



Speak Out

SUMMER 2026



EMPLOYER
PARTNER



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Dates to Remember

Annual Carmell Tait Memorial Walk

Date: October 14, 2026

Location: Eco Park

Sloan Festive Evergreens Fundraiser

October 19 – November 6

Pickup: the week of
November 23rd

Possibilities in Paint Art Show

Date: November 21, 2026

Location: PHSS
Community Place North

Annual Holiday Party

London

Date: December 10, 2026

Location: Hellenic
Community Centre

Ottawa

Date: December 9, 2026

Location: Muséoparc
Vanier – Sugar Shack

A Lasting Connection: Bill and Margaret Holmes

Some connections to PHSS extend far beyond a single moment or chapter. For Bill and Margaret Holmes, PHSS has been part of their lives for many years, beginning with their daughter, Christine.

Christine lived at one of PHSS' locations, and Bill and Margaret were deeply involved in her life and in the experiences she enjoyed. They loved seeing Christine take part in activities, spend time in her community, build relationships and enjoy the opportunities around her. They were always there to support and celebrate the things that brought her happiness.

That connection also grew into a longstanding commitment to PHSS. Bill served on the PHSS Foundation Board for many years, giving his time and helping support the Foundation's work. He also found his own unique ways to contribute. For years, Bill handcrafted Adirondack chairs to donate to the PHSS Foundation Bowl-a-Thon raffle, along with hand-carved wooden sculptures and other pieces he created himself. Each one represented many hours of work and

was generously given to help raise funds in support of PHSS.

Although Christine has since passed away, Bill and Margaret's connection to PHSS has continued. They remain generous donors and continue to stay connected to an organization and community that were such an important part of their family's life.

Their continued involvement is a meaningful reminder of the relationships that have helped shape PHSS over the years. Families like the Holmes have shared their time, talents, generosity and trust, helping PHSS grow while remaining connected to the people at the heart of its work.

Bill and Margaret's story is one of a family who became part of the PHSS community through their love for Christine and chose to remain part of it for years to come. We are incredibly grateful for their longstanding friendship, generosity and the many ways they continue to strengthen PHSS.



Four-Year Accreditation for PHSS

PHSS Support Services has officially been awarded a four-year accreditation by the Canadian Centre for Accreditation (CCA), an important milestone that reflects the quality of services and supports provided across the organization.

Accreditation recognizes organizations that meet established standards of excellence and demonstrate a commitment to quality, accountability and continuous improvement. Achieving a four-year accreditation is a reflection of the work happening across PHSS every day and the dedication of the staff providing meaningful, person-centred care and support.

The accreditation process involved participation from across the organization, including the Board of Directors, leadership and staff. Team members took part in interviews, provided documentation and feedback, and helped demonstrate PHSS' practices and commitment to the people we support.

While accreditation is an opportunity to celebrate what has been accomplished, it also looks ahead. Over the next four years, PHSS will continue building on its strengths, identifying opportunities for improvement and maintaining the standards that earned this recognition.

Accredited by
**Canadian Centre
for Accreditation**



Agréé par
**Centre canadien
de l'agrément**



23rd *Annual* Bowl-A-Thon

On June 7, bowlers came together for the 2026 Bowl-A-Thon for a great day of fun, fundraising, and community. With 44 teams taking part in London, the lanes were busy throughout the afternoon as people we support, staff, families, friends, sponsors, and community members came together to take part in one of PHSS Foundation's longest-running annual events.

MPP Terence Kernaghan joined Sean to throw the first ball and officially kick off the bowling. From there, teams filled the lanes for an afternoon of friendly competition, good company, and plenty of cheering.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of everyone involved, this year's London Bowl-A-Thon raised over **\$44,000**. From bowlers collecting pledges and supporters making donations to volunteers helping everything run smoothly and sponsors supporting the event, it was truly a community effort.





This year marked an exciting milestone for the Bowl-A-Thon as PHSS locations in Ottawa hosted their own event for the very first time. In 2025, a group from Ottawa made the trip to London to join in the Bowl-A-Thon experience. This year, they took that experience home and created an event of their own, giving more people supported, staff, families, and friends in the Ottawa community the opportunity to get involved.

Held on June 7 alongside the London event, Ottawa's inaugural Bowl-A-Thon brought together 10 teams of bowlers for a day filled with friendly competition, fundraising, and lots of support from the sidelines. Together, the Ottawa teams raised almost **\$6,000**.

The success of Ottawa's first Bowl-A-Thon was made possible by everyone who participated, collected pledges, volunteered, donated, and helped bring the event together. It was a great first year and an exciting step in growing a tradition that has been bringing people together for more than two decades.



24th Annual

LEO KIRWIN *Memorial* GOLF TOURNAMENT



On August 14, 26 teams and 104 golfers joined us for the 24th Annual Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament. We couldn't have asked for a better day to be out on the course, with beautiful weather, lots of friendly competition, and plenty of fun along the way.

Golfers spent the day making their way around the course, stopping for a few chances to win some great prizes. There were plenty of impressive shots throughout the day, along with a few that were probably better left off the scorecard!

Off the course, there was lots happening too. Our online silent auction featured a great selection of donated packages, and the WestJet Gift of Flight raffle gave one lucky winner something extra to celebrate. Together with the support of our golfers, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and everyone who participated in the auction and raffle, this year's tournament raised over **\$60,000, a new fundraising record for the event.**

More than anything, the day was a chance to get together with familiar faces, welcome some new ones, enjoy a round of golf, and support PHSS Foundation. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us and to the sponsors and volunteers who helped make the day possible.

Paddles for Paint

On June 20, 2026, almost 100 people joined us at Eco Park for this year's Paddles for Paint, enjoying an afternoon together while supporting the artists of our Possibilities in Paint Collaborative.

The afternoon included a BBQ lunch and plenty of excitement during the Quarter Auction, with 59 baskets valued at more than \$3,000 up for grabs. With the support of everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, and took part, **we were able to raise \$3,460 for Possibilities in Paint.**

The funds raised will go directly toward purchasing paint, brushes and other art supplies and materials for the collaborative, giving artists the opportunity to continue creating, trying new things and sharing their work with others.

It was a great afternoon filled with creativity, laughter and community. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make this year's Paddles for Paint such a success!





Making Waves

Another summer of Accessible Sailing brought plenty of memorable moments on and off the water at Rondeau Yacht Club (RYC).

Through the Access BOOM Accessible Sailing Program, people supported by PHSS had the opportunity to spend time by the lake, get out in the adaptive sailboats and, for some, experience sailing for the very first time.

For Arlene, this year marked a first. She had attended Accessible Sailing in previous years but had never gotten into one of the boats. This summer she decided to give sailing a try and headed out onto the water for the first time.

Lisa was also a first-time sailor and really enjoyed being out on the water. As the boat moved along, she loved reaching her hand over the side and feeling the seaweed in the water. In fact, she enjoyed it so much that she collected an entire bag of seaweed to take home with her!

One of the things that continues to make Accessible Sailing so special is the people behind it. Sky and Ruby from the RYC always stand out for the kindness, patience and enthusiasm they bring. They remembered returning sailors, took the time to make people feel comfortable and always seemed to have a smile ready. Their interactions with the people supported by PHSS were genuine and helped make the experience that much more enjoyable.



Accessible Sailing

There was also a special surprise for Gord. The sailing team purchased a decal and added it to one of the sailboats just for him. It is the only boat with a decal, and Gord was thrilled when the team showed it to him. They were just as excited to share the surprise with him, which made the moment even more special.

Accessible Sailing takes a team effort, and a huge thank you goes to all of the PHSS staff who came out to support the days at Rondeau. From helping people get ready to sail to assisting with loading and unloading sailors from the boats, their support helped make sure everyone could take part and enjoy their time on the water.

Thank you as well to Cocotay Catering for providing the BBQ lunches throughout sailing.

And, of course, a very special thank you to the team at Rondeau Yacht Club and the Access BOOM Accessible Sailing Program. Their welcoming team, adaptive sailboats and the care they put into making everyone feel comfortable are a big part of why these two weeks continue to be something people look forward to each summer.

Those are just some of the moments that made Accessible Sailing 2026 one to remember.



Community Stories

A Day on the Rideau

This summer, Ryan spent a great day out on the water with Catch A Smile, enjoying a fishing trip along the Rideau River in Manotick. Joined by his mom, niece, and nephew, Ryan enjoyed cruising along the river before dropping anchor and trying their luck fishing from the boat. It was a great day spent outdoors, with Ryan enjoying the fresh air, the breeze off the water, and most of all, sharing the experience with his family.



15 Years of Giving Back

Sandra and David were recently recognized at the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, hosted by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, in honour of their incredible 15 years of volunteering with Thames Valley Children's Centre. This special recognition celebrates their long-standing commitment to giving back and the many years they have dedicated to making a difference in their community.



Gone Camping

Matthew recently enjoyed an overnight camping trip to Lake Whittaker with Daniel. They spent their time fishing, canoeing, exploring the trails around the campground, and meeting some new people along the way.

After a full day outdoors, they made dinner over the fire and settled in for a night of camping in their tent.

It was a great getaway and a chance for Matthew to spend time doing things he enjoys, experience something a little different, and make some great memories along the way.



2026 Annual

On Thursday, August 6, PHSS came together for our 2026 Annual General Meeting, bringing people supported, families, staff, Board members, community partners, and friends together to celebrate another year at PHSS.

In London, the day was held at Fanshawe Conservation Area, where despite a little rain, everyone enjoyed an afternoon of connection, conversation, and time spent together. Our Ottawa locations and board members held their own AGM gathering, joining the Annual General Meeting speeches virtually and celebrating together from Eastern Ontario. It was a great opportunity to connect all sides of PHSS and reflect together on everything that has happened over the past year.

More than a formal meeting, the AGM is a chance for people from across PHSS to come together, catch up with familiar faces, and celebrate the people, partnerships, achievements, and everyday moments that make up our community.

Reflecting on the past year

Over the past year, PHSS continued to expand its supports in Eastern and Southwestern Ontario, grow its operational capacity, participate in research focused on the integration of health and social care, and advocate for community-based care and supports for people with medical and complex needs.



General Meeting

The year also brought plenty to celebrate, including receiving the 2025 CIO Canada Award for our Digital by Design project and being named the Non-Profit Award recipient at the 2026 London Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards.

One of the special moments of this year's AGM was recognizing David Ragobar as the recipient of the 2026 PHSS Unsung Hero Award. Throughout his many years with PHSS, David has made a lasting impact on the people we support, staff, and leaders across the organization. Known for his experience, honesty, creativity, humour, and calm approach, David is someone people can count on. The Unsung Hero Award recognizes someone whose contribution is steady, meaningful, and often greater than most people realize, making David a very deserving recipient.

The AGM also gave us the opportunity to recognize Rondeau Yacht Club as PHSS' 2026 Community Champion for its incredible support through the Access BOOM Accessible Sailing Program. What began five years ago as an accessible sailing opportunity has grown into a meaningful partnership that gives people supported by PHSS the chance to experience the joy and independence of being out on the water. From helping with equipment and scheduling to creating a welcoming environment and building lasting relationships with sailors, the Club and its volunteers continue to show what true community inclusion can look like.





Innovation in Action

In September, PHSS hosted the London Innovate Council meeting, with Donnie Antony, a member of Innovate Council Canada, welcoming fellow Council members to PHSS to connect, share ideas, and discuss innovation in their organizations.

During the meeting, PHSS Support Services was recognized by Innovate Council Canada for our work in innovation and digital transformation.

Innovate Council Canada brings together leaders from government, industry, and community organizations to share ideas and explore how innovation can create meaningful change across Canada.

Through digital transformation and new approaches to everyday processes, PHSS continues to look for ways to reduce administrative burden, create more capacity for staff, and ultimately turn more administrative time into frontline hours with the people we support.

This recognition reflects the ideas, creativity, and willingness to think differently happening across PHSS. Thank you to Innovate Council Canada for recognizing this work, and to everyone at PHSS who continues to bring ideas forward, challenge traditional approaches, and help shape what comes next.






SHOWDOWN IN THE DOWNTOWN

There was no shortage of energy at Showdown in the Downtown on Saturday, September 26, 2026!

PHSS was proud to once again be part of this incredible evening that brings people together for an exciting night while giving back to organizations across our community.

From the action in the ring to the energy throughout the room, it was a great night to connect with familiar faces, meet new people and celebrate the community support that makes events like this so meaningful.

PHSS is incredibly grateful to be one of the non-profits organizations that benefits from Showdown in the Downtown. The continued support helps make a meaningful difference for the people supported by PHSS and is a wonderful example of what can happen when our community comes together.

Thank you to Dr. Faisal Rehman and the entire Showdown in the Downtown team, along with the sponsors, participants, volunteers and everyone who helped make the evening possible. We're grateful for the continued support and proud to be part of such a special event.

Celebrating Our Staff

Staff Appreciation Week | September 21-25, 2026

From **September 21-25, 2026**, PHSS celebrated **Staff Appreciation Week**, taking some extra time to recognize the incredible people who make up PHSS and thank them for everything they bring to their work each day.

Throughout the week, members of our Executive Team and Leads visited locations, spending time with staff, delivering Staff Appreciation T-shirts, handing out this year's Staff Appreciation Awards, and connecting with teams across PHSS. The week wrapped up with our Executive Team serving breakfast to our office staff and leadership team.

Most importantly, Staff Appreciation Week was about all of our staff. From our full-time and part-time staff to our office staff, management and leadership teams, night staff and everyone working across our locations, each person plays an important role in the supports PHSS provides.



Staff Appreciation Award Winners



Volunteer Award

Abiodun

Recognizing a volunteer who has made a positive impact on a person supported and their team.



Night Owl Award

Anakha

Recognizing a night-shift staff member who consistently goes above and beyond.



Rookie Award

Michelle

Recognizing a newer staff who has already made a positive impact and shown a strong commitment to the PHSS mission and values.



Mission Impossible Award

Louanne

Recognizing a staff member who takes on challenges and finds a way to get things done, even when they seem impossible.



Team Spirit Award

Clarke Road Staff Team

Recognizing a team whose enthusiasm, collaboration and teamwork embody the PHSS mission, vision and values.





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