

ESPRIT



Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities/L'Association d'Ottawa-Carleton pour personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle

Spring/Summer 2001

Executive Director's Report

Since the last edition of Esprit, OCAPDD has continued to be involved in many activities and initiatives involving services to individuals living with a developmental disability.

The MCSS 'Foundations Initiative' discussed in my last article has continued to unfold. OCAPDD developed an advisory committee made up of volunteers from many sectors of the community. Members included representatives from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, parents, OCAPDD Board Member, City of Gloucester, Algonquin College, OCAPDD staff, CUPE and OCAPDD management. While the debate and discussion was often vigorous and animated, the group was able to develop what we considered a strong submission. Unfortunately, OCAPDD's proposal was not selected for funding. However, two other submissions from Ottawa were successful in being selected for funding. As a result, Ottawa projects received \$695,000, or 11.6% of the \$6 million provincial allocation announced in 2000.

During December, OCAPDD received the arbitration award to settle the long-standing issue of the expired collective agreement with its' unionized employees. The award issued a significant increase in the wages paid to employees. This increase has appeared to have a positive impact on the organization's ability to recruit employees, along with reducing overtime costs. The Board of Directors will remain vigilant on this matter, as funding from the Ministry has been received, however it is only confirmed on a month-by-month basis.

(continued on page 5)

Petro-Canada Giveaway



For a two-week period during January, residents of the Greater Toronto and Ottawa areas participated in a Petro-Canada Campaign to help warm the hearts and hands of thousands of people in need in our communities. During this time, when a Petro-Canada customer filled up with Winter Gas, a portion of every fill-up went to the purchase of red mittens. Petro-Canada then approached United Way Agencies in Ottawa with a donation of 400 pairs.

Technology THANKS to TAPP & Nortel



This year OCAPDD and TAPP (The Anti-Poverty Project) embarked upon a pilot project. To date, TAPP has supplied 18 computers and software for clients in both group homes and day programs, to help them develop new skills.

The Nortel Networks Community Volunteers have donated \$400.00 to allow for the purchase of 2 special computer tables and have also donated three computers to help us in our computer project.

Our goal is to have computers set-up in all of our programs and homes.

In This Issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| President's Message | 2 |
| Let's Dance..... | 3 |
| Golf Anyone?..... | 4 |
| Summer Picnic..... | 5 |
| 2001 Ontario Budget Announcement | 5 |



Christmas Gift-Wrap



The 2000 Christmas Gift-Wrap Project was our most successful, generating more than \$10,400.00. Over 300 volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the community assisted us in exceeding our goal of \$10,000.00. Together they provided over three thousand hours of their time. Special thanks to Pepe Moreno-Arzac and Natalia de Savigny for all the time and effort given to the Association.

Fiddle & Step Contest



This year's annual Fiddle & Step Contest was a huge success. The Knights of Columbus Luke Hart Council raised more than \$4,000.00 in February. The contributions made to OCAPDD from the Council over the past 14 years have exceeded \$75,000.00.

Delegation From Japan

OCAPDD was pleased to host a delegation from the Shimizu Foundation. This Foundation was created in 1966. Its main purpose is the promotion of welfare for persons/children with physical and mental disabilities. The foundation started the first subsidized activities for facilities for developmentally disabled people/children and persons with severe mental and physical disabilities in 1967. To meet the needs of the times, the foundation added a program of sending trainees abroad in 1982. The delegation was presented with an overview of our organization and later visited the Horticultural Plant Maintenance Program.

Kudo's

To Sun Microsystems who rolled up their sleeves and provided us with over thirty-two volunteers in April of 2001. They cleaned, plastered and painted their way through Ahearn, Moffatt and the Loeb Center for four days. Special thanks to Stephanie Malo and Shawn Cohoon from Sun Microsystems who helped make it all happen.

President's Message...

The past year has been a very busy year for the Board of Directors of the Association. As was reported at last year's Annual General Meeting, during the development of a strategic plan for the new millennium, the Board recognized that a change was needed in the governance of the organization, given the changes and tremendous growth that had occurred over the past ten years. After much research of alternative models, debate and discussion, a commitment was made to adopt and implement the Policy Governance Model.

As a result, we have revised the Mission Statement and are proposing changes to the By-Laws at this year's AGM in order to conform to the Policy Governance Model and position the Association for future development. With the approval of these changes work will proceed to fully implement the Model. There is still much work to be done, however once the Model is implemented the Board will direct its energies to long-term planning and strategic direction for the agency.

Over the past year, our sector has seen a return of some of the funding that was lost in the previous years. This was a welcomed change and assisted the Association to move forward. However, given the recent announcements from the Provincial Government that balancing budgets and fiscal restraint are again front and centre on their agenda, we will need to be diligent and continue to speak out for increases in the level of funding provided to the developmental services sector.

In keeping with the need for the Board to maintain links with other service agencies in the sector, the President and the Executive Director have attended joint meetings of the Executive Directors and Board Presidents of various agencies in Ottawa. These meetings resulted in a commitment to work with the five provincial organizations that make up the 'Provincial Network', to develop a united campaign around the issue of resources in the sector. Hopefully, as this initiative grows, a more concerted message will be sent to the Government and our Members of the Legislative Assembly that our sector needs the resources to recruit and retain qualified, experienced and committed staff to meet the needs of our clients.

(continued on page 4)

Let's Dance



The Loeb Centre for Vocational Training has been holding community dances for people with developmental disabilities on a regular basis for over 22 years.

About once a month, the Trainee Committee, composed of elected representatives of the Loeb Centre client body, along with a number of dedicated volunteers decorate the cafeteria and stock up on drinks and snacks. Usually on a Saturday night, they open the Centre doors to over 100 people who kick-up their heels and get down to some serious Rock & Roll.

This Saturday night hot spot provides a rich meeting place for individuals to dress up, win prizes, dance up a storm, snack-out and take in a little Saturday Night Hockey on TV. The money raised from admission fees and selling snacks is used to support many worthwhile causes. At the Loeb Centre the Committee has purchased a number of items to enhance our Program such as a television, VCR, microwave, exercise equipment and other furnishings. Locally, the funds have supported the United Way, Shepherds of Good Hope, The Well, and a building fund for a local church. Further afield, the Trainee Committee has generously contributed to help victims of floods in Manitoba, Québec and Honduras, the Ice Storm of Eastern Ontario and the earthquake in India.

Our current cast of volunteers is led by Loeb Centre staff members Diane Belair, Laura Mulligan, Jill McKnight, Ann Marie Bloom, Kevin Lamont, April Dodge and Joe Silverman. Great music is provided by our volunteer DJ's, Tanya & Kirk Leclair, known as the *Loebites*. Along with an ad hoc group of family, former staff and friends, these volunteers provide the energy and support we need to carry these good times forward for years to come.

Finally, ... a Tip o' the Hat to all the past and present volunteers who have made these dances possible over these many years and to our former DJ's like Jim Higgs, Rick Smith, Mike Gilbert and Blair & Company. Thank you so much and ROCK ON!

Joe Silverman, Loeb Centre Supervisor

I Volunteer

An evening of celebration, friendship and acknowledgement was held on April 24, 2001 at the Loeb Center. **I Volunteer - The Value of One the Power of Many** was the theme for this year's Volunteer recognition evening. Twenty-year awards were given to Joe Silverman, Ann Smith and Edmund Haines. A fifteen-year award went to Tanya Leclair and ten-year awards to Jill McKnight, Kirk Leclair, Bernadette Hendrickx, and Jack Fraser. Celebrating five years were: Barbara Bell, Sharif Ali, Sarah Rado, April Dodge, Anna Silverman, Diane Belair, Laura Mulligan, Kevin Lamont, Ann Marie Bloom, Francis Bloom, and Grace Theriault.

Volunteering is an exchange. Volunteering may have an element of self-interest, desire to meet new people, develop skills, work experience, whatever, but it is always targeted at making a difference. The scope of volunteering is huge and the diversity of OCAPDD volunteers is vast. It ranges from developing a web page, to designing a new brochure, to one on one support, and painting. We are so fortunate.

OCAPDD volunteers donated almost nine thousand hours of their time last year.

We are very grateful to all our volunteers for their tireless efforts, time and dedication.

Debbie Blasutti, Coordinator of Volunteers

Have Some Spare Time?

Be a Leisure Friend to a Senior

Volunteers are needed to accompany seniors to participate in activities in the community.

Be a One to One Volunteer or a Community Friend

Matched with a person with a developmental disability in order to spend leisure time together. This may include going to a movie, sporting event, walks, or quiet time together. The possibilities are endless.

For more information contact our Coordinator of Volunteers, Debbie Blasutti at (613) 569-8993, extension 243.

Global Youth Day – April 21, 2001



*This may come as a surprise, but youth volunteers don't expect much in return for their vast contributions of time and effort!

Whether it is for the joy of volunteering, gaining valuable life experience, for the purpose of having something to put on a resume or for just meeting new people, most volunteers are simply content to take the time to help others.

“Volunteering should be something you want and like to do. This is essential to encouraging volunteerism among youth,” explains Emily, a grade 11 student. *

On April 21, 2001 OCAPDD was fortunate to receive seventeen youth volunteers between the ages of thirteen and eighteen who washed, scrubbed, cleaned, raked and painted their way through Campbell, Charette, and Moffatt House. They were students from Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa, Merivale Interact Club and l'Ecole secondaire publique Louis-Riel.

It is important that we reach out to youth and to find volunteer positions that are suited to youth interests and skills. Take a moment and consider ways in which youth can be a part of your program. Talk to the youth in the community and discover what might be their interests. If you have ideas or suggestions, pass them on to your Coordinator of Volunteers.

* from Volunteer Canada

Golf Anyone?

OCAPDD's First Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5th at Les Vieux Moulins Golf Course in Aylmer. Come join the fun and entertainment with our MC “Stuntman Stu” from The Bear. The Dinner and Silent Auction will be held at the Aylmer Marina.

We only need 20 more foursomes to achieve our fundraising goal.

Don't golf? Join us for dinner. See insert for more details and on how to register.

See you there!



Special People – Special Actions

A few years ago, at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back...every one of them. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, “This will make it better.” Then they all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why?

Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.

“A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle”

President's Message...

(continued from page 2)

Our links with OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs) continues to be strong. Presently Mary Frances Taylor, a member of our Board of Directors, is Vice President of OASIS, and David A. Ferguson is Chair of the Labour Relations Committee. OASIS has been active in bringing to the attention of Government and our MPP's the serious financial and operational issues that affect the viability of agencies in the developmental services sector. Several meetings have been held with the Minister and senior Public Servants around issues such as the staffing crisis, budgets and other matters of concern to all agencies.

As the year 2001 has been designated the **International Year of Volunteers**, the Board extends a heartfelt thank you to all those dedicated volunteers who have made and continue to make a vital contribution to the clients and our organization.

Hope to see you at the AGM.

Margaret Matheson, OCAPDD President

Executive Director's Report

(continued from page 1)

OCAPDD has remained active within OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special needs). One of these was the preparation and participation in making a presentation to the Provincial Government's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in February. This presentation was made as part of the Committee's provincial pre-budget consultation. The focus of the presentation was on the need for further resources for our sector. The full presentation can be accessed via the OASIS website at: www.dhagencies.on.ca, or by contacting myself at the OCAPDD Office.

As you are likely aware, 2001 is the **International Year of the Volunteer**. Please join us in celebrating the contributions made by the numerous individuals and groups who volunteer their time and efforts to the Association.

I would also like to personally invite you to participate in OCAPDD's charity Golf Tournament on June 5th. Whether you are a scratch golfer, or a duffer like most of us, your participation in the event is welcome. Non-golfers are also welcome to join us for just the dinner and silent auction in the evening as well. Details on how to register are included later in Esprit. I hope to see you there.

Finally, this is also the time of year for Annual General Meetings. This year OCAPDD's will be held on June 20th, again at the RA Center.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

David A. Ferguson, Executive Director

Summer Picnic

The annual picnic will be held on Sunday, August 19, 2001 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Vincent Massey Park.

Come join us for a day of fun in the sun!



2001 Ontario Budget Announcement



As you are likely aware, the Ontario Budget was announced last week.

The following are excerpts from the 2001 Ontario Budget presented by The Honourable James Flaherty, Minister of Finance, May 9, 2001.

"Mr. Speaker, it is a priority for this government to care for the most vulnerable people in our society. Supporting our most vulnerable people is, perhaps, the most responsible thing we can do. It is our duty as a government."

"Aging parents of adult children with development disabilities should not have to worry about where their children will live when they are gone, or who will provide for them when they no longer can."

"Mr. Speaker, I am confident that every member of this House has encountered families in this very difficult situation. We can only begin to understand the challenges they face."

"That is why I am announcing that we will invest \$67 million over five years to construct new facilities for adults with developmental disabilities. In addition, we will provide \$55 million this year, growing to nearly \$200 million by 2006-07, to enhance services for people with developmental disabilities and attract more quality caregivers. We recognize that these dedicated workers deserve our support."

Répit (un programme francophone)

Ce programme procure du repos aux familles qui viennent en aide aux personnes (enfants et ou adultes) ayant une déficience intellectuelle afin que ces derniers puissent vivre dans leur milieu familial aussi longtemps que possible. Il aide aussi à promouvoir l'indépendance chez la personne.

Le programme offre des sessions de dix jours. Ces sessions peuvent varier selon les besoins de chaque famille. Une session pour adultes et une session pour enfants est offerte une fois par mois.

OCAPDD's 2001 Charity Golf Tournament

Tuesday, June 5th

The Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities will be holding their First Annual Golf Tournament at Les Vieux Moulins Golf Course in Aylmer, one of the regions newest and most picturesque golf courses.

Arrival & Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and the first tee-off time will be at 11:30 a.m. The Dinner and Silent Auction will be held at the Aylmer Marina at 7:00 p.m.

The cost is \$95.00 per person and includes a green fee, power cart, lots of prizes and dinner (fabulous BBQ'd Steaks) followed by a silent auction. For those of you who wish to attend **only** the dinner the cost is \$35.00 per person.

To register please complete the attached form and send it with your method of payment to:

OCAPDD Golf Tournament
Attention: Jocelyne Parent Lewis
880 Wellington Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6K7

or by fax at (613) 569-9865

or by email at jplewis@ocapdd.on.ca

If you would like to be a sponsor, donate prizes or would like to simply obtain more information, please contact Jocelyne Parent Lewis at (613) 569-8993, extension 245.

Dust off your golf clubs and do it Fore OCAPDD.

All the proceeds will go towards the benefit of the Association.

REGISTRATION FORM

OCAPDD'S 2001 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Golfer's Names:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Team Name: _____ (if applicable)

Amount: \$ _____

Payment must be received by June 1, 2001

Credit Card: Visa ____ MC ____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card # : _____

Expiry Date : _____

Please make cheques payable to:

OCAPDD Golf Tournament

Attention: Jocelyne Parent Lewis
Director of Community Resources
880 Wellington Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6K7

If you need further information you may contact me by:

Fax: (613) 569-9865

Tel: (613) 569-8993, extension 245

Email at jplewis@ocapdd.on.ca

Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

YES! I want to show my support for persons with developmental disabilities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home phone: (____) ____-____ Business: (____) ____-____ Fax: (____) ____-____

Email Address: _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2001-2002: Renewal New Membership

Voting Member:

- Single (\$15.00)
- Client (\$5.00)
- Family (\$25.00)

Non-voting (Associate) Member:

- Organization (\$20.00)
- Staff (\$15.00)

*Membership entitles you to receive OCAPDD mailings.

I would like to volunteer.

DONATION OPTIONS:

A. I would like to make a gift of: \$50 \$75 \$100 Other: _____

I would like to pay by _____:

- CHEQUE (enclosed) Please make your cheque payable to OCAPDD.
- VISA _____

Card Number Expiry Date Cardholder's Signature

You will receive an income tax receipt for your donation.

B. I would like to join the monthly giving club: \$5 \$10 \$20 Other: _____

I would like to pay by:

- 12 Post dated cheques (enclosed). Please make cheques payable to OCAPDD.
- VISA _____

Card Number Expiry Date Cardholder's Signature

- Pre-authorized monthly payment plan.

I have included a void cheque showing my chequing account details.

I authorize OCAPDD to make monthly withdrawals for my account. _____

Signature

Your donation will be withdrawn from your bank account or charged to your VISA on the 1st of each month. You may change or cancel your monthly gift at any time by calling or writing. You will receive a tax receipt each December.