

youth wellness hubs

ONTARIO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

Hali Youth Hub Stakeholder Newsletter December 2018

Thoughts from Marg Cox, Executive Director, Point in Time, and Stephanie MacLaren, VP, Community Programs, Haliburton Highlands Health Services

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge, on Monday, November 26th, the passing of our friend and Youth Hub Construction Project Lead, Peter Fearrey. Peter was very committed to working on the youth hub, and making sure the youth voice was heard throughout the project. Anyone who knew him will agree that Peter was a genuinely caring person who always went out of his way to help anyone who needed help. Peter's legacy will live on in all of the lives he touched along the way; he will always be a part of us and the Hali Youth Hub. Marg will be touching base with Peter's family to arrange a fitting way to acknowledge his immense contributions. We are all heartbroken about this loss, and our thoughts go out to his family and friends.

Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario Connect in Chatham



On October 24th and 25th, 70 representatives from the Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO) initiative came together in Chatham to talk about their work to improve services for youth in Ontario. The day

included people from the YWHO Backbone—a team helping put these hubs in place—and representatives of the hubs themselves, including service providers, agency management, and youth and family members. It was the first in-person YWHO Provincial Network meeting. The objectives of the gathering were to build relationships across hubs and share learnings that participants could bring back to their communities.

The Hali Youth Hub was well represented by I-r Marg Cox, Stephanie MacLaren, Joey Varga, Malia Kessler, Pam Weiss, Wendy Ladurantaye and Talitha Kessler (see picture below).



Our group agreed it was an interesting field trip allowing them to make lots of connections; we are not the only ones with transportation challenges. Overall it validated that we have been working very well together.

Hub Renovation Update – Gift Registry Capital Campaign Launched

We're pleased that renovations are underway! Building permits have been secured, and construction and renovation timelines in place.

As per the funding agreements, the majority of the 3-Year funding received from Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario and the Haliburton County Development Corporation will go towards operating and staffing expenses to provide a broad range of services and supports delivered in an integrated fashion. While \$85,000 has been earmarked in Year One for renovations and capital expenses, estimated costs are in the \$150,000 range.

To bridge the gap in capital funds, and respond to a tremendously supportive community, a Hali Youth Hub Gift Registry has been launched. Set up on Point in Time's website [www.pointintime.ca] and using colourful pictures as examples of the goods that are



needed, donors can direct their contribution towards the purchase of specific items or to the project generally. Contributions will be used solely to complete renovations and construction, purchase appropriate equipment, furniture and fixtures to finish the space.

We're thrilled with how much the community is stepping up to support our community's youth. Trades, businesses, residents, and

youth are helping to make the YWHO Haliburton County a reality. It's real evidence of how valued youth are as members of our community and how the community recognizes the future that they hold.

Don't know what to give the person who has everything this Holiday Season?



Give a gift in their name to The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub Capital Campaign!

Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub – providing an inclusive and welcoming space for all youth aged 12-25 in our community – is a much needed resource that will reduce the isolation experienced by our youth population, engage them in a meaningful way in the community, and enable seamless and coordinated access to a range of supports including mental health and addictions.

Renovations to Hali's Youth Hub include making the building accessible (including stair lifts and washrooms) requiring substantial rebuild, a small commercial kitchen, creating multi-functional space upstairs for cooking classes, music and art workshops, and peer-to-peer support opportunities; and downstairs counseling and quiet spaces.

Help purchase appropriate equipment, furniture and fixtures to complete the space. Direct your contribution towards the purchase of specific items, or if you prefer, make a general donation to the project.

<https://www.pointintime.ca/gift-registry/>

Please share through your networks.

For more information visit <https://www.pointintime.ca/youth/haliburton-youth-wellness-hub/>

Follow us on Instagram @HaliCountyYouthHub and on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HaliCountyYouthHub/>

We'd Appreciate Your Help Promoting the Hali Youth Hub Gift Registry

We're working to publicize and promote the Gift Registry Capital Campaign.

Over the past couple of weeks, media releases have been sent to all our local print outlets and radio stations. Several radio interviews have and are happening: on Tuesday, December 18th, Marg Cox was a guest on MOOSE FM, this coming Friday, December 21st, Stephanie MacLaren will be a guest on Mike Jaycock's The Drive Show (at 4:00 pm – tune in or drop by CANOE if you can), and two weeks ago, CANOE FM volunteer Angela McGreevy (pictured left) pre-taped an interview with Joey, Malia and Marg to talk about the Gift Registry and Youth Hub happenings.



We'd appreciate your help and support by sharing news and info about the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub Capital Campaign Gift Registry, along with the links, through your networks.

Soft Launch of Youth Hub Programming Underway



Thursday night *drop-in programming* at the Hali Hub is in full swing and is providing great opportunities for youth to build relationships with staff. We have seen groups as large as 15 youth show up to hang out. Activities on Thursday nights are youth led, and they often choose to play music, video games or board games and eat lots of good food. We are slowly furnishing the space and bringing in new games and activities each week. HHHS provides transportation home for the Youth.

Coffee House is held twice a month, the next dates are January 8th and 22nd from 3:30 - 5:30 pm.

Coffee House invites all LGBTQ+ community and allies ages 12-25 to attend a youth-led program. Dinner and transportation home is provided.

This program is to help youth get together in a safe space to interact with other individuals with the support of Point in Time staff. Youth initiate themes, and activities such as Board games, instruments, video games, and more are offered.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Stakeholder Providing Transportation Services

Transportation is, unless you own your own vehicle, challenging in our County with no public transportation available. We're pleased that HHHS is able to provide a seven-seater van that is being used to support attendance at and getting youth home from programs held at the Youth Hub.

RE*Generation Arm of Virgin Mobile Approaches HaliYouthHub

We have been approached by the RE*Generation arm of Virgin Mobile to explore multiple opportunities for training and employment for multi-barrier youth. We know that a combination of soft skills (social skills and communication skills) and technical training is required by both the multi-barrier youth we would tailor the program to, and by employers who are asking for both some technical training and some job readiness training. Bottom line – we/they could bring this employment service model to the Hub as a combined Workforce Development and Technical Program. The program would serve 15-20 youth who are re-experiencing one or more barriers or risks and provide job coaching and training of both “soft skills” and “technical training”. Debbie Keating from Fleming College and her team will be working on a gap analysis and labour market analysis for Haliburton County which would be a nice dovetail with the kind of information Virgin is looking for. We are also being introduced to other possible Not for Profit Partners.

Debbie and Marg Cox have had a subsequent conversation with Joanne Kriving from Virgin, and will be utilizing the information that Fleming is in the process of compiling to help provide background information for an Application. Joanne also connected us to Carla – an entrepreneur who has a phone based business. She is interested in helping us set up a social enterprise of virtual assistants – who can schedule meetings, handle social media, and lead and organize webinars. She has a cottage here and will meet with Marg over the holidays to continue the conversation. Carla also has the potential to hire some youth to work from their homes by calling and supporting non-profit organizations.

Debbie and Marg will be looping back with Virgin in the new year.

Centre 3 Shift Creativity Works

Based in Hamilton, Centre 3 is an artist run centre that uses art-based employment training to generate work skills. They have experience with alternative education; have worked with high risk youth not in school – e.g. learn to print and design for high school credits and work using art and training to develop skills that link to employment.

The program undertakes 12 students per intake. Workshops are worth three high school credits, and the program boasts a 95% attendance rate. The Ontario Trillium Foundation has offered an additional 3 years of funding for expansion into other jurisdictions, and Centre 3 would like to launch in Haliburton. We're excited to report that plans are underway to explore the possibility of holding Shift Creativity Workshops at the [Hali Youth Hub](#).

Follow us on Instagram @HaliCountyYouthHub and on
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HaliCountyYouthHub/>

The [Hali Youth Hub](#) Stakeholder Newsletter will be published monthly. Look for the next edition in an email inbox near you!

We'd like to acknowledge, and extend an especially big THANK YOU to our generous [Hali Youth Hub](#) Donors:

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