

Who Are We?

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Community Care • Submitted by Lynda McKerr, Community

Development Coordinator Community Care Harvey Office

Well the new year of 2012 is well underway. Perhaps New Years' Resolutions have slipped by the way but the services offered by Community Care Peterborough and all its offices continue to grow.

As Doctors are scheduling necessary surgeries and procedures, perhaps you have some concerns about how it all will happen. So I will share some information about the Home at Last Program (HAL for short)? This program can provide help to aging adults and adults with special needs, to settle at home safely and comfortably in a timely manner after a stay in the hospital. Home at Last is a partnership between hospitals, community support services providers and the Central East Community Access Centre with no direct cost to the clients.

This transition service from hospital to home may include:

Driving and /or accompanying the patient home

Picking up medications and/or groceries

Preparing a small meal

Providing personal care and/or homemaking services

Following up with phone calls and/or visits to check on the patient's well being

Making referrals to other community support services

Home At Last Benefits:

Ask Mary who lives on a rural Peterborough County road. Mary was scheduled for back surgery in Toronto. For various reasons her surgery was rescheduled and rescheduled and the date eventually moved to early winter. Her family was able to transport their mother and her spouse to the hospital; however, they were unable to drive back as they worked full-time and had had to reschedule so many times. Mary is a volunteer with Community Care Peterborough and knew about this program. She was advised to ask about HAL at the Toronto Hospital. In Toronto, she was told this program only existed in Toronto. After insisting that HAL was available in Peterborough, nurses called. To their surprise, it did. What did it mean to Mary! All of the following:

a less stressful and smooth supported transition for hospital to home
a timely discharge home from hospital

It identified potential safety issues in the home and included follow up
a more successful recovery at home through community support services
improved patient satisfaction with discharge process

the families benefited by the settling and support their relative received through discharge and linking to relevant community services

To learn more about Home at Last e-mail homeatlast@commcareptbo.org or call 705-872-6850.

To learn more about the volunteers opportunities offered to support Community Care's basket of services call your local office in Lakefield 705-652-8655, Chemung 705-292-8708 or Harvey 705-657-2171.

Financial Notes • By Gwyneth James

The door and phone at accounting firms across the country are starting to get busier as tax season approaches. All slips are supposed to be issued by Feb 28 so by the second week of March, in theory, you should be able to file your tax return. Regardless of your sources of income, if you owe taxes your deadline is April 30. Seven weeks should be plenty of time to get the job done, right? Well, for many of us it's not, but if you're expecting a refund that due date is not as critical. The problem is, that refund is your money and CRA isn't paying you interest on it!

So let's review what you need to accomplish this thankless task...

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First thing to do is pull last year's return and the Notice of Assessment (NOA) sent to you by CRA. The previous return will remind you of which slips and information you needed to gather last time. The NOA will provide any carry forward figures and will advise you where errors may have been made the prior year.

Next, consider what has changed in your financial life since last year. What new slips should you wait for? Let's start young and work our way up...picture the "Game of Life" game board!

If you're in your twenties and just starting out, did you head off to college or university? There are many tax credits pertaining to the tuition, books, student loan interest, moving, etc.

Did you buy your first home? There's a tax credit for that.

Did you have a child? Ditto (there's a tax credit for that).

Did your child go into daycare or join any sports/clubs? Ditto.

Are you a tradesperson who purchased tools? Or a commissioned salesperson who had employment-related expenses? Make sure you kept those receipts and bills.

Did you purchase a transit pass? You or your spouse can claim that.

Did you support a parent whose health is declining? There are both caregiver and medical tax credits available in some circumstances.

Did you receive a pension or RRIF payment? Pension income can be split with your spouse and a corresponding tax credit claimed by both of you.

There are many, many more examples which is why having an accountant do your taxes can be very worthwhile. Finally, don't forget to claim all income, even if you have not received a slip. Even that casual job you took to cover your Christmas bills is taxable income. Good luck!

—Gwyneth James MBA CGA is the owner of TCP Accounting & Tax Services which has been providing accounting services for over 20 years to individuals and small businesses throughout Peterborough City and County. (705) 876-6011.

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