

Community Integration opens new office

The North Hastings Community Integration Association has a clear mandate: to inspire people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families, to live as fully participating citizens. This they do through their own programming, and through community partnerships with health and social agencies, schools, and businesses. The end they seek is all citizens participating fully, equally, and safely in their community.

To that end, they have opened a new facility on Hastings Street. The new building, now dubbed the Rock Edge Centre (REC for short) will house the CIA's children and youth programs. Out of the new facility, the agency will run activity programs, including over the summer. The staff will also work to gain access for their clients to existing community activities.

"We are advocates for our clients," stated executive director Sandra Phillips. "We try to provide access to education and employment programs and help tailor them to the needs and strengths of those we serve."

The centre will also serve as a base for the provision of respite care for clients' parents and guardians. In token to the collaboration they plan to achieve with other community organizations, the new building is equipped to provide office and meeting space to other groups who may need this.

Meanwhile, the main office at 2 Alice St. remains a functioning heart of the NHCIA.