



Spring / Summer Edition 2020

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

Debbie Blasutti, Coordinator of Volunteers



Keeping Busy!

Due to COVID-19, on March 17, individuals started to stay home. Day programs were closed and staff were dispersed to the agency's 17 residences in Ottawa.

Staff and supervisors became inventive in coming up with ideas for activities. Some people in the community were purchasing toilet paper but we at OCAPDD were purchasing crafts supplies and day programs donated items to help with activities.

"A Good Challenge" was created with different ideas of theme days: pyjama day, sport day, National take out day, beach day and many others. Individuals were encouraged to have an exercise routine for a healthy body and mind. We had the OCAPDD stretch. Information coming from the community was shared with programs.

Programs got to post pictures, which were shared between friends.

"A Keep Busy Borrow Program" was created for all. Residential homes and individuals were able to borrow games, toys, puzzles, musical instruments and much more. Homes were able to ask for craft supplies, paper to shred and other items to keep people busy. Items were delivered to the curb to maintain social distancing and safety.

The Passport Program permitted individuals to purchase electronics and other items to keep them busy. The agency assisted with individuals who didn't have Passport money.

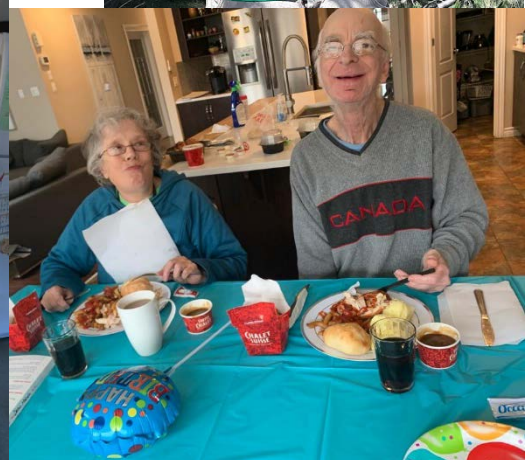


Barry making a bird feeder.



Thanks to all staff for making a difficult situation into a safe and productive time.

Roxanne Gilbert, Supervisor of the Homeshare Program and Centre de transition communautaire



EmployAbility

We want to take this opportunity to thank our essential workers for their dedication and commitment to their job. Through all of this we've had Chris, James, Glenn, John, Jacques, Gregory, Gordon, Scott, Richard, Paul, and Pat working at grocery stores; Loblaws, Metro and Farm Boy.

Kim has been working at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.



Jacques in the Garden Centre at Loblaws.



John started a work experience on May 28 at EmployAbility.

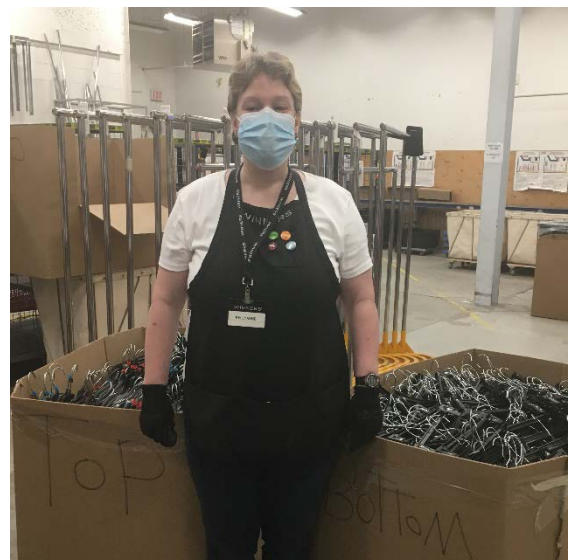


Kim using her palm pilot.

Recently returning to work is Tim at Home Hardware, Moustapha at Asten Johnson, Theo at Canadian Tire, Richard and Luc at Ottawa Police Service, Kelly-Anne at Winners, John at EmployAbility, and Lise at Farm Boy.

Many of the employers have continued paying their staff for the past couple of months. As well, many employers have called to check up on their employees to make sure they are doing ok. Our guys really appreciate that.

Tracey Brown, Cathy Holmes, Donna Porter and Julie Leonard.



Kelley-Anne returning to Winners on June 1. Her first day back included health and safety training on personal protective equipment.

Homeshare Update

We are now living a new reality.

Thumbs up to all our Homeshare Providers and sharers for doing so great in this difficult time. They are facing this pandemic with courage and bravery and they are adapting to changes never seen before with calm and resilience.

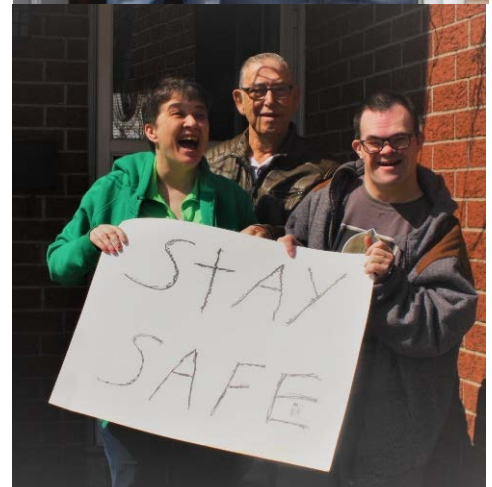
We have recognized the challenges the COVID-19 situation has placed on the Homeshare Providers while community programs and workplaces are closed.

Everyone at Homeshare has been working as a team to provide activities, craft supplies, Samsung tablets through Passport funds, etc.; one person even got a three-wheeled bicycle. We are also sending out e-cards for all special occasions. Masks, chocolates, plants and a Mother's Day gift were distributed to families.

The Caseworkers have also had to adjust their support. We are keeping in touch through phone calls, emails, lane way visits and pictures. We have started to meet with new families through video conference. We are finding ways to advocate differently in this new world.

The pandemic is not over. Let's continue to work together. Thank you for all you do.

Roxanne Gilbert, Supervisor of the Homeshare Program





Meet the Grocery Team

The grocery team orders & shops for all essential items and delivers to residential programs.



To the whole grocery team, we just want to say we appreciate all your hard work behind the scenes. I'm sure it's quite the task but all your hard work makes it feel like Christmas here for everyone when you arrive!!!

Jennifer Bisson-Levac, Supervisor Moffatt Residence & Annex Day Program

Centre de transition communautaire - CTC



Le centre de jour Francophone CTC est fermé depuis le 17 mars. Le personnel travaille maintenant dans les résidences de l'agence. Jenna travaille sur l'équipe qui procure et livre la nourriture aux résidences. Je suis toujours au CTC avec les employés des foyers-partage.

Je garde contact avec les familles et personnes de différentes façons : téléphone, photos, courriels, cartes et vidéo. Je reçois des photos de tous les programmes que je partage par courriel avec tout le monde. Les familles et les personnes ont trouvées toutes sortes d'activités pour s'occuper. Félicitation pour votre résilience.



L'information pour le programme Passeport fut partagée avec les familles. Plusieurs personnes se sont procurées de l'équipement électronique.

La date de réouverture du centre dépend des recommandations du gouvernement, entre-temps gardons contact.

Roxanne Gilbert, Superviseure du CTC et du Programme des foyers-partage



PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There has not been such a dramatic change in the topics we would normally report on in this newsletter than has occurred since our last article in November. As in most years, early in the New Year OCAPDD in collaboration with two other local agencies, began making efforts to meet with local MPP's, to discuss matters of concern prior to the provincial Budget being prepared. The focus of the message at these meetings, and in keeping with the same themes being presented by OASIS and other provincial groups, was threefold. To: 1 – maintain operating budgets at existing levels, and to annualize the funding; 2 – to publicly commit to maintaining Passport funding; and, 3 – to commit to engaging the various stakeholders in the sector into a public consultation process regarding change for the DS sector, rather than simply engaging a consulting firm to review previous reports regarding the sector as had been reported in the media.

Then in March, the WHO declared an international pandemic, and the world changed!

Community participation programs, respite service and employment supports were quickly suspended. Staff were redeployed to residential programs that continued to operate. A team to purchase groceries and other supplies was created, and began working diligently to ensure that the programs had adequate food and supplies (including toilet paper). A concerted effort to source out and purchase a supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was undertaken. Staff and management stepped up to the challenge, and our excellent level of service and support to the residents of our programs has been maintained!

During the past weeks, all levels of Government have also acted in response to the pandemic. Most of these actions have had some type of impact on our operations. Police prevention of interprovincial travel effecting our employees who reside in Quebec; closure of public gatherings and retail operations; an imposed requirement on employees to select only one employer in the DS sector; social isolation upon return from international travel (just as March break was ending); physical distancing requirements; the discouragement, then encouragement of wearing of masks; expansion of eligible expenditures for Passport funding; testing for the virus; Pandemic Pay; and, the list goes on....

While we are not 'through this yet', conversations have begun within the agency, with other local agencies, and at a provincial level about how will services and the sector look as we go forward. Minister Smith met with a group of sector representatives on May 15th, and stated that the Ministry is committed to a process of planned sector reform. He also indicated that this process will involve a series of consultations and engagement with the sector across all regions of the province, beginning possibly this summer or in the fall.

So in circling back to our '3 asks' prior to the Budget, through this pandemic we have in fact achieved both maintaining our existing funding level, and an engagement in a broad based consultation with the sector. Perhaps there will be a silver lining to what we have all experienced.

We would like to again express the heart felt appreciation of families, management and the Board to all of our employees who stepped up to keep the programs operating in order to ensure the people we support continued to receive an excellent level of care! THANK YOU !!!

Norma Lamont
President

David A. Ferguson
Executive Director



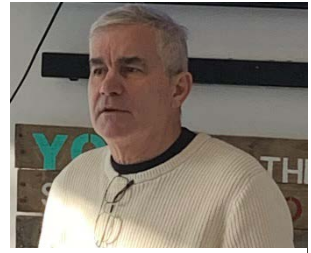
Employer Thank You Breakfast



David and Kathleen

David Ferguson, Executive Director and Kathleen Stokely, Vice-President of the Board of Directors presented letters of appreciation to each of our employers who were able to attend the breakfast on February 19.

Our keynote speaker was John Rapp, Executive Director of Dovercourt Recreation. John gave an inspiring speech which represented support for both the employees and the staff. Having employed 17 people from EmployAbility over the last 26 years, he knows what it's all about.



John

A presentation was made by Luc Bédard to Eric St.Clair at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for being the longest standing employer with EmployAbility.

Julie Leonard, Supervisor of EmployAbility, thanked everyone for attending the event and expressed our appreciation for all of the support they give to the people they employ.

"Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow" Leon Brown



Kim, Eric, Luc and Ron



We also had a door prize, Robin Cybulski of Ottawa Police Services, being the recipient. A beautiful piece of woodwork done in our very own woodworking shop by John and his team. It is a lovely box with a little touch of the Parliament roof copper to put your laptop on to bring it to a good reading height and 2 tickets to the Sens game in March including parking (promised new tickets when post COVID-19 season starts).

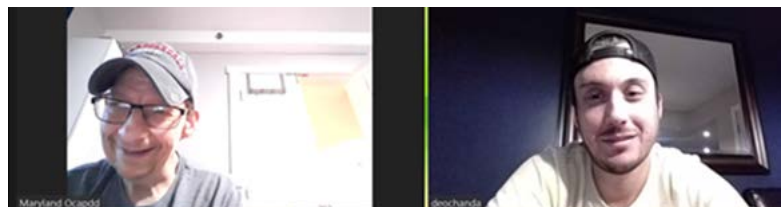
Also a special thanks to Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health for the tasty chocolate treats. As well as Krackers Katering for catering our event.

Tracey Brown, Cathy Holmes, Donna Porter and Julie Leonard.

Buddies

Adam reached out to OCAPDD in February and he was interested in joining the leisure buddy program. Adam is very excited to have been matched with David who resides at our Maryland home. The two became fast friends and so far in 2020, they have spent an afternoon together walking Adam's dog, and Adam took David to purchase a festive outfit for his St Patrick's Day dance. When pandemic COVID-19 resulted in distancing measures, Adam and David's friendship continued virtually. The two have spent time together on the video conferencing software ZOOM, and they hope to have a window visit at Maryland soon. David is happy to have met Adam and he says that he has been waiting for a long time for a volunteer. Adam and David have big plans together moving forward on the golf course and they look forward to watching and playing many sports together.

Debbie Blasutti, Coordinator of Volunteers



∞ In Memoriam ∞

Claire Cloutier (April 7, 1951 - November 10, 2019)



Claire came to benefit from OCAPDD services after leaving Rideau Regional Centre. She lived at Ahearn Residence and Crosswinds Apartments while enjoying support from the CSS Program.

Claire was supported by OCAPDD for more than 20 years and spent her later years at Starwood nursing home where she was well liked and cared for.

She enjoyed OCAPDD Christmas parties, visits from CSS staff and always looked forward to her weekly coffee from McDonald's.

She used to like to sit in the nursing home's garden and play card games; she taught me how to play Crazy 8 and we shared many laughs.

Claire passed away at the age of 68 after a short bout with a respiratory illness. We sorely miss her gentle smile and her easygoing nature.

Claire is survived by her brother Pierre.

By Awa Diop

Philip Moloughney (November 10, 1962 – January 22, 2020)

After spending four weeks in the hospital, bravely battling different health issues, Philip Moloughney passed away on January 22.

Phil lived on his family's farm with his parents until the age of 33, at which time he started to be transitioned gradually to receive supports from OCAPDD. Phil first started to attend Rosenthal Centre and then moved into Campbell House. After living at Campbell for years, Phil was moved to Byron and then eventually he moved to Settler's Ridge.

Phil was a quiet man and preferred hanging out with staff on a one to one basis. Phil enjoyed action packed movies, TV police shows, fire trucks, police cars and John Deere paraphernalia. Phil had a soft spot for animals and seemed to like visiting pet stores and farm animals. Phil seemed to always enjoy the visits when his brother Paul would come to Ottawa and he would spend quality time with his two brothers, Paul and Dan.

Phil liked to help staff decorate the house for different occasions, he especially seemed to enjoy Halloween. Phil was always willing to lend a helping hand to assist with light household chores and laundry was his specialty. He truly was the master of precisely folding each item.

Phil lived his final years at Settler's, where he will be sorely missed and all of the memories of his infectious laugh and great sense of humour will be cherished forever by all of us. Rest in peace Dear Phil.

By the Settler's Team



∞ In Memoriam ∞

Chantel Stoneburner (June 23, 1981 - March 25, 2020)

Chantel was supported by CSS for close to 20 years. She touched the lives of many staff members over those years and was always a larger than life character. Once you were able to make a connection with her it was very deep and meaningful. Chantel was a real “spitfire”; she could always light up a room and told very colorful stories. For that matter, her favorite colour was purple and she would always compliment your outfit when you wore that particular colour.

Sadly, Chantel’s little baby, Luci as we called him, also passed away four months after his birth and we are mourning his loss as well. One of her greatest joys was to be a mother and I know that they are cuddling together for now and forever. May you both Rest in Peace.

By Anne Cole



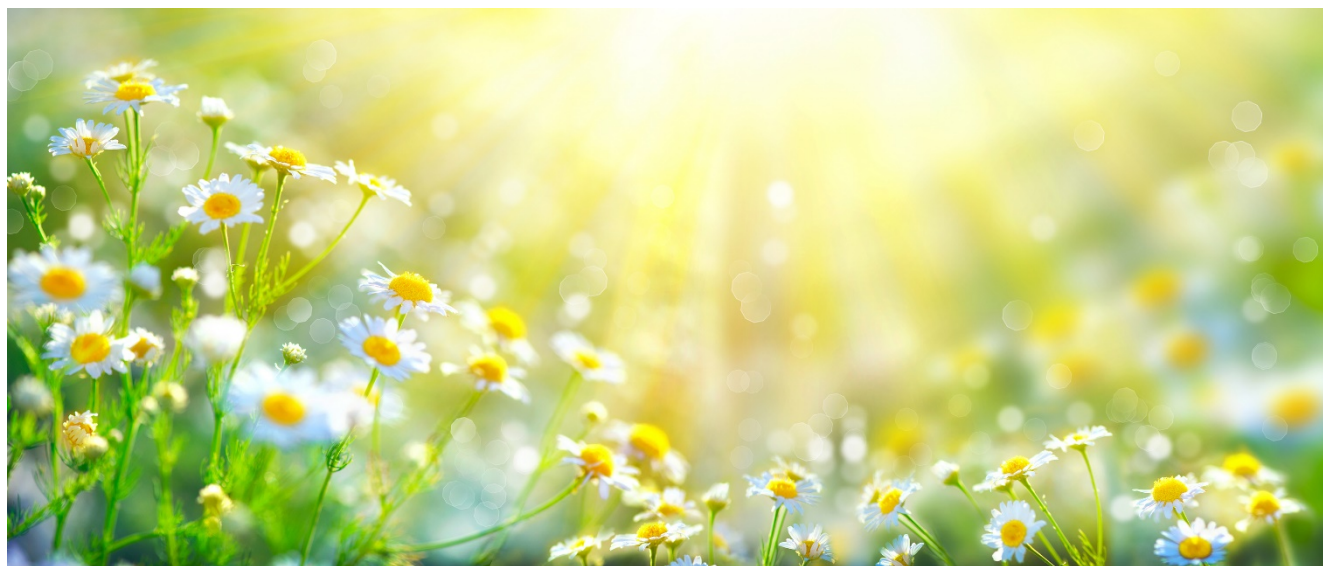
Antonio (Tony) Vandongen (April 30, 1954 - January 2, 2020)



Tony was an animated, comical and lively gentleman with an infectious smile that always lit up the room. His spunky and carefree attitude always made others laugh. Tony lived at Braeside Residence from January 2008 to January of 2020. He spent most of his days lounging on “his couch”. Tony always had a way of getting people’s attention by saying a funny word or phrase. Tony’s memory will go on and he will be forever missed by his peers, past and present staff and all others who had the pleasure of knowing him. Rest in peace Antonio.

By Farah Mahomed

Beautiful memories silently kept of one that we loved and will never forget.



∞ In Memoriam ∞

Jerome G. Sauve (April 29, 1944 - March 19, 2020)



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Jerome Sauve at age 75, at Caressant Care in Bourget. Jerome is now reunited with his mother Loretta and father Joseph. He leaves behind a loving family of nieces along with several great-nieces and great-nephews.

While being supported by OCAPDD, Jerome spent time at Moffatt, Nestow, Ratan, and Settler's Ridge Residences as well as attending The Annex and he was also a popular attendee at Camp Misquah. He always enjoyed artwork and loved to colour and paint with great focus and intensity. Jerome also had a passion for country music and loved to play his guitar or walk around the house playing a harmonica or recorder.

Jerome could often be found with a comb or two, or ten in his pocket and took great pride in styling his hair and making sure he was clean-shaven. He also loved to sneak a sniff of staff's or a housemate's hair when he could get a chance. Jerome was also dedicated to exploring his environment and was always on the move. Even in his latter days and confined to a wheelchair, Jerome was tireless in remaining active and exploring as much of his surroundings as he could. Jerome will be deeply missed by many OCAPDD staff and individuals.

By Michael Hiscoe

Concezio Andreo (Andy) Dinardo (May 25, 1964 - May 7, 2020)

Andy was a sweet, gentle and kind man who resided at Braeside Residence. He was calm, quiet and good natured.

Andy spent most of his days engaged in block play and was most content when doing so. His spirit and love for blocks will be missed and remembered always in the hearts of all those fortunate enough to have known him.

Rest in peace Andreo.

By Farah Mahomed



June Spratt (June 8, 1952 - June 20, 2020)



It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of June Spratt who died peacefully at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on the evening of June 20th. June has been with Community Support Services for many years. If you were lucky enough to have met June you would have recognized her love of life and of her family and friends. She was known for her excellent memory for events and information.

By Stephen Griffin



Congratulations

To the following employees from Open Hands for their years of dedicated service:

5 years

Corina Rudowski
Laurie Clark
Cristol Brousseau
Jamie Capello
Danika St Denis
Deidra Taylor
Melissa Pyke

10 years

Kayla Periard
Glen Davis
Gisele Godbout
Andrea Villeneuve
Allan Graham
Tina Clark
Stephanie Graham

15 years

Angela Rochon
Joe Geneau
Melissa Lavigne

20 years

Vicky Vallerand

21 years

Daisy Miklos-Lamarche

40 years

Carol St. Germain

To the following employees from OCAPDD for their years of dedicated service:

5 Years

Sydney David
Byron Randell
Daniel Brazeau
Steven Ang
Chinedu Opara
Jeff Craig
Diane Hobbs
Vivya Parmar
Robert Robertson
David Lavallee
Brian Sullivan
Angela Sylvestre
Sabrina Abdallah
Kiria Joseph
Titilayo Oguntowo
Kaitllyn Farrell-Rose
Kathleen Abbott
Victoria Lombardo
Rose-Ann Pysadee
Maryan Mashaye
Tom Sparks
Reginald Alexis
Erin Davey
Anna Garcia

10 Years

Gregory Rossetti
Kayleigh Singleton
Zita Sevcik
Janice Hearty
Marta Malinowska-Nunes

15 Years

Tasha Quenneville
Cynthia Steeves
Lindsay Potvin
Sophea Taing
Elizabeth Stroh
Awa Diop
Allison Tovell
Christine Holmes
Tara Campbell

20 Years

Stephanie Ambrose
Kari Thomas
Angela Jones
Patricia Barnes
Judith Imbeault
Joanna Mietkowska
Tara Daoust
Ricole Elce
Ilde Pascucci
Anne Cole
Jocelyne Parent Lewis

20 Years (continued)

Jennifer Williams
Judy Bernstein
Elizabeth Hernandez

25 Years

Alain St-Jean
David Watts
Patrick Duvert
Deborah Blasutti
Daniel R. Roy
Ilona Ramsay

30 Years

Tammy Norrie
Trevor Costello
Carole Perreault
Christine Connolly
Terry Mulligan

35 Years

Frances Bloom
David Nowlan
Jennifer Pavone
Roland Collins

40 Years

Jocelyne Fortin

50 Years

Janet O'Connor

RICHARD'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

Richard had a parade from his employer, the Ottawa Police Service, sirens, decorated cars and all.



APPRECIATION

I wanted to acknowledge Mirek's great job at Ahearn. The first full day wearing masks and to come to a very loud busy program with loads of those we support milling about. I had one item I had requested him to take care of in the busiest part of the house but without hesitation he took care of a couple other things as well and helped me brainstorm blocking the vents in the basement to encourage the AC air up instead of to the already sub-zero basement. I'm so appreciative!

Thank you Mirek!!

Christine Connolly, Supervisor Ahearn Residence

Cailuan Gallery Art Show Featuring Lynne Labelle

Lynne Labelle's premier exhibit ran for 3 days in Cornwall and was so popular that she sold all 11 pieces! Eric Duncan Member of Parliament purchased the big painting for his office at Parliament! How cool is that! She was personally invited to see her art displayed in his office and plans on visiting in the near future. Congratulations Lynne!

Reina McDowell, Director of Supports and Services



Tacos Anyone?

Thanks to Mr. Ken Molnar owner of ICOR Technology who donated the funds for a taco lunch held on May 26th. As well a big thank you to Georgie Vincent the owner of the “walking taco truck”.

Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Director of Community Resources



Hearty Tails would like to remind everyone that we are still making our delicious dog treats. Hearty Tails has adopted new PPE procedures for our employee's safety and of course for you and your Dog!

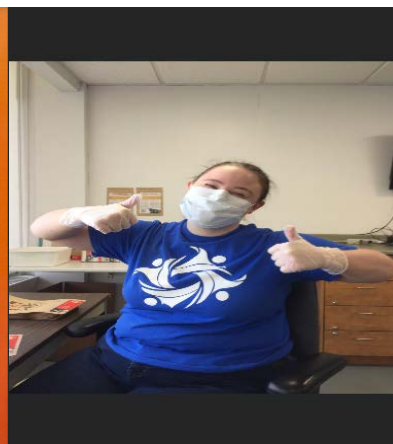
Whether you are a regular customer or new to our products, we invite you to take advantage of our **BOGO - buy one get one half off**. We are positive your faithful friend will love it! We have beef liver as well as chicken and sweet potato in stock.

We are now offering curbside pick-up every Monday morning at 1414 Rosenthal Avenue, please call us at 613-799-3400 to confirm times of pick-up. You can also reach us at info@heartytails.ca.

Chicken and Sweet Potato \$16.99 plus HST – Liver \$14.99 plus HST

Be Safe and be Happy!

The Hearty Tails Team



Garlic Season is Fast Approaching!



At Silver Spring Farm we are ready to welcome our volunteers to help with the weeding, harvesting and cleaning of the “Best garlic” in town. We have the best hand washing/sanitizing station in town!

New this year

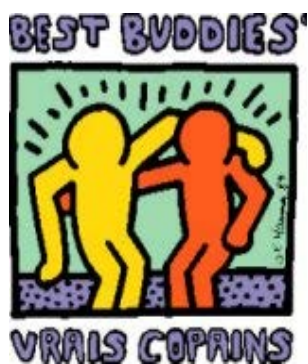
Garlic will be sold by the pound only.

All bags will be prepared in advance.

Due to COVID-19, “pick your own garlic” will not be available this year.

\$10 per pound!

See you all in August!



During this time of physical distancing, uOttawa Best Buddies recognizes the importance of community, now more than ever. The club is proud of how both the buddies and volunteers alike transitioned so seamlessly to virtual hangouts. As the club continues to stay in touch in new and changing ways, the executive team has already begun planning for the 2020-2021 year.

uOttawa Best Buddies remains committed to providing the safest and best possible programming for its community. Ideas that have already begun to be discussed include virtual crafts, dances, and talent shows. While we recognize this year will be an adjustment, the club remains unchanged in its purpose of fostering both friendship and inclusivity.

Looking forward to another great year in the fall!

Ann Ritchie, Chair, uOttawa Best Buddies

Join Us for OCAPDD's 20th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Join us on Monday, June 21, 2021 (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 this worthwhile fundraiser to support 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.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP/BECOME A MEMBER

Your yearly membership will soon expire on August 31st. You can renew your membership or join us if you are not already a member directly online at www.ocapdd.on.ca under “join our team”.