



LETHBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

Lethbridge Association for Community Living

Summer Update **July 2005**

Here are a few items of interest for you to be aware of during the peaceful months of summer:

- Lindsay Caldwell, our Community Development Advocate, has taken a position with the Alberta Association for Community Living. We are sorry to see her go and wish her well in her new endeavors. We welcome Anne Kish to this position effective July 4th and are pleased to have her working at LACL.
- Many of you will have received the information regarding the review of the Dependent Adults Act and Personal Directives. The deadline for input is August 5th, 2005. Please take the time to respond to the review as it is important that our voices be heard. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call at the office.
- We are also updating our brochures and developing some posters and other material. Colette Acheson is assisting us with this project and is looking for photographs of families for the material being developed. If you have any you would like to share, please contact the office.
- As well, we remind you of our book project. Please see the attached notice. We would love to have your story so others can be encouraged and supported by your experiences.
- The United Way Annual Golf Tournament will happen on August 31. If you would like to golf in the tournament or know of someone or a business who would like to be a sponsor, please contact the United Way office. We appreciate their continued support of LACL.
- The Parent/Guardian Conference will take place on Saturday, October 8 at the Lethbridge Lodge. This year we will be talking about Workforce 2010, Family Advocacy and Leadership and Roles/Relationships vs. Activities. Watch for more information at the end of August.

- Denise Bissonnette is coming to Lethbridge October 24 & 25. If anyone is interested in attending, we have brochures here at the office and you have until July 15 for priority registration. Call the office for more details.
- We are excited to announce that Judith Snow will be coming to Lethbridge on November 14. Judith is a renowned speaker and advocate and we are pleased that we will be able to hear her speak. Watch for more information coming soon.
- **We are rescheduling the LACL Family Pot Luck Picnic for Friday, September 9 at the Kiwanis Picnic Shelter at Henderson Lake. We hope you can join us then beginning at 5:30. Bring pot luck to share, lawn chairs, family, friends and anything else a picnic may require.**
- **As always, we continually need volunteers for our bingo events. The summer ones are Saturday, July 16 – afternoon; Saturday August 6 & 27 – evenings; and Saturday, September 3 – afternoon. If you are able to assist with these or know of anyone who can help out, please contact the office at 327.2911.**

That brings us up-to-date for now. We hope you enjoy the summer and all that it offers.

What is it like to raise a child with a disability?

How does a family adapt when they receive a diagnosis for their child that will mean a lifetime of adjustments, compromises and unspoken dreams? How can we all learn to find satisfaction, strength, and even joy in the act of picking up the pieces and getting on with living and loving a family, no matter what?

The Lethbridge Association for Community Living has been a resource to Southern Alberta families experiencing disability for almost 50 years. They have supported, witnessed, listened, lobbied, celebrated and cried as they worked for and with families striving to help their children become the best they can be... and the world they live in to be the best it can be. It has not been always an easy road.

The Lethbridge Association for Community Living invites families to take part in a new project, one that will bring together the best and worst of all of that living and loving. We invite families to think about their lives and allow us to share... We ask you to think about the successes... the challenges... the laughter and the tears. Share stories about the closed doors that took years of persistent knocking to open even a little... the neighbours, friends and communities that accepted you without question. Tell us about the close-up views of daily life, and the faraway horizons that sustain you through years of dreaming.

With your participation, we plan to bring together and publish a collection of stories and examples made up of the real-life experiences of Southern Alberta families. We want to weave these stories into a book that all families can share. A book that can teach, and inspire, and bring comfort and connection on the days when life with a family member who has a disability can seem like one long struggle. This book will also include some ideas and help for managing some of the predictable stages of life that families go through, such as the transition from home to school or preparing for the launch into independent adult living.

If you are interested in contributing or need more information about LACL, contact Barbara Nish or Lesley Sawers at the Lethbridge Association for Community Living. You will find them downtown at 527-6 Street South, by phone at 327-2911, or by email to bnish@lethbridgeacl.org You can also contact Colette Acheson at 327-3750

or by email at an.co@shaw.ca for specific information about the book or contents. Help us celebrate our families!



Lethbridge Association for Community Living
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