



Esprit Newsletter

Spring/Summer Edition 2007

*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

Conservatory

On January 19, 2007 OCAPDD opened their second apartment program in the Bayshore area on Grenon Avenue. Twelve clients who had previously resided at Campbell, Moffatt, Ahearn and Byron Residences moved into newly furnished condos at the "Conservatory". Despite the hectic process still underway of settling in for both clients and staff, when asked what they like best about their new living arrangement, Karen Ayotte and Stephen Foster both declare, "Everything!" Sue Carre and Nancy Eygenstein, who had roomed together at Moffatt, continue to share an apartment at the Conservatory and Sue reports, "I love it".

The Conservatory staff and clients welcomed visitors to their home at an open house on May 2nd.



CSS Walking Club is Stepping Up for the Challenge!!

By Sharon Skerrett and Paul Rochon

The Walking Club started four months ago and has progressed well beyond expectations because of the exceptional effort of their members. People who initially had difficulty completing 1 or 2 laps are now completing 20 laps (2km). We have some very competitive individuals who have exceeded all boundaries and now walk for the entire hour of the activity. As the weather improves we are looking at conducting some sessions outside and there has been much discussion about choosing sites. Some of the ideas which have come up are Andrew Haydon Park, the Rideau Canal and Vincent Massey Park, just to name a few.

As another means of keeping people interested and motivated to attend each week, the participants have selected destinations anywhere in the world to symbolically walk to. They will be adding up as many steps as they possibly can toward their chosen spot. One person chose Montreal and another California. Success will be measured in terms of how many steps they accumulate toward their destination...The Step Challenge! We would like to thank the Ottawa Public Health Department for their very generous donation of ten pedometers to help everyone reach their destination.

We are growing in numbers, steps, personal health and fitness!



From left to right First row: Glen Opie, Mary Rooney, Carol Prince and Barry Villeneuve. Second row: Leanne McCallum, Rhonda Wilson, Wayne Walker, Geraldine McGarrity, Richard Prophet, Bob Riddell and Sharon Skerrett. Back Row: Paul Rochon, Rob Fretts, Richard Sewell and Frances Bloom.



Rick Prophet, Robert Keilly, Robert Fretts, Bob Riddell, Viateur Vinette, Joanne Smith and Madeleine Hyslop.

CSS Aqua-Fit

Since November 2006, CSS has been offering an aqua-fit program on Monday mornings in partnership with City of Ottawa staff at Jack Purcell Pool. Each participant pays a small fee before each session and the rest is subsidized through the City of Ottawa for people who are on ODSP. We have 15 participants who are enjoying the benefits of physical exercise and new friendships.

Quote from Aqua-fit participant Samantha

“It’s helped me get out of the house. It’s helped to motivate me to get up and go. To get some exercise. It’s helped with my confidence to wear a bathing suit in front of others, to get lots of exercise and to help my muscles.”

A Perfect Fit

By Leslie Goudge

Rosenthal Services has been very fortunate to have Cathy Wenuk and her Portuguese Water Dog Lakshmi volunteer their time weekly for well over a year. Rosenthal is an adult day program that supports individuals with developmental and behavioural challenges. Many of our clients live in group homes and have limited exposure to dogs. Some individuals are tactile sensitive and dislike touching or being touched. There is often a communication delay, resulting in limited to no verbal skills. These clients tend to be more withdrawn and these are the individuals that Cathy and Lakshmi focus on.



Cathy Wenuk and Lakshmi.

Each Friday, a group of 8 clients meet either indoors or in our glorious backyard to spend time with Lakshmi. Inevitably other clients join in to say hello and Cathy quickly invites them to participate. She is very keen to include everyone, and wants to share the experience with others.

The clients all take turns walking Lakshmi as well as throwing her favourite football. Everyone treats Lakshmi with kindness and gentleness.

There are many success stories at Rosenthal. One of our clients who generally does not participate in any activities now pets Lakshmi and will walk around the Centre with Cathy. Another woman who tends to be withdrawn will watch Cathy and Lakshmi and follow them around the building. She now says “Hi” to them and our goal is to have her eventually touch the dog.

Cathy and Lakshmi are an important part of Rosenthal Services. We all look forward to our “puppy day”, and the enthusiasm Cathy brings. They are a perfect fit!

LE CENTRE DE TRANSITION COMMUNAUTAIRE

Par Roxanne Gilbert

Nous sommes déménagés depuis le 31 octobre 2006, dans de plus grands locaux. Notre nouvelle adresse est le 740 Avenue Industriel, unité 1.

Notre mandat demeurant le même, vise l'intégration de la personne ayant une déficience intellectuelle dans la communauté d'Ottawa. Nous offrons des services multiples d'intégration à des personnes avec une gamme de besoins bien variés. La programmation est élaborée selon les besoins et les intérêts des participants.

Les programmes sont offerts au centre et en milieux communautaire. Nous avons des volontaires grandement impliqués qui nous assistent dans certains volets. Nous avons des partenariats stimulant avec d'autres groupes de la communauté. Nous sommes ouverts et toujours à la recherche de nouveaux partenaires.



Voici une liste de nos activités: Zoo thérapie, cuisine partage, les ordinateurs, l'aquarelle, la peinture sur différentes textures, l'exercice physique, l'aquaforme, les groupes de discussion, des cours spécialisés – yoga, le théâtre, les artisanats, la création de vidéo, la musique, la menuiserie, le cinéma, la pêche, les quilles et autres. Nous avons aussi des activités de travail pour les personnes qui le désirent.



Vous êtes bienvenue de venir nous visiter. S.V.P. nous téléphoner au 613-247-2147 pour faire un rendez-vous.

New Website Offers a Link for Socially Conscious Businesses

Social Purchasing Portal Canada helps businesses connect with individuals who are traditionally under-employed. This is not a charity model. It is a business model. It has been operating successfully in 8 other cities including Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto. On March 1, 2007 a new branch opened in Ottawa with support from corporate sponsors and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Businesses can use this portal to find suppliers of goods and services such as catering, printing, maintenance and courier service at competitive rates.

The Toronto spokesman, Peter Frampton, says there are many benefits to "hiring people with barriers": committed, long-term employees, increased productivity and improved product quality.

St. Paul's University has already signed up and there is hope many of their current suppliers will get on board as well.

Jeff Lindsay was recently interviewed for a CBC TV news report. Jeff is supported by OCAPDD (Community Support Services) and has mild cerebral palsy. He said that there are a lot of people out there trying to find work and he suspects his disability is one reason it took him years to find employment as a dishwasher, despite top marks in his high school food service class and his offer to work free for one week while employers gave him a try. Jeff hopes this new portal will help other job seekers find work and avoid the frustrations he faced in the past. A copy of the interview can be found in OCAPDD's library, courtesy of CBC TV.

More information can be found at www.sppcanada.org

Marge McCabe is the manager of the Ottawa branch, contact can be made through e-mail marge.m@spp-pcottawa.ca or by telephone 613-290-8772.

Family Homeshare Program

By Tom Gillespie, Supervisor

During this past year, we have undergone many changes with the Family Homeshare Program. Suffice to say we are going to be experiencing more changes, which we are looking forward to. We are involved with bringing children with a developmental disability into the Family Homeshare program and looking at ways in which to support them. We are at the exploration stage and there is a matter of an application for licensing with the Ministry of Community and Social Services in order to support children in the Family Homeshare Program.



Merle Sinclair and Judy Bernstein

We are continually looking to recruit more Providers for expansion and for respite purposes. Please pass the word around if you know of someone that you feel would be interested in becoming a Family Homeshare Provider. They may contact us by email at familyhomeshare@ocapdd.on.ca or by calling 613-569-8993 ext 401.

The Family Homeshare Program has been with OCAPDD for over twenty years. We have many Family Homeshare Providers that have been with our program for a great deal of time. On that note, at our last Annual Family Homeshare Meeting, Judy Bernstein, Director of Education & Training Services awarded a number of our Family Homeshare Providers with certificates for celebrating one, five, ten, and fifteen year anniversaries with the program. We also would like to welcome our new respite Family Homeshare Providers, Brenda & Al Walker. They have been providing outstanding respite care for our Program.

2007 is moving by at a fast clip. We eagerly look forward to the potential that lies ahead of us. We appreciate all the efforts and support that are offered to each person in the Family Homeshare Program.

What's New for OCAPDD Clients?

"Virtual Reality Systems"

By Jocelyne Parent Lewis

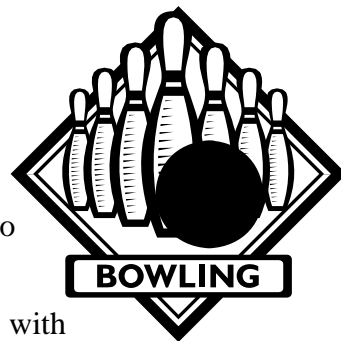
These systems are designed to help improve the lives of people with disabilities by enabling them, through unique virtual reality based solutions, to live as a valued and participating member of the community.

These virtual reality systems create opportunities and experiences for people with developmental disabilities who cannot otherwise participate in leisure activities. They provide a full range of stimulation in a safe and comfortable environment. Rich, empowering experiences include: games and sports competitions, playing musical instruments, participating in social scenarios, etc.

These systems provide stimulation in a fun and educational manner, which in turn leads to a positive experience. These systems will be installed at the Rosenthal and CTC Programs.

Special Recognition:

Thank you to the Oakville Foundation for Intellectually Handicapped People, which donated \$6,500 for the purchase and installation of these special systems.



Silver Spring Farm's garlic crop survives wet fall, mild winter, 21.5 inches

By VALERIE McLAUGHLIN, Nepean This Week



Jack Fraser smiles as he surveys the garlic rows at Silver Spring Farm. The anxiety he and several volunteers associated with the garlic project have been feeling over the last several months has greatly subsided as thousands of tiny garlic sprouts make their way from the lumpy, clay ground in a field off Richmond Road in Bells Corners. "It was a wonderful sight for what we first thought," he says. "Recognizing the weather and the challenges of getting it planted, we are encouraged by what we see."

The garlic crop is the primary fundraiser for the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Thousands of dollars are raised each year through the sale of garlic. The crop has become so popular with city residents that volunteers sold the entire crop in eight days last year.

Fraser, the farm's volunteer chairman of the garlic project, had feared there may not be a garlic crop to harvest this year due to a relentless wet fall and a delayed winter. The annual fall planting was delayed three weeks because of the wet weather. Even when volunteers were able to get onto the field, the clay ground was saturated with water, making it extremely difficult to create raise rows and plant the cloves six inches apart.

The weather problems continued to plague the volunteers into the winter as it wasn't until early January that the ground started to freeze, despite no snow. Fraser and other project volunteers worried for months that instead of sprouting, the crop would rot in the less than favourable growing conditions. Now Fraser is hoping that Mother Nature is finally on his side. "We are hoping more will sprout as the ground warms up. We know some didn't sprout because of the wet, wet fall," he says, estimating that 20 per cent of the bulbs may not grow. However, there are still challenges that lay ahead of the volunteers before they sell the garlic, which is known to be juicy and quite tasty. Fraser says it needs to rain at least once a week now until July and be sunny and warm. When July comes, the weather needs to be hot and sunny for optimum garlic growth. And then there is the worry of disease. "In Eastern Ontario, during the last three to four years, many farmers have had the challenges of the leek moth. It has the potential to significantly damage the crop," Fraser says, explaining the moth larvae eat into the garlic cloves. "So far we have been fortunate that our crop has not been significantly affected, but we have to closely monitor it," he says. When the garlic will be ready is anyone's guess. The crop has been known to be ready as early as July 19 and as late as August 19. "Garlic is unique. It can look like it is not ready at all, but in three or four days it has ripened and it is ready to be harvested," Fraser explains.

He hopes garlic scapes, the plant's long, curly seed pods, will be available in middle to late June. Scapes will be sold in Loeb stores in Bells Corners, Nepean on Greenbank Road near Hunt Club Road and in Kanata on March Road. Proceeds of the sale of garlic scapes will go to the association.

Ed Haines, who helped to start the garlic project 11 years ago, isn't surprised that garlic has proven to be popular among local consumers. "Once people taste our garlic I am not surprised at all," he says.

For more information about the progress of the garlic crop during the season, call the Silver Spring Farm's garlic hotline at 613-569-8993, ext. 409.

Special thanks go to...

National Volunteer Week (April 15th to 21st)

While volunteers are everywhere in our communities (and we say thanks if you happen to be one), we want to particularly acknowledge those who volunteer for the Ottawa Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

Our 170+ volunteers serve on boards and committees, mentor peers, provide information, run exercise, yoga, drama and art classes. They do income taxes. They support the Horseback Riding Program and the drop-in evening. Volunteers paint, clean, dig gardens, build sheds, rake leaves and clean windows. They hold monthly community dances, assist with the Aktion Club and provide friendship and a lending hand to OCAPDD individuals and staff. Volunteers organize the annual picnic and the Residential Christmas Party. Programs such as the Gift Wrapping program, Garlic Project, Whist Tournaments etc. provide much-needed funds for agency activities (over \$40,000 for the coming year!)

On Tuesday, April 24th, 2007 over 100 volunteers enjoyed a barbeque dinner served up by the friendly volunteers from MBNA Canada in honour of National Volunteer Week and to celebrate over 10,000 hours of volunteer time given to OCAPDD. OCAPDD is also thankful for the financial donation received from MBNA Canada, thanks goes to Trevor Clost and Dan Patton for making it all happen. Guest speaker was Marlene Desboisbrand, President of Volunteer Canada.

Volunteers do the work they do because they aspire to make life better for others and we honour and thank them for doing so.

5 Years

Shelia Desganis
Kaelle Lalonde
Courtney Leclair
Sylvie Moore
Bernie Racine
Ilona Ramsay
Sharon Skeritt
Malcolm Brewster

20 Years

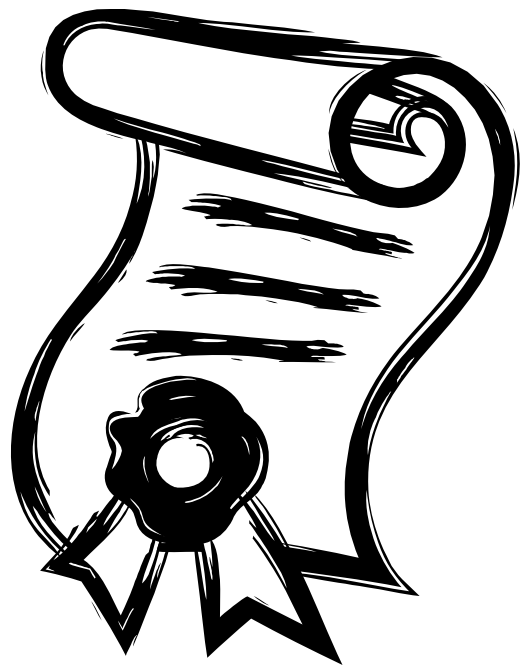
Nicole Houle

25 Years

Tanya Leclair

Ontario Service Awards

The Ontario Service Awards were created by the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation to recognize individuals who have given continuous years of outstanding volunteerism to organizations. We are pleased to announce that the following OCAPDD volunteers will receive their Ontario Service Award on May 24, 2007. 5 year awards go to Angela Jones, Courtney Leclair, Sylvie Moore, Claudette Clost, Bernie Racine, Claire Heistek and Nora Frank. Congratulations to each of you!



Ho!Ho!Ho! 2006 Christmas Gift Wrap Project

What a year 2006 was! Over 500 volunteers gave over 2,200 hours of their time to help us generate approximately \$19,200 between both the Carlingwood Mall and St. Laurent Shopping Centre. Thanks to all who helped make this project a success. We couldn't do it without you. Special thanks to Simon Arsenault and Natalia deSavigny who organized the members from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and to Trevor Clost and Dan Patton for all the volunteers from MBNA.



Liz Rollwage, Rose Gagné and Ellen Suykens.

Josée Guertin, Michele Comeau, Angela Zenowski, Sonya Azevedo, Susan Parker and Aida Del Castillo-Smith.

“From Caring... to Hope” CUPE Local 1521 is there to support!



**HAND IN HAND
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank CUPE Local 1521 for their repeated financial support of our different events. Each year the Local has participated in helping make our events successful. This past year, the Local was involved with the United Way campaign and donated \$500. They also bought a full table at our 50th Anniversary Gala event, and managed to sell additional tickets as well. Of course as they do every year, they donated \$500 to support the client Christmas party. As well, through all of their contacts, they help promote our annual golf tournament.

The support given to all of our events truly shows their commitment and dedication to our organization.

Again, thank you for all of your support.

City of Ottawa Civic Appreciation Awards

By Debbie Blasutti

Each spring, as part of the celebration of National Volunteer Week, the City of Ottawa holds an award ceremony, by invitation, to publicly thank the many volunteers at work in our community.

There are 16 different awards that the City presents. This year OCAPDD nominated Harold Moore for Citizen of the Year in the Senior category. On Monday, May 7, 2007 Harold was the lucky recipient of this award.

To quote Volunteer Canada “Volunteers serve on boards and committees, mentor peers, organize cultural and recreational activities, support the elderly, provide shelter, counsel youth, clean parks, coach teams, read to children, and so much more. Volunteers do the work they do because they believe in causes, equal opportunities, clean, healthy and safe community spaces, active living, and helping others. Volunteers simply aspire to make life better for others and we honour them for doing so”.

I cannot think of a better way to sum up Harold Moore. Over thirty-five years of volunteering, Harold has sat on numerous boards and still sits on several. For over two and a half decades he has helped both physically disabled and mentally challenged individuals. For the last 22 years he has worked with the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and has been both vice-president and President of the Ottawa Senators branch and Ottawa Renegades branch of the 65 Roses Sports Club. He has fund raised tens of thousands of dollars for this organization.

For ten years Harold worked with young Cystic Fibrosis patients, driving them to appointments. Harold became the main support for one individual whose parents were unable to handle the Cystic Fibrosis problems. He arranged for her wedding, medical treatment and for her funeral in 1997.

Harold has worked with youth through the Youth and Community Services of the Ottawa Kiwanis club and founded the Junior Rough Riders. He serves as a mentor to his grandson who has been a volunteer with OCAPDD for three years now. Both Harold and Dylan spend every Tuesday evening at the Aktion Club, which is a club for the developmentally delayed. This club provides friendship, teaches leadership skills, communication skills and gives our agency's individuals a place where they belong. Harold has also taken on overseeing at least three to four other youth each week who are looking to complete their community hours. Most have long completed their hours but continue on to help Harold. Harold has also made this group self sufficient by obtaining ongoing fundraising dollars.

He is an advocate volunteer for the yearly Breakfast of Champions and is in charge of recruiting all the athletes, 40 in total and obtaining the guest speaker.

He has touched seniors through his work on the board of Abbeyfield House.

Harold basically volunteers seven days a week, one place or the other. He has helped so many and never asks for anything in return. He truly volunteers to make the world and life a better place for everyone. He knows no boundaries.

Congratulations Harold!



Harold Moore

Upcoming Events

Seminar:

Registered Disability Savings Plan: An Introduction

Une Introduction au régime enregistré d'épargne-invalidité

Speaker:

Philip Brock, CFP, FMA

Investment Advisor and Financial Planner, BMO Nesbitt Burns

Conseiller en placement et planificateur financier, BMO Nesbitt Burns



English session:

Date: Tuesday, June 12th, at 7:30 PM

Location: RA Centre, Clark Hall

2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa

French session:

Date: Le mercredi 13 juin, à 19h30

Location: Centre RA, Salon Canada

2451, promenade Riverside, Ottawa

RSVP

Phone: 613-562-6443

Email: philip.brock@NBPCD.com

FORE OCAPDD



THE GREENS ARE READY!

Now that the snow is finally gone and the sunshine is here, OCAPDD will be hosting their 7th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 18th, 2007 at the Hautes Plaines Golf Club.

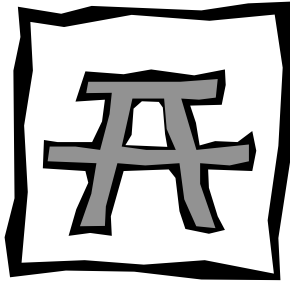
Come join us for the full event or just for dinner. Our MC is Brad Dryden from "The BEAR's Morning Show" who is sure to make you laugh.

Again this year we will be hosting a silent auction, raffle tickets and door prizes. New this year will be our live auction, which Brad will no doubt lead with his own special sense of humour.

This is a great day to spend time with a few friends, cousins, mom, dad or even your boss! Registration in the tournament has become a well received Father's Day gift.

Remember, a bad day on a sunny golf course is better than a good day in the office.

Please see the insert for more details and registration information.



Annual Picnic

OCAPDD's Annual Picnic and BBQ will be held on Sunday, June 24th, 2007 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. The band Crossroads will be featured.

BIG TIME IDOL SHOW

"Think of it as American Idol meets The Gong show..."

This is a high-energy hour of dancing, clapping, cheering and laughing - everyone will be captivated by the show.

Date: Thursday, September 13, 2007

Time: 6:30pm – Cash bar
7:00pm – Dinner and show

Location: St. Elias Centre
750 Ridgewood Ave.



Order your tickets now at 613-569-8993 ext. 245 or visit our website at: www.ocapdd.on.ca

Price: \$45 per person for dinner and show.

Order your tickets before July 18th and your name will be entered to win a special door prize. The winner will be announced at the event.

Annual General Meeting

OCAPDD's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2007. 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.



Client Christmas Party

The Client Christmas Party will be on Friday, November 30, 2007. The location remains at the St. Elias Centre, 750 Ridgewood Avenue. Please call 613-569-8993 and speak to Claudette Clost at extension 236 or Sylvie Moore at extension 251 for more information.

President and Executive Director Reports

President's Report

It has been a busy Board season – and more importantly productive. The Board is well along in a strategic planning exercise lead by member Bonnie Dinning. We are looking at our strengths, weaknesses, values and what opportunities the future may hold. We plan on updating the members on their project at the September AGM.

Charlotte Roy, as chair of the Nominations Committee has recruited a new Board member. We are lucky to have Dr. Susan Farrell join us. Susan is a clinical psychologist working in this sector out of the ROH. She is Head of the Evaluation Research for Community Mental Health and is also a clinical professor in psychology at University of Ottawa. She has a wide range of volunteer experience in a number of provinces and she indicates that she is “passionate about advocating for inclusion” of our clients in society.

On that note of solid recruitment by Charlotte and her committee she does advise me that with the AGM not all that far away additional volunteers will be required for service on the Board. Although it appears that there will be little turnover this year, two spaces will be vacant. If you have a background in the DD sector be it family or career wise, a strong business background or marketing savvy, contact Natalie Deschamps at the office and she will put you in touch with Charlotte.

Speaking of volunteers, it was fun to meet so many of ours at the annual appreciation evening and BBQ a couple of weeks ago. The dedicated hours that this diverse group of people give are astounding. Everyone is enriched by this experience.

With a whole slew of new condos for some of our clients and preparation for more clients from Rideau Regional and the refurbishment of the residences at the farm, it has been a productive and busy period for the staff and Board. In addition, some extra funds are flowing from the provincial coffers to enhance the lives of the folks we work with. It is indeed turning out to be a good year for all those who help, work and reside within the agency.

Michael Elliott

Executive Director's Report

As you are likely aware, Minister Sorbara announced an increase in funding of \$200 million for the developmental services sector over the next four years. While this appears to be a ‘good news story’, the sector is awaiting the detailed announcement regarding the allocation of these funds. As mentioned in my last article, and for the first that most people in the sector can recall, there was a strong, coordinated lobbying effort across the Province. The messages were consistent; all stakeholders were represented and involved; and, the MPP’s took notice! One of the messages presented, was asking for \$200M as an up-front investment by the Government. A second message was multi-year funding. As you can see, the Government has responded to the requests, but not in the manner hoped for.

You may also have read that Minister Flaherty announced the establishment of Registered Disability Savings Plans in the Federal Budget in March. We are working towards coordinating an information session (in both official languages) in June. Look for more details under “Upcoming Events” in this edition of Esprit.

The Ministry led Transformation Initiative has continued, although there has still not been any release of a formal report. The Ministry has begun generating ‘information bulletins’ concerning this initiative. These bulletins are being posted on OCAPDD’s website, and are also available on the Ministry’s website at: www.mcass.gov.on.ca. Information concerning eligibility and application packages is identified in the most recent bulletin.

As you may also be aware, an Operational Review concerning the Access Mechanism in Ottawa was conducted over the past year. While the report was received by the Ministry last summer, it was not released to the public until a couple of months ago. We obtained our copy of the report from the Families Matter Co-Operative’s website at: www.familiesmattercoop.ca. There is certainly change occurring in Ottawa as a result of this report, and I would encourage you to review it.

As announced in December, we have embarked upon a complex expansion and renovation plan for OCAPDD and some of our properties. Campbell and Charette are undergoing extensive renovations, and literally have had to be ‘gutted’ to correct outstanding health and safety issues in order for their renovations to be completed by



Charette House before and during renovations.

this summer. (see pictures) We are working towards welcoming 16 individuals from Rideau Regional Centre over the next several months. The Conservatory Program has now been operating for several months, and hosted an Open House in early May to profile the new accommodations.

While the year-end financial results are in the process of being audited, the preliminary results indicate that OCAPDD finished the fiscal year with a small operating surplus. We also were fortunate to have received a one-time fiscal grant of over \$190,000 from the Minister. The Board of Directors has endorsed Management’s recommendations to allocate these funds towards the following priority areas: client outcomes; staff development; health and safety issues; and, minor capital items. Given that these funds will never be received again, their expenditure will be cautiously authorized.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to another internet based information and support service that I was recently made aware of. That is, CLEONet.ca. While not intending to duplicate the information here, it is a source of information concerning legal rights and practical resource guides to assist low-income and disadvantaged communities in Ontario. As an example, the first guide listed on the site is entitled: *Disability Benefits in Ontario: Who can get them, How to apply*.

As always at this time of year, I would again like to encourage you to join us at this year’s golf tournament on June 18th. It is always an enjoyable event.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

David A. Ferguson

In Memoriam

Michael (Mick) Belleville (September 9, 1959 – June 15, 2006)

Known to all his friends as "Mick", he lived at Ahearn Residence and enjoyed work at Rosenthal Centre. Mick loved to dance, colour pictures, laugh and socialize with everyone around him. He was truly his own person and was admired for that. We miss our dear friend, cherish fond memories of him, and are comforted to know that he is in a peaceful place. Mick our hearts are with you as we remember you today and always.

Teresa Robert (December 23, 1939 – July 4, 2006)

Teresa Robert entered ODAMR in 1968. On May 2nd, 2005 Teresa officially retired after 25 years of hard work and devotion at National Archives. A year earlier after celebrating her up-coming retirement, it was discovered that she was only 64 years old and had to continue working for another year which she did with her usual grace. Teresa also enjoyed her summer job as a cook at Camp Misquash. Teresa died suddenly at home, where she lived with family, at the end of the summer of 2006. She will not be forgotten.

Susan Fairlie (February 6, 1942 – July 6, 2006)

One year ago we lost someone very dear to us, Susan Fairlie. Susan worked at ARC Industries and had lived at Richmond Road Residences for many years before moving to Crosswinds. She loved having her own apartment. She had a great sense of humour that touched the lives of all who knew her.

I have taken an excerpt from her eulogy that Kristy Singleton said at her funeral. I thought that these two paragraphs summed up Susan and how she touched people's lives.

"It did not take long for Susan to win the hearts of everybody at Crosswinds. Susan was a ray of sunshine. She almost always had a great big smile on her face. This smile was contagious. Though Susan was very direct at letting you know what she did not like, or did not want to do, she was always ready for a good time. She was very determined, but also a very fun loving individual.

Though I only knew Susan for a short while, she was very dear to everyone close to her. Her energy, love of life, and sense of humour are just a few things that make the staff who worked with Susan want to work as a Front Line Worker."

Patrick Liard (January 28, 1975 - August 12, 2006)

Patrick Liard passed away Aug 12, 2006 at the age of 31. Patrick was a vibrant young man who loved mischief and t- shirts (shredding them that is). Patrick was supported and loved by many staff over his 22 years in the agency and his memory will be treasured always.

Claude Desjardins (June 27, 1948 – December 31, 2006)

Claude Desjardins died suddenly in December at home where he lived with his mother. He was in his 59th year. Claude entered the National Archives program in March 1991 and quickly became a very loyal, reliable worker. Claude had a good sense of humour and will be remembered for his distinctive smile. Claude has been greatly missed by all his co-workers, staff and government workers. Au revoir Claude.

Rae Olive (September 21, 1983 – January 7, 2007)

Rae was a wonderful young lady who touched us all. She had an infectious smile that would lighten anyone's heavy heart and a great sense of humour, where she would either break into laughter or cause others to laugh either with a joke or pointing out something funny that was going on. She was always a joy to work with and everyone looked forward to her Respite visit. Even through her own adversities she managed to bring happiness to those around her without complaint. Rae reflected the true meaning of beauty inside and out. She will be sadly missed but dearly remembered. She truly was a Rae of sunshine.

Brenda Charest (March 21, 1955 – April 7, 2007)

Brenda Charest passed away on April 7/07. In passing, Brenda left many tangible accomplishments; but Brenda's greatest accomplishment was in how she lived her life. Brenda stepped to the beat of her own drummer. In doing so, she turned many adverse situations of her life into fuel for motivation. Life, to Brenda was a challenge to meet, an adventure to live. Brenda was not one to sit around and wait for someone to give her an identity or purpose. She did it for herself in a way that suited her needs. She created a life pattern that was right for her; a pattern interwoven with courage, faith and love.

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. To keep our faces toward change and behave like free spirits in the presence of fate is strength undefeatable."

In passing, Brenda leaves to mourn her parents, her sister and brother-in-law and two nephews; also a host of good friends and acquaintances within our organization of which Brenda was a member for twenty-five years.

Gail Lavergne (February 25, 1948 – April 11, 2007)

How does one share about another's life when this person has touched the lives of so many? I had the pleasure of working with Gail back in 1988 when Maryland Avenue Residence opened; she was one of the new residents of this home, and I was one of the new staff. Previous to Maryland Avenue, Gail had lived in one of the original SIL townhouses; before that, she lived at "The Farm." For many years, Gail took the bus on a daily basis to "Breezehill". In more recent times, Gail and I reconnected when I became her case manager with the CSS program. By this time, she had moved out to Foyer St. Jacques Nursing Home in Embrun, which made it easier for her mother to visit with her. As you can see, Gail has both lived with and worked with many people over the years.

One time, people from Silver Spring Farm went on a trip to Niagara Falls. While on the boat that sails through the mist, Gail was really hoping to see Moby Dick...needless to say, others did not share her desire! Gail loved music and could sing and dance with the best of them in her younger days. She was like a favourite aunt who would take the time to listen to your problems over a cup of tea. Perhaps most telling of Gail's nature is a story that was shared at her funeral. Her church elder had been to visit; just before leaving, he asked Gail what message she wanted him to carry back to the other parishioners. Gail took his hand in hers, pressed it against her cheek, and said, "Tell them I love them."

Barbara Black (July 29, 1943 – April 26, 2007)

Barb was well loved by her CSS support workers over the past 12 years. She was fiercely independent and spunky. Although due to health issues she lost some of her independence she still lived life on her terms. Everyone who knew Barb enjoyed her sense of humour and quick wit. Barb passed away on April 26, 2007. She will be sadly missed.

beRED@WORK

By Leanne McCallum



Debbie Rowan, Joanne Bennett, Leanne McCallum, Claudette Clost and Alain Perreault.

Joanne Bennett, Claudette Clost, Alain Perreault, Debbie Rowan, and I had a few six o'clock mornings of decorating our corner of the office red so that we could enter the Ottawa Senators' beRED@WORK contest. Everyone brought in Ottawa Senator red souvenirs that had been collected over time, Joanne bought enough Sens' red tissue paper to cover the walls, cabinets and desktops, and on the day that pictures were taken, Debbie baked and decorated a bright red Sensational Senators' cake shaped as the winning puck. We toasted the Ottawa Senator's team with glasses bearing their logo, filled with (you guessed it) classic Sens' red punch!

Donald Poirer of CTC, along with clients of his group, "Clic ta camera", graciously agreed to take pictures of our masterpiece, and turn it into an impressive digital picture show, which, at the time of this writing, could still be viewed on the official Ottawa Senator's website, under "Community – Contest – Round 1 be RED @ Work contest winner: Joanne Bennett, Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities"! On April 14th, we enjoyed having drinks and snacks served to us from the comfort of our own suite while watching Ottawa play the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Go Sens Go!



Back row: Alain Perreault, Leanne McCallum, Joanne Bennett and Donald Poirer. Front row: Debbie Rowan and Claudette Clost.

