



Esprit Newsletter

Spring/Summer Edition 2008

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

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

Special Activities & Fundraising

2008 HOPE VOLLEYBALL SUMMER FEST

For the 2nd time, OCAPDD has been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the HOPE Volleyball Tournament being held July 12, 2008. The proceeds from the tournament will be used for a new Snoezelen Room at the Silver Spring Farm.

We will need the help of 50 volunteers the day of the tournament. We are responsible for parking duty from 7:00 am until 4:30 pm. The day will be divided into two shifts: 7am to noon and 11:30am to 4:30pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Debbie Blasutti by email at dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca or by phone at 613-569-8993, extension 243.

Join us for a fun filled day!



Learn to Ride Program

Since April 2006, individuals have been participating in a horseback riding "Learn to Ride" program for one hour per week, for a ten week session.

There are two sessions per year (spring and fall). The program builds on teaching people with developmental disabilities knowledge of horses, caretaking, and gives them another leisure activity in the community. Each rider receives individual attention from the instructor and experiences a sense of accomplishment and meeting challenges within their comfort zone.



This special project is funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

Thank You Community Foundation of Ottawa

Volunteers

On Wednesday, April 30th, 2008 75 volunteers enjoyed a barbeque dinner served by Kevin Lamont and the friendly volunteers from MBNA Canada in honour of National Volunteer Week and to celebrate over 12,000 hours of volunteer time provided 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.



Robbin Murangira, Kellie McGee, Tina Coyne, Lisa Babineau, Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Claudette Clost and Joanne Bennett.

The following volunteers received recognition for their years of service:

20 years: Jill McKnight

15 years: Ann Marie Bloom, Frances Bloom and Kevin Lamont

10 years: Julie Farmer

5 years: Maggie Julian, Cathy Rodrigue, Morgan Bloom, Colin Landrigan and Sylvie Desjardins.

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. 5 year awards go to Maggie Julian, Cathy Rodrigue and Morgan Bloom. 15 year awards go to Kevin Lamont, Frances Bloom and Ann Marie Bloom and the 20 year award goes to Jill McKnight. Congratulations to each of you!

THE GREENS ARE GETTING GREENER!

OCAPDD will be hosting their 8th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday June 16th, 2008 at the Hautes Plaines Golf Club. Come join us for the full event or just for dinner. Our MC this year is the one and only "Bill Parker" from MAJIC 100. Again this year we will be hosting a silent and live auction, raffle tickets and door prizes.

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 insert for registration and details.



2007 CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP PROJECT

This past Christmas Gift Wrap Project was again a huge success. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time. We generated more than \$18,000 between the St-Laurent Shopping Centre and Carlingwood Mall. We could not have done this without the help of 400+ volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, MBNA, OCAPDD and the community.

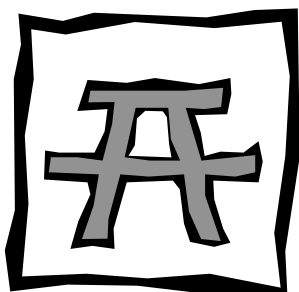


Patrick Boisvert, Mario Renaud, Lisa Babineau, Louise Landry, DeeDee Murphy and Angela Blasutti.

Special thanks also go to our loyal customers who come back every year to get their gifts wrapped and support OCAPDD.

We would like to convey our special thanks to Simon Arsenault, who coordinated all the volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and to Trevor Clost & Dan Patton from MBNA. Their time and effort ensured the success of the project.

All of your continuous time and efforts contributed greatly toward the success of this special event.



Annual Picnic

OCAPDD's Annual Picnic and BBQ will be held on Sunday June 22nd, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Vincent Massey Park, Sections M, N, O and P. The band Crossroads will be featured.

Come join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter.

AGM

OCAPDD's 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. 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.

Help Save the Environment

Help save some trees and landfill by sending us your email address. This will allow us to send you an electronic version of our Esprit Newsletter as well as important updates. Please contact Natalie Deschamps by email at ocapdd@ocapdd.on.ca or by phone at 613-569-8993, extension 225.



∞ In Memoriam ∞

Peter William Stoddart (April 13, 1955 – December 22, 2007)

Peter Stoddart was born in Thornhill, Ontario. Although he was born with Down's Syndrome and just one good lung he had three older brothers to teach him life skills and to enjoy the fun years of early childhood. With grandparents living nearby in Aurora, Peter was a happy member of a caring family. Parents of others like Peter started "Thornhaven" in Richmond Hill, a school for handicapped children, and Peter was soon enrolled.

When he was ten, Peter and his family moved to Scotch Plains, New Jersey, where his father managed an electronics company. Peter joined a trainable class in the local elementary school. When he was 18, he went to another local school for a workshop training program, then at 21 he started work at the Union County Occupational Centre that had contracts for various New Jersey firms. Peter participated in local events, went on field trips, belonged to a special boys scout troop, sang God Bless America and almost became an American. His friends with Down's Syndrome went into group homes in Scotch Plains. Peter went for a time to Elwyn Institute in the Philadelphia area, but health problems made it too difficult to continue.

When Peter's dad retired in 1978, the family moved to Ottawa, where Peter's oldest brother worked and had a family. Peter joined the Rosenthal Occupational Centre but found the readjustment from life in New Jersey difficult. His brothers had gone off to college and worked elsewhere and Peter was still living at home. From 1986-1989 he was in a training class at Algonquin, but really needed steady routine work and a home away from his parents. Finally an opening at the Loeb workshop became available and Peter was happy there for many years. He moved to Silver Spring Farm when he was 45, living there and more recently with friends at the Ahearn Residence until he died.

On behalf of Peter, we want to thank the many very dedicated members and staff at the Ottawa-Carleton Association for People with Developmental Disabilities and associated organizations for their care and friendship over the years.

Jean and Hartley Stoddart



Peter Stoddart at the Loeb Centre

Special Invitation



*Please join us for the Grand Opening
of the newly renovated
Silver Spring Farm programs
on Wednesday, June 18th at 1 p.m.
3501 Richmond Road, Ottawa*

*Please RSVP by June 4th
with Natalie Deschamps
at ocapdd@ocapdd.on.ca or
at 613-569-8993, extension 225*

Innovative Residential Project

OCAPDD is pleased to announce that they were awarded annualized funding towards an “Innovative Residential Project”. The main focus of this project is to assist two individuals in their transition from their family home to independent living. They are now being supported by our Community Support Services (CSS). Part of the success of this proposal was the recognition that families and service agencies can work together to ensure that adults with a developmental disability are able to have a secure future while optimizing their quality of life. One of the many innovative aspects of this project is the development of a “parent to parent” resource on how to prepare family members with a disability for independent living.

Thank you from the Silver Spring Farm Garlic Project

We would like to recognize Simon Arseneault, all the ladies of the Walter Baker Chapter of the IODE and all of OCAPDD’s wonderful volunteers and the hundreds of Church volunteers who have given so generously of their time and talent to the SSF project and the gift wrapping project.

For several years the IODE ladies through their fundraising activities have provided the clients and staff of the SSF residences and the Conservatory with Christmas dinner out at a local restaurant. Several of the ladies have also volunteered and assisted with the preparation and selling of the garlic.

Again this year the 16 to 18 young men and women Church missionaries have faithfully and immediately responded to our request for help in removing the straw and a week later place over 1,000ft of irrigation hoses. In previous years the missionaries have also helped with picking the garlic scapes, weeding the garlic, harvesting of the crop and planting the garlic. It’s most appropriate to recognize the missionaries for their dedication and commitment to the garlic project and to the gift wrapping project.

Our volunteers are the reason why the project is so successful and every one of their efforts is most appreciated. Your participation is very much appreciated.

Executive Director's Report

One of the most significant events that occurred during the past several months was the release of the Provincial Auditor's Report. In the Report, there was a complete section concerning MCSS' Developmental Services. While the Report did not receive any media coverage, it did make many strong statements and recommendations concerning the lack of controls and accountability systems for the sector. In response to the criticisms, the Ministry stated that "*Many of the planned improvements associated with the transformation – such as the establishment of clear eligibility criteria, the introduction of standardized access processes and assessment tools, and the introduction of quality assurance measures – are strongly aligned with the Auditor General's recommendations.*" This response appears to have indeed re-energized the Transformation Initiative, with the Ministry leading the process. Additionally, it has already led to changes in administrative and management procedures for organizations.

Access to the system remains a significant challenge. As we know, lack of funding and capacity are impediments to service. As part of Transformation, there will be changes made to both the 'access' and 'assessment' components of the system. The Support Intensity Scale is being piloted in several organizations in several regions of the province. Information on this project is available at: www.siswebsite.org/cs/Newsletter/Ontario2007. Other changes are anticipated soon, and will be reported on as they are announced.

The growing wait list in communities across the Province was the major focus of lobbying efforts prior to the recent Provincial Budget. Unfortunately, the Budget was largely silent with respect to the developmental services sector. The one exception was the announced 2% increase to ODSP levels. Obviously this is good news however the actual date for this increase has not been announced.

As noted in the last edition of ESPRIT, the Government did provide the anticipated additional funding to the sector. This funding was directed towards increasing wage levels. Although OCAPDD had a signed 2-year collective agreement ending in 2009, Management and the Union 'opened up' the agreement, and bargained the additional wage increases. These increases were implemented in March; however they were retroactive to April 2007.

OCAPDD is close to the completion of its expansion plan, previously reported on. The Campbell and Charette Programs have been renovated, and most of the individuals have moved from the facilities. The Ministry is indicating that they anticipate Rideau Regional being closed on schedule, or possibly even earlier than March 2009.

OCAPDD has continued with its management agreement of Open Hands in Cornwall. The anticipated decision date regarding a possible amalgamation of Open Hands by the Board of Directors has been pushed back to June, in order to allow for the completion of a business plan.

Two internet based resources that may be of assistance to you, or someone you know are: 'The Guide to Property and Personal Care – for Older Adults with a Developmental Disability'. This guide was developed by the Ontario Partnership on Aging & Developmental Disabilities (OPADD), and is available for free from their website at: www.opadd.on.ca. The second resource is known as ConnectABILITY, and was developed by Community Living Toronto. It can be found at: www.connectability.ca.

The first Silver Spring Farm Award was presented to Jolene Arseneault at the March Board meeting. The announcement of the Award resulted in many strong applications being received from students at all 4 Colleges and Universities in Ottawa. We look forward to the next Award which will occur in October.

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 16th. It is always an enjoyable event.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

David A. Ferguson



Jack Fraser, David A. Ferguson, Michael Elliott, Jolene Arseneault, Gordon deSavigny and Ed Haines.

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Update

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a new Federal Government initiative intended to help parents and others to save for the long-term financial security of a child with a disability.

The RDSP is for you if you are someone who is;

- Eligible for the Disability Tax Credit and is a Canadian resident; OR
- A parent or legal representative of a person who is resident in Canada and is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit.

Contributions can be made until the end of the year in which the beneficiary reaches the age of 59 - the maximum amount over the plan's lifetime being \$200,000.

In addition to your contributions, the government has two programs designed to assist in growing the balance within the RDSP - depending on the net income of the beneficiary's family;

1. The government will contribute between 100% to 300% of contributions in Canada Disability Savings Grants up to a maximum of \$3,500.
2. The government will also contribute \$1,000 annually in Canada Disability Savings Bonds.

When it comes time to withdraw funds from the plan, only the growth and grant money will be taxed in the beneficiary's hands.

One of the questions that remain is if, or how, these withdrawals (or the fact that there's an RDSP in place) may impact the existing income benefits that the beneficiary already receives. We anticipate such details will be provided when the plan becomes available this year.

If you have any questions about the new Registered Disability Savings Plan.

Visit: www.RDSPadvisor.ca

Tamara Petraznyk
Board Member

Doctors of Shredding

The *Doctors of Shredding* are a dedicated group of OCAPDD staff and ten clients that shred paper at CHEO 5 days a week from 9:30 to 2:30.



Back Row: Jenn Rouselle, Mike Corney, Dan Moloughney, Glenn Leger, Tim McGahey.
Front row: Joe Utano, Pat Collins, Tammy Norrie, Katie Perry, Gaetan Lasalle, Jill McKnight.
Missing: Mary Bunbury and Moira Birdwise.

The Loeb Centre started the CHEO program in September 1998 with Jill McKnight and two Loeb Centre clients volunteering at CHEO for one morning a week to shred paper. The program grew in scope and size each year. In 2006 Jill negotiated an honorarium for the group, part of which goes to the Loeb Centre and part of which goes to the individuals in the program. As well, in 2007 the program was opened to OCAPDD clients beyond the Loeb Centre

The *Doctors* have their own small office in the basement at CHEO which houses 4 shredding machines that are in constant use. On an average day, the *Doctors* produce 30-35 bags of shred and pickup 8-10 bins of paper. There are 125 bins located throughout the hospital. CHEO is a safe and friendly environment and there is always lots of work and no down-time.

In the future, the *Doctors* would like to have a dedicated, well-ventilated space large enough to house the shredding machines, out of the way of hospital traffic. As well, they would like space for a sorting table and a secure area for the recycle bins.

In 2006 a second CHEO program was undertaken by this group of volunteers. In addition to their shredding operation, they now help out in the CHEO Foundation Office two days a week. They assist with the mailing of tax receipts to CHEO donors – folding, stuffing and stamping envelopes.

The group takes great pride in their ability to volunteer successfully in the community at tasks that are necessary and valued.