lets connect

Communities, homes, and support after brain injury Fall 2008

The Inaugural Launch of CONNECT:
Re-branding Classic Rehab Community

Since the opening of the first home in Langley in 1993 our mission has been simple, to make lives better.

A lot has changed since 1993. What started out with just one home has transformed to 5 homes accommodating 26 people and a new development opening in Lake Country. Our Lake Country Community will serve 42 people and is on schedule to open in December of this year!

CONNECT reflects who we are and what we are all about; people connecting with people, building a stronger community and better lives for people who live with the effects of brain injury. The new name and logo represents our future while keeping in mind our solid roots.

On August 22nd, our Langley Community hosted a BBQ for all our staff and participants. It was at that time that John Sherwood and Patti Flaherty unveiled our new name and logo to the unsuspecting crowd. It was a great afternoon filled with sunshine, laughter and great food. A big thank you to all of our Langley staff for hosting such a great celebration.

While CONNECT undergoes this growth and change, it is our commitment to you to remain true to our values and philosophy. Please join us in celebrating our new identity by visiting our new website: www.connectcommunities.ca and our construction blog at www.lakecountrylearningcommunity.blogspot.com.

Lake Country Learning

At Connect Lake Country, we've created a condominium development with six homes. Each home has seven private bedrooms, a kitchen, dining and living rooms and everything a home offers. The six homes are attached by a connecting corridor behind the building which houses some common areas, such as a fitness room, media room, offices, meeting, and recreation and leisure areas. The outside landscape areas provide outdoor living spaces and areas for gardening, relaxation and social gatherings. We are located in the Winfield neighborhood, which has many parks, borders on Woods Lake and has retail amenities.

Construction, building, erecting, structuring, creating, configuration, assembly, manufacturing and production all can be seen at the site! We've had plenty of change at the site since our last report. The grounds of the site have over a hundred 200 ft holes dug down deep to link with our geo-thermal heating exchange system. We have a new garbage/recycling and storage shed built in the back of the property. The mechanical and electrical engineers and workers have almost finished their intricate weave of telephone cables, internet links, electrical outlets and lighting boxes. Drywallers have given our space form and function, creating beautiful walls and ceilings. Fireplaces are installed; showers and tubs have been brought in and are waiting for water hookups. Licenses, permits and inspections have been granted on jobs that have been completed. More inspections are due as tasks are finished.

The building as a whole is in very different stages of completion however the construction teams are focused on finishing house number 1 to meet our goal of partial occupancy before Christmas. We are hoping to have up to 7 rooms ready for people to move in and bring in the New Year with us. By mid-March 2009 we hope to have all 6 homes open and occupied.

The building as a whole is in very different stages of completion however the construction teams are focused on finishing house number 1 to meet our goal of partial occupancy before Christmas.

Monthly meetings are held on site with our architect, our designer, our Executive Director and Owner, the electrical and mechanical engineers and others such as lock specialists, landscapers, geo-thermal engineers etc. We gather to ensure that we are meeting deadlines, completing tasks and assigning workloads. Our construction contractors Yellowridge Construction Ltd. is providing focused supervision and direction for work assignments.

Interested in becoming a member of Connect Community's Team?

Community Update

We've had tons of visitors since our last newsletter. People from community agencies, interested business owners, potential employees, and members of Interior Health Authority's Brain Injury Steering Committee have all toured the site. Other visitors have come from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Ontario to learn about what are plans are and to see this exciting development!

Jill Howell and Janette Jackman, our Leaders of Operations for both the Lake Country and Langley sites have recently attended training to begin the accreditation process with Accreditation Canada, formerly known as the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA).

We have also created licensing policies and procedures, public health regulations and standards and have begun creating admission requirements with IHA, fire and life safety procedures, medication training protocols, job descriptions, salary scales, recruiting policies and partnerships with local employment agencies. We have mailboxes ordered, beds and furniture purchased and.....so much more! There is still a lot more to get accomplished before we open but we are happily and diligently working towards an exciting opening!

We have officially started our recruiting process for our clinical team. We are looking for a band of rock stars to head up this one-of-a-kind rehabilitation service. Check out our website at connectcommunities.ca for more information.

To keep CONNECTed with our project please visit our construction blog at www.lakecountrylearningcommunity.blogspot.com

Introducing Karen Tims, the newest member of our team!

Karen is taking the role of Leader of Rehab and Clinical Programs in Lake Country.

Welcome to CONNECT Karen!

Visit our website: www.connectcommunities.ca

Why CONNECT? Why Now?

Jill Koppang
Rehab and Commnuity Coach

I recently joined CONNECT Communities after a long career within the field of brain injury rehabilitation. I've been asked why I chose to join CONNECT. A simple answer might be that it was just time for a change. While true, that does not answer the question of why CONNECT and why now?

In my role on the Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Team at GF Strong, I was fortunate to travel all over the province and work in a variety of settings from acute to residential to community. It was an amazing opportunity to see how people with brain injuries are served in different settings. I had been occasionally involved with Classic Rehab in both an education and consulting capacity. I was struck by the commitment of staff in figuring out how to better serve those with brain injuries. I was delighted to see people with brain injuries that I had worked with in other settings thriving in the Classic homes. I enjoyed working with staff and knew that recommendations made would be seriously considered and tried out. Classic was a good, solid organization. I did not yet see myself as a member of the organization.

A Moment for Metaphors

I am an eternal optimist with a cup often more than half-full. It seemed that the public health care system's cup was not only half-empty but also terminally cracked and leaking. Days often began with discussions about lack of money and resources and who/what could be cut to balance the budget. I learned that I was happiest when I was out in the community working directly with people with brain injuries and those who care for and about them. I am a lifelong learner with bookshelves bursting with themes around health, wellness, healing energies, values, strengths coaching and positive psychology. None of these themes fit comfortably in the public health care system. It was time to move on.

Why CONNECT?

Classic Rehab was a solid organization with a long history of providing good service and supports for people with brain injury. Marcus Buckingham, a key player in the strengths movement, writes that people and organizations excel by amplifying strengths not by fixing weakness. In casual conversations with Patti Flaherty, Executive Director of CONNECT, she often spoke of the amazing talents and strengths of the CONNECT community and the strong commitment to having staff use their strengths at work. She spoke of the CONNECT commitment to creating opportunities for people with brain injury to connect with local communities and build new relationships and identities. I was hooked! The name change to CONNECT suddenly made sense. The organizational philosophy was about taking existing strengths and expanding and building on them. To my knowledge, the focus on strengths and building new relationships with local communities will be a unique feature in the world of residential, transitional, and community brain injury rehabilitation in BC. I am truly excited about the possibilities and opportunities to grow in new and different ways.

connect

Communities, homes, and support after brain injury

In Langley call
Janette Jackman
604-534-0705
Janettej@connectcommunities.ca

In Lake Country call
Jill Howell
250-575-4991
jillh@connectcommunities.ca

Please visit our website at www.connectcommunities.ca