

YKACL NEWSLETTER

MAY 15 2017

Yellowknife Association for

Since 1962

COMMUNITY LIVING



Playing with Sticks downtown

by YKACL staff

YKACL CLIENTS and staff gathered truckloads of willow branches last week in preparation for the Playing with Sticks Art Project, which begins in the Abe Miller garden tomorrow.

Co-ordinators Rosanna Strong and Jenny Tucker will teach YKACL clients, staff and keen members of the public how to create decorative and functional architectural structures using the branches.

The first of three week-long sessions runs from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. tomorrow through Saturday, May 20. You're welcome to join in!

Other sessions run at the same times from May 24 to 27 and May 30 to June 2.

**To participate
in the Playing with Sticks
Community Art Project
please RSVP:
446-2779**



JENNY TUCKER, Playing with Sticks co-ordinator, left, and YKACL Business Services Team member Chantelle Beauchamp gathered willow near Yellowknife last week. YKACL photo

Congratulations Annie!

by YKACL staff

Early next month, Annie Strus will receive her Early Learning and Child Care certificate.

The longtime YKACL client has spent the past year completing online college courses with the help of her YKACL Job Coach, Bianca Kotchea, and her tutors. Annie started her journey in 2014 with former YKACL staff Emily Muth.

We are all proud of her hard work and academic accomplishment!

Annie has been passionate about working with children for as long as she can remember.

She grew up watching over her younger siblings and began volunteering at the Centre For Northern Families Daycare in 2013. It was there she realized she would like to build childcare into her career.

She completed her practicum at the Centre For Northern Families Daycare while working with the After School Program at NJ Macpherson School.

After graduation, Annie hopes to find employment at one of the many wonderful daycares in town, where she can continue to help young children to develop their skills.



ANNIE STRUS will graduate with her certificate in Early Childhood Development later this month. Angela Gzowski photo

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BULLYING is the topic for the Parents of Yellowknife discussion group on June 1.

Talk about bullying

Parents living in Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah are encouraged to join the Parents of Yellowknife discussion group on Thursday, June 1.

The discussion runs from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the YKACL Community Living Centre at 4919 53rd Street.

Parents will share strategies for responding to bullying in their children's daily lives.

Snacks will be served and childcare is provided.

Contact Vera at 920-2644.

Youth group events

The YKACL Yay Fusion! Teen Group and the Young Adults Group are planning trips to Yellowknife River this month.

The Young Adults Group is scheduled to hold a cookout at the picnic grounds on Friday, May 19, from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. and the Yay Fusion! campfire is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Yay Fusion! is also holding a pizza party on Thursday, May 18, and the Young Adults Group is holding a pizza party on Friday, May 26.

Members of both groups can RSVP to Michael in advance at 920-2644.

Happy retirement, Mike Burns!

by YKACL staff

YKACL WISHES to thank Mike Burns, outgoing assistant deputy minister for the Dept. of Public Works and Services, for donating his GNWT retirement gifts to the Association.

It is part of the GNWT retirement process to collect funds and gift out as a donation to a registered charitable

organization of a retiring employee's choice. Mike Burns selected YKACL. Thanks, Mike!

For more information about donating GNWT retirement gifts to charitable organizations registered with the CRA, see the GNWT Human Resources Manual (1413e - Service Appreciation).



MIKE BURNS, left, presents his GNWT retirement gift to YKACL representative Cappy Elkin after stepping down as an assistant deputy minister.

YKACL STAFF PROFILE

by YKACL staff

VERA NESBITT has managed Family and Children's Services at YKACL since 2013.

"We focus on the health and wellbeing of our clients and staff. We also focus on independence for our clients, supporting and guiding them to do better each day," she said. "Together with family we can enhance the quality of life of children and adults with developmental needs."

Vera oversees the Respite Care program, Family Play Space drop-in, Peer Support Group, two youth groups and services for seniors.

"I can see the development stage in each client in every aspect of their lives, such as building relationships, growing as productive members of our community, contributing to the workplace and learning each day how to share their strengths," she said.

"Our clients maintain the ability to learn new things while they attend YKACL programs and

are engaged in the community in many different ways."

The Association benefits from Vera's 22-year career in the field of early childhood education and special needs education.

Management experience

Vera graduated with her BA in Child and Youth Care from the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, B.C., and continues to pursue professional development e-courses at the University of British Columbia.

On the management side, Vera has experience as a past owner of two Montessori schools in B.C.

"With that came the management aspect of the business: how to deal with employees' daily jobs; conflict resolution; professional growth and understanding family interactions," she said.

Vera grew up on Sao Luiz, a small island in Brazil. As a young student she took regular breaks from school and college to work on the family farm on the mainland.



VERA NESBITT

Family in Yellowknife

Vera and her husband Gerry Nesbitt live with their three dogs in a cozy lakeside cabin a few kilometres outside Yellowknife, where they share many happy hours each week with family and friends.

They have three beautiful daughters: Laila (26), a registered nurse; Bethany (20), who is pursuing her science degree; and Sierra (16), a high-performance high school athlete.

In her spare time, Vera works in her sewing studio to make beautiful handmade children's toys and dolls.