



## GREAT PLACES AWARDS

We're excited to share that the City of Kitchener has named KW Habilitation the 2019 winners for the Urban Design Excellence Award!

Presented to ABA Architects and KW Hab for the design of the building located at 108 Sydney Street, the City of Kitchener said, "this project is recognized as an excellent example of how a social service, including affordable housing, can be sensitively integrated into a community and add value from an urban design perspective."

## IN THIS E-NEWSLETTER

The Speaking Out Conference - 3

The Joy of Giving - 9

A Winning Collaboration with Old Navy - 11

December Events in KW - 16

and so much more!

## A NOTE FROM ANN

The holiday season at KW Habilitaiton is always one of my favourite times of year. The decorations at all of our properties spread holiday joy to everyone who comes by. Thank you to the Kitchener Waterloo Kinsmen for once again ensuring homes are decorated with Christmas lights. At this time of year, I am always reminded how lucky we are to have so many wonderful employees, volunteers, and donors who support the good work we do in our community.

This November we celebrated a dedicated group of employees at our annual “years of service“ appreciation event. Along with their family and friends, we recognized each for the employment milestone they have reached at KW Hab. We honoured 65 people for their dedication and amazing work they do each and every day. Barb Willacy (Inclusive Living) celebrated 40 years with Terry Mayou (Inclusive Living) and Laurene Sprowl (The Vibe) at 35 years! It was great to see KW Hab staff and their families celebrating together. I would like to thank all of the staff who celebrated milestones this year!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Here’s to a wonderful new year and a new decade - 2020!



photo by Hilary Gauld-Camilleri

# THE SPEAKING OUT CONFERENCE

*This section of the newsletter has been written by members of Outspoken, KW Habilitation's Self Advocates group.*



In October, a group of 18 people and 5 staff from KW Hab piled into vans to go to the Speaking Out Conference in Port Elgin. We had so much fun! The weekend felt like a vacation but we were so tired after we got home, that we feel like we should have another vacation!

We had so much fun staying in the hotel and we really took time to smell the roses. We attended sessions, played games, took seminars, had meetings, and partied. It was fun meeting new people and seeing old friends. We met someone from the Yukon.

This conference is something we look forward to and we always save up to be able to go. There are always great things happening like the seminars on stress, healthy eating and jobs. Zoreena Rhaab and Vanessa Miller presented and did a great job. We would like to say a big thank you to KW Habilitation, the Board of Directors and Westmount Pharmacy for supporting us to go to the conference. Katherine Rosacker said, "If it wasn't for your help, I wouldn't have been able to go!"

Our favourite things about the weekend:



The whole thing!  
**Tammy Cleasby**

Dancing, meeting a new friend and partying.  
**Brittany Neal**

Eating different kinds of food.  
**Sue Schnarr**

Drinking Beer!  
**Lloyd Martin**

The prizes! I love what I did for my presentation, it felt good.  
**Zoreena Rhaab**



*A note from Zoreena Rhaab:*

Going to Port Elgin was a great opportunity for me. I did a presentation with Vanessa Miller and the name was called **Advocates Against Abuse**. It involved doing roll-playing, speaking out to others, also letting everyone know the kind of personality I have, my interests and the jobs I enjoyed doing. I think that everyone thought my presentation was very good and I should present it again.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7: Community  
Christmas Bazaar

December 12: Our Farm  
Jam and Salsa Sale

February 20: Spaghetti  
Dinner

March 18: Kitchener-  
Waterloo Kinsmen presents  
Soupfest in support of KW  
Habilitation



SAVE THE DATE



KW Habilitation  
**COMMUNITY  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Saturday, December 7, 2019

The poster background is white with scattered pine needles and red berries. At the top left, there's a small pine branch. At the bottom, there's a branch with red berries and a small brown paper bag with a red and white checkered ribbon. In the bottom right, there's a stylized logo for "our farm" featuring a house and a tree.

## Jam and Salsa SALE

December 12, 2019  
1:30pm

GRANT'S CAFÉ

JAM JELLY SALSA RELISH HONEY

prices range from \$5 to \$10

our farm



# OUR 8TH ANNUAL SCOTCH TASTING AT ITS FINEST!

We are grateful for another fabulous evening of Scotch Tasting in support of KW Habilitation! On October 17, we were joined by almost 200 supporters at the Hacienda Sarria for an evening filled with unique and aged single malt scotch and whiskeys paired with a delicious full course dinner. Our live entertainment was provided by Tim Lewis on the piano, and Robin Baillie on the bagpipes.

Honourary Chair and Live Auctioneer Neil Aitchison along with Master of Ceremony Adele Newton did a fantastic job and entertained everyone, as always! We raised over \$31,500 for KW Habilitation's newest eMod project. In partnership with Edge Architects and built by Z Modular (Zekelman Industries), this new build will be a 2 bedroom fully accessible apartment that is NET ZERO ready and attached to the property at 710 Frederick St.



**Kin Canada**  
Kinsmen Club  
of Kitchener-Waterloo

This event would not be possible without the help of our amazing volunteers, sponsors, donors, guests and hosts, many of whom have been involved with the event since the beginning. Save the date for next year - October 22, 2020.

**WESTMOUNT PLACE PHARMACY**  
**PHARMASAVE HOME HEALTH CARE**  
50 Westmount Road N, Waterloo, Ontario P: 519-886-7670 F: 519-886-2556

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Platinum and Gold Sponsors: The Kitchener Waterloo Kinsmen Club, Westmount Place Pharmacy and the Cindy Cody Team.





# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FARM!



The Last Bloom at Our Farm, Fall 2019  
photo by Jenny Weickert

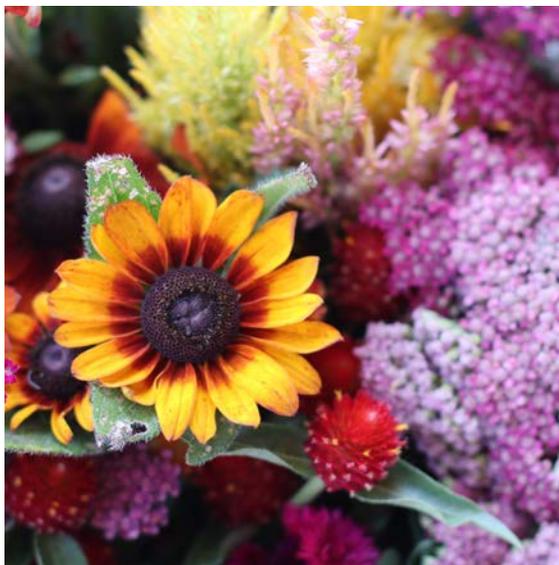
2019 was a busy year for Our Farm. Growing seasons never seem to be predictable and this year was no different. We were faced with a cold and wet spring, which meant germination was difficult. Our seedlings were planted late, which left us wondering if they could survive in the cold soil. And that was just the beginning!

Despite weather challenges through the whole growing season, we were pleased to be able to provide lots of great vegetables at KW Habilitation. The vegetables grown on Our Farm saved Inclusive Living, Supported Independent Living, Community Participation and the tenants at 108 Sydney Street \$8150.



In addition to cost savings to the programs at KW Hab, Our Farm was also able to donate fresh vegetables to the House of Friendship and Soup Sisters. It was a pleasure to see other groups benefit from our gardens.

Every Wednesday from June to October, the market tents popped up at 99 Ottawa Street. Our Community Market was a huge success this year, and we are thankful that so many people supported the market. Seeing community members, staff, neighbours and local businesses access the market was terrific, and we were so pleased to see repeat customers every week shopping for fresh vegetables, preserves, and supporting our niche vendors and food trucks.



Our Farm definitely needs help from lots of people to keep things growing and it wouldn't be a success without our volunteers. These dedicated volunteers helped package produce, manned the information booth, helped with market set up and tear down and got dirty in the garden. They helped make this year a memorable one and it would not have been a success without them.

We are looking forward to the 2020 season and hope to see you at our market tents next year.



## OH SNAP, EARLY LEARNING IS DOING IT AGAIN!

The Special Needs Resourcing Collaborative of Waterloo Region is a partnership between KidsAbility, KW Habilitation and the Special Needs Access Point. The Early Learning, Child Care and Family Resources team at KW Hab is proud to be part of this collaborative and it is with great anticipation that we are able to showcase our new logo and website!

The Special Needs Resourcing Collaborative provides support to Licensed Child Care Programs across Waterloo Region for children up to 12 years of age. We have committed to working closely together, not only in our daily practices in the Early Learning and Child Care community, but in our overall strategic direction. Our unique partnership allows us to cultivate respectful relationships with each other and with those we support, as well as always striving to be responsive, efficient and effective in our approaches. We work together to streamline the services provided so that all children, regardless of their abilities, are supported to thrive in quality, inclusive early learning environments.

When a program or individual need is identified, licensed child-care programs can access the SNR Collaborative through the Special Needs Access Point. From there, you might be connected with Resource Consultants or SPOT Therapists who make up the team of professionals that work to ensure all children are participating in a meaningful way in their child-care program.

In January 2020, the website will be fully launched and all referrals and requests will come through the website directly to a SNAP Coordinator here at KW Habilitation.

We invite you to visit [www.snrcwaterlooregion.ca](http://www.snrcwaterlooregion.ca) to learn more.





THE JOY OF

# GIVING

Each year, friends and staff of KW Hab donate money to purchase gifts for approximately 30 adults supported by KW Habilitation who do not have a family to celebrate Christmas with. As we are quickly approaching the Holiday Season, KW Hab is making plans to once again, support these people through the holidays.

Throughout the year, KW Habilitation uses money received from 50-50 draws to help purchase personalized gifts for the people who will be without family over the holidays and while we appreciate the funds raised from these 50-50 draws, there is always a need for more. Should you, or anyone you know be interested in making a donation for this cause, a cheque made payable to KW Habilitation can be forwarded Chris Gefucia at 99 Ottawa Street any time before December 14th.

KW Hab will happily issue a charitable donation receipt at your request. Thank you in advance for your generosity. It will help the people we support have a memorable holiday season.



**Mint Smoothies** from Rhéo Thompson  
are available to purchase at KW Habilitation!

\$2.00 each

Purchase them from Grant's Café, Admin at 99 Ottawa Street, or a member of the Committee for Excellence.



## A WINNING COLLABORATION



KW Career Compass (KWCC) is proud to be a member of The Community Employment Literacy Committee (CELC) which is made up of service providers who provide a wide range of employment supports to residents of Waterloo Region. It was established to provide a forum for information sharing related to literacy and employment programs/services and to foster collaborative working relationships. The member agencies, which make up the CELC, provide employment related services to job seekers and also support local employers with their hiring needs.

In September 2019 the Community Employment Literacy Committee (CELC) nominated and honored Old Navy

Conestoga as an outstanding employer in our community for working alongside KW Career Compass in assisting and providing meaningful job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

KW Career Compass' partnership with Old Navy started in the fall of 2010 when they hired a person supported by KWCC for a very unique position that needed to be filled. Since then, Old Navy has continued to hire numerous people through KWCC in various roles, and the partnership has been a success for all involved. Old Navy has proven to be a very inclusive and supportive employer and we are grateful for their continued dedication to inclusive hiring practices.

Old Navy has also provided training, skill building opportunities and information sessions for people we support who might not necessarily know or understand what working in a retail environment entails. Most importantly, the employees that have been hired through KWCC are treated as equal and valued members of their team. Old Navy has created employment opportunities that are truly meaningful and we would like to congratulate them on their Outstanding Employer designation from the CELC.

A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE  
BELONGS AND PARTICIPATES

## KW HABILITATION VOLUNTEERS

People choose to volunteer for many reasons. Sometimes it's to give back because they make the time to do so, sometimes it's to stay connected within their community, and sometimes it's to develop new skills. Whatever the reason, when a person chooses to volunteer at KW Habilitation, we are always better for it.

Sharon Betts has been a loyal and dedicated volunteer at KW Hab since 2014. In the last five years, we've been lucky to get to know her while she has spent time at the Welcome Centre and at the Our Farm Community Market.

When Sharon's husband was sick for more than 6 years, she noticed how many people were reaching out to her to see if there was anything they could do to help. When her husband passed away, she knew that volunteering would have to be part of her future. Her aim was to be able to make a small difference, in the same way all the people who helped her during her husband's illness had. For Sharon, it was a way to repay her community, stay active and involved.

She volunteered at Freeport Hospital for 5 years and then it was her daughter who told her about an opportunity at KW Habilitation. We asked Sharon why she decided to volunteer

with KW Hab and she said, "I had such a warm, fuzzy feeling during my interview, so I knew this was the place I wanted to be." Sharon has a wonderful way of making people feel special when she is speaking to them. We can always count on her for a smile, a kind word, or even a funny joke. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sharon for the last five years she has spent volunteering at KW Habilitation.



SHARON IS ALWAYS  
BRIGHT AND  
CHIPPER WHEN  
SHE'S HERE AND  
HAS A KIND WORD  
OR COMPLIMENT  
EVERY TIME I SEE  
HER. SHE IS CARING  
AND THOUGHTFUL  
WITH THE PEOPLE  
WE SUPPORT.

Beth Wilson, Volunteer and  
Student Placement  
Coordinator



## TIME TO VOTE!

It wasn't until 1993 that all people in Canada, regardless of disability retained the right to vote. Dave and Joe took their voting responsibilities seriously this October.

They both made an effort to understand the different party platforms by inviting two local members of parliament running in the election to their home to discuss those platforms and answer their questions. Dave and Joe took time to ensure they knew the voting process and made an informed choice without bias from others.

Although significant changes have been made to ensure the democratic right to vote is accessible to all Canadians, Elections Canada has said that they are still seeking ways to improve.



## SURFACING

A partnership that began in February of 2019 between KW Habilitation and the Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery with support from the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Kitchener was showcased on September 5th with the opening of "Surfacing".

Artwork created by participants in art classes taught by Catherine Mellinger and Sarah Kernohan were exhibited at the Berlin Art Tower at Kitchener City Hall.



Participants from the classes were on hand to see their work at the opening reception and members of the community enjoyed the show throughout the month of September.



# A REQUEST FOR PARTICIPANTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO AND WATERLOO WELLINGTON AUTISM SERVICES

Researchers affiliated with the University of Waterloo and Waterloo Wellington Autism Services are researching Housing Needs of Adults with Developmental Disabilities and High, Complex Needs in the Central West Region of Ontario.

They are looking for volunteers to take part in a study titled Creating Housing Options for Adults with Developmental Disabilities and High, Complex Needs.

The survey asks some demographic questions as well as questions about the kinds of supports people need and what would make a living arrangement into a successful home for them, so that they have better understanding of the nature of the challenges people are facing.

If you are interested in participating, or would like to learn more about the study, please click [here](#).



photo by Hilary Gauld-Camilleri



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WATERLOO REGION THIS DECEMBER

## Everyday until December 15:

- Sensitive Santa at the Cambridge Centre

## Everyday until December 29:

- Elf: The Musical at the Hamilton Family Theatre

## December 7:

- KW Habilitation Community Christmas Bazaar
- Old Post Office Holiday Concert Series
- Elmira Kiwanis Santa Claus Parade

## December 8:

- Breakfast with Santa at the Cambridge Hotel and Conference Centre
- A Christmas Celebration at Knox Presbyterian Church
- Christmas Open house at McDougall Cottage Historic Site

## December 11:

- The Elvis Christmas Show at Bingemans

## December 13:

- Wellesley Christmas Thyme Parade
- Light up the Season at Tapestry Hall in Cambridge

## December 14:

- Christmas with Santa at the Kitchener Market and Calvary United Church

## December 16:

- Serena Ryder - Christmas Kisses Tour at Centre in the Square

## December 20:

- Tom Nagy Christmas at the Jazz Room

## December 21:

- St. Clements Santa Claus Parade

## December 23:

- Let it be Christmas at Highview Community Church

## December 25:

- Bingemans Christmas Day Buffet

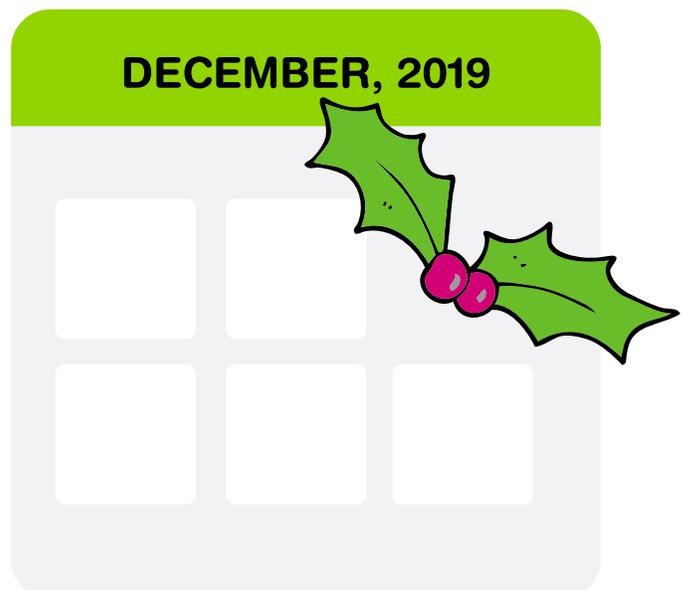
## December 28:

- The Nutcracker at Centre in the Square

## December 31:

- New Years Eve celebrations in Kitchener and Cambridge

For a great list of even more events happening in Waterloo Region over the Holiday Season, please [click here](#).



**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from KW Habilitation**