



# Esprit Newsletter

Fall / Winter Edition 2014

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

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

## OCAPDD Glee

OCAPDD Glee is the result of a volunteer's vision who understands the value of music to individuals with a developmental disability. The ability to sing with pride and confidence is one that everyone of us has, and deserves to be shared with the community. OCAPDD Glee is still in its early stages, but we have a faithful group of singers who share their enthusiasm and love of music at each practice. It is all about having fun and having the opportunity to shine! For us, it's a place to come and just LET GO! Be yourself, relax, sing, laugh and meet new friends. Everyone leaves with a smile on their face and a buzz that will hopefully stay with them until their next session.



Our debut was at the OCAPDD Christmas Party, where we wowed the crowd with some favourite Christmas songs. Adorned with festive Santa hats, the Glee choir sang their hearts out and were met with thunderous applause. The Glee choir's next "gig" will be headlining an Aktion Club meeting in January 2015.

We would like to thank all our community volunteers who support this group. If you or someone you care for would like to join OCAPDD Glee, please contact Debbie Blasutti for more information by email at [dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca](mailto:dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca) or by phone at 613-569-8993, extension 243.

## WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

The Quinlan Centre has had the privilege of Barb Murphy's artistic expertise with painting in water colour, on Wednesday mornings.

Barb arrives with an idea in hand and with the support of the staff, she guides individuals to explore their inner artist. And what artists they have become.

Thank you Barb!

by the Quinlan Staff



Ricky MacDonald (centre), proudly shows one of his paintings, with Elizabeth Stroh (left) and Barb Murphy (right).

## 40 Years of Dedication!

Roger Poirier recently celebrated 40 years of working with the Food and Beverage Service Team, at Algonquin College.



To mark this occasion his colleagues presented him with a Montreal Canadiens cake, as Roger remains an ardent fan of Les Habitants.



In addition, this important milestone was also recognized by the president of Algonquin College, Cheryl Jensen, who presented Roger with a framed Certificate of Achievement.

Congratulations Roger for your extraordinary dedication.  
by Tracey Brown, Supported Work Program

## On the Move: the Every Canadian Counts Campaign



Every Canadian Counts (ECC), which emerged from the OCAPDD Board, aims to address the current disability supports crisis in Canada. To accomplish this, we are forming a coalition of individuals living with lifelong disabilities, their families, support agencies, and concerned citizens. In the years ahead, we believe that a united advocacy movement can push the provincial and federal governments to act.

One excellent example of a national program is the new Australian National Disability Insurance Agency. It was legislated into existence about two years ago. (Prior to that, Australia had many of the same problems we still have in Canada: long wait lists, inefficient overlapping systems of support, inadequate funding, no portability of services if a family moves, and so on.) To learn how they accomplished this, we have had numerous discussions with the Australians who led the advocacy campaign there.

We have started the ECC campaign in Ontario. Since April, five of our Board members have been actively meeting with family groups, advocacy organizations, and support agencies across Ontario -- in Sarnia, Kitchener, Woodstock, Brampton, Toronto, Cornwall and Ottawa to date. Further meetings are being planned in Kingston, Muskoka, London, Windsor, Hamilton and elsewhere. The response has been enthusiastic. As well we have begun to reach out to national advocacy groups such as the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the Canadian Association for Community Living.

OASIS has generously provided seed money to hire a part-time Coordinator, Jessica McCuaig. She has been central to our success.

There is more information on our website [www.everycanadiancounts.com](http://www.everycanadiancounts.com).

What can you do to help? The easiest way to begin is to sign up as a supporter on the home page of our website and spread the word to your friends & families. We aim to have 100,000 supporters by the Spring. With your help we can do this.

Robert Mitchell  
Chair, ECC Working Group

### 2014 CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP PROJECT

It's that time of the year. Need some help wrapping those special gifts? We have 2 locations to serve you! As in previous years, OCAPDD is wrapping gifts at the community booth at Carlingwood Mall and St. Laurent Shopping Centre. More than 300 volunteers are helping to wrap gifts to raise funds for the Association.

The kick-off to our 2014 Gift Wrap campaign started on Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at Carlingwood Mall and on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Laurent Shopping Centre and will be going until 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Come out and let us give you a hand with your Christmas gifts!





# **President & Executive Director's Report**

## **ONTARIO**

As you are aware, since the last Esprit in the spring the Ontario Government 'fell'; an election was called; and, Kathleen Wynne's liberals were elected into a majority Government. Then in July, the Final Report of the Select Committee on Developmental Services was released, and the Budget was approved. The funding announcements from Minister McMeekin in April, and released again by Minister Jaczek (who was appointed Minister of Community and Social Services after the election) indicated that the Government was going to invest \$810 million in developmental services over the next three years, including \$200 million for wages for lower paid employees working in the vulnerable services sector. Since those announcements, these figures have been found to be somewhat artificial, in that they entail funds being 'counted' multiple times. Specifically, the \$200 million for wages will actually be \$80 million annualized. While the announced funding is important, and appreciated, the reality is just not what expectations had become. It is clear however, that a 1% increase in ODSP rates was approved and implemented as of September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Deputy Minister Karen Chan participated in a regional meeting of Executive Directors and Presidents in Ottawa on October 7th, along with the Eastern Region Director and other Ministry staff. During this meeting, Karen spoke about the continuing transformation process, and how the new funding would assist with this. Included in these comments, she noted the effort and funding going into eliminating the waitlists for both SSAH & Passport. She also noted that MCSS was bringing forward their 2006 paper, 'Opportunities and Action' and utilizing it as their guideline in going forward and transforming the DS sector. We would encourage you to read the document again. It can be found at:

<http://find.gov.on.ca/?searchType=simple&owner=mcss&url=www.mcss.gov.on.ca&collection=&offset=0&lang=en&type=ANY&q=opportunities+and+action&Search.x=0&Search.y=0>.

In late October, the Government responded to the Select Committee on Developmental Services Final Report, and its 46 recommendations. The response can be found at:

[http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcss/developmental/Government\\_Response\\_DS\\_Select\\_Committee.pdf](http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcss/developmental/Government_Response_DS_Select_Committee.pdf).

## **OMBUDSMAN**

In what seems to be a repeating message from us, unfortunately the Ontario Ombudsman's report into the DS sector has not been released yet. It is rumoured to be due for release early in the New Year.

## **OCAPDD BOARD**

At this year's AGM the Board expressed its appreciation to both Bonnie Dinning and Pam Parent as they retired from the Board of Directors. The membership elected David Adams, Vivien Runnels, Joyce Van Dieen and Majid Turmusani to the Board, along with re-electing Alison Middlebro, Robert Mitchell, Mike Appleton, James Smith and Robert Labelle to another 2-year term.

## **EVERY CANADIAN COUNTS**

We would like to express our appreciation to OASIS for their infusion of start-up funds for the Every Canadian Counts initiative, which has allowed the working committee to purchase part-time consulting support for the activity, along with travelling to other communities to make presentations to community groups on the initiative.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP**

As always at this time of year, we would like to encourage you to join us by either volunteering at one of our Gift Wrap booths, or coming by to have your presents wrapped by us. As we have for several years, there will be a booth at both the Carlingwood and St. Laurent Shopping Centres.

Happy Holidays! Joyeuses Fêtes!

Bill Cowie  
President

David A. Ferguson  
Executive Director



# Horsing Around

For many years OCAPDD individuals have enjoyed the therapeutic riding program but this past year was a very special session. First the program was split into two groups last spring, horsemanship for individuals who are unable to ride and the therapeutic riding program for those who can ride.



*The riders and volunteers.*

The horsemanship program was run out of Tranquil Acres Therapeutic Equestrian Centre. Ryan from the Centre and dedicated volunteers worked with the individuals teaching the basics of daily horse care, grooming, nutrition, handling and the basics of riding a horse to show how to build a relationship of trust with a horse.

The therapeutic riding program was moved to Fran McLaughlin's home in Dunrobin. This Fall, the group was involved in the grooming and tacking of the horses as well as cleaning up after them.

Both the riders and volunteers felt that the expanded program was more interactive and that it was the right time to challenge the more experienced riders of this program. Fran had a camp fire to roast marshmallows to celebrate the last day.

It was a great year. We have already been asked when the next session is. Thank you to the volunteers who have made this possible not just this year but for more years.

by Angela Jones

## *❧ In Memoriam ❧*

**Ron Palmer** (December 3, 1959 – October 14, 2014)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ron Palmer.

Ron passed away Tuesday October 14, with his family at his side. Ron was part of OCAPDD's family since 1978, at Loeb, ARC and finally at the Rosenthal Centre.

Ron put his hand to many different tasks during his working life but will always be fondly remembered as the "lawn chair King". A good and hard working man, Ron could always be counted upon to try his best at whatever he was asked to do.

Ron had a keen sense of humour and loved WWF wrestling and reading the paper when he could. Ron worked as part of the woodworking group for over 30 years both at ARC and Rosenthal.

A quiet man that we shall all miss.

**Myrna Dooley** (March 9, 1947 - October 23, 2014)

Myrna has been with OCAPDD on and off for at least the last 35 years. She used to attend ARC Industries and was also served by Senior Brokerage. She came to CSS in 2001.

Myrna has been described as determined and fiercely independent.

She was a happy person who had a big heart and liked being able to joke around with people.

She will be missed by her neighbours and her friend of 30 years, John Smith.



*Gone are the days we used to share  
But in our hearts you're always there  
Never more than a thought away  
Loved and remembered every day*



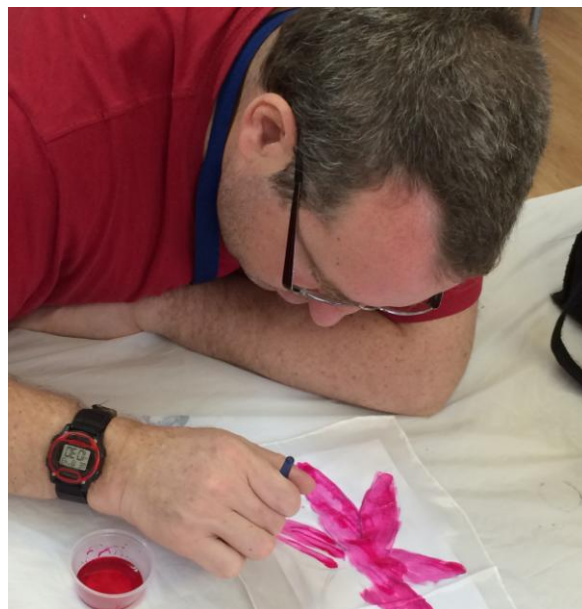
# ARTSWELL

Through Artswell Rick is enjoying working with silk fiber for the first time. He is working on his spatial relations employing two dimensional strategies with the outcome actually being three dimensional.

The silk is a luxurious yet strong fiber and the dyes have a wonderfully rich pigment. Rick's end product will be shimmery, beautiful and practical as the scarves are meant for Christmas gifts.

His pride in just the beginning stages is obvious as he works away. While the outline of the designs were drying, Rick started some Christmas ornaments which will be done in stages. We are not going to reveal the end results of this technique; you will have to visit Rick's Christmas tree to find out!

by Janet Beath



## NEW WHEELCHAIR RAMP AT THE QUINLAN CENTRE

On a beautiful sunny September afternoon, family and friends of the Quinlan Centre gathered to witness what would become another memorable day at the Centre. A long awaited and much anticipated state of the art wheelchair ramp was ceremoniously opened and put to use.

True to Quinlan fashion, all of the bells and whistles were pulled out along with a trumpet, trombone, clarinet and banjo. With hands clapping and toes tapping, we had the good fortune of the Dixie Land Band leading us all in a sing-a-long of songs from days gone by.

As the afternoon progressed, and with Rebecca Lemieux and Anthony Arecchi in place, the moment had arrived. Speeches given and scissors in hand, and to thunderous applause, the ribbon was cut.

by the Quinlan Staff



Rebecca Lemieux, Marnie Suykens, Anthony Arecchi and Ann-Marie Engelberts Cousineau cutting of the ribbon for the new ramp at Quinlan.

## *The Quinlan Centre Celebrates Christmas in July*

With the hot summer weather upon us, an idea was pitched for a Christmas in July! With #1 Elf, Ashley at the helm, Quinlan elves went straight to work decorating the tree with newly made decorations, cooking and putting the finishing touches on a July 24<sup>th</sup> day filled with only the best of the season's festivities.

As everyone arrived for work in their finest green and red summer attire, Christmas music was heard throughout the building. As season's greetings delivered from family and friends filtered in, people settled in for a Christmas movie that was magically delivered that very day from our very own Santa Brian.

While the wonderful aroma of a turkey dinner and all the fixings were descending upon our anticipating senses, tables were set and appetites engaged with the sweet slumber of turkey comas slowly creeping upon all of us. However, not before an array of Christmas desserts delivered from angels were devoured.

The afternoon was spent in the rich tradition of decorating sugar cookies and ginger breads for everyone to take home. Of course it wouldn't be a true Christmas celebration without snow and believing in the magic of Christmas. Santa did not disappoint. With two bags of snow from the winter of 2004/05, Quinlan was able to spread holiday cheer for a Christmas in July.

by the Quinlan Staff



Melanie Quinn and Marnie Suykens.

## **Save the Date!**



Once again, OCAPDD's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament, was a huge success thanks to all of our sponsors and participants. Over \$18,000 was raised in support of the individuals of OCAPDD.

Save the date and join us for our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament on June 15, 2015.

To register visit our website at [www.ocapdd.on.ca](http://www.ocapdd.on.ca)