

CILT *Now*

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto



SUMMER/
FALL
2017



CILT and Direct Funding staff welcomed visitors at the recent People in Motion show, an annual event for people with disabilities.

CILT in the Community

Direct Funding program participants made a presentation to the recent Achieving Excellence Together conference. Formerly called the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres, the annual conference brings together care co-ordinators and other home care workers. Direct Funding participants Maayan Ziv and Ian Parker discussed their experience on the program.



In Memoriam

Victor Willi • 1942-2017

Vic Willi, Executive Director of CILT from 1989 – 2006, died recently after a long illness. CILT hosted a memorial in March that celebrated his life. A former social worker, Vic was the recipient of the 2010 CILT Founders' Award.

CILT will soon be announcing the establishment of the **Vic Willi Legacy Fund**; more information about the fund will be featured on www.cilt.ca.

Annual General Meeting

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto

Friday, October 13, 2017

St. Paul's Church

227 Bloor St E, Toronto

Registration, networking & light

snacks: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

AGM: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Board member publishes first novel

Must read

By SANDRA CARPENTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

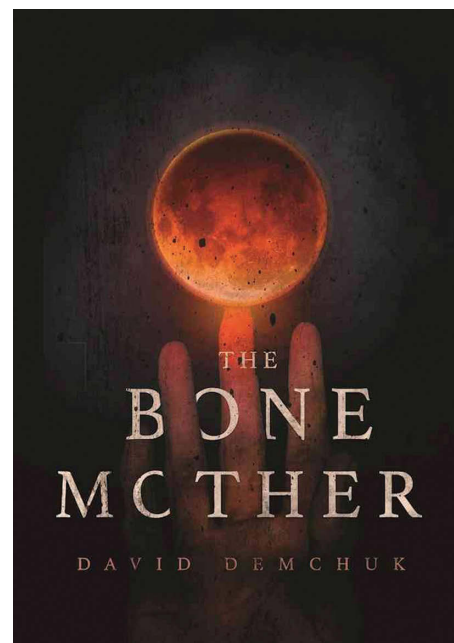
We are fortunate to have a very talented Board of Directors; however, at this time we would like to give the nod to David Demchuk, who recently published his novel, *Bone Mother*, available from Amazon Books, which writes:

Three neighbouring villages on the Ukrainian/Romanian border are the final refuge for the last of the mythical creatures of Eastern Europe. Now, on the eve of the war that may eradicate their kind—and with the ruthless Night Police descending upon their sanctuary—they tell their

stories and confront their destinies. Eerie and unsettling like the best fairy tales, these incisor-sharp portraits of ghosts, witches, sirens, and seers—and the mortals who live at their side and in their thrall—will chill your marrow and tear at your heart.

David has been writing for theatre, film, television, radio, and other media for more than 30 years. His reviews, essays, interviews and columns have appeared in such magazines as *Toronto Life*, *Xtra*, *What! Magazine*, and the *Toronto Star*. *Bone Mother* is his first novel.

Congratulations David.



CILT Staff Directory 416-599-2458 / 1-800-354-9950 • Fax: 416-599-3555 / TDD: 416-599-5077

Melissa Azore

Direct Funding (DF) Program Facilitator,
x227, dfacilitator@cilt.ca

Sandra Carpenter

Executive Director, x236, execdirector@cilt.ca

Leisa DeBono

Direct Funding (DF) Program Manager,
x233, dfadmin@cilt.ca

Abdullah Duranai

DF Provincial Support Co-ordinator,
x273, dfassist@cilt.ca

Denise Emile

Peer and Parenting Program Co-ordinator,
x291 peers@cilt.ca

Marisa Falzone

DF Provincial Report Co-ordinator,
x231 dfaccount@cilt.ca

Melissa Graham

DF Community Facilitator,
x241, dfresource@cilt.ca

Zdravka Gueorguieva

Attendant Service Application Centre (ASAC)
Assistant x237, asac.assist@cilt.ca

Katherine Janicki

DF Intake Co-ordinator,
x235, dfinfo@cilt.ca

Leanne Larmondin

DF Provincial Program Co-ordinator,
x240, dfsupport@cilt.ca

Judy Lu

Operations Assistant,
x226, adminsupport@cilt.ca

Melanie Marsden

Community Engagement Specialist,
x222, melanie.marsden@cilt.ca

John Mossa

Independent Living Skills Co-ordinator,
x238, ilskills@cilt.ca

Kathleen Odell

ASAC Assistant, x225, asac.info@cilt.ca

Ian Parker

DF Senior Advisor, x232, dfmanager@cilt.ca

Andrea Rae

Service Engagement Co-ordinator,
x228, info@cilt.ca

Rolita Siu

ASAC Manager, x223, asac@cilt.ca

John Tam

DF Audit and Information Co-ordinator,
x234, dfaudit@cilt.ca

Danielle Vinciguerra

Review and Audit Administrator
X292, dreview@cilt.ca

Samatha Walsh

DF Intake and Resource Facilitator
X270, dfintake@cilt.ca

Ing Wong-Ward ON LEAVE

Associate Director, x271, ing.wong-ward@cilt.ca

Jamie Wong

Operations Manager, x224, admin@cilt.ca

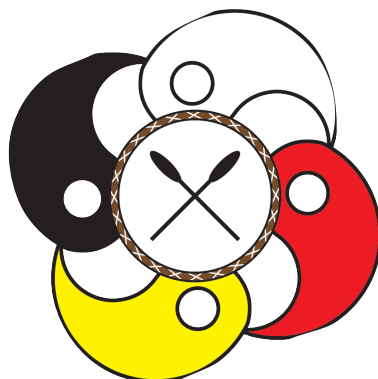
CILT's Indigenous Talking Circle

Hello to all CILT members!



This shout out comes from the Community Engagement Specialist at the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT).

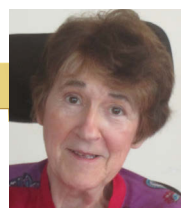
CILT is embarking on a new journey. Over the last year I have been making more connections with the Indigenous community. As an Indigenous person with a disability myself I thought it might be interesting to explore and name what are the gaps Indigenous disabled folks experience? If you are Indigenous and you have a disability this talking circle is for you. If you want to



participate, if you are Indigenous and/or an ally, please contact me to form the first ever Indigenous talking circle at CILT. Miigwetch

Melanie Marsden 416-599-2458 ext. 222
Email: melanie.marsden@cilt.ca

The Helen Henderson Literary Award



Calling all writers

The Helen Henderson Literary Award was established in 2016. Helen was a writer and journalist. After being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in the 1970s, Helen Henderson began writing a pioneering column in the *Toronto Star*—a mixture of information and advocacy—that brought issues faced by disabled people into mainstream

conversation. Helen passed away in April 2015, when she was president of the board of CILT.

For more information, please see <http://bit.ly/2vIMjd7>.

Deadline for submissions by a CILT member or ally is Sept. 1, 2017



In Memoriam



Remembering Bill McQueen

By DONALD BARRIE, CILT BOARD MEMBER

On Feb. 3, CILT's friend and colleague, Bill McQueen, died after a brief illness. Originally from the United States, Bill took an interest in supporting people with disabilities after arriving in Canada in 1969.

From 1990 to 1997, his production company, Fireweed Media, produced Disability Network (D-Net), the first television show to cover news and issues pertaining to people with disabilities. Bill co-produced the weekly CBC current affairs show with Fireweed co-founder Don Peuramaki.

Bill and Don collaborated on other disability-themed films and TV specials throughout the next two decades. In 2013, CILT honoured them with its Founders' Award.

A public memorial for Bill took place at the Buddies in Bad Times theatre on March 18. It was a large gathering that celebrated his achievements and talents. Bill leaves behind his partner, Bon, and his many allies in the disability and LGBTQ communities.

Calendar of Events

Joint CILT/ Springtide Picnic

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre
750 Spadina Avenue, Room 218
(Spadina and Bloor)

RSVP TO: Denise Emile: (416) 599-2458 x291 /
peers@cilt.ca

Attendant Care will be provided (but we encourage you to bring your own attendant). Please inform of any food allergies/sensitivities when RSVPing. Other reasonable accommodations provided upon request* (with advanced notice). We endeavour to make this a scent-free event. Space is limited!

CILT Annual General Meeting

St. Paul's Church
227 Bloor St E, Toronto
Registration, networking & light
snacks: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
AGM: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Living, Parenting, Conference 2017

Ryerson University
55 Gould Street, Tecumseh Room
(The option to attend via webinar is also available).

“Living, Parenting, Possibilities; Universal Access Now” is open to all community members, allies and service providers who would like to learn more about parenting with a disability.

Please RSVP one of three ways:
Online: <http://bit.ly/2vJ4xLA>
416-968-3422 ext. 24
melanie@springtideresources.org

Participants, if able, are asked to contribute a nominal \$25 fee at:
<http://bit.ly/2vJ4xLA>

Summer 2017

AUGUST 2017

Joint CILT/ Springtide Picnic

Saturday, August 26, 2017

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre
750 Spadina Avenue, Room 218
(Spadina and Bloor)
TTC: Spadina (accessible)
RSVP by: Friday, August 18th, 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017

The 7th Annual Toronto Disability Pride March

Saturday, September 23, 2017

12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Starting at Queen's Park
(111 Wellesley Street West) and
marching to the School of Disability Studies
at Ryerson (99 Gerrard Street East)



Summer/Fall 2017

Fall 2017

OCTOBER 2017

CILT Annual General Meeting



Friday, October 13, 2017

St. Paul's Church
227 Bloor St E, Toronto

Registration, networking & light
snacks: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

AGM: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2017

Living, Parenting, Conference 2017



Wednesday, November 8, 2017

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ryerson University

55 Gould Street, Tecumseh Room

The 7th Annual Toronto Disability Pride March



Starting at Queen's Park (111 Wellesley Street West) and marching to the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson (99 Gerrard Street East)

For more information contact
torontodisabilitypride@gmail.com or
visit <http://tdpm.org>



Diners' Club events



Come dine with us! Join us for fun, food and friendship every third Thursday of every month at a different, affordable, accessible restaurant in the city. For fall dates, locations and times, please check the CILT website, www.cilt.ca

Note for Diners Club events: please RSVP to Denise by the specified date at (416) 599-2458 ext. 291, or e-mail, peers@cilt.ca. Members are responsible for the cost of their own meal.

CILT will make every effort to have an attendant available for this event, however we are unable to guarantee this. Therefore, those who must have an attendant with them to fully enjoy this event are encouraged to bring their own.

New CILT staff member



Program Facilitator,
Direct Funding program
Melissa Azore

Melissa Azore identifies as an ally and passionate supporter of the Independent Living movement. Professionally, she has worked in the private, educational and government sectors, holding positions at TELUS Mobility, Seneca College and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. It is in these roles she was able to hone her administrative and record keeping skills. In addition to this, Melissa taught English for a semester in Brazil. She is currently completing a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology at York University. She also holds a Liberal Arts Diploma from Seneca College. When Melissa is not working, she likes to sing. She is a professionally trained vocalist and performer. Melissa could not be more pleased to now be working with the Direct Funding program.

Please Touch: A Multi-sensory Tour of the Art Gallery of Ontario



John Rae, a CILT member, experiences an exhibit at the Art Gallery of Ontario

In May, CILT organized a multi-sensory tour of the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) for blind and partially-sighted consumers. The tour gave participants the unique opportunity to experience the richness and diversity of the gallery's collection through vivid, detailed verbal descriptions by a specially-trained AGO tour guide. Tour visitors also had the chance to touch many of the three-dimensional works of art the gallery has on display through the use of purple nitrile gloves. The AGO has been offering its 'tactile tours' since 2009, but they have only recently gained popularity.

AGO multi-sensory tours are offered regularly on the first Sunday and the first Thursday of each month, and at other times by special arrangement. They last about 90 minutes and are free with admission, though you have to book a spot in advance.

If you are a CILT member and would like to visit the AGO free of charge, please call (416) 599-2458 ext. 291, or e-mail peers@cilt.ca for details.

Thinking about Disability; Thinking about Aging

"If we live long enough, we will all have the opportunity to be disabled" -Irving Zola

By SAMANTHA WALSH,
DIRECT FUNDING INTAKE AND RESOURCE FACILITATOR

The above quote is from sociologist Irving Zola. His quote speaks to the relationship between disability, aging, and the Independent Living movement. For some of us, age may bring a disability, we may "age into a disability"; for others, we may be aging with a disability. If one subscribes to an Independent Living philosophy, having a disability does not exclude you from a meaningful life. Disability becomes a different way to move through the world. The Independent Living movement thinks about disability as a social identity that invokes the same human rights based protection, including race, gender, or age. The Centre for Independent Living of Toronto (CILT), Access Independent Living Services and other community partners recently conducted a research study to examine the experience of those aging *with* and those aging *into* a disability.



What is the Independent Living (IL) Movement?

The IL movement was founded by Ed Roberts, a Berkeley University student with a disability, who won the right to attend school in the 1970s. Roberts set up centres to support other students with disabilities and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The IL movement is now worldwide; there are 11 Independent Living Centres in Ontario, and 28 across the Canada.

Disability and Aging Research Project

The Disability and Aging Research project was funded through a Trillium Grant and headed by Access

Independent Living Services with the support of CILT and other community partners. Data for the project was collected through surveys and focus groups. 332 individuals with disabilities were surveyed. Additionally, 18 focus groups were conducted, with a total of 128 participants.

Findings

The research revealed that social factors, more so than physical ability, dictate inclusion and happiness. People who could summon resources or were financially fit were better able to access supports and be included in their community. However, in addition to access to resources it was the people who understood themselves as still deserving of a rich and full life even with

a disability who were the best advocates for themselves and others. Thinking of disability as an identity, as a different way of moving through the world, empowers people to see themselves as having value and a right to participate in their community. It is imperative that as we age we think about disability in terms of social justice. If you have grown up with a disability or are new to the experience through age, you are not alone: there is a community of disability activists and community resources. Reach out and contact your local Independent Living Centre.

More information about Disability; and the Centre for Independent Living The full *Aging with A Disability* report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2uHzaE7>

Spotlight on CILT volunteer Mary Henderson



Mary Henderson

Q. How long have you been volunteering at CILT?

A. I've been volunteering at CILT since 1999.

Q. What made you decide to start volunteering?

A. I had an occupational therapist who knew I was interested in finding something to do, so we looked on the computer for volunteer jobs. And I saw a few, but this one seemed to stick.

Q. How often do you volunteer?

A. Once or twice a week.

Q. You've been here since '99, what keeps you volunteering at CILT?

A. Interesting jobs, and I seem to be appreciated.

Q. What types of volunteer tasks do you enjoy?

A. I enjoy sorting materials, working on mailings; I like doing Direct Funding packages, and putting together information packages.



*Thank you
to all our volunteers*



CILT Now

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Editorial team: Donald Barrie (CILT board member),
Melissa Graham, Leanne Larmondin, Melanie Marsden,
Ing Wong-Ward

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Canada
Voir au-delà du handicap
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