

ESPRIT



Be part of the winning circle!

Purchase your tickets now for a chance to win fabulous prizes and help people with developmental disabilities. OCAPDD proceeds will go to Ahearn & Loeb Centre programs for long awaited projects.

1st Prize: Harley Davidson Fat Boy 100th Anniversary Motorcycle or \$30,000 cash

2nd Prize: Harley Davidson 1200 Custom Sportster 100th Anniversary Motorcycle

3rd Prize: Seadoo Bombardier GTI & Trailer

4th Prize: Sony Home Theatre System

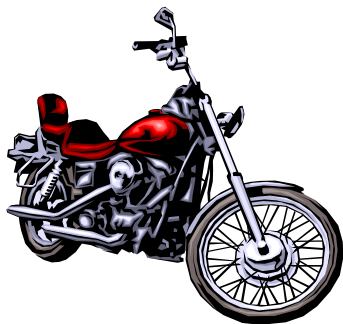
5th Prize: \$5,000 cash

6 Early Bird Prizes: \$1000 each

Tickets are \$10.00 each or 11 for \$100.00

For more information or to buy your tickets, please contact Jocelyne Parent Lewis at (613) 569-8993 ext. 245.

We all benefit from a sold-out raffle! Join the winning circle.



THE SNOEZELEN ROOM

The Esprit Spring Edition 2002, carried an article describing a Snoezelen Room, it's origin, the concept, who could benefit from one and how our agency would be able to get one. Now, one year later, the Quinlan Centre is home to OCAPDD's Snoezelen Room. (continued on page 3)



Calling All Quilters!

Looking for a project to work on over the summer and fall months? Then have we got a project for you! We have a wonderful Volunteer quilt pattern (4x6) we would like to have made for OCAPDD. Supplies would be provided. If interested please contact, Debbie Blasutti at 569-8993 ext. 243.

Best Buddies

In the last issue of Esprit we mentioned that OCAPDD had become a Host Site Coordinator for Best Buddies in conjunction with the University of Ottawa. We are pleased to announce that OCAPDD is now the Host Site for Algonquin College as well. It will be an exciting and busy summer preparing for all the new matches in September. (continued on page 4)

Old Movies/Books/Extra Tickets?

Old videos/books hanging around the house and you don't know what to do with them? Donate them to us. We have many individuals and programs that would love to have some new videos and books to browse through. Books can also be used for a fundraiser in the fall. Tickets you can't use as something came up and you don't know what to do with them. Give us a call. For further information please contact, Debbie Blasutti at 569-8993 ext. 243.

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Centre de transition communautaire (CTC)

The Centre de transition communautaire (CTC) is a francophone day program for adults with developmental disabilities and is located on Industrial Avenue in the south end of Ottawa.

The Centre has three dedicated volunteers.

Martina and her dog Joker come to us from Therapy Dogs International and have been actively involved with the clients for almost three years. Their medium of unconditional love and acceptance create an outlet that can reduce anxiety, increase initiative, and develop communication and fine motor skills to name a few things.

The Centre de transition communautaire also has a volunteer artist that comes weekly to do watercolour with the clients. Her focus is to be a guide and tool for the client's needs and accomplishments. As support and resource person, her expertise, knowledge and experience produces a well-rounded program of excellence. This group's art is displayed at the centre and on all-purpose note cards that reflect the group's work, and can be purchased from the Centre.

Each year the Centre has the good fortune to have many group lunches/celebrations and at least three barbecues at the city garden plot. Volunteer Bernard Racine works hard all year round to make this happen and his community networking benefits our Centre with equipment, gifts, food and entertainment. His wonderful spicy character is both overflowing with kindness and humour. His presence is spirited and uplifting at many of our celebrations.

A very special thank you to all our volunteers. You make the Centre a warmer place and touch our hearts.

In keeping with the spirit of volunteerism, the Centre de transition communautaire also promotes volunteerism. As part of their program some individuals who attend the centre also volunteer at day care centres, the Ottawa Food Bank and the Perley Rideau Veteran Hospital.

President's Report

All of us are increasingly aware of, and concerned about, the emergence this Spring, of three public health issues – SARS, West Nile and mad-cow disease. These have caused the Association, like many others, to consider its health and emergency-response policies.

In May, the Canadian Council on Social Development announced the results of its research on people with disabilities. The Council looked at education, employment, accessibility of health services, and use of computer technology. CCSD's greatest concern is that, "as a society, we are not taking the measures needed to prevent people with disabilities from being marginalized." In particular, the CCSD concluded that people with disabilities are much less likely than their non-disabled counterparts to be in good health. The greater likelihood of persons with disabilities having poorer health is also accompanied by a greater likelihood of requiring health care, but not receiving it.

Earlier this year, the Board had identified the issue of access to health services as one requiring action. It consequently has been seeking a new Board membership from the local health sector. It is also looking at the research grants program announced recently by the Winnipeg-based Canadian Centre on Disability Studies. That program promotes partnerships between researchers and community-based service organizations, like the Association. The Centre is affiliated with the University of Manitoba. It sponsors research, education and information dissemination on disability issues.

In Ontario, we have heard announcements related to the disability sector. Locally, the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services is closing the Ottawa Valley Autistic Homes due to financial problems. The clients are being placed in other facilities. Politicians at the federal level are debating issues related to both mental health and disabilities. We will let members know of policy, financial or procedural changes.

As part of Board development, we have met with representatives of the Boards of other agencies working with the developmentally disabled, as well as with officials from the Ontario Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish you a restful and energizing summer.

Janet Davies



Swing for OCAPDD

OCAPDD's 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

When: Monday, June 23, 2003
(12:30pm Shotgun start)

Where: Hautes Plaine Golf Club
(Formerly "le Dome")

Format: Scramble (best ball)

Dinner: Dinner and silent Auction @ 6:45pm
Celebrity MC – Stuntman stu

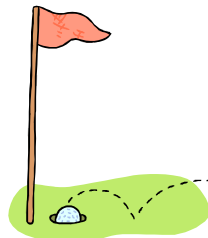
Cost: \$125.00 per person

Deadline: June 11, 2003

Come and swing for OCAPDD and make this event a great success! We can only achieve this by everyone's participation.

Bring a friend, cousin, aunt, uncle, spouse. It promises to be a great day!

Please see insert for registration form!



THE SNOEZELLEN ROOM

(continued from page 1)

Briefly, a Snoezelen Room is a multi-sensory environment offering a stimulating blend of sights, sounds, textures and aromas. It is a safe and non-threatening environment where participants experience self-control, autonomous discovery and exploration. These achievements allow individuals to overcome inhibitions, enhance self-esteem and reduce tension.

OCAPDD received \$3,000.00 from Community Foundation of Ottawa and \$25,000.00 from the Hope Volleyball Beachfest 2002. Memorial donations made to the Quinlan Centre in memory of the late Connie Russo were also directed to the

purchase of equipment for the room. OCAPDD and the Quinlan Centre are proud that Connie's memory will live on at Quinlan through this innovative concept.

The Snoezelen Room was completed in April. It is a white room equipped with a coloured light spray, a six foot interactive bubble tube, a 7'x7' ball tub, large mirrors, a suspended leaf chair, a sound system, a vibro music bean bag, a solar projector with effect wheels, a tactile sensation panel, a music and sound sensation panel, a mirrored ball and aromatherapy. The floor is covered with 4" thick white mats and the ceiling is covered in white sheets that hang like large low clouds. The far end of the room is referred to as the "black light" area. It is separated from the white side by a large curtain. The walls are dark blue, tubes of black lighting on the walls, the ceiling is covered by a dark parachute with stars which glow, there is an "evening breeze" panel on the wall. There is a large soft sofa, bean bags and a rocking chair to get comfortable in. All of the equipment is interactive, responding and changing to the touches of the individuals as they enjoy the room at their own pace and make their own choices about what they want to do.

The Snoezelen Room is presently being used by everyone at the Quinlan Centre as well as several individuals who attend the Loeb Centre and from various OCAPDD Homes. We are looking forward to introducing interested individuals from all of OCAPDD to the use of the Snoezelen Room. All staff involved in the use of the room attended a one day training workshop, with the focus being on how to most effectively use the Room.

No doubt many of you are curious and may have lots of questions about the Snoezelen concept.

The Quinlan Centre invites you to enjoy a
SNOEZELLEN EXPERIENCE

Thursday, June 12 from 2 – 6 p.m.
171 Donald Street, Ottawa.

OCAPDD's Annual Picnic

OCAPDD's Annual Picnic & BBQ will be held on Sunday, June 29, 11:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Vincent Massey Park section M, N & O.

Executive Director's Report

Since I last reported on funding announcements from the Ministry, there have been no further infusions of funding for the developmental service sector in Ottawa or Ontario. The Capital Funding announced last fall (\$15.4 million) has not been distributed or even approved as of this date. The Ministry has announced that these funds will now be allocated under the SuperBuild Fund, and therefore all requests for funding are subject to the requirements as set out in SuperBuild. As I discussed at the Parents / Members meetings in January, the Ministry's announcement regarding this change also 'encouraged partnerships with the private sector'. While one public meeting was held in February regarding this process, there has been no further decisions or announcements regarding how much, if any, of the funds will be allocated for Ottawa.

In the recent Throne Speech the Ontario Government did indicate that they would be raising ODSP levels. As you are no doubt aware, this is the first increase in over a decade. While there has not been a specific amount identified, our sector is certainly pleased that this crucial support for individuals living with a developmental disability will be increased. During the upcoming election campaign, this item will be a topic for discussion with all candidates as part of OASIS' province-wide advocacy strategy. I am sure that many other organized groups will focus on this issue as well.

OCAPDD and three other local organizations hosted the OASIS 6th Annual General Meeting and Conference in May. This event was extremely successful and very well received. At the first Board meeting following the AGM, George Braithwaite was elected Vice-President of OASIS.

We are very pleased to be partnering with two other OASIS member agencies in a provincial raffle. The details of the 'Harley Raffle' can be found in this edition of Esprit, and we encourage you to support OCAPDD by purchasing a ticket, or several. We are also gearing up for our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, to be held on June 23rd, and are looking for more golfers. If you are not able to participate, please encourage your friends or colleagues to get involved.

OCAPDD has also been involved in several other program initiatives and I encourage you to review the Annual Report and attend the Annual General Meeting on June 18th. I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

David A. Ferguson

Best Buddies (continued from page 1)

The following are excerpts taken from an article that appeared in the University of Ottawa newsletter, The Fulcrum, written by Dorotea Gucciardo.

Best Buddies is a buddy system where each student is paired up with an adult with a disability. It is about making a friendship with people who might not have one.

Tyler Collins, a third year history student, started volunteering with Best Buddies this year. Tyler was matched with an individual from OCAPDD. "I've worked at a summer camp with people who had disabilities and thought that I would continue that throughout the year." said Collins. "I find the experience to be really interesting. I realize I've been ignorant of people with disabilities. This has opened my eyes to different organizations," he said. Collins values the friendship that he has made. "I've developed a relationship with my buddy. He was so isolated before, but now every second week we're doing something together, like going to a 67's game. You can tell he really likes it," said Collins. "I think more people should get into this. The more people, the better."

Best Buddies is a wonderful program that links OCAPDD to the youth volunteers in our community and really opens many doors for OCAPDD and the people it serves.

If you would like more information on this program, please contact Debbie Blasutti at 569-8993 ext. 243.