



Esprit Newsletter

Spring / Summer Edition 2019

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

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

Memory Lane



Roy grew up in Montreal around the corner from Saint Joseph's Oratory. Over 10 years ago, Roy came home with a picture of Saint Joseph's Oratory, smiling from ear to ear, and proudly showing the picture to all. It was then that I learned of Roy's history of growing up in Montreal. As Roy's primary at the time, I decided to take him on a day trip to Montreal to visit Saint Joseph's Oratory. I grew up near the Oratory too, so it was a unique experience reminiscing with a fellow Montrealer. Now as a relief worker and volunteer, I've been asked to take Roy and a few other individuals over the years from different programs on day and overnight trips to Montreal, Toronto, Boston, etc.

To see an individual who knows they are on vacation (destination of their choice) is an honour. I get a glimpse of another side of them... just like anyone who is on vacation. Roy's connection to Saint Joseph's Oratory runs deep, as his mother used to take Roy there as a child while living down the street. I can only imagine his appreciation going back there; he lights up with such a sense of peace and calm.

Roy goes to the souvenir shop and purchases something every time. Whatever he chooses from the gift shop, he brings home and carefully places it beside his bed on the table. I believe he feels more at home with that souvenir from Montreal by his bed.

Submitted by Scott I. Baker



≈ Thank you ≈

REALTORS Care Foundation Grant



Debbie Blasutti, Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Tony McDermott, Barb Paquette and Deborah Burgoyne.

The grant from the REALTORS Care Foundation truly helps support the well-being of people with developmental disabilities. This grant will be used to repair the asphalt, remove roots, install patio stones and a walkway to the back yard to give access to all individuals that participate at the Quinlan Center. Our individuals will now enjoy the outdoors in a safe environment.

Submitted by Jocelyne Parent Lewis

Christmas Gift Wrap



On behalf of OCAPDD I would like to say thank you so much for all your help with the Christmas Gift Wrap Booth at the Carlingwood and St. Laurent Shopping Centers. Without your support and dedication it would not be possible. Each year it just keeps getting better and better, and this year despite no Sears and online shopping we raised \$19,000 after expenses. There were 38 days of wrapping; 685 volunteer shifts filled; and, approximately 5,000 gifts wrapped.

Hats off to you! What a team!

Submitted by Jocelyne Parent Lewis

Sibling Collaborative

We would like to make you aware of another web based resource for families. The Sibling Collaborative has recently produced a free E-book entitled *Through Thick and Thin*. This book is available through their resources tab on their website at <http://sibcollab.ca/>.

Best of Luck!

The OCAPDD CPI team would like to wish Wendy Skinner the best of luck in her new adventures! Wendy has stepped down after 10 years as a CPI instructor. Wendy, you have been a valuable member of the team and will be missed! All the best!

The CPI team



DECA ~ Hearty Tails Partnership



Ben Semiga, Julie Leonard, Judy Bernstein, Adam MacPherson and Ayush Bharagava.

"Over the past eight months, Ayush Bharagava, Ben Semiga, and Adam MacPherson, have had the pleasure of working with Hearty Tails. We began our relationship with this wonderful organization through our high school business project. In October, when the three of us decided we wanted to create a written marketing plan for the DECA business competition club at our school, we knew we wanted our project to make a meaningful impact in our community. We began searching for organizations to work with and Hearty Tails immediately stood out.

We learned that not only did Hearty Tails support individuals with special needs, but that their business had a tremendous opportunity to grow due to their high quality products and unique marketing opportunity. Once we identified the fantastic opportunity to work with this organization we reached out to the team and set up a meeting. We weren't sure what to expect but the Hearty Tails team immediately exceeded our expectations. Julie, John, Judy, and Sheila, were open to our ideas and were excited to begin working with us. After that meeting we began the process of completing our marketing plan. We conducted surveys at local dog parks, talked to pet retail location professionals, and created an in depth plan of strategies to help Hearty Tails grow their business. In February, we presented our plan at the provincial competition in Toronto. Our project was so successful that we qualified for the international competition in Orlando, Florida. Throughout the entire process we continued to communicate with the Hearty Tails team and were able to provide them with our new marketing strategies, while receiving their feedback and support to prepare us for our competition. The international competition was another great experience and we are extremely grateful for the opportunities we have had thanks to our partnership with Hearty Tails. We look forward to continuing to volunteer with Hearty Tails and are excited to see how we can help the business grow and truly make an impact on the lives of those who benefit from Hearty Tails and the OCAPDD programs."

Submitted by Adam, Ayush and Ben.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your yearly membership will soon expire on August 31st. To renew your membership, just complete the insert and send it in or submit your renewal directly online at www.ocapdd.on.ca under "join our team".

Not a member yet? Join us by filling out the insert or going directly online.

PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ONTARIO

Since our last edition of Esprit, efforts continued at a provincial level through OASIS, the Provincial Network and agencies, to engage representatives of the Government and the Opposition parties with respect to issues of concern to the DS sector. The efforts focused on a concise 3 part message, prior to the provincial Budget being tabled. The three priorities were: 1 – preserve funding for frontline services; 2 – maintain the Passport guarantee; and, 3 – let the sector assist in identifying ways to cut red tape in the sector. Locally, OCAPDD along with OCL and Rotary Home, met with sitting members of both the Government party and opposition Liberals to discuss these priorities. Additionally, representatives of the three agencies have been involved in two direct meetings with the Minister since her appointment last June.

While the Ontario Budget was tabled April 11th, and the Estimate papers being filed on May 9th, there is still very little detail with respect to the budget for the DS sector. This is due largely to the fact that the Ministry of Community & Social Services was merged with three other Ministries last June to create the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This new MCCSS, is a very large Ministry, and is in fact the 3rd largest expense line for the Government after Health and Education. Within MCCSS, Developmental Services has disappeared as a separate division, and is now part of the 'Community Services' division. The Budget was clear however, that approximately \$1 Billion will be cut from this new Ministry over the next four years. We continue to monitor this topic closely, given the uncertainty that exists due to the lack of detail on funding levels and operating budgets.

PROGRAM UPDATES

As we have reported previously, OCAPDD had been successful in obtaining a Ministry grant to assist us in transitioning away from Sheltered Workshops. This initiative was completed recently, and we would like to thank all of the people involved in that transition. As a component of this change, the focus of the Rosenthal program has been shifted to employment, and renamed. The Employment Centre will become the base for all employment and social enterprise activities currently underway.

As you may also be aware due to media coverage, OCAPDD had renegotiated the contract with the Government of Canada for the operation of the National Archives Program. This change was initiated by OCAPDD in order to pay minimum wage to all of the workers involved, as of January 2019. While it was positive to have negotiated this new contract, the Government clearly indicated that the revised contract would expire at the end of March 2020. Media coverage of the story triggered a public statement by the Leader of the Opposition to maintain the operation, if elected. Then Minister Qualtrough personally contacted OCAPDD to express her commitment to ensuring that none of the 34 workers would be out of work next spring, and to assisting in finding alternative employment within the government's operations.

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL to the CONVENTION on the RIGHTS OF PERSONS with DISABILITIES

On December 3, 2018, the Government of Canada used the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities to announce that it had adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility, made the announcement, which will allow Canadians to bring petitions before the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities if they feel their rights have been violated under the Convention. "Over the last year, our government has taken important steps to help realize a barrier-free Canada," said Qualtrough. "Today, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we celebrate those accomplishments and look towards the future of accessibility in Canada with optimism. Canada's accession to the Optional Protocol of the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities builds on our work and sends a clear message that we are committed to the rights of persons with disabilities and committed to giving all Canadians a fair chance at success.”

Canada ratified the Convention in 2010. In addition to allowing for complaints to be taken to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol allows the Committee to inquire into allegations of grave or systematic violations committed against people in this country.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The annual OCAPDD Employee Recognition was held May 15th. 67 staff were recognized for a combined 1,060 years of service to OCAPDD, including five employees at 25 years of service, 10 employees at 30 years of service, and three employees at 35 years of service! Thank you to all!



5 year recipients: Rick Tomasi, Lisa Somers, Sharon Watkins, Miroslaw Szulc and Jessica Mousseau.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The annual Volunteer Recognition event was held May 2nd at the Loeb Centre. The Volunteers were thanked for their many decades of dedication and generosity, and it was reiterated how the lives of those entrusted to our care have been invariably enriched by their presence.



Norma Lamont, Lynne Potvin and David Ferguson.

SILVER SPRING FARM SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

We would like to congratulate both Lynne Potvin and Caroline Ross, this year’s recipients of the Silver Spring Farm Scholarship Awards.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As part of its annual business cycle, the Board of Directors held their May meeting in Cornwall. At the meeting, an uplifting report was provided to the Board on Project Ryan. This project was started by Ryan’s father, after Ryan passed away over a year ago. Ryan had been supported by Open Hands for many years. Initially the project involved Ryan’s parents making, then selling wooden Christmas ornaments, with a goal of raising \$1,000. The project has been extremely successful, and has expanded well beyond the initial activities and financial goal. To date the proceeds have surpassed \$3,000, and now has a revised goal of \$10,000! Community support of the project has also been overwhelming. We would like to thank both Mike and Brenda Crowder for their efforts!

GOLF

As always at this time of year, we would like to encourage you to join us at this year’s golf tournament on June 17th. This year will be our 19th tournament and we look forward to selling out!

We are also pleased to announce that the Open Hands Golf Tournament has been revived this year. That event will be held on August 19th at the Heritage Country Club.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Norma Lamont
President

David A. Ferguson
Executive Director

∞ In Memoriam ∞

Julia McArthur (November 16, 1959 – January 30, 2019)



Last winter we lost our wonderful friend Julia McArthur. She was a fiancé, sister and co- worker to many at Loeb Center. We miss her loving personality as well as her winks, hugs and her famous saying “Oh yeassh!!!” and “cutie pie”. Although we are sad that she has left us, we are happy to know that she is finally with her parents who she missed so much! Her family had generously donated money and we decided to purchase a new stereo for the Loeb dances. She attended the dances faithfully! We will also be having a big barbecue and a dance this summer in her memory. During the barbecue, we will be letting some butterflies go that we have

been looking after since they were in cocoons! We will send out an announcement to invite those that knew her to join us!

Submitted by Diane Probert

Ron Knight (June 24, 1960 – May 1, 2019)

Peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, Ron Knight entered in to rest on May 1st, 2019. Ron was a joyful presence at Charette house, bringing laughter and smiles to all of those who knew him. He made many friends throughout his years with OCAPDD at Ahearn, Nestow and the Annex. His love for Bob Barker and the Price is Right was iconic and his ability to lift spirits was unmatched.

He will be greatly missed.

Submitted by Jennifer Christie



Dianna Reid (October 7, 1969 - May 23, 2019)



Dianna was a loving, caring woman with a smile and joyful presence that lit up the room and made everyone feel special. Dianna attended the Rosenthal Centre since 1991. When she came there she was joined by some of her friends from Crystal Bay School, Maureen, Robert and Larry (whose Mom drove the school bus!) and who remained lifetime friends. She enjoyed many activities including music class, spa days and people watching, but none as much as Halloween and any chance to dress up. We were reminded daily just how special she was to everyone around her because when she wasn't here people were asking for her or looking for her.

Dianna also attended Lavonne Respite Care Program. At Lavonne, Dianna developed strong connections with her peers as well as the staff. She enjoyed going to parks in the summer for picnics, and watching any movie that had animals or dogs in it. Dianna was very adept at choosing the perfect spot to sit to ensure she could see and hear everything that was going on as she enjoyed being part of the action. Dianna's care and love of her family, friends, dogs and staff was felt though her huge hugs, bright smile and contagious laugh.

We all miss Dianna deeply.

Submitted by Christine Connolly and Sheila Dagenais

Employee Recognition Evening

On Wednesday, May 15th Service Awards were presented to the following employees to recognize their years of service with OCAPDD:



10 year recipients: Ericka Nagel, Mikhail Honarvar, Bridgit Devlin, Aileen Carney, Tina Emon, Paul St-Laurent and Jenilee Stillwell.

5 Years

Ciara Nash
Amanda Murdock
Fanda Ali Esmael
Catherine Young
Kourtney-Anne Small
Eretayor Domingo
Miroslaw Szulc
Sharon Watkins
Christopher Payette
Cortney Peleshok
Jessica Andress
Najla Faqi
René Castaneda
Lisa Somers
Rick Tomasi
Stefanie St-Cyr
Fahima Abdi
Jessica Mousseau

10 Years

Gregory Leslie
Paul St-Laurent
Naomi Hayfron-Benjamin
Colin Morozuk
Tina Emon

Martina Phillips
Jenilee Stillwell
Aileen Carney
Bridgid Devlin
Mikhail Honarvar
Farah Mahomed
Terry Cordick
Jason Oliver
Lee Turcotte
Erika Nagel

15 Years

Jenna Stamplicoski
Steven Artna
Lizabeth Van Daalen
Alissa Annanpera
Colleen Allen
Corinne Ladouceur

20 Years

Kim Diorio
Natalie Deschamps
Simon Auriat
Lee-ann Marks
Pamela Sawyer
Angela Chan
Gloria Bergsma

Julie Kirkham
Wayne Hughes
Bonnie Grant

25 Years

Basil Phillips
Victoria Burrill
Todd Kellett
Robert Pretty
Lisa Lind

30 Years

Tanya Leclair
Donald Poirier
Tammy Rossignol
Jennifer Bisson-Levac
Dino Langis
Kirsten MacKenzie
Sarah Rado
David Knox
April Dodge
Dan L. Roy

35 Years

Laura Mulligan
Tina Coyne
Diane Probert

Mark Your Calendar

OCAPDD / AKTION CLUB BBQ

You're Invited to a



Come join us for our annual BBQ on Saturday, June 22nd.

From 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Behind the Hardini Community Center at 235 Donald Street just down the street from the Loeb Center.

There will live music.

All OCAPDD/AKTION Club staff, individuals and families are welcome.

Join Us for OCAPDD's 19th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Join us on Monday, June 17th (1:00 p.m. Shotgun start) at Hautes Plaines Golf Club.

Cost is \$150 per person, dinner and silent / live Auction start at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in helping better the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

For more information or to register, please call 613.569.8993 extension 245 or visit our website at www.ocapdd.on.ca.



OCAPDD'S Garlic Scapes

Silver Spring Farm (1703 Robertson Road)



Available mid-June, garlic scapes are the flower stalk of the garlic. With mild garlic flavour and aroma, they are wonderful additions to stew, roasts, marinade, salads, sandwiches, sauces, pasta, stir-fry, pesto, roasted or even steamed. The possibilities are endless!

Scapes will be available for purchase in June and garlic will be available in August. Call our Hotline for more info at: 613.569.8993 extension 409.

Looking to volunteer? We are always in need of helping hands to weed, harvest, and clean garlic during the summer. Call our Coordinator of Volunteers at: 613.569.8993 extension 243.