

# SPEAK OUT



**WINTER  
2025**



**EMPLOYER  
PARTNER**

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# WHAT'S NEXT?

APRIL 3

**FUTURE PLANNING WITH PRO  
BONO STUDENTS CANADA**

APRIL 29

**LAUDABLES**

JUNE 1

**BOWL-A-THON**

JUNE TBD

**PADDLES FOR PAINT**

AUGUST 7

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

AUGUST 15

**ANNUAL LEO KIRWIN MEMORIAL  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SEPT 21

**COUNTRY HOEDOWN**

**LEST WE FORGET BY DENISE**





# ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY







## Thank you to our community!

We came together at the Hellenic Centre in London for our annual holiday party once again and it was a night to remember! Special thanks to Larry for bringing the holiday spirit as Santa and to Upside of Maybe for their incredible music and amazing engagement with the people we support. With our friends in Ottawa zooming in, the room was filled with joy, laughter, and connection. We are so grateful to all the volunteers and staff who made this magical night possible. See you next time!



# BRIAN DUNNE NAMED TO THE ORDER OF ONTARIO

The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Chancellor of the Order of Ontario, announced on January 1st that PHSS Support Services President and CEO, Brian Dunne, is among 29 people who have been named to the Order of Ontario for 2025.

The honour recognizes those who have made exceptional contributions that have built a stronger Ontario, and have helped shape its place in Canada and the world. More than 900 people have been named to the Order of Ontario since it was created in 1986.

"We are thrilled. This honour recognizes the advocacy, care, enthusiasm and passion for people that Brian brings to his work each and every day," said PHSS Support Services Board Chair Brian Orr. "On behalf of the people we support, their families, our staff and the Board of Directors, we are grateful for Brian's leadership and congratulate him on being invested into the Order of Ontario."

Brian Dunne has been PHSS' President and CEO since it was established in 1988. The Order of Ontario, the province's highest civilian honour, will be presented to Brian and all other honourees at a ceremony to be held in Toronto later this year.







# LADIES GROUP GIVES BACK

The PHSS Ladies Group came together this past holiday season to give a meaningful gift to the Shoebox Project for Women, a Canadian charity that supports women experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

This dedicated team collected and donated 67 shoeboxes filled with thoughtful essentials, along with an extra box for additional needs! That's 45 boxes more than last year—an incredible achievement!





# SKATE CLUB

We laced up for an unforgettable evening of Accessible Skating at Storybook Gardens on January 30th! From first-time skaters to seasoned pros, everyone embraced the magic of the skating trail.

Storybook Gardens and the City of London were instrumental in making this event possible. Thank you for your commitment to inclusion and accessibility. Your dedication to creating welcoming spaces ensures that everyone can participate in our community!

A special shoutout to our amazing volunteers who helped make sure everyone could get on the ice safely, and to all who joined us—your energy, smiles, and excitement made the night even more special! It was incredible to see so many persons supported, staff, families, and friends enjoying the ice together.

The best part? This fantastic event sparked the creation of our official Skate Club! Now, persons supported have been heading back to the rink every Wednesday to keep the fun going. We can't wait to see this new tradition continue to grow!









# THE O'BRIEN-NOLAN LEGACY IN ACTION

On March 7, 2025, PHSS Foundation proudly hosted an open house for the newly renovated O'Brien-Nolan Legacy House, welcoming guests to celebrate the transformative legacy donation that made this milestone possible. The event was a heartfelt tribute to Judy and David O'Brien, whose unwavering advocacy for individuals with complex care and support needs has left a lasting impact on PHSS and the broader community.

Although Judy was not able to celebrate this occasion with us, her spirit was very much present in the love and generosity that made this home a reality. We were deeply honored to have her daughter Erin and husband David join us, along with members of the O'Brien-Nolan family, to witness the incredible impact of their gift.







PHSS extends its deepest thanks to David O'Brien for his kindness and commitment to continuing Judy's mission. Through this gift, her legacy lives on, ensuring that individuals with complex care and support needs have the opportunity to live fulfilling lives in their community.



During the open house guests had the opportunity to share stories, reflect on the profound legacy Judy and David have built, and tour the home to see firsthand how this generous donation has been put into action. Conversations were filled with gratitude and inspiration as those present recognized the incredible advocacy of David and Judy—not only for their daughter Erin but for so many individuals with complex care and support needs. Every thoughtfully designed space reflects the values that Judy and David champion—compassion, inclusion, and the pursuit of a life filled with dignity and joy.





# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



## LONDON FIRE STATION 10

Tuesday Drop-In had an unforgettable experience when persons supported visited London Fire Station 10. The group was warmly welcomed by firefighters Jay, Phil, and Aiden, who gave them an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at life in the fire service.

The group had the chance to meet some of the incredible firefighters who keep our community safe, explore a fire engine up close, and even watch a live demonstration of some of the essential tools and

equipment used in emergency response. From powerful hydraulic rescue tools to protective gear, it was an eye-opening look at the dedication and skill required for the job.

A massive thank you to Jay, Phil, and Aiden for their time, enthusiasm, and hospitality. Their willingness to share their expertise made this visit both educational and inspiring.

We are so grateful for all that the London Fire Department does to keep us safe!



## 2ND HUSSARS ARMY RESERVE

The PHSS Men's Group had an exciting and memorable visit from Sergeants Keatings and Smith of the 2nd Hussars Army Reserves!

The highlight of the visit was the incredible tactical vehicle they brought along, giving everyone the rare opportunity to see it up close and learn about its advanced features. The Sergeants shared insights into their roles, the vehicle's capabilities, and what it's like to serve in the Reserves.

Their visit sparked great conversations and curiosity, making for an engaging and informative experience. Another big thank you to the 2nd Hussars for taking the time to connect with us and share a glimpse into their world!





## ERIN'S ACCESSIBLE SKIING

Winter fun should be for everyone, and Erin proved just that while hitting the slopes at Boler Mountain with Sit Ski instructors Sarah and Craig!

As part of our focus on accessible winter activities, we're excited to highlight London Track 3 Ski School, which has been making skiing possible for people with physical and complex needs for over 20 years. Erin is the latest member of the PHSS community to experience the thrill of gliding down the hills, showing that winter adventure is for all.

Want to help make skiing more accessible? Reach out to London Track 3 Adapted Snowsports to get involved at: [www.londontrack3.ca!](http://www.londontrack3.ca!)



## TRYING OUT TUBING IN OTTAWA!

Our recent snow tubing trip to Domaine de l'Ange-Gardien in Quebec was nothing short of magical—a perfect mix of thrills and family-friendly fun. The slopes were just right, and the smooth setup made the whole experience unforgettable.

Jimmy amazed us all with his independence, proudly carrying his own tube up the hill each time and tackling every ride with confidence. Seeing him take charge was a true highlight. Meanwhile, Julia's radiant smile and contagious laughter filled the air, making the day even brighter. Her endless energy and pure happiness were a joy to witness.

It was one of those special days filled with lightness, laughter, and unforgettable moments—the kind we'll be holding onto for a long time.



# COREY TAKES THE PLUNGE... AGAIN!

The Macaroni Penguins took on the freezing waters of Lake Erie, defying a bone-chilling -16 windchill to participate in the 2025 Polar Bear Dip in Port Stanley. For the second year in a row, the team demonstrated their commitment to making a difference by raising funds for ChildCan, an organization dedicated to supporting children with cancer and their families.

This year's event saw the Macaroni Penguins (Corey, Karen, Lindsey, Kristine, Becky, Jennifer, and Matt) among 55 teams who braved the icy challenge and took the plunge in the name of charity. Together, they not only conquered the cold but also raised an impressive \$1,891.11—an achievement that certainly warms the heart despite the frigid temperatures that morning.

The Macaroni Penguins continue to inspire with their dedication and generosity, proving that a little bravery goes a long way in supporting an important cause. We are incredibly proud of the team for their efforts and can't wait to see them make an even bigger splash next year!







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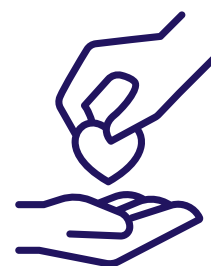
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## Donate Today!

### Your donation matters!

Our donors help enhance the ability for individuals we support to achieve independence and be part of their communities.



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