



# BAFFLEGAB

Community Advocacy & Legal Centre Newsletter

[www.communitylegalcentre.ca](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca)

## Special Forum on Deaf Legal Rights – A Great Success



More than 80 local people turned out for a dynamic presentation by Jennifer Jackson, Lawyer/Executive Director of the Ontario Association of the Deaf (OAD) on November 15 at the Belleville Public Library. The packed room listened intently as she spoke passionately about the human rights of the Deaf and issues of discrimination faced by members of the Deaf community. She also provided information about the OAD's pilot Deaf legal clinic and her dream for the future.

Communicating through American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, members of the local Deaf community raised many issues of concern. Hearing audience members learned that the recent municipal election and all candidates meetings were not accessible to people who are Deaf. A petition to the elections Returning Officer was circulated and many people signed it. A second issue raised was that government funding is not available for modern communication devices like video phones and Personal Digital Assistants that have all but replaced the antiquated TTY telephone equipment for the Deaf.

Members of the Deaf community also spoke about the need for more ASL interpreters locally. Parents of Deaf children spoke about the need for more ASL training for children and family members so that they can communicate with each other. Ms. Jackson spoke of the OAD-sponsored legal challenge to a recent government policy that denies some Deaf children and parents access to ASL training.

Ms. Jackson also congratulated the Belleville Association of the Deaf for their recent award at the OAD's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Ms. Jackson, a former student of Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, is one of only four Deaf lawyers in Canada. She also participated in a high school assembly at Sir James Whitney where a large crowd of high school students stayed after school and only reluctantly let her leave for her next engagement. She also met with members of the Deaf Accessibility Project to provide advice on how local agencies can provide more appropriate and accessible services for Deaf victims of domestic violence.



### Inside this issue you will find articles about:

- Legal Rights
- Law Reform & Systemic Advocacy Activity
- Community Development Activities: Working With Our Community
- Where Else Can You Go For Help?
- What's New at the Clinic?

## Alerting Systems Now Covered by Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works

The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) have issued a joint policy bulletin advising that recipients of ODSP and OW and their dependents who are Deaf or hard of hearing are now entitled to coverage for alerting systems. To request an alerting system you must first submit an estimate of the cost.

An alerting system is a system that picks up sound from fire alarms, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide monitors, baby monitors, telephones, doorbells, and security systems and transmits the signal to a light flasher, bed shaker, or other appropriate alerting mechanism.

If your request for an alerting system is not approved by ODSP or OW, please contact the legal clinic for assistance.

*Deirdre McDade, Clinic Lawyer*

### Clinic Offers New Email and Text Message Intake for Deaf or Hard of Hearing

At our clinic we strive to meet the needs of all our clients. Deaf clients can reach us in a variety of ways:

- TTY 613-966-8714 or toll free TTY 1-877-966-8714
- Bell Relay Service - Call (via TTY) 711 or 1-800-267-6511 or visit [http://www.bell.ca/support/PrsCSrvGnl\\_FAQ\\_Detail.page?FAQ\\_ID=300](http://www.bell.ca/support/PrsCSrvGnl_FAQ_Detail.page?FAQ_ID=300)
- Email or Text Message our Intake Workers at [calcgen3@lao.on.ca](mailto:calcgen3@lao.on.ca)

View our Services for Deaf or Hard of Hearing at [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Services\\_For\\_Hearing\\_Impaired.htm](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Services_For_Hearing_Impaired.htm).

## Poverty Law Advocates from Across Canada: Getting Organized



Exciting new initiatives to link up poverty law advocates from across Canada are in the works. In November 2006, 45 advocates from across Canada launched a new Poverty Law Advocates Network (PLANC) after meeting in Vancouver for two days. The research and community building that led up to the conference was funded by the Law Foundations of British Columbia and Ontario, and the Canadian Bar Association's Law for the Future Fund.

Clinic Executive Director Michele Leering is on the Steering Committee for the new Network, and will be helping to develop on-line resources and information sharing. Michele notes, "I was encouraged by the incredible commitment of community-based advocates, especially given the conditions under which these advocates work. They have so few resources – disturbing in a country that prides itself on providing access to justice. In most provinces, you can get legal aid for most criminal charges and some family law work, but not for civil law problems – particularly those related to poverty and vulnerability. Community legal clinics are unique to Ontario, and poor people in other provinces have far fewer advocacy resources available to them. We need to work to change this."

More information can be found at <http://planc.povnet.org>.

## Recent Victory at the Divisional Court

On April 11, 2007 two lawyers from our clinic (Deirdre McDade and Jessica Michael) appeared at the Divisional Court representing a client who appealed from a decision of the Social Benefits Tribunal (SBT) denying her eligibility as a person with a disability under the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act (ODSPA)*.

The appellant was a 56 year old woman who suffered from chronic pain from arthritis that varied in severity day-to-day. She was unable to work but attempted to stay active by doing volunteer work. She had 3 to 4 bad days a week when she was in severe pain and unable to do many activities of daily living. On her good days she had significantly less pain and she was able to do many activities of daily living.

The SBT denied her appeal by focusing on her level of activities on her good days and finding that this level of activity meant that she was not disabled under the *ODSPA*.

Our client had applied for benefits in April 2003. The SBT denied her appeal in January 2005. In the fall of 2005 she developed cancer and was granted benefits on a 2<sup>nd</sup> application but only back to August 2005. This meant she would not receive the full retroactive benefits back to her original application in April 2003 - that is 2 years and 4 months of benefits. The Ministry refused to settle the Divisional Court appeal despite the acknowledgment that this woman was now disabled and entitled to on-going benefits.

At the Divisional Court we successfully argued that the SBT erred by ignoring the intermittent nature of our client's disability and penalizing her for her ability to cope and do volunteer work.

The Divisional Court granted our appeal and found that the SBT erred in finding that the appellant was

not a person with a disability. The Divisional Court found that the SBT erred by applying the wrong test in the case of a disabled person who has chronic intermittent pain. The Divisional Court found that the SBT failed to properly assess the appellant's case by failing to appreciate the intermittent nature of her chronic pain and the effect that it had on her activities of daily living.

This is an important victory for disabled people who suffer from intermittent chronic pain. We hope that this Divisional Court decision will improve how the government assesses intermittent chronic pain cases.

*Deirdre McDade, Clinic Lawyer*

## What Should You Do If ....

You encounter a "first available bed" policy? This could happen to you or a family member being discharged from a hospital to a long term care facility.

The policy may include "choices":

- accept the first available bed
- return home to wait for their facility choice
- go to a retirement home to wait for their facility choice or
- pay the "daily rate" for the hospital bed.

Patients or their substitute decision maker **should not sign** a document agreeing to the policy.

**You must consent** to the long term care home you move into; **forcing you into a long term care home is not consent**. Hospitals have also been threatening people with large daily rates of up to \$1,300 a day if they don't take the first available bed. There is no authority for hospitals to charge more than \$50 a day. The \$50 a day charge is legal as long as a physician determines the patient no longer requires acute care. Contact the legal clinic for more information.

*Jessica Michael, Clinic Lawyer*

## **Budget Good First Step, But Much Work Remains to be Done: Anti-Poverty**

“Ontario needed an anti-poverty budget. This is a beginning – but it has to be built upon in order to ensure everyone in Ontario has a decent standard of living,” said Sarah Blackstock, research and policy analyst at the Income Security Advocacy Centre.

The new Ontario Child Benefit will provide a maximum of \$92/month per child to families in low-wage work. Social assistance rates will be restructured so that families on assistance will only receive a net benefit of \$50/month per child. In July 2007, all eligible families will receive an Ontario Child Benefit of \$250. Social assistance restructuring will begin in 2008.

In addition to the new Ontario Child Benefit, the budget announced:

- i) the minimum wage will reach \$10.25/hour by 2010
- ii) social assistance rates will be increased by 2%
- iii) the release of \$392 million federal dollars for new affordable housing and housing allowances
- iv) \$25 million for childcare, increased to \$50 million in ongoing support starting in 2008-09 and
- v) an investment of \$3.6 million annually to investigate complaints of employment standards violations.

As a result of the 2% increase to social assistance rates, a single person on Ontario Works will be struggling to get by on only \$559/month.

“We’re hopeful that the government’s next step will be to work with anti-poverty activists and social policy advocates to develop a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy,” said Blackstock.

*Excerpted from article by Income Security Advocacy Centre*

## **Minimum Wage on the Rise!**

In November 2006, a private member’s bill to boost Ontario’s minimum wage to \$10/hour passed its second reading. The bill, in support of a “*Living Wage Act*”, was introduced by New Democratic Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), Cheri DiNovo.

The current minimum wage was raised to \$8 per hour as of February 1, 2007. This means that a wage earner who works 40 hours per week will have less than \$1300 per month for their family, including food, shelter and other necessities.

Despite strong economic growth in the past decade, Ontario’s minimum wage has, until recently, remained frozen. It has fallen far behind inflation. As a result, individuals working at minimum wage—even at full-time hours—are living in poverty.

Many people believe that it is primarily young students who are working for the minimum wage, but the reality is that many working families are struggling to get by on minimum wage incomes. Over one-third of poor children live in families with at least one parent working full-time all year.

Momentum has grown around the minimum wage increase. Across Ontario, citizens have written their MPP’s demanding that the minimum wage be increased and that it keeps pace with the cost of living index. In the Belleville area, Quinte Labour Council President Andy Hanson sent out a media release in February supporting the minimum wage increase and asking citizens to support the campaign.

It appears that these lobbying efforts have paid off. In its latest budget, the liberal government proposed to increase the hourly minimum wage to

\$10.25 by 2010, with three annual increases of 75 cents starting on March 31, 2008.

The legal clinic continues to support the minimum wage, but we believe that the much needed increase should happen **now**. Contact your local MPP and make your voice heard!

A list of local MPP's can be found at [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Other\\_Resources.htm#MPPs](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Other_Resources.htm#MPPs).

*Victoria Watts, Clinic Lawyer*

### **Criminal Injuries Compensation Board – New Application Forms**

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) is a program funded by the Ontario government that provides compensation to survivors of violent crime.

You can apply for CICB if you have suffered physical, mental, emotional or psychological injuries as a result of a crime of violence perpetrated against you such as: assault, sexual assault, criminal harassment, child abuse or domestic violence.

The CICB released its new application forms. The new forms are more user-friendly and involve less paperwork.

The Board has posted new “Application Tips” on its website at [www.cicb.gov.on.ca](http://www.cicb.gov.on.ca). Applications can be obtained by contacting the Board toll-free at 1-800-372-7463.

If you are interested in making a claim, the clinic may be able to help you. Please contact us for more information.

*Sharon Powell, Law Clerk/Advocate*

### **“Adding Insult to Injury” – Ombudsman’s Report**

In February 2007 the Ombudsman of Ontario, André Marin, released a report on its investigation into the treatment of victims by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB). The report concluded that the CICB treats victims of crime with “bureaucratic indifference and suspicion”. The report is highly critical of the CICB for taking an average of three years to process claims from vulnerable victims of crime.

The report recounts many stories from victims of crime who were further traumatized by their dealings with the Board. Instead of giving urgent assistance to victims of crime the Board trades in technicality and embraces delay. As a result, instead of providing relief, the CICB adds “insult to injury”.

The report finds that the CICB has an unrealistically low budget and requires more money.

The Ombudsman urges the government to properly support the CICB. The Ministry of the Attorney General has accepted all of the recommendations which included:

- cutting down on the holding of oral hearings which may cause unnecessary trauma to victims of crime
- providing staff at the CICB with formal sensitivity training in dealing with victims of crime
- assigning to each file a specific contact person responsible for fielding all calls related to the file
- eliminating delays in the processing of documentation.

The Ombudsman’s report may be found at its website which is <http://www.ombudsman.on.ca>.

The Ministry of the Attorney General recently appointed retiring Chief Justice Roy McMurty to deliver a new framework for victim support and compensation following broad-based consultation within the community.

Clinic staff assisted in the Ombudsman's investigation by filing a formal letter of complaint and participating in an interview with the Ombudsman investigators. We are very pleased with the report and hope its recommendations are implemented.

*Deirdre McDade, Clinic Lawyer*

### **Update on Community Law School Proposal**

Last fall, we conducted a Needs and Capacity Assessment for a special new legal education project. We found widespread support amongst service agencies – 86% of staff surveyed want to participate, learn more about the laws and legal processes, and to engage in training to assist them to advocate for their clients.

We will be forming a Steering Committee in May 2007 to guide the work of the school. We've applied for special project funding to develop curriculum and training modules based on the needs identified, and get this project off the ground. We need to increase our knowledge of adult learning techniques, so we can improve the quality of the training we provide. As an interim step towards establishing the school, we've recently revamped our housing law workshops, funded by the Provincial Homelessness Initiative Fund, and renamed them, "Know Your Law: Housing Issues", and are experimenting with new teaching approaches. (These workshops are discussed next.)

About 30 local lawyers have expressed an interest in doing legal education in areas of law that we don't practice such as family, criminal and young offenders. This legal education work could go beyond offering workshops and radio programs as three local papers with wide circulation are all interested in having legal information columns or articles. We would like to make this new Volunteer

Lawyers Project a part of the community law school.

If we are able to secure funding for this new venture, we will be sharing our approaches and training modules with other legal clinics in other communities through CLEONet – a legal information clearing house. Let's hope the fall newsletter will contain an announcement about a successful funding application!

*Michele Leering, Executive Director/Lawyer*

### **"Know Your Law" Housing Law**

The legal clinic continues to provide information sessions to service providers and client groups. The focus of the new "Know Your Law" series for late 2006 and 2007 has been the changes to housing law.

The housing team has developed an interactive presentation, entitled "Myth or Housing Reality?", to generate discussion in group settings around frequently asked questions. About 100 Moira Secondary School students joined us to launch this approach in March 2007.

If your group would be interested in having a presentation about our services or a specific area of the law we practice, please contact Diane at ext. 31.

*Gina Cockburn, Clinic Lawyer*

### **Justice with Dignity: Improving Services after 25 Years**

Last fall we met with about 85 different service providers in focus groups across our service area. We also held key informant interviews with people living on Tyendinega Mohawk Territory, and others. This spring, following 5 years of service to Lennox & Addington County residents, we will also

be reviewing community satisfaction with our services.

What have we learned so far?

- ★ There is high regard for our services, by those who are familiar with them
- ★ People particularly value our community development and capacity building work
- ★ People are confused by the name change to Community Advocacy & Legal Centre
- ★ People are still confused about what the Legal Aid Area Offices do and what we do (and they want more family law services which we do not offer)
- ★ People really like our newsletter; most have not yet visited our website
- ★ People want to see more staff in the communities of Quinte West, Prince Edward County, Centre Hastings, and North Hastings
- ★ Service providers who are helping clients want direct access to legal staff for advice.

What are we doing about it?

- ✓ We're developing a marketing and outreach strategy, hopefully to be carried out with the assistance of volunteers, to make sure the people who need to know about us do
- ✓ We will be offering more orientation to the use of our website – we know now that only .5% of people in Canada go to the internet for legal information and we need to change that!
- ✓ We'll be participating more in interagency networks in the five satellite communities outside Belleville and making our services more visible
- ✓ We now welcome direct calls from service providers who have clients with legal problems sitting in their offices and have a special intake process.

*Michele Leering, Executive Director/Lawyer*

### Paralegal Found Negligent

The Community Legal Clinic, Simcoe, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, recently obtained a judgment denouncing the unethical conduct of a paralegal. The Divisional Court held the paralegal liable in breach of contract for not fulfilling his exaggerated promises and professionally negligent for his unethical advice and for preying upon the vulnerable tenant. The Court acknowledged that there were no formal professional standards for paralegals, but found, in this case, that empty promises and merit-less actions fell below the standard of care of an ethical and competent paralegal.

Justice Baltman denounced the paralegal for “prey[ing] on a vulnerable and unsophisticated client with no regard whatsoever to her best interests. His entire approach to the case was self-serving and designed to extract inordinate fees”.

The Court ordered that the money the tenant had paid to the paralegal, almost \$1800, be refunded.

*With thanks to Amanda Dodge, Community Legal Clinic, Simcoe, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes*

### HELP FOR NONPROFIT AGENCIES

Volunteer Lawyer Service (VLS) are volunteer lawyers registered through Pro Bono Law Ontario (PBLO). They can help nonprofit organizations with some of their legal issues. Nonprofits are screened for eligibility and referred to an appropriate lawyer.

VLS has discretion on deciding what referrals will be accepted. Nonprofits should follow up if they have not heard back from a lawyer within two weeks of the initial call.

Call VLS at 1-866-466-PBLO or visit <http://www.volunteerlawyers.org>.

## **Affordable Housing Action Network**

The Affordable Housing Action Network (AHAN) is a growing group of individuals and organizations in Hastings County who want to make a difference. The AHAN's mission is:

To create more affordable housing options for people who are precariously housed or homeless using a variety of approaches including collaborative networking, housing development, capacity building and advocacy.

AHAN next meets Wednesday, June 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Committee Room, County Administration Building, 235 Pinnacle Street, Belleville.

Three Task Forces – Bricks & Mortar, Advocacy and Information/Networking continue to seek solutions to and bring awareness of the affordable housing dilemma in Hastings County.

Bricks & Mortar wants to develop a nonprofit entity that will support the building or renovating of affordable housing options.

Advocacy has been inspired by the success of Peterborough's "Homegrown Homes" and will be pursuing partnerships in the community to create a similar vision.

Information/Networking has put together information packages for individuals and organizations who wish to join or receive more information regarding AHAN.

Interested groups in Lennox & Addington and Prince Edward Counties have met to discuss the formation of a network. A meeting in Prince Edward County, spearheaded by counselors Bev Campbell and Laverne Bailey, was well attended.

*Gina Cockburn, Clinic Lawyer*

## **ODSP Energy Assistance:**

If you are a recipient of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) you may qualify for a one-time payment of \$50 for the purchase of products that will help you be more energy efficient, for example: fluorescent light bulbs, plastic window kits, programmable thermostats. You must contact your local office to request this payment and advise them how you expect to spend the money.

*Gina Cockburn, Clinic Lawyer*

## **Rent Bank for Tenants**

Hastings County Social Services continue to offer a "Rent Bank" program to tenants living on low income in Hastings County. Anyone NOT on Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) can apply at Ontario Works to receive funds from the rent bank for assistance with up to two months of rent.

To access funds, contact your local Ontario Works office by telephone. You can access the "Rent Bank" once in a two-year period.

In Prince Edward and Lennox & Addington Counties, the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) provides loans of up to \$1500. Low income families may qualify for help with rent, heat or hydro debts. Contact Ontario Works at 1-866-354-3364 to apply.

*Gina Cockburn, Clinic Lawyer*

## **Property Tax Breaks for Seniors and Disabled**

Again in 2007 the City of Belleville is offering a property tax credit for homeowners in receipt of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and low income seniors over 65. Application may be

made to the City for a \$200 credit towards the September property tax installment. Deadline for application is AUGUST 30, 2007 but apply early! Prince Edward County seniors on low income and those on ODSP may apply to defer property taxes increases. You must apply no later than SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.

Stone Mills Township offers a tax deferral for low income seniors.

For further details contact these municipalities or check their websites at:  
<http://www.city.belleville.on.ca>; [www.pecounty.on.ca](http://www.pecounty.on.ca); [www.loyalist.ca](http://www.loyalist.ca)  
Don't live in Belleville, Prince Edward or Stone Mills? Contact your municipality to see if they have similar programs available. Many may offer tax deferrals if you apply.

*Gina Cockburn, Clinic Lawyer*

### **Who Does What? Finding Free Legal Services for Poor People**

Where do you turn when you've got a legal problem? It can be confusing. We've been working hard to reduce that confusion. Here are a couple of things we've done, in partnership with the Legal Aid Offices in Belleville and Napanee and the Supervisors of Duty Counsel in the Courts:

- We've developed tip sheets about our services:
  - For Lennox & Addington, call us or download a copy from [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/New\\_joint\\_LA\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/New_joint_LA_brochure.pdf)
  - For Hastings and Prince Edward Counties, call us or download a copy from [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/Legal\\_Services\\_Available\\_Hastings\\_and\\_PEC.pdf](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/Legal_Services_Available_Hastings_and_PEC.pdf)
  - And if you want to know specifically "**Who Does What**" in each area of the law, we've created a comprehensive tip sheet which you can access at [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/LEGAL\\_AID\\_COMPARISON\\_CHART\\_HPELA.pdf](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/LEGAL_AID_COMPARISON_CHART_HPELA.pdf)

- And if we can't help you locally, we've created another extensive tip sheet "**Where Else to Go for Help**" which you call us for or access at [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/Where\\_Else\\_To\\_Go\\_For\\_Help.pdf](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/PDF/Where_Else_To_Go_For_Help.pdf)
- We are developing a workshop for family law lawyers to explore how to provide more efficient and effective legal services for domestic violence victims.

If you don't have internet access, and want copies of these materials, just call us and we'll send them out. You don't have to go online to know more! And if you have idea about how we can make our legal services more seamless, let us know. This is a work-in-progress.

*Michele Leering, Executive Director/Lawyer*

### **Special Projects Corner: Local Lawyers Recognized for Pro Bono Work**

Local lawyers were recognized for their generous contributions to the community by the Board and staff of the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre at a special open house in January 2007. The legal clinic hosted a special event "In Celebration, In Recognition, In Appreciation" to acknowledge the free legal work done by lawyers in Hastings, Prince Edward and Lennox & Addington Counties to help people in desperate need when Legal Aid is not available to them.

Clinic chairperson Cathy McCallum took the opportunity to thank the local bar members for this often unrecognized contribution and applauded lawyers for their contribution to increasing access to justice for people living on a low income or in poverty.

John Mastorakos, president of the Hastings County Law Association noted "the lawyers of the Hastings County Law Association are well aware of the financial hurdles being faced by our citizens when

they attempt to access legal assistance. We are pleased to be involved in the Pro Bono Law Project and to be working with the clinic to find alternative methods of providing legal advice beyond the traditional framework of a private Legal Aid retainer.” Former Pro Bono Steering Committee co-chair and lawyer Barb Burford spoke about other projects underway. “Pro Bono Law Ontario (PBLO) provides referrals for nonprofit agencies and parents and children with education law problems through their Volunteer Lawyer Service and Child Advocacy Project. Local lawyers are now involved as volunteers with those programs”. She notes however that “many local practitioners get referrals directly from their community and not through an organized PBLO project.”



(left to right, Steering Committee member Harry Rands, clinic staff Lynda Morgan, and local lawyer Barbara Burford)

*Gina Cockburn, Clinic Lawyer*

### **Education Corner: Staying in School**

In December 20, 2006 new rules for school attendance were approved by amendments to the *Education Act*. The program is commonly called “Learning to Age 18”. The changes make the government's “Student Success” programs mandatory at all school boards. The *Education Act* has changed in other ways as well, for example: the age at which a student must legally stay in school has gone up to 18. This could mean that high

school-aged students can get educational credit for principal-approved learning experiences outside the classroom. The Education Minister says further changes will provide more alternatives to suspensions and expulsions, starting this fall.

For more information, contact your high school principal.

For information about child and youth legal issues, including school attendance, check out the Justice for Children and Youth website at [www.jfcy.org](http://www.jfcy.org).

*Gina Cockburn, Clinic Lawyer*

### **Spotlight on Specialty Clinic: Advocacy Centre for the Elderly**

The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE) is a specialty community legal clinic that provides a range of legal services to low income seniors in the province of Ontario.

ACE is funded through Legal Aid Ontario and is the first legal clinic in Canada to specialize in the legal problems of seniors. Legal services include individual and group client advice and representation, public legal education, community development, and law reform activities. ACE provides legal services to clients who need advice or assistance with issues in long-term care facilities, hospitals, psychiatric facilities, and other institutional settings.

Visit ACE at <http://www.advocacycentreelderly.org>. The website contains information on elder abuse, nursing homes and homes for the aged, pensions and income, powers of attorney and related issues, and retirement homes. ACE is located in Toronto. Their phone number is 1-416-598-2656.

*Jessica Michael, Clinic Lawyer*



### Web Corner:

Welcome to "Web Corner."  
Each edition of our newsletter will now contain this new

feature, outlining recent changes and additions to our website. If you do not have your own personal access to the internet, you can visit your local library for free access. Visit us online at <http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca> for the latest news in laws affecting those on a low income in Hastings, Prince Edward and Lennox and Addington Counties, as well as tip sheets on various areas of the law including Criminal Injuries Compensation, Employment Rights and Tenant Rights. Visit [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Tip\\_Sheet\\_List.htm](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Tip_Sheet_List.htm) for a complete listing of all the tip sheets on our site.

Recent additions to the site include:

- news about property tax credits for those on ODSP
- new job opportunities page for jobs at our clinic
- links regarding the new Ombudsman's report on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
- a "Change Alarm" sign up box to our home page, our Tenant Rights and ODSP pages. You just type in your email address and you will be notified by Change Alarm whenever there is a change to that page. It is a good way of keeping track of Latest News, Tenant News or ODSP News. You will be notified when there is an addition or change, so you don't have to check the site every day yourself.

You can view a complete list of changes on our site at any time by going to our site map page ([http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Site\\_Map.htm](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Site_Map.htm)) and clicking "Latest Site Updates List." Updates are listed monthly.

*Carolyn Hamilton, Webmaster*

### New Location for TRENTON Satellite Office

Our Trenton Office has moved locations! We are now located at **81 Dundas Street West**, within the Career Edge Building, right in the hub of downtown.

Victoria Watts, new clinic lawyer, staffs the office every Friday. She provides legal advice and representation to clients. She is also available to assist service providers who have legal questions related to clinic law.

The Trenton community will be better served by this move to a more centralized and accessible location. To book an appointment with Victoria, please contact our main office in Belleville at 613-966-8686, ext. 0.

You can view a map of the location at:

<http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/Satellites.htm#Trenton>.

*Victoria Watts, Clinic Lawyer*

### Are you a tenant with questions?

Call our  
**Tenant Hotline**

613-966-8686 or Toll Free: 1-877-966-8686

TTY for the deaf:  
613-966-8714 or Toll Free 1-877-966-8714



**FOR FREE LEGAL INFORMATION**

## Ten Years of Service

Two of our staff have celebrated ten year anniversaries in the last few months.

Congratulations to:

- ♥ **Diane French** who is a Legal Secretary and an Intake Worker. She is also our proud newsletter editor, amongst other responsibilities. Thanks for ten years of devoted service, and for keeping us all on our toes!
- ♥ Community Legal Worker **Marieanne Langer** who, amongst other accomplishments, took the lead on developing our case management system for ODSP disability appeals, leading to increased efficiency and effectiveness, and greater client satisfaction. Imagine what the next ten years might bring!

*Michele Leering, Executive Director/Lawyer*

**BAFFLEGAB** is published by:

**COMMUNITY ADVOCACY &  
LEGAL CENTRE**

158 George Street, Level 1  
Belleville, ON K8N 3H2

**613-966-8686** or **1-877-966-8686**

TTY for the deaf: 613-966-8714 or  
1-877-966-8714

[www.communitylegalcentre.ca](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca)

**If you would prefer to receive future newsletters electronically, please contact the clinic at [bafflegab@communitylegalcentre.ca](mailto:bafflegab@communitylegalcentre.ca).**

If you would like to support the clinic by becoming a member please contact Lynda, ext. 25, or visit our website at [http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/About\\_Us.htm](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/About_Us.htm).

The information in this newsletter is not meant to be taken as legal advice. If you have a legal problem in any of the areas of law mentioned in the newsletter, you should contact the clinic in your area.

## Memorial Service for Sheila Turnbull: Social Justice Advocate

Shortly after receiving the first-ever David Stewart Medal from Horizons of Friendship, a nonprofit international development organization, Sheila died in April 2007 in Kingston at 69 years of age.

Sheila was very involved with the community and helping people living in poverty. Her hard work and dedication is deeply missed.

Her memorial service will be held on Friday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m. at Bridge Street United Church, 60 Bridge Street West, in Belleville.

## Hear Us on the Radio:



Staff continue doing CJBQ radio shows hosted by Rick Kevan weekdays at 12:30 p.m., however, they will now be held on the last Tuesday of each month, where possible. One of our staff will talk

about legal issues affecting people living on low income or in poverty. We also give information about upcoming events that the clinic may be hosting.

## Tune in to Rick Kevan at 12:30 p.m. on CJBQ (800 on your AM dial).

The next scheduled shows will be:

**May 29, 2007 - David Little –**  
"\$10 Minimum Wage"

**June 26, 2007 – Jessica Michael –**  
"Affordable Housing News"

**There will be no shows during July and August.**

If there are any specific topics that you would like to hear about, please contact Diane, ext. 31.