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## In Memory of John Yaremko

John Yaremko was born in 1918 in Welland, Ontario into a family of immigrants from Ukraine. He became a lawyer subsequent to attending the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School. Mr. Yaremko began his political career in 1951 when elected an Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) as the first Canadian of Ukrainian ancestry to be elected in Eastern Canada. Mr. Yaremko served in Legislation until 1975, having served for 25 years –longer than anyone in the history of Ontario. He was the Minister of Social and Family Services between 1966 and 1971. Mr. Yaremko has always been keenly interested in social justice and bettering the welfare of individuals.

While MPP of the Trinity-Spadina riding, Mr. Yaremko became very interested in the clients and helped Bellwoods find the property at 300 Shaw Street through the City of Toronto. He personally greeted the first new tenants to 300 Shaw Street, including the original 6 women on their arrival from Bellwoods' residential services project on Kingston Road.

Mr. Yaremko's contributions came in many forms to touch the lives of Bellwoods' clients—enhancing client education programs, providing an accessible computer station that clients could use in Bellwoods' Resource Centre, supporting client social events, and providing other client service supports not otherwise funded by the government. Over time, he brought candies and chocolates to clients to celebrate Valentine's Day and Christmas, and attended all annual Bellwoods' BBQs. Mr. Yaremko delighted in his conversations with the clients. He spoke at each AGM and Anniversary celebration, as well as the 1082 Dundas Street West Groundbreaking Ceremony, and when he could not attend he would send a message or **In Memory . . . — continued on page 2**



*John Yaremko (left) and Michael Sprung, Former Chair, Board of Directors at the 1082 Dundas Street West groundbreaking ceremony in June 2006*

**In Memory . . .** — continued from page 1

representative such as for Bellwoods' 50th Anniversary and the Celebrating Community Connections event.

Bellwoods has recognized Mr. Yaremko throughout the years. In 1983 the Board gave Mr. Yaremko a plaque commemorating the reconstruction of Bellwoods Park House (300 Shaw St.) to apartments and re-dedication of the housing project to "The John Yaremko Centre for Community Living." He became Bellwoods' Honourary Chair of the Board in November 1983. Mr. Yaremko was also recognized for his contributions and continuing support of Bellwoods' clients at the 2004 AGM.

Upon his retirement in 1975, the Toronto Star newspaper wrote of Mr. Yaremko: "His career exhibited a distinct concern for social justice, as Minister responsible for legislation which improved the lot of persons with physical or developmental disabilities, the aged, the poor, and ethnic and cultural minorities."

We are grateful for John Yaremko's continuing generosity and affection for our clients over the years and will miss him greatly.

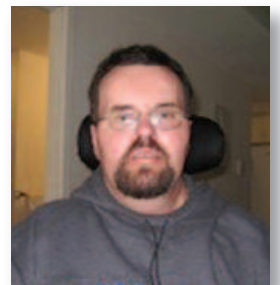


(top) Jean Lauder, Bellwoods' first client and John Yaremko at the opening of Bellwoods Park House in February 1967; (bottom) John Yaremko and Claire Bryden, Executive Director at a Bellwoods BBQ

## ONE STEP AT A TIME

Bill is a 40 year old man who sustained a spinal cord injury in a July 2009 accident at his home. Bill attended Bellwoods' Community Connect Program between December 2009 and April 2010, subsequent to completing his rehabilitation at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI) at Lyndhurst Centre. After completing the Community Connect Program it was Bill's initial intention to return to his sister's home in Brampton, with a long term plan of moving into his own apartment. However, soon into the program he realized that he would like to find his own place as soon as he was able. With the support of Bellwoods' Community Connect staff, he was able to find a newly constructed accessible unit in Toronto. The Community Connect staff, Canadian Paraplegic Association (CPA) Ontario, Lyndhurst Centre, and the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) worked with Bill throughout his participation in the Community Connect program to help him make the transition to his new home. Bill is now receiving supports from the CCAC, CPA Ontario and Bellwoods' Outreach Services and has made a very successful transition.

Bill states, "It's quite amazing for me. Not only have I gotten out but I've also been doing activities like sailing. Bellwoods really really helped my transition go smoothly." He goes on to report, "I like being back in the community. I just enjoy my freedom. There's only one way to go when you're down – that's up. I feel that I'm getting there with every milestone I accomplish." Bill reports he has the appropriate supports he needs in the community at present, "very much so. I'm very actively involved with physiotherapy. Now I'm walking with a walker sometimes. My next personal goal is to walk independently." He also reports, "my sister Joan and daughter are my number one supports. I don't think I could have made it as far as I have without their love and support." Bill has become an active member of the Lyndhurst Patient Advisory Committee, volunteers with the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) Program through Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, provides peer support for CPA Ontario for new individuals arriving at Lyndhurst Centre, and in December 2010 was voted to be a member of the Board of Directors at his co-op housing. Bill states, "I believe if you want to live in the community you must get involved."





# COMMUNITY CONNECT PROGRAM PILOT

The Bellwoods Centres Community Connect Program has entered its second year of its two year pilot project. Bellwoods Centres initiated the Community Connect Program to meet the priority of the Toronto Central LHIN to assist hospitals to discharge Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients and Long Term Care Homes (LTCH) to discharge residents, who may be able to live independently with appropriate supports in the community. The Community Connect Program focuses on safety and independent living of individuals who have physical disabilities, including seniors, who often have other complexities that have been a barrier to their discharge from institutional care. The Community Connect Program is offered to individuals who have a home to return to (6-month program), and also for individuals who do not have a home to return to (14-month program). In regards to program space, 14 housing units or 22% of Bellwoods' owned supportive housing apartment spaces are currently dedicated to the Community Connect Program. The program assists all clients in their transition to their home, including assistance to find permanent services and housing by the end of the program.

The Community Connect Program focuses on the development of safety skills in areas such as: home safety, mobility and seating, self care, funding, housing and community resources, household management, communication, and health and wellness. The Community Connect Program was started on

April 1, 2009 as a two-year pilot program. Since inception to September 30, 2010 there were 28 Community Connect Program transition clients who were served in fourteen supportive housing spaces, demonstrating its efficiency value to the health system via saving over 4,900 ALC days. The fourteen discharged clients during this time period completed their program and transitioned into appropriate living environments. Of all clients in the program 29% were 55 years of age or older confirming the validity of the program for seniors as well as other ALC candidates. Client profiles within the program since its inception have to date included primarily spinal cord injury, stroke, and acquired brain injury.

As with the first year, there continues to be a need to cultivate specific Intake of candidates with a home to return to upon completion of the program. Partnerships with hospitals, LTCHs and the Toronto Central CCAC have been essential to the success of the Community Connect Program to date. Moving forward, Bellwoods will continue to develop and strengthen relationships to further improve services provided to clients and facilitate the flow through of the program so as to support LHIN priorities and initiatives. Bellwoods plans to carry out a formal evaluation of the Program at the end of the second year to provide guidance to future program development.

## ACCREDITATION 2010 ACHIEVED!



Bellwoods remains committed to the accreditation process in order to demonstrate

- commitment to quality and learning throughout the organization
- accountability to key stakeholders including the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), community service providers, clients and the public

by integrating objective feedback on opportunities for organizational growth.

In the period between our first on-site survey in May 2007 and last year's survey in May 2010, Bellwoods worked on multiple areas the first survey identified where further improvements could benefit the organization. In addition, the comprehensive nature of the new Accreditation Canada

Qmentum process very effectively engaged all levels of our entire staff in the quality improvement processes that accreditation reflects, including multiple on-line survey & questionnaire submissions. The Accreditation process is a great team building initiative for Bellwoods.

Bellwoods Centres for Community Living received formal notification from Accreditation Canada late October 2010 confirming a successful accreditation status without condition following a review of the post survey submissions. The continuation of our full accreditation status, first achieved in 2007, provides Bellwoods with recognition of the quality of the organization's services through a comparison with nationally accepted standards. Accreditation involves an ongoing process of participation by Bellwoods and Accreditation Canada within a three year cycle.

**Accreditation . . . — continued on page 4**

## Accreditation . . . — continued from page 3

The May 2010 report arising from our May 2-5, 2010 onsite survey commended Bellwoods on multiple areas including:

- Strong relationships with community partners and recognition of our leadership in the supportive housing sector
- The fiscal soundness of the organization despite financial challenges within the system
- High levels of satisfaction from clients and families with service
- Very good occupational health & safety practices, with excellent outcomes

The surveyors have responded to Bellwoods' organizational objectives by commending Bellwoods for the work accomplished to complete this survey, further noting that we are identified as a leader in the sector and that the MOHLTC turns to us to take lead roles in certain areas. They also indicated that Bellwoods demonstrates its commitment to continuous learning, and that frontline staff are provided with numerous learning opportunities.

While our next survey is not until May 2013, the nature of the Accreditation Canada and our own Continuous Quality Improvement processes supports Bellwoods' continual assessment, evaluation and enhancement of existing practices to be consistent with leading practice standards. Bellwoods Centres remains committed to quality client services through the accreditation process. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who had a part in this major achievement!

## BELLWOODS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Robert Last

Robert has extensive experience in property management of commercial real estate as well as project management and building maintenance. He is currently Vice President, Client Services for Arcturus Realty Corporation in Toronto. He is accountable for the overall delivery of essential real estate services to clients in Ontario and across western Canada as well as national technical and procurement programs. Robert has also been involved in the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), which sponsors charities and coordinates technical development in the industry. Robert graduated as a Real Property Administrator from Building Owners and Managers Institute (BOMI) supplemented with University of Toronto financial courses and has a background in Power Plant Engineering.

### Bruce Fair

Bruce is President of Bruce Fair Architect Inc., which provides design and consulting services and is President of Bruce Fair Project Management Inc., which manages design and construction of building projects in Ontario. His extensive experience has been focused on projects for not-for-profit organizations and charities, including group homes, camps, churches, conference centres, small commercial buildings and hospitals. Having graduated from University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Architecture, he is a life member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and a member of the Ontario Association of Architects.

### Robert Taylor

Robert is a senior legal counsel with experience in advising clients in a wide variety of commercial, government procurement, employment, product liability matters and in risk management and regulatory compliance. Having worked for a number of law firms over time, he is currently with Sherrard Kuzz LLP in Toronto, a law firm specializing in employment and labour issues from the management side. Graduating from Osgoode Hall Law School, Robert is a member of the Canadian and American Bar Associations, the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Advocates' Society.

This newsletter is produced by **Bellwoods Centres for Community Living Inc.**, a not-for-profit, charitable, accredited organization committed to enabling community support for adults including seniors with physical disabilities to live as independently as possible. Bellwoods has a vibrant 50+ year history of offering personal support services, program coordination and skill development, and accessible affordable housing. Editor: Karen Woo

Board of Directors: David Choat (Chair), Monica Codjoe, Bruce Fair, Rhonda Galbraith, Robert Last, Albert Luk, Vija Mallia, Giles Osborne, Carolyn Reid, Joanne Reinhardt-Gunn, Lyndon Rollit, Robert C. Taylor, Claire Bryden (Ex Officio) Executive Director  
Funding Partners include: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network, City of Toronto, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, First National Financial LP

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Head Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Voice mail is available after hours.



## CALENDAR



### Social/Business Events

#### Annual General Meeting

October 24, 2011



### Board Meetings

To attend the public portion of Board meetings, call the Office of the Executive Director at 416-696-9663 Ext. 206 to confirm the meeting date and location and your intention to attend. The location is 789 Don Mills Road unless specifically indicated.

February 15, 2011

March 28, 2011

May 30, 2011

June 27, 2011

September 26, 2011



## REMEMBER THE WEBSITE . . .

If you have missed the latest annual community report, need to contact the Head Office for information, or want to keep up-to-date about Bellwoods, don't forget to consult Bellwoods' exciting and informative website at [www.bellwoodscentres.org](http://www.bellwoodscentres.org). Use the website to gather information or to enjoy a laugh reviewing pictures past and present. Happy surfing.