



Esprit Newsletter

Fall/Winter Edition 2008

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

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

Special Recognition

Congratulations Blanche 25 Years!

Since the inception of the Supported Work Program in 1987, there have only been two employees who have achieved the distinction of having worked at the same job for 25 years. Blanche is one of them and has been working as a mail room clerk at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) since 1983. IDRC made a decision 25 years ago to give Blanche a chance to work at a competitive level. She has proven to be a valuable asset to IDRC's operations. The attached picture was taken at the celebration that took place at the IDRC headquarters in Ottawa. Patrick Duvert, her Job Coach (to her left) and Steve Sanderson, program Supervisor of OCAPDD (to her right), were both asked to participate in this celebration by Blanche. Congratulations to Blanche for achieving this significant milestone!



HOCKEY WITH BITE!

The Ottawa 67's were excited to welcome their fans back for yet another season full of promise and entertaining hockey!

OCAPDD clients were among those lucky fans thanks to GRADE A Techs who purchased 10 season tickets and donated them all to OCAPDD clients.

Our hockey fans have been enjoying the games since the end of September and will be going until the end of March.

Thank you GRADE A Techs!!!

Fundraising

2008 HOPE VOLLEYBALL SUMMER FEST

For the 2nd time, OCAPDD has been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the HOPE Volleyball Tournament this past July. The weather was perfect and thousands of people enjoyed the day. The proceeds from the tournament will be used for a new Snoezelen Room at the Silver Spring farm.

We would like to thank all the volunteers that helped out that day with our parking duties. We had 50 volunteers come out and help throughout the day. On Tuesday November 25th, Hope Volleyball Summerfest hosted a reception to thank their sponsors and present funding to the 2008 charities.



Christmas is just around the corner!

Need some help? No time to gift wrap?
We have 2 locations to serve you!



As in previous years, OCAPDD is wrapping gifts at the community booth at Carlingwood Mall and at St-Laurent Shopping Center. More than 300 volunteers are helping to wrap gifts to raise funds for the Association.

The 2008 gift wrap campaign is already underway at Carlingwood Mall and at St-Laurent shopping centre and will be going until 5 p.m. Christmas Eve.

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

OCAPDD Christmas Ornaments & Bird Houses

These items have been crafted in part from the original copper which covered the roofs of Canada's Parliament Buildings from 1918 to 1996. This memento of Canada's proud heritage was made with the participation of people with developmental disabilities.

Proceeds from the sale of these special products directly benefit the developmentally disabled.

There are 2 ornaments and 5 bird houses to choose from which can be viewed on our web-site at: www.ocapdd.on.ca. Ornaments are \$15 each and the bird houses start at \$25 each.



Think GOLF

Need a special gift for that special person? Why not give them the ultimate day!

OCAPDD's 9th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on June 15th at the Hautes Plaines Golf Club.

This fabulous day includes great prizes, excellent food and laughter with our new MC, Bill Parker from Majic100.

Register directly on our website at www.ocapdd.on.ca.

Over \$15,000 was raised at our 2008 Golf Tournament. Our 2009 fundraising goal is to sell out (36 foursomes). We can achieve our goal if we all participate. The success of our golf tournament is due to all of the participants and sponsors. If you would like to participate, be a sponsor at our golf tournament, donate a prize for the silent auction or door prize, please contact the 2009 Golf committee at 613-569-8993 ext. 245. or visit our website at www.ocapdd.on.ca.



OCAPDD wishes to give special thanks to our 8th Annual Golf Tournament MC and Sponsors

MC

Majic100 'Bill Parker'

Hole in One Sponsor with a special closest to pin contest

Surgenor National Leasing

Gold Sponsors

Corporate Renaissance Group
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Stewart & Associates
Hicks Morley
Coughlin & Associates LTD.

Silver Sponsors

MBNA Canada Bank
Bayshore Home Health
District Realty Corporation

Bronze Sponsors

Prestige Furniture
KPMG
Emond Harnden
CentrepoinTE Law Firm
HMS Tropical Plants Inc.
CUPE Local 1521
Corbeil Appliances

Door Prize Sponsors

ClubLink - Foursome at Hautes Plaines
Golfwright - Driver
Industrial Alliance - Golf Bag
TechOnLine - Bluetooth

Card Game Sponsors

Hampton Inn Ottawa – Weekend Getaway
La Roma Restaurant - \$25 Gift Certificate
Executive Golf - Round of golf for 2

Gift Donations

Various Individuals & Enterprises

Special thanks to the committee members

Mr. Gene Markell
Ms. Sylvie Moore
Ms. Claudette Clost
Ms. Debbie Blasutti
Ms. Jocelyne Parent Lewis
Ms. Natalie Deschamps



Information Items

United Families of Eastern Ontario (UFEO)

The development of an umbrella group of Eastern Ontario “family led” organizations, associations, and networks is underway.

Founding members of UFEO share a concern that policy makers receive competing and fragmented messages about developmental service gaps and needs from the variety of parents and family members with whom they dialogue. This can lead to decisions welcomed by some families, but not others.

The initiation of UFEO is in response to an identified need for a cohesive “family” voice to speak on behalf of families. Leadership for UFEO is currently provided by Families Matter. You can learn more about this organization by accessing their website at: <http://www.familiesmattercoop.ca>. Several other organizations are assisting Families Matter with the start up phase of UFEO.



While the focus of existing groups would remain unchanged, representation within the proposed initiative can provide opportunities for collaboration in undertaking activities such as media and government relations. An organized approach representing a large number of families has the potential for more impact. Individual family representation in UFEO is also welcomed.

OCAPDD does not currently have an organized family group. If you are interested in exploring the potential of establishing an individual or group membership in UFEO, please provide Natalie Deschamps with your telephone number, e-mail and postal address. Natalie’s coordinates are:

OCAPDD / AOCPI
Office Manager / Gestionnaire de bureau
200-250 City Centre Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K1R 6K7
(613) 569-8993 Ext. 225
ndeschamps@ocapdd.on.ca

Those responding will be invited to a meeting early in the New Year to learn more about United Families of Eastern Ontario.

Bonnie Dinning

Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs)

RDSPs are intended to help parents and others save for the long-term financial security of a child with a severe disability. They are meant to benefit persons eligible for the Disability Tax Credit and will be similar in concept to Registered Education Savings Plans.

Key features of the RDSP

To follow are some of the key features of the RDSP:

- A beneficiary must be eligible for the Disability Tax Credit and be a resident of Canada at the time of any contributions.
- A beneficiary can have only one RDSP at a time. (An RDSP can be transferred from one institution to another, subject to certain restrictions.)
- Non-deductible contributions can be made by anyone, subject to the beneficiary's \$200,000 limit of lifetime contributions. There is no limit on annual contributions.
- Contributions cannot be returned to the contributor, but must be paid to the disabled beneficiary through Disability Assistance Payments or DAPs. Unlike with RESPs, a beneficiary cannot withdraw contributions without also withdrawing a taxable portion from the plan; all withdrawals (i.e. DAPs) will include a combination of contributions, government grants, bonds, and/or plan "income" or growth. The portion of the DAP that relates to contributions will be non-taxable.
- Contributions must cease at the end of the year in which the disabled beneficiary reaches 59 years of age.
- The beneficiary must begin taking Disability Assistance Payments

(withdrawals) from the RDSP by the end of the year in which the beneficiary attains 60 years of age, and may in certain cases make DAPs at an earlier age. DAPs may be subject to maximum annual limits.

- When the beneficiary dies or ceases to be eligible for the Disability Tax Credit, in addition to repaying an "assistance holdback amount", the plan must be collapsed by the end of the calendar year following the year in which the triggering event occurred. The plan proceeds will be paid to (and the taxable portion taxed to) the beneficiary's estate or the beneficiary, as applicable.
- RDSPs may be eligible to receive Canada Disability Savings Grants and/or Canada Disability Savings Bonds.

Canada Disability Savings Grants and/or Canada Disability Savings Bonds

Annual RDSP contributions may earn grants, called Canada Disability Savings Grants, at matching rates of 100%, 200% or 300%, depending on "family net income" and the amount contributed, to an annual maximum of \$3,500 and a lifetime maximum of \$70,000. Unused grant room does not carry forward.)

Additional government contributions, called Canada Disability Savings Bonds, of up to \$1,000 per year and \$20,000 per lifetime will be provided to RDSPs established by lower income families. Bond must be requested by the holder within the year it is payable, subject to some transitional rules for the early years of the program.

RDSPs & federal benefits

RDSP income will not affect the disabled beneficiary's entitlement to the GST credit, the Canada Child Tax Benefit or Old Age Security payments.

Where can I get more details about RDSPs?

More detailed information about RDSPs is available from the following federal government publications:

- Bill C-28 (also known as Chapter 35 of the Statutes of Canada 2007), which includes the amendments to the *Income Tax Act* that created the RDSP, and creates the *Canada Disability Savings Act*;
- The Canada Disability Savings Act;
- The Canada Disability Savings Regulations, published in Part II of the June 25, 2008 Canada Gazette;
- Annex 5 of the March 2007 Federal Budget (go to "Personal income tax measures", and then "Registered Disability Savings Plans");
- December 2006 Report of the Minister of Finance's Expert Panel on Financial Security for Children with Severe Disabilities; and
- The RDSP section on the CRA website, especially its RDSP FAQs page.

When will the federal government begin to register RDSPs and pay the associated grants and bonds?

As a reminder, **RDSPs are not yet available at any financial institution.** The earliest that any financial institutions can begin offering RDSPs is December 1, 2008, when the *Canada Disability Savings Act* and its Regulations come in force. Moreover, that December 1, 2008 date presupposes that financial institutions will have sufficient time to develop a system that will track the necessary financial specifications of the product and exchange the necessary information with the government.

In addition, people who will be eligible to become RDSP beneficiaries, and who are currently eligible for provincial social assistance payments, may not want to establish an RDSP until their provinces or territories issue clear guidelines as to how RDSPs and Disability Assistance Payments will be treated for the purposes of social assistance benefits.

211 is coming to Ottawa

What is it?

211 is an easy-to-remember, toll-free telephone number that connects callers, in the language of their choice, to the non-emergency social, health, and government services and programs that serve community. This free, confidential service links callers with high-skilled, bilingual information and referral specialists who are trained to direct them to the most appropriate service provider. 211 is available to everyone in our community. It is funded through a partnership that includes the provincial and federal governments, the City of Ottawa and United Way/Centraide Ottawa.

The Community Information Centre of Ottawa (CICO) is providing the multilingual 211 service. With access to a constantly updated database of more than 1,540 community organizations, the Centre's information and referral specialists are able to provide detailed information about the programs and services available in the community, eligibility requirements and terms of service. This database will also be available online at www.211Ontario.ca.

Who benefits from 211?

- Community members - 211 supports people in times of personal difficulty and during non-life-threatening emergencies
- Service organizations - 211 efficiently links services with people in need and reduces time and effort in dealing with inquiries
- Volunteers - 211 connects people who want to help their community with opportunities to donate time or money
- Governments - 211 relieves pressure on other information services provided by governments and reduces duplication and overlap among help lines
- Planners - 211 creates real-time data on service use and community needs, helping them to identify service gaps and to plan for additional resources

211s-working for the community

Studies in the United States and Canada demonstrate that 211's benefits to the community, clients and governments far outweigh the costs. Research and experience from communities served by 211 show that this service:

- Ensures residents get help faster in times of need
- Allows human and social service organizations to be more productive and better anticipate the needs of their clients
- Helps governments provide service (e.g., 211 service complements 311 municipal service and reduces the number of non-emergency calls to the 911 service)
- Creates a powerful social policy and planning tool by consolidating information about the services that communities need

Who guides 211's service?

The Community Information Centre of Ottawa (CICO) and the Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region (DCOR) partnered to bring 211 to the community. 211 is guided by a 211 Steering Committee made up of service providers and funders as well as a 211 Community Advisory Committee.

The 211 Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from United Way/Centraide Ottawa, City of Ottawa, Ministry of Community and Social Services, as well as CICO and DCOR, provides guidance in the delivery of 211, and ensures a consistent approach for planning enhancements or changes to the service.

The 211 Community Advisory Committee is made up of community members-at-large, as well as members of the 211 Steering Committee. It ensures that the needs of the community are met by the 211 service and contributes to 211's development and ongoing evaluation.

211Ontario

By 2011, everyone in Ontario should have access to 211. Eight regional call centres located across the province will be in operation by summer 2008 to serve our major population centres. From these regional centres, 211 will be gradually extended to smaller communities. In Ottawa, 211 is a key element of a provincial and national vision to enhance access to human and community services for all Canadians.

Dial 211 today

As of now, 211 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. As part of its formal launch in late September, 211 will be available 70 hours a week, Monday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with plans to offer a 24/7 service in the near future. Call 211 today and one of our information and referral specialists will help you to find the services you need.

For more information contact: Karen Milligan, kmilligan@unitedwayottawa.ca or Marie-Andrée Carrière, ma.carriere@cominfo-ottawa.org.

Un service 211 à Ottawa

C'est quoi?

211 est un numéro de téléphone sans-frais et facile à retenir, qui met les appelants en contact avec les programmes et les services sociaux, de santé et gouvernementaux non-urgents au service de notre communauté.

Ce service gratuit et confidentiel met les appelants en contact avec des conseiller(ère)s en information et aiguillage qui sont bilingues et ont les compétences nécessaires pour les diriger vers les ressources les plus appropriées.

211 est un service disponible à toute personne dans la communauté. Ce service est financé en vertu d'un partenariat entre le gouvernement Provincial et Fédérale, la Ville d'Ottawa et Centraide/United Way.

Le Centre d'Information Communautaire d'Ottawa (CICO) fournit le service multilingue 211.

Avec l'accès à une base de données constamment mise à jour avec plus que 1,540 organismes de la communauté, les conseiller(ère)s en information et aiguillage et les spécialistes en ressources agréés peuvent fournir au appelants de l'information détaillées à propos des programmes et des services disponibles dans la communauté, les critères d'admissibilité et les limites du service. Cette base de données sera aussi disponible en ligne à www.211Ontario.ca

Qui bénéficie du 211?

- Les Membres de la communauté - 211 aide les gens et leur offre du soutien lorsqu'ils éprouvent des difficultés personnelles et à l'occasion de situations d'urgence qui ne mettent pas leur vie en danger
- Les Organisations de services - 211 relie efficacement leurs services avec des gens qui en ont besoin, réduisant ainsi le temps perdu et les efforts inutiles
- Les Bénévoles - 211 relie les gens qui désirent aider leur communauté avec des occasions de donner temps ou argent
- Les Gouvernements – 211 réduit la pression sur les autres services gouvernementaux d'information et peut réduire le dédoublement et le chevauchement entre les lignes téléphoniques d'aide.
- Les Planificateurs municipaux – 211 crée des données en temps réel au sujet de l'utilisation du service et des besoins de la communauté,
Ce qui fait qu'on est plus en mesure d'identifier les lacunes dans les services et créer des nouveaux services et améliorer la planification et la mise en œuvre des services

211-travaillant pour la communauté

Plusieurs études, réalisées aux États-Unis et au Canada, ont établi que les bénéfices du 211 pour la communauté, les clients et les

gouvernements, l'emporte sur les coûts du service. La recherche et l'expérience des communautés déjà desservies par le 211 démontrent que ce service:

- permet aux résidents d'obtenir de l'aide plus rapidement en cas de besoin ;
- permet aux organisations humanitaires et sociales d'être plus productives et de mieux anticiper les besoins de leurs clients ;
- aide les gouvernements à fournir leurs services (par exemple, le service 211 est un complément du service municipal 311 et réduit le nombre d'appels non urgent au service 911) ; et
- crée un puissant outil de politique et de planification sociale en consolidant les renseignements relatifs aux services que les communautés ont besoin

Qui dirige le service 211?

Le Centre d'information communautaire d'Ottawa (CICO) et le Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region (DCOR) ont établi un partenariat de collaboration afin d'offrir le service 211 à Ottawa. 211 est guidé par le Comité directeur du 211 qui est constitué de fournisseurs de services et de fournisseurs de fonds ainsi qu'un comité consultatif communautaire du 211.

Le Comité directeur du 211, composé de représentants de United Way/Centraide Ottawa, la Ville d'Ottawa, le Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaire, ainsi que CICO et DCOR, offre de l'orientation dans la livraison de 211, et s'assure qu'il y a une approche constante et compatible pour planifier des changements et des améliorations dans le service.

Le Comité consultatif communautaire du 211 est composé de membres de la communauté, ainsi que les membres du Comité directeur de 211. Ce groupe a la responsabilité de veiller à ce que le service 211 répond aux besoins de notre communauté, en plus de contribuer au développement et à l'évaluation du service.

211Ontario

Par l'année 2011, tout le monde en Ontario aura accès à un service 211.

Huit centres d'appels régionaux localisés à travers la province seront lancés d'ici l'automne 2008 pour servir les grands centres.

De ces centres régionaux, 211 va s'étendre graduellement à des communautés plus petites. À Ottawa, 211 est un élément clé d'une vision provinciale et nationale pour améliorer l'accès aux services humains et communautaires pour tous les Canadiens.



Composer 211 aujourd'hui

Présentement, 211 est disponible du lundi au vendredi de 8h30 à 16h30. Dans le cadre de son lancement officiel à la fin de Septembre, 211 sera disponible 70 heures par semaine, du lundi jusqu'à dimanche de 8h00 à 18h00 avec l'intention d'offrir un service 24/7 dans l'avenir. Appeler nous au 211 dès aujourd'hui et un de nos conseiller(ère)s en information et aiguillage sera en mesure de vous aider à trouver les services que vous avez besoin.

Pour plus d'information, contacter Karen Milligan, kmilligan@unitedwayottawa.ca ou Marie-André Carrière, ma.carriere@cominfo-ottawa.org.

Launch of a new website for intellectual disability, pervasive developmental disorders, and intersectorality

The "Intellectual Disability, Pervasive Developmental Disorders and Intersectorality" research team has just officially launched its new website.

This Quebec team, which is in its first year, has grown out of an academic-practitioner partnership. It is founded on the establishment of sustainable alliances among university researchers; rehabilitation centres for intellectual disability and pervasive developmental disorders (RCID); organizations from the health, social services, and justice sectors; and collaborators from other countries, for the purpose of promoting research development and knowledge transfer in the field of intellectual disability and pervasive developmental disorders.

This new website www.interteddi.ca makes available a mine of information on intellectual disability and pervasive developmental disorders in the areas of justice, health, and specialized interventions. Special attention is also paid to ethics and the promotion of rights, the development and validation of intervention

and research instruments and the evaluation of intervention programs.

A simple interface in English and French provides direct access to a variety of information such as the team's latest research and publications, the events it is organizing, and resources available online. On the site you will also find, for example, issues of Research News with information about the recent work of team members, the WHO Atlas of Global Resources for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, and a booklet in adapted language on breast health, along with much more.

For more information, please consult the website at www.interteddi.ca and pass on the link to others in your network. In a spirit of collaboration, we would be happy to advertise your website by adding it to our "Useful Links" section, if you so request and if your mission corresponds to ours. If possible, we would also like you to add www.interteddi.ca to your section of useful links.

We wish you happy surfing on our website.

Marion Steff,
for the "Intellectual Disability, Pervasive Developmental Disorders and Intersectorality" team

Lancement d'un nouveau site en déficience intellectuelle, troubles envahissants du développement et intersectorialité

L'équipe de recherche « Déficience intellectuelle, troubles envahissants du développement et intersectorialité » vient de lancer officiellement son site Web.

Cette équipe québécoise, qui en est à sa première année d'existence, est issue d'un partenariat université-milieu. Elle se fonde sur l'établissement d'alliances durables entre des chercheurs universitaires, des centres de réadaptation en déficience intellectuelle et troubles envahissants du développement (CRDI), des organismes du milieu de la santé, des services sociaux et de la justice, ainsi que des collaborateurs de l'étranger, afin de promouvoir le développement de la recherche et le transfert des connaissances en déficience intellectuelle et en troubles envahissants du développement.

Le nouveau site Web www.interteddi.ca met ainsi à la disposition une mine unique de renseignements sur la déficience intellectuelle et les troubles envahissants du développement dans les domaines de la justice, de la santé et des interventions spécialisées. Une attention spéciale est aussi portée aux dimensions éthiques et de promotion des droits, au développement et à la validation d'instruments d'intervention et de recherche et à l'évaluation de programmes d'intervention.

Une navigation simple en français et en anglais permet un accès direct à différentes informations telles que les dernières recherches et publications de l'équipe, les événements qu'elle organise et les ressources mises à la disposition des internautes. Vous trouverez ainsi sur ce site, par exemple, des Infos-recherche sur les travaux récents des membres de l'équipe, l'Atlas OMS des ressources mondiales pour les personnes présentant une déficience intellectuelle, un livret en langage adapté sur la santé des seins et bien plus encore.

Pour de plus amples informations, nous vous invitons à consulter notre site Web www.interteddi.ca et à faire circuler ce lien parmi votre réseau. Dans un esprit de collaboration, il nous fera plaisir de faire de la publicité pour votre site Web en l'ajoutant dans notre section « liens utiles » si vous nous en faites la demande et si toutefois, votre mission correspond à la notre. Nous aimerions aussi que, dans la mesure du possible, vous ajoutiez www.interteddi.ca dans votre section « liens utiles ».

En vous souhaitant bonne navigation sur notre site, nous vous prions d'agréer, Madame, Monsieur, nos salutations distinguées.

Marion Steff,
pour l'équipe « Déficience intellectuelle, troubles envahissants du développement et intersectorialité »



**To all OCAPDD Volunteers
THANK YOU!**

ONTARIO SUPPORTS REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLANS*McGuinty Government Helps Families Save For Children With Disabilities***NEWS**

November 30, 2008

Ontario is making it possible for social assistance recipients to take advantage of Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs).

Like the Registered Education Savings Plan, RDSPs allow family members and loved ones to save money tax free until withdrawal. The program helps people plan for the future needs of children and adults with disabilities.

Changes to Ontario's social assistance rules will make sure that both RDSP assets and withdrawals are fully exempt. This means:

- RDSP contributions do not impact eligibility for social assistance
- People on social assistance can take money out of an RDSP without affecting their social assistance payments.

To further help social assistance recipients with disabilities save for their future, Ontario is also increasing the amount they can receive as a gift or payment from a trust from \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year.

QUOTES

"This is about making it easier for families to save for their children with disabilities," said Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur. "We are making sure that people can put money in an RDSP without it affecting their eligibility for disability support."

"The message from the Ontario government is clear. It trusts families to help their relative with a disability and has opened the door for them to secure the future for their loved one. In twenty years, we'll look back on this as a watershed moment for people with disabilities." said President and Co-Founder of Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network Al Etmanski.

"What will happen when I'm no longer here is a sentiment shared by many families caring for a relative with a disability. The future for their loved ones was almost certain poverty. But with today's welcomed announcement, the Ontario government has cleared the way for families and communities to invest in a new vision for Ontario citizens with disabilities," said Ontario RDSP Working Group Chair Jeff Dobbin.

QUICK FACTS

- Any individual that is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit may establish an RDSP
- British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland have also announced that they will fully exempt both RDSP assets and withdrawals.

∞ In Memoriam ∞

Diana Stewart (October 21, 1944 – July 23, 2008)

Diana was born in Ottawa, the last child for Mr. and Mrs. C. Stewart. Diana had older brothers and one sister, Muriel. Muriel remained an active influence throughout Diana's life. Diana lived at home with her family and she graduated from elementary school.

Diana was referred to OCAPDD, Community Support Services (CSS) after her Mom passed away in 1998. She was living alone in a one-bedroom apartment for the first time in her life and required support in the community. Diana was receptive and accepting of the advice offered to her by the CSS team. Diana viewed the CSS team as her secondary family.

She was well read, loved art and she would attend the Ottawa Little Theatre, the National Arts Centre, Opera Lyra and the Centrepointe Theatre. She also loved hockey (the Ottawa Senators), baseball (the Ottawa Lynx) and all types of music ranging from classical to hard rock.

Diana had two proud moments in her life. Firstly, Diana decided to change religion. She read books on different types of faith prior to her choice of religion. In 2006, Diana met all the requirements and she was baptized Roman Catholic. Secondly, Diana successfully completed a Grade 11 Mathematics correspondence course with the assistance of a dedicated volunteer.

Diana will be remembered for her sense of humour, her wit and her love and pursuit of life. Diana was a very unique individual who faced many challenges in her life. Diana was a go-getter and a pioneer in her own right.

I would like to thank everyone in OCAPDD, especially the CSS team, for their dedicated support to Diana.

Debbie Rowan, CSS Support Worker

Lilia Da Silva (May 19, 1967 – September 24, 2008)

Lilia came to OCAPDD in November of 1988, working in various capacities within Loeb Centre. She dazzled those around her with numerous hairstyles, manicured nails and sparkling jewellery. Lilia was quick with a smile, engaging those around her in a round of chuckles at some private joke.

Lilia will be sadly missed by the many friends and peers who surrounded her in the work area, especially her good friend Carl.

Khalid Issa (December 9, 1976 – October 20, 2008)

Khalid loved sports cars, especially the "mustang". He liked to show us his Auto Magazines' and talked to us about cars. He liked to watch soccer on TV and enjoyed playing card games with friends at work.

His work space was neat and clean. All brochures, newsletters and envelopes were piled up neat and straight before he started doing any work.

He cared for his friends. He helped them to use the microwave oven and food machines at lunch and helped them to choose and buy CD's at the local shop during down time. He was very popular among clients and staff at ARC Industries. If he was late in the morning a lot of people would ask "Is Khalid coming in today?"

We shared some very good times and happy memories together with Khalid. We miss him very much.

Executive Director and President Reports

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Since the last edition of Esprit in the spring, significant changes have continued to occur in the Developmental Services sector. The most significant of these, has been the Government tabling and passing Bill 77. 'The Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act', originally introduced on May 15th, passed final reading on September 30th and will replace the Developmental Services Act once proclaimed into effect. This Act will create a number of changes for the sector, including: the elimination of the Ministry as a service provider; the entrenchment of individualized funding; assessment & funding centres; a common assessment process; and, the Government's authority to take over and manage an organization has also been clarified to name just a few. The legislation can be viewed via the Ministry's website, and I would encourage everyone to review it as it will certainly set the stage for changes to our sector for the next several decades.

A more recent change being imposed upon the sector from the Ministry is known as the 'Increased Community Capacity Initiative' (or ICCI for short). This Initiative, as announced by the Ministry, is designed to increase services across the province for individuals on the waiting lists. However, these service level increases are being imposed with no corresponding funding increases. DS sector organizations are being given less than two months to develop 'community plans' to address these requirements, with full implementation of them to occur prior to March 2010. Increased service levels in the areas of residential; community participation; and, vacancy management will be required. Additionally, reductions of allocated central administration budgets will be imposed unless community plans have been identified and approved, that will suffice in lieu of a reduction in funding. All sector organizations across the province are working diligently to develop such plans, in ways that minimize negative impacts on existing programs and services.

Recently the Minister announced a public consultation on proposed accessible information and communications standard for a 60-day public review period. The background information and proposed standards can be viewed, along with information concerning how to provide feedback on the proposed standards at: www.ontario.ca/community.



Gerry Sutton, OASIS President, George Braithwaite and Annie Oliver.

On a more pleasant note, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that George Braithwaite was honoured at the OASIS Annual General Meeting in May, when he was presented with the 5th Annual Annie Oliver Award. Annie was the first President of OASIS. The details of Annie's comments when presenting the Award to George can be viewed on the OASIS website at: www.oasisonline.ca under the 'Annie Oliver Award' tab.

The official 'Grand Re-Opening' of the Campbell and Charette programs occurred in June. Minister Baird presided over the ribbon cutting, and expressed many positive comments regarding the renovated and updated buildings. The Open House element of the event also provided an opportunity for many of the guests in attendance to tour the renovated homes. As you recall, these properties were part of a multi-year business plan for OCAPDD, which has now been completed. Additionally, the renovations were funded through the Facility Closure project, which we understand is still on track to be completed by the end of March 2009.

The second round of the Silver Spring Farm Scholarship Award was recently conducted, with another strong group of applicants having applied for consideration. The successful recipients will receive their awards at the Board of Directors meeting in January. Look for the announcement of the recipients on our website and in the Spring edition of Esprit!

On a lighter note, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyous holiday season, and look forward to further communication with you in the New Year.

Happy Holidays! Joyeuses Fêtes!

David A. Ferguson



President's Report

I am honoured to take on the capacity of President of OCAPDD and I look forward to working with the Board, Staff, Clients and Members so as to continue to support the delivery of outstanding service.

Michael Elliot did a tremendous job as President over the last three years and I thank him for his dedication and leadership over that period. Michael will be staying on as Past President and will join the nominating committee of the Board.

The Board welcomed Janet Nevala as a Board member at the October Board meeting.

At the Annual General Meeting, the membership approved the amalgamation of "Open Hands" within the OCAPDD organization effective March 31, 2009. On behalf of the Board, we welcome Open Hands to this organization. OCAPDD staff are to be congratulated for their efforts, successes and enthusiasm in their work with "Open Hands". The Board has issued an invitation to the Open Hands' Board for one of their members to join the OCAPDD Board as part of this transition process.

The Ontario Legislature passed Bill 77, "Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act" on September 30, 2008. This Act, once implemented will replace the Developmental Services Act. Much work must go on before it is implemented. OCAPDD and its sector organizations plan to provide feedback and suggestions to the Ministry as regulations are developed. I encourage all of you to read the new Act to understand the impact it may have on service delivery in the future.

As we approach the holiday season, on behalf of the Board, I wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday season with your family and friends.

Stephen Arbuckle

Program Activities

CSS DROP IN

How time flies and things change!! This year we were pleased to welcome Elizabeth Stroh to our team and what a welcomed addition she has been. We have had several students join us, even long after their placements were completed. Thanks to Dhavna and Hana for their time and energy; Leah for your ability to just jump in there. Dan, how have we lived without you for all these years? We'll look forward to seeing your name on the seniority list soon. Thank you Brad for simply always being there for Larry. Ann Marie for all your time, energy and snacks! Claudette has moved on to greener pastures in White Lake and we miss you! Good luck and visit any time you're in the area. Thanks to you all.

Last year Christine and I ran the CSS Wednesday night drop in with an average attendance of 8-10. The average number of people now in attendance has increased to 18, so we give a warm hello to all our new participants.

The list of activities, as always, comes from the participants. It is their program, after all.

Some of the big things we've enjoyed in the last year were a cold evening with the ice sculptures at Confederation Park; a visit, with pictures at Dow's Lake tulip festival and let's not forget the bowling, despite all the construction. Some of the things we will continue to enjoy at the Loeb Centre are cook nights, spa nights, movie nights and let's not forget our Halloween night. Thanks Marcel, you make an interesting woman! We hope you enjoy the NHL fleece you won for best costume.

I think I can speak for everyone from the CSS drop in when I say we're looking forward to the next year and even bigger numbers.

Lisa Babineau, CSS Support Worker

Silver Spring Farm Grand Opening

My congratulations to all concerned with the organisation of this event. Clearly there had been a lot of work and attention to many details; it went very smoothly and was appreciated by those of us who were privileged to attend.

To see Campbell and Charette Houses looking so smart and functional, with the impressive new equipment and the bright decor, and to meet the caring staff members and the cheerful clients, had particular resonance for me. Just 38 years ago I was on the Residential Care Committee of what was then ODAMR and very proudly took part in the original opening of "the Farm" - our very first group home in Ottawa.

My daughter Mary, who was one of the original residents, was intrigued to see some of her ex-Rideau Regional mates now installed here!

So, best wishes to this new incarnation of one of OCAPDD's success stories.

N. Ann Smith



OCAPDD gets a PERFECT Score on Safety Group Audit

Audit

On August 14, 2008, Lisa Carter, a WSIB consultant audited our Safety Group Program to ascertain that the Agency met the course requirements. OCAPDD passed with distinction by obtaining a mark of 100%.

The Safety Group Program is designed to recognize businesses that make prevention a daily habit by building prevention elements into their management systems. Safety Groups are based on the premise that a well-integrated workplace health and safety program is good business. Firms from similar or different businesses or rate groups volunteer to form a group with a collective purpose: to learn from each other's experience in implementing illness and injury prevention programs. Safety Groups reward firms that incorporate prevention measures into their daily business. In the fall of 2007, OCAPDD received a WSIB rebate of \$6,096 for the year 2006.

OCAPDD participated and successfully completed years one (1), two (2) and three (3) of the five (5) year Safety Group Program.

Two members of the Joint Health and Safety Committee (Ellen Wilson and Jean Martel) are participating in year four (4) of the safety program.

Participation Requirements

Throughout each year of the five (5) year program, each member must show it has completed their workplace assessment, developed an action plan and implemented five (5) steps for each Achievement List element on the action plan.

The Safety Group Program is based on the understanding that there are four elements to be addressed:

- Leadership
- Organization
- Control Activities
- Hazard Recognition and Assessment

Within each of these elements there are five management steps:

- Set Standards
- Communicate
- Train
- Evaluate
- Acknowledge Success and Make Improvements.

Day of Caring

Oakdean residence is very grateful to the three great volunteers we had to help clean up and paint our main bathroom. It had been several years since the bathroom was painted. The bathroom was showing its age along with major wear and tear. Oakdean residents and staff would like to thank (L-R) Charleen Armstrong, Sara Kassem and Lesley Vaillancourt. They had such a great time, they have already requested coming back to Oakdean for next year. We look forward to having them back for more painting, pizza and laughs (and a job well done).



Family Homeshare Program

To all my wonderful friends at Campbell House

I would like to thank you for welcoming me into your home and workplace. My experience has been nothing but positive and full of happy memories. I have enjoyed myself beyond my expectations. The staff was more than willing to teach me and make me feel that I was a part of the team, and the residents were warm and gracious for my help. Your attitudes, practical application, and kind efforts reinforce my decision to work in developmental services as a career.

Melanie, thank you for always being an exceptional role model and team leader. You have shown me the importance of staff communication, taking initiative, and leadership skills. Raymond, thank you for always demonstrating and teaching me how simple it is to add quality of life to a person by allowing them to make personal choices. I am sure it is appreciated by the residents. Tracey, thank you for all of your help and guidance while I completed my term assignments. You have taught me how to effectively communicate with other staff members through professional documentation and administer medications in a safe and efficient manner. Jennifer, thank you for being my sanity and comic relief. I'd ride the elevator for you any day. Thank you Stephanie for joining the Campbell House team with such a positive attitude. You have taught me that the attitude you come to work with every day is reflected in the environment and people that surround you.

Brenda, thank you for allowing me to assist you with your daily routines. I now feel more comfortable practicing personal care and feeding. I feel that in the past few months our communication has been building and that we have established trust, which is important in maintaining a successful relationship. Suzie, thank you for showing me that first impressions can sometimes lead to false assumptions about a person's capabilities. You have taught me that effective listening can lead to better communication. Annie, thank you for teaching me patience and how to read body language. I now have a greater appreciation of spatial awareness and personal space.

I would also like to thank you for the opportunities and experiences you provided me with. Adam, my tour of Rideau Regional Centre was very informative and gave me a better understanding of where our residents came from. You afforded me an opportunity to get a glimpse of important developmental services history that otherwise may not have been available to me. Thank you! The weekly staff meetings were also a new experience to me that helped to improve my communication skills and understanding of the residents.

Not only has this been a wonderful learning experience, I have also made new friends which is an immeasurable asset. I feel that we all share a common purpose to care for the people we support and help them to live more fulfilled lives. This experience has helped me in my future as a DSW in that I now have a greater idea of where I would like to work. I hope to see you all in the future.



Merci

Sincerely,

Miranda McHale
Developmental Services Worker (DSW) Student
Algonquin College

OH WHAT A NIGHT...AND WE THANK YOU!

The Family Homeshare Program hosted a “harvest dinner” at the Loeb Centre. The Family Homeshare staff and the kitchen staff from the Loeb Centre made the entire meal. The Family Homeshare staff were the servers for the evening.

This was our first time hosting this event. We had close to forty-five people in attendance. Based on all of the positive feedback we received we will endeavour to make this an annual event.

All participants thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It provided everyone a chance to meet each other and their families. It also provided a great opportunity for our Homesharers and Homeshare Providers to meet all of our staff and our new Director.

It was our way of thanking our Family Homesharers and Family Homeshare Providers along with their families for all the hard work that they do in supporting and making our Program a strong and viable option for individuals that reside with them.

One of our staff, with the theme of “the gift”, made a speech. The gift that the Providers give to the Sharers by having them part of their family, by being by their side when they have been hospitalized, by having them participate in family vacations. The opportunity to include individuals into your lives, to learn new skills which allow people to grow and be included in the community.

This evening was our gift to them. Roses were handed out, along with the fabulous meal as our gift of thanking everyone for their extraordinary care.

The evening would not have been a success without the help of the kitchen staff at the Loeb Centre for starting the meal as well as the Family Homeshare staff participation throughout the night.

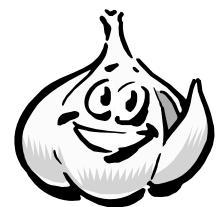
Once again thank you for all that you do and we look forward to seeing more people at next year’s “harvest dinner”. Thank you for making a difference in someone else’s life.

Family Homeshare Program

Silver Spring Farm Garlic - Great Crops - Great Volunteers

Just over 2 weeks ago we bedded down the garlic with straw for the winter. Almost 40,000 cloves, which had been split by many of ARC Industries and Loeb Centre clients, were planted on Thanksgiving Saturday.

2008 was a good year for our garlic crop. During the dozen years that the garlic project has been operating, we’ve discovered that you can never predict the size and quality of the crop. As garlic farmers, we credit (or blame) the weather with playing a very important role – we cannot be exactly sure of what the outcome will be – until the crop is harvested.



We would have no garlic project and no garlic without the hundreds, indeed the thousands of volunteer hours cheerfully given by hundreds of volunteers. Again this year, many many members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were in the field and then in the garlic barn enthusiastically ensuring that the project would be successful. As well we were delighted to again welcome back former volunteers, and as well to greet new volunteers and like the church members they tirelessly gave their time to this project.

To all our clients, our volunteers, our supporters and members of the media, we say “Thank you”, you are great, we could not have done it without you.

Jack Fraser & Ed Haines

Sean is riding high...

Now that his vertical lift is in place. The new lift takes Sean to a newly constructed deck from where he can enter the main floor of his split level home through patio doors, also newly installed.

Sean has lived with Wilma and Victor Sushinski since infancy and transferred to OCAPDD's Family Homeshare Program when he came of age. During his early development it was discovered that Sean had Cerebral Palsy and was legally blind. Due to Sean's medical condition, the Sushinski family have to support Sean with all of his daily living activities. Before having the lift, the Sushinski family had to carry Sean up five stairs to the main floor of their home. It is no wonder that Wilma and Victor are ecstatic over the lift, as it has eased their daily living activities, especially now that they have entered their senior years.



An added bonus is that Sean is an avid outdoors enthusiast, and the renovations allow him to be wheeled out onto his deck whenever he chooses. Sean attends day program at the Quinlan Centre during the week and the staff there know he is truly content when undertaking any activities that take him outdoors.

The March of Dimes contributed \$15,000 towards the \$24,000 cost of home renovations. Sean, the Sushinski's and OCAPDD covered the remaining cost.

Family Homeshare Program

Personal Safety Course

Many of the people within CSS are targeted by bullies in the community. In an effort to empower those whom we support a "Personal Safety Course" was organized. Six one hour sessions covered topics such as Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships, Boundaries, and How to Say NO.

Janet Heffernan, owner of Stronger You and Martial Arts and Self Defense, presented the program to 15 men and women. Through Janet's generous discounted fees and the Memorial Fund this was available with no cost to the clients.

All participants looked forward to the weekly sessions. Due to its popularity we will be looking at another session in the near future.



Christine Connolly,
CSS Support Worker

Great Holiday Times...

