



Share your pictures
from the last
60 years!

Email them to
info@quadcounty.ca

We want to hear from you!

Have ideas for a community program or questions about services and supports we provide? There are lots of ways to connect.



info@quadcounty.ca



FACEBOOK PAGE:

Quad County
Support Services



WEBSITE:

quadcounty.ca



EVENTS:

quadcounty.ca/events

Falling back into routines



I'm always amazed at how fast the summer seems to fly by. It was nice to see a return to a more normal summer. It sure was a busy one!

Even though we had some challenges with hot weather, rain, flooding and mosquitos, people seemed to make the best out of the summer days.

When some of our homes were hit by significant flooding, it was heartwarming to see how the staff stepped up to help. Thanks to many people jumping into action, we were able to minimize the damage and keep everyone safe.

In terms of some of the fun activities, our organization was once again part of Tartan Days in Glencoe. We hosted the popular pancake breakfast. Special thanks to the board members and staff who volunteered to serve up the hungry crowd.

...continued next page



Growing Our Community

As we celebrate our 60th year of Growing Our Community, I'm happy to see the growing theme taking root. It feels that we've turned a corner and individuals are embracing the new opportunities to participate. While at times it's taken people out of their comfort zones, many are starting to join events in their community, finding ways to fill their days with meaning.

It was so rewarding seeing so many people participate in a variety of summer activities.

I enjoyed working with staff to have facilitated discussions around how we support individuals to create these meaningful days. This is done by moving from a person-centred to a person-directed approach which puts the person in the driver's seat to direct where, when and how they want to be supported.

We also concluded another successful summer youth program. There were so many great work placements this year. We're so grateful to the local employers who went the extra mile to help youth develop skills that will assist them in being successful in future employment.



Fall fun

As the days got cooler, we were excited to be involved in the Rodney and Glencoe fall fairs. We had floats in the parades and enjoyed the VIP day. As part of our 60th anniversary celebrations, we also sponsored best zinnia bouquet entries at the fairs. It was amazing to see all the beautiful bouquets that had been created.

This fall we're excited for the return of some of our regular activities that were on hiatus for the summer. A community favourite is Bringgo Bingo, which brings out a strong crowd.

Before you know it, the snow will be falling and we'll be heading into Christmas planning. While it's always an exciting time of year, it's also a busy one.

I hope everyone had a restful summer as we work through a busy fall.

Linda Long
Executive Director



Quad County Honoured at Warden's Golf Tournament

This year Quad County Support Services was one of the recipients of proceeds raised at the Elgin County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament. We were thrilled to get the call that the Warden had selected our organization. Funds raised will be used to help support the work we do in Elgin County.



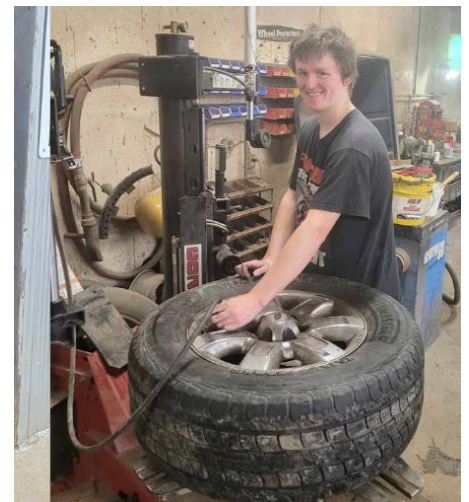
Spotlight:

A summer of fun and adventure!



FACEBOOK PAGE:
Quad County Support Services

*We're regularly posting on Facebook photos!
We encourage you to follow, comment and help
grow our Facebook 'Quad Community'.*



Strategic Directions Update

Much work continues on implementing our strategic directions. Over the past few months, we've made progress on the following areas.

1.

Advance our service model – training has been provided for staff via facilitated discussions.



2.

Long-term sustainability plan – we're implementing online platforms, such as Inclusion, and will be expanding this rollout to include a few more features.



4.

Community partnerships – we continue to explore opportunities for connections. One example is our sponsorship of the zinnia entries at the Rodney and Glencoe fall fairs. This not only increased the visibility of our organization, but also allowed us to celebrate 60 years of growing our community.



3.

Support staff – we will be providing increased training opportunities using Nucleus, utilizing the system to its full potential.



Self-Monitoring Your Health

As we head into traditional cold and flu season, we're closely monitoring directions from our local health units and implementing recommendations to help keep people safe. This is not just for COVID, but the whole host of infections that arise during the fall and winter months.

We're also encouraging all staff, individuals and volunteers to get their fall flu shot and COVID booster. Every layer of protection helps ensure we stay healthy.



Speaking Out for Self-Advocacy

With a focus on providing person-directed supports, we're always excited when individuals learn more about self-advocacy.

In October, Nicole and Erica attended the Speaking Out conference in Port Elgin. They joined self-advocates from across Ontario in learning more about using their voice to advocate for their needs.

For Nicole, this was the third time attending the conference. She also participates in the online self-advocacy group so knew many of the other attendees. They were so excited to see each other in person!

Nicole is passionate about self-advocacy. She says she does it to be a voice for others who have difficulty speaking up for themselves.

This was Erica's first time attending. She was there to learn what it means to be a self-advocate and meet new people.

The conference was jammed packed with educational yet fun activities including

presentations from self-advocates, workshops, displays set up by self-advocates and more. Both nights ended with socializing parties complete with dancing, games and laughter.

Some of the highlights for Erica and Nicole were:

- Meeting keynote speaker and disability advocate Jeff Preston
- Attending Nicole Flynn's session on What it means to be a self-advocate
- Hearing from Yvonne Spicer, author of My Life, My Choice, My Future
- Joining Judy Noonan's session Intentional about community – poverty and housing
- Learning about basic human rights, responsibilities, and how to report abuse or harassment
- Meeting other self-advocates and developing new friendships

We're excited to watch Erica and Nicole continue to grow on their self-advocacy journey.



Japanese Connection

Over the summer two of our staff, Aya and Paul, hosted an exchange student from Japan. Hibiki, a high school student and their friend's daughter, spent two weeks visiting our community on her first trip abroad.

The purpose of her trip was to practice her English through cultural exchange and making friends.

We were fortunate that Hibiki shared her own culture and skills with the Glencoe community. During her visit she held three workshops, teaching origami and Japanese calligraphy. The community gave her a warm welcome, with many individuals supported by Quad County Support Services participating in her workshops. There were lots of good conversations and laughs.

Both Paul and Aya have worked and lived internationally. They credit this experience with helping them develop a sense of inclusion and respectfulness towards all people. They've also had fun and made a lot of friends through their travels.

Recognizing how the pandemic has impacted international programs for students, they were excited to open their home to a Japanese student.

Hibiki had a wonderful experience in Glencoe and enjoying Southwestern Ontario's country life.

Thank you to everyone who made her feel welcomed!

