

TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 2



Age-friendly Report interns, Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, Jessica Clement, Olivia Timm, and Rasikh Khan

Student Training a Key TCAS Mandate

Student success is a big part of what makes TCAS tick and the past few months have been no exception. Amber Colibaba has just become the first student to graduate from the newly launched Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies. Even more impressive, Amber's MA thesis, which looks at the sustainability of the Selwyn Public Library's volunteer structure, is already making (positive) waves in the community. Another student member, Emma Langley, just successfully defended her MA thesis on reconciliation and decolonization as told through a life history project.

Two undergraduate students made recommendations to the Age-friendly Peterborough Advisory Committee following the completion of their research projects. Elisabeth Burden's Honours Thesis, "A Case Study of Outdoor Opportunities for Older Adults at a Retirement Home," and Katherine Evans' Community-based Research project "Assessing the Challenges of Age-Friendly Planning: What Can We Learn from Other Plans?" provided compelling insights into

local challenges and approaches to our aging population.

Additionally, in a unique twist, the Centre became the site of multiple journalism and media studies internships over the winter semester. You'll read more about it inside the newsletter but, in short, the Centre is now directly involved in the production of a television program, which has enabled us to instill critical perspectives on aging in a new generation of journalists and image makers.

As ever, your stories are always needed and welcomed in these pages. Indeed, we've run an intriguing POV story in each of the last few editions. It's important to us that we turn over that space to as many voices as possible, so please do get in touch with your ideas. We wish everyone a productive and enjoyable summer term, and hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming TCAS members event (details will follow in the coming months).

– Mark, Justin, and Sylvia

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TCAS

An interdisciplinary research centre of faculty, students, and community stakeholders working together to build dialogue around issues related to aging and critically informed aging research.

Vision

Trent University is an international leader in interdisciplinary aging studies.

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TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY

In Brief

TrentAging2019 Conference

We're thrilled to announce that we will be hosting an international gerontology conference in May 2019 in partnership with the North American and European Networks in Aging Studies.

Abstracts for panels, papers, and posters will be accepted as of June 15. All the details can be found [here](#).

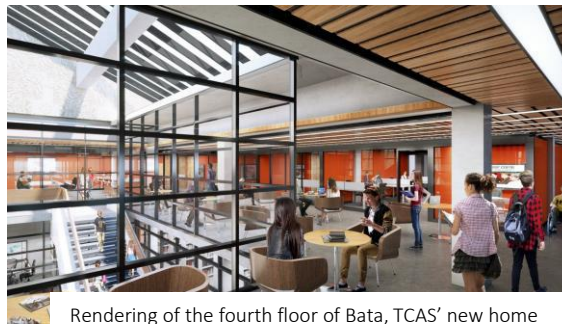
Stephen Katz Retirement

April 6 saw the department of Sociology officially honour the wonderful teaching, research, and leadership career of **Dr. Stephen Katz**, with a grand retirement party. Though Dr. Katz is now professor emeritus, he remains an active force on the TCAS executive committee, and he's still teaching! Look for Dr. Katz around campus in September as he embarks on the second successful session of



Photo collage from Stephen Katz's retirement party

"Foundations in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies" for the graduate Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies.



Rendering of the fourth floor of Bata, TCAS' new home

TCAS on the Move

We're happy to report the Centre is on track to move into Bata's newly formed Innovation Cluster this summer. Our tentative move in date is **August 13**.

See the rendering for a good idea of what our new space will look like and come see for yourself; a plan is in the works for an open house shortly after we're settled into the space.

TCAS Support Staff

TCAS director, Dr. Mark Skinner is delighted to announce that 2018-19 will see our two support staff increase to full-time, with expanded appointments for **Sylvia Dick**, Administrative Coordinator, and **Justin Sutton**, Communications and Community Relations Officer. Justin will also be supervising producer of the *Age-friendly Report* TV show in collaboration with Age-Friendly Peterborough. Sylvia and Justin have been fundamental to the success of the Centre in its first five years!

New Members

TCAS is pleased to welcome five new members who represent a variety of membership categories.

Dr. Kirsten Woodend is our latest faculty member. Dr. Woodend is Dean, Trent/Fleming School of Nursing, Trent University and has a long standing interest related to aging persons, especially in chronic disease management and self-management. The Trent/Fleming nursing program has been an enduring collaborator and



ally of TCAS, indeed, aging is one of the five foci of the program.

Dr. Albert Banerjee joins us as a research associate. Much of his recent research on the care of older persons has been conducted in conjunction with a SSHRC funded MCRI, *Re-Imagining Long-Term Residential Care* (Pat Armstrong, PI). Through this project, Dr. Banerjee has a longstanding collaboration with Dr. Sally Chivers and Dr. Jim Struthers, both members of the TCAS executive committee.



TCAS research associate, **Amber Colibaba** graduated with a Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies and is Trent University's first graduate of the Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies program. Amber's thesis research focused on *Older Voluntarism and Rural Community Sustainability: A Case Study of a Volunteer-based Rural Library* (read more on page 7).



An Kosurko, is also a newly minted research associate and a recent graduate of the Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies Program at Trent University. Her MA research focused on a case study of the Mount Community Centre during its redevelopment from a former convent to a site for affordable housing and food security needs. She is currently a research associate working with Drs. Mark Skinner and Rachel Herron, and Canada's National Ballet School on CIHR/ASC project: *Improving Social Inclusion for Canadians with Dementia and Carers through Sharing Dance*.



Fourth year Psychology student, Emily Mullins is TCAS' latest undergraduate associate. Emily is working closely with TCAS executive member, Dr. Elizabeth Russell on a research practicum examining seniors' co-housing best practices at the building, development, and implementation stage in support of the Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield, Ontario. Emily is committed to aging studies and hopes to go to graduate school to study gerontology.



Our Scholars at the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging

Dr. Sally Chivers and Dr. Mark Skinner were invited to present their research at two separate events at McMaster University's Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging.

Sally's presentation explored the complicated relationship between disability and old age in American cinema by deconstructing Julianne Moore's Oscar award-winning performance as the linguistics professor Alice Howland. Moore's character is diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in *Still Alice* (2014). Sally's talk explored how the tools of disability studies, as well as the disability movement itself could better inform depictions of aging and disease in contemporary cinema.

A key feature of Sally's argument is to demonstrate just how pervasively ageism relies on ableism.

You can watch the discussion [here](#).

Rural Aging Research: Insights from the Frontiers of Gerontology

In his Gilbrea talk, Dr. Mark Skinner discussed the limitations of rural aging research. He argued that relatively little consideration is given to what it means for rural residents, households, communities and institutions to be at the forefront of twenty-first century population change.

What is missing, according to Mark, is a greater understanding of rural as a complicated, changing and contested space of aging – where older adults, caregivers and leaders experience and transform the processes and outcomes of population change.

Drawing on examples of current rural aging research in Canada and

internationally, Mark's presentation examined how rural insights can inform many of today's most important gerontological questions. The emergence of critical rural gerontology as a field of scholarship was highlighted, and implications for research, policy and practice were discussed. Watch it [here](#).

Brandon University

Dr. Skinner also spoke in Brandon, Manitoba, about what rural



Dr. Rachel Herron and Dr. Mark Skinner

communities can teach us about how to meet the challenges and opportunities of population aging. According to Skinner, one of the most important 'rural lessons' is the crucial yet uncertain role of volunteers and voluntarism organizations in supporting older people and in sustaining rural communities.

Drawing on insights from community-based research in Canada and internationally, Skinner's talk examined the evolution of volunteerism in aging rural communities and the dynamic ways in which rural leaders, service providers, volunteers and older residents are responding to rural change in an era of population aging. Implications for rural community sustainability was featured as well as rural insights for aging communities across Canada.

Watch it [here](#).

Romancing “successful aging”: gender, (hetero)sexuality and dilemmas of difference

Dr. Barb Marshall was invited to Queen’s University’s one-day symposium *Research in Aging: Dispelling Myths and Building Bridges* to discuss ways in which the contemporary cultural enthusiasm for ‘sexy seniors’, while challenging old stereotypes of decrepitude and decline, introduces new ways of disciplining later life through a critique of the heteronormative assumptions that underpin both media representations of later life and anti-aging biomedical initiatives. Barb argued that a limiting and binary understanding of gender and sexuality shapes dominant understandings of ‘success’ in aging. In conclusion, she suggests that critical age studies should build on its existing affinities with feminist and queer theories to enrich its analyses and better promote diversity in aging experiences and identities.



RESEARCH IN AGING
one-day symposium
dispelling myths and building bridges

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Kim Sawchuk PhD
Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Concordia University
A Digital Solution?: Public consultations and the age-friendly city agenda

OTHER PRESENTERS
Mark Rosenberg PhD
Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University
The changing geography of the older population: A map to the future challenges Canada faces
Barbara Marshall PhD
Department of Sociology, Trent University
Romancing “successful aging”: gender, (hetero)sexuality and dilemmas of difference

EMERGING SCHOLARS
Constance Lalonde PhD Candidate
Communication Studies, Concordia University
Kyla Plunk PhD Candidate
Geography, Queen's University
Fatemeh Pours PhD Candidate
Psychology, Queen's University
Lisa F. Carter PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow
Faculty of Arts and Science, Queen's University

Thu, April 26, 2018
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
\$20
Harbour Restaurant
53 Yonge St
Kingston, Ontario

www.researchinaging.com

Aging & Society Seminar Series // Book Launch

Arising from their experience working on an eight-year SSHRC funded project titled *Re-imagining Long-term Residential Care: An International Collaborative Study of Promising Practices*, several leading scholars from Trent University, Carleton University, and York University came to Trent in

early March to engage in a wide-ranging discussion on how to approach interdisciplinary and international research. Later that same day, their book, *Exercising Choice in Long-term Residential Care* was the topic of discussion at a community book launch at Peterborough’s newly renovated Public Library.

On hand for both events were **Dr. Hugh Armstrong**, professor emeritus of social work and political economy at Carleton University, **Dr. Jaqueline Choiniere**, associate professor, York University, School of Nursing, **Dr. Tamara J. Daly**, associate professor with the School of Health Policy & Management, Faculty of Health, York University, **Dr. Pat Armstrong**, distinguished research professor in Sociology, York University, **Dr. Ruth Lowndes**, research associate at York University, **Dr. Sally Chivers**, professor, English Literature, Trent University, and **Dr. James Struthers**, professor emeritus, Trent University.



Point of View

Abbeyfield: A Community Research Project

By Dr. Elizabeth Russell, Assistant Professor, Psychology

Providing Trent students with experiential learning opportunities is an essential component of helping students challenge the way they think. The ongoing collaboration between **Dr. John Marris** at the Trent Community Research Centre, myself in Trent’s Department of Psychology, and **Dewi Jones** and his team at the Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield has been instrumental in providing four undergraduate students with this opportunity. Senior psychology students **Amy Smith**, **Kara Rutherford**, **Laurel Pirrie**, and **Natalie Jennings** have been diligently working since last September on a project that focuses on



Dr. Elizabeth Russell discuss the Abbeyfield project at a poster presentation

Lakefield residents’ views on retirement and retirement accommodations. Our project goal is to examine the feasibility and community desire for an Abbeyfield House. Some of our project participants have completed a survey; others participated in smaller in-person discussion groups. Both offer us an opportunity to hear what local residents are thinking about retiring in Lakefield specifically, and on their retirement housing needs more generally.

Key Findings of the Project

Abbeyfield housing, a unique, non-profit, community-based communal-living model that includes private, independent living space geared towards middle income seniors, has been successful in various communities. However, before investing in developing non-profit retirement living complexes, and the social, voluntary-based infrastructure necessary to do so, thoroughly and accurately understanding the local population’s needs and preferences is important in ensuring appropriate and effective retirement housing developments. Focusing on the Village of Lakefield, we examined the needs, preferences and attitudes of older adults and community members towards retirement living, to determine the feasibility of developing an Abbeyfield housing model. Mixed-method research, employing focus groups (n = 19) and an online survey (n = 85), identified themes of affordability,

POV con't

independence and loneliness as the major concerns and preferences of community members and various stakeholders. Further, our research provided strong support for the development of an Abbeyfield house in Lakefield, and specific recommendations related to development of these types of housing units. This rich data provides much insight into how factors such as affordability, independence, and loneliness intersect when one plans one's place of residence in retirement. All of which must be effectively incorporated into new seniors' co-housing developments, such as Abbeyfield.

The Impact of Experiential Learning

This project provided Trent University psychology students with a wonderful opportunity to put their research skills to the test, and importantly, to see the outcomes of their work used in practice in our community. All four students

remarked on how working on the project enriched their classroom learning and impacted the course of their studies. Amy Smith, reflected that "because it's my first experience with community-based research, it has given me some really valuable, out-of-classroom experience, which has helped me feel more comfortable with my abilities as I look more seriously into graduate school, and what path I want to take once my undergraduate degree is finished." You can read more about the group's experience in the next story.

Fieldwork: Student Perspectives

This is a condensed interview with honours psychology students **Natalie Jennings, Laurel Pirrie, Kara Rutherford,** and **Amy Smith.**

Q. Describe how the project came to be as a collective project

A. This project was driven by our professor, **Dr. Elizabeth Russell.** Her passion for teaching makes her an asset to us as students as well as to the community. If not for her, we would not have known about this project or each other for that matter. Prior to the beginning of the semester, Dr. Russell emailed the four of us, who were taking her Qualitative Research course, and asked if we would be interested in working with the Trent Community Research Centre (TCRC) and the Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield as our class group assignment.

Q. What were you tasked with discovering?

A. Our research objective for the Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield (AHSL) was to assess the needs and desires of the Lakefield community in terms of retirement living and the development of an Abbeyfield house. We conducted this assessment using a combination of a simple online survey and in-depth focus groups. Aside from our work for AHSL, the other task was to become better community researchers. By connecting with the TCRC and AHSL we were able to broaden our collective

horizons and really get a taste for the qualitative research process and the importance of connecting with the community.

Q. What was it like working directly with community members?

A. Working directly with community members provided the opportunity to gain extremely valuable real-world experience and to learn, from beginning to end, the process of conducting community-based research.

Q. If you were talking to a future Trent student, what would you tell them about this experience?

A. Seeing our hard work come together and make a real difference in the community has been a rewarding experience. Trent has so many opportunities to learn outside the classroom, providing meaningful context to academic projects and real-world applicability.



Laurel Pirri, Kara Rutherford, Dewi Jones, Amy Smith, and Natalie Jennings



Abbeyfield House in Vernon, British Columbia

YourTV Show

New Television Show Developed Through TCAS to Focus on Age-friendly Communities

A new TV show coming out of the Centre promises to explore the dynamic, diverse and multi-faceted lives of older adults in the Peterborough region. True to the Centre's mandate, the program is being guided by three community members over the age of 65.

With support from the Centre, the mandate of *The Age-friendly Report* is to explain Peterborough's Age-friendly [Community Action Plan](#) as well as TCAS led research to the broader community. The program is being produced by **Justin Sutton** '09 and will air on YourTV (formerly Cogeco) later this year. Sutton's aim for the program is to invite "diverse voices to the table to tell their own stories."

An initiative of Age-friendly Peterborough, and with funding from the Peterborough chapter of the United Way, the program will be made up of four to six minute segments, panel discussions, and interviews exploring issues that range from housing, transportation, social isolation, LGBTQ perspectives and more. The packaged show will be roughly 30 minutes long and air on YourTV every month, but all the story segments will be available online to ensure it reaches viewers in the County, Curve Lake First Nation, and beyond.

Another Avenue for Experiential Learning

Justin says, "Tackling these issues benefits everyone," noting that this is a multi-generational project with four students on the team. **Rasikh (Raz) Khan** '14, a Media Studies and Political Science double major, got involved in the project to get hands-on experience and because he "likes the idea of using media as a platform to address social issues." "Back home in Thailand there is the idea that we treat our elders better than they



do in the West. At home we think the elders must stay with you no matter what. We wouldn't put them away in a retirement home. It's a misconception though. I've noticed in the last four years being in Canada, that the facilities are a lot better here. The facilities in Thailand are underfunded and overcrowded and don't have qualified

professionals...so basically if you are wealthy enough to afford care like that, you would just have it in your home," Mr. Khan says. "This project is giving me the chance to explore the Canadian perspective."

The volunteer task force guiding the show is comprised of three local women; **Mary Gordon**, a former radio producer, **Karen Carter Edwards**, a retired history teacher, and community advocate **Carol Koeslag**.

[Learn more about the experiential learning opportunities available to Trent students](#)

No Place to Call Home

On February 22, the Centre organized and hosted a symposium called "No Place to Call Home: The Challenges of Reintegrating Senior Parolees into the Community and Long-term Care Facilities."

Ted Boynton, a retired police officer and current member of the [Citizens Advisory Committee](#), (CAC) brought the Centre the idea for the symposium as well as a commitment from several other community partners to help organize it. Mr. Boynton is a passionate advocate for the humane treatment of prisoners. He sees his work as part of a larger community strategy to ensure there "are no more victims."

The resulting symposium was organized in partnership with the [Citizen Advisory Committee](#), [Correctional Services Canada](#), and [Peterborough Reintegration Services](#), as well as our own departments of Social Work, Sociology, and Nursing, and our Forensic Science program.

Speakers included **Henry de Souza**, director general, Correctional Services Canada, **David Byrne**, executive director, Haley House, and **Dr. Crystal Dieleman**, assistant professor, School of Occupational Therapy, Dalhousie

University. **Dr. Gillian Balfour**, chair, Sociology and associate dean Teaching and Learning, Trent University moderated a panel discussion featuring **Judith Wahl** (lawyer), **Kim Lawson** (parole officer), **Kate Kincaid** (Past director of patient care, South Bruce Grey Health Centre), **Larry Charmley** (police inspector), and **Anjelika Vedenin** (manager, Central East LHIN) that highlighted key perspectives on the challenges of reintegrating former inmates into the larger community.

New research into Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders

No Place to Call Home attracted an audience of roughly 160 people who brought a variety of perspectives, expertise and energy to the discussion, which we are happy to report, is on-going.

Starting in July, **Dr. Mark Skinner**, in collaboration with Dr. Crystal Dieleman (Dalhousie University), Dr. Gillian Balfour (Trent University), the CSC, CAC

No Place to Call Home con't

(Trent University), the CSC, CAC Peterborough Parole Office and Peterborough Reintegration Services (Haley House), will lead two new projects stemming directly from the 2018 symposium.

First is a national report on *Addressing the Gaps in Knowledge about Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders*, supported by the CAC Kickstarter funding program, that will examine community reintegration issues, barriers and initiatives to build a foundation of knowledge about this pressing issue. The report will include proceedings and participant feedback from the No Place to Call Home Symposium, and will be a landmark document in the field. Second is a Trent University-based, 12-month *Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO) Pilot Project*, funded by



David Byrne, Ted Boynton, Dr. Crystal Dieleman, Dr. Mark Skinner

the CSC. The pilot project will examine the experiences of aging offenders as they transition from institutions into the community, using Peterborough, Ontario as a case study. The aim is to contribute new knowledge about aging offenders, enhance the work of CSC, CACs and community reintegration services, and improve the health and wellbeing of marginalized older Canadians.

More details will follow on the TCAS website, social media channels, and in this space in the future.



Dr. Crystal Dieleman

Thesis Defense

On April 27, **Emma Langley** successfully defended her Sustainability Studies MA project, "I will not use the word reconcilliaton – Exploring Settler (Un)Certainty, Indigenous Refusal, and Decolonization through a Life History Project with Jean Koning." Supervised by **Dr. May Chazan**, Emma's thesis "centres on a series of intergenerational life history interviews with and about Jean Koning, a 95-year-old white Settler woman who has engaged in different forms of Indigenous-Settler solidarity work for over fifty years – work that is highly regarded by many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in southwestern and central Ontario." Ms. Langley argues "that a commitment to unsettling uncertainty and to meaningful listening may be required by Settlers in a stand against various colonial ways of thinking, such as cognitive imperialism."

Emma was also awarded a TCAS Strategic Research Fund/Connection Grant in 2017 to present a paper at the 2017 Oral History Summer Institute at Colombia University's Centre for Oral History Research.



On May 1, **Amber Colibaba** successfully defended her Sustainability Studies MA project, "Older Voluntarism and Rural Community Sustainability: A Case Study of a Volunteer-based Rural Library." Supervised by **Dr. Mark Skinner**, Amber's thesis is "aimed at understanding the experiences of older library volunteers, examining the challenges of a rural library volunteer program and exploring how they contribute to rural community sustainability." Using surveys, interviews, and focus groups, Amber's thesis endeavors to "contribute to our understanding [of] the complexity of rural aging and provides recommendations for ways to sustain library volunteer programs."

Visiting Scholars

The Centre continues to attract scholars from around the world to study with our membership.

We're delighted to host **Vera Gallistl**, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology, at the University of Vienna, Austria, for a few weeks starting at the end of July to work on a project with Dr. Barb Marshall. Ms. Gallistl's project focuses on theorizing socio-gerontechnology. **Dr. Anna Wanka**, post-doctoral researcher at the Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, will visit at the same time as Ms. Gallistl to work on the same project with **Dr. Marshall**.

Dr. Outi Hakola, university lecturer in North American Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland will join us in August. This is Dr. Hakola's second visit to Trent University; this time she's staying for nearly a year of work on a project that focuses on hospice care documentaries and their portrayal of end-of-life issues.

Visiting Scholars Con't

Dr. Janine Wiles, associate professor in the School of Population Health at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, will arrive in September for six months of work on research writing projects as well as the development of a collaborative research project in the field of rural aging with Dr. Mark Skinner.

If you know someone who wishes to come to Trent University to study with one of our scholars, please get in touch. We would be happy to work with you to make it happen.

Upcoming (in Brief)

TrentAging2019

The second joint international conference of the North American and European Networks in Aging Studies hosted by TCAS is

Take Back Aging

Power, Critique, Imagination

The second joint conference of the North American and European Networks in Aging Studies hosted by the Trent Centre for Aging & Society



TRENT AGING 2019

MAY 28-31, 2019
Trent University
Peterborough, Canada

set to happen May 28 to 31 in 2019. Titled *Take Back Aging: Power, Critique, Imagination* we look forward to welcoming scholars across disciplines from around the world.

Much more information will be forthcoming over the course of the 2018/2019 academic year. In the meantime, have a look at the [website](#).

International Federation on Ageing 14th Global Conference on Ageing

TCAS members take on the IFA Conference in Toronto, August 7 and 8.

Dr. Mark Skinner will speak to "Older People Living in Rural and Remote Areas" at the *Addressing Inequalities* Summit on Tuesday, August 7.

Wednesday, August 8, TCAS researchers are the focus of an afternoon long symposium titled *Rural Aging Communities – Policies, Practices, Discourses*. **Drs. Mark Skinner, Elizabeth Russell, and Rachel Herron**, as well as MA graduate **Amber Colibaba**, and undergraduate student **Kara Rutherford** will all participate.

Katz Distinguished Visiting Scholar

We're very pleased to announce that **Dr. Amanda Grenier**, professor, Gilbrea Chair in Aging & Mental Health, Chair of Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging will be our distinguished Katz scholar this year. Amanda will deliver a public talk on October 10, 2018. More details to follow.

In Closing

Walk for Alzheimer's

Once again, the Centre was pleased to support the Walk for Alzheimer's. This year's edition took place on May 26 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Trent University and the TCAS team raised nearly \$500.

Dr. Elizabeth Russell stepped in for our director to welcome all the walkers to this year's event on a gloriously hot and sunny day.

The Alzheimer Society of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland & Haliburton is a valued community partner and the Alzheimer Society more broadly, is an important supporter of aging research. Thank you to everyone who donated to the TCAS team's effort!



Dr. Elizabeth Russell opens the Investors Group Walk for Alzheimer's

New Arrival!

Sincere congratulations to Centre member and MA candidate, Heidi Burns and her family, on the safe arrival of William Dane Burns-Rogers, born June 8th at 7:36 am. He weighed 9lbs, 10oz! Heidi says, "I want to extend a gchi-Miigwech, huge thank you to all of you for your guidance, support, good work and of course all the laughs over the course of my last two terms of graduate school and my pregnancy! I'm on leave now but look so forward to seeing you all in the coming months."



William Dane Burns-Rogers

CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU THINK



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