



Vision

The “Go To” expert for those impacted by a developmental disability.

Mission

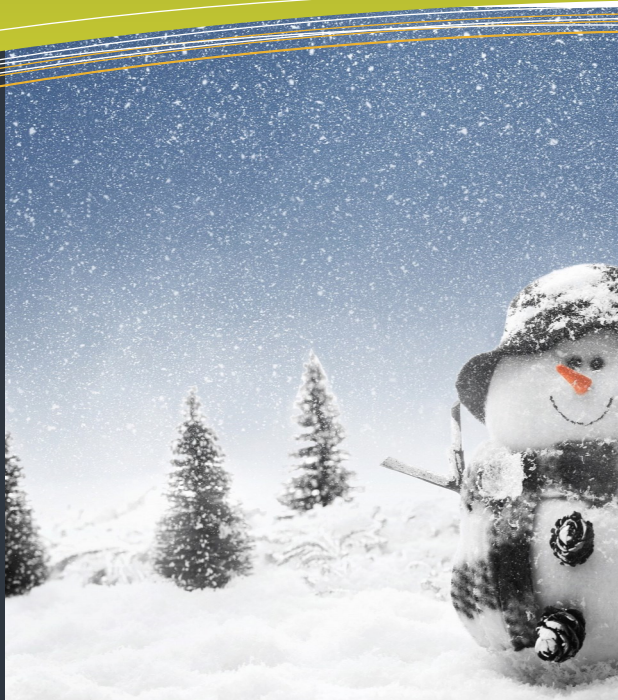
Community Living South Muskoka provides lifetime support to all those impacted by a developmental disability, utilizing skilled staff and effective partnerships involving the individual, the family and the community with the result that the individual is accepted as a valued community member.

Values

Excellence
Trust
Respect

Success Factors

A Highly Valued
Community Organization
A Leader in Innovation
Person Centred
Valued, Skilled Staff



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Happy Holidays

*From the Staff, Management & Board
of Directors, we wish everyone a safe
and enjoyable Holiday
Season.*



A Message from your Board Chair

“It’s that time of year” says the song and it certainly is in Muskoka and at CLSM. “It’s that time of year” when the weather goes from freezing to melting and back again. “ It’s that time of year” when parties abound and celebration is in the air. It’s also “that time of year” when we think back on the accomplishments of the year that was.

And, accomplishments abound. This year we had more people on our summer fundraising boat cruise than a year ago. This year we made \$13,298.00 from the Smile Cookie Campaign. And neither of these events would have been such a success without the hard work of the whole staff. There was so much enthusiasm that Tim’s next door was the number two outlet for cookie sales in all of Northern Ontario. Thanks to all.

And, while fundraising is important in these days of uncertain funding, our primary job is ensuring that we care for the clients and families we support. A couple of years ago we talked about how we would have to recognize that in order to keep growing, we would need to start marketing the specialized and professional services that we offer. The fruit of that effort has been recognized this year with a dramatic increase in the number of people who are entrusting us with their Passport funding.

This year we demonstrated our ability to make necessary change when we moved the Gravenhurst program from a building in the industrial park to a new location on main street. This is surely what Community Living is all about– being visible as a part of the business area of downtown.

Now it is no secret that it is very difficult to find affordable housing for our supported individuals anywhere in the area we serve and so we have been looking at ways we can help alleviate this problem. It is still very early in our exploration of a possible project, but with the encouragement of affordable housing organizations, government and other local social service programs, all the signs are positive that we will have exciting news to share early next year.

Every year at this time we wonder about our funding for the next year and with the new government at the helm, we are naturally concerned about what to expect. However, given the “pull together attitude” of our staff, board and supporters, while it may not be easy, we will find ways to ensure that we continue to support the great individuals and families that have come to rely on Community Living South Muskoka.

I am very pleased to announce that we will enter the next year with a full team of Board Members who look forward to meeting the challenges ahead. I will introduce the new board members to you early next year.

For now, on behalf of the Board, I wish you all a great Christmas season with lots of love and cheer around the tree and festive tables.

Submitted by:

Gord Haugh,
Board Chair.



“While fundraising is important in these days of uncertain funding, our primary job is ensuring that we care for the clients and the families we support”

*- Gord Haugh,
Board Chair*

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Raptors Claw their way to victory!!

Friday November 23rd saw Frank, Tom and Tom make the much anticipated trip to the Scotiabank Arena Toronto to watch their favourite Raptors take to the court to face the Washington Wizards in what was to prove to be yet another enthralling encounter in the NBA.

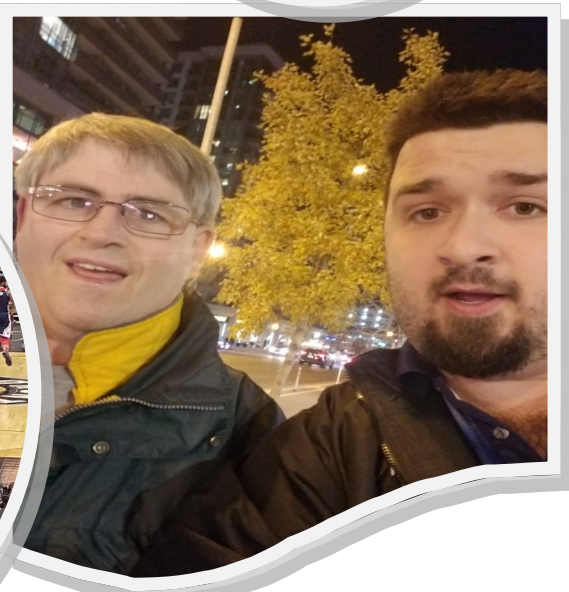
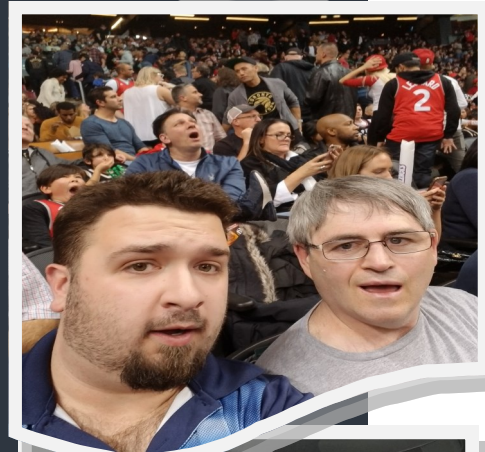
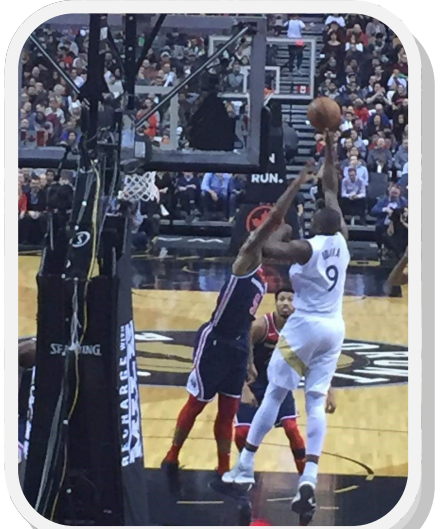
The game had everyone in attendance captivated, with the Raptors winning out 125 to 107. As is customary at such events the guys enjoyed the variety of snacks on offer including Nacho's, Popcorn and of course a nice cold beer!

Frank, Tom and Tom got completely immersed in the atmosphere, making the most of their clappers to distract the Wizards players when attempting free throws, with the half time show having the guys laughing hard as 'The Raptor' entertained everyone with his crazy antics.

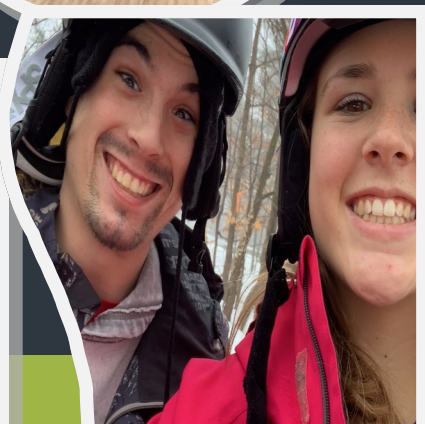
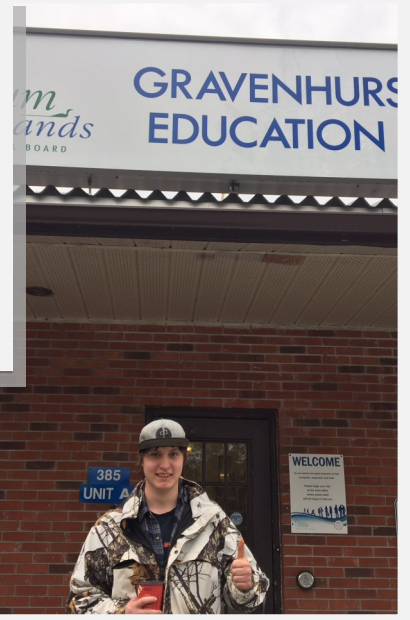
The journey home was interrupted by a quick stop for dinner at the Mandarin, where tales of the night were fondly remembered.

Frank, Tom and Tom are already planning their next trip hoping that it might be to the playoffs!!

Submitted by:
Michael Gilmore



A Typical day.... Passport your way!



For more information contact Kelly Cleland on (705) 645 5494, or kcleland@clsm.on.ca

Success Factor - A Leader in Innovation

We will Explore diverse revenue streams and Innovative Service Programs

Cultivating Experiences at Morrison Meadows

What an eventful 2018 Fall season it was down on the Farm! Since the end of summer we have hosted our annual Fall Harvest Festival, our Annual General Meeting, a multitude of school groups and the 2018 Mud Run. This years harvest was a bumper one enabling us to create our own brand of 'Morrison Meadows preserves' as well as providing baskets of produce to the people we support in the community.

Our dedicated team of volunteers deserve a huge thank-you as they were crucial in the success of the season.

We are now getting set for what is shaping up to be a very busy Winter, with planned events including our Annual Moonlight Snowshoe walks as well as our Winter Electives for schools, just to name a few!

Submitted by :

Taylor
Watson



Exploring Innovative Service Programs

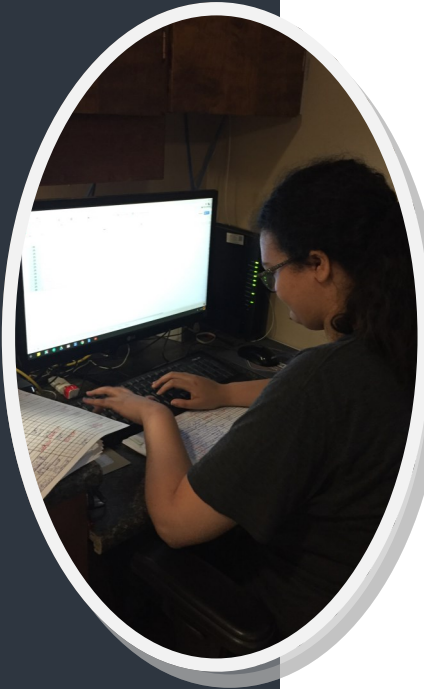
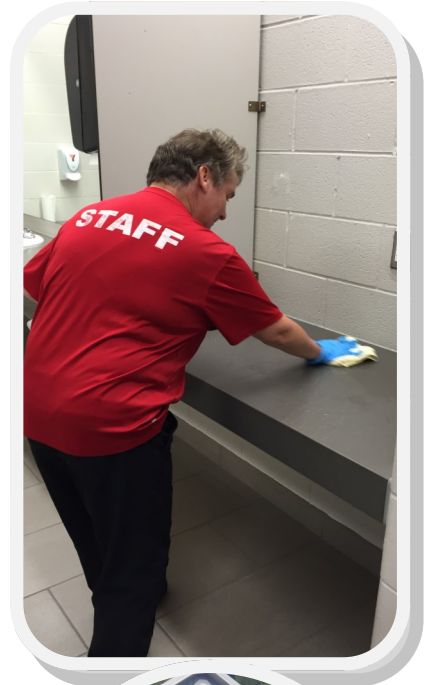
Following the path to Employment

The path to success is never easy, but the Job path program at CLSM helps those people we support prepare for employment, and enhance their skills. The 6 week program includes sessions on networking, dressing for success, interviewing practices, resume building and more.

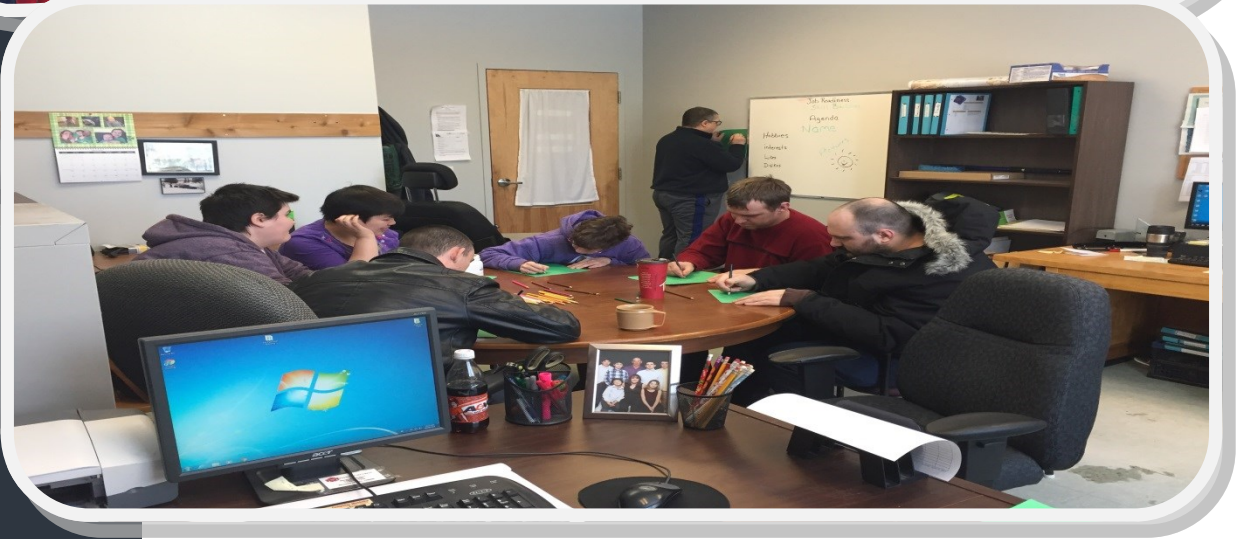
The program helps the attendees learn more about themselves, whilst gaining valuable experience of interacting in a group setting. In addition the program gives the participants an insight into the world of work with employment related field trips.

The Job path program is not just for adults, it is open to all Youth with a Developmental Disability as a fee for service, utilizing passport funding.

It is hoped that the program will help many of the people we support, gain meaningful employment in the community.



Submitted By:
Kelly Marion



Community Living South Muskoka Job Path!



Please join us for an

Information Session

Date January 31, 2018

Time: 1:30

Location: 15 Depot Drive Bracebridge

What is Job Path?

It's a 6 Week Pre-employment Training Session

- Week 1** → **Getting to Know You** : Introductions and ice breakers
- Week 2** → **Getting on the Path to Success:** what makes you tick
- Week 3** → **Acing the Interview:** Networking and Interviewing
- Week 4** → **Gaining Employment by Bettering Yourself**
- Week 5** → **Workplace Health and Safety:** First Aid etc...
- Week 6** → **Future Job Retention**

Please RSVP kmarion@clsm.on.ca

Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organisation

Ensure that the Community recognizes, respects and is inspired by CLSM

Educating Rotarians over Lunch!

November 16, saw Gordie Merton, Jennifer Murphy and Amy Hall, attend the Rotary Club of Bracebridges luncheon to speak about their employment and volunteer positions, and to educate the Rotarians about what Community Living does, and the employment supports that the Agency provides.

The afternoon began with a nice lunch, after which Gordie, Jennifer and Amy took center stage. Gordie spoke enthusiastically about his employment with Allport Marina stating that “my favourite part about working is just having a job, I love it” Gordie also spoke about his involvement in the recent election, something which he is very passionate about.

Amy was extremely proud to talk about her role at McDonalds, and was delighted to display her 10 year service plaque which she was awarded last year. Jennifer spoke of her involvement in the breakfast club at MacCaulay School, a role for which she was recognized with a Character Award through the Trillium Lakeland School Board. She expressed how much she loves seeing all the children each day she volunteers.

The presentation was very well received, and gave those in attendance a good flavor of what Community Living is all about!

Submitted by:

Emma Rogers

“ My favourite part about working is just having a job, I love it”

- Gordie Merton



A CLSM CHRISTMAS!!



Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

Family Support Workers of Ontario AGM & Conference

October 25 & 26 saw the Family Support Team travel to Kingston, ON, to attend the Family Support Workers of Ontario AGM and Conference. The conference was an excellent opportunity for networking, with the team learning about the many innovative and creative problem solving ideas that have been developed in the region. The conference whilst offering the opportunity to share best practice, also provided those in attendance the opportunity to celebrate the many successes and triumphs of those in the field.

Guest speakers at the conference included Francoise Mathieu, Len Whalen and Samantha Cooper. Francoise provided those in attendance with some wonderful insights and resources around self care, managing stress, resiliency and work/life balance. with Len offering some useful insights on supporting individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Samantha who is the co founder of Kingston4paws service dogs, spoke about Eastern Ontario's innovative Service Dog program.

Stephanie from the Family Support Team commented “ every year we are grateful for the opportunity to attend the FSWO conference, and benefit from the fabulous networking, and insightful and informative learning”

The resources provided by Francoise Mathieu can be found at www.calm.com & www.headspcse.com.

Submitted by:

Stephanie

“Every year we are grateful for the opportunity to attend the FSWO conference, and benefit from the fabulous networking, and insightful and informative learning”

-Stephanie



Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

Ontario Disability Employment Network Conference

October 16,17 and 18 saw the Sheraton Parkway Hotel Toronto North, host the ODEN conference 2018. Kelly Marion from the employment team represented the agency at this very important event.

Day one at the conference focused on mental health and what this actually means! Workshops looked at Mental illness in the work place, Mental Health in the workplace, and Dual Diagnosis.

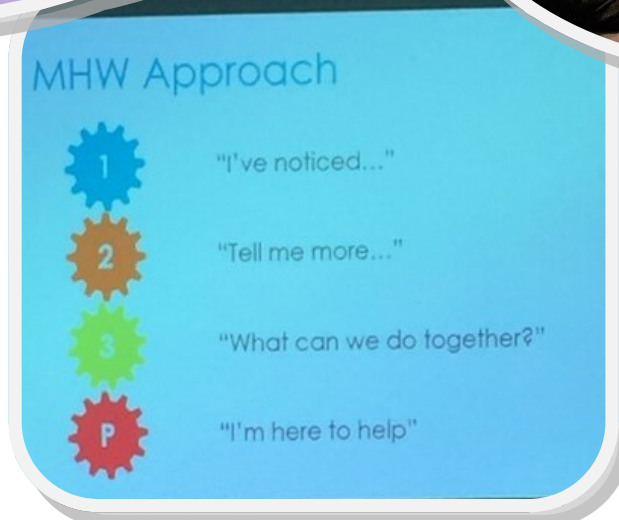
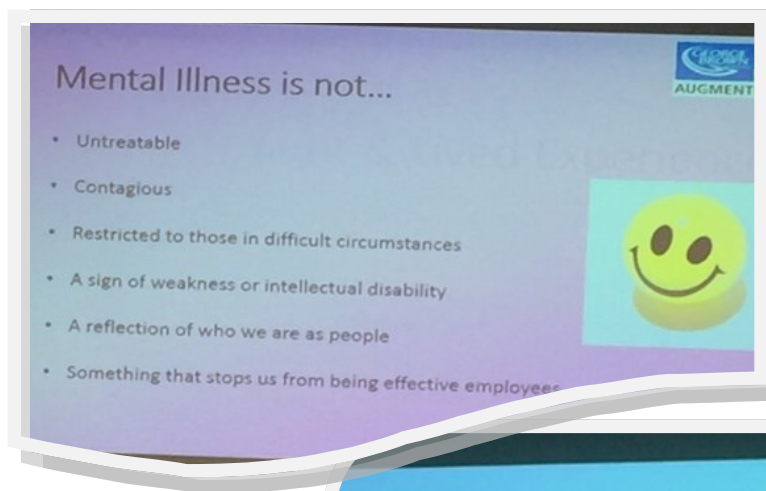
Day two provided the participants with the opportunity to attend sessions including, Seven secrets to becoming the leader you never thought you could be, best practices in employment supports for youth with ASD, best practices in sales, supported employment programs, and virtual reality the future of employment services.

The final day of the conference provided the participants the opportunity to listen to Dr Barbara Weaver Smith, as well as focus on standards of quality service.

Kelly commented 'My experience at the conference was excellent enabling me to learn many new things in relation to my Job. I look forward to sharing this information with the rest of the Employment Team at CLSM'

“My experience at the conference was excellent, enabling me to learn many new things in relation to my job. I look forward to sharing this information with the rest of the Employment Team”

-
Kelly



Success Factor - Valued Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure.

Making Wellness a priority at CLSM!

Since its inception in March of this year, the Wellness Team has sought to keep wellness at the fore front of everyone's minds within the agency! The team has been busy organizing events to not only promote physical wellness, but also address compassion fatigue and mental health.

Each month has been designated with a different theme including, Fitness month, Social Wellness month, Healthy Eating month, and Team Building month. Events including individual and team step challenge, yoga, clothing drive, lawn bowling and lunch and learns, have proved to be popular with everyone, with the baseball game against the Special Olympics team proving to be a real highlight.

December is set to be a busy month with the annual door decorating contest, as well as the staff Christmas party to look forward to. There are also plans in place to help banish those January blues.

The Wellness Team is committed to promote a culture of wellness, collaboration and enthusiasm within the Agency, and supporting everyone to achieve their wellness goals.

Submitted by:

Lorie Vogels



A message from the CEO



People often ask me why I chose a career in Developmental Services. I believe that the answer for each of us will be little bit different. For me, I value having a career where I believe in the work we do and how it makes a positive difference in people's lives. As you have reviewed the wonderful stories in this newsletter and if you follow us on social media, you will understand a bit of what I am expressing.

More recently, what made me reflect upon the 'why' occurred while I was in Iceland where I had the honor of representing our agency at the International Short Break (respite) Association conference. I was able to share with participants some of the great work we do at Community Living South Muskoka. One of the leanings from that conference I would like to share with you is from a key note speech by Roy McConkey, Emeritus Professor of Developmental Disabilities at Ulster University, Northern Ireland. The message and information was thought provoking:

8 out of 10 Family Caregivers feel lonely or socially isolated; 85 % of the young disabled feel lonely; and sadly, research shows there is still a huge stigma of disability in our society. So what can we do? To start, Professor McConkey outlined the need for us to begin to truly listen to families and people we support. We need to develop trust, be creative and build in flexibility with our supports. As a management team we have made a commitment to ensure we thread these concepts into all the work we do at our agency. Research has demonstrated that creating solutions together, results in happy families, more effective support workers, and people with disabilities being more active citizens who are socially engaged. The message was clear that we need to create a society where there is more understanding through the concept of 'creating togetherness'. It seems like a fitting message for the Holiday season.

With the needs of caregivers and those with disabilities in mind, we started to do some planning for our Morrison Meadows property. We have held focus groups, conducted a survey, and engaged a Master's student to conduct research. We are in the midst of creating a new business plan, and look forward to sharing how we will better utilize the property to help youth become more involved and potentially provide 'short breaks' (respite) options for families.

I believe that our social media campaign this year has highlighted the great accomplishments of the people we support and their support circles, which is a step towards creating an understanding and inclusive society. The more we work together to share our stories and engage family, friends and neighbours, the better the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families will be.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Krista

Submitted by,
Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer



Winter Fun Days at Morrison Meadows!

Join us for
Winter Fun Days
at
Morrison Meadows
1177 Fraserburg Road, Bracebridge

Activities Include:



Skating



Skiing



Snow
Shoeing



Biathlon

\$10/attendee. Attendees must provide their own skis and skates. Paintball guns for biathlon, snow shoes, and tubes will be provided. For more information, feel free to contact Jeff at jdewetering@clsm.on.ca.

Need more
information?
Contact us at

**Community Living
South Muskoka**
15 Depot Dr.
Bracebridge, ON P1L 0A1
Ph: (705) 645-5494
Fax: (705) 645-4621
www.clsm.on.ca
www.morrisonmeadows.com

**Senior Leadership
Team**

Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer

Kelly Miles
Chief Financial Officer

Gene Greenhalgh
Chief Operations Officer

Send your
newsletter story ideas to
Declan at
dormsby@clsm.on.ca



Morrison Meadows is owned and operated by Community Living South Muskoka—15 Depot Drive, Bracebridge P1L 0A1 | (705) 645-5494, www.clsm.on.ca | www.morrisonmeadows.com



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