

The BCCL BURST

WINTER 2024 VOLUME 08



IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| December 25th | BCCL Offices Closed |
| December 26th | BCCL Offices Closed |
| January 1st | BCCL Offices Closed |



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Sheri Thiffault | Chris Fryer |
| David Marcinek | Kim Cunningham |
| Esther Kamwanga | Susana York |

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable year we've shared at Brampton Caledon Community Living. This year has been filled with milestones, hard work, and accomplishments that beautifully capture the heart and dedication of everyone at Brampton Caledon Community Living.

The holidays are a time to celebrate, connect, and show kindness to one another. Let us embrace this season of giving and gratitude, cherishing the relationships and moments that make our organization prosper.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful holiday season, and a New Year filled with health and happiness.

Charles Rego



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dear Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the year behind us and look forward with hope and gratitude to the year ahead.

The holiday season is a time to celebrate, share joy, and create meaningful memories with loved ones. It is also a time to pause and appreciate the hard work you do every day to strive towards our vision of a world that respects and embraces the dignity, inherent value and rights of all people.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my warmest wishes to each of you for a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with health, happiness, and endless possibilities. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Carmen Baker
Chair of the Board

CONSIDER DONATING TO BCCL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

At BCCL, we believe in the magic of inclusion! With the spirit of togetherness, we celebrate the incredible impact that each and every donor can make.

Your generosity, no matter how big or small, is a gift that supports our mission to create a vibrant community where individuals with disabilities can truly thrive and enjoy all the joys life has to offer.

Join us in spreading the joy! Visit our website to make a contribution and help us create a lasting difference that will resonate for years to come.



Thank you for being a part of this wonderful journey!

ART AND AFTERNOON TEA

BCCL CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On December 3rd, we proudly marked the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a truly memorable event: Art and Afternoon Tea. Held in partnership with the Peel Art Gallery, Museum, and Archives (PAMA), this gathering was a heartfelt celebration of creativity, inclusion, and community.

The event was a resounding success, drawing a large crowd eager to honour and appreciate the talents of artists with disabilities. These incredible artists were thrilled to showcase their works, sharing not only their artistry but also their personal stories and perspectives.



Photos courtesy of Herman Custodio, who volunteered his time to capture this event.

A heartfelt thank you to PAMA for their partnership and to everyone who attended and supported Art and Afternoon Tea. Together, we created a space where creativity and inclusion took centre stage, reflecting the true spirit of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you to our event sponsors: Ardglan Bakery, Aurora Importing & Distributing LTD, Blessed Cookies, Freshco Bramalea City Centre, Custodio's Studio Inc., Nitro Cafe, Phoenix Custom Autobody, Zelia Faria



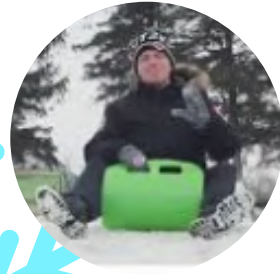
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THE ZONE HOLIDAY EVENTS



THE ZONE-TEEN SCENE
UPCOMING EVENTS
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
DEC 22 - ESCAPE GAMES / BOWLING
DEC 23- MOVIES /PLAYDIUM
DEC 24- ACTIVATE /LAZER TAG
THE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE FOR
PARTICIPANTS BETWEEN THE
AGES OF 13-17
SIGN UP & REGISTER NOW
SAMF@BRAMPTONCALEDONCL.CA

15 THINGS TO DO THIS WINTER IN BRAMPTON



Visit
<https://bramptonist.com/15-things-winter-brampton/>
for ideas!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

For families with children born in 2021 you can start registering your child for school online at both of the school boards in Peel for the 2025-2026 school year. Further information about registration, requirements for registration and information sessions please see the school boards website. Both are included below.

For any families receiving support through the PIRS program, please feel free to speak to your PIRS Resource Consultant.

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

A Parent Information Session to support Kindergarten entry planning will be held virtually on January 30, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm.

[Kindergarten - Peel Board](#)

DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

[Kindergarten Registration \(dpcdsb.org\)](https://dpcdsb.org)

Entry Planning Information Session for students with Differing Abilities will be held both in person and virtually. In Person session will take place on January 16, 2025, from 7:00-8:30pm at St. Marcellinus Secondary School and Virtually on January 20, 2025, from 7:00-8:00pm. For more information and to register visit the website:

[Entry Planning Information Sessions for students with Differing Abilities](#)



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MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TAX RETURN

The **Disability Tax Credit (DTC)** is a non-refundable tax credit designed to help individuals with disabilities and their supporting families reduce their income tax burden. It offsets additional expenses related to disabilities.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Impairment Categories:** Severe and prolonged impairments in walking, mental functions, vision, hearing, speaking, feeding, dressing, eliminating, or life-sustaining therapy.
- **Markedly Restricted Activities:** Significant difficulty or inability to perform daily activities.
- **Cumulative Limitations:** Combined significant restrictions in two or more categories.
- **Medical Certification:** A medical practitioner must complete and certify Form T2201.

Eligibility criteria was updated post-2021 to include:

- Broadened mental functions criteria.
- Reduced life-sustaining therapy frequency (from 3 to 2 times weekly).
- Automatic eligibility for Type 1 diabetes.

Application Process:

- **Digital Application:** Via CRA's online portal.
- **Paper Form:** Form T2201 can be submitted electronically or by mail.
- **Medical Certification:** Medical doctors, nurse practitioners, and other specialists can certify impairments within specific categories. Fees for form completion may be claimed as medical expenses.

Claimable Amounts (2023)

- Adults (18+): \$9,428.
- Children (<18): Additional supplement of up to \$5,500.
- Provincial/territorial amounts vary.

Associated Programs

- **Child Disability Benefit:** Tax-free annual payment up to \$3,173 per eligible child.
- **Canada Workers Benefit (CWB) Disability Supplement:** Refundable tax credit for low-income workers.
- **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP):**

Matching grants (up to 300% based on income) and bonds up to \$1,000/year.

Lifetime contributions capped at \$70,000 for grants and \$20,000 for bonds.

Eligibility tied to DTC but accounts remain open if DTC eligibility changes.

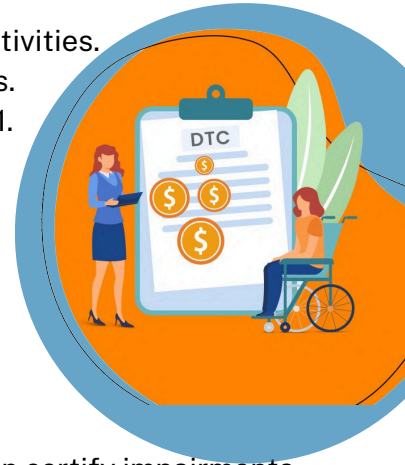
Additional Benefits

- **Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit:** 15% credit on up to \$50,000 in qualifying expenses (\$7,500 max).
- **Home Accessibility Tax Credit:** 15% credit on up to \$20,000 in annual expenses (\$3,000 max).
- **Canada Caregiver Credit:** For supporting individuals with impairments.
- **Medical Expense Claims:** For unreimbursed expenses, including family members' costs.

Other Benefits and Deductions

- **GST/HST Credit:** Quarterly payments for low-income families.
- **Climate Action Incentive Payment (CAIP):** Quarterly payments to offset pollution pricing.
- **Disability Supports Deduction:** Taxable income reduction for disability-related expenses.

For more details, visit the CRA website: canada.ca/disability-tax-credit



REFLECTIONS ON TWO DECADES OF SUPPORT AT 19 RUTHERFORD ROAD: MEMORIES FROM PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORT WORKERS

At Rutherford, we've celebrated a range of meaningful moments, from a heartfelt wedding engagement to several celebrations of life for those we came to know, love, and respect. We've enjoyed holiday dinners with live music, annual bazaars, elegant galas, and a diverse array of classes and activities. If the walls could speak, they would tell stories of countless joyful times.

Martina
CPS Support Worker



I always looked forward to the morning social times at Rutherford, before classes began. It was a time to catch up with friends, hear about what was happening in each other's lives, and share birthday celebrations and other special moments. The casual chit-chat was always a highlight of the day.

Michele



I will always have fond memories of 19 Rutherford Rd as the place where my career at BCCL began 20 years ago. I'm still connected with many of the people from that time, and we often reminisce about the 'old days' with smiles on our faces. Rutherford was a vibrant and bustling place, and I will forever cherish the memories of working in CPS with such a dynamic team and with amazing people who helped me learn and grow!

Suzana
Community & Public Relations Officer





I remember cutting the ribbon 20 years ago when Rutherford opened. I have so many good memories that it's hard to put all of them into words. I remember woodworking and sanding with Ron. It was exciting to be part of making pieces for the art shows and the looms for knitting.

I'm going to miss waiting by the door for John S to come in. I will miss our hugs and the quality time we shared together. Ordinary moments turned into extra ordinary moments!

Robert

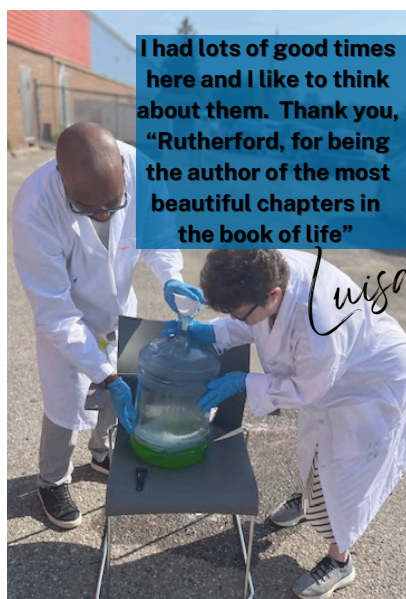


I have good memories of my time at Rutherford, sharing special moments with friends at the Christmas parties when John B came to play Christmas songs, so much fun, the decorations, dancing with friends, is like a melody that lingers, every memory is worth reliving. This is like one weaving a tapestry of memories that I will cherish forever.

Cheryl

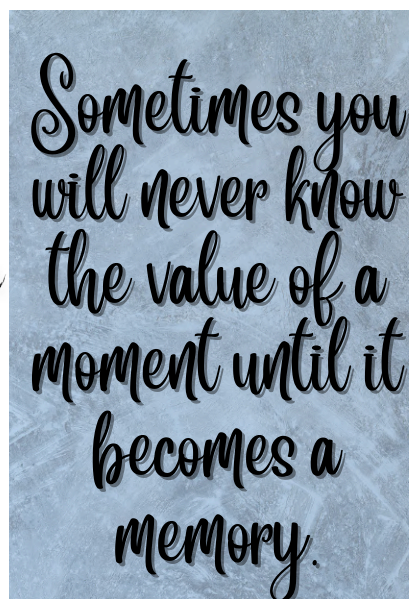


MEMORIES

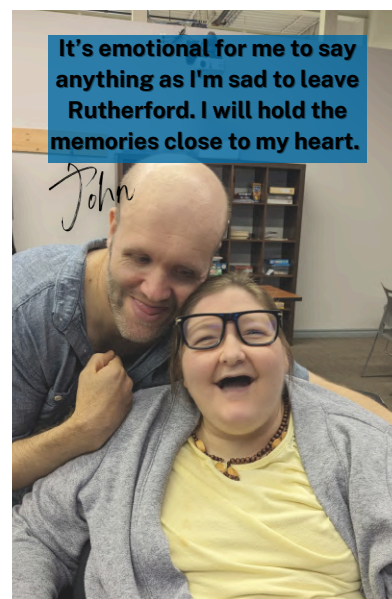


I had lots of good times here and I like to think about them. Thank you, "Rutherford, for being the author of the most beautiful chapters in the book of life"

Luisa



Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.



It's emotional for me to say anything as I'm sad to leave Rutherford. I will hold the memories close to my heart.

John



END OF AN ERA

Recycle Sale



USED AVAILABLE ITEMS FOR SALE:

TABLES & CHAIR SETS

LARGE TABLES

FOLDING TABLES

CHAIRS

DESKS

COUCHES/ARM CHAIRS

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

LADDERS

REFRIGERATORS

OVEN

SHELVES

CABINETS

MICROWAVES

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

& MORE



January 10th, 8:30AM-4:30PM



19 Rutherford Rd South, Unit B

Brampton, ON L6W 3J3

**ALL GENTLY USED ITEMS MUST GO! NO REFUNDS! AS IS SALE!
GREAT DEALS FOR OFFICE/ RESTAURANTS /STORES /HOMES
CREDIT OR CASH**