



CELEBRATING
50
YEARS
1959-2009

COMMUNITY LIVING
Haldimand



Promoting the full citizenship
of individuals with intellectual disabilities



Community Living Haldimand "Celebrating 50 Years"

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Printed by: Lulu

CREDITS

Photo Credits:

Bill Mehlenbacher Photography
Collection of Community Living Haldimand
Collection of Jennie Deagle
Dunnville Chronicle
Mike Goodwin Photography
The Grand River Sachem
The Haldimand Press
The Hamilton Spectator
Regional News This Week

Community Living Haldimand "Celebrating 50 Years"

Cover Design, Creative Concepts, Logo
Mike Goodwin ~ www.mgdigital.ca

The authors wish to thank:

Jennie Deagle, Albert Moreland, Shari Booker, Susan Wavell,
David Anderson and Judge David Marshall
for their time and insight.



Dedication

This book in celebration of Community Living Haldimand's fiftieth anniversary is respectfully dedicated to each and every individual who from the beginning understood, believing in themselves when others struggled to know the difference you could make if given the opportunity.

- wrb -

Acknowledgements

Where does one begin? As the saying goes, words cannot express or properly convey the deep, sincere gratitude felt for so many people who believed in this book.

Through their support and invaluable assistance, it is possible to share this wonderful, true story. A story that tells of the struggle, disappointment, determination, spirit and of love.

To the Board of Directors of Community Living Haldimand for your encouragement, the senior administration for the guidance, to the staff for your patience and understanding, as always.

To the community at large within Haldimand and beyond for the unprecedented way you have responded to the needs of Community Living Haldimand. A caring community that has never failed.

To Tim Miller for his willingness to lend his professional expertise as an author and journalist to this endeavor. His involvement was paramount in the success of this book.

To Mike Goodwin, who for several years has greatly contributed his skills in the world of hi-tech digital media. Mike's expertise, skilled and artistic approach has its mark on every page.

To Bruce Mehlenbacher, there is no manner or means to appropriately thank him for his part in this venture. Simply "thank you" is all that can be said. In his mind this would be considered payment in full.

To the local media who have always "spread the good news" concerning the association over the years.

Special thanks to Katherine Hedley for finding old photos, proof reading, editing and critiquing each page.

To the Fisherville District Lions Club for making a difference over 50 years ago. A difference that has carried through to the present time and on into the future, giving hope and encouragement to all persons with developmentally and intellectually challenged disabilities.

Warren R. Burger
Haldimand County
May 2009

Special Acknowledgement

Community Living Haldimand gratefully acknowledges the significant financial support of the Braley Winton Financial Group with corporate offices in Ontario and Quebec.



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Braley Winton Financial Group is most honored to be involved in the celebration of Community Living Haldimand's 50 years of providing essential services and support to individuals and their families.

We strive to provide excellence and care, respecting our client's individual needs with dignity, honesty and sensitivity.

May your journey, as reflected throughout these wonderful "pages of time," continue to bring forth every success in all your worthwhile endeavours.

Congratulations,

Herbert Braley Sr.
President and CEO



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Introduction

His Excellency George Vanier, the Governor-General of Canada, speaking at the banquet to launch the National Crusade for Canada's mentally retarded citizens in 1965 said:

" I throw out this challenge to all those who believe in the value of the human being - there are hundreds of thousands of inadequately cared for persons who need your scientific knowledge, who have need of your heart, your affection and your love. Much has been done, but how much more remains to do!"

His Excellency's words ring true today, almost 50 years later, for the challenge is still unanswered in many ways. Society and governments at all levels of our social structure have made attempts, with some successes, in responding to the complexities within the realm of persons with developmental/intellectual disabilities.

Educators, medical doctors, scientists, religious scholars, government bureaucrats, and civic leaders have been involved over the past century. Some became "TRUE CHAMPIONS", believing in the good of their intentions. Organizations were created, associations formed, and parent groups were established. Yet, what may have been overlooked was to search for the right answers within the individual. Listen to what they have to say. Learn from what they tell you: "I am a person too!!"

This commemorative book, celebrating the important "milestone" of 50 years in providing service, special needs and support for individuals and their families, is equally significant in telling the story of persons who have something to say, something to teach.

It is difficult to capture "Fifty Years" in such a short story book. However, the intent was to, at minimum, share some of the historical background, highlight the challenges faced along the way, be mindful of the personal commitment and dedication, and to not lose sight of the importance of the difference Community Living Haldimand makes in both the lives of individuals and the community-at-large.

Hopefully, as time moves on, change takes place for the betterment, and the next generation looks more to the future than to the past, this book will serve as A Record of Accomplishment and a True Testament to those who devoted their lives in hopes of making a difference, opening minds to creative thinking, and encouraging others to follow suit.



The Fisherville District Lions Club provides the start more than 50 years ago

Today's Community Living Haldimand began with the local Lions Club

Jennie Deagle was a driving force in the formation of the Haldimand Association for the Developmentally Challenged, however, the Fisherville District Lions Club were directly responsible for the start up and operation of a school for retarded children. A significant part in this formation and by the end of 1959 the Association was underway.

The following are minutes from the Fisherville District Lions Club meetings in 1957, 1958, and 1959.

These minutes show the progress of the first, and perhaps the most important, contribution. These minutes also provide the people involved at the beginning. The impact of the final statement from the Club Bulletin regarding the Open House at the Canfield School was not known at the time, but it is truly visionary.

- June 4, 1957 Regular Meeting – Lion Chief Sid introduced Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Hall of the Retarded School in Welland. Both men spoke on the operation of this school and also on the possibility of starting and operating a school of this type in Haldimand County
- October 29, 1957 Directors Meeting – Lion Gourley Campbell of Simcoe, President of the Ontario Association for Retarded Children attended this meeting



and gave a complete outline of how to start and operate a school for retarded children. After a discussion on the matter, it was moved by Lion Walter Goos, seconded by Lion Nels Otterman that the President appoints a committee to make a survey of the Retarded Children in this area. Carried.

The committee consisted of Lions George Schweyer, Birge Havill, Earl Link and Ray Gifford

- August 5, 1958 Directors Meeting – The committee for Retarded Children’s School is as follows, Lions George Schwyer, Birge Havill, Ray Gifford and Earl Link. It was moved by Lion Harold Nauman, seconded by Lion Man. Schwyer that the above committee has a report for the club by the first meeting in September. Carried



- September 16, 1958 Regular Meeting – Lion George Schwyer reported with regards to Retarded Children’s School and advised of a possible meeting to look into the need of a school for our district

- December 2, 1958 Regular Meeting – Lion George Schwyer reported on the retarded children’s school and advised that a school would be available and that he was anticipating an organization meeting in the near future

- December 16, 1958 Regular Meeting – Moved by Lions Art Dawson and Clarence Reichheld that Lions Birge Havill and George Schwyer be appointed to represent the Fisherville Lions Club with regards to the Retarded Children’s School

- January 6, 1959 Regular Meeting – Lion George Schwyer reported for the Retarded Children’s School and after some discussion regarding funds it was decided on a motion by Lions Birge Havill and Gordon Laidlaw that we leave this matter until we get a report from our representative on the committee of the Retarded School

- January 19, 1959 Directors Meeting – Motion by Lions Nels Otterman and Harold Nauman that we make a recommendation to the club that we make available to the Retarded Children’s School \$1000.00 to be paid over a period of the next twelve months



- January 20, 1959 Regular Meeting – there was considerable discussion with reference to a donation to the Retarded Children’s School and it was moved by Lion Birge Havill, seconded by Lion George Schwyer that this matter be tabled until the next meeting

- February 3, 1959 Regular Meeting – Moved by Lion Ivan Held, seconded by Lion Clarence Reichheld that our club pledge \$1000.00 during the twelve month period from February 11th, 1959 to February 11th, 1960 to be paid to the Haldimand County School for Retarded Children. Carried

- March 23, 1959 Directors Meeting – Club received a donation of \$100.00 from the Fisherville Women’s Institute and donated \$50.00 to the fund for Retarded Children’s School

- July 27, 1959 Directors Meeting – Moved by Lion Birge Havill, seconded by Lion Man. Schwyer that we pay the \$1000.00 to the Retarded Children’s School at once

Highlight from September 15, 1959 Club Bulletin:

“Open House will be held at the School for Retarded Children at Canfield on Wednesday evening, September 16. Every Lion is urged to be out for this occasion. Wear your Lions hats. We need your help for parking cars, placing chairs, etc. This is the particular project of the Fisherville Lions Club. We have brought this endeavour this far. Let’s not peter out now that things are beginning to roll. There is still some work to be done before we can sit down and pat ourselves on the back. Let’s put our hands and backs to a better use than that.”



Timeline

Timeline history of the Community Living Haldimand (formerly, the HADC)

- 1958** A group of concerned mothers met at the Fisherville District Lions Club to discuss the possibility of having the Lions assist in establishing a school for retarded children in Haldimand County.
- 1959** With a commitment from the Fisherville District Lions Club and the determination of the concerned parents, the Haldimand Association for Retarded Children was formed and issued a charter certificate by the Ontario Association for Retarded Children under the authority of the founding Board of Directors.

Members of the founding Board were:

President:	George Schweyer
Vice-President:	Birge Havill
Vice-President:	Samuel Donato
Recording Secretary:	Mrs. Mel Kuiper
Corresponding Secretary:	T. Roy Brown
Treasurer:	Mrs. James Ullman
	Lou Spry

A two-room school house in Canfield was purchased from the North Cayuga School Board for \$1 for the initial six students. Mrs. Grace Baldwin was their teacher and Mrs. Harvey Richert provided the transportation.

- 1963** A second classroom was opened up to meet the increased number of students. Leslie Hoskin was hired as an additional teacher.
- 1964** The Association's first workshop was opened in the Dunnville Boys Club. At the time there were three trainees under the guidance of Brock Gaines.
- 1965** The Dunnville workshop moved to the former Bishop McCarthy School on Highway 56 south of Empire Corners. This facility, known as the Haldimand Adult Opportunity Center, was under the direction of Jennie Deagle.
- In conjunction with name changes at the provincial level, the Haldimand Association for Retarded Children became known as The Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded.
- 1967** The Association was issued a legal Charter of Letters Patent and became known as the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded.
- A third classroom was added to the Canfield school and Nora Rightson was hired to teach.
- 1968** With financial support from the community, the Opportunity Center added a woodworking shop and began to make pallets for Lanark Industries.
- 1969** The Children's Center for preschool was established in the basement of the United Church in Cayuga.
- 1970** Mrs. Grace Baldwin retired and Mrs. Dorothy Parsons was asked to be the principal.
- 1971** Students at the Canfield school were moved to the Haldimand School in space which adjoined the J.L. Mitchener School in Cayuga. Under the auspices of the Haldimand School Board, the site was the first in Ontario to become integrated and received official provincial recognition.
- 1975** With increasing school enrollment, students were set up in the Board of Education Maintenance Building. Mrs. Dorothy Parsons was hired to teach, and Elmer Winger served as assistant.
- 1980** Amidst some controversy, a Group Home was opened in Dunnville to allow high-needs individuals and those from other institutions to participate more in community life.
- 1981** A second preschool known as The Haldimand Children's Center was started at White Oaks School in Springvale. It was later moved to the Fisherville Lions Medical Center.

- 1982** The Association Workshop moved from its Highway 56 location to a facility at the Slack Lumber Yard in Empire Corners. With Jennie Deagle as Director, the Workshop endeavored to honor all work requests, but concentrated on wood-working, crafts, and the Bakeshop.
- 1984** In honor of the contributions and work of Jennie Deagle, the Workshop, formerly known as the Haldimand Adult Opportunity Center was renamed J.B. Deagle Enterprises.
- 1985** With the introduction of a new Supported Independent Living Program, several group home residents were able to move and live independently in their own apartments.
- 1986** The Association opened a central administration office in Cayuga. It was also at this time that Albert Moreland was hired as the Association's Executive Director, and he was assisted at the time by two part-time staff. Mr. Moreland was the first person in this role for the Association as the focus became more business oriented.
- Due to limited enrolment, the Children's Center was closed.
- A new program was started late in 1986 to increase the involvement of the Dunnville Group Home residents in local social, recreational, and educational activities. This service was known as the Community Activity Program, or CAP.
- 1987** Several new programs were instituted in an effort to expand accommodation alternatives and working opportunities for clients. One such program was the Community Living Program, which entailed moving several residents into their own living quarters. Another program was in establishing various levels of staff support.
- A new workshop/business venture, a silk screening business, was started in Dunnville in 1987 in an effort to diversify work-related programs.
- 1988** The Bakeshop was moved to a new location in the business section of Cayuga. Previously this had always operated out of the Empire Corners workshop, but it was felt that the new location would provide greater opportunities for enhancement and exposure to the community.
- Due to business limitations, the silk screening operation in Dunnville was closed.
- Ownership partners for the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded changed in 1988, as five locals decided to divest themselves of the Branchton Camp.
- With the support of the Association, a Local Planning Group was established in order to prepare for future needs and services. This group was comprised of many agencies providing service to the developmentally handicapped.

A major fund raising program was established to cope with the burden of expanding programs. Headed by Warren Burger, this campaign got underway to raise the necessary funds.

1989 The announcement of another major fund raising campaign to develop the Filsinger property.

The Association celebrated its 30th anniversary with many local events acknowledging the efforts of individuals and the community.

A major event was the Marty McSorley All Star Day.

The Community Activity Program changed and evolved into the Supported Employment Program offering clients the opportunity to acquire employment locally and with competitive wages.

A Special Needs Program was also established to cater specifically to those with multiple handicaps. Previously operated only in the summer months, this program was now operated year-round.

To provide its profile, the Association, through its Bakeshop, opened a tearoom in Caledonia, offering refreshments along with products from the Bakeshop. The new enterprise was successful, but was forced to close the same year due to leasing issues.

The Association became involved with the Ontario Special Olympics, and under the direction of Jean Shurr, established a Haldimand branch.

The year closed on a positive note with the sod turning in December for a new facility on the Filsinger property. This was the culmination in raising funding for this project from the community and the efforts of fund raising Chairman Warren Burger.

1990 The Association expanded its residential services with the addition of three new apartments for five individuals in the Community Living Program.

A government grant was received which allowed a specially designed wheelchair-accessible home for four individuals built on the new property and named the Filsinger House.

Fund raising continued throughout the year on a successful tone, highlighted by the successful Monte Carlo Night, the Bowl-a-Thon, and the Truck and Diamond Draws.

After many years, the dream finally became reality with the building of the first phase of the new facility, originally known as the Workshop building shell. Architectural services were provided by Len Huget, and construction was supervised by Russ Burger and the R.F. Almas Company offers the contractor services.

1991 A Trillium Foundation grant was received by the Association for its Volunteer and Recreation Program. This new segment was intended to offer individuals an opportunity to expand friendships and become more active in the community,

In an effort to accommodate individuals capable of living independently, the Association used grant money to purchase two semi-detached homes in Dunnville and these homes were soon put to good use.

After an unsuccessful attempt to sell the group home, the Association hired a live-in provider to meet the needs of four individuals to live a more independent lifestyle in the home.

With donated production equipment, a plastic sign-making business began in Dunnville under the name of Deagle Signs. This operation provided another opportunity for individuals to develop and enhance their vocational skills.

With the support and cooperation of the Board of Education, the Association took an active role in developing and maintaining the first School-to-Work Transition Project in Haldimand.

1992 The Association moved the Special Needs Program and J.B. Deagle Enterprises into the new building on the Filsinger property, along with administrative staff and equipment.

The year was highlighted with the special open house for the new facility in May. During the official opening, it was deemed the facility would be known as the Jennie Deagle Complex. The dream becomes a reality.

1993 The Bakeshop was in dire financial straits near the end of the year due to government funding cutbacks. But the community rallied to save the Bakeshop, providing the necessary operating capital for the store to remain open another year.

After a membership vote, the Association applied for a Supplementary Letters Patent, requesting the organization's name be changed to the Haldimand Association for the Developmentally Challenged, (HADDC).

The Supported Employment Program moved its operations and service to a downtown storefront location in Dunnville, providing higher visibility and greater accessibility.

1994 Deagle Signs, the plastic sign making business, was closed and sold by the Association due to economic conditions at the time.

The Association was able to take several people off the residential waiting list and move them into small community apartment settings.

The Association was able to upgrade its computer system for the central administration staff and introduce new technology to client programs.

In order to ensure greater mutual benefit, the Special Needs Program was amalgamated with the J.B. Deagle program to form a Vocational and Alternatives Program. This union allowed a greater use of the community and individually-tailored service options for the Association.

1995 A new fund-raiser, the Canada Day Celebration, proved to be a great success, and ushered in a new opportunity for involving more members of the community.

Accreditation Ontario evaluated the services provided by the Association as part of a pilot project for testing Outcome Based Performance Measures. The Association received a good rating.

In order to cope with increasing financial demands and limited resources, the Board approved new policies for dealing with service applicants. The cost containment committee began to institute cost-saving measure for the Association.

1996 Due to significant budget cuts from the province, the Association was forced to implement several operation changes, including the elimination of staff, a reduced work week, client service reductions, and the introduction of transportation user fees. The Bakeshop was also forced to close its storefront location.

The Dunnville residential office was moved, and it began sharing space at the Multi-Service Center with other social service agencies in town.

A semi-annual publication entitled Impact Haldimand was started by the Association's newsletter committee.

In the midst of considerable financial constraints, the Supported Employment Program continued to expand and provide employment opportunities. By year's end it had secured close to 100 positions for individuals which paid the minimum wage for the time. New cooperative employment included a toy lending library and a day nursery.

2001 The new century saw the start of some major fund raising projects, the first of which was the off-road "quad" vehicle draw in September of that year. Consideration was given by W.J. Heaslip Ltd. to purchase the ATV at cost.

2004 The first annual Motorsports Showcase was held at the Association, and this annual event has become very popular. Local auto enthusiasts along with racers from several types of racing brought their cars and displayed them, along with talking about their cars and providing photo opportunities.

2006 The first annual HADC Golf Tournament was held, and has become a popular fund-raiser in the community. The tournament consisted of over 100 players, and was held at the Cayuga Golf Club.

A new fund raiser began in 2006 in conjunction with the annual Motorsports Showcase. A ticket draw was held for a pair of seats at the annual NASCAR Cup race in Pocono, PA. Tickets were sold throughout the region starting at the Motorsports Showcase in May, with the prize drawn shortly before the race later in the year.



2007 Along with the fourth annual Motorsports Showcase and the Second Annual Community Living Haldimand Golf Tournament, held once again at the Cayuga Golf Club, the NASCAR draw was for a pair of seats at a Cup race in Michigan, known as "Summer in Michigan."

In November of 2007 the Marty McSorley Community Pavillion Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held to officially open this latest part of the Community Living Haldimand facility. Through the generosity and dedication of hometown hero McSorley, the Pavillion became a reality.

2008 The fifth annual Motorsports Showcase was held at the Complex, once again in May. The third annual charity Golf tournament, held at the Freedom Oaks Golf Club in Dunnville in July.

2009 March 31 2009; Community Living Ontario, in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Community Social Services, officially announced the "end of an era". Under this banner the public is made aware of the last provincially operated and funded institution closure. Persons with intellectual disabilities now an integral important part of everyday community life.

Once again, the annual Motorsports Showcase was held in May, and the fourth annual Golf Tournament was scheduled to be held in July at the Freedom Oaks Golf Club in Dunnville.

The Association held its 50th anniversary celebration May 12 at the Fisherville District Lions Club Community Center, a fitting location for the half-century old organization which began with the initial involvement of the Fisherville District Lions Club.



The First 50 Years

It started with a mother's love for her child.

Rising above misconceptions, ignorance, and a lack of funding, Jennie Deagle knew there was a way for her son Jim to enter society and receive an education.

Jennie worked with Jim, who was born in 1949, on the family farm in Middleport. With cerebral palsy and mental health issues, Jennie was ready to enroll Jim into school when he was six years old.

But society and the system at the time was not ready for Jim.

Jennie took Jim to Green's School near Caledonia, but he was not welcome. The young teacher at the time was afraid of contracting Jim's ailment, and the school inspector told Jennie Jim's presence was not appreciated.

"I didn't want their sympathy," Jennie related. "I wanted a place for Jim. He deserved an education like everyone else."



For the next four years Jennie drove Jim to a school specializing in special needs in Brantford, but then heard of a school that was to open near Canfield. Headed up by Grace Baldwin, a retired teacher from Cayuga, Jim and several others were taken to this former school just east of Canfield on Highway 3.

There was a great deal of parental involvement at the Canfield School, and Jennie would often either ride the bus to and from the school, or drive the bus herself. It was far from a case of dropping off your child and picking him or her up later.

There were six students at first under the direction of Mrs. Baldwin in the two-room schoolhouse, purchased from the North Cayuga School Board for one dollar. In 1963 a second classroom was opened up with Leslie Hoskin teaching.

"The dropping off and picking up lasted about a week," she said. "Then it was either driving the bus or being a bus mother."

While the school offered education to the children, by the time they were 18 they could no longer attend.

Jennie knew her son, along with others, had to continue to learn and become a part of society. She was able to set up a workshop in Dunnville and produced pallets for local businesses, but continued to search for a permanent home.





New facility obtained for workshops, and integrated schooling

The Haldimand Separate School Board, headquartered in Simcoe, offered Jennie the Bishop McCarthy school building and property on Highway 56, between Empire Corners and Highway 3. This was the first permanent locations for the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded (HAMR).

"The building had nothing," noted Jennie. "I brought in a stove and furniture. We received a lot of donations over the next few years."

Obtaining an official charter and a board of directors, Jennie was the Director of the Haldimand Adult Opportunity Center for the Mentally Handicapped. Not only did she provide employment and life skills for up to two dozen adults between 18 and 65, she traveled throughout the community securing materials and contracts for the workshop. Divided into three departments, the workshop provided skills and products in wood-working, sewing/crafts, and baking.

Also in 1967, a third classroom was added at the Canfield School, with Nora Rightson teaching. Two years later a preschool operation was established. This was The Children's Center and was in the basement of the United Church in Cayuga.

In 1968 the facility on Highway 56 was officially in business, building wooden pallets for Lanark Industries. A major step was taken in 1971 when the students at the Canfield School were moved to The Haldimand School, usually referred to as "The School." Under the guidance of teacher Lu Tyson, this school adjoined the J.L. Mitchener School in Cayuga, was under the auspices of the Haldimand School Board, and was the first integrated educational arrangement of its kind in Ontario.

With the retirement of Mrs. Baldwin in 1970, the focus of the school became the responsibility of the Board of Education. At this time the various Haldimand area school boards were amalgamated into a one-tier board. A key player in this was Jacob Fransen, who was the public school inspector for Ontario. He was based in Brantford, but was then reassigned to Haldimand in 1969, working from the board's Caledonia office.

When the board amalgamation took place, Fransen became the director of the new board, and when the school was officially opened in November of 1971, it was through the association of Fransen that then-Ontario Minister of Education, Robert Welch, attended the opening, providing a high-profile presence for the occasion.



Although he has been retired from the board for several years, Fransen continues to be a strong advocate of integrating special needs children into the mainstream school system.

School enrollment continued to climb throughout the 1970s, and in 1975 Dorothy Parsons was hired to teach in the expanded new space in the maintenance building of the Board of Education.

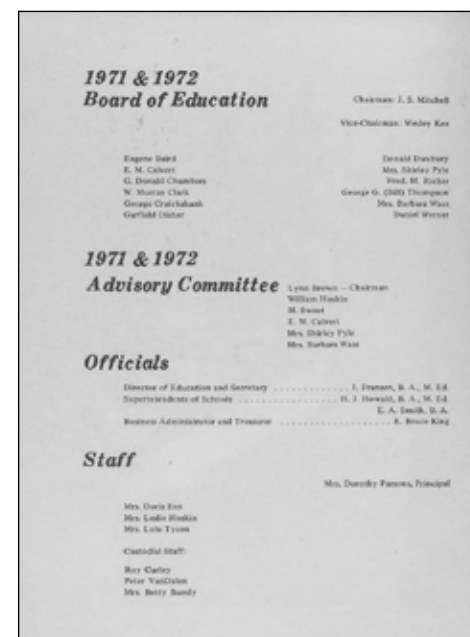
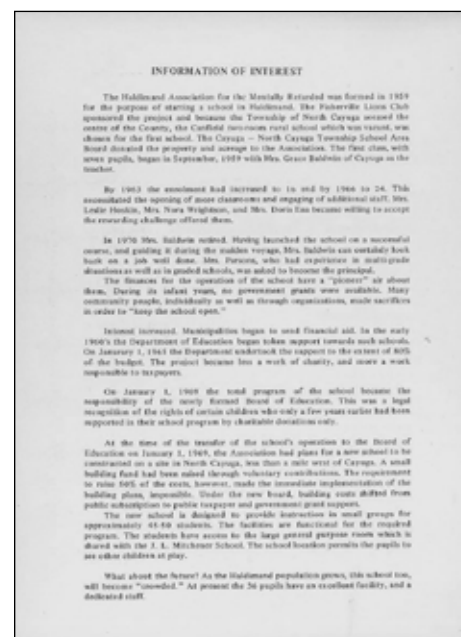
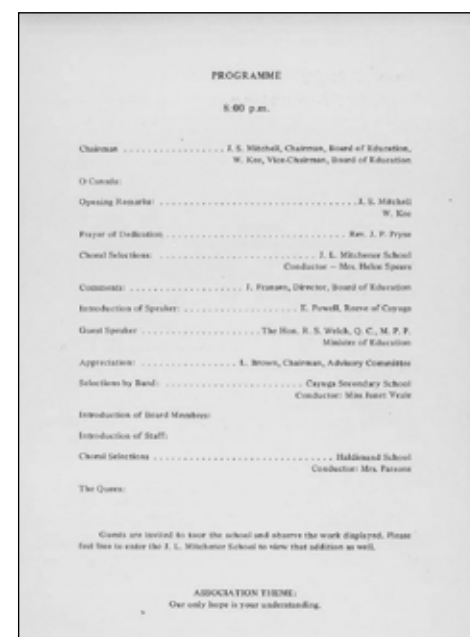
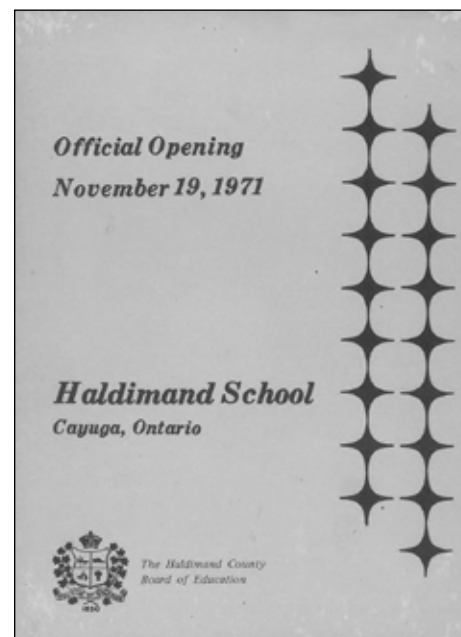
In May of 1984 The School celebrated its 25th anniversary, and those in attendance talked about how far the school had flourished since it started in the Canfield schoolhouse.

George Schwyer, a member of the Fisherville District Lions Club, was instrumental in getting the endeavor started. He was the first president of the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded (HAMR).

"We did a survey and many times we were told a family didn't have a retarded child," he related during an interview at the time. "In those days a child was kept quietly back."

Fransen commented then that the Haldimand School was the first of its kind in the province, and became a model for other such facilities.

"The government wasn't admitting at that time that there was a job to be done," he said. "When they finally realized a job was being done, they scrambled to catch up."





Doc Marshall Gets Involved

After establishing his medical practice in the 1960s, he became known throughout the Cayuga community as “Doc” Marshall. For David Marshall, his devotion to the Hal-dimand Adult Center for the Mentally Handicapped started after working his summers at the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital while in medical school.

“People were incarcerated in the basement,” he related about how people with mental disabilities were treated in the late 1950s and early 1960s. “It was a sight to see. They were locked in and treated poorly.”

Today a Superior Court Judge, Marshall got involved with the group to help provide these people in need, to bring them out of the dark ages. Aside from his medical duties in Cayuga, established in 1963, he worked with the Fisherville Lions Club in fund raising projects. Another big influence for him was assisting Leslie and Bill Hoskin, who provided a great deal to the Association at the time.

“Mrs. Hoskin was their greatest asset,” he noted. “She had taken a hand-signing course. She devoted her life to the cause.”

Another major factor in Marshall’s involvement was a speech presented by Rose Kennedy, mother of former US President John Kennedy. Rose Kennedy was a staunch ad-

vocate in enlightening the public about mental retardation and its causes. She gave a speech in Toronto in November of 1966 which Marshall attended, and after the Kennedy speech he was determined to help however possible.

"It was a rousing speech," he recalled. "And, importantly, it got the government involved."

During this time the local school board had been put in charge of the Association, but there was very little funding, and no government help.

So Marshall, along with others, starts a fund-raising campaign for the Association, and through their efforts, money is raised for necessary projects.

"There were many sizable donations," he said. "The community was always supportive."

The main project for the Association was to secure land and built its own facility, and money was raised to build this facility which would eventually be constructed on the former Filsinger property just west of Cayuga on the River Road.

While Doc Marshall left the community to pursue a career in law, he believes his internship at the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, along with how the local community rallied to help those less fortunate, has been a milestone in his life.



"The ideal situation is to have these people as part of the community," he said when comparing his early years of involvement. "We have come so far, and I don't think there's anywhere in the world where they are as well-treated."

Marshall added his involvement with the Association has had a strong impact on his life.

"I got involved as a doctor, and was profoundly affected. I was trying to do my part. It was one of the most profound things in my life."



Workshops Flourish Bakeshop Becomes An Important Asset

The workshops continued to flourish under Jennie's direction, and eventually the different operations were set up separately at the facility to abide with health regulations.

"We had the bakeshop and woodworking in the same facility," said Jennie. "Today we would never get to first base with what we did. When the department of health stepped in, that's when we built a separate workshop on the property to make pallets."

"But nobody complained about getting sawdust in our pies. It's a wonder."

In 1977 Shari Booker was hired to work with Jennie in the complex, and she continues to be a major part of the Community Living Haldimand to this day.

"It was quite by accident," Shari says about her initial involvement. "I applied for the position and was interviewed by Jennie to work in the bake shop. It was to be a four-month term. I started the day after the interview, and I'm still there."

There was little formal organized training at the time for dealing with the handicapped, but a feel for working with people and common sense were the most important tools.

"There's no textbook on this," Shari said. "You have to adapt to the children and their situations, their personalities and background."

While there was some provincial funding at the time, there was no help at the regional level. Jennie said that a profit on the workshop activities of around \$10,000 was normal, adding that there was lots of community help and funding for the center to prosper and grow.

While the school continued in Cayuga, the workshop was moved a little way down Highway 56 to the Slack Lumber facility at Empire Corners in 1982. The main activities continued to be the woodworking, craft-making, and the bake shop.



"The bake shop was ahead of its time," noted Booker. Government funding was not forthcoming for business of this nature, and the bakeshop was opened in September of 1988 as an independent enterprise. It was a success right from the start, not only offering employment, but integrating the workshop people into the community. Situated on Cayuga Street in Cayuga, the shop offered a wide variety of bakery and pastry items, and was a hit for special occasion orders.

"Just wanted to tell you what a lovely job you did for us on Cindy's birthday cake," replied one satisfied customer. "I had more people ask me who did the job and how lovely it was."

"Hi Shari," wrote another. "The cake was a great hit at Mac's 90th birthday. Thanks again."

And a note of thanks from the local Seniors Drop-in Center: "Thanks again for the super job you did with the birthday cakes. They were beautiful and delicious. Love to you all!"

For the next several years the Bakeshop was a prominent fixture in Cayuga, even when it appeared the shop would close due to lack of funding late in 1992. The community got together and raised the necessary funding for the operation to continue until 1996 when government budget cuts forced the closure of the storefront location.

The Bakeshop was well represented at local county fairs, often taking in more orders than it could handle.

"We'd have booths at the fairs," Booker said. "But we'd get so busy that by the end of September all our orders would be filled."

She added that people didn't order from the Bakeshop to just help contribute to the cause. The facility provided some of the best in the area. "We had good products."

In 1984 the Association stumbled a bit when Jennie Deagle was asked to retire.

The Board of Directors at the time felt that its direction, along with pressure from the provincial government, could no longer benefit from her involvement.

With this insensitivity on the part of the Board, the relationships built up over the years with the community disappeared, and the fund raising virtually dried up. The 25-year connection between the community and Jennie was gone, or was she?





The Trips

By the late 1970s, things were going well for the Center. The school was in place, the workshops were in place, and the facility was a viable part of the community.

While the children and young adults had taken many day trips to local points of interest and sporting events, Jennie Deagle thought an extended trip to Florida would be a good idea. And what better place to visit in January of 1979 than Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida?

But arranging the week-long trip was not easy, but by now Jennie knew how to approach the community to take her charges on a vacation.

"I went and saw the bank manager," she said, "and asked for a \$5000 loan with no interest for the Florida trip. I had no trouble getting the loan."

And to pay for the borrowed money, the Center went to various organizations in the community, and all went well.

"We got the money quickly," she related. "It was our first organized trip. There were 23 of us." Every member on the trip had to provide \$200, and on January 6, Jennie and five other supervisors, along with the 16 adults from the Center boarded a Transair flight in Toronto.

Not only did the group go to Walt Disney World, they visited Sea World, and the NASA installation on the Florida coast.

"The trip really turned out to be a learning experience for the supervisors. It was for the adults we were to look after," she said after the group returned back home. "Seeing things through their eyes really made the supervisors more aware."



All went well during the Florida trip, and this initial trip paved the way for future trips.

"Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time and I would just like to thank all the local interests who made this trip possible," Jennie commented after returning home from this first excursion. "We only charged enough for air fare and rooms, so much of the money that was needed for the trip was donated from local concerns. It really goes to show that people really care."



There have been many trips over the years, including excursions to Myrtle Beach, Niagara Falls, and even Cuba, but the Florida tours remain the most popular.

The \$5000 loan was repaid in record time. Jennie delighted in telling of a brother, meeting her on the street soon after her return, he said, "How are you making out paying back the bank?" She replied, "As soon as you write me the cheque for the outstanding balance, it's paid in full." He wrote the cheque.

There have been many trips over the years, including excursions to Myrtle Beach, Niagara Falls, and even Cuba, but the Florida tours remain the most popular.

New Personnel, New Directions, New Facility

Jennie was asked to retire by the board in 1984. The view, rightly or wrongly, was her managerial approach in operating the many facets of the association, coupled with the over bearing pressure from the provincial government in their funding, was outdated. The association needed a more modern, business like model.

Her retirement would have a significant and direct impact on fund raising. The relationships she had fostered over the years with the community at large disappeared. The 25-year connection was gone.

By 1986 she was back, this time on the Board of Directors, and helped mold the Association for the next several years with a city boy who helped take the organization to the next level and lay the foundation for today's facility and programs.

"I didn't have much to begin with," Al Moreland noted when he came to Cayuga as the Association's Executive Director in 1986. "I came from a huge office and state-of-the-art equipment to Haldimand. All they had was a big old teacher's desk and so it began."

Moreland, a Hamilton native, was director of Childrens Services in Windsor, and when his wife took new employment in Hamilton, he applied for the Haldimand position at about the same time. After being interviewed for the position by Jennie Deagle and Barb Patterson in the ministry's London office, he came to Haldimand.

Moreland said he knew soon the good and the bad when he took over.



"I was so taken aback about the inadequacies. They didn't have much to begin with. It was a real culture shock for me."

"But that was a good thing," he continued, "I knew what resources were needed to help these people."

At the time the Association had a group of less-than-adequate facilities, but there was a great attitude, and for the next 18 years Moreland worked with that community attitude while applying his wherewithal and expertise to provide new and improved facilities and the ever-needed funding to make Haldimand the envy of other organizations in the province.

"We stayed focused. We stuck to the fundamentals and the grass roots. There was tremendous pride in what had been done so far. We always had to look ahead, whether it was with group homes, vans for transportation, or new buildings."

Moreland not only worked through government issues and red tape to acquire the funding he deemed necessary, or to get the finances to properly compensate employees, he would spend a lot of his time out in the community, making speeches with service clubs and other organized gatherings.

"We had to keep the community interested," he commented. "We didn't want to treat this as big business. You don't forget about the people as the facility grows."

One of Moreland's prime objectives was to get a permanent facility in the community which would not only offer room for existing and new programs, but to provide meeting rooms and administrative offices.

Starting in earnest in 1989, and with the indispensable help of Warren Burger, the Association worked towards that goal. Through the tireless work of Moreland and Burger, and with the unprecedented involvement and generosity of the community, the 10,000-foot complex west of Cayuga on the former Filsinger property became a reality. Proudly known as the Jennie Deagle Complex, this facility stands as a testament to a community that cares.

"We have integrity and proudness in this community," said Moreland, "We got the name Haldimand and Cayuga out into the world."

"Everything has been a collective effort," he continued. "The secret for survival is to talk with the people, sit with the people, and get their input. You then get stability, pay your debts, and keep going."

During Moreland's tenure, he saw an increase of 15 to about 100 using the Haldimand facility, and by 2004, he felt it was time to accept new challenges.

"I was getting to the end of my ability to make a difference," he stated. "The financial situation was super and things were really clicking," adding he, accepted an opportunity to become involved with a larger association in the city of St. Catharines, Ontario.

The Cayuga Bakeshop Almost Closes In Autumn of 1992

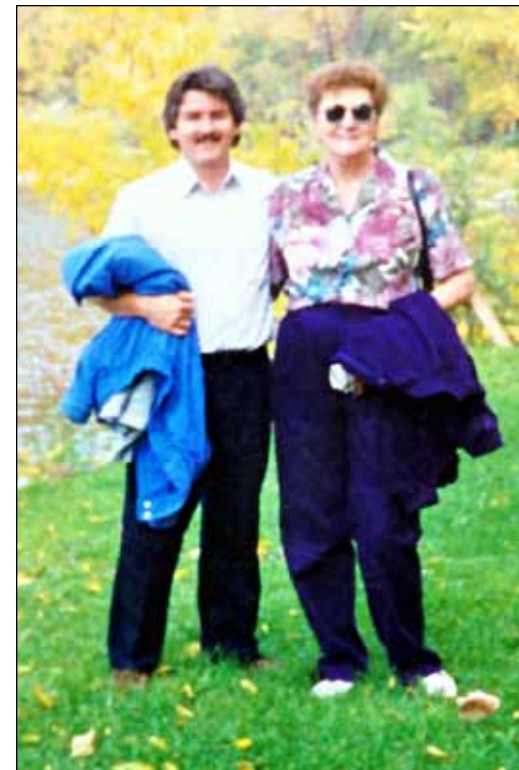
Community rallies with donations to keep workshop open

An integral part of the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded, its Bake Shop, was due to close late in the fall of 1992.

Providing self-esteem and a real-life setting for about 15 employees, the facility was slated to close due to the provincial government. Funding for its sheltered workshops was being discontinued.

The Cayuga Bakeshop had long been a prosperous and viable part of the organization for 25 years.

"Our immediate reaction was one of anger and disbelief," stated supervisor Shari Booker at the time of the impending closure in December of 1992. "It just took the wind out of everyone's sails."



She added that without the government subsidies, the bakery would not make enough money to survive. Employees such as David Baird and Sheila Hoover had been preparing pastry, baking pies, and icing cakes for many years, and realized they had little chance of finding other employment because of the high jobless rate and their limited opportunities they were going to face.

The Association started a letter-writing campaign to try to persuade the government to scrap cutbacks in social services funding, which would keep the store open. There was worry that the entire Association would be put to the limit with the cutbacks.

"The Bake Shop issue is the tip of the iceberg," said HAMR executive director Al Moreland at the time. "The biggest concern we have is for the future. January is the negotiating cycle for next year's budget and we don't know what they're going to do with us."

But the worry was all for naught, as the community rallied to provide enough in donations for the shop to continue.

With the news of the shop's fate spreading throughout Cayuga and the district, various service clubs and individuals came forward with enough in donations to keep the pastries baking, and more important, keep the 15 special needs people employed as a viable and important part of the community.

"Things are back to normal," Shari Booker said after the reprieve. "The nightmare is over. People in the community sort of rallied around our cause. It was just absolutely fabulous."

Donations of \$22,000 were raised, enough to match the shop's budget for the year 1993 and for at least another year.

Moreland mentioned he was very pleased with the involvement of the community to keep the shop open, especially since the help provided for the HAMR's construction of the J.B. Deagle building in Cayuga to house various sheltered workshops was overwhelming.

"We thought we'd tapped the community out as far as that went," commented Moreland. "The community consciousness is tremendous out here. It's a tribute to Haldimand."



Fund Raising "88"

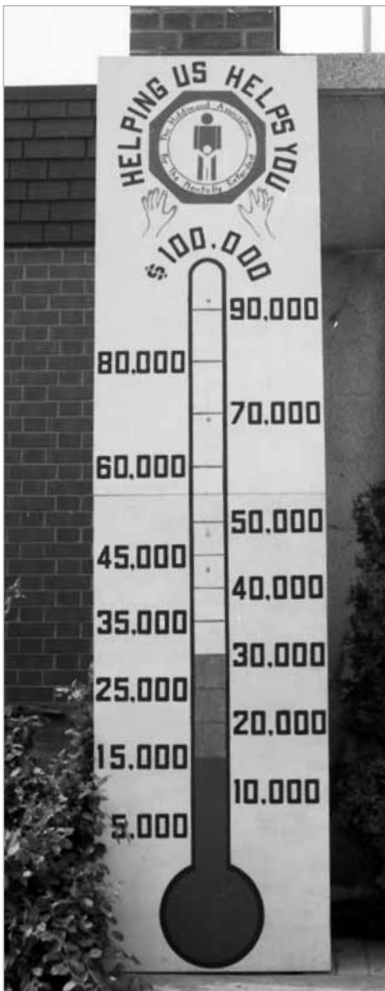
The Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded (HAMR), as it was known at this time was once again facing a deficit in required funding. The Provincial government provided between 75–80 percent of the HAMR's operating costs. The "Association" was responsible for "short falls" on an annual basis.

The Board of Directors, with the urging of Al Moreland, executive director, decided to solicit some help in raising the much-needed monies. Clayton Spears, (volunteer) board member and treasurer of HAMR was given the task to recruit someone from the community-at-large to spearhead a Fund raising Campaign. The (HAMR) fiscal year of March 1988 was ending with an estimated \$35,000 deficit. The annual Association budget was \$750,000.

Spears asked Warren Burger, who was an active community volunteer and fund raiser for charitable/non-profit organizations, to meet with Moreland and the Board. Burger accepted the invitation, listened to their concerns and agreed to help. He mapped out an aggressive fund raising campaign with a goal to raise \$100,000 by the end of December 1988. The deficits were carried forward year to year.

Burger's plan was to raise sufficient monies to put the organization in a strong financial position moving forward. Moreland agreed. In an article written by Karen Best for the Regional News This Week (February 17, 1988) he stated; "if the \$100,000 is raised, it will cover operating expenses for a three-year period. We will be working on an even keel for the first time."

HAMR hosted (February 12) a Wine & Cheese "Kick-Off" Party to officially launch this Fund-Raising Campaign "88" with local area resident and football celebrity Bernie Ruoff, place-kicker/punter for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who gladly performed the "ceremonial kick-off."



The (Kinsmen) Cayuga Community Centre was filled with over 100 guests, local dignitaries and media. The Chair (Burger) announced that there was approximately \$20,000 committed. Almost \$15,000 in cheques from many local service clubs, organizations, corporate, commercial and small business entities and individuals were presented that evening.

The Town of Haldimand Council unanimously supported this endeavour by granting a lottery licence for Draw Prizes, including a brand new car, a trip, and \$1,000 cash. The draw was set for June 3 of 1988 in conjunction with a Dinner-Dance at the Cayuga (Kinsmen) Community Centre.

In the following days, weeks and months, the fund raising pushed towards the \$100,000 goal. There were many volunteers to help promote the many and varied activities. The community-at-large responded in a caring and overwhelming way. It seemed everyone got on board. The local media kept the public informed, a tremendous help in keeping the momentum going.

During the campaign months it was realized, as well, that this event had another equally important goal, not just the money. But the awakening spirit of a caring community that had always supported this Association from its birth in 1959.



Educating the public, and making them aware of the importance this wonderful organization meant to the many individuals and their families who had come to rely on the services, special needs, training, employment, (supported) independent living, and the opportunity to participate in everyday society.

December 1988 was the final leg of this fund raising journey. Burger had made a commitment to Mr. Moreland and his Directors to Chair the campaign for one year (1988). Near the last days of December, with Burger and Moreland coming away from the Hagersville Legion Branch 164, with yet another cheque, both agreed it had been an exciting, learning experience during the fund raising drive over the past year.

But Burger was not satisfied. "I have failed in reaching the \$100,000 goal my friend," he mentioned to Moreland at the time. "Only \$77,000 has been realized and I am truly sorry."

However, Burger then advised Moreland that his role as Fund raising Campaign Chair was complete. It was time to return to helping other charitable, non-profit organizations who are also in need of fund raising events. For Burger his job was finished.... Or was it???



Let's Build It

Filsinger Property- Long –Awaited Sod Turning

The sod turning on the Filsinger Property took place on a bitter cold Thursday, December 14, 1989. A few hours before the official event was to take place, with invited dignitaries and media to be present, the exact spot was marked by the Chair of the Fund raising Campaign.

There was a problem.

The ground was so frozen it would be impossible to insert the shovel, let alone turn the sod. But that did not stop this important occasion. A small fire was built on the selected spot, and the ground thawed enough to insert the ceremonial gold painted shovel, carefully mark the spot, cover with snow and then return at the designated time with both fingers and all toes crossed.

In early afternoon, Her Worship Mayor Edith Fuller, (Town of Haldimand); Jennie Deagle, President of H.A.M.R.; Bob Slack and Bruce F. Mehlenbacher representing Cayuga

Speedway; Al Moreland, Executive Director (H.A.M.R.) and Fund raising Campaign Chair Warren Burger witnessed Lion George Schweyer of the Fisherville Lions Club do the honours. Mr. Schweyer was a founding member of the association and its first president.

In an article by one of several attending local papers (Regional News) and photo (Chris Pickup) it was stated "Officials and supporters braved a vicious wind to wrestle a spade full of dirt out of the ground before diving for the warmth of their cars." Mission accomplished!!!

Back to the Fund raising Campaign as the total raised by the end of 1989 wasn't close to the estimated \$450,000 needed to complete construction.

Fund raising was and always will be a way of life for the Haldimand Association. The Capital Funds allocated each year by the province frequently "fell short" in meeting the increasing demands. Although the community willingly did its part, it is important to note the tireless efforts of staff, on their own time, organized activities and events to raise money. Supported individuals and their respective families, the (volunteer) board of directors and many others also volunteered their time.

The 30th Annual Meeting of HAMR was held on Monday, June 5, 1989 at the Cayuga (Kinsmen) Community Hall. Some 165 persons were in attendance to celebrate this special anniversary. Among the guests were Bob and Leone Slack. W.R. "Bob" Slack was no stranger to the association. He was an entrepreneur, owner/operator of Slack Lumber, Slack Transport, and Cayuga International Speedway to name but a few of his enterprises. Slack not only generously supported this organization over the years, but, had been its landlord on different occasions when the need arose.

The Annual General Meeting portion concluded, and it was announced that the Board of Director's decision was to readdress the development of the Filsinger Property. The Chair of Fund raising addressed the crowd, outlining the Major Fund raising Campaign. Once again, \$100,000 needed to be raised to cover the initial planning stages, such as

zoning, permits, architectural/engineering, site assessment, and several other matters. Slack immediately responded with a pledge of \$5,000 and a challenge: "I will give an additional \$10,000 if that objective is met in 60 days from now." he stated.

Cayuga Kinsmen President John Metcalfe, Bob Slack, Al Moreland, Executive Director of the association and Burger posed with architect L. M. Huget's preliminary drawing. Slack's challenge was accepted. Further, it was announced



that the Third Annual Marty McSorley All Star Day being held July 15 would be contributing all the proceeds from their popular event. The Cayuga Kinsmen also honoured the second instalment of their club's three-year \$6,000 pledge to the association, raising the level of funds to approximately \$66,000.

Cayuga International Speedway was hosting the Big Rig 150 June 18, 1989, and the marketing and promotions manager Bruce F. Mehlenbacher, with Slack's approval, had previously invited the Filsinger Development Project Fund raising committee to take advantage of the large crowds in attendance.

It was at the June 4 running of the Molson Export 300 where Mehlenbacher had convinced one of his sponsors to donate thousands of balloons, to be filled with helium, to be sold to the race fans for release at the start of the race. The balloons were a Loonie (\$1.00) each and the group's volunteers sold 466 balloons in 40 minutes that day. The Big Rig 150 race fans were no exception, with the proceeds almost doubling from the previous June 4 race date.

The Molson Export 400, scheduled August 4-6, 1989 at Cayuga International Speedway drew a capacity crowd of approximately 22,700 race fans. Sunday, August 6 was also the last day of the Slack Challenge, raising the \$100,000 in 60 days and he would add another \$10,000 to the pot. The challenge was accepted, and the target met. The Haldimand Press featured a picture (taken by Kirk Brown) which read "Objective Reached - Slack Honours Pledges to Filsinger Development Fund."

Before the capacity crowd, immediately following the featured race, Bob and Leone Slack presented a large cheque, indicating the total \$15,000, to Campaign Chair Warren Burger. Mrs. Jennie Deagle, accompanied by Al Moreland, Executive Director (HAMR) was on stage to accept a cheque for \$7,500 from Bill McSorley, who was representing his son Marty, the two-time Stanley Cup Champion and member of the NHL Los Angeles Kings. This money was raised at the Third Annual Marty McSorley All-Star Day held the previous July 15.



In the weeks and months to follow, although the \$100,000 target had been exceeded, the momentum continued to grow, and hundreds and thousands of dollars were being raised by every association/organization, corporate/business, groups/individuals known.

Service Clubs, Charitable/Non-Profit Organizations, Fire Fighters/Police/Emergency Response, Canadian Legion Branches, financial institutions, large corporations along with

small businesses, recreational/ sports/social groups, religious/church organizations, elementary/secondary students, seniors clubs, agricultural/antique/historical societies and individuals all donated to the cause.

The Haldimand Association continued to hold functions, make and sell bake goods, loonie banks, Monte Carlo nights, bingos, Canada Day celebrations and fireworks and several other fund-raising projects.

By early spring of 1990, construction was imminent. Mr. Leonard M Huget, Architect, Russ Burger, Project Manager and John H. Almas, Contractor met on the site with Warren Burger and Al Moreland. The community-at-large continued to generously give, the Board of Directors were committed, and now there was no turning back. By June of 1990, the footings had been poured, and the concrete block walls were next, then steel, rafters, inner wall partitions, etc.

There were large companies who, from the on-set of the construction, stepped up to the plate, either unsolicited or when asked by the Campaign Chair and the Committee. To name but a few; Port Colborne Block, All Mix Concrete, Cayuga Quarries, The Vos Brothers Brick & Block Layers, Day & Campbell Limited, A. Swent & Sons, Hugh Patterson & Sons Electrical, Canadian Gypsum Company, McBurney Transport, Hunt Windows, Vic Powell Cranes, Hunsingers, Slack Lumber & Supplies, Ontario Hydro (Cayuga Yard), Richard Egger Excavating and many more deserving recognition.

The original starting crew, under Russ Burger's watchful eye, either had some skills in construction to little or no skills. However, it wouldn't be long before they all had one thing in common, how to work hard, put in long hours and try to survive on Russ's half hour lunch breaks which never lasted more than fifteen minutes. Shorter time if the cement or lumber trucks arrived at noon. Big "Mike" Arnold, Tez Hawkins, Kelly Hawkins, Scott Burger, Cameron Bennett, and Pil Pickles would soon become "seasoned" in every aspect of ole fashion work ethics.

It would be almost two and one half years, from the official sod turning to the official ribbon-cutting, before the long awaited facility would be ready for occupancy. The cost to build was roughly \$645,000.

Volunteer labour/tradesmen assisted greatly in reducing costs, thus easing the burden on the fund raising efforts over such a long period. The Board and the Executive Director still had an association to run, while trying to manage and give support to the building project. Despite the downturn in the economy at the time, the cuts in provincial funding/grants, the community never lost sight of the real importance and meaning of developing the Filsinger Property.

Accolades for Jennie Deagle

Community Action Award winner started workshops for those with disabilities



Jennie Deagle has received many awards and recognitions for her work with the mentally challenged, but her crowning achievement was the receiving of the Ontario Community Action Award in May of 1992.

She was one of 12 Ontario citizens so honored that year.

"Your contribution was considered by the jury to be extraordinary and to be representative of the best efforts of the thousands of Ontarians who work for the full participation of persons with disabilities in our society," said provincial Citizenship Minister Elaine Ziemba.

Not only did Mrs. Deagle start the workshops for older teens and adults with disabilities in the early 1960s, she managed the facility in Haldimand for 15 years.

She became president of the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded (HAMR), and was actively involved in fund raising efforts for the new facility officially opened in Cayuga in 1992.

"The name Jennie Deagle is well-known in our community, admired, well-respected, and conveyed with tremendous fondness," noted HAMR Executive Director Al Moreland at the time.

"Mrs. Deagle has made a difference as an untiring advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Many lives had been enriched by the kind and skillful attention that Mrs. Deagle has given to those whose disabilities may have otherwise posed limitations in the fulfillment of a meaningful community life," he added.



The Jennie Deagle Complex

“It became a dream, then a reality”

The ceremonial ribbon-cutting of the Jennie Deagle Complex took place on the afternoon of Sunday, May 24, 1992. Mrs. Deagle, with scissors in hand and assisted by Mrs. Hugh (Barbara) Patterson, officially opened the new 10,000-square foot complex.

Included in the honours were Mr. Leonard Huget, Architect, Mr. Russel E. Burger, Project Manager, and Mr. Warren R. Burger, Fund raising Chairman. All three volunteered their collective professional services and skill towards this important endeavour (1989 to 1992).

Reverend Robert Gardner presided over the dedication. The Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded, (HAMR), Executive Director Al Moreland, who provided invaluable guidance and support throughout this entire project, held the green ribbon with Warren Burger.

Once the ribbon was cut before the large crowd gathered to witness this long-awaited event, the master of ceremonies (Warren Burger) stated with great enthusiasm, “It became a dream and then a reality.”

Regional News This Week reporter Jason Pickup wrote “For the first time in its history, the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded (HAMR) has its own home and identity.”



He went on to say that after years of moving between different rental spaces, HAMR proudly unveiled the new million dollar Jenny Deagle complex, a facility constructed with the never-tiring support of a caring, giving community at large. A community within not only Haldimand, but one that reached far beyond. A complex built without grants or funding from any level of government support at the time. Built “the old fashioned way” with volunteer labour, equipment, along with materials donated or purchased at cost.

Mr. Len Huget, who had a long-term professional relationship in Haldimand County, was approached by the Chair of Fund raising in early 1989 about getting involved. He immediately agreed to be part of this initiative relating his personal interest and stated, “Count me in.”

“I have enjoyed my business practices for many years in Haldimand,” he continued. “I have always had a very keen interest in this association (HAMR). I want to help.” Help he did. The required architectural and engineering plans were provided with Mr. Huget also donating his time on site overseeing the construction from start to finish.

The board of directors and Mr. Moreland were aware of the legal liability requirements needed prior to any development and/or construction start. The provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Grand River Conservation Authority, as well as both the Regional and Local Municipal Governments would have to approve.

The architect and engineering was in place. However, with a project of this magnitude there would have to be an experienced and skilled construction coordinator qualified to supervise this project.

“Dad was retired and spent his winters in Florida,” noted Warren Burger. “Having spent all of his adult life managing and supervising large commercial and industrial construction projects, this one would be a breeze for him,” he added.

So the younger Burger went to Florida, shared the good news and Russ was recruited. He would have (at 73 years old) one last opportunity to do what he loved best...build something worthwhile from the ground up.

The architect and project manager were two essential components to begin site development. What was missing was the third piece of the puzzle, a contractor for the site preparation and the development in the first stages of construction. The third essential component was soon to be found.

John H. Almas of R.F. Almas Company (Hagersville) had knowledge of the association’s desire to build a facility on the Filsinger property. The local media had done a good job in reporting all of the many varied fund raising events organized by a multitude of people from every walk of life. He approached Warren Burger and asked if he could help. This was the last essential component needed to begin construction.

The R.F. Almas Company, through the three generations of the Almas Family, were still active in the business. Mr. Fran Almas, his son John H. and John’s two sons David and John would play a very important role over the course of the entire project.

Only the best of the best would be assigned to the project. Highly skilled and experienced operators and tradesmen such as Bruce R. Everets, Richard Koning, Jim Hoover, John Cortez, and Bob Benner, all specialists in their respective areas of expertise.

This journey to build a much-needed facility started many years earlier with the vision of Mr. and Mrs. William and Edith Filsinger. The Filsingers had donated an 11-acre parcel of land situated on the southeast corner of the West River Road at provincial Highway 3. This rolling land also had some frontage along the Grand River in Cayuga, Ontario.

The board of directors at that time made efforts to fulfill the Filsingers’ vision. The community at large, as they had done on so many occasions in the past, supported it. Money was raised to be used for this dream. However, the dream wasn’t to be, at least for now.





The Filsinger House

William "Bill" and Edith Filsinger owned a large parcel of land situated on the West River Road at the South East corner of King's Highway No. 3 just "over the Cayuga Bridge" crossing of the Grand River. This rolling land fronted onto the west bank of the river, offering a picturesque view. Bill Filsinger was actively involved with the "Association" as HAMR was commonly referred to, and Mrs. Filsinger was a teacher.

A decision was made by this couple to donate 11-plus acres of their land to the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded. It was their hope and vision that a permanent facility could be constructed. A building designed to accommodate the vocational and skills development of those individuals receiving services and support.

Edith Filsinger, it was learned, was not in total agreement with her husband's wishes to donate it entirely to the Association. She was a supporter of the Canadian Bible Society. It was mutually agreed between this giving couple to put a condition in this bequest. Basically, it stated that if HAMR failed to develop the Filsinger property for its intended purpose and within a reasonable period of time, the Canadian Bible Society would become the benefactor.

Over the years the Board of Directors had every intention of fulfilling the wishes of the Filsingers in regards to this land. Efforts were made to raise the required capital for such a facility. Peter Baird of Cayuga, a past president of the Association, shared some of his thoughts and background with Warren Burger in 1989 when it was decided to try

once again to develop this property. Mr. Baird felt the community spirit was still high towards this endeavour, but the public also wondered about the money that had been previously donated.

It was quickly learned, through Executive Director Albert Moreland that this money was in a Trust Account, separate from the General Account/Capital Funding.

This money (in trust) would become the “seed money” to grow the Major Fund raising Campaign to develop the Filsinger Property.

In the fiscal year (HAMR) of 1989-1990, funding was available from a provincial community and social services grant. The application was made, approved and \$155,000 was received.

A 2,200-square foot residential home was built on the Filsinger property, beside the new under-construction (Jennie Deagle) complex. The residence would be home to four people, under 24 hour staffing, seven days a week.

Ms. Debbie Cavers, HAMR Program Director at the time, in an article of the Haldimand Press (November 28, 1990 –page 11) said, “The home adds a new dimension to our residential services for those clients who are multiply handicapped. It creates a great expansion of services and focuses on those individuals who need one to one service.”

Construction complete, occupancy took place in late November 1990. However, it would be 1991 before the home was officially dedicated.

The HAMR held its fourth annual family picnic Sunday, September 8, 1991 on the Filsinger Property. To honour the Filsingers, it was decided to dedicate the residence in memory of the late William Filsinger and honour his widow Edith, now a resident of Hanover, Ontario.

A plaque was inscribed FILSINGER HOUSE – EST. 1990. Arrangements were made to have Mrs. Filsinger attend the picnic and surprise her with this honour in their name. Gordon and Marie Speller, former neighbours and still residing across the road from the Filsinger property, were gracious hosts to Mrs. Filsinger.

Warren Burger and Al Moreland visited with Mrs. Filsinger at the Speller home just prior to the official dedication ceremony. They were there to meet her for the first time, update her of the on-going development of the property, and tell her of the dedication so as not to surprise her. This would allow her time to digest all the wonderful news for her remarks at the ceremony.

Mrs. Barb Patterson, President of HAMR accompanied Mrs. Filsinger to the microphone, assisted by Moreland. This gracious lady spoke of her husband’s work with the association, his hope of having their property put to good use for the betterment of people’s lives in need, and how, after today, there is no doubt in her mind Bill’s wishes had come true. “I will always remember this day and what it means to so many people, including me,” she said in closing.



The Marty McSorley Community Pavillion

Dedicated November 12, 2007

In May 2005, during the annual Motorsports Showcase celebrating Community Living month at Community Living Haldimand an announcement was made to the crowd. There would be another fund raising campaign to raise money to construct a large Pavillion on the Filsinger property.

Bruce Mehlenbacher, who was an active volunteer assisting Burger who was Corporate Fund raising Chair of Community Living Haldimand for the past several years, had agreed to co-chair this latest project. Brian Matthews of Cayuga had drafted a preliminary architectural rendition of a Carriage House Style/Board and Batten designed structure. The new Pavillion would be built on the existing foundation of the open deck.

Neil Slack, owner and operator of Slack Lumber & Supplies in Empire Corners was asked to get involved. Neil, like his father W.R. “Bob” Slack, readily accepted the request to be involved.

The estimated cost was approximately \$25,000. The Board of Directors, Senior Management, staff and the individuals receiving support were excited.

The Pavillion would allow for many uses in their Community Living Haldimand recreational, social and special events.



Early in the campaign the Caledonia Rotary Club approached Burger. They wanted to get involved and would commit \$5,000. This pledge would bolster the campaign. Money derived from the NASCAR Draw, Golf Tournament and special draws would be committed to the project.

The Automotive Transportation Service Superintendents' Association (ATSSA) Hamilton chapter had officially adapted Community Living Haldimand as their charity of choice.

Mr. Dave Cook, Chairman of Program Committee was instrumental over the years in providing opportunity, through Burger, to donate over \$22,000 to date through money raised by their membership. Every two-year period a Live Auction is held in conjunction with their chapter's Christmas Party.

John and Janice Luttjehuizen of Hagersville Jewellers continued their support by donating expensive jewellery for special fund raising draws.

Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation were also large corporate donors.

Consideration was not only given by the Slack Family, Dean C. Glenney, and Vic Powell from Dunnville, but Nigh's Concrete Forming Ltd. in Jarvis was most helpful in the construction side of the project.



Construction started in August of 2007 and was completed by mid-October.

Marty McSorley and the McSorley Family (Bill and Ann) had always been supportive of Community Living Haldimand over the years. Marty in particular made himself available at every occasion when he would return to his hometown.

He organized events to raise money for the Minor Hockey Association (Marty McSorley All Star Day), he directed monies



received for his charitable work to the association and gave generously himself.

There was no question the newly constructed Pavillion should bear his name in honour of his years of personal commitment and support.



Mr. Dave Anderson, President of Community Living Haldimand and the Board of Directors unanimously agreed.

The dedication and ribbon-cutting took place on November 12, 2007 before a very appreciative and excited audience.

President Dave Anderson read a proclamation declaring this structure to be named the Marty McSorley Community Pavillion.

Marty assisted by Jennie Deagle cut the ribbon to a resounding cheer by all who had gathered.

Just prior to the ceremony other special guests and dignitaries were acknowledged. Her Worship Mayor Marie Trainer and Councillor Buck Sloat of Haldimand County Council. Mr. Bob Slack, Ron Hewitt of the Caledonia Rotary Club, Neil Slack, Dean Glenney, Susan Wavell, Executive Director of Community Living Haldimand, and special recognition to the Fisherville Lions Club.

Lion President Jim Rohrbach accompanied by his parents, Past District A-2 Governor Lion Raymond Rohrbach and Marilyn presented a \$5,0000 cheque assisted by Charter Life Members Andy Dashner, Lion Clare Kindy and Past President Lion Bob Diwell.



The Master of Ceremonies remarked of the importance of the day. The Pavillion would be one of the last structures to be erected on the property. Truly, the hope and vision of Mr. and Mrs. Filsinger years earlier as to the better use of their property for the association was more fulfilled.

Present Community Living Haldimand Executive Director provides a wealth of knowledge and experience

With extensive experience in the development services sector in addition to community and health services, Susan Wavell became the Executive Director of Community Living Haldimand in 2005. Previous to coming to Cayuga, she was the Executive Director for Community Living Stratford along with 12 years experience as a support worker.



Her background also includes working with individuals with disabilities at the Oxford Regional Centre and Community Living Brant before becoming the Manager of Employment Services with the Tillsonburg and District Multi-Service Centre and eventually the Centre's Executive Director.

With degrees from Wilfred Laurier University and certificates from the University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe College in human resource, developmental service work, and non-profit management, Susan has experience in the community, health, and social services fields in provincial Ministries of Health and Long Term Care, Colleges/University Training, Ministry of Citizenship and Tourism, and the Federal Sector with Human Resources Development Canada.

A strong advocate for full citizenship for individuals with disabilities and enabling individuals to be all that they can, Susan is a firm believer that treating individuals with dignity and respect is fundamental to providing them with a quality lifestyle.



Today and Tomorrow

Throughout its 50-year tenure, the Association is constantly changing to meet its goals. It has endured a variety of roadblocks, the biggest one of these being funding for the individuals. No longer a rural-based institution, today's provincial policy and guidelines must be adhered to for its successful operation.

Heading up today's Community Living Association in Cayuga is Susan Wavell, the Executive Director who oversees all facets. Her duties involve the placement of special-needs people in the workplace and community to ensure a better quality of life.

But she noted many things have changed over the years. "The governance is much different today," she said. "We must follow the Ontario provincial mandates."

These mandates include health and safety requirements, labor legislation, and auditing procedures.

Presently services are provided in the communities of Cayuga and Dunnville, and hopefully the services can spread to Caledonia and other centers in Haldimand.

Susan Wavell stressed the need for strong reciprocal partnerships with families and communities working with the provincial government.

The Board of Directors consists of 10 volunteer members from the community.

Dave Anderson, the President of the Board explained that the operations of the facility are under the jurisdiction of the Executive Director, while the Board provides recommendations and long-term planning.

He explained that the operations of the facility are under the jurisdiction of the Executive Director, while the Board provides recommendations and long-term planning.

"We oversee but we do not rule," he mentioned.

He continued that he and the Board are committed to maintain high standards.

We have to ensure excellent quality standards and physical needs and requirements."

Both mentioned that the next important step is to provide for a shift in age from the previous children to adulthood in supporting these people with employment and residential services. It was also mentioned that long-term employees are now reaching retirement age, and more care and health services must be provided.

"We will continue to be stable and an integral part of the community," said Dave Anderson. "We know we will be here."

Susan Wavell added that there are challenges to be faced, but they will be addressed, adding the community has always been a major factor in the Association's success, and will continue.

Dave Anderson stated, "We will continue to be stable and an integral part of the community, we know we will be here."

Honorary Members

Warren Burger - 1988

Mary Roth - 1995

Doris Ens - 1996

Lifetime Members

Robert Hall - 1988

His Honour Justice Doctor David Marshall - 1988

Isabel Sumner - 1989

Sandra Arnold - 1990

Jennie Deagle - 1996

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Dave Anderson - President

Joyce Groves - Vice President

Carl Hewitt - Treasurer

Patti Gibson - Secretary

Susan Bassett - Director

Jennie Deagle - Director

Janet deVos - Director

Steven Elgersma - Director

Donald Gagnon - Director

Victoria Young - Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Community Living Haldimand promotes the full citizenship of individuals with an intellectual disability, to ensure their inclusion in the community.

VALUES

We value...

RESPECT AND DIGNITY

We believe that individuals with an intellectual disability should be treated with respect and dignity in their efforts to experience the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

SELF-DETERMINATION AND CHOICE

We believe that individuals have the right to choose and participate in determining the services and supports they require.

INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We believe that being a valued participating member of the community achieves equality and enhances quality of life.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

We promote innovation and demonstrate excellence in the services and supports delivered by the organization.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

We value partnerships with families and promote collaboration with our community in our efforts to effectively respond to the identified needs of the individuals supported by our organization.

INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to integrity and accountability in all of our endeavours.

