



# RYGIEL NEWS

**Holidays 2015**

A common expression during the Christmas season is: “Peace on Earth”. During these turbulent times around the world, we are reminded of the great gift of peace that we have here in Canada.

The upcoming holiday season is a time when we tend to put special effort into being with people we love the most. We make time to do special activities such as trimming the tree, cooking our favourite foods, baking cookies, et cetera. We create many opportunities for celebration. All of this is building a spirit of peace. Peace is the result of likeness, love, tolerance, cooperation, respect and dignity. Living in this way gives us calmness.

For those without a family, Christmas can be a lonely, sad time and cause inner turmoil which then means that that person is not living with inner peace.

Looking at the virtues above that contribute to a state of peace, we note that many are ones espoused in our agency belief statements. Every day throughout the agency, there are many beautiful examples of the values coming to life through the interactions of people supported, staff, families, volunteers, friends and the many roles people engage in. Peace is being lived in the agency.

Although we all live with some degree of tension, stress or turmoil, we can set those feelings aside and give calmness and peace to the people we support.

During this holiday season, I call on all of us to be mindful of the qualities that bring “peace on earth” and in particular, let’s be thinking and doing what it takes to bring emotional security, sense of belonging, respect and more. In other words: peace – to the people we support and one another.

May this holiday season be a time of you and peace for each of you.

Warm greetings,  
Donna Marcaccio, Executive Director

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# Creating Opportunities-Building Community

For several years, it has been a goal of Rygiel to acquire a building that could be purchased and become our Administration Building. Although numerous properties have been considered, none were feasible for various reasons. The most common reasons were location, cost, and ability to become a barrier free environment.

Great News! After much searching, a wonderful site became available and has been purchased. It is a redundant small, one floor school on the west mountain. What is really exciting is that it will become the home of our adaptive wellness programs, a family resource centre and a community gathering place, as well as our Administrative offices.



We are also able to lease a small portion of the building to another non-profit agency, building synergy and creating an income stream.

Our new neighbours are part of the Gilkson area. We are already developing a relationship with the area residents and the park association, looking for opportunities for community involvement and collaboration.

The tender package for renovations is being finalized and the tender process is expected to be completed by mid January. Occupancy is expected by late June.

This long awaited project is possible because of the cooperative and supportive relationship between Rygiel Supports For Community Living and Rygiel Homes Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation will own the building and Rygiel Supports will lease from it. All this will provide stable accommodations for programs and administration, build equity for the service and enable the agency to build stronger connections with the community.

The actual purchase was supported by the Hamilton Wentworth District Catholic School Board, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, The City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Community Foundation. The City agreed to purchase a portion of the lot that is redundant and will not benefit Rygiel. The Foundation has helped with a number of the processes that were needed to complete the purchase. Finally, the Diocese provided a generous loan for the purchase.

A fundraising initiative is underway to assist with the renovation. We have already been informed that we are the recipient of the Federal “Enabling Accessibility” grant. Proposals are in to other grant sources and we await responses.

As a community initiative, we want to invite our community to help us bring our long awaited dream to fruition. And there are many ways to do this:

- First, consider inviting family, friends, co-workers, church groups to a coffee time to learn about the work of Rygiel and how they might be able to help us. We are very flexible in arranging times and locations.
- Consider making a donation and/or pledge to this project. Every gift received, regardless of size, one time or paid over a period of months or years, will make a difference
- Sponsor equipment (program equipment, audio visual equipment, greenhouse for the horticulture program, et cetera)
- Lend us your hands. Round up a team of helpers to build a gazebo or do some landscaping.

We welcome your support. Please contact Serena Bisignani, Executive Assistant at [sbisignani@rygiel.ca](mailto:sbisignani@rygiel.ca) or 905-525-4747 ext. 205 and let us know what you can do to support this project. Thank you.

## Naming and Recognition Opportunities

Our new administrative and day supports home has many advantages:

- Not paying rent to a third party and building equity
- Ability to purpose design the space
- Opportunities to connect with our community through many activities, like a community garden and making meeting space available.

As well, this new initiative will create opportunities for permanent recognition for donors.

There are numerous levels for naming and recognition—rooms, areas, and even the building. Whether it is you and your family receiving Rygiel’s gratitude for your support or your wanting to honour someone special, there are many ways to recognize those who want to ensure that everyone we support has a meaningful life.

For more information on our recognition program, please contact Rygiel at 905-525-4311.

## Leaving a Legacy

You are meeting with your lawyer to review your Will. You know that you want to take care of your immediate family and plan to divide your estate among your loved ones.

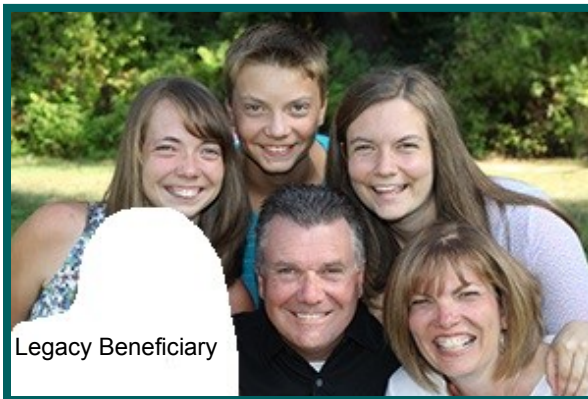
Have you considered the possible tax consequences of this decision?

You may feel that “the children will work it out.” But a tax burden in your estate may prevent your family from inheriting all that they could.

One option may be to include a *Legacy Beneficiary*.

Ask yourself this—“if I had an opportunity to give a portion of my estate to the government in tax or to a charity, which one would I prefer?” The answer is probably obvious. One way to do this is to create another beneficiary that will receive your bequest.

For example: a family has three children but divides their estate into quarters, leaving the last quarter of the estate to go to a charity or charities dear to their hearts. Upon the death of both parents, each child will receive  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the estate. The fourth quarter is for the *Legacy Beneficiary* directed to the charity or charities stated in the Will.



By placing a charitable bequest in one's Will, the estate receives a charitable tax receipt for the gift. This will help offset any tax payable. Your children will still receive the portion allotted to them. As well, your children can celebrate your legacy of making a difference in the community through their philanthropic efforts.

You may want to consider naming Rygiel Supports for Community Living as your *Legacy Beneficiary*. For more information on including Rygiel in your estate plans, contact Donna Marcaccio at 905-525-4311 or [dmarcaccio@rygiel.ca](mailto:dmarcaccio@rygiel.ca).

## New Rygiel Video Key to Community Awareness

If you were at the AGM this year, you were treated to the Grand Premier of our new video. This eight minute film tells the passionate story of Rygiel's past, present and future through a series of interviews, action video and photographs.

We have started inviting individuals from the community to come hear about Rygiel and view the video at small, introductory events. The great thing is the introductory event model is easily taken to church groups, service organizations and businesses.

If you have an association with a group or company you think would benefit from learning about Rygiel, please contact Trish at [tmongeon@rygiel.ca](mailto:tmongeon@rygiel.ca)

# Reconnecting Brothers

***“There’s no other love like the love for a brother.  
There’s no other love like the love from a brother.”***

~Terri Guillemets

What was so special about October 10, 2015? The weather was unseasonably warm for the mid-Autumn day. Canada was eagerly waiting for the Blue Jays next playoff game. Families were getting ready for turkey and pumpkin pie.



For Eric Faguy, October 10, 2015 will always be very special. He was at his home on Stone Church Road. That was normal, but on this particular day, after an eleven year gap, Eric was reunited with his brothers Jay and Matt.

As soon as he opened his door around 3:00 p.m., Eric immediately recognized these two young men and was incredibly happy.

The conversation ranged from discussing their French family heritage to reminiscing about their parents and sister Sarah, mixed in with plenty of smiles, laughs and hugs. While the men ate pizza, chicken wings and capped it off with a special reunion cake they looked through family photo albums and shared stories of their time together and apart.

The brothers are determined not to let a lengthy amount of time separate them again. They, with the assistance of staff at Rygiel and CHOICES, have already planned a get together bowling and dinner at East Side Marios.

## Annual Candlelight Service

All are welcome to join in this annual event

Chedoke Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 pm.

Address: 865 Mohawk Rd. W. Hamilton.



## Christmas Wish List

Each year, our staff are asked by families and friends what they can do to help support Rygiel during the holidays.

There are items that each of our homes could use to make holiday time special:

- Baking supplies
- Turkeys and gift cards for grocery stores to buy Christmas dinner fixings
- Gift cards for Walmart or other stores, so that residents can buy clothing and personal items
- Bus tickets
- New sheets and towels
- Movie passes or gift certificates for restaurants
- Small appliances such as toasters, blenders and microwaves

Or how about making a contribution to help cover the \$40 per month internet cost per house?

Remember, if you buy gift cards through our FundScrip program, Rygiel also benefits by receiving a percentage of the card value in cash.

Whether you choose to make a gift in kind or a monetary contribution, you are entitled to receive a charitable tax receipt.

To ensure that we receipt you properly for in kind donations, we will need the purchase receipt. You can call our office for more details.

Thank you for helping us support so many special people at this special time of year, and all year long.

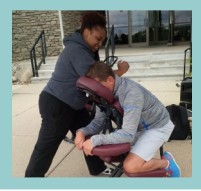
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## Golf Tournament Most Successful Ever

**114 Golfers, 19 Sponsors, 35 Donors, 40 Volunteers, Great prizes, Perfect August weather**

That is how the 8th Annual Rygiel Homes Housing Corporation Golf Tournament played out at King's Forest Golf Club. The tournament raised more than \$23,000 to help ensure those facing a developmental disability and along with other handicapping conditions have a safe and appropriate barrier-free home environment in which to live.

The co-chairs for this event were the mother and son team of Penny and Michael Salvatori. With the help of committee members Paul Harrison, Ralph Sciullo, Robert Tyrell, Donna Marcaccio, Viola Galamini and Mary Tye, this year's tournament was the most successful to date.



Golfers started the day with a massage by Mohawk Massage Therapy Program students

Tournament winners were:

**Best 4-some:** The O’Sullivan Group

**Most Honest 4-some:** Villa Italia

**Longest Drive:** Seth Houwer and Bonni Scott

**Closest to the Pin:** Rob Klingbeil and Leanne Borges



Thank you to all our sponsors, donors and volunteers!

**Lead Sponsors**

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**Hole Sponsors**

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**Donors**

- Vine and Partners LLP
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- Donna Marcaccio
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- Frank and Penny Salvatori

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- Painting Canada
- Joe Turcotte
- Pat DiPronio
- Bill Zsepeczky
- Corey Lock

**AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

# Holiday Bazaar Fun

The holiday spirit was alive and well on Saturday, November 7th, when Rygiel held its 3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar.

This year we partnered with the culinary program at St. Charles Place to offer a scrumptious pancake breakfast. 140 enjoyed this delectable fare. The St. Charles students not only prepared and served the meals, they donated all the food.



In addition to our White Elephant tables and raffles, there were 27 vendors, including some supported individuals and Rygiel staff.



Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, raffle sponsors, St. Charles Place and community for supporting this event.

## Family Outreach Update

In our summer newsletter, we highlighted three new programs, hosted by Rygiel, aimed at assisting individuals and their families to plan for and access services in the province.

One of the key programs is the respite program. [respiteservices.com](http://respiteservices.com) is a database of registered families looking for support worker and individuals available for work. Families can review the pool of available workers and hire accordingly.

Since January of this year, the program has made 203 respite matches.

Ron Trajano, Director of Community Services at Rygiel, is available to help individuals and families understand how to use the respite database system. Call Ron at 905-525-4311, extension 212 or email Ron at [rtrajano@rygiel.ca](mailto:rtrajano@rygiel.ca).

## Contact Us

For more information or to make a donation, call us at:

**Rygiel Supports for  
Community Living  
905-525-4311**

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.rygiel.ca](http://www.rygiel.ca)

## Upcoming Event—March, 2016

# Rygiel Pasta Dinner - Stay Tuned for More Info