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July 2009 Issue



Sisters in Grime

In the beginning...God created grime. Well good grime, not the manmade grime. “*Grime Busters Cleaning Company*” based in Montague, is tackling the grime. The dynamic duo, of Violet Lanois and Jeannie Weibel who use this slogan have joined forces to open an all-green-product, professional cleaning company. Both grime buster gals have stories to tell and a hardy sense of humour and laughs to match. Having had to face difficult challenges they have relied on each other for moral support and problem solving. Now, they are proud to say, “We did it! We are our own bosses!” Here’s a bit of their success story.

“We grew up on Peter’s Road, near Murray River, PE in a large family of eight children. Our parents, God bless them, taught us hard work, values and laughter. We’re sisters and we have worked hard for years at a lot of different jobs to support our families. We want to be able to make a reliable income and be good at what we’re doing. Between us two we have

about twenty years experience in the cleaning profession working for reputable cleaning companies. It just made sense to put our skills and experience together”, Jeannie said explaining their decision to start a business. “Ain’t that right partner”? Jeannie laughs as she jabs Violet in the arm with her elbow. Violet, seated in the chair beside Jeannie, slams her back.

“We’ve both experienced different adversities in our lives. I suffer from anemia and gastric problems. It’s not easy to work for someone else when you have health problems. It can limit your areas of employment and makes it hard to care for your families at home. Eventually we ended up going to the PEI Council of People with Disabilities in Montague for help. The staff encouraged us and helped every step of the way when we had the idea to become self-employed. Our Case Manager with the Council and Karl Johnston from Active Communities Inc. worked with us hand in hand, encouraging us and challenging us. They helped us apply for the Self-employment Benefits through Service Canada and now we’re a registered and operating business.

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The Mission Statement of the PEI Council of People with Disabilities is:
 “to promote the full participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in Island Society”



□ **A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes** □

With Bernie Wilson

I saw the above statement a few years ago and it occurred to me that we all have dreams but few of these are realized.

Thousands of years ago there must have been a cave person or two who watched his friends push rough stones up hills. Maybe he had a dream □ .

Hundreds or maybe a thousand years later one of his relatives must have been very happy to see how a rounded stone is so much easier to move, even uphill. Dreams sometimes take awhile. Bigger dreams take longer. So it is for everyone. Those of us with disabilities sometimes longer.

The umbrella organization which represents some two thousand Islanders with disabilities, over the past year, has welcomed a new Executive Director, Ms Marcia Carroll, has taken a new name, The PEI Council of People with Disabilities, and most recently a new address. The new Charlottetown Office of the PEI Council of People with Disabilities is now located at 5 Lower Malpeque Road in the same Plaza as the Benjamin Moore Paint store.

The premises are owned by APM Properties and was chosen after much consideration by our executive director and many others, notably board member Stephen MacDonald. Our new landlord has been extremely accommodating with renovations. APM has also made a considerable monetary contribution to our Council.

Our new office is situated at ground level. The front door is automatic and flanked by large plate glass windows. There is a spacious parking lot for staff and members of the public. The interior is totally accessible in every aspect. To the right of the reception desk is a small meeting room which boasts plenty of space for the largest of wheel chairs. One feels a sense of welcome in this new office which is accentuated by the broad smiles of all the members of staff. The reception area is backed by double doors which open into a large, well appointed boardroom. Anyone can pass from the boardroom into all the staff offices. Each office is different but all have a five foot turning circle for total freedom of movement for chair users. There are also two totally barrier free public washrooms as good or better than any I have seen.

The working area is very well lit and carpeted throughout. Those with disabilities will find a comforting space with the council's new home. There is a sense of conviction that the world can be made user friendly on a reasonable budget.

Concerns have been voiced because of the fact that one must cross at the busy Queens Arm Corner (when using a chair) to reach the new office. I have crossed at this intersection a number of times in my chair and though it is extremely dangerous it can be done. One must pay careful attention there just as should be done on any busy day downtown.

The PEI Council of People with Disabilities celebrated their Open House on May 20th. It was a celebration of hard work, determination and dreams realized.



Around the Block Wraps Up

The Around the Block Program is an educational outreach project sponsored by the PEI Council of People with Disabilities, with funding from the Government of

Canada. We offer to our youthful participants a program of Life Skills and Employability Training, as well as involvement in the creation, production, and performance of an original theatre piece designed to educate students on issues of disability and inclusion. The performance also addresses the subject of bullying and how to address it.

Reminder

Designated Parking Permit Program

The PEI Council of People with Disabilities will renew 2010 parking permits this fall by sending out renewal forms to current permit holders. The 2010 price will be \$13.00 which includes membership fees and the parking permit.



PEICOD Celebrates New Charlottetown Location

Hon. Doug Currie, Minister of Health; Bush Dumville, MLA; Bernie Wilson, Secretary PEICOD; Anne McPhee, President PEICOD and Shawn Murphy, MP take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 20/09 to celebrate the new location for PEI Council of People with Disabilities.



5 Lower Malpeque Road



Continued from p.1

I have to work when I'm able. I know when I can and I have no problem doing the work but it's at my own pace. That's why self-employment is great. The same with Jeannie. She gets chronic migraines and has other health issues and has learned to live with the pain and the debilitation from it but like me, she knows when and how to pace herself". Violet said as she rubs the top of Jeannie's head. "Poor baby", she teases! "Fortunately, after a lot of research and hard work we realized our dream was not as far off as we thought. We're pleased to offer to everyone our services which includes commercial, residential and construction cleaning at a fair and competitive rate. I love saying that!" Violet pretended to

be doing a radio spiel. "We don't want to get rich, we just want to earn enough to be comfortable".

"Are you kidding? I want to be rich!!" Jeannie cuts in with a hearty laugh. "No, I'm just kidding. We recently advertised in the phone book. I feel like Steve Martin now waiting to see the new phone book with our name in it. We hope to meet lots of people when we offer our services. We use environmentally friendly products that are scent free. In the future we hope to expand and be able to offer employment to others who like to fight grime. Like our slogan, "We look forward to seeing you....at the scene of the grime"

To contact The Grime Busters call
(902) 361-3399 or (902) 940-4256



ABILITY NEWS

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Coalition des amputés du Canada
 Amputee Coalition of Canada

Amputee Peer Support in PEI Begins

The Peer Visitor Program is a national network of experienced, trained and certified amputee volunteers (peers). Their role is to support those who have recently experienced or are about to undergo limb loss and to ease their transition into a new way of life. The process is the Peer Visitor Program will match

individuals who have experienced limb loss (at least one year post amputation), resumed an active life and successfully completed a peer training session.

Contact us: Toll-free number: 1-866-611-AMPS, or visit us
 online at peervisitor@amputeecoalitioncanada.org.

www.amputeecoalitioncanada.org

www.franklinfoundation.ca



DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES MEETINGS

EASTERN KINGS

Souris Hospital
 Main/Level Boardroom
 July-August-No Meeting
 Wed. Sept. 16th, 1:30

SOUTHERN KINGS

Montague
 PEI COD Boardroom
 July-August-No Meeting
 Wed. Sept. 23, 12:00

QUEENS

PEICOD
 Boardroom
 July-August-No Meeting
 Wed. Sept. 16th, 3:00

EAST PRINCE

S' Side/Brophy St.
 Lions Seniors Complex
 July, Aug, Sept - No Meeting

WEST PRINCE

Alberton
 Maplewood Manor
 July, Aug, Sept - No Meeting