



Esprit Newsletter

Spring/Summer Edition 2005

*Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons
with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD)*

*Association d'Ottawa-Carleton pour personnes
ayant une déficience intellectuelle (AOCPI)*

What's been happening in our Programs

RAYMOND ROCKBURN WINS GOLD AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Raymond Rockburn wins gold at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2005. Raymond Rockburn, long time employee with OCAPDD, won the men's singles Level 2 gold medal at the Special Olympics World Games, which are the highest level of competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The Games, which involved 2500 athletes from 80 countries, ran from February 26 to March 5 in Nagano, Japan. Raymond was one of 72 athletes competing for Canada and at 54 years old, he was the oldest figure skater among 106 skaters in 27 divisions.

Raymond's freeskate program consisted of elementary elements, including crosscuts, circle pumps, spirals, leg drags and sculling. His costume resembled that of Lord of the Rings character Frodo and he skated to a 90 second music clip from "The Lord of the Rings" sound track.

Raymond became interested in figure skating after being introduced to the sport by a friend more than five years ago. Until then, Raymond had been an avid bowler for more than twenty years. Raymond often shared stories with his colleagues at the Quinlan Centre, where he works part time, about the long hours of training, the resulting stiff muscles, his many spills and falls, how he admired Canadian champions, Kurt Browning and Brian Orser, but most of all, he talked about how he felt he "could do it". Last year he won the Canadian Special Olympics men's Level 1 title in Charlottetown.



Ray's co-workers and friends from Loeb & Quinlan

Before leaving for the World Games, Ray's co-workers and friends of the Quinlan Centre and the Loeb Centre got together for cake and coffee, and a "Good Luck Send Off". Raymond promised that he would do his best and not let anyone down.

Congratulations Raymond, Well Done.

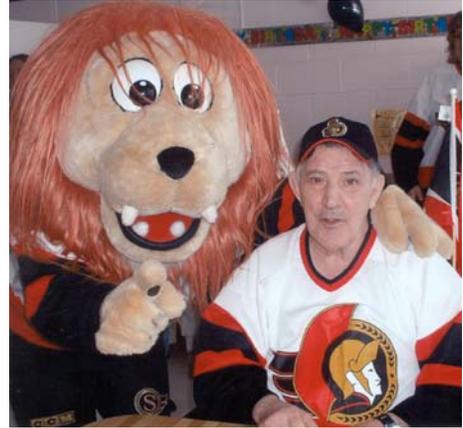
By: Ann-Marie Engelberts-Cousineau

Rosenthal Celebrates with Spartacat

On March 11th, Rosenthal Services was a sea of black, red and white with it being "Ottawa Senators Day". It was also a very special day for Clarence Hamelin who celebrated his 80th birthday. As everyone entered the cafeteria for Clarence's birthday party, Spartacat made a special surprise appearance.

Spartacat brought special birthday greetings and gifts for Clarence, as well as posters, postcards and pins for everyone. A fun afternoon was had by all!

By: Lesley Goudge



Clarence Hamelin



Dennis Stewart

We have a Celebrity in our midst!

Dennis Stewart, an individual being served by our CSS program, was chosen to be interviewed by Alex Munter of the Ottawa Citizen, regarding how positive his "post Rideau Regional" years have been. The article ran in the Saturday edition of the Citizen, February 28th, 2005. Dennis beamed when a doctor recognized him and commented on his new celebrity status. Go Dennis!!

We received special permission from the Ottawa Citizen to use his photograph, taken by their photographer Bruno Schlumberger, in Dennis's home.

By: Lisa Babineau

Familyhome

Over the last two years, the Familyhome Program has evolved both in scope and approach. The growth in the Program's staff to seven members has allowed for a more effective team approach. Most notably, staff can more easily divide into sub-work groups made up of two or three members. The seven staff members meet regularly to share experience of the work groups and provide feedback to each other.

This new work approach has been successful in increasing the recruitment of both Familyhome Providers and Familyhome Sharers. We have also seen an increase in the number of Respite Familyhomes. This is a much-needed resource for our present Familyhome Providers, some of whom have been loyal to their Sharers and our program for more than ten years.

We have celebrated one first anniversary of a successful Familyhome placement of two challenged individuals, formerly in the terminated OVAH program. In this vein, we are also, in the process of

developing a means to support TAY's (Transitional Aged Youth). TAY's are individuals who have a developmental disability and who are turning 18 years of age.

Our program is always on the outlook for training opportunities for Familyhome Providers to better equip them to support their Sharers. We have offered some training opportunities and we are currently in the process of standardized training for our Providers.

We, at the Familyhome Program, are always on the lookout for opportunities and prepared to invest the time necessary to see the most promising of these through to fruition. Also, we view the various components of the Familyhome program as being a valuable resource. With this in mind, we are planning to meet several times during the year both, to plan and take part in fun activities, in addition to sessions to address serious agenda items.



Sleigh ride and chili feast, February 2005



Sleigh ride, February 2005

The Familyhome newsletter will be published, in three issues annually. We encourage program members, participants and associates to share information about community resources and personal experiences that other members will find helpful.

Some of you are aware that we have a roving cameraman, Neil Carroll, in our midst. Neil, a cameraman from the CBC is volunteering his expertise to spend a few months making a video to tell the story about our program. Special thanks go out to Neil for his generosity and to those members who have agreed to participate in the video. This video will be used primarily to help with recruitment. A copy of the video will be placed on our website, along with a copy of our latest newsletter.

For further information about the Familyhome Program, please contact our office at (613) 569-8993 extension 232.

By: Ann Schulz



New Look!

We've updated our logo and Web Site.
Have a look at www.ocapdd.on.ca

Upcoming Events

Annual Picnic

OCAPDD's Annual Picnic and BBQ will be held on Sunday, June 26th, 2005 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Vincent Massey Park, Sections M, N, O and P. Join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter... we will have a Dunk Tank among other activities!



Mayor's Walk for Volunteerism

Start planning for the next Mayor's Walk for volunteerism on September 10, 2005. Walkers needed – all proceeds go to the Watercolour, Arts, Music and Mixed Medium (WAMM). For more information, please contact Debbie Blasutti at 569-8993, extension 243.

Annual General Meeting

OCAPDD's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. The AGM will again be held at the RA Center, beginning at 7:00 pm. The AGM's main purpose is for the Board of Directors to report on the last year's activities and propose a course for the future.

Have you renewed your Membership?

If you haven't renewed your yearly membership which expired March 31, 2005, there's still time. Just complete the membership renewal insert and send it in! You may also submit your membership renewal directly on our Web Site at www.ocapdd.on.ca!



Recipes Needed

The Volunteers on the United Way Committee are putting together a cookbook to be released in October to help raise money for the United Way Campaign. Please forward your favourite recipes to dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca or smoore@ocapdd.on.ca by July 31, 2005.

Donate your Books

Looking for that something to help you through the summer? Check out our Summer Book Sale! Wednesday, June 29, 2005 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at OCAPDD's Administration Offices, 250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 200.

All proceeds to WAMM (Watercolour, Arts, Music and Mixed Medium) The Arts program for persons with Developmental Disabilities.



Please forward all book donations to Debbie Blasutti, OCAPDD, 250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 200, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6K7.



RUN FOR ROSENTHAL

Rosenthal Services has been fundraising since January for funds to be put towards leisure programs and activities. We have had a successful Craft and Bake Sale in March, and have also sold Vesey's Bulbs and Seeds. These fundraising endeavours have generated much needed funds, but none so much as our "Run for Rosenthal" event. Rosenthal instructor Sharon Skerritt will be running in the National Capital Marathon, on May 29, 2005. The marathon is a gruelling 42 kms, and Sharon has been training and collecting pledges for months. To date, she and other staff have raised \$1,300! Sharon hopes to finish the marathon in 4 to 4 & 1/2 hours, and is hoping for a beautiful, cool spring day. We wish Sharon all the best. WAY TO GO SHARON! For more details or to make a donation please contact Rosenthal Services at (613) 728-2603.

By: Lesley Goudge

The Greens Are Ready, Are You?

Now that the snow is all gone and the sunshine is here, OCAPDD is hosting its 5th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 20th, 2005 at the Hautes Plaines Golf Club.



Come join us for the full event or just for dinner. Our MC this year is Brad Dryden from "The BEAR's" morning show, who is sure to make you laugh. Again this year we will be hosting a putting contest, raffle and silent auction. Our goal is to have 32 foursomes. Come and play, remember... a bad day on a sunny golf course is better than a good day at the office.

This is a great day to spend time with a few friends, cousins, mom, dad and even your boss! It also makes a great Father's Day gift!

Please see the insert for more details and on how to register. Or visit our Web Site at www.ocapdd.on.ca and register on-line!

Up for a Challenge?

Can anyone beat this team?

They have been the winning team for 3 consecutive years... come take the NUMBER 1 spot and golf is on us the following year!!!

For more details please contact Jocelyne Parent Lewis at (613) 569-8993 extension 245.



Ken Arsenault, Robert Trépanier, Dr. Julien Parent and Marcel Legris

Annual Staff Recognition Evening

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

7 p.m. to Midnight

Hors d'oeuvres, desserts and refreshments will be served

Dance to follow Presentations

Casual Dress

Britannia Yacht Club

2777 Cassels Street

All employees planning to attend the evening
are asked to RSVP to Melody Portugie @ 569-8993 ext. 261
by June 1, 2005

Service Awards will be presented to the
following employees to recognize their years of service with the agency:

35 years
Janet O'Connor

30 years
André Dupuis

25 Years
Tom Gillespie
Claudette Lauzier

20 Years
Frances Bloom
Roland Collins
David Nowlan
Jennifer Pavone
Ken Shepherd

15 Years
Mark Andrews
Trevor Costello
Christine Connolly
Carole Lalonde
Tim Miles
Terry Mulligan
Tammy Norrie
Sharon Skerritt

10 Years
Debbie Blasutti
Patrick Duvert

Nicolle Matheson
10 Years (continued)
Christa Prudhomme
Ilona Ramsay
Dan Roy
Alain St-Jean
John Walker

5 Years
Soraya Allibhai
Stephanie Ambrose
Angela Arp
Judy Bernstein
Matthew Bouchard
Anne Cole
Kari Cryderman
Tara English
Jennifer Hall
Liz Hernandez
Michelle Hupe
Veronique Joannis
Angela Jones
Joanna Mietkowska
Sharon Mitchell
Patricia Morris
Jocelyne Parent Lewis
Ilde Pascucci
Judith Phaneuf
Doug Suykens

Anne Welling

Mike Wert

Relief Staff Being Recognized:

5 Years

Janet Bailey
Don Cameron
Ariane Discombe
Melanie Doiron
Ricole Elce
Nikki Farquhar
Gloria Farrell
Evelyn Forrest
Alain Gelinas
Fayez Ghanem
Terri Howard
Clifford Logan
Bonnie Pattingale
Melissa Saunders
Michael Schonfeldt
Michelle Sharma
Darlene Sloan

5 Years (continued)

Carole Sutton
Karen Walker
Angela Wilkes
Jennifer Williams

10 Years

Kolleen Frauzel
David Watts

15 Years

Colleen Bingley
Larry McNeely

25 Years

Jocelyne Fortin

**All employees planning to attend the evening
are asked to RSVP to Melody Portugie @ 569-8993 ext. 261
by June 1, 2005**

Annual Christmas Party



Our annual Christmas Party was a great success with over 400 clients, staff and parents attending our great yearly Gala! Once again the agency offered subsidization to all of OCAPDD's individuals which increased the participation and was a very positive venture. Judging from various comments from clients, staff and family members, the new venue is proving to be the best arrangement for all. The tastefully decorated hall, sit-down dinner, dancing and many door prizes set the ambiance for the festive season.

A special 'thank you' to Janet O'Connor, JoAnne Harvey, Kate de Lanux, Nicole Houle, Claudette Clost and Sylvie Moore, members of the committee for making this event possible. We would also like to thank our Local, CUPE 1521 for the generous contribution from which we were able to purchase many door prizes for our clients. As well, a big thank you to all the businesses whose generosity was very much appreciated. We would also like to recognize and thank our Management Team for supporting this special event.

The St. Elias Centre was the place to be on November 26th, 2004 and we hope that you will join us this year at the same location on December 2nd, 2005. A poster with all details will be available this Fall for all programs. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Sylvie Moore at (613) 569-8993, extension 251 or Claudette



Clost at (613) 569-8893, extension 236.

Specials thanks goes to...

CMHC Funding and RRAP Grants

Over the years the repair of our homes has deteriorated as funding was diverted from repair lines to operational issues. This is a common problem across our sector as funding is constantly being stretched to provide the services to the individuals we serve.

In the fall of 2003 OCAPDD teamed up with Stewart & Associates to submit applications to CMHC for 14 group homes under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) offered by CMHC. The grants were to provide a variety of repairs and upgrades to our homes such as washroom renovations, Fire Code upgrades, and Health & Safety issues, floor repairs, heating upgrades, windows, roof repairs, kitchen renovations and wheelchair accessibility. In early 2004 CMHC approved over \$270,000 in repairs to 7 of our group homes through the RRAP programs. The repairs started in the summer of 2004 and with a lot of patience on the part of those who had to live through the renovations, they were completed in March 2005.

There are many stories that can be told of how these repairs have helped improve the quality of life for those individuals who live in the homes. One particular situation comes to mind, Gerry and Mark who live at the Ahearn group home and are both confined to wheelchairs and find it difficult to get out and enjoy the yard. The CMHC funding has enabled us to put french doors from the living room onto a new deck in the back yard. Mark and Gerry now have access to the yard. They can enjoy BBQ's and other activities with the rest of the group. We have recently received approval from CMHC to go ahead with repairs to some of our other homes. We hope to start the work there by summer of 2005.



Mark enjoying the fresh air on the deck!

By: Chris Allen

Thanks to donations

It is with sincere appreciation that OCAPDD acknowledges George, Kathy and Irene Brown and the congregation of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament for their ongoing fundraising efforts beginning in October 2003. Over \$4,500 was raised by the congregation and donated to Ratan Residence towards the purchase of an Arjo Alenti lift chair. Substantial donations were also received from Rose Gagné, Holy Cross Church, The Willow Group, Anne Harcourt and Jim Tubman Motors. The lift was purchased in May 2004 and serves to improve the quality of support to Ratan clients.



Ratan Staff & Clients with the new Alenti lift chair.

By: Cheryl Lapointe



2004 Christmas Gift Wrap

This past Christmas Gift Wrap Project was again a success. Thanks to all of those who volunteered their time we generated more than \$8,500. The weather was not on our side on a couple of days, which resulted in our proceeds being less than the previous year.

Members from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and many other volunteers assisted us in this great annual event.

People from year to year come back to get their gifts wrapped and support OCAPDD.

We would like to convey our special thanks to Simon Arsenault, Bill Campbell and Natalia de Savigny for their continuous time and effort they have provided us for this special event. We would not be able to do this without these special caring people.

By: Jocelyne Parent Lewis

Congratulations to the following Volunteers for their Mile Stones

25 Years

Joe Silverman
Ed Haines

15 Years

Bernadette Hendrickx
Kirk Leclair
Kate de Lanux

5 Years

Phyllis Baillie
Tracey Charles
Gates Cooney
Chantal Jacques
Angela Jones
George Tuskovich
Martina Methot

10 Years

April Dodge
Diane Belair

President and Executive Director Reports

President's Report

This has been a challenging year for the Board of Directors for a host of reasons. First, the efforts to change some of the by-laws and Letters Patent to address turn-over, renewal of Board members, and Board composition were partially stalled when the membership rejected some of the changes at the Annual General Meeting last fall. Complications arising from this led to a decision to not push ahead with new Board recruitment at that juncture. This decision in turn resulted in a call for a Special General Meeting from some of the Membership. The Board was initially slow to take up this call as a number of procedural and other challenges, also arising from the discussions at the AGM, and raised by the Board itself, required clarification before the Special Meeting could go ahead. By the time these were sorted out by late fall, other matters had overtaken the agenda, notably the Operational Review, and the Ministry's position regarding funding. The Board apologizes for the delay in calling the Special Meeting but it was faced with escalating uncertainty almost by the week following the AGM, inclusive of growing financial pressures. We anticipate that the Operational Review, launched in response to this growing list of pressures, will provide the Board with a framework for dealing with these numerous, often conflicting issues.

The Board of Directors received the report from the Operational Review on May 10th. There are many recommendations, ranging from governance to service delivery to human resources and finance. The Board has a lot to consider and will do so step-by-step through intensive weekly meetings over the next two months, including meeting with representatives of MCSS. After a full Board review and deliberation, the results will be presented at a meeting in late June. Once again, we apologize for this long delay but ask members indulgence and participation as we deal with the many weighty issues that the Operational Review raises.

On behalf of the Board, I want to wish you all a pleasant summer ahead.

William Cowie

Executive Director's Report

As I was preparing to write this article, I began by reviewing some of my articles from previous editions. It is somewhat saddening and frustrating, although not surprising, that many of the messages that I wish to share with you have not changed in a substantive manner since my last report (or two...).

The Transformation Initiative process has continued, however the 'final report' or policy document has not been finalized at this point. Obviously the previously announced broad public consultation this spring will not occur. The Ministry remains committed to this consultation however. I am now anticipating that the process will not occur until the Fall of '05. Between November and March, as part of this process, the Ministry jointly hosted six 'professional forums'. The members of the Partnership Table each assisted in hosting these events, held in Toronto. The topics included: Specialized Services; Residential Options; Citizenship and Advocacy; Quality Assurance; Strengthening and Supporting Families; and, Funding Models. The input from these sessions is to be incorporated into the transformation process, along with the input from the submissions received in November by the Ministry. OCAPDD's representative to OASIS, George Braithwaite, has been an active participant in this process, and we are grateful for his perspectives and contributions.

While there was no specific mention of Developmental Services in the Ontario Budget announced recently, there was an increase in the budget of MCSS. Although the lack of mention is a concern, the sector is monitoring what the MCSS increase may be allocated for. For ease of monitoring, I would suggest the MCSS website at: <http://www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/default.htm> as any announcement from the Minister is posted there within hours of her speech.

Similarly, Ernie Parsons, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister, has been tasked with preparing a report on developmental services within the Province. The report has apparently been prepared, and is with the Minister's Office. I would anticipate that it will make many suggestions that will either dovetail with, or give direction to the final transformation report. Apparently Mr. Parsons met with over 800 families across the Province during the past several months to gather feedback for his report. He did not meet with any representative of organizations or Boards of Directors however.

As mentioned in the President's Report, the Operational Review that OCAPDD was involved in during the past few months has been a major focus for both the Board and Management Team. The consultants all commented on how 'well received' they were when meeting with individuals, teams or visiting programs. I would like to thank all of the staff who assisted the consultants with their task, and also everyone who participated through the focus groups and interviews.

The facility closure process has continued, but again as reported in the last ESPRIT, there are still more questions than answers for community organizations. Placement Facilitators are currently being recruited by the Ministry for each of the three facilities. While some have been hired already, it is anticipated that all of the positions will be filled by late May. The Ministry has indicated that the first individuals are scheduled to move out of the facilities in September of this year, and apparently all of the families of those currently residing in the facilities have been informed of their relatives planned departure date. At the same time, there is still organized resistance to the plan from many of the families, including a class action lawsuit having been filed, and a Private Members Bill recently being tabled in the Legislature. Each of the facilities is now producing a newsletter to update on the process. These can be viewed from the Ministry website at:
<http://www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/programs/SCS/DevelopmentalServices/Transformation/Facility/default.htm>

As I do each Spring, I would like to challenge you to join us at our Annual Golf Tournament on June 20th. This event has grown each year, and has been great fun for all participants. Even if you don't golf, please join us for the dinner and silent auction. Details on the event are included on page 5 of this ESPRIT.

I also hope that you will be able to join us at our Annual Picnic, details of which are included on page 4 of this ESPRIT.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

David A. Ferguson



We have NOT moved however, our street was renamed

Please note our new address:

250 City Centre Avenue (formerly 880 Wellington Street)

Suite 200

Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7

In Memoriam

Bob Ladouceur (April 1, 1945 – March 20, 2005)

The Loeb Centre staff were saddened to hear of the death of Bob Ladouceur. Before Bob's retirement due to illness, he had been OCAPDD's faithful and reliable driver for over 33 years. Bob would do whatever was necessary to get the job done. He was always in good humor and had a great deal of patience. He was more than willing to wait an extra couple of minutes or hurry things up whatever the situation called for... and of course Bob always had time to squeeze in a little side bet on the upcoming "big game" in Hockey, Baseball or Football. Though, in sports, Bob would often bet with his head and win (ask Joe), in his day to day life he will most be remembered as a wonderful and dear friend of the Loeb Centre.



Joe Silverman & Bob Ladouceur

By: Dawn Grant

Ken Aitken (September 29, 1952 – February 4, 2005)



Ken Aitken

“Out, out brief candle, life's but a walking shadow.”

For Ken;

To summarize a life in a single paragraph is to play a minute of a symphony. A life is too often defined by brief encounters or the word of another. I knew Ken Aitken, the decent and the mischievous. I remember his brightest and I miss his presence. I think of him when I see things and hear things and when I pass by places he's been. I say to him what he said to me so often instead of saying Goodbye; “Love ya man.”

“He was my friend, faithful and just to me.”

A friend

Linda Robillard (March 29, 1951 – January 11, 2005)

The OCAPDD Administration staff received the unexpected news of the death of Linda Robillard on January 11, 2005 after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Linda had been with the agency almost 15 years and always held the position of Payroll Administrator. Linda will be remembered by many of us for her sense of humour and her story telling. She enjoyed living in her country home and was very much involved with her church in Brockville. Shortly after Linda's receiving the news of her illness, she proudly announced that she had become a grandmother to Stephanie Linda Robillard her pride and joy. Many of us were touched by Linda's thoughtfulness and when someone was feeling a little low, Linda was always there to offer a hug. As many of us will remember, we were all "kiddos" to her. She will always be in our hearts and forever missed.



Linda Robillard

By: Claudette Clost, Sylvie Moore & Diane Vallieres

Community Newspaper Articles

Get Connected

Make Persons with Disabilities Online your access point for the latest information on disability-related programs and services at www.pwd-online.ca.

Government Benefits for ME!

Want to learn more about your benefits online?

Visit canada.gc.ca today and use the “Benefits Finder” to get a personal list of the benefits for which you may qualify. Find out more about government benefits available to you as a: parent, student, senior or person with a disability. Go to canada.gc.ca and click on “Canadians” then “Financial Benefits”.

Branchez-vous

Faites du site Personnes handicapées en direct votre référence pour l'information la plus récente sur les programmes et services offerts aux personnes handicapées au www.phendirect.ca.

Prestations gouvernementales pour MOI!

Voulez-vous en savoir plus sur les prestations en ligne?

Consultez le site canada.gc.ca et utilisez le “Chercheur de prestations” pour obtenir une liste personnelle de prestations auxquelles vous pouvez avoir le droit. Renseignez-vous sur les prestations qui vous sont offertes en tant que: parent, étudiant, personne âgée, personne handicapée. Rendez-vous au site canada.gc.ca et cliquez sur “Canadiens” puis sur “Prestations financières”.

Community Newspaper Article, *Voluntary Sector Forum, April 2005*

Imagine a reporter for a major media outlet stumbling across this story...

There is a sector of our social, cultural and economic life in Canada that, taken as a whole, offers some mind-boggling numbers. The kind of numbers that, if the sector was considered as a whole, news organizations would feel compelled to assign legions of staff to cover it in special sections of their newspapers or newscasts.

The sector was recently analyzed by Statistics Canada. The number mavens there found that if measured by its gross domestic product, or the value of the productive activity this sector generates, it accounts for almost seven percent of this country's total economy. That's 57.5 billion (yes, with a “b”) dollars. And this new analysis of the sector will be done every year, in each coming year.

To put this in perspective, in Statistics Canada words, the sector's GDP is “more than eleven times that of the motor vehicle manufacturing industry, over four times larger than agriculture, and over twice the value of the mining, oil and gas extraction industry. It is more than 50% larger than Canada's entire retail trade industry.”¹

Now consider the fact that this sector relies heavily on voluntary labour. How heavily? If all those volunteer hours were translated into full-time jobs, there would be one million of them. Add the “value” of that volunteer labour (as in, imagine if these people were paid), and this sector then accounts for nine percent of our economy.

¹ Statistics Canada: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/13-015-XIE/2004000/economic.htm>

Before you think that some big story has somehow avoided the attention of our media, it is best to let you in on what we're talking about here: the "non-profit sector." Of course the media does indeed cover this sector, bit by bit. But the media seldom looks at it as a whole.

Why is this? For one thing, few people, including many actually *in* the sector, think about it as an entity. It's easy to understand why: the non profit-sector includes hospitals, universities and colleges, as well as stream stewardship groups and foodbanks. The organizations can range from enormous institutions, through which billions of dollars pass to small community groups, from sports clubs to animal shelters, all supported by volunteer efforts. But they're all still non-profits. They are still part of Canada's identity: the idea that certain economic, cultural and social activities are undertaken -- first and foremost -- for the benefit of all Canadians, and are not driven by the need to make a profit. This activity helps define Canada, and while it's never hard to find critics, every time someone asks Canadians in a poll, we resoundingly say how much we appreciate the non-profit sector.

The scope and breadth of the non-profit sector is surprising. Just as the range of activities in, say, the manufacturing or resource industry sectors is both deep and broad, so too is what happens in the non-profit sector. Consider this: have you or someone you know recently:

- Participated in organized recreational sports?
- Received services from a program such as a visiting nurse or homecare?
- Attended the theatre, a festival or other cultural event?
- Made a donation to an organization or cause?
- Participated in a recycling or other environmental program?
- Volunteered your time for an organization or charity?
- Attended a religious service?
- Contributed to earthquake relief, international development or human rights efforts?
- Received counselling or participate in a support group?
- Used your local community centre -- the pool, soccer field, dance lessons, after school program, camp or cooking class?

Welcome to the non-profit sector!

A few years ago, a small group of leaders from some of the 161,000 non-profit organizations across Canada got together and decided it was time to start thinking as a sector, to take a close look at what non-profits do, who they touch, who they deal with, how they communicate and how they can simply do what they do better. The result was a groundbreaking federally-supported effort called the Voluntary Sector Initiative.

The VSI has toiled away out of sight for years, and that's a shame, because its work affects millions of Canadians. Across the country, there are two million people working in this sector, delivering services and programming, and advocating for policies that make our lives better. In addition to the paid workers, there are thousands upon thousands of Canadian who volunteer for non-profits every day, and then there's the rest of the country, the people all these folks help, heal, entertain, nurture...and make Canada a better place to live.

One thing the VSI pushed for, and got, was a comprehensive study of the sector. For the first time, Statistics Canada has measured the economic impact that our sector makes, independent of our relationships with other sectors, and now we know how we measure up! The study produced some of the surprising numbers mentioned above.

Another milestone was the “Accord between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector.” This document, signed in 2001 by representatives of both the federal government and the voluntary sector, along with its companion Codes of Conduct, is unlikely to become your favourite bedtime read, but it has enormous significance. That’s because it essentially defines the relationship between the federal government and the sector. The same sector, remember, that touches millions of Canadian lives every day, and plays such a pivotal role in our national economy.

And your community. You don’t have to know about the details in the Accord and Codes, but it’s good to know that when a non-profit organization where you live wants to discuss funding, accountability, projects or contracts with the federal government, there is now a way to get down to what counts: providing the help, services, programs and advice that Canadians want. Even more encouraging: some provincial and territorial governments are investigating ways to have similar relationships with non-profit organizations.

Want a simple example of how this works? Registered charities in Canada (and there are about 80,000 of them) must file an information form with the federal government every year. Thanks to the VSI, the form has been simplified and reduced from a tedious and time consuming thirteen pages down to...four. That’s thousands of hours freed up to do the work of a charity instead of paperwork.

Now organizations such as The Seventh Step Society and Volunteer Calgary in Alberta, the MS Society of Canada BC branch, Volunteer and Information Quinte and Volunteer Hamilton in Ontario, Fédération québécoise des centres communautaires de loisir in Quebec, and the Fédération d’alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick are finding the Accord and Codes allow them to deal more effectively and efficiently with their staff, volunteers and funders.

Now imagine if the media started looking for stories every day in the non-profit sector. Given that more than two million people work in the sector, and millions more Canadians volunteer their time and money every day, it’s very likely those stories will be about someone you know...or you.

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU!"

By Lyn Taylor, Ottawa Therapy Dogs

Martina Methot, and Joker

Martina and Joker are volunteers with the Community Transition Centre (CTC) at the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. This is a day program for adults with mental impairments such as Downes Syndrome. Twice a month, they spend about one and a half hours with approximately 30 adults, between the ages of 30 and 40.

1. When and why did you join Ottawa Therapy Dogs?

I have been a member of Ottawa Therapy Dogs since October 2000. I joined as I was looking for an activity I could do with my dog Joker who was about one year old at the time. We had tried agility, but flunked, so when I read an article in the paper about therapy dogs I contacted Marilyn. I thought it might be a good fit for us. Joker, is super calm and "bomb proof", and I have always been involved in volunteer activities.



CTC with Martina & Joker

When Marilyn described the program, I was quite doubtful as I had been thinking of an activity with seniors, but she suggested I go and visit the place to find out more. Right from my first visit, I felt the "warmth" of the program, and now I don't ever want to leave. There is so much joy and fun there and the staff is incredible.

Our program is as much assistive therapy as visitation. There's lots of interaction with Joker. The participants give him commands, they groom him, play hide and seek with him, give him water, and take him for (supervised) walks. He has become just like their own pet.

2. What is your most memorable experience as a therapy dog visitor?

There have been so many. One which stands out is with a new client who used to have a morbid fear of dogs. She would scream just at the site of Joker but she wanted to be part of the group so she would sit in the room with us while we were doing group work. This went on for several weeks until she got to the point she could touch Joker's tail, then his back. Soon she was playing ball with him; then she progressed to walking him on a leash. When the Centre's staff sent photos of this to her parents, they were amazed. They explained that their daughter had been bitten by a dog when she was a child and she had been terrified of dogs ever since. The progress she has made is remarkable.

3. What is your worst or most embarrassing experience?

Every year Joker and I are invited to the spring volunteer banquet put on by the Association. It's usually attended by over one hundred people, and I know that some are not comfortable eating with dogs. I recognize the need to respect their discomfort and try to keep a close eye on Joker to make sure he is on his best behaviour. On one occasion, when my back was turned, Joker licked some butter on a table. About half of those who saw it laughed, the other half were horrified. I was so embarrassed.

4. When you are not working as a therapy dog team, what are your favourite pastimes?

I have two cats, two dogs, and I recently acquired a horse. Since November, I have been spending most of my days at the barn.

Harold Moore Receives Special Recognition

Harold Moore, a long term volunteer with OCAPDD was honoured on May 11th with a special roast for his 30 years of services with *The 65 Roses Sports Club*. Harold's contribution to the fight against Cystic Fibrosis has certainly contributed to the progress being made to fight this disease that affects many young people. Many sports celebrities, as well as the past and present Mayor of our city, were on hand to roast Harold. Filling two tables at this event were members of the Aktion Club. As many of you are aware, the Aktion Club is sponsored by many Kiwanis clubs in the Ottawa region and supports a growing number of people living with a developmental disability. The mission of the club is to provide these adults an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership, to serve their community, to be integrated into society, and to demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens. Harold's consistent presence and leadership with the Aktion Club has led the club to expand to the point of necessitating a second Aktion Club to develop here in Ottawa. We received special permission from Zone Sports News to use his photograph, taken by their photographer Mark Webster.



Harold Moore

By: Judy Bernstein