new learning for me. My initial project focused on the OAILSP website, including uploading documents, researching alternative online communication tools. I wrote a briefing note outlining the initial and potential goals and purposes for the website to guide the OAILSP Board discussion and future planning. Next I created tools to collect information from members across Ontario. The first tool, to be completed during the annual membership renewal, will enhance how effectively Independent Living service providers are

collecting, sharing, comparing, and utilizing data from various program areas of care delivery. The second tool was an online survey to gather information about what building and property assets members own. Finally I assisted in reviewing and amending the Association's Bylaws and Policies & Procedures Manual.

My time with OAILSP and GIL has been amazing. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to work with this wonderful team while gaining valuable administrative work experience, skills and knowledge. I would like to extend my appreciation to Janet Redman and Laura Visser for their dedication, support and kindness this summer. Thank you to the GIL Admin team for welcoming me into the office and to the 2019 Canada Summer Jobs program for funding this opportunity.



# GIL SUMMER STUDENT

Hi! My name is Alexa Matteis and I returned to GIL on May 6 after working part-time remotely throughout the past school year. It has been amazing to come back and work with such incredible clients and employees alike! My job responsibilities at GIL have allowed me to expand upon my teachings in school and apply them in the workforce. This summer, I have worked on the implementation and execution planning of a new client database tool for the agency, created recruitment brochures and posters, managed the GIL website and social media pages, created the bi-weekly employee newsletters and tracked marketing metrics. Additionally, I have tracked and completed donation receipts, assisted



with recruitment tasks, helped revise the Privacy policy, completed Board and client satisfaction surveys, assisted with the AGM and other administrative duties when needed.

It has been a rewarding summer, as I have continued to learn new things and expanded upon my communication skills. In September I am heading back to McMaster University for the final year of my Communication Studies degree while continuing to work remotely for GIL to support the website, social media, e-newsletter and database tool implementation on a part-time contract. After graduation, I plan to continue my studies specializing in Marketing Management.

# 100+ MEN WHO GIVE A DAMN

Over 100 Men, at least those who give a damn, agree to write a \$100 cheque four times a year; compounded together to inject over \$10,000 into making Guelph stronger. That's it. Zero to Hero in less than 60 minutes.

Club members nominate local charities supporting community projects who they feel are deserving of winning funds. Nominated eligible organizations are placed into a database; with three organizations selected at random three weeks before each quarterly meeting. Once selected, three organizations are invited to give a short five-minute presentation at the meeting and answer a few questions regarding their charity's work. After the presentations conclude, each member votes for the charity they feel is most deserving. The votes are tallied with the winning charity presented with \$100 cheque donations from each member.

All donations go directly to the charity. 100%. Always.

On May 15, Stacey Jayne, GIL's Seniors Community Coordinator, presented to the 100+ Men society about Guelph Independent Living's commitment to our clients living with dignity by delivering quality programs, housing and supportive services. She shared information about our various programs, including Recreation and Inclusion. After the other two charities presented, the votes were counted and Guelph Independent Living was announced as the winning organization for this quarter!

GIL plans to utilize the funds in an effort to offer additional Leisure activities for our clients. This includes several 'pop up' events highlighted later in this newsletter!

<https://www.100menguelph.com/>



## UPCOMING 2019 LEISURE EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
Thursday September 12	<b>St. Jacob's Market</b> St. Jacobs
Thursday October 24	<b>Annie 'The beloved Family Musical'</b> Hamilton Family Theatre, Cambridge
Tuesday November 5	<b>Play with Clay Pottery Party</b> 87 Neeve Activity Room
Thursday November 28	<b>Christmas Shopping</b> Conestoga Mall, Waterloo <b>Gift of Lights</b> Bingemans, Kitchener
Thursday December 12	<b>Christmas Luncheon</b> Elliott Community

Contact **Kathleen** at **519-836-1812 x220** with any questions or to pre-register for an event



Photos from Grand River Raceway