

## *A Note From Lisa*



Ahhhhh, summer! What a wonderful summer we are having. My only complaint is how quickly it seems to speed by!

As usual, there is a lot happening at CLAPW during the summer months. People are taking full advantage of the nice weather and exploring all the community has to offer. A highlight for me each summer is connecting with people we support at the Music in the Square events hosted by the Town of Ajax.

Our Community Living Month celebrations were fantastic, starting with a makeover at Dowty courtesy of our community partner Home Depot and culminating with an extraordinarily successful BBQ on a beautiful spring day. We extend our thanks to the Dowty team, particularly Siobhan Hall, for their leadership of the events throughout May.

The Spirit of Summer program for Youth is off to a good start once again this year. We thank the Durham District School Board for the use of the Youth Hub, and we thank Summer Jobs Program for funding to hire young staff members to facilitate this program.

Our garden contest was wonderful this year. Thanks to everyone who made it such a success, including the twenty-eight people who took the time to visit each garden and cast a vote for their favourite. Although Applewood was the winning location this year, in truth, the entire community wins as the CLAPW properties have some of the nicest gardens on the street on which they are located.



# IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1 - A Note From Lisa

Page 2 - A Note From Lisa (cont'd)

Page 3 - Community Participation  
Supports: Evenings and  
Weekends at CPP

Page 4 - Spirit of Summer

Page 5 - Strategic Plan Update:  
Charting Our Course for the  
Future & College Student  
Placements

Page 6 - Annual General Meeting

Page 7 - AGM, Durham Region  
Volunteer Fair, Holiday  
Party, Family Group

Page 8 - Garden Contest Update

Page 9 - Supported Independent  
Living

Page 10 - Community Living Month

Page 11 - Community Events

Page 12 - Community Events (cont'd)

Page 13 - Gallery

Page 14 - Volunteer Program &  
Cheers for Peers

Page 15 - Legal Tips from Pooran  
Law: What is an RDSP? &  
Resources

## *A Note From Lisa*

(continued from Page 1)

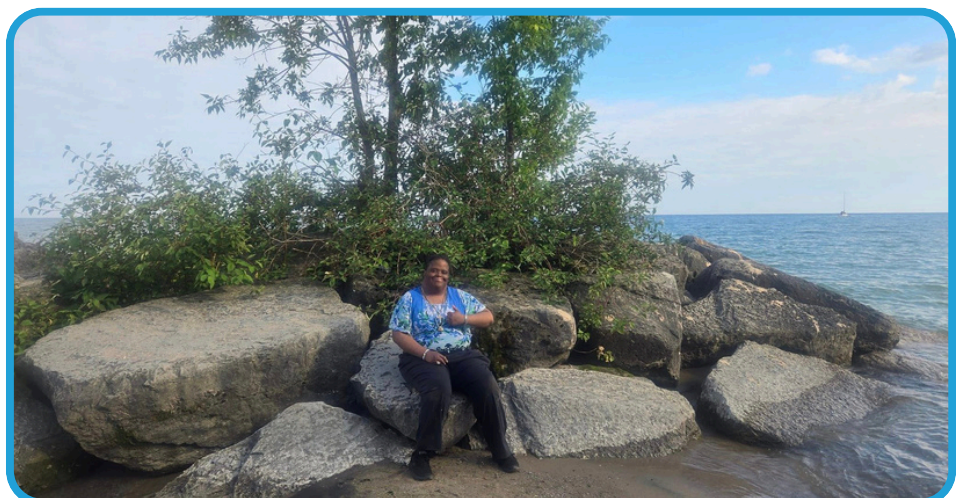
In June, our Families and Partners Group hosted a wonderful forum with funding provided by the Ontario Caregivers Organization and in collaboration with the Approaches to Supportive Living Committee, a part of the Durham Systems Management table. There were more than eighty people in attendance and twelve agencies that had display tables full of information of relevance to families. We extend our thanks to Sylvia Thornton for serving as MC at the event.

We have lots happening right now, even though we are approaching the “dog days of summer.” Our next Strategic Plan is under development, we have Home Depot event Scheduled for August 15th at Dowty and an Elvis themed Ice Cream Social on August 16th from 12:30-2:30 at 36 Emperor Street. Yes, there will be an Elvis impersonator on hand, and everyone is welcome.

We extend our thanks to our dedicated volunteers and staff members who help CLAPW to realize our mission of helping people to be authentically involved in the life of their community. And, as always, I look forward to hearing from you if you have comments, questions, concerns at [lisa.mcneebaker@clapw.org](mailto:lisa.mcneebaker@clapw.org).

I hope to see everyone at the Annual General Meeting being held on Monday September 16th at 6:00 at the Audley Recreation Centre. Come on out and hear the annual update and enjoy a BBQ with us.

~ Lisa McNee Baker, Executive Director



# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SUPPORTS

## Evenings and Weekends at CPP

Over the past few months, our evenings at CPP have been filled with excitement and adventure! We've been enjoying popular activities like movie nights, mini-golf, swimming, and energizing workouts at the Abilities Centre. As the weather warmed up, we took full advantage of the great outdoors, exploring the stunning landscapes of the Scarborough Bluffs, Heber Downs, Lakeview Park, and Greenwood Conservation Area.

Our group also tapped into their competitive side, visiting arcades like Playdium and 8-Bit Beans, where everyone battled for the top score. We showcased our skills at Patrina's Billiards, playing pool, and had a blast singing our hearts out during karaoke sessions.

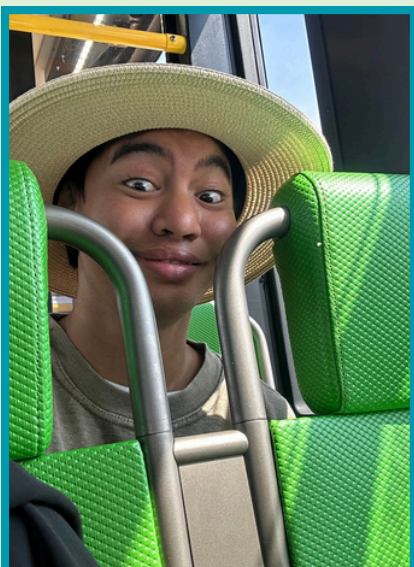
A standout event was our Hawaiian Lu'au dance, where we caught up with friends and showed off our best moves on the dance floor—it was a night to remember!

But the fun isn't limited to evenings. Our Saturdays have been just as action-packed. Visiting Jungle Cat World was another highlight, as we admired the majestic felines in their natural habitats. Lunchtime was a hit for both us and the animals!

Although our planned trip to Canada's Wonderland was postponed due to weather, we didn't miss a beat. Instead, we enjoyed a fantastic show and lunch at Famous People Players, making the best of the day.

Our most recent adventure took us to the CN Tower, where we faced our fears and bravely stepped onto the glass floor to take in the breathtaking views—it was an experience we won't soon forget!

And as summer comes to a close, we've got a whole lineup of exciting activities planned to make your evenings at CPP even more memorable!



# SPIRIT OF SUMMER



It's that time of year again - summer program season is here! Spirit of Summer, CLAPW's program for transitional-aged youth, has been a huge success for the past 3 years, offering in-person services that have become a highlight of the season.

Running from July to August, 9 AM to 3 PM, our program is all about creating unique and exciting opportunities for fun, learning and adventure. Inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do, and our top priority is ensuring that every participant has a summer filled with joy and unforgettable memories.

Our adventures take us all across Durham Region, from Ajax to Bowmanville. Some of the standout moments from this summer and previous years include glow-in-the-dark fun at Putting Edge, an up-close tour of the Whitby fire station and its impressive fire trucks, and a visit to the Toronto Zoo to see favourite animals. We also had an amazing time with 'Let's Talk Science' volunteer group, conducting mind-blowing science experiments right in the Youth Hub at Ajax High School, where our campers and summer staff start off each day before heading out on new adventures.

At Spirit of Summer, we aim to make every individual's summer the best it can be, with a mix of outings, crafts, games, and the perfect chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones!

# Strategic Plan Update:

## CHARTING OUR COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

We are excited to share an update on the strategic plan for Community Living Ajax Pickering and Whitby. Our team has been hard at work, and we're pleased to announce that the 2024-2029 strategic plan will be unveiled at the Annual General Meeting on September 16, 2024.

After extensive consultations with stakeholders, we have identified several key priorities that will guide our efforts over the next few years. These priorities focus on enhancing service delivery, championing our people, and fostering inclusion.

With our priorities in place, we are developing specific action steps and goals to ensure we stay on track.

We will outline a detailed schedule to ensure timely implementation of our strategic plan. Key milestones will be set for each priority area, with regular progress reviews to keep us accountable and adaptable to any emerging needs.

We are committed to making a positive impact and look forward to working with all of you to achieve our goals. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our community.

Together, we are shaping a brighter future!

## COLLEGE STUDENT PLACEMENTS

### Summer Semester May through August 2024

We have hosted 12 students at CLAPW this semester with many more starting in September for the Fall Semester.

Each semester, our Student Placement Positions fill quickly and we have unfortunately had to turn a few students away. Apply several months prior to the start of your placement to ensure yourself a spot!

Placement Students help support our work at CLAPW while being mentored by our fantastic CLAPW staff members.



Human Resources Student  
Anjali

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We are excited to announce that the Community Living Ajax Pickering and Whitby Annual General Meeting and BBQ will take place on September 16 from 6-9pm at the Audley Road Recreation Center in Ajax. This event is a wonderful opportunity for members, Board Members, and staff to come together and celebrate our agency.

The evening will begin with a social hour from 6-7pm, featuring a delicious BBQ prepared by our Advocates Alliance. Come out and enjoy good food and great company. During the event, we will also honour our dedicated staff with awards for their long service. Following the BBQ, members will have the opportunity to participate in the business meeting, an important aspect of our AGM.

Additionally, there will be a Maker's Market, where CLAPW's supported individuals can showcase and sell their handmade wares. This is a fantastic opportunity to support our talented community members and appreciate their creativity.

We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of celebration, recognition, and community spirit!



**ADVOCATES ALLIANCE**



**MO'S POOCHIES DOG TREATS**



**COURTNEY'S  
DIAMOND ART**



**CRYSTAL'S  
HANDMADE CARDS & KEYCHAINS**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

COMMUNITY LIVING  
Ajax-Pickering and Whitby  
Inspiring Possibilities



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2024

DINNER/BBQ/MAKERS MARKET-6:00-7:00 PM

MEETING START TIME-7:00 PM

Join us for Community Living's Annual General Meeting!

- Free BBQ hosted by the Advocates Alliance
- Presentation of Strategic Plan 2025-2029
- Staff Service Awards
- Makers Market - Please bring cash
- Employee Scavenger Hunt winners announced

Located at Audley Recreation Centre

Community Room #1

1955 Audley Rd, Ajax, ON L1Z 0L2

\*\*Park in South East Parking Lot\*\*

RSVP to [Dana.Sullivan@clapw.org](mailto:Dana.Sullivan@clapw.org) by September 9th, 2024



FIND THE PERFECT  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOU AT THE

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
DURHAM REGION

# VOLUNTEER FAIR

## NOVEMBER 13

### 2 - 6PM



Garnett B. Rickard  
Recreation Complex  
2440 Durham Regional Hwy. 2  
Bowmanville

SCAN FOR A LIST  
OF PARTICIPATING  
ORGANIZATIONS



EVENT SPONSORED BY:

Clarington



Community Care  
Durham

COMMUNITY LIVING  
Ajax-Pickering and Whitby  
Inspiring Possibilities

# HOLIDAY DINNER & DANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024  
6PM - 12AM

TICKETS - \$50

Purchase tickets at Dowty and Head  
Office, or e-transfer

[nicole.landell@clapw.org](mailto:nicole.landell@clapw.org)

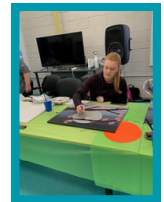
(Must be purchased by November 15th)



AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE  
550 BECK CRESCENT P, AJAX, ON L1Z 1C9

TICKETS GO ON SALE SEPTEMBER 3

## FAMILY GROUP



The Family as Partners Family Group at Community Living Ajax Pickering and Whitby empowers families of individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing access to community resources, support options, and successful planning strategies shared by guest speakers and other caregivers. The group fosters collaboration, encouraging families to explore creative ways to help their loved ones lead fulfilling lives in the community. For more information, contact Sylvia Thornton at [sylvia.thornton@clapw.org](mailto:sylvia.thornton@clapw.org).

# Garden Contest UPDATE

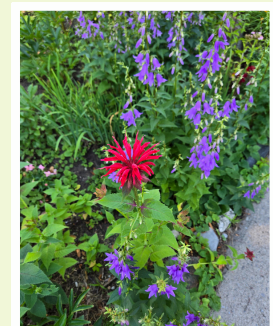
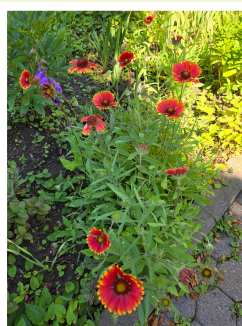
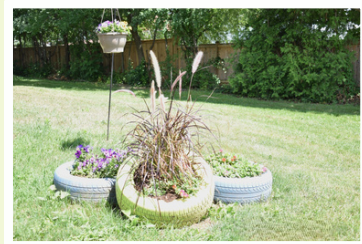
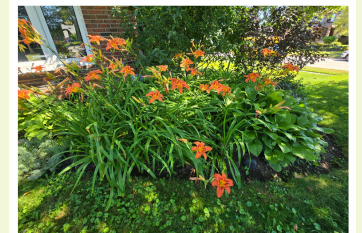


This year's Annual Garden Contest at CLAPW was a breathtaking showcase of creativity, dedication, and natural beauty. Each garden reflected the hard work and passion of our participants, featuring unique elements and wildlife-friendly designs that made selecting a winner a delightful challenge.

Our contest criteria encompassed aesthetics, plant variety, condition, neatness, wildlife friendliness, and unique features. Every garden excelled in these categories, making the judging process both enjoyable and difficult.

The people we support and staff had the pleasure of serving as judges, and, after tallying the scores, announced Applewood as the contest winner. Student Natalie received a gift card for Vandermeer's Nursery, a perfect prize in a random draw of all judges that participated.

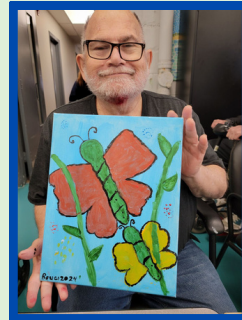
Congratulations to all our participants for their incredible efforts, and a special congratulations to Applewood for their outstanding achievements. We look forward to seeing more amazing gardens next year!





# Supported INDEPENDENT LIVING

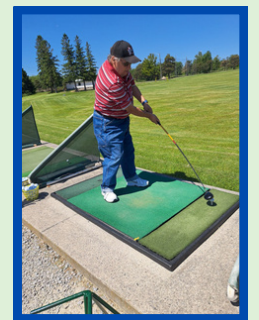
This has been an enjoyable summer so far for the SIL program! So far the group has shown their creativity through CLAPW's paint night. Some individuals also are partaking in the Arts on Fire program that runs through out the summer, everyone has done a tremendous job showing off their skills so far! We also had one young lady come out to a managers meeting to show off her skills in drawing caricatures, everyone was pleased with the amazing results!



The SIL group also took a trip down to the Rogers Centre in July for a Blue Jay's game. The Jay's did not win, but that did not stop the fun! They had great seats, good food and the ride on the GO train is always a fun adventure too. The SIL team is also going down to The Ex at the end of August, where there's sure to be lots more fun had!



A couple of the individuals also enjoy participating in sports, rather than just watching it! Golf is a favourite sport for some and with this nice weather, this is always an enjoyable activity!



A lot of the supported individuals from Accommodation Supports enjoyed the many CLAPW events over the summer so far. All of the green thumbs also came out and enjoyed helping out with prepping their gardens for the annual garden contest too. Of course, a good summer activity that is enjoyed by all was just spending time together being out in the beautiful sunshine! Whether its enjoying this on their own front porch, or taking a walk out to enjoy lake views and bird feeding at Lynde Shores-summer is always a great time!

# COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH



May was a vibrant month for Community Living Ajax-Pickering and Whitby (CLAPW) as we celebrated Community Living Month with a series of impactful events. The festivities kicked off with a BBQ and Maker's Market, bringing the community together in support of our mission. We were honored to participate in a flag-raising ceremony at Durham Regional HQ, attended Councillor Willy Woo and Regional Chair John Henry. The Shine a Light campaign illuminated the Town of Ajax and Durham Regional Headquarters in blue and green, symbolizing solidarity with our vision of inclusive communities. Additionally, our Advocates Alliance took an active role in the Day at the Legislature, championing the rights and inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities.



# Community Events

This summer has been packed with exciting community events, bringing joy and memorable experiences to everyone involved. Here are some of the highlights:

## Jungle Cat World

Our adventure began with a wild trip to Jungle Cat World, where we had the chance to see exotic animals up close and learn about wildlife conversation.

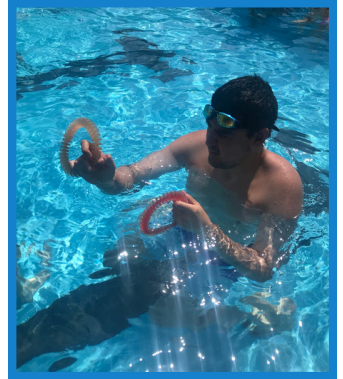


## Hawaiian Luau Dance

We danced the night away at our vibrant Hawaiian Luau Dance. The evening was filled with tropical music, delicious food, and lots of laughter.

## Swimming at the Ajax Community Centre

Cooling off from the summer heat, we enjoyed refreshing swim sessions at the Ajax Community Centre, fostering camaraderie and fitness among our members.



## Paddle Pirates at Frenchman's Bay

Our Paddle Pirates event at Frenchman's Bay was a splash hit! Participants enjoyed paddling through the serene waters, enjoying nature, and each other's company.

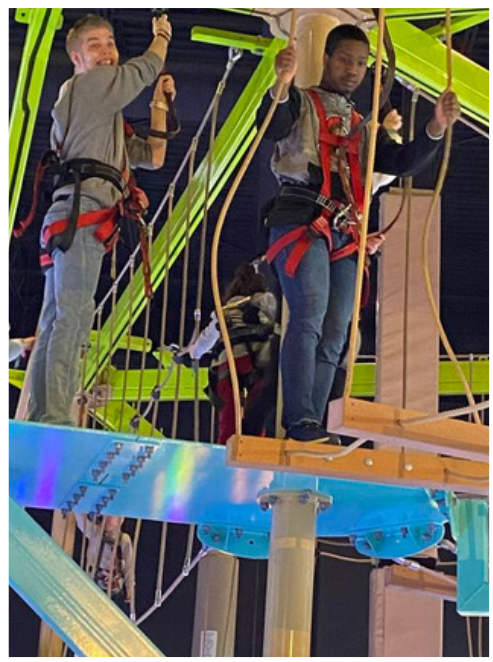
## Hiking at Greenwood Conservation Area

We explored the beautiful trails at Greenwood Conservation Area, appreciating the natural beauty and engaging in some healthy outdoor exercise.



# Community Events

## Playdium



Our trip to Playdium was filled with high-energy fun, featuring arcade games, go-karting, and more, ensuring everyone had a blast.

## Ajax Markets

Exploring the Ajax Markets was a delightful experience, featuring local vendors, fresh produce, and a wonderful sense of community.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made these events so special. We look forward to more fun and exciting activities in the coming months!

## Putting Edge



Our Putting Edge outing combined mini-golf with a neon twist, providing a unique and fun challenge for everyone.

## CN Tower



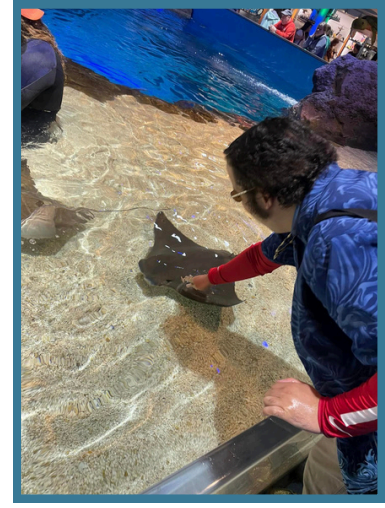
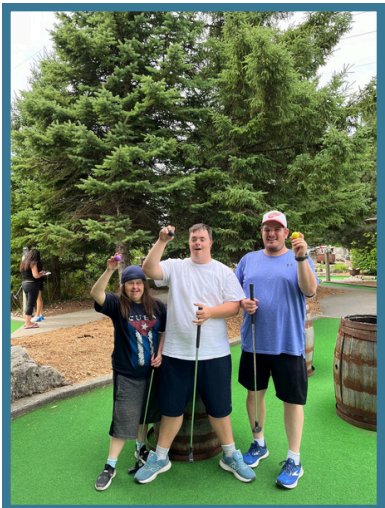
A visit to the iconic CN Tower offered breathtaking views of Toronto and an unforgettable dining experience at the top.

## Blue Jay's Day

We cheered on the Blue Jays at a thrilling baseball game, enjoying the excitement of live sports and the electric atmosphere of the stadium.



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# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



"Sharon and I have been meeting regularly for about the last eight months. During that time we've been able to craft, bowl, movie watch and cook together. It's been a wonderful opportunity for both of us to learn from each other. Who knows? Maybe we'll become master chefs together!"

~ Marcy

"We have been to paint ceramics, went bowling and Marcy is teaching me to cook some things on my own. I like cooking with her and we are making a cook book together. We will also start to shop for the groceries we need. I am enjoying going out with Marcy."

~ Sharon

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CLAPW'S  
VOLUNTEER SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT  
[SHARON.BURGESS@CLAPW.ORG](mailto:SHARON.BURGESS@CLAPW.ORG)

## CHEERS FOR PEERS

### Employee of the Month

## May



Siobhan Pearce

## June



Ruth Alambo

## July



Jeff Entwistle

Recognized for putting the CLAPW mission into action.

# LEGAL TIPS FROM POORAN LAW

## What is an RDSP?

### RDSP – Registered Disability Savings Plan

Introduced by the federal government in 2008, Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs) are long-term savings plans specifically designed to benefit persons with disabilities.

Both government and personal contributions can be made to an RDSP, and no tax will be paid on the investment income that accumulates until it is withdrawn from the plan. A lifetime maximum of \$200,000 in personal contributions can be made, while government contributions – in the form of the Canada disability savings grant and the Canada disability savings bond – can total up to \$90,000. To be eligible to open an RDSP, an individual must have been approved for a Disability Tax Credit Certificate and must be a Canadian resident with a valid social insurance number. The plan must be opened by December 31 in the year in which the individual turns 59.

## RESOURCES

- **Development Services Ontario** - Your access point for adult developmental services - <https://www.dsontario.ca/>
- **Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/adults-developmental-disabilities-ontario>
- **Journey to Belonging** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/journey-belonging-choice-and-inclusion>
- **Durham Housing** - [durham-housing.com](http://durham-housing.com)
- **Ontario Caregiver Organization** - <https://ontariocaregiver.ca/>
- **Pooran Law** <https://pooranlaw.com/>