

Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
 Association d'Ottawa-Carleton pour personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle

History

Founded in 1950 and previously known as the Ottawa and District Association for the Mentally Retarded (ODAMR), the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) is the largest and longest-serving association of its kind in Ottawa. The organization had its origins in the determination of a small group of parents who believed that their children deserved access to education. Today, OCAPDD provides support to hundreds of persons with developmental disabilities, in every aspect of life whether seeking work opportunities, securing living arrangements or dealing with day-to-day tasks. Since fully a third of OCAPDD's clients are also affected by physical disabilities and other medical considerations, the scope of the organization's support is in direct response to level of need.

OCAPDD's management team oversees the operation of several residences, day programs and support services, which in turn are staffed by several hundred full-time and part-time employees who support individuals living either in family settings or independently. Residential programs are open 365 days a year, with night and relief staff playing a crucial role. A director is on call at all times.

A volunteer board of directors, which includes parents of persons with developmental disabilities, ensures the continued health of the Association. Board members are also tireless advocates on behalf of all persons with developmental disabilities.

Volunteers—a vital force in OCAPDD—contribute literally hundreds of hours each month in every conceivable activity, from organizing outings and tending gardens to servicing computers, mending clothes, and repairing and painting program facilities, to cite just a few examples.

Mark Your Calendar

OCAPDD's 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held at the Hautes Plaines Golf Club (formerly "Le Dôme").

Monday, June 19, 2006

Shotgun Start 1:00 p.m. Dinner & Silent Auction 6:30 p.m.

For more details contact Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Director of Community Resources at (613) 569-8993, extension 245 or by email at jplewis@ocapdd.on.ca.

Garlic Sales at Silver Spring Farm, 3501 Richmond Road. July to August 2006, (depending on the summer weather).

For hours please contact Jack Fraser at (613) 569-8993, extension 409.

OCAPDD's & Aktion Club Annual Picnic & BBQ will be held on **Sunday, June 25, 2006** at Vincent Massey Park, Sections M, N, O & P from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Agency wide Summer Picnic has been planned for clients, friends and staff of OCAPDD. Come and enjoy music, dancing, and games. Food will be provided at a nominal cost. For more details see page 14 or contact Debbie Blasutti, Coordinator of Volunteers at (613) 569-8993, ext. 243 or by email at dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca

50th Anniversary Gala, Wednesday, September 6th, 2006 at the Ottawa Congress Centre with Alan Thicke as Master of Ceremonies.

For more details contact Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Director of Community Resources at (613) 569-8993, extension 245 or by email at jplewis@ocapdd.on.ca.

OCAPDD's Board of Directors will meet one more time before taking a break for the summer. The Public portion of the meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20th, 2006 at 250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 200 in the Boardroom.

OCAPDD's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on Wednesday, September 20th, 2006. The meeting gets underway at 7:00 p.m. at the RA Centre. Everyone is welcome!

OCAPDD

www.ocapdd.on.ca

250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 200

Ottawa, Ontario

Tel. 613-569-8993 Fax. 569-9865



OCAPDD/AOCPDI

Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
 Association d'Ottawa-Carleton pour personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle

ESPRIT NEWSLETTER

**Spring
 Summer
 2006**

Art Show and Silent Auction

By Ann-Marie Engelberts-Cousineau

On Sunday, March 5, an Art Show and Silent Auction was held at the Quinlan Centre. This fundraiser was organized by Tara Butler and Sara Mullen, 3rd year Nursing students from the University of Ottawa / Algonquin College Collaborative Nursing Program, on placement at the Quinlan Centre since September 2005.

Forty-nine pieces of watercolor, works of art by several artists from the Quinlan Centre and the Loeb Centre (WAMM (Watercolor, Art, Music, Mixed Media)) were displayed and auctioned away to an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

The following individuals proudly presented their works of watercolor at the Art Show & Silent Auction. Jim Cassidy, Marianne Regan, Chastity Emond, Gerry Belleau, Larry Griffiths, Yvon Chartrand, George Salibi, Taki Manolacos, Tony Chudiak, Melanie Quinn, Shawn Murphy, Jocelyne Beaudin, Clinton O'Brien, Terry Leclair, Jason Shields and Tracy Millette.

A total of \$1,724 was

raised. Scotia Bank (Vanier) presented a cheque to the Quinlan Centre matching the amount raised, to bring the total to \$3,428.

All of the monies raised will go towards the purchase of equipment and furnishings for the fitness room, as well as back to the WAMM pro-

gram to cover the cost of art supplies. With the help of the Quinlan staff team, Tara and Sara have been working towards a goal to design a new and improved fitness room where the clients and staff can be

involved in activities of therapeutic value with the focus on improving mental and physical health. The Quinlan Centre expresses their appreciation and thanks to Tara and Sara, to Scotia Bank (Vanier) and to everyone who came out to support the show.



Left to right, Nursing Students Tara Butler and Sara Mullen present a cheque on behalf of Scotia Bank to members of the Quinlan Centre staff team, Marnie Suykens, Christine Sullivan, Andrea Tye-Campbell, Tina Tietz, Lorraine Vezeau, Ann-Marie Engelberts-Cousineau, Holly Mitchell and Jennifer Pavone.

OCAPDD is now recruiting volunteers to facilitate the WAMM Program. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact: Debbie Blasutti (Coordinator of Volunteers) at 569-8993, ext. 243.

Inside this issue:

Notes from the Board	2
Executive Director's Report	3
Report from Special Olympics	4
Winning T-Shirt design	5
United Way	5
Recommendations from Ernie Parsons	6
Board of Director Nominations	7
The Annie Oliver Award	8
Family Homeshare	8
Christmas Gift Wrap	9
OC Transpo	9
Membership Renewal	10
Ontario Service Awards	10
CSS Drop-In	10
Volunteers Needed	11
Good Bye to Our Friends	11
Staff Recognition 2006	12
Rosenthal Report	13
Volunteer Dinner & Awards	13
Therapeutic Riding	14
Tobie the Dog	15
Golf Tournament	16
Summer Picnic	16
Ann Smith - 35 Years	18
Whist Tournament	17
Fitness In Memory of Shan	19
50th Anniversary Gala Event	19

Please Note:

Your Membership Renewal is not included in this Esprit Newsletter. Look for it in your mail box in June.

Welcome



The Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities' (OCAPDD) purpose is to support community integration and personal well-being for children and adults with developmental disabilities within Ottawa.

Mission Statement

Persons with developmental disabilities, as full members of society, live healthy, safe and secure lives, growing with dignity, enjoying equitable access to the broadest range of societal supports.

We are located at:

250 City Centre Avenue,
Suite 200

Ottawa, Ontario

K1R 6K7

(613) 569-8993 telephone

(613) 569-9865 fax

www.ocapdd.on.ca

ocapdd@ocapdd.on.ca

This publication is produced bi-annually. Please contact us to receive additional copies.

President's Report

Notes from the Board

Since our last newsletter in the fall I must say that events have been unfolding in a positive and non-dramatic way. The Board has been working smoothly with good attendance and our work is progressing.

In early winter we updated our review of the Operational Review from 2005 in preparation of releasing the document. On February 21st the Board invited members and staff to a meeting to update them on the status of the report's recommendations. The meeting was well attended, with excellent enquiry's from the audience. My thought at the conclusion of the meeting was that we had a very strong Association, and that all attending showed great care and interest in the future of OCAPDD.

Some weeks ago the Board received a copy of a letter from Judy Holmes, and several other members, sent to Premier Dalton McGuinty outlining some of OCAPDD's financial history with the Ministry, funding reductions and the resultant negative impact for many of our clients. The letter also made clear that although there was to be "community consultation" for a recent report (the Parson's report) on transforming the DS sector prepared for the Minister of MCSS, it left out large swaths of families and agencies in this region who would have participated in the "consultation" if only they had been made aware. Attached to the letter was a petition with over 1,500 signatures. This volunteer effort was huge, and one hopes that it concludes with improvement to services in this region.

The good news is that OCAPDD has turned the financial corner from deficit to a balanced budget. This has been far from an easy task. Well done to the management team, last year's Board and the families and staff who worked to make this happen.

Past President Bill Cowie advises that planning for the **50th Anniversary Gala Event** hosted by Alan Thicke at the Congress Centre on September 6th, 2006 is in full swing. The theme is **"From Caring... To Hope"**. The event will not only applaud our years of service by OCAPDD and its members, staff and partners to the community of the developmentally delayed, but will also showcase the new medical and other technologies that look to enhance the lives of our clients and their families.

On behalf of all I thank Bill and his team of Jocelyne Parent Lewis – Director of Community Resources, fellow Board Member Frank Arcchi, Doug Ward, David Pankhurst, Richard Che and April Taylor for pulling together what is shaping up to be a great evening. But there is room for you the reader to also help. We need further sponsors and folks to help sell tickets. Contact Jocelyne at (613) 569-8993 ext.245.

Further announcements on the event will be forthcoming.

The volunteer recognition BBQ was good fun and well attended. It shows the strength of our Association with so many volunteers undertaking a wide range of activities to help add variety and vigour to the lives of many of our clients. Activities ranged from wonderfully organized BBQ's, to one chap Sharif Ali recognized for many years for volunteering tailoring services for our clients. A remarkable group!

Michael Elliott

President

Fitness In Memory of Shan by April Dodge

Shan Merriman was an energetic Instructor at the Loeb Centre who excelled at motivating individuals into trying new things.

Shan felt that individuals with developmental disabilities should participate in regular fitness. She started with an old radio, some Indian music cassettes and a few people who wanted to do something different in the afternoon.

In time, Shan's small group became more animated, and as participation grew, so did the collection of rag tag used exercise equipment.

People were singing and laughing and clapping along to the increasingly louder music.

As the activity grew in popularity, Shan's music selections became more 'hip' and the number of individuals who wanted to participate rose steadily.



When Shan became ill, her replacement, Tanya continued with the activity and it grew into an integral part of the program at the Loeb Centre.

Donations to the 'Learning and Health Fund', (created by her daughters to the memory of Shan) have enabled the program to flourish to this day.

The old equipment has slowly been replaced with newer, more user friendly equipment. The exercise room, which has been dedicated to Shan, has been re-vamped to include a treadmill, two elliptical machines and twelve bikes.

Twenty clients join Gisele and April every afternoon for a fun, upbeat and energetic fitness program.

Every individual can participate to the extent of their abilities. Activities range from riding bikes, to

Every individual can participate to the extent of their abilities. Activities range from riding bikes, to walking on the treadmill to dancing. There's only one rule, you have to be moving!



walking on the treadmill to dancing. There's only one rule, you have to be moving!

Health benefits aside, the fitness program provides individuals who participate with increased flexibility and endurance, as well as a change of pace from regular work activities.

The Loeb Centre would like to thank Shan's family and friends, who so generously donated funds in her memory. Be reassured that Shan's work has been carried on and that her spirit is alive and well and echoing down the halls every afternoon.

The Loeb Centre would also like to acknowledge the generous discounts towards exercise equipment provided by the Canadian Tire Store on Coventry Road.

OCAPDD 50th Anniversary Gala Event

"From Caring ... to Hope" Needs you support!

The Gala to be held on September 6th, 2005 will be hosted by **Alan Thicke**, with entertainment by **Martin Dube**. With the **Mayor of Ottawa, Bob Chiarelli** as Patron, and with the **Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty; Minister of Minister of Community and Social Services, Madeleine Meilleur** and **M.P.P. Richard Patten** planning to attend, OCAPDD is

looking forward to this fun, profile-raising evening. It will be both a celebration and a showcase of the new and exciting technologies that promise a brighter future for the developmentally disabled. But so far we have done the easy part. Soon we will need your help for the most important part: attendance and fund raising.

We will be looking for sponsors

and dinner-seat purchases so we ask all readers of ESPRIT to put their thinking caps on, and start talking to all they can about participating in this 50th Gala Event. By the end of June all the details will be available – so help us get ready! Pass the word...and thanks!

50th Anniversary Committee

Ann Smith - 35 Years of Volunteering

Ann received the United Way Community Builder Award in 2001, and on May 3, 2006 received her 35 year pin from OCAPDD. Ann wrote the following in 2001 during the International Year of the Volunteer.

I Volunteer Because:

Firstly:

Volunteering means SHARING, doesn't it?

"I hope that, even though I am 82 years old, I will be able to continue volunteering for a long time to come."

Sharing one's own blessings and riches with someone who does not have those same blessings and riches.

In my own case those blessings are: HEALTH, physical and mental: TIME, because I am retired and widowed: the abil-

ity to RELATE comfortably and easily with all manner of folk:- and above all a great desire to give back to live - to God, if you will - some of the light and joy that I have been given.

Secondly, and much more specifically:

I volunteer exclusively with OCAPDD because my first two children were both born with incurable developmental disabilities and I have involved myself for fifty years with all aspects of developments in this field. My colleagues and friends in OCAPDD have been my support and motivation for most of that time. Any volunteer work I do is in gratitude for this: for the support that OCAPDD staff give to my daughter, and above

all for the wonderful reward of gaining the affection and trust of the "clients" I work with. I prefer to call them my friends.



I hope that, even though I am 82 years old, I will be able to continue volunteering for a long time to come.

Thank you all.

N. Ann Smith.

WHIST TOURNAMENT - Sunday, June 11, 2006 at The Old Mill, 3495 Trim Road, Navan

The location is worth the drive to Navan. An old grain mill has been converted into a beautiful restaurant and brewery. This is the home of Draft Horse Brewery. Ample free parking is available.

Games starts at 2:00 p.m. promptly.

- Instructions on how to play will be at 1:30 p.m.
- You must be at your table ready to go at 1:50 p.m. and only teams of four can play.
- If one of your team cannot make it, please get a replacement prior to game

time. Tables are filled on first come basis.

We will have extra prizes to give out as part of our 50/50 draw.

If you know of people who would like to play, this is the time to bring them out. We have experienced partners available.

If you are planning to attend, please let us know.

Whist is a simple to learn game of cards. After only a few minutes of instruction, you will be able to play as well as anybody.

Enter your team of four(4) and have fun playing Whist!

Contact Debbie Blasutti at dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca or blasutti@sympatico.ca or

569-8993 ext. 243.

To participate you should be registered in advance. If you don't have four we can pair you up.\$5.00 per person, payable at the door.

This is a fundraising event for OCAPDD.



Executive Directors Report - Spring 2006

What a difference a year makes! Since my reports in Esprit last spring and the fall, here is a short list of some of the changes that have taken place or been achieved: the Parson's Report was released; the Transformation Initiative has continued; the legal action concerning the closure of the facilities has been decided; our restructuring initiatives have continued; a new Minister (from Ottawa) of Community and Social Services has been appointed; MCSS have provided additional fiscal funding to OCAPDD for debt elimination; plans for our 50th Anniversary Gala are well underway; the Ontario Government announced a 2% increase in ODSP rates; \$80 million was announced in the provincial budget for Developmental Services; the organizations that will provide / host the Networks of Specialized Care have been announced across the province; a new collective agreement between OCAPDD and CUPE Local 1521 was bargained; and, the Board of Directors released the Final Report of the Operational Review conducted in 2005. I will attempt to expand on some of these items, but encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or would like further details.

As you no doubt recall, I have previously mentioned the report being prepared by Ernie Parsons, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community & Social Services, concerning the Developmental Services sector. Although this report was completed last summer, its release to the public did not occur until March of this year. I would encourage you to read this report, as I have always believed that it would be the precursor to the Transformation Initiative Report, and it does forecast some likely

changes for the sector. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/programs/SCS/DevelopmentalServices/Publications/parsonsReport.htm>

The final Transformation Initiative report has just been released (May 2nd) and identifies a deadline of June 30th for submissions. Senior representatives of MCSS have indicated that the public consultations will occur this spring, however will now be limited to only families. The tentative dates for the Ottawa sessions are June 7 (English) & June 8 (French), but watch the Ministry's website for confirmation of this. The intention is to prepare the final product by the fall, having incorporated the feedback from the sessions, to take to Cabinet. Obviously the recent Cabinet shuffle, with Sandra Pupatello moving to Education and Madeleine Meilleur being appointed Minister of Community & Social Services on April 5th delayed many announcements. The full report and an 'easy to read' version can be accessed from the Ministry's website at: http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/NR/MCFCS/developmental/DSreport_EN.pdf

Another important announcement that had been delayed, was the detail concerning the allocation of the \$80 million announced in the provincial budget on March 23rd. A 2% increase in ODSP rates was announced in the budget, however the implementation date is not known yet. Again on May 2nd Minister Meilleur announced the details for the increase in funding for the Developmental Services sector, and at that point in time the amount had risen to \$84 million. Briefly the allocations are as follows: \$11.1 M for the Passport pro-

gram; \$12.5 M for Special Services At Home; \$30.2 M for agencies to address salary and other operating costs; \$10 M for 200 new residential spaces across the province; and, \$20 M in annualized funding for residential care for people already receiving services although the funding had been fiscal for the agency.

I will not spend too much time commenting on the legal action concerning the facilities, or the Networks of Specialized Care. These items have been reported on through the media or the Ministry's website at: www.mcsc.gov.on.ca. Similarly, the President has reported on the Information Session with the membership and staff concerning the release of the Operational Review Report, and status report. Plans for the 50th Anniversary are progressing extremely positively, and are also detailed elsewhere. I trust many of you will join us on September 6th!

Most of our announced restructuring activities have been implemented. The final piece to the puzzle has been the renovation of the Ratan residence. Construction has been delayed due to delays in receiving the required work permits. However, final approval was recently received, and the renovation work is now anticipated to move forward quickly. Again I would like to extend my appreciation for the patience of all of you affected by this slowdown.

Aside from this delay, all of the other components of the approved Business Plan developed last year to address the financial circumstances of the Association have been implemented, or are proceeding according to schedule.

Continued on page 4

Report from Special Olympics in the United States:

MAJORITY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NOT TRAINED TO TREAT HEALTH PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

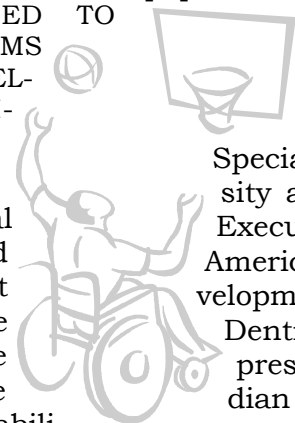
A new report by Special Olympics in the United States shows that health professionals are not receiving adequate training to treat people with developmental disabilities. As a result, this special

population is often overlooked in the health care system. The study was led by Stephen Corbin, Dean of Special Olympics University and Matthew Holder, Executive Director of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry. The mounting pressures on the Canadian health care system suggests that this report can inform caregivers and advo-

cates in Canada about possible shortcomings in health care for seniors with developmental disabilities.

To view the report go to: http://www.specialolympics.org/special+olympics+public+website/english/initiatives/research/health_research/health+and+health+care.htm

Reprinted with permission from Aging and Developmental Disabilities Project



Executive Directors Report - Spring 2006 (continued from page 3)

(continued from page 4)
We were pleased to announce recently, that the Board of Directors approved a balanced budget for 2006-07, which did not have to include a previously announced cut of client honourariums in two programs.

Finally, I am pleased to report that MCSS provided significant one-time funding at the end of the year, which was directed for debt elimination. While the final audited statements are still being prepared as I prepare this report, preliminary results indicate that OCAPDD will enter the new fiscal year debt-free. It is my understanding, that this is the first time since 1987 that the Association has not had any accumulated debt.

Certainly I anticipate the next year will again be a time of change for OCAPDD and the Developmental Services sector

The final Transformation Initiative report "Opportunities and Action" has just been released (May 2nd) and identifies a deadline of June 30th for submissions. Senior representatives of MCSS have indicated that the public consultations will occur this spring, however will now be limited to only families. The dates for the Ottawa sessions are June 7 (English) & June 8 (French), the Ministry's website will have details and confirmation of these dates.

in both Ottawa and across Ontario. I believe that as a result of the restructuring that has occurred, the altered financial position, and the ongoing

strength of the services that our staff teams provide, OCAPDD will now enter our 'next 50 years' from a position of strength!

I would again like to encourage you to join us this year as we celebrate our past achievements, and embrace the challenges of the future. It is the intention of both the Board and Management Team to incorporate Anniversary celebration activities into all of our events this year, in addition to the Gala on September 6th. I look forward to speaking with you at these events, and receiving your feedback.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

David A. Ferguson

Registration / Inscription

OCAPDD'S 6th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
6^{IE}ME TOURNOI DE GOLF PHILANTHROPIQUE DE L'AOCPTDI

Monday, June 19, 2006 / le lundi 19 juin 2006

Golfer 1 / Golfeur(euse) 1

Name/Nom: _____ Company/Compagnie _____

Address/Adresse: _____

Telephone: _____ Email/Courriel: _____

Golfer 2 / Golfeur(euse) 2

Name/Nom: _____ Company/Compagnie _____

Address/Adresse: _____

Telephone: _____ Email/Courriel: _____

Golfer 3 / Golfeur(euse) 3

Name/Nom: _____ Company/Compagnie _____

Address/Adresse: _____

Telephone: _____ Email/Courriel: _____

Golfer 4 / Golfeur(euse) 4

Name/Nom: _____ Company/Compagnie _____

Address/Adresse: _____

Telephone: _____ Email/Courriel: _____

Golf & Dinner / Golf et souper \$125 X _____ = _____

Dinner only / Souper seulement \$ 40 X _____ = _____

Payment method / Méthode de paiement: Visa Cheque Cash/Comptant

Name on Credit Card / Nom sur la carte de crédit: _____

Credit Card # de la carte de crédit: _____ Exp: _____

Cheque payable and mail to: OCAPDD Golf Tournament, 250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 200, Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7,

Chèque à l'ordre et posté: Att: Jocelyne Parent Lewis

You can also / Vous pouvez aussi: Register online / Vous inscrire au: www.ocapdd.on.ca Email your registration form / Envoyez votre inscription par courriel à: jplewis@ocapdd.on.ca Fax your registration form / Envoyez votre inscription par télécopieur au: 613-569-9865

The Greens are Ready!

Now that the snow is all gone and the sunshine is here, OCAPDD is hosting their 6th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 19th, 2006 at the Hautes Plaines Golf Club.

Come join us for the full event, or just for dinner. Our MC this year is Brad Dryden from "The BEAR" morning show who is sure to make you laugh. Again this year we will be hosting a putting contest, raffle and a silent auction.

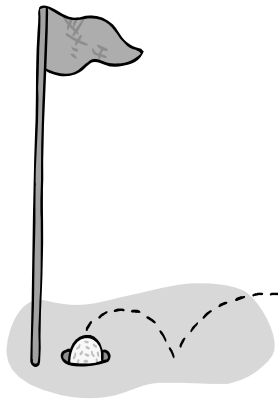


This is a great day to spend time with a few friends, cousins, mom, dad and even your

boss!

Our goal is to have 32 four-some teams come and play.

Remember, a bad day on a sunny golf course is better than a good day in the office.



Register on line at
www.ocapdd.on.ca or
Please clip and mail to register: →

Get Involved with Your Association

Have a voice. Exercise your right to vote.

Every year at the Annual General Meeting, (this years AGM is Wednesday, September 20th, 2006) voting members will have the opportunity to elect members to the OCAPDD Board of Directors as well as the right/privilege to

vote on By-Laws and other important issues. OCAPDD is 50 years old, with a website and over 300 members. and serving 800 clients in Ottawa.

Please call - 569-8993 and ask for the Membership Desk.

The Board of Directors along with the Executive Director invite you to join as a member of our Association. Membership involvement goes a long way towards enriching OCAPDD. For instance, by joining

you will have the opportunity to network with other members who share your interests. You will also receive our bi-annual Esprit Newsletter and the right to vote on issues at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September 2006.

For more information on specific initiatives we are involved with, please visit our Web site at www.ocapdd.on.ca.



OCAPDD's & Aktion Club Annual Picnic & BBQ will be held on
Sunday, June 25, 2006

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday,
September 20, 2006
7 pm at the RA Centre

Summer Picnic Sunday, June 25

OCAPDD's & Aktion Club Annual Picnic & BBQ will be held on **Sunday, June 25, 2006** at Vincent Massey Park, Sections M, N, O & P from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Agency wide Summer Picnic has been planned for clients, friends and staff of OCAPDD. Come and enjoy music, dancing, and games. Food will be provided at a nominal cost. For more details see page 14 or contact Debbie Blasutti, Coordinator of Volunteers at (613) 569-8993, ext. 243 or by email at dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca

Christine Maveety Winning Design By Linda Porter

Congratulations to Christine Maveety of Arc Industries. Christine is involved with H'Art of Ottawa (www.hartofottawa.ca). The program is run by Lin Roswell. "H'Art of Ottawa is a unique and innovative art studio where self-expression and a sense of place are both encouraged and celebrated for people with developmental disabilities. The studio provides an environment where the artists are respected and supported, and their personal growth and self-expression is nurtured and self-directed. Through the common language of art and self-expression, the artists of H'Art contribute to the community and the cultural life of Ottawa."

Lin was approached by the Special Olympics organizer Jean Traynor and asked if her artists could come up with a design or logo for a Special Olympics fundraising event. The fundraiser was the "1st Annual STEP OUT with Special Olympics Awareness Walk" on May 14th. Christine's winning design will be featured on the T-Shirts that were given to those participating in the walk. More information can be obtained from www.ottawaspecialolympics.org



Meet the 2005 United Way Super Committee Team

By Jocelyne Parent Lewis

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this year's committee members for helping to make the OCAPDD/United Way Campaign a successful event.

We have a fantastic, committed team with great imagination, creative fund raising ideas and generous hearts! They have worked very hard in the campaign, running events such as soup days, bake sales, 50/50 draws, and the creation of our own OCAPDD cookbook. These are examples of only some of the events that have taken place.

Again, thank-you for your superb effort in making the 2005 United Way Campaign a successful one. We doubled the amount raised in 2004.



Left to right, Debbie Blasutti, Angela Jones, Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Sylvie Moore, Diane Vallieres, Claudette Clost and our very own salesman Mark Pantelimon.

Recommendations from Ernie Parsons' (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community & Social Services) Report on Developmental Services

1. Review provincial access mechanisms, including the Community Care Access Centre model, to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities and their families can obtain support and services they need.
2. Develop a process involving the Ministries of Community and Social Services, Education, and Health and Long-Term Care to provide all parents of a child identified with special needs with an information package regarding available government programs.
3. Implement a new funding model; develop a funding formula that ensures funding allocations are based on need, within available resources.
4. Improve options available for family relief and support.
 - Review the adequacy of funding available for relief.
 - Encourage local agencies to establish regional 'pools' of qualified caregivers.
 - Amend current SSAH regulations to broaden the definition of suitable relief caregivers.
5. Determine the feasibility of obtaining a 'blanket' insurance policy covering developmentally disabled individuals taking part in volunteer placements.
6. Undertake a review to determine ways to provide an education component throughout life for people with special needs.
7. Improve access to transportation.
8. Increase the number of available residential options.
 - Provide funding to create additional community living spaces.
 - Review and expand the types of residential spaces eligible for funding.
 - Explore the potential of provincial tax credits to facilitate the construction and availability of alternate residential spaces.
 - Explore the advantages and disadvantages of establishing specialized care settings to serve clients with a particular disability.
9. Encourage agencies in the developmental services sector to achieve operational and administrative efficiencies possible resulting from working cooperatively.
10. Develop a set of provincial standards to own/operate a regulated group home, and establish minimum qualifications for the staff of such organizations.
11. Improve families' ability to plan for the future needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - Continue to approve ODSP funding for all qualified individuals, regardless of family income or assets.
 - Amend current legislation to allow parents and/or siblings to bequeath assets to a trust administered by the individual or firm of their choice.
 - Allow ODSP recipients to allocate their spending for current and future needs (e.g. for example, allow contributions to RRSPs).
 - Hold consultations with the Federal Government with the purpose of establishing a Future Disability Trust Fund to permit parents to set aside funding for their child's future needs.
12. Undertake a review of current funding options to determine what is reasonable and sustainable regarding the funding of individual needs for Ontarians with developmental disabilities.
13. In conjunction with all provinces and territories, exert pressure on the Federal Government to develop and implement a National Disability Income Support Program and Dedicated Transfer for Disability Supports.

"Hold consultations with the Federal Government with the purpose of establishing a Future Disability Trust Fund to permit parents to set aside funding for their child's future needs."

Tobie!!!! by Claire Heistek

That is the cry that she and I hear when we arrive on Thursday morning at the Loeb Centre.

For nearly five years now, Tobie has been the special pet of 6 people at the center and the source of hugs and affection for the others.

The individuals that attend the Loeb Centre have varying degrees of developmental delays and/or physical and mental disabilities. They live with their families, in group homes or shared apartments and work on a daily basis at routine tasks. They also volunteer in the community.

The friends that Tobie meets are all, by and large, individuals with autism, who have varying degrees of communication skills. Three of the clients I work with cannot speak and the others have limited oral skills. Despite a severe lack of communication skills all demonstrate good attitude and kindness towards others and Tobie.

This is a varied and special population, and Tobie adores them.

She walks into 'her' room, tail wagging, goes directly to the sofa and sits up, seeming to say. 'OK guys let's get to it'.

Depending on the goals established on a quarterly basis, the

activities range from petting and cuddling, to desensitization of the fear of a dog's bite, to proper dog handling, and to learning control commands: sit, down, come (oral or signed). Some days



we play ball outside - Tobie just loves to fetch - or to just be led around the building and shown what is happening.

Change comes very slowly but surely.

One individual, that I will call Sean, was so afraid of dogs that when he saw one he would scream and turn and hide, terrified.

The staff was so concerned about this behaviour that community activities for him had to be closely supervised.

The goal, in his case, was to teach him to stay put and be quiet in the presence of a dog and hopefully desensitize him to his fear of dogs.

Despite his terror of dogs, Sean kept trying to reach Tobie's tail. You see, Sean has a fetish for tails.

He agreed to take part in the program and he started visiting with Tobie once a week for 10 to 15 minutes. At first he would come up to Tobie, as far as he

needed, only to touch the tail. When Tobie moved or turned her head, he startled, jumped up and screamed. Getting to stroke the tail soon became the 'Pay Off' for completing a task. Slowly, Sean has learned that he is safe with Tobie and most days he is comfortable enough to sit beside her and give her a treat with an open hand. He also knows that he can only stroke Tobie's tail when he is in the therapy room and Tobie is willing. Otherwise, he is only to touch her back. We are now trying to teach him the proper approach to a dog.

Happily, Sean seems to have transferred his sense of security in the presence of dogs to some extent. One day he was walking at the Arboretum with his group and his counsellor. The counsellor had forgotten that this park was often used for off-leash dogs and realized his mistake the moment they entered it. He quickly went by Sean's side, worried that he might not be able to cope with the dogs. His concern was for naught. Sean just walked quietly with the others. He even, at one time, was separated from the group while dogs were playing near him, but remained calm.

Tobie and I have been going to the Loeb Centre now for five years. Both of us feel at home there and hope to be able to continue for a very long time more.

How can one resist those happy faces?...

Therapeutic Riding

Community Support Services' (CSS) partnership with the City of Ottawa and the Nepean National Equestrian Park (NNEP) is off the ground and flying high! Mandi, our NNEP instructor, is giving everyone a safe and thoroughly enjoyable riding experience with lots of variety and fun. It has also been heart-warming to see a dozen NNEP riders come forward to volunteer for our nine CSS riders. They lead the horses, walk beside the horses, teach the riders how to groom, tack up and clean up...and most importantly give the riders lots of encouragement and praise for their successes.

All of our riders are expressing 100% enthusiasm. They are

very proud of their accomplishments:

- On our second week, Mandi led everybody out of the arena on a short trail ride. I had never really noticed a downward grade from the arena door before but one rider let us know that she was nervous about riding Nancy down "the hill" so we told her to lean back when going down a hill. She followed the direction and found herself at the bottom of "the hill", still on Nancy. On the way back she said she was nervous about going back up "the hill" and needed help so we told her to lean forward and hold onto Nancy's mane. We saw fear change to elation as soon as she made it back up

"the hill". Now I recognize that there is a hill and our riders know it can be conquered!

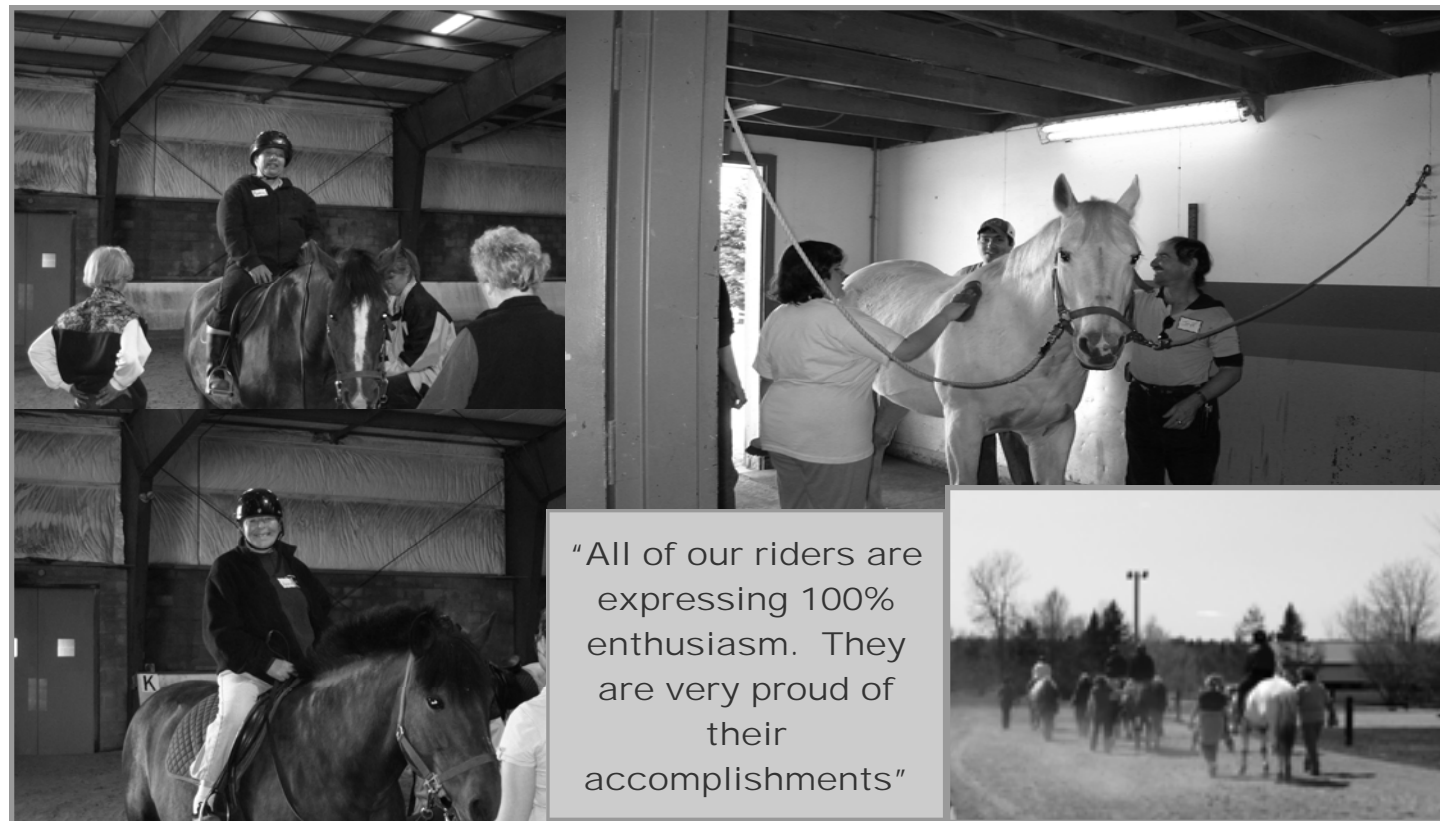
- Back in the barn, a rider turned down a chance to pick out one of Blue Chip's hooves last week but this week he picked out two with absolutely no hesitation.

- One rider had not been on a horse since 1980. She is now 60 yrs. old and back in the saddle.

- I told one man that he was a great rider. He responded that he was a great, great rider!

Marion Kennedy

(on behalf of Joanne Bennett, JoAnne Harvey and Melaina Farrell)



"All of our riders are expressing 100% enthusiasm. They are very proud of their accomplishments"

...Continued from page 6

14. Consider changes to the calculation of earnings exemptions to encourage labour force participation.
 - Substantially increase the amount of earned monthly income allowed prior to any 'claw-back' or implement a straight 50 per cent exemption rate.
 - Calculate earnings exemptions based on the net (vs. gross) benefit to ODSP participants.
15. Change the rules to ensure that OSAP loans, to the value of tuition, books and supplies, not be considered income for recipients upgrading their education.
16. Provide permanent medical benefits for individuals with developmental disabilities who leave ODSP to seek employment; allow individuals to retain their drug card regardless of income, or until their income reaches a certain level.
17. Take steps to ensure that individuals leaving the ODSP system for paid work are immediately reinstated if their job terminates for whatever reason.
18. Assist residents and their families with the transition to community care.
 - Pair 'planners' with families of developmentally disabled individuals to develop individualized transition plans for each resident, and ensure that residents are placed in the most appropriate setting.
19. Give special consideration to those deemed 'medically fragile'.
 - Consider the provision of specialized medical services where necessary, noting that in some cases the provision of such services may require specialized settings.
20. Improve communication regarding institution closures.
 - Undertake a targeted communications initiative to provide timely and accurate information with respect to the transition of residents.
21. Create and manage a comprehensive information database containing information on existing clients, resources, contacts and future needs (e.g., number of individuals, projected total funding available).
22. Establish criteria for determining the level of individualized funding available for each Ontarian with a developmental disability.

Full Report available at:
www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/programs/SCS/DevelopmentalServices/Publications/parsonsReport.htm

Board of Director Nominations

Nominations Criteria -

To be eligible to stand for election, you must be 18 years of older, and a member of OCAPDD for not less than thirty (30) days prior to the AGM and election on September 20th, 2006. [August 21 being the last day to purchase a membership to qualify]. [See page 14 for 'Becoming a Member']

The 12 members of the Board of Directors are comprised of:

- At least three who represent families / parents with disabled relative.

- Two from the francophone community.

- And the remainder from the public, private and non-profit sectors with every effort to ensure visible minority representation from the community, as appropriate. At this time we are eagerly looking for nominations from the francophone community.

If you would like to speak to the Board Nomination Chair, about the nominations process, please contact them at 569-8993 ext. 225.

**Nominations for the
 September 2006 election
 to the
 OCAPDD Board of
 Directors must be
 received by
 noon on
 Wednesday, July 5th,
 2006**

**For more information
 visit our website at
www.ocapdd.on.ca
 Board Nominations**

The Annie Oliver Award

This prestigious award is presented at the Annual General Meeting of OASIS to recognize an individual or organization:

- who demonstrates excellence, innovation and leadership in the developmental services sector, and through this process, represents the interests and mission of OASIS;
- who demonstrates high administration processes that have been an example to others;
- who, by a combination of perseverance, determination and positive attitude, has assisted OASIS in meeting its Mission Statement.

The 3rd Annual Annie Oliver Award was presented to David Ferguson, in Grand Bend at the OASIS AGM and Conference on May 5th, 2006.

The following are excerpts from the speech given by Annie Oliver during her presentation to David:

"It is the tireless work of individuals like this year's recipient of the Annie Oliver Award that has enabled us to become the vibrant, dynamic organization that we are today."

On each and every issue that confronts OASIS, Dave is well informed and incredibly generous in sharing his information and expertise to the benefit of us all. He is a tremendous, hard working individual who is passionate about OASIS and its mission. Dave

helps to fill our organization with a sense of purpose and direction."

"Those who work closely with Dave draw attention to the fun and humour he brings to OASIS. A colleague states, "No one is more serious about the work we do, but his balance ensures we all have a bit of fun along the way"."



Annie Oliver presenting her award to David Ferguson, Executive Director of OCAPDD at the recent OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs) conference.

The Family Homeshare Program

Our program has gone through some significant changes in the last year due to the restructuring within OCAPDD. Most notably, we have gone from a group of seven part-time staff to three full-time case managers. With the venture of it's new structure we have renamed our program to the **Family Homeshare Program**.

The Family Homeshare Program has responded. We have maintained our enthusiasm for the Program and all of the endeavours undertaken by the previous group of seven case managers with some streamlining if necessary. We are pleased to announce that we already have two events planned for this year. One of the items is our annual business meeting and the other is our BBQ. We regret any difficulties our membership may have suffered as a result of the program changes. Some

participants have been assigned new case managers. Our membership has pulled together to work through the transitions that we were faced with. It is at times like these that we realize how much our providers are the back bone of the Family Homeshare Program. In this vein, we would like to thank our long standing membership.

"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Ghandi

ANNIVERSARIES AS FAMILY HOMESHARE PROVIDERS

Fifteen Years:

Ms. Barbara St-Pierre, Mr. & Mrs. Latreille, Ms. Nelia Goncalves, Mr. & Mrs. Steele, Ms. Carol Coutu, Ms. Anna Branker.

Ten Years:

Ms. Frances Bloom & Mr. Louis Bertrand, Ms. JoAnne Harvey, Mr. & Mrs. Sinclair

Five Years:

Mr. & Mrs. Noel, Ms. Shirley Regan.

First Year:

Ms. Linda Daly, Ms. Beatrice Ongoma, Ms. Wambui Muya, Ms. Andree Belanger

Our immediate future looks promising. We are presently developing the Family Homeshare Program for children, in addition to our present adult membership.

If you have any questions about our Program please call 569-8993 ext 401. We would be very pleased to discuss the Family Homeshare Program with you.



Rosenthal Report by Lesley Goudge

Rosenthal Services was thrilled to have Max Keeping visit on April 25th, 2006. Max, as many of you may know, is anchor of the CTV News at 6 pm, and is a fierce supporter of community groups and events.

Mr. Keeping explained to the clients what his job at CTV is, as well as who his coworkers are (JJ Clarke, and Carol Anne Meehan). Max was very interested in what we do at Rosenthal. Suzanne and Ralph told Max that they do paper shredding; Beth mentioned our spa room with hairstyling and make up; Max was also curious about our exercise programs and yoga. Gerry Belleau even came from the Loeb Centre for the event.

Max and a CTV camera crew are hoping to do a follow-up story on Rosenthal in the near future. Watch CTV News at 6 pm to see Rosenthal in action!



Volunteers Grow Community - National Volunteer Week April 23-29

*"How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world."
Anne Frank*

Volunteer Awards

Congratulations to the following Volunteers on reaching many significant milestones.



On Wednesday, May 3, 2006 over 100 people enjoyed a Volunteer Appreciation Evening at the Loeb Centre. Many thanks the staff of the Loeb Centre and to the Head Office crew and friends for helping to make the evening such a wonderful success.

5 Years Nicole & Carlo Cuglietta, Claire Heistek, Lorraine Berini, Nora Frank, Anne Marie Landriau

15 Years Laura Mulligan & Jack Fraser

35 Years Ann Smith



Staff Recognition 2006

Service Awards were presented to the following employees:



Chris Allen 20 Years & Judy Bernstein

David Ferguson & Andrea Tye-Campbell 20 Years

Ann Schulz - 25 Years & MC Kevin Lamont - 20 Years

Kate de Lanux 25 Years

Effi Cooper, Karen Mayer & Tara Drope - Relief Staff 5 Years

30 Years

JoAnne Harvey
Raymond Rockburn
Kuo Wee Tay

5 Years

Shelagh Ahearn
Pierre Boucher
Nora Campbell
Gina Carter
Kerry Johnson
Jackie Kingsbury
Lauren Nearing
Mike Savage
Heather Snowdon
Cinda Stewart
Jeremy Thompson

25 Years

Kate de Lanux
Emma Dickson
Roxanne Gilbert
Marion Kennedy
Nancy Lyon
Jill McKnight
Jim Rudkoski
Ann Schulz
Lynne Williamson
Bruce Young

20 Years

Chris Allen
Joanne Bennett
Ann Marie Bloom
Suzanne Brewster
Tracey Brown
Chantal Jacques
Kevin Lamont
Donna Porter
Gisele Thibodeau
Andrea Tye-Campbell
Judy Vance

15 Years

Danielle Boyer
Claudette Clost
Paula Croucher
Kim Flaro
Shirley Griffiths
Mike Ladouceur
Doris Laporte
Sylvie Ohanessian
Wendy Skinner
Christine Sullivan
Brenda White
Christie Williams

10 Years

Tracey Bouchard
Barrie Clifford
Robert Cloutier
Christi-Anne Dore
Milton Ellis
Ruth Lynda Estigene
Janet Fahandazh
Caroline Hindmarsh
Michele Lemay
Collette Newell
Linda Ralph
Marnie Suykens

Relief Staff

10 Years
Deborah Chow
Moira Birdwise

Relief Staff

15 Years
Margaret Saunders

Relief Staff 5 Years

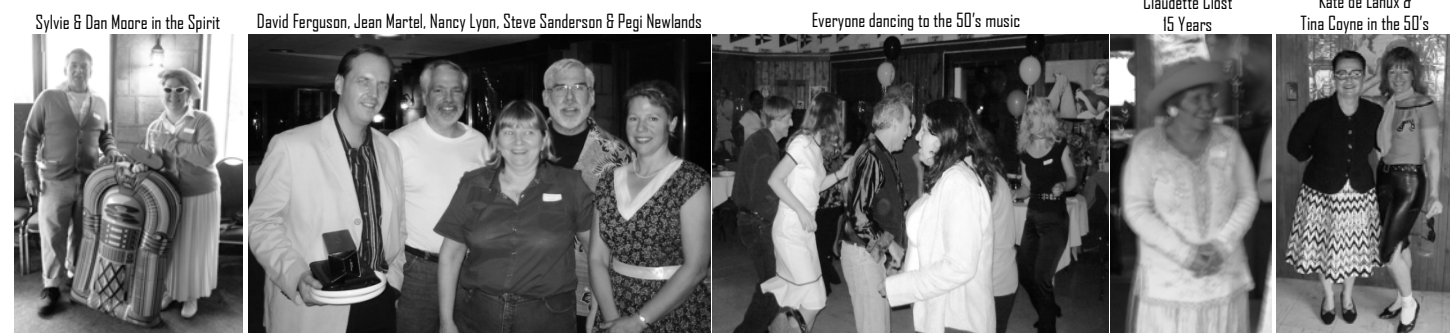
Effi Cooper
Genevieve Coxon
Tara Drope
Joyce Joseph
Karen Maher
Jane O'Callahan

Suzanne Oliver
Karine Roy
Brandon Shirley
Miranda Singh
Tasha Smith
Annie Ste-Croix
Sasha McKeown

OCAPDD's employees attended the Annual Staff Recognition Evening on Wednesday, May 17th, 2006, at the Britannia Yacht Club, located in the beautiful Britannia Village. The evening was a nostalgic '50's celebration in the spirit of OCAPDD's 50th Anniversary.

OCAPDD Staff Recognition May 17, 2006

Thank you to the 'Staff Recognition Committee' for making this evening a night to remember. Frances Bloom, Kate de Lanux, Tina Coyne, Diane Vallieres, Sylvie Moore,



Sylvie & Dan Moore in the Spirit

David Ferguson, Jean Martel, Nancy Lyon, Steve Sanderson & Pegi Newlands

Everyone dancing to the 50's music

Claudette Clost 15 Years

Kate de Lanux & Tina Coyne in the 50's

2005 Christmas Gift Wrap

2005 was another successful year for our Christmas Gift Wrap Project.

As in previous years, OCAPDD wrapped gifts at the community booth at the Carlingwood Shopping Centre. New this Christmas was the acquisition of the Gift Wrap Booth at St-Laurent Shopping Centre.

Over 350 volunteers gave 1,800 hours of their time to help us generate more than \$15,500 between both locations. Volunteer participation in this project was crucial to the success of the booths and we are most grateful for the generosity of everyone's time and commitment to this project. Outstanding!

We would like to convey our

special thanks to Simon Arsenault and Natalia de-Savigny who organized 275 members from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to help with this project.

Please mark your calendars for the 2006 Gift Wrapping Project. Volunteers are needed for either location, St-Laurent Shopping Centre or Carlingwood Shopping Centre starting in early December. Particular high need times will be December 22, 23 and 24th. Thirty to forty



Left to right, Lisa Babineau, Carole Lalonde, Al Brennan and Frances Bloom

volunteers are need for each of those days in both locations.

For further information contact Debbie Blasutti at 569-8993 ext.243 or dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca

OC Transpo Provides New Opportunities for People on ODSP

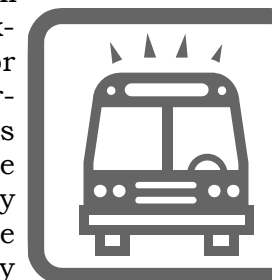
On March 1, 2006, the Ottawa based bus company, OC Transpo, began a one year pilot project that introduced the OC Transpo Community Pass to Ottawa residents who receive benefits under the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

This Community Pass looks the same as a regular OC Transpo Express bus pass, but will cost only \$28.25 a month. It is hoped that this reduced rate will allow more people on ODSP to purchase a pass. That in return should enable them to have greater freedom and access to more community

activities without the high cost of a normal bus pass or regular bus tickets.

The response thus far from people with disabilities has been extremely positive. For those who were purchasing a bus pass in the past at the regular rate, they now appreciate the extra money they have available each month. It is amazing how an extra \$50 a month can have a large impact on people's quality of life. For many individuals who were unable to afford a

bus pass in the past, they now can afford this Community Pass. Many have commented how with a bus pass, they are able to get out and go places they were unable to go to before.



It is hoped that the idea of a Community Pass will not only become a permanent reality in the Ottawa area, but that the idea will expand throughout

Ontario.

Judy Bernstein, Director of Client Services

Membership Renewal Notice - PLEASE NOTE

As part of our goal to maintain a healthy and accurate Membership database, we have undergone some restructuring of the Membership purchasing and renewal processes. Please note that we will no longer be including the renewal notice in this Esprit Newsletter. Please watch for it to arrive in the mail this June. For all future renewals the notice will arrive separate from the Esprit. If you have any questions or if you would like to purchase a membership, please call the Membership Secretary at 569-8993 ext. 225.

Kudos Sun Microsystems Inc. employees devoted a full day of their time to community support. This year the local Ottawa team returned to the Ahearn Residential home and in a single day, painted 3 bathrooms, 2 hallways, multiple doors and bedrooms. The Ottawa team has been helping OCAPDD for the past 6 years now!

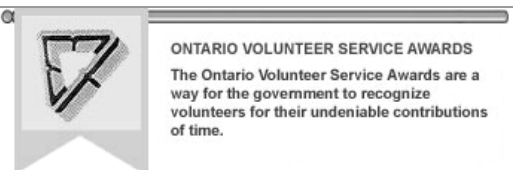
In Memoriam

☞ Pat Whalen ☜ September 16th, 1949-March 5th, 2006☜
Pat resided at Moffat House. He will be sadly missed.
Everyone was touched by his sense of humour and zest for life.

Ontario Service Awards

The Ontario Service Awards were created by the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation to recognize individuals who have given continuous years of outstanding volunteerism to organizations. We are pleased to announce that the following OCAPDD volunteers will receive their Ontario Service Award on May 26, 2006. 5 year awards go to Deidre and Bernie Murphy, and Lorraine Berini. 15 year Awards go to Jack Fraser and Laura Mulligan. Congratulations to each of you!

"You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give."
Winston Churchill



CSS Weekly Social Drop-In

Ann Cochrane, Frances Bloom - Drop-in Coordinators

In September 2005 a weekly social drop-in was started for clients within Community Support Services.

This project was initiated due to the recognized issue of loneliness for about 30% of the people we support. Regular activities include card/board games, arts and crafts, and an exercise program. Special activities are planned around holidays.

Monthly 'Karaoke Nights' are very popular. There is an average attendance of 20 members. New friendships have formed and are flourishing outside the drop-in. A small fee is charged to members on a weekly basis and fundraising is ongoing.



Madeleine Hyslop & Diane Bettcher

Drop by to the Drop-In
Every Wednesday @ The Loeb Centre 5-7 pm

Volunteering Opportunities: Contact Debbie Blasutti 569-8993 ext. 243

Going to the gym, the movies or taking a walk? Be a one to one volunteer or Community Friend. This may include going to a movie, sporting event, walks, or quiet time together. The possibilities are endless and so are the rewards.

☺ Do you know any one with a great imagination and lots of creativity? Someone who has graphic art experience? Marketing experience? We are currently looking for an individual to work with the Coordinator of Volunteers to develop a new and innovative **volunteer brochure and campaign**.

Do you have any hidden talents or know of someone that could help us out?

♫ Several times each year we are in need of individuals to provide **music, perform a dance routine or short skit** for our Aktion Club group on Tuesday evenings.

Volunteers-a force in OCAPDD-contribute literally hundreds of hours each month in every conceivable activity, from organizing outings and tending gardens to servicing computers, mending clothes, and repairing and painting program facilities, to cite just a few examples.

♫ We are also currently seeking **entertainment** for our Annual Picnic on June 25, 2006 at Vincent Massey Park.

🎨 **Art Instructors.** Our current art instructors have left and we are seeking two individuals to run the art program 2.5 hours each week at the Quinlan Centre. All supplies provided.

🧘 **Yoga and Exercise Instructors.** Want to get your daily exercise and have some fun at the same time. Then come on out. Have we got a class for you. We have several groups waiting for a leader. Classes are held once a week for 30-45 minutes.

🍰 Love to **bake**? We have a baking class held once a week at the Quinlan Centre that is looking for some one to help out.

Good Bye to Our Friends by Debbie Blasutti



Martina Methot and her dog

Martina Methot and her dog Joker came to us from Therapy Dogs International and have been actively involved with the individuals at CTC. Their medium of unconditional love and acceptance created an outlet that reduced anxiety, increased initiative, and developed communication and fine motor skills to name a few things. Six wonderful years has passed and it is time to say good bye. After many years of rewarding work, Joker is retiring. Joker is nine years old

and needs some time to relax, stretch out and go for long runs. Our thanks go out to Martina and Joker for their outstanding commitment and dedication to CTC.



Joker the Therapy