

Continuity News

Winter 2023

Message from the Office

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023! I wonder what this year has in store for us? Hopefully it is a year of recovery and stability, as the past three years have been like a rollercoaster ride, with ups and down, unexpected turns and sometimes leaving us feeling upside down and off balance.

Our apologies for not sending out a newsletter in the Fall of 2022, however, we were busy with the preparations for our anniversary event in celebration of 25 years for Continuity Care and 20 years for the Baby Boomer Café. Both anniversary celebrations had to be postponed due to the pandemic. It took a lot of planning leading up to the event, but it was all worth it. Read more about it in this edition of our newsletter.

We had another anniversary to celebrate as it was Jayda Taylor's one year anniversary in the position of Member Support & Outreach Facilitator. Jayda has been a wonderful addition to our team and has learned about our organization and members in her first year.

Inside This Issue

Message from the Office	1
MB Supports for Persons with Disabilities	2
Call For Volunteers	2
Anniversary Celebration	3, 4
Anniversary Greeting	5
Rainbow Stage	5
Baby Boomer Café	6

Congratulations also to Nick Paulley, who is the new Treasurer for Continuity Care, taking over the reigns from Merv Gunter, who held that role previously. Merv is remaining on the Finance Committee and on the board, as our longest serving and original board member.

Our staff team celebrated the holidays with our colleagues at 120 Maryland with a door decorating contest and a potluck luncheon in December. This was also an opportunity to get to know the new staff as well. Jayda and I won the door decorating contest and Patti received the runner up and most competitive award!

Wishing you and your families good health, moments of peace and calm amidst the busy times, joy and laughter with friends and strength and resilience to overcome the challenges. Cheers to 2023 and we look forward to seeing you soon.



Suzanne Swanton, Executive Director



One of the areas of advocacy we have been focused on this past Fall has been the development of the new Disability Support Program and the amendments to the current EIA Disability Program. The Act was passed last October 2021 and the draft regulations were released in August 2022 with a 45 day period for public consultation. Continuity Care has been involved in meetings with advocates from other disability organization and representatives from the Department of Families and also co-hosted information sessions to help individuals and families to understand the changes to come.

This new program is called Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities and the first phase will be rolled out on January 1st, 2023 for individuals who receive EIA Disability plus one or more of the qualifying disability supports: receive Community Living DisABILITY Services, live in a personal care home, receive Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits. If you are in this group, you will meet all eligibility requirements. Therefore, there is no need to apply and you will be automatically enrolled.

The next phase will be rolled out in April 2023 for other Manitobans and eligibility will be determined based on their financial situation and a disability impact assessment. Should individuals not be eligible for this new program, the current EIA for Persons with Disabilities program will still exist, however, there have been some changes and amendments to this Act and the regulations which are important to understand.

Here is the link to the website for this new program

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/manitobasupports/index.html>

We will continue to share information about this new program with our members and advocate for improvements to this new and the existing programs.

You can ask questions or provide your feedback directly by email at disabilitysupport@gov.mb.ca or by calling 204-945-1040.

GAME ON!!! Call for Volunteers!

We are excited to announce that the 10th annual **Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic** will take place on March 22nd and March 23rd, 2023 at the hockey for all centre (formerly known as Bell MTS Iceplex) Located at 3969 Portage Avenue in Winnipeg.

We are looking for approximately 40 volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks for:

Evening of Wednesday, March 22nd & Day of Thursday, March 23rd

This event is a huge financial support to Continuity Care and we sincerely appreciate any assistance you can offer. Please contact the office at (204) 779-1679 or info@continuitycare.ca for more information.



A Very Special Anniversary Celebration

After a few postponements and much planning and preparation, we were finally able to host our very special celebration of Continuity Care's 25th and the Baby Boomer Café's 20th anniversaries. This joint event was held on Thursday, October 6th, 2022 at the Canad Inn Destination Centre Polo Park and was attended by 102 members and special guests.

The ballroom was beautifully decorated with balloon bouquets, special lighting and on each table, centerpieces designed by Gisela Runge with flowers generously donated by PickaFlor.

As guests arrived, they were serenaded by Bob Hanley, the Baby Boomer Café's musical director, who played his guitar and sang a few songs. There was time for mingling before the event began.



Sherry Desilets, Continuity Care's board president, provided opening remarks, introductions, and a land acknowledgement. Suzanne Swanton, Executive Director, was our MC for the evening and was pleased to introduce Catherine Gates, Assistant Deputy Minister, who shared greetings from the Department of Families. Terry Williams, graciously stepped in to provide a history of Continuity Care, as prepared by Merv Gunter, one of our founding and longest serving board members.

Gisela Runge offered a blessing and dinner was served. Thanks to the staff of Canad Inn for preparing and serving the delicious meals and dessert. During dinner, a slideshow of photographs taken over the years was shown. Special thanks to Jayda Taylor for putting that together.

As we enjoyed our dessert, we watched a video, including an original song created by Mike Maunder and Bob Hanley and then Mike eloquently shared a history of the Baby Boomer Café.

The Steinkopf family donated a very special cake for this occasion, and we want to thank both Max and Jocie for attending and representing their family. Katherine Manwaring and Jocelyn Yanfosky assisted with the ceremonial cake cutting.

We tried to keep the speeches to a minimum, however, it was important to acknowledge several special guests and key contributors to the success of Continuity Care and the Baby Boomer Café over the years.

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| * The Manwaring Family | * Max Steinkopf | * Janet Forbes |
| * The Steinkopf Family | * Mike Maunder | * Mike Keane |
| * The Winnipeg Foundation | * Randall McElhoes | * Bob Hanley |
| * The True North Foundation | * Merv Gunter | * James Doer |
| | * Albert Yanofsky | |



Outside the ballroom, there was a Baby Boomer Café display and in memoriam of members we have lost which was wonderfully put together by Lillian Tendies and Albert Yanofsky, two of the Baby Boomer Café organizing committee members.



A special thank you to our two event photographers, Luna and Mayuri, students from Fort Richmond Collegiate for capturing special moments during this event and editing the photographs.

The formal portion of the evening was concluded with Sherry Desilets providing acknowledgements and thanks to our event sponsors.



Congratulations to Jocelyn Yanfosky who was the winner of our door prize, a basket of gardening items donated by Shelmerdine Garden Centre and to the lucky winners who got to take home the floral centerpieces.

The rest of the evening was time for mingling, conversations and reunions of our members and a sing-along by the Baby Boomer Café band members led by Bob.

A huge thank you to our organizing committee members for their time, talents and for making this event such a success: Gisela Runge, Sherry Desilets, Terry Williams, Jo Verstraete, Patti Makinson and Suzanne Swanton.

If you would like to receive photos that were taken at the event, please contact our office and we can send them to you electronically.



Anniversary Greetings from Kevin Rollason

Our daughter, Mary, was born with several disabilities and underlying health issues 25 years ago this year. Coincidentally, and thankfully, Continuity Care was formed 25 years ago too - and we have been members for almost all 25 of those years.

My wife and I went to a meeting of the local Down syndrome society to learn more about DS. Along with the business stuff, they had a guest speaker that night: Bob Manwaring of the then fairly new Continuity Care organization.

Not only were we impressed with Bob's presentation, but we quickly realized we needed such an organization in our lives, to not only help guide us but also give us the knowledge to help our daughter. We not only signed up to be a member but, we also signed up for the permanent membership. It has been the best \$250 spent in our lives

I went to what was likely one of the first sessions with parents to learn about how we can plan for the future for our children, not only with wills and trusts, but also with housing needs and making sure there were relatives and friends in the picture too.

Sadly, Bob died several years ago now, but I always remember the advice he gave all of us. Inclusion has been a success in the school system, but what's the point of inclusion if parents aren't being helped to prepare to let their children have as independent of life as they can, just as they would expect their other children to have.

We have been with Mary through all of her many challenges through the years and Continuity Care has been there with us, to help us set up a trust fund, a registered disability savings plan, and a will that took into account all of what Mary would need if suddenly her parents were gone.

We thank Continuity Care for 25 years of help and we look forward to many more years of help, support and friendship with a great organization and the great people who make it what it is.

Rainbow Stage — The Wizard of Oz

A great big **THANK YOU** to Rainbow Stage and their corporate sponsor for generously donating 16 tickets for the Baby Boomer Café to distribute among their members for *The Wizard of Oz* performance.



Many members (like these two happy ladies) were excited about going out with friends and attend an outdoor public event. One member said "I thought that all the performers were excellent! Great to see all local! The orchestra was superb too. Loved the songs and the dancing was fun to watch."



Baby Boomer Café

Page 6

Baby Boomer Café was happy to hold our second outdoor café this year at Kildonan Park. We had a lovely and large sheltered picnic site for our gathering of approximately 25 people. The weather outlook called for rain, however we were able to stay dry under our shelter when we did get a few drops of rain. Most of the evening was spent visiting with one another on the expansive lawn in front of the shelter.

A scavenger hunt was held, as Mike had asked us to find certain trees and leaves to solve the hunt. It was a lot of fun. Our potluck meal was unbelievable. Such a great selection and great desserts as well. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

We were thrilled to see some new people come out to our café. Nancy and Brian were there for their 2nd café with BBC. Brian loved the music and joined Jocelyn with dancing to “*What Do We Do With the Drunken Sailor*”, as well as suggesting a number of other songs in our songbook. A new family of 4 joined us and as we did our sharing circle, they expressed their gratitude for the friendliness of the group and that they enjoyed the meal and activities. We hope they can make it out again.



Everyone is welcome to come out and share stories and enjoy a meal and activities together at our next Baby Boomer Café which will be held on **Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at Kildonan Community Church, 2373 Main Street.** Please save the date, and we will email more details in January.



Savvy Siblings:

Strengthening the Financial Security of your Sibling with a Disability

Savvy Siblings is a self-paced online course that was developed by Siblings Canada, an initiative of the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence. For more information:

[Savvy Siblings: Strengthening Financial Security \(siblingscanada.ca\)](https://siblingscanada.ca)



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We invite you to become a Continuity Care member

One-year membership \$25

One-year agency membership \$50

Lifetime membership \$250

Leave a Legacy

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