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TOWN OF INGERSOLL  
CLERK/TREASURER

Wednesday June 2, 2010

Attention: Elaine Clark  
Clerk Deputy Administrator


Twenty five years ago, with two young children and bills to pay, I found myself in need of full-time employment. As luck would have it, Ingersoll Support Services was looking to hire and thus I began working as a support worker at "Lyndon House"; a large home of 12 adult residents with various physical and mental disabilities. Although I had always been a very caring and nurturing individual, caring for the clients there was a novel experience for me. It was challenging, and the learning curve was certainly a vertical one, but after a few short months, it became apparent that this was my niche in life. I felt so much joy in supporting these individuals to live as part of the Ingersoll community with dignity, respect and as much autonomy as they could.

After twenty three years and many changes to the structure of ISSI, I still work as a full-time Support Worker. Over the years, I have supported numerous unique individuals in a variety of settings including group homes, nursing homes and at present my focus has shifted more towards supporting and empowering individuals who live more independently in the community. Despite the physical and emotional demand that it has taken at times, I can honestly say that I love my job. It has been a privilege to help empower each and every one of the people I have worked with over the years but I must say that I feel I have certainly learned more from them than they have from me. One of the biggest things that I have learned is how accessibility, or lack thereof, has impacted their lives and I, with my colleagues and clients, have worked very hard to overcome on an individual basis.

At this point in my life, I am very interested in broadening my support of individuals with disabilities, more specifically at the community level to thus help others who are not supported by ISSI and would be honoured to be a member of the accessibility committee. As a woman who was born and raised in Ingersoll, I would like to share my experiences in working with ISSI and the first hand observations that I have had the privilege of making over the years to help improve accessibility of our community to all members. Not only are there many individuals in the community who could benefit from accessibility improvements at present, with the aging population, Ingersoll will have many more individuals with various disabilities in the near future and thus I think it is prudent that we be as proactive as possible on this issue.

As a member of the accessibility committee, I will contribute the knowledge and experience that I have gained from my work with ISSI over the past 25 years, in conjunction with the pride that I have for the town in which I was born and raised. I look forward to brainstorming and sharing ideas with the rest of the committee to improve accessibility in our community with the goal of ensuring that Ingersoll is as accessible as it can possibly be to every individual in our community.

Sincerely,



Deb Leppard