



# Esprit Newsletter

Fall / Winter Edition 2020

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

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

## ARTISTS AMONG US

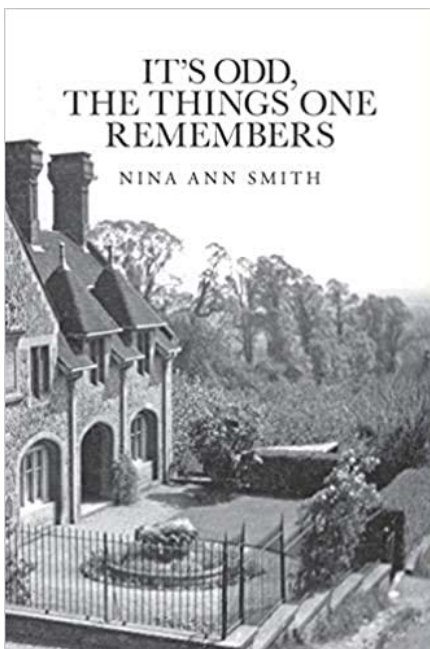
I would like to thank all of the artists at the Oakdean Program, who recently presented me with a gift of art that they had created.

They informed me that it was “hot air dryer art”!

It now has a prominent place in my office.

Thank you.

Dave Ferguson, Executive Director



## OCAPDD – FUNDRAISING BOOK SALE

Many of you know Ann Smith, who has been active in the Organization for nearly 70 years; and even more of you knew her daughter Mary Smith.

Ann's autobiography has recently been published, and some of the royalties from each sale are being donated to OCAPDD.

The book is available in paperback and hardcover. The pricing for OCAPDD staff and Association members is \$15 for the paperback, and \$28 for the hardcover.

Copies can be picked up at the OCAPDD office, by contacting Jocelyne Parent Lewis at 613.569.8993 extension 245 or by email at [jplewis@ocapdd.on.ca](mailto:jplewis@ocapdd.on.ca).

If you cannot get to OCAPDD to pick up a copy, please contact Board Member Jim Smith at [jsmith.econ@gmail.com](mailto:jsmith.econ@gmail.com), to arrange pick up or delivery. *Continued on page 2.*



## About the Author

Nina Ann Smith (Bentley) was born in Sutton Valence, in Kent, in 1924. She served as a Radar Operator in the WAAF during World War II. After the war she immigrated to Canada, an odyssey that led her to Quebec City, Hamilton, Ottawa, Washington, and Mexico. The mother of two disabled children, she has been active for over 60 years in championing services for the developmentally disabled. Ann Smith now lives in Ottawa, Canada. Although she has written throughout her life, this is her first book.

## About the Book

'It's Odd, The Thing's One Remembers' traces the life of Nina Ann Smith from an idyllic childhood in 1920s England, through her service in the Royal Air Force during World War II, and on into the far more challenging decades of the second-half of the twentieth century in Canada, America, and Mexico. While her life parallels that of many thousands of women who moved across the Atlantic in search of a better life after the Second World War, there are a few extra angles - 'the darts which fate aimed at me and adventures on which I was led' - including the birth of two disabled children. There is the excitement of living in Washington during the Kennedy years; and the sustained tension of being on the front lines of the cold war. There is the unexpected joy of a third stage of life in the mountains and coastal villages of Mexico; followed by the challenges of caring for a paralyzed husband and an ageing disabled daughter. And woven throughout, is the story of a young love that shadows her the rest of her life.

## Halloween fun at Byron!



## **Input your ideas to Local Developmental Services Agencies**

### **Faites part de vos idées aux agences locales de services en déficience intellectuelle**

INVITATION! JOIN THE CONVERSATION!  
REJOINDRE LA CONVERSATION!

<https://odsninforsdio.wordpress.com/>

Ottawa Developmental Services Network (ODSN) is a mandated planning body for Transfer Payment Resources of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

ODSN invites family members of people with developmental disabilities to join a month long on-line conversation from November 17 to December 17, 2020 to talk about how to improve and plan future local developmental services and strengthen relationships and communication between organizations, family members and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Le Réseau des services en déficience intellectuelle d'Ottawa (RSDIO) est un organisme de planification mandaté par le ministère à l'Enfance et des Services sociaux et communautaires pour les organismes qui sont des agences/ressources de paiements de transfert.

RSDIO invitent les membres de la famille des personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle à se joindre à une conversation en ligne d'un mois du 17 novembre au 17 décembre 2020 pour discuter de la façon d'améliorer et de planifier les futurs services de développement local et de renforcer les relations et la communication entre les organisations et les membres de la famille et les personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle.

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And don't forget to add your view to the Provincial level conversation! Check out the discussion document and survey (at the bottom of the discussion document)

#### **Plain Language Discussion Guide & Survey**

- <https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/wp/en/programs/developmental-services/making-ds-better-in-ontario/>

#### **Discussion Guide & Survey**

- <https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/wp/en/programs/developmental-services/discussion-guide-ds-reform-engagement>

Et n'oubliez pas d'ajouter votre point de vue à la conversation au niveau provincial! Consultez le document de discussion et l'enquête (au bas du document de discussion)

#### **Guide de discussion et l'enquête en langage simple**

- <https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/wp/fr/programmes/services-ontario-personnes-deficience-intellectuelle/ameliorer-spdi-en-ontario/>

#### **Guide de discussion et l'enquête**

- <https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/wp/fr/programmes/services-ontario-personnes-deficience-intellectuelle/guide-discussion-consultations-reforme-spdi/>



## 2020 Silver Spring Garlic Project

This year turned out to be a challenging time for the Silver Springs Farm Garlic Project due to the virus, lockdowns and working from home. As such, we lost the support of volunteers from most businesses, schools and some government departments. As project manager I was concerned the farm would not get the support it needed to plant, weed, pick scapes and harvest the garlic and we would lose most of the crop.

Fortunately, this was not the case. The volunteers from the Latter-day Saints (LDS) church came through big time and kept the crop in great shape. The help provided by the church and a few noteworthy individuals helped significantly with the success of the crop.

Late June and early July were very challenging due to the lack of rain but with the irrigation system running 24 hours a day and 7 days a week the crop survived. In fact, the Music variety did quite well and the Red Russian fairly well.

The harvest at the end of the season went well with the Music coming off first and the Red Russian one week later. Again, the LDS church groups were key to the success of the harvest with a few individual volunteers there as well.

After the harvest the farm had a few more concerns to worry about due to the pandemic. Would volunteers come to clean the garlic? Would anyone visit the farm to purchase garlic? Well to our surprise and delight many volunteers showed up to help and the cleaning was carried out in record time. Maybe by this time everyone was tired of being locked up and looked for a chance to get out of the house and do some volunteer work for a good cause.



A big change this year was how we sold the garlic. The decision was made to sell the garlic by the pound and to package it in paper bags with a mix of sizes. This minimized contact with the garlic by volunteers and customers. The crop sold out in 10 days and over \$27,000 dollars was raised. It was a very fruitful harvest in a very challenging year.

When it came to planting season, the early drought turned into non-stop rain. There was considerable concern the ground would not dry out enough for the hiller to make the rows. If needed we planned on planting on the flat field but with some fortunate breaks in the weather the hills were made. Thanks to about 40 Health Canada volunteers, with the help of other volunteers, they prepared and planted the garlic. They split the garlic and the crop was planted in about 3 hours thanks to their hard work.

The last task at the farm was to protect the garlic over the winter by covering it with straw. Health Canada kindly volunteered on November 30<sup>th</sup> to carry this out.

Overall it was a great year for the project considering the pandemic and weather challenges.

Thanks again to all the many volunteers and let's hope for another good year next year but also a more normal year.

Mel Jones, Project Chair









These are some of Ottawa's Essential Heroes. Each dedicated to providing services that are essential to the well-being of our community. All were thrilled to receive a certificate and a gift card personally delivered to their homes.

Thank you again for your ongoing dedication!



**Light It Up Contest.** EmployAbility held a contest to help celebrate National Disability Awareness Month. We would like to thank the many participants who decorated and or wore purple and blue, on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was very difficult to pick a winner so we have a tie. Congratulations to everyone at **AHEARN** and **MARYLAND**.







Congratulations Debbie on your retirement from The Advocates! Richard and Robert joined Debbie for a celebratory lunch at EmployAbility. Richard and Robert thanked Debbie, on behalf of The Advocates, for her many years of dedication.

How times have changed! We have pivoted from our annual BBQ to front yard personalized presentations. This year we visited James acknowledging 20 years working at Loblaws Bells Corners, Kim 20 years at Agriculture Canada, Tom 10 years at the Barrhaven Canadian Tire Gas Bar and Wayne 5 years at the Bells Corners Canadian Tire Gas Bar. Each were thrilled to receive a certificate and gift card. Congratulations!



Elizabeth Manley stopped in to pick up dog treats for Charley. Elizabeth is an Olympic silver medalist, a World silver medalist and a three-time Canadian national champion in figure skating. Liz joined Rebecca and Aleid in celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, lighting it up in purple.



# **PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## **COVID-19**

As we are all aware, the worldwide pandemic has had an impact on all of our lives. While we have continued to operate many of our services, including congregate care settings, CSS, Employability and HomeShare over the past 8 months, many services unfortunately were suspended. 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 those programs operating in order to ensure the people we support continued to receive an excellent level of care! THANK YOU!!!

## **ONTARIO**

As you are likely aware, the Ontario Government tabled its 2020 Budget on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Budget had been delayed from the spring due to the pandemic. In the Budget, there were several significant announcements made related to the DS sector. Specifically these include:

- In 2021/22 there will be an investment of \$361 million, which will include the annualization of the 'stabilization funding' which agencies have been receiving on a fiscal basis over the past couple of years.
- Also in that year, there will be \$15 million to support transfer payment agencies with their ongoing infection prevention & control measures with respect to COVID-19.

Although there are no details with respect to how the funds will be allocated, clearly the amounts are significant, and we applaud the Government for these announced investments, and we would like to encourage you to also express your appreciation to the Government.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario Government announced it was launching a new public education campaign to improve understanding of accessibility, inclusion and hiring people with disabilities.

*"Our government is committed to working together with our partners inside and outside of government to make Ontario more accessible and inclusive by 2025. We want everyone, especially people with disabilities and seniors, to be able to fully participate in everyday life in our communities and our economy," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "Our new campaign will help foster understanding and encourage cultural change towards accessibility needs."*

More information on the campaign can be found at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58987/ontario-raising-awareness-about-accessibility>

As reported at the AGM, on July 31<sup>st</sup> Minister Smith announced that the Ministry was moving forward with an engagement process on developmental services reform. The tentative timeline to hold regional engagement sessions was Fall 2020. The process to request to participate in the engagement sessions was announced October 14<sup>th</sup>, with unfortunately the deadline to register the next day, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We do understand that the Ministry will accept electronic submissions until December 31<sup>st</sup>. The guide and website to provide this information can be found at:

<https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/wp/en/programs/developmental-services/making-ds-better-in-ontario/>

## **NEW CONTRACT & NEW NAME**

As also reported at the AGM, OCAPDD was successful in renegotiating a contract with the Federal Government last February, to continue a service with the Government and ensuring continued employment for approximately 40 people. The contract for the former National Archives activity changed – both in the nature of the service contracted for, and in turn, the name of the operation. The new name, created by the workers, is PODD and we encourage you to read more about this in a separate article in this Esprit.



## **OCAPDD BOARD**

At this year's AGM the Board of Directors expressed its appreciation to Alison Middlebro and Bob Labelle who had both reached their maximum term of 8 years on the Board. The membership elected Leslie Walker and Christine Trauttmansdorff to the Board. Jim Smith, Vivien Runnels, Jodie Karpf, Leanne Pelley and Kathleen Stokely were all re-elected to another 2-year term. At the first meeting of the new Board on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Kathleen Stokely was elected President and Peter Homulos was elected Vice-President.

## **GARLIC SALES**

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who continued to support our Silver Spring Farm Garlic operation this past summer. While many changes were implemented due to the pandemic, the operation was another great success selling out in only 10 days, and raising over \$27,000!

## **OPEN HANDS OFFICE**

After many years of searching for a more appropriate office for our Open Hands division, a site was finally obtained this past winter. Unfortunately, renovations were suspended in the spring for several weeks due to the provincial pandemic restrictions. A move-in to the new office finally did occur in August. An open house will be organized at a future date once the restrictions due to the pandemic are lifted.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP**

For a variety of reasons, a decision was made earlier this year to end holding our Gift Wrap at the St. Laurent Shopping Centre. However, the booth will continue this year at Carlingwood. Due to the pandemic, the booth will operate on a reduced capacity this year – both in days per week and hours per day. There will also be a reduced number of volunteers participating. All steps will be taken to reduce any risk associated with the virus, and we would still encourage you to consider having your presents wrapped by us.



Kathleen Stokely  
President

David A. Ferguson  
Executive Director

## **Join Us for OCAPDD's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament**



### **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](http://www.ocapdd.on.ca).

## WHO DOESN'T TRAVEL DURING A PANDEMIC!!!!?



When all this craziness started way back in March, we all thought this wouldn't last long. So, the folks at Oakdean just went about their days, like "normal" was coming back by the end of the week.

As time went on, we realized that the days of old were not coming back, and we had to find ourselves a "new normal". Our routine at Oakdean over the "lunch hour" was just to watch whatever was on TV - Family Feud, CTV news, oh and a very old favorite, The Young and The Restless, seeing as this wasn't going to last forever. Well, it sure seemed like forever. So, what changes can we do in the house to keep everyone engaged and refreshed... in walks the internet!!! Gotta love technology - keeping everyone together during all of this. And the birth of virtual tours was born to an excited group of people. Every lunch hour Mark, Charisse, Allan and Clinton gather in the living room to explore the world.

Our first virtual tour was to Trinidad and Tobago of course for our dear Charisse! We are lucky to have

our TV set up to YouTube and once everyone is gathered the question goes out - where to today!!! We've been EVERYWHERE man, we've been EVERYWHERE!!! We've been to Alaska, the Antarctic, Zimbabwe, Osaka Japan, the Galapagos Islands, the Great Barrier Reef, Switzerland, Rome, Paris, Dublin and Vancouver. For Halloween we went to Transylvania and on Remembrance Day, Vimy Ridge.

Now that the winter is on our doorstep, we see a lot of warm places to visit and dream about in our future.

The Team at Oakdean!!!





## *∞ In Memoriam ∞*

**Alan Johnson** (March 15, 1960 - August 9, 2020)



Alan passed away at the Daly Residence in Cornwall after a long battle with medical complications. Alan was a happy man who loved to joke around and make people laugh. His passions in life included dancing, wrestling, Harry Potter, Richard Simmons, and spending quality time with his St. Stephen's family, support staff and friends. Alan grew up in the Huronia Institution in Orillia and moved to the St. Stephen's Residence in Ottawa in 1992 where he not only gained a home, but also a family and a community. Alan attended the OCL (Ottawa-Carleton Lifeskills) day program for many years. He also had a special connection with the St. Stephen's Anglican Church where he was often part of the church services on Sundays. Alan touched the lives of so many people and has left an imprint on our hearts that will stay with us forever.

By Roxann Cook

**Gary Raynor** (August 7, 1944 – November 27, 2020)

It is with sadness that we regretfully announce the passing of Gary Raynor. He passed away peacefully at home.

Gary was a fiercely independent man with a unique sense of humour. He was a long time resident of Forest Gate and lived at Moffatt House prior to that. Gary was well known for his love of trains and listening to his old records. He could often be spotted riding the buses across the city.

He will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

By Heather Walker



## *Homeshare and the New Reality*

We will remember spring, summer and fall 2020, already three seasons with COVID-19.

Even if we are in a pandemic life goes on. The Homeshare program is happy to announce the birth of a baby girl to Lisa and Chris, providers. Homesharers, Scott and Travis are very proud honorary uncles.

Since June, the Caseworkers had engaged activities with individuals to help with the everyday challenges and changes resulting in the suspension of day program. We were able to use the CTC van for community outings and the CTC location on Shefford Road. In July we gave a restaurant gift card to providers for a free night from cooking. Visits with family of origin resumed and brought great happiness to individuals.

Some individuals had non-COVID related health challenges but with the wonderful care of the providers, family members, caseworkers and the health system they are doing well.

This year would have been our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner. It is an evening to say 'Thank you' and show our appreciation for all the work done by the Homeshare Providers. COVID-19 did not stop us and on October 28, we delivered a thank you gift to each provider.

This year marks 30 years of being a provider for Florette Jennings. We brought her flowers with a gift basket of teas, cookies, chocolates, candles and other items to give herself and Jocelyne a nice quiet, relaxing time. Congratulation to a wonderful lady.

Eight months of pandemic has shown us how we are resilient and good at working together.

The Homeshare Team









## Remembrance Day 2020



What a strange 8 months this has been. Oakdean, like other homes, has been dealing with what has been given us, with a stiff upper lip, taking each day as it comes and making the best of what we are given. Then there's Remembrance Day. Oakdean wanted to honor our soldiers for their sacrifice, so we could have our freedom. And a banner in the window with a moment of silence was not going to cut it. So, some brain storming went on, suggestions were made and on November 11<sup>th</sup> Oakdean had a Remembrance Day ceremony to end all ceremonies. When one thinks of Remembrance Day, one thinks of bagpipes. But who knows anyone who plays

the pipes? Aileen!! Through her choir connections she surely must know a bagpiper!! No, she doesn't. But leave it with her. Calls were made all weekend - even as far as BC!! And what a community they are that choir community. She found a piper through someone who knows someone who knows someone!! So, four days later, in walks Aileen with the best news Oakdean has had in months - we have a piper!!! We literally now had 24 hours to get this up and running. The poppies were already painted on the front window - that was it. Give us ladies at Oakdean a challenge and we graciously accept and knock it out of the ball park.

Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> was an overcast solemn day. With the guys at Oakdean wearing their best red shirts, we gathered on the front porch. Family and friends were invited, maintaining social distancing and all that. Neighbors were told to gather on their driveways for 10:45. We even FaceTime with Charisse's brother in Kitchener so he could join us. Then a car pulled up a few doors down from Oakdean and in full piper gear - kilt and all - out came our piper. We opened the ceremony with the singing of O'Canada, then like it was meant to be, it was 11:00 and we had our moment of silence. You could hear a pin drop, it was surreal. Then the pipes. The sound resonated in our hearts, making it eerily quieter. The poem In Flanders Field was read along with another poem. Then the pipes played again. Someone read 'What is Remembrance Day', then the pipes closed the ceremony for us with Amazing Grace.



As for the piper, when the ceremony was finished, he joined us on the porch and spoke to each and every one of the Oakdean gang. Taking time to answer questions and take pictures. He knew the sacrifices he made in serving his country allowed for everyone there to live their best lives. And as he walked away to his car, he played for us one more time.





Thanks to Digger McDougal and Graeme Ogilvie, organizers, and Rob Waller, piper, for their invaluable assistance in making this thought a reality. We are grateful to you, and all the men and women who have served to protect our freedom.

Any donations to Wounded Warriors or programs to support pancreatic cancer would be appreciated.

Lest we forget.....

Gisele, Aileen and Thalia





## *We're baaaaack!*

In these modern times, the National Archives Program has had less and less paper to process for recycling. Things looked bleak for a workplace that has existed for over 38 years. Fortunately, the stellar reputation and hard work ethic of this gang has reached far beyond the walls of our humble warehouse. The Federal Government is initiating a pilot project to have 98% of government waste BYPASS landfills. This means we will receive EVERYTHING that the government discards (office supplies & equipment, electronics, furniture and some paper) to sort for re-use in schools, libraries, hospitals and charities. The rest we will disassemble (which is actually a lot of fun!) and re-cycle the metal and plastic parts.



The gang was asked to come up with a name for themselves. A lot of great ideas were tossed around, all of them from the heart. We tried to come up with a COMBINATION of ALL of them and here is what we came up with: People Offering Dumpster Diversion aka The PODD.

If you call after hours, you'll get our recorded message: "Thank You for calling The PODD. We are not in The PODD at the moment, but if you'd like to leave a message..."

## **Newest CPI Addition!**

Meet Claude, he is joining our CPI instructors to assist in demonstrating Care, Welfare, Safety and Security. During this COVID time, Claude is a prop that instructors use, in lieu of participants, to demonstrate CPI physical interventions.



HO! HO! HO!



It's that time of the year! Need some help wrapping those special gifts? We are at Carlingwood Shopping Centre, ready to serve you! All those elves will be wrapping from Thursday to Sunday starting December 3<sup>rd</sup> until 5pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The hours are from 11am-7pm Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and 11am-5pm on Sundays.

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