

Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley is a not-for-profit organization, which supports over two hundred people and their families in the northern half of Renfrew County. As our name reflects, we are dedicated to helping people with an intellectual disability develop their capacity to live, learn, work and participate in their community. Formerly known as Pembroke and District Association for Community Living and Pembroke and District Association for Mentally Retarded, Community Living has been assisting people with intellectual disabilities for the past 45 years. Community Living is a member based Association. Membership is available for a nominal annual fee to anyone who is 18 years of age or older, who lives in Renfrew County and supports the Association's goal and vision. A volunteer board of directors is elected from within the Association's membership to govern the organization.

The majority of Community Living's funding comes from the Province of Ontario. The Association is also funded through Deep River United Way, Upper Ottawa Valley United Way, donations and fund raising.

We envision a society where all people are included in the community and valued for their participation, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. We assist communities to include and value people, remove barriers to participation and be accepting of differences.

Community Living currently operates six properties in Pembroke that provide much needed housing for people with intellectual disabilities.

Over the years we have moved from housing large numbers of people together to creating and supporting housing typical to the community.

Upkeep and maintenance of the housing is built into the budget and Community Living, as landlord, takes pride in caring for its properties.

Often perspective neighbours are concerned about the unknowns, what will the housing look like, how many people will live there, how will it affect me?

Community Living is pleased to provide you more information about this housing and our organization. We encourage you to contact us to learn more about our

**For Further Information
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WE'RE YOUR
NEW
NEIGHBOUR
IN PETAWAWA



**Community Living
Upper Ottawa Valley**

Helping people
affected by
intellectual
disabilities in
their community.

In September, 2004, the Ontario government's Ministry of Community and Social Services announced that Ontario's remaining three large institutions housing people who have an intellectual disability will close by March, 2009. This announcement comes as welcome news to Community Living, which for many years has advocated for the right of people to live and be supported in the community where they belong.

A few facts:

- At the time of the announcement, more than 1,000 people were housed in the three institutions that remain open in the province. Some will begin moving back into the community by September, 2005, with the final moves taking place before March, 2009.
- At the time they were admitted, their families or the community did not have the resources to keep them at home or living in their community. Today, although many community supports exist, few individuals or family members have been given information or a choice about where they live.
- The benefits of living in community include:
 - Individualized support based on their needs and wishes
 - More opportunity for development and participation in community activities
 - More self-reliance and independence - some get jobs or perform volunteer work
 - People can live in their home towns, closer to family members and friends

This is not a new initiative - it is the culmination of a policy begun in the mid-1980s and unanimously endorsed by successive governments of all political parties in Ontario. In many provinces and places around the world institutions have been closed in favour of community services. Community Living associations and others across Ontario have been leaders in supporting people who have returned to their communities. Community Living associations combine qualified and professional staff with a strong network of community-based supports, including health professionals to personalize support to help people lead safe and meaningful lives in the community. Experience has taught that, with adequate planning and individual personalized supports, people can successfully make the transition from institutional care to community life. We are confident that, as in the past, people leaving institutions now will experience a high quality of life in the community.

Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley is helping people return to Renfrew County and investing in local communities.



Ask Mrs. Laporte! When 10-year-old Marcel Laporte moved into the Rideau Regional Centre in Smiths Falls, his mother knew it was not an ideal situation, but it was the best she could do.

Through the years, she brought Marcel home for as many visits as possible, but his needs were intense and there was no way to make it work on a permanent basis.

In 2000 the Ministry of Community and Social Services provided funding to bring Marcel back to his home community as part of the province's ongoing initiative to close Regional Centers.

Today Marcel lives in his own home with assistance from Community Living. "My granddaughters call him Uncle Marcel," says his mother. "it's something most people would take for granted, but to us it means a lot." "The whole family's happy" she concludes.