

CLO receives 50th anniversary gift of partnership from Appleby

By Wilma Blokhuis
OAKVILLE LIVING EDITOR

Community Living Oakville (CLO), celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has forged a lasting working partnership with Appleby College.

The private school has just completed a large project involving 120 Grade 9 students in its ASCENT program. The work included knocking down a large derelict shed behind CLO's day program building on Church Street and creating an accessible garden for staff and participants, cooking lunch for workshop and life skills participants and painting and furnishing a respite room at one of CLO's group homes.

The students in the ASCENT program volunteered at CLO instead of having to write exams.

"Instead of writing exams, these kids use their classroom skills in community projects," said Deanna Solomon, Dean of Service Learning and Outreach Education. These students, she said, also spent a week in Temagami and two days experiencing the arts with Second City doing South African drumming and screen painting. "The students get a taste of all of these opportunities at Appleby, and they learn the importance of reaching out into the community."

Solomon, who worked for the United Way of Oakville prior to joining Appleby last September, had knowledge of various community groups that could benefit from student volunteers "and I immediately thought of

Community Living Oakville. While I was at T. A. Blakelock High School we had kids from Community Living Oakville and Oaklands Regional Centre."

Solomon linked up with Jody Blaauw, CLO's Community Relations Manager.

"I felt it is important for Appleby kids to get a glimpse of a group home and to give something back to CLO as part of their service project," said Solomon.

"A lot of the students were very eager," she added.

"Overwhelming" is how one of the students, Emanuel Cini, put it. "I was overwhelmed...overall, it was a great experience."

Blaauw said a basement room that was not being used at one of CLO's group homes was renovated and furnished to provide short term respite for an individual living in the community who requires care giving the parents a chance go get away on vacation.

"The students created the entire room for a girl with an intellectual disability by doing repairs, cleaning and painting," said Blaauw. "And, Appleby parents provided the furniture," added Solomon.

The students also cleaned up the garden at this group home and prepared meals. "This gave the group home employees a break and a chance to get caught up," said Blaauw.

But, the main gardening project was at the rear of CLO's day program build-



BARRIE ERSKINE / OAKVILLE BEAVER

LAYING SOD: Appleby College student Scott Bessey lays sod at Community Living Oakville's building on Church Street. The backyard was transformed into an accessible garden for staff and participants.

ing on Church Street, where a large unsafe shed was removed and an accessible garden created.

"It astounds me that there was so much love there between the student workers and the participants who come to Church Street," said Blaauw. "It was like they've known each other for years."

It also became a community effort with a number of local company providing materials. Plants were donated by Terra Greenhouses, two old trees were removed by Arborcorp Tree

Experts, Petrie's Quality Topsoil donated topsoil and mulch, Ontario Sod donated sod, and the shed was demolished by Larry Cini, an Appleby parent who owns Cini Interior Demolition.

"Our Church Street location is very special because it's so isolated," said Blaauw. Its highest priority was to have that shed removed and a garden built for staff and participants, he said.

"Prior to the removal of the shed and building of the accessible garden, the space could not be used because of safety factors," he said. "That shed was close to falling down." The removal of the shed was a four-hour job.

Blaauw estimated the work at Church would have cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 had a contractor been hired for the job - he had a quote of \$6,000 to demolish the shed.

"That garden is a breath of fresh air," said Blaauw.

The 120 students were divided into three groups of 40 who worked in rotation at the various sites.

"A great synergy was created," observed Solomon, who said Appleby staff and parents also became involved with the project.

Part of the assignment, the intangible part, explained Blaauw, was for each of the students to become friends with an individual who receives support from CLO.

"This created a lot of enthusiasm. One day I asked somebody, 'Who painted your nails?' and she said 'My friend from Appleby.'

"On the students' second day day, we issued two challenges. One was to tell us about your service opportunity and the second was to tell us about a new friendship they've made."

"At the beginning, the students were blank slates but by the end of the second day, the students talked about their experience and each students had shared about one or two friends they've made.

"On the first day, no one knew what CLO was about; at the end of the second day all of their hands went up as everybody's hand went up, eager to talk about having taken the time to get to know the people we support. They've gone from knowing nothing to having great insight in just two days. I can't say enough good things about Appleby."

Blaauw concluded Appleby's participation at CLO "transformed the whole organization. It energized us."

Each of the three sessions ended by sharing a birthday cake to celebrate CLO's 50th anniversary.

The anniversary will be officially celebrated on Sept. 23 at the Oakville Convention Centre. Some 300 people are expected to attend the \$75-a-plate dinner. To reserve tickets, call CLO at 905-844-0146 ext. 0.

Dirty Dog Wash at Alternatives Saturday

Dog owners and enthusiasts can help raise funds for the Oakville Humane Society by participating in the annual Dirty Dog Wash sponsored by Alternatives Market.

The event is on Saturday, July 9, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Alternatives, 579 Kerr St.

This marks the 18th year this annual event has captured the hearts and fancy of Oakville residents and dogs alike. Dogs will be treated to a warm water bath with a gentle all natural flea shampoo. Dog owners needn't worry about getting wet, as experienced volunteers, working in shifts, from the humane society will provide all the

scrubbing and towel drying necessary.

Humane society staff will also discuss issues such as adoptions, grooming, handling and other questions on which dog owners often need advice.

Families considering to adopt a dog can observe different breeds, shapes and sizes in a fun and friendly setting.

As an added feature of this year's fund raising event, Alternatives Market will be donating the equivalent of the 'Spin and Win a Discount' also running that day. Each customer will have the opportunity to spin the wheel and receive a discount ranging from 8 - 30 per cent. The total of the individual discounts will be given to the Oakville

Humane Society by Lorri and Lew King, co-owners of Alternatives Market.

"This will be a way that everyone shopping at Alternatives on July 9 can also participate and support the Society, even if they don't have a dog at the wash," said Lew King. "This is a real win-win event. The Oakville Humane Society wins, customers of Alternatives win, and the dogs of Oakville win with a fun bath."

For more information, call Heather White of the Oakville Humane Society at 905-845-1551 or from Jeremy King, Alternatives' Store Manager at 905-844-2375.

Dog contests at Abbey Oaks Off Leash Dog Park

A barbecue and dog contests will be held on Sunday, July 10 at the Abbey Oaks Off Leash Dog Park to raise funds for the Oakville Humane Society.

The park is located on the west side of Neyagawa Boulevard just north of Dundas Street.

The event presented by the Abbey Oaks Off Leash Management Committee will be held from 11 a.m. -

2 p.m. The proceeds from the sale of hotdogs, hamburgers and pop will also be donated.

The dog contests staged by the Oakville Humane Society will have prizes and ribbons for all first, second and third place winning dogs.

The entry fee is \$2.

The categories are dog that looks most like it's owner, silliest dog trick,

dog with the best wag and wiggle, dog that gives the most kisses in 15 seconds, the biggest dog, the smallest dog and dog with the best costume.

There is also a 50/50 draw with all proceeds donated to the Oakville Humane Society.

Oakville's newest off leash park is a spacious, fully fenced area with ample parking and a pergola for shade.

TOYS 'R' US
Celebrate BabyFest at Toys "R" Us on Saturday, July 9, 2005.
In addition to great deals on a huge selection of everything you need for baby, Toys "R" Us hosts various professionals, organizations and services to provide you with the latest facts, tips and services for you and baby.
Participants include Thyme Maternity with all the latest fashions and trends, local daycare or healthcare centres, and more. Plus fun activities like in-store games and a free craft session.
See your local Toys "R" Us store for a list of participants and times and while you're there, pick up a free copy of our 2005 Toys "R" Us Baby Catalogue.

Try our crowd-pleasing platinum award winning sandwiches

- Great Food • Always Fresh
- Always Delicious
- Fast, Friendly Service

Emergency Catering is just a call away!

SANDWICH TREE
Oakville Place Mall • 905-842-4701

SUMMERTIME
Learn to Dance this Summer. Don't sweat it! Dancing is fun. It's great exercise. It's a passport to a new life. And thanks to the dance professionals at Fred Astaire Dance Studios, it's easy to learn. Learn with or without a partner. Call today.

SUMMER SPECIAL
5 SESSIONS for \$20
New Adult Students Only
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIOS
225 Lakeshore Road East, 2nd Floor, Downtown Oakville (1 block west of Trafalgar Rd.) (Entrance from both Lakeshore Road and parking lot off Church Street)
(905) 842-3797
e-mail: oakvillestudio@fredastaire.ca

DANCE TIME

Supreme WINDOWS
(905) 849-7800

Call Today! Dedicated to Excellence

Showroom:
402 Winston Churchill Blvd.
supremewindows.com

The Marvel VCS6005 will provide the most marvelous outdoor cooking experience ever!

SAVE \$400

VERMONT CASTINGS SIGNATURE

Many models to choose from visit us today!

CobbleSTONEembers
406 Speers Rd., Oakville (across from Rona Lansing) 905-337-2066

LINE UP Golf Wear 30% OFF **PEGGY'S DISTINCTIVE LADIES FASHIONS** **WOOLRICH Weekend Wear 50% OFF**

SUMMER SIDEWALK SALE

ENTIRE SELECTION Summer Fashions 50% OFF **UP TO 70% OFF** **KORET Mix 'n Match Coordinated Sportswear 60% OFF**

LONDON FOG Coats and Jackets 60% OFF **SELECTED SUMMER CASUALS Now Only \$17.98 - \$21.98** **DESIGNER FASHIONS Susan Bristol, Spanner, David Brooks, Robert Kitchen, Liz Clairborne 50% OFF**

Hopedale Mall, Rebecca Street • 905-465-3499

FABRICLAND

BUY 1, GET 2 FREE @ FABRICLAND ON SELECTED MERCHANDISE

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Buy 1 full metre or unit of selected merchandise at Fabricland's regular price, get the next 2 metres or units FREE! Sale in effect June 27-July 17 while quantities last.

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS' OFFER! JULY 4-10
Entire In-Store Stock!
NEW LOOK PATTERNS - only 99¢ ea.
Limit 10 per Member, while quantities last. Not valid with any other discount offers.

Inventory Clearance Continues!
SAVE 50% OR BETTER OFF OUR ORIGINAL PRICES ON OUR ENTIRE REGULAR STOCK OF FASHION, BASIC & CRAFT FABRIC & HOME DEC FABRIC & HARDWARE!

OPEN SUNDAYS 12-5
140 Rebecca St. **OAKVILLE** 844-7728