

# CLAPW NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2023

What a wonderful summer we're having so far! We had a great kick-off to the season with the celebration of our successful volunteer program which has been funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the past few years. We even had an ice cream truck on hand which was a hit with everyone in attendance! And then, just the next week, we had our "Kick off to Summer Dance" hosted by the HEROES Self Advocates group. We have so much to celebrate at CLAPW!

The day program is flourishing with evening and weekend options for programming support. We continue to find wonderful ways to engage with the community through recreational pursuits and volunteer opportunities. The contribution of the people involved in CPP volunteer opportunities to enhancing the quality of life for others in the community cannot be overstated. We have folks helping with Meals on Wheels, gardening with the community garden that supports local food banks, and assisting with the local food bank Feed the Need, the Salvation Army, and CLOCA just to mention a few of the activities.

Our "Spirit of Summer" Program is operating in person out of the Youth Hub at Ajax High School once again this year. We appreciate the support of the "Making a Difference" program of the Durham District School Board in making the beautiful space available to us free of charge. We are thrilled to have been awarded a \$9,877 grant from the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation to help us implement this program.

Enjoy the next few weeks of summer and I look forward to seeing folks in person at the AGM on September 26.

- Lisa McNee Baker, E.D.

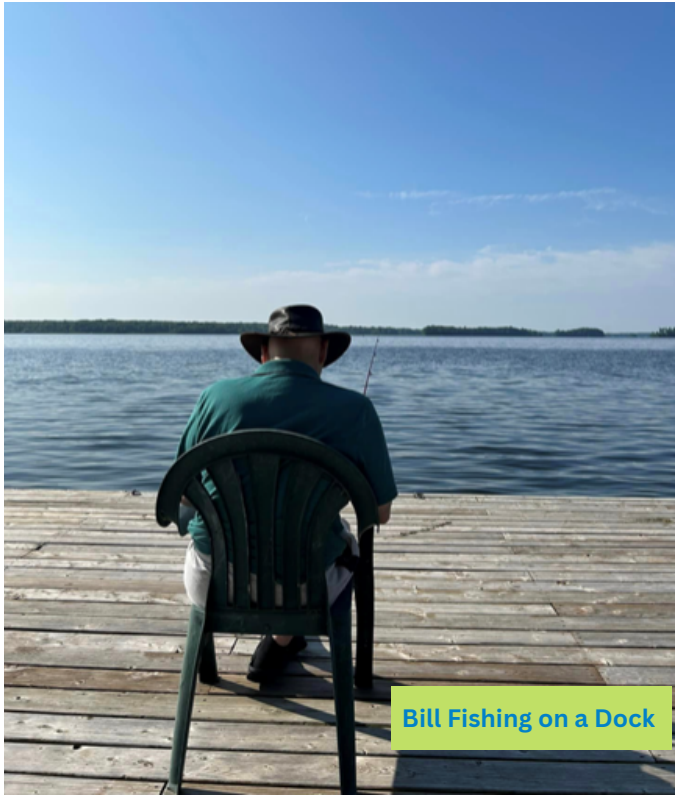


## OUR APPRECIATION

We appreciate the contributions of our 11 summer students brought on with funding through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant. A Whitby Mayors Grant recently received will result in four members of our HEROES Self Advocates Group attending the Community Living Ontario Conference in Ottawa. They are very excited and so are we!

## COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Once again we had a good MCCSS review at the end of May. We see each review as an opportunity to learn. The Compliance Officer had this to say about CLAPW staff "I want to express how grateful I am for the flexibility and positivity from both of you as well as all of your staff! They are hard-working and dedicated to those you serve which was evident throughout the entire inspection. Their openness and willingness to learn is very refreshing and much appreciated!"



Bill Fishing on a Dock



Mayor Kevin Ashe, Peju Thanni and Pickering Councillors

# MISSION

Community Living Ajax-Pickering and Whitby is dedicated to supporting people with developmental disabilities so they can live full lives and be effectively, safely, and inclusively supported in their communities. We serve that mission by offering a broad range of personalized supports and services, closely aligned with their individual goals and choice of where they want to live, learn, work, and enjoy their leisure time.



**CITY OF PICKERING AWARD**  
The City of Pickering awarded CLAPW the Service Group award in recognition of our outstanding achievements relating to day supports and supported employment. Our Team Lead from Day Services, Peju Thanni, attended the event along with some colleagues from CPP and accepted the award/medal on behalf of CLAPW.

**"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing."  
-Pele**

## TRILLIUM GRANT CELEBRATION

We were thrilled to be joined by MPP Lorne Coe and Regional Chair John Henry recently as we celebrated our very successful, three-year Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant. The grant was used to build on and expand our successful volunteer services and had as its focus the reduction of social isolation for people living with intellectual disabilities. We are very proud of the results of our work and plan to build on our success in the years to come.



MPP Lorne Coe and  
E.D. Lisa McNee Baker

Our work was recently evaluated by a third party evaluation and the results were fantastic. From the evaluator "It's a rare program that attracts ratings of 90% and above for almost every measure of performance. This is why Reducing Isolation Through Volunteerism stands out. All the stakeholders—the people from CLAPW for whom it was developed, the volunteers who also participate in it, and the families who observed its impact confirmed this was an initiative that delivered exceptional results."



Sharon Burgess,  
Volunteer Coordinator



Board President Jackie Stewart and  
Vice President Wendy Odell

What better way to celebrate than with good friends and ice cream? Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who have helped make this program a success. And sincere thanks to Sharon Burgess for her excellent leadership of this work.



## AUGUST

*I come! I come! And the waving field  
Its wealth of golden grain shall yield.  
In the hush and heat of glowing noon,  
The insects' hum is the only tune;  
For the merriest birds forget to sing,  
And sit in the shade with drooping wings.*

*But see! how the purpling grapes hang  
high,*

*And ripen beneath my sunny sky!*

*And see! how the fruits of the bending  
tree*

*Turn blushing and rosy cheeks to me!*

*And soon shall your garner be over-full*

*With gifts from the August bountiful.*

*-Mary B.C. Slade*



## CULTURE CLUB

A group of CLAPW employees have banded together to create the "Culture Club" Committee. This group has taken steps to enhance the workplace culture. We know that our biggest asset is the people who work at CLAPW, and know how important it is to feel good about the work we do.

The Culture Club planned and coordinated the annual garden contest including the judging and oversees the monthly nomination for Employee of the Month through the Cheers for Peers initiative.

Our next event is the staff appreciation Car Wash and BBQ. This totally free event is being held on August 11 and is open to all staff at CLAPW. (See poster for more details)

## CHEERS FOR PEERS –EMPLOYEES/TEAMS OF THE MONTH

Staff nominated by their peers for putting the CLAPW mission into action!

**APRIL**

***Faye Tano***

**MAY**

***Eric Smigielski***

**JUNE**

***Sharon Burgess***

## SIXTY AND FABULOUS!

### Thank you !

Thanks to everyone for attending Suzanne's 60th birthday and to those who could not attend but sent their wishes. Your presence created a day of great memories and blessings for Susan.

The people we support are all unique, and special, and should always be celebrated and valued as it adds meaning to their lives and puts a smile on their beautiful faces, as it did with Sue.



Sue had the time of her life and had a blast, and she is still celebrating. After all, sixty is quite a milestone!

She was very present and enjoyed every moment with grace, elegance, and style. She had an amazing time with friends and supporters.

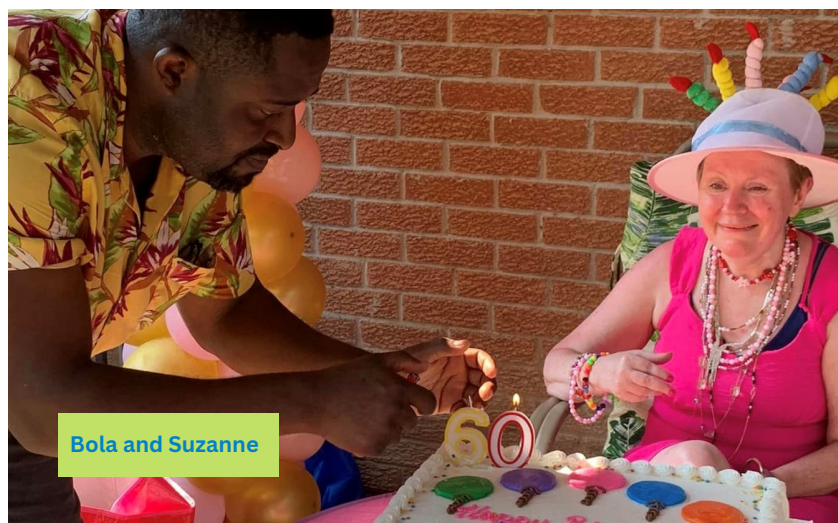
Sue loves flowers and one of her goals was to set up a flower garden at Pringle with help from staff and roommates. Well, Pringle won the garden competition on her birthday. Yah!!! Double whammy for Sue. How timely!! She thinks Ed the CLAPW Garden Gnome belongs to her.

Thanks to our Manager Jen for all her support. Cheering us on in making this happen for Sue. Thanks to our Pringle staff for all your hard work in pulling this off so beautifully.

Big thanks to our garden Team Jeff and Glen. YOU ROCK!!

**Happy 60th Suzanne from all of us. You are Loved. 60 & FABULOUS!!!**

Submitted By:  
Ruth James,  
Direct Support Professional



## Iyana's Trip to Jamaica

Iyana had a personal goal of visiting Jamaica and it came to fruition this past spring. Accompanied by Direct Support Professional Ann Marie Brown, Iyana had the time of her life enjoying the beautiful weather, refreshing pool, and fantastic food. Here's her report:



The weather was really hot down there and I went in the pool and we also went to the clubs and every restaurant. Took a bus to all the shops and we also went for ice cream. We also got to the beach. I came back on one of my best friends birthday and I got them something down there and I met two guys down there with Ann Marie. Fun but I miss her very much. I had



# WE WILL REMEMBER



**Gary Branton**  
1952-2023



**Paul Sobanski**  
1960-2023



**Anita Belanger**  
1963-2023



**Rodney Turpin**  
1962-2023

Since our last newsletter, we have lost three people who were connected to CLAPW for a number of years. We express our deepest condolences to their families.

Gary, Paul, and Anita all were involved in our Day Supports for many years and Gary lived at our Harman Home. They each brought joy and enthusiasm wherever they went, and each had a love of music and dancing.

Rodney had been involved with CLAPW since 1981 and was in the SIL program. He was active in the past with the advocacy movement and was well-known at CLAPW.

## ANNUAL GARDEN CONTEST

Once again this year CLAPW hosted the annual garden contest. Our locations put on a marvelous show and did not disappoint! As always the various CLAPW locations look wonderful! Congratulations to our Pringle location who will now host the CLAPW garden ornament for an entire year! Ed the Gnome looks very comfortable there! Tied for second place were Forestview and Applewood and third place was Kirby.



CLAPW  
GARDEN  
MASCOT

# GARDEN GALLERY



Forestview



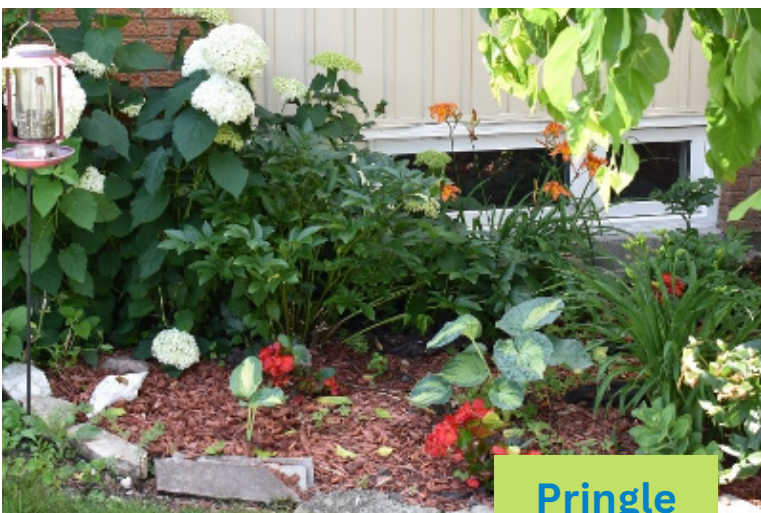
Pringle



Ed Clapper



Kirby



Pringle



Applewood





Doug

## HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

Autumn, Emmanuel, Gail, and Doug from our Applewood location went to "Holi" The festival of colours in Oshawa. Holi is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love, and Spring. Although it was not as accessible as they would have liked, they were so thankful to have had the opportunity to participate in this community event of inclusion and diversity!



## AccessABILITY Week

Hope, Bill and Kelly attended the Flag Raising Ceremony at Heritage Square at Ajax Town Hall to kick off AccessABILITY week. National AccessABILITY Week is an opportunity to mark the important contributions of Canadians with disabilities and highlights how Canadians are identifying, removing and preventing barriers to inclusion and accessibility. Hope volunteered to help raise the flag and she did a fantastic job.



## PRIDE MONTH

Ilyana did some painting for Pride Month in June and recreating the Pride flag on canvas! Pride is not only in June but all year round! Happy Pride!



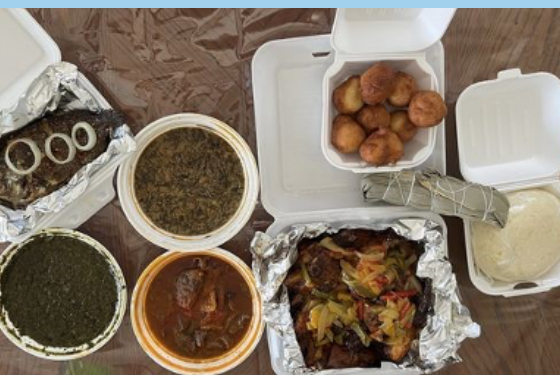
Ilyana



## INTERNATIONAL SOIRÉE

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee organized an event to learn all about Nigerian culture as a part of our International Soirée events. The residents at Clark House enjoyed learning and exploring some African food, specifically from the Congo.

They tried the restaurant Ma Yve Grill and would definitely recommend it. The owner - Ma Yve was very thoughtful and friendly! The Harman house enjoyed Nigerian chicken stew, fried plantains & vegetable rice for the international soirée and have enjoyed listening to Nigerian artists Wizkid & Davido. The leadership team learned about Nigerian artist Ijeoma Ogwuegwu and replicated one of her beautiful paintings. Special thanks to the DEI committee for another great day of trying new things!



## HEROES ADVOCATES GROUP

The Heroes Advocates Group continues to meet monthly and is enjoying spending time and learning together. Four members of the group are very excited to be attending the Community Living Ontario Conference being held in September in Ottawa. At the conference, the Heroes group will learn more about the Council of Community Living Ontario.

The Council of Community Living Ontario consists of 12 advocates from across the province that work together with Community Living Ontario's Board of Directors to find solutions and share information, opinions, knowledge, and experience on important issues such as poverty, safe and affordable housing, human rights, and barriers to quality health care.

This learning opportunity for the CLAPW advocates group is made possible by a Whitby Mayor's Grant.



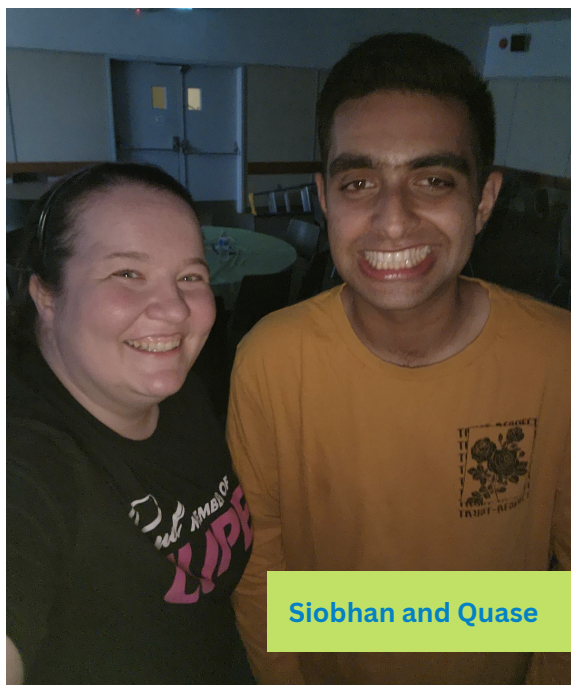
## KICK OFF TO SUMMER DANCE

Thank you to our HEROES group and the Culture Club Committee who have worked together to bring the much-loved dances back to full swing! Hosted at the Ajax Legion the Kick-Off to summer was a great event and had a packed dance floor all night long! Dancing is good for us physically and mentally and is just plain fun! "There are shortcuts to happiness, and dancing is one of them!" Vicki Baum

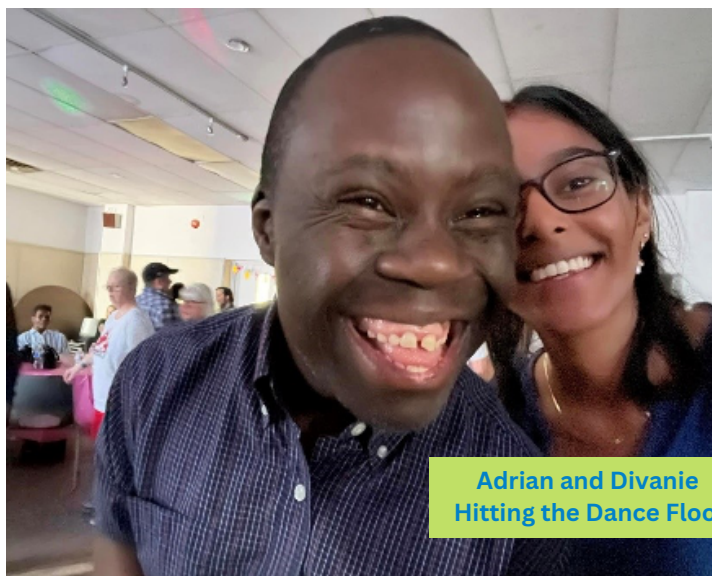


Iyana

# SUMMER DANCE GALLERY



Siobhan and Quase



Adrian and Divanie  
Hitting the Dance Floor



Anna, Wayne, and Iyana



Karen, Amanda,  
and Megan



Doug and Sue



## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

People involved in the Community Participation Program continue to give back to the community and make a difference for fellow community members through their volunteering. By volunteering at the Ajax Whitby Community Garden, we help people who are dealing with food security issues. By volunteering at Lynde Shores, we are helping the Central Lake Conservation Area in their efforts to protect our environment and watershed areas. And, by volunteering at the Ajax Mayor's Gala, we are supporting local charities including Grandview Kids.





## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM OUT AND ABOUT

A common refrain heard at our Dowty location these days is "Where is everyone?" We are making the most of the good weather and getting out and about exploring all the community has to offer. We are very pleased to be offering supported activities three nights a week as well as on Saturdays. There is so much to explore in Durham Region! If you want to know more about what is happening during the evening and on the weekend check the calendar on our website on the Community Participation Page.

[Community Participation Program](http://www.clapw.org)  
([www.clapw.org](http://www.clapw.org))



# SPIRIT OF SUMMER

Are you following our SPIRIT OF SUMMER group on Facebook yet? You should be if you want to keep up with these super energetic young people who are having a fantastic summer so far. Based out of the Youth Hub at Ajax High School, this group doesn't stay put long. They have a very full schedule doing all the things that make the summer break so awesome! Golfing, Bowling, Shopping, Cooking, Shooting Pool, Movies, Playdium, Escape Rooms, and of course some friendly challenges for Survivor Week. This program is a TON Of FUN but also has important outcomes such as helping people learn critical life skills such as mastering public transportation, cooking, and problem-solving.

The young people are physically active and engaging in several activities such as golf, axe throwing, bowling, and hiking to get their blood pumping and energy levels up! We extend our thanks to Durham District School Board for the in-kind donation of space and the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation for a grant to help us cover the costs of the program. And, it goes without saying, we so appreciate our wonderful summer students, funded by a Summer Jobs Grant, who are bringing the program to life!

Spirit of the Summer runs until August 25. For more information contact [Spiritofsummer@clapw.org](mailto:Spiritofsummer@clapw.org) 905-999-6718.



# SPIRIT OF SUMMER GALLERY





# BILL C-22 – THE CANADIAN DISABILITY BENEFIT ACT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023**

OTTAWA, ON – Parliament passed Bill C-22, establishing the first-ever Canada Disability Benefit. This historic move paves the way for increased financial security and a more inclusive life for millions of Canadians with disabilities.

The transformative law begins to close a gaping hole in Canada's social safety net, offering persons with disabilities greater financial security, more choice, freedom, and dignity to live inclusive lives in the community. "This is a historic milestone for our country," says Krista Carr, Executive Vice President of Inclusion Canada, "For the first time, Canadians with disabilities will receive a federal income benefit that has the potential to significantly enhance their quality of life. It's a victory we all should celebrate."

Inclusion Canada wants to thank all parliamentarians, MPs, and Senators, who lent their voices to pass this bill with all-party support. In particular, we would like to thank Minister of Employment & Workforce Development & Disability Inclusion, Hon. Carla Qualtrough, for her relentless advocacy for the passage of this bill during this session of parliament.

The hard work and dedication of the disability community has finally paid off. We also thank and acknowledge the strong advocacy of our organization's federation, families, and individuals who were there at every step of the way to advocate for the importance of the benefit to their MP and Senator.

"I am delighted and relieved with the passage of Bill C-22. Finally, we have the foundation to further address the unacceptable rates of poverty experienced by people with intellectual disabilities," says Inclusion Canada President Robin Acton, "As the parent of a young woman with a disability, I know the benefit will have a significant and lasting impact on the financial security of individuals with an intellectual disability across the country."

People with disabilities make up 40% of the low-income population in Canada. For people with intellectual disabilities, the situation is even worse. 73% of working-age adults with an intellectual disability live in poverty. The Canada Disability Benefit will be a significant tool for advancing inclusion and dismantling systemic barriers built into Canada's social infrastructure.

While this historic moment must be celebrated, the work is far from over. Regulations must now be developed that will determine the parameters of the benefit. Inclusion Canada and its Federation now stand ready with the disability community to work collaboratively on the co-design of Bill C-22's regulations. We hold fast to the government's commitment to "nothing about us without us". We are ready to get to work.



# Annual GENERAL MEETING

With Special Guest Speaker Pooran Law to present on Trusts/Estates, Consent, and Capacity and Microboards

Tuesday,  
September 26, 2023  
Start 6:30 PM

Located at St. Francis Centre for Arts and Culture  
78 Church Street S, Ajax, ON L1S 6B3

RSVP to [Janice.Reesor@clapw.org](mailto:Janice.Reesor@clapw.org) by September 19, 2023

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

We are hoping you might consider becoming a member of CLAPW to further support what we do. Our membership year is from March 2023 to March 2024.

Becoming a member entitles you to:

- Attend all duly constituted meetings of the Members of the Corporation including the Annual General Meeting
- Be entitled to one (1) vote at all meetings of the Members of the Corporation
- Participate in decisions on matters brought to the Members of Corporation
- Be eligible for election or appointment to the Board of Directors

The \$10.00 membership can be paid by cheque, cash, credit card payment, or e-transfer.

Your cheque, cash, or credit card payment can be mailed, or hand delivered Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4 pm at 36 Emperor Street, Ajax, ON L1S 1M7

The e-transfer can be sent to [nicole.landells@clapw.org](mailto:nicole.landells@clapw.org) (you do not need to set up a password for the e-transfer as it gets deposited automatically into our bank account.

**You must be a member of CLAPW in order to vote at the upcoming AGM on September 26.**

CLAPW



FREE STAFF EVENT  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 11  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Located at Head  
Office, 36 Emperor  
Street

# CAR WASH AND BBQ

Brought to you by  
the Culture Club



# HOLIDAY DINNER & DANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, 2023

6 PM - 12 PM



TICKETS ARE \$45.00

Purchase tickets at Dowty and Head Office  
or e-transfer [nicole.landells@clapw.org](mailto:nicole.landells@clapw.org)  
(Must be Purchased by November 10th)

AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE  
550 BECK CRESCENT, AJAX, L1Z 1C9