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## Welcome to the Maples – submitted by the Maples staff

On Warden Avenue you will come to find the Maples Residence where six friendly gentlemen await you. They reside in a brick bungalow style home that has ample space to roam around the house and yard. After meandering around the property, you can rest your weary bones in our new gazebo dedicated in memory of Craig's mother, a well loved and devoted mother who frequently visited with Craig and all of his housemates. Fall is the best time around the Maples, for the trees surrounding us are in brilliant colour.

When you are about to enter the Maples you will more than likely be greeted by Craig as he enjoys lingering near the doorway, eagerly awaiting the next arrival.



His greeting is friendly, a quick hug and mischievous giggle. Craig is very curious and loves

to see what everyone is doing, and often offers to help.

Once in, you will hear the latest musical selection from our in-house DJ – Brandon. Avril Lavigne would be my best guess!! Now throw a van ride and a snack in, you will have a happy man. Though Brandon is fairly new here, he has quickly become a part of the family. Brandon's smiles and giggles are infectious, "Coming in and seeing him smile and laugh makes me feel like we have a bond that will only get better with the love and support of the Maples staff", states Michelle, Brandon's support staff.

John is the eldest of the residents here at the Maples, pretty much since the Maples opened. John is very active despite his physical limitations. He loves to take nature walks and then snuggle up in a warm fuzzy blanket. He brings laughter and joy to everyone he meets. "He is wonderful therapy on a heart that may be down with the unconditional love he shows." says Shirley, John's support staff.

Jake is a man with

imagination. Jake loves everything Disney, and would best describe the Maples as his Disney Castle. He has always called his room his Disney Studio, and he is exceptionally proud of the fact that he is going to achieve his wish of obtaining a Disney room, with a room make over. An amazing fact about Jake is that he has a great memory, especially when it comes to either you or your family members' birthday. He will come to you a week in advance and remind you of an upcoming birthday.

Michael, another fairly new family member, can usually be heard before he is seen, as his singing resonates throughout the house. He is a perfect companion for staff doing paperwork as he loves to watch you write, however he is at his happiest cuddled up with you on the couch watching "Mary Poppins". He has become very comfortable in his new home and with his housemates.

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**Welcome to the Maples (from page 1)**

Thomas is a man who likes to go out into the community and is somewhat of a shop-a-holic. Tom is the Maples' sous-chef whose specialty is breakfast, but Tom also enjoys eating out. Thomas' favourite past times are dancing and camping, which brings back childhood memories for him. In the evening hours he likes to kick back with a magazine and tall glass of milk. Although a reserved gentleman, Tom's laughter can be contagious.

Having shared the resident highlights with you, it is only fair for the staff to open up and share a little about themselves, for they are the backbone of our home.

Donna	Support	Motivated
Shirley	Support	Ambitious
Nate	Support	Prankster
Robyn	Support	Logical
Meaghan	Support	Entertainer
Michelle	Support	Spirited
Marshall	Nights	Reliable
Dennis	Nights	Observant
Ross	Nights	Comedic
Anna	Supervisor	Kindred
Dianne	Supervisor	Satiric

**News from the Farm House**

Summer is over, the flowers are all gone and a fresh blanket of snow has fallen on the farm...life at the farm house has had some changes... we enjoyed a big celebration with Lyn turning 50 years young... we welcomed Lyanna to the farm – she fits in well and we are happy to have her... Bonnie's health has improved greatly too – thanks to everyone for caring so much... and everyone is anticipating the Christmas season and getting ready for the new year... so **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** to all!!



**Congratulations**

At the recent Annual General Meeting, several certificates and tokens of appreciation were presented. Bob Creighton received a certificate of appreciation for his ongoing work on the Life on the Lane Newsletter; Dennis Frankland received a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding performance in his role as a New Leaf team member and Gregory Smith received a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding performance and lasting contribution as the Manager of Day Programs.

A token of appreciation was presented to both Dan Blanchard and Charles Dyer, Board members, for their ongoing contributions to the computer systems here at New Leaf.

Last but certainly not least, New Leaf presented a beautiful statue to Peter Elioupolos of [bypeterandpauls.com](http://bypeterandpauls.com) for his tireless organization of the Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting New Leaf and Sick Kids Hospital.

**News from the Tamaracks**

Harold is looking forward to the upcoming Valentine's Dance. He will be hosting an "Open Mike" for those interested in singing.

Robert is soon off to Woodbine Race Track for some fun and excitement and, of course, a couple of beers!

Valdis is currently planning a trip to the Curve Lake Indian Reserve. He is hoping to purchase a wall hanging of Native art work.

Jacky continues to attend local hockey games where he loves to support both teams! Robert and Harold enjoy meeting up with New Leaf friends at a local pub for a game of pool, wings and a beer. Another date will be planned soon.

A huge "Thank You" to everyone from Harold for all the support received during his stay in the hospital.

With their love and dedication, our friends who live at the Maples have, not just a house, but a home to call their own.



### News from the Drake Will Residence

Welcome to Matti D. from Safehaven. Mattie spends Monday through Thursday at the DWR with his support staff, Shelley. Matti and Shelley are pleasant additions to the DWR.

Hurray! Our snozelen room is up and running again after our little mishap. Our residents enjoy the stimulation and relaxation the room provides.

The solarium is looking very green and lush, thanks to the many hands that have been kept very busy. Our residents love to spend time in the sunshine without the worry of temperature changes. It is a great place for morning activities or afternoon storytime. The parents also enjoy the solarium where they have a private outdoor like setting to visit their loved ones. We recently received a giant soft therapy rocker for our residents relaxation.

The staff and residents would like to thank the DDC students Jasmin, Baba and Mario for all of their hard work and compassionate nature during their time with us. We wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

Welcome to new full time staff member Elaine.

### News from the Lindens

Welcome to Leanna O. – the newest part time member of the Lindens family.

A huge thank you to Heather for introducing a new menu item, TOFU...it sure takes on the flavor of what you are cooking and is enjoyed by all. Anyone looking for any recipes contact Heather at the Lindens.

Congratulations to Rhonda on the purchase of a new home.

### News from the Executive Director

Welcome to the first issue of Life on the Lane for 2008.

The past year has certainly been an active one at New Leaf. It has been a year of adaptation and growth. As individuals and as an agency we are continually being challenged by change. This is unavoidable and it is often uncomfortable, but it is only through embracing change that we grow. As we look forward to 2008 we can rest assured that we will continue to be challenged and I am sure that, as a result, we will continue to grow and develop. As we continue to look forward this year I am encouraged by the dedication and commitment that I have witnessed over the past year. Staff and management at New Leaf have had some difficult situations to deal with, but difficult times call for creative and courageous responses. I am very proud of the fact that, collectively, New Leaf has been able to meet the challenges of the past with courage and determination. Seldom is there unanimity on the most difficult choices we are called to make, but thanks to many committed staff and a strong and dedicated leadership team this agency has demonstrated that it is able to make the courageous and difficult choices.

Once again I would like to thank Bob Creighton and Sue Fleischman for their work on the newsletter. Thank you also to everyone who has taken the time to contribute to this newsletter. Please continue to submit your articles, pictures and suggestions.

So, once again, welcome to 2008! I truly wish each and everyone a health filled and successful New Year.

- Ren

Tragically, one of our staff members, Darlene Cameron, recently lost her husband William in a snowmobile accident. Some of Darlene's coworkers have set up a trust account in order to assist Darlene and her family in dealing with this great loss. Donations may be made at any TD Canada Trust – branch # 0542, account number 6325869. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Darlene and her family.

## Training Updates – by Dean Johnson, Director: Day Program & Staff Training

“I look forward to this upcoming year and would like to thank those who have made a positive contribution to the ongoing success of New Leaf’s Day Program and Staff Development.”

I am pleased to announce the addition of several trainers within our staff: Miles Burford (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention); Steve Coyle (St. John First Aid/CPR); Bob Creighton, Bob Quinn, Linda Connolly and Wanda Mueller (Abuse Awareness and Prevention)

I would like to thank Anne Robins of Robins Pharmacy for her work in helping to develop a Medication and Pharmacology workshop that is now mandatory for all New Leaf staff.

Participants will learn the basic principles behind medications and their uses, pharmacology, drug administration and things to know prior to a physicians appointment and upon receiving a prescription.

I would also like to thank Bob C., Bob Q., Linda C.

and Wanda M. for helping me develop, what I feel, is one of the most important mandatory training sessions to be delivered to New Leaf staff – Abuse Awareness and Prevention. This course discusses New Leaf’s commitment to eliminate all forms of abuse. Discussed are the signs of abuse, why the people we support are at risk of abuse, when caregivers are at risk of becoming abusers, dealing with abuse situations and how to prevent abuse.

New Leaf has once again secured four spots in George Brown College’s Dual Diagnosis Certificate Program. Several staff and management have attended this informative 50 hour program and have found it particularly useful in expanding their knowledge and skill base in working with persons

with a dual diagnosis. Attending this year are Diane O’Neill, Mark Sarrasin, Stephen Coyle and Stacey Lake.

I look forward to this upcoming year and would like to thank those who have made a positive contribution to the ongoing success of New Leaf’s Day Program and Staff Development.

- Dean

### Informative Links

National Association for the Dually Diagnosed  
[www.nadd.org](http://www.nadd.org)

Developmental Services Act  
[www.e-law.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-law.gov.on.ca)

Ministry of Community and Social Services  
[www.mcass.gov.on.ca](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca)

Community Care Access Centre  
[www.ccac-ont.ca](http://www.ccac-ont.ca)

Centre for Independent Living  
[www.cilt.ca](http://www.cilt.ca)

## Residential Programs Update – by Carson Lutz, Director: Residential Programs

As of December 2007 there were only 407 people still residing in provincial facilities with some moving to the community every week. The ministry and service providers are confident that the goal of closing the final three institutions by March 2009 will be achieved.

New Leaf has been involved in a recent ministry initiative referred to as the Innovative

Residential Housing Initiative. This project involves developmental service agencies identifying the people most in need of housing in their respective regions and then working with them and their families to find ways to provide them with a home that does not follow the model of creating a typical group living situation. Proposals were evaluated on how innovative they were, the

extent to which they specifically met the person’s wants and needs and that they addressed community pressures and priorities.

We are excited to announce that our York Region proposal has been approved and that we are actively planning with a young man and his family. Not only will this allow the young man the opportunity to own his own home, but we are

Our York Region proposal has been approved!

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## Risa and Nancy's Great Solarium Makeover – submitted by Nancy Wood

Risa, a day program participant, and I were given the opportunity to do a "Solarium Makeover". I have worked side by side with Risa as her counselor, for over a year now, and she truly is a wonderful young lady. So with encouragement and supplies from New Leaf and Barb Reed, Supervisor of the greenhouse, Risa and I took this project on with enthusiasm. First Risa and I cleaned, cleared, dusted and swept the Solarium. Then we sat down and made a floor plan, "this place needs lots of plants – Jade, Spider and Scented Geraniums – sitting over here, hanging over there, just in the right spots. We want it to look colourful yet tranquil". Thanks to New Leaf, we were supplied with garden furniture, which the Drake Will staff helped to assemble. Barb and Dan,

from the wood shop, supplied us with a sand table (sand box on legs) with toys, which is a great idea for those who have limited sensory perception. Risa and I also made a "tornado tube" – Risa's own creation. One for the solarium and one for Raymond, who lives at the DWR. Risa brought other unique creations that she made at home, to share with her New Leaf friends. These include a bean shaker, a snow road, and a water and oil display, all very imaginative things that you will have to see to believe.

We developed a respectful working relationship with the staff at Drake Will, and were able to get better acquainted with the people that live there too. In the winter months, Risa and I learned how to operate new machines at the craft shop, as we endeavored to do our eco friendly best of using scrap Plexiglas,

and other recycled materials to make colourful mobiles to hang on the ceiling. Risa loves to recycle; in fact she made a hanging planter from an old broken wicker stool. Risa also installed two bird feeders, made at New Leaf, outside the solarium for clients' easy viewing.

When we started this project, Risa always tried to avoid getting her hands dirty, now she is the first one in the greenhouse, transferring plants into pots, to go up to the solarium. She tells me her favourite plants are Jade, Spider plants and Hens & Chicks. During the summer months, we regularly watered and maintained the plants. We also revived a sickly hibiscus tree by repotting, fertilizing and spraying soapy water on the leaves to get rid of aphids. It looks beautiful, especially when it blossoms. Plants in the solarium change with the seasons, thanks to the New Leaf Greenhouse.

Risa's passion for recycling has us involved in making a special light stand for the solarium. We have built a wooden top and base for an old, cracked snoezelen tube. The tube is about 4 feet tall and will have mini LED lights suspended inside from hooks, top to bottom. Risa uses many of the woodworking tools conscientiously but likes the belt sander the best. These projects have provided Risa with the opportunity to express her abilities to be creative, learn new skills, to problem solve, negotiate and practice patience. I am very proud of Risa and the work she has done. Many thanks to New Leaf, including Barb, Dan, Cheryl, Pamela, Susan and Ray, and the great greenhouse volunteers.

- Nancy

## Residential Programs Update – cont'd

recruiting a room mate for him who will also benefit from New Leaf's expert staffing and the company that two young men will enjoy from living together. We are very excited to be planning a trip to Florida for eight of our residents. This trip will take place in

March and will, of course, involve time at Disney World in addition to some other great theme parks and activities. We are proud of the work done by Phil Noseworthy in putting the plan together and having the dedication to

see it through. This will literally be a dream come true for these people and we look forward to sharing their stories in our spring newsletter.

- Carson



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**Mission Statement**

We propose to cease the endless pursuit of “rehabilitation” in an urban environment for multi problem, hard to service, developmentally disabled clients. We will provide a rural setting where the emphasis is on cooperation and family-type relationships of unlimited duration.

Our approach will be to emphasize decision-making skills rather than simply obeying rules and regulations. The staff will act as advisors and facilitators rather than therapeutic workers. The difference will be somewhere between the unavoidable regimented atmosphere of a group home and the comfortable ambiance of a home in the country.

In pursuit of this mission we will endeavor to guarantee and protect the human rights of all those who will look to New Leaf for services without regards to ethno-racial characteristics, social background or other discriminatory practices, prejudices or bias.

**From Momma Feasby's Kitchen** 

**CHOCOLATE BALLS**

½ tin of Eagle Brand Milk  
1 ½ squares of chocolate (or ¼  
tablespoon of cocoa + 1 tablespoon of  
butter)  
1 cup of graham wafer crumbs

Make into balls and roll in fine coconut.

**ENJOY!**

**MONA SQUARES**

In a heavy saucepan or double boiler:  
Melt: 1 cup white sugar  
1 cups butter or margarine  
2 eggs

Mix and heat until thickened. Cool and add ½ package of social tea biscuits (rolled) and 2 cups small coloured marshmallows. Put in small square pan and cut when cooled.



**WALK FOR A CURE**

On the weekend of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, several New Leaf staff and their friends participated in the “Walk for the Cure to End Breast Cancer”. The path that brought them to this point was a year in the making. The ladies went under the team name of “Kats Gallery and Framing”, and consisted of Rhonda Gribbon, Kathy Taylor, Nadine Leblanc, Danielle Trautman, Diane Dickenson, Linda Pauer, Danita Currie and Lucy R. Grundy. Each of the team members raised over \$2,000 through fund raising throughout the year. In all, they raised just under \$20,000 from parties, 50/50 draws, silent auctions and individual donations. Rhonda, herself a breast cancer survivor, was greeted at the finish line by loved ones. She has come full circle, and her positive spirit and advocacy in regards to breast cancer is an inspiration to all. Thank You to Rhonda and all the ladies for their dedication, advocacy and hard work. The “Kats Gallery” team would also like to thank Barb Reed, Dan Antonio and Dean Johnson for their extended support for the silent auction items.

