



June 17, 2024

Celebrating Community Spirit!

There was dancing, laughing and a whole lot of gratitude at the Grand Hotel in Carleton Place on June 13th. Lanark Community Alliance staff, the individuals we serve, and local partners came together to celebrate the community spirit that makes us one.

“We’ve come together today because of the incredible people we support—they are truly at the heart of everything we do, and I want to thank them for welcoming us into their lives. This event is a testament to what we’ve all accomplished together. In 2022, Carebridge Community Support (CCS) and the Community Living Association - Lanark (CLA) came together to form the Lanark Community Alliance (LCA),” noted CEO Rob Eves. “As an alliance, we are finding ways to improve services and enhance the experience of each person we work with— those with varying developmental disabilities, older adults, and those needing affordable housing.”

The heartwarming afternoon included a video talent show featuring 21 staff and individuals we serve. Everything from singing to flower arranging to hip hop dancing was part of the show! Thank you to Twin Code Media for bringing these amazing talents together in one video for us to enjoy and celebrate.

In addition, three inaugural awards were presented. The **Recreation Partner Award** went to the **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 192**. The bond between the CLA and the Carleton Place Legion blossomed from a simple act of gratitude. In 2022, CLA donated \$200 to the Legion for Remembrance Day as a thank you for hosting their weekly dart sessions. Little did they know, this small act of gratitude would set off a chain reaction of more donations, movie nights, a dart tournament, and more. This partnership has fostered a spirit of community and generosity and serves as a reminder of the incredible power of connection and kindness.

The **Employment Partner Award** was given to **Canadian Tire** in Carleton Place in recognition of the store’s exemplary commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunity. For almost three decades, Canadian Tire has collaborated with the CLA to provide meaningful employment for individuals with diverse abilities. In fact, Chris, a dedicated and hard-working individual supported by CLA, has been working there for 28 years! Chris is not just an employee, but a valued member of the Canadian Tire family. Their actions underscore that inclusivity isn’t just a buzzword, but a foundational principle that fosters a more interconnected, empathetic and fair society for all.

And **Peterh Catalfamo** received the **Volunteer Award**. Peterh is an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer at Foundry Books and Novelties. Every Tuesday, he arrives at the store ready to lend a hand and help customers find the perfect book. He is also famous for his weekly “Peterh’s Pick” video book reviews. Peterh is an invaluable member of the Foundry Books community, embodying the store’s values of dedication, enthusiasm and community spirit.

The afternoon ended with a reception and great music by Lanark County Revival.

“Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special day and thank you to our sponsors, including many local businesses, who helped to make it all possible,” summed up Rob Eves.



Cutline: it was a full crowd at the Grand Hotel.



Cutline: Peterh Catalfamo received one of three awards presented at the event – the volunteerism award for his dedicated service at Foundry Books and Novelties in Carleton Place.



Cutline:
Lanark County Revival energized the crowd, getting everyone up and dancing to celebrate the occasion.



Carebridge Community Support connects and is a catalyst for fostering stronger, caring, person-centred communities across Lanark County by working together to meet the needs of seniors, adults with developmental disabilities and those who need affordable housing.

Together, our organizations employ over 300 people, welcome hundreds of volunteers and serve countless individuals and families.



Community Living Association (Lanark County) is a charity supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities to enable and assist them to live a quality life in their community with dignity and respect.

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