



# Esprit Newsletter

Fall / Winter Edition 2011

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

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

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## *Fashion Fascinations!*

On Friday, October 21, 2011, the IODE Walter Baker Chapter hosted a dinner, fashion show and silent auction with proceeds coming to OCAPDD.

The event started with live entertainment followed by a wonderful dinner and outstanding fashion show. Throughout the evening the silent auction was open to get all our bids, and what a selection there was. The IODE Walter Baker Chapter raised \$5,000 for OCAPDD that evening!



Jocelyne Parent Lewis and Gwyneth Harkin

IODE Walter Baker Chapter has been a supporter of OCAPDD since the Chapter was founded in 1988.

The "Helping Hand Fund" is now created and will be as a supplement for individuals who do not have enough of their own personal funds for the purchasing of necessities such as clothing, bedding and personal hygiene products.

We are honoured to have been selected by the IODE Walter Baker Chapter. They truly make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Thank you!

Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Director of Community Resources

## *Sweets Anyone?*

Need a dessert for that special occasion?

Why not get a cake from Maggie's Baking. Prices start at just \$20 per cake. Cupcakes are also available.

To order your baked goods please call  
613.421.1750



## **Interactive Quilts & Aprons**

A beautiful Volunteer quilt was made by Jane Roszell of the Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild and presented to the Coordinator of Volunteers.

This beautiful handmade quilt represents the dedication and commitment of volunteers to OCAPDD.

The outer edge is speckled with pictures of OCAPDD volunteers, and our Volunteer Pin can be found in the lower right hand side inside the Volunteer Canada symbol. It is truly a work of art and graces the walls at OCAPDD's Head Office.



We would also like to thank the Ottawa Valley Quilt Association for the 113 aprons and the 22 interactive quilts. The purpose was to offer another alternative for individuals to feel textures and get sensory stimulation from the different fabrics strung together. It provides gentle stimulation, which has a soothing effect and helps some to relieve agitation, stress and frustration. It is suitable for all levels of disability and any age groups. For some, it will become a comfort blanket.

This project breaks down many barriers for people who need flexibility and alternatives so that they can grow and progress despite their limitations.

Debbie Blasutti, Coordinator of Volunteers  
Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Director of Community Resources

## **We Caught You Being Excellent!**

Over this past year, the Beaudry program was reopened with a new model of support. Through their creativity and adaptability, Judy Vance and the Beaudry staff team have made this model a success by dramatically increasing the quality of life for an individual we support there. This team has taken 'out of the box' concepts and put them into the box of daily activities in the form of best practices.

Based on this successful year, we are confident in expanding the program to support a second individual who will reap the benefits of this model and this team's excellence.

We also have to recognize the Ratan staff team for their excellence. Their professionalism and proficiency in responding to three serious emergency situations over the past 18 months was exemplary. They were calm and thoughtful in the face of extreme circumstances and they utilized procedures as well as their training for the individuals we support.

The Directors of Supports and Services

## VOscars

In September of this year, the first MBNA VOscars were held. The VOscars celebrates, encourages and honours those who inspire, encourage and advance volunteerism in their communities. We are pleased to let you know that Harold Moore won 'Best Volunteer in a Supporting Role'. This award is given to an individual whose efforts have enabled others to volunteer. This individual may have had an impact on infrastructure, creating new opportunities, or supporting volunteer endeavours financially or otherwise. Mr Moore has been giving back to the Ottawa Community for over forty-five years through a multitude of agencies and variety of sectors. He has helped both the physically and intellectually disadvantaged populations, co-founded junior sports clubs, has raised thousands of dollars yearly for charity through bingos, sports dinners and sporting association. He has sat on a Board of Directors for a local seniors home and has volunteered endlessly with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Mr Moore was the co-founder with Thomas Assaly of the Aktion Club of Ottawa. Mr Moore is pictured here with Dave Trigger who has volunteered weekly with Mr Moore for five years at the Aktion Club.



Dave Trigger and Harold Moore

Debbie Blasutti, Coordinator of Volunteers

## Locks of Love



Sue Hutchingame from CSS decided it would be a great idea to donate her hair to Locks of Love. Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to children who suffer from long term medical hair loss, such as cancer or alopecia. Sue wanted to help a child, knowing that it would help with their self esteem and confidence.

Awesome idea Sue!!!

Wendy Doucette, CSS Program





## *How does one say Thank You?*

Simple words that seem hardly enough to say to someone who's made a huge difference in the lives of Kay, Sally and Jeff. But they need to be said, thank *you* Karen. Thank *you* for being a Homeshare provider and for making a difference for the past 22 years.

This story begins in March 1988 when Karen offered her home to support Kay. Four months later, Karen opened her home again and Sally became part of her family. By December 1989 Jeff moved in.

In October 2010, 22 years later, Karen Schroeder announced her retirement. Typical of Karen's caring, however, she ensured the three individuals were well taken care of. Kay and Jeff moved in with Karen's daughter, Robin, and her family. Sally had moved earlier where she has become part of another provider's family. Kay, Jeff and Sally have adjusted well and that speaks volumes of the care, the support and the compassion shown by Karen over the years. Part of that care, support and compassion involved accompanying the three sharers to Florida for a few weeks every winter. Disneyland was always the highlight of the trip and Karen never tired of describing the excitement everyone had or of promoting the theme park's wonders. Every summer, the group would spend time at their camp site enjoying the simple pleasure of the outdoors. Christmas is the other inspiration for Karen. As with Disneyland, she never tires of the excitement, the wonder and the inspiration that it offers. She has more Christmas decorations and mechanical figurines than anyone I know. Her face lights up when she displays them and there is great pride in her as she describes how each one works.

We can't forget the role of Karen's family during those years as a provider. We know it can be a challenge at times being a provider but Robin was always there to help her mother and the sharers. Robin played an important part of this process and her importance continues today with her supporting Kay and Jeff.

So with retirement Karen has purchased property in Florida where she spends much of her year. The balance of the year she can be found in Cardinal where she lives in her "Thomas Kincaid" house.

In May of this year, Tom and I visited with Karen to talk to her about her experiences with Homeshare. She was recognized with a plaque and a letter of appreciation from OCAPDD for her years of caring. And to that we add a simple "thank you". It seems hardly enough to recognize 22 years of making a difference in the lives of others. For making a difference in our community. However, a simple thank you is exactly what Karen appreciates. Because that is the type of person she is. She sees her role as a provider as something one does to help others. So thank *you* Karen. Thank *you* for 22 years of support to Kay, Sally and Jeff. Thank *you* for being part of the Homeshare program. Thank *you* for being the caring and the compassionate person *you* are.



Tom Gillespie and Karen Schroeder

Happy Retirement!

Mike Ladouceur  
Homeshare Program

## **MURDER MYSTERY**

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, we held a Murder Mystery "Next of Kin" and dinner at the Loeb Centre. We had the following actors:

Big Daddy/Ashley Sugarbaker...Don Rowan  
Nurse Bobbie Joe...Debbie Rowan  
Savannah...Diane Belair  
Joe (Lawyer)...Joe Silverman  
Philly...Tanya Leclair  
Melanie...Helena Towle  
Rhett...Noah Grove  
Scarlett...Darci Bloom  
Director...Lauralee Bell



Ann-Marie Bloom and Kim Hines made our meal, Christine Sullivan and Roxanne Gauthier served, Shelley Campagna was our greeter. Richard Probert was our bartender and Kirk Leclair was our DJ.

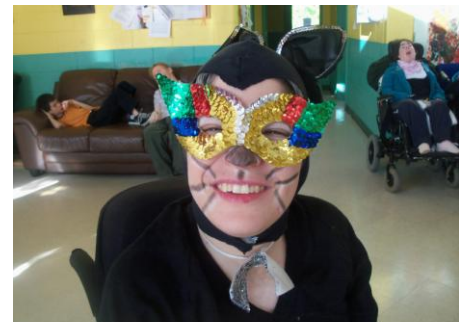
I want to thank everyone who came out to support our play. We raised \$630. To those who couldn't make it, stay tuned for next year...

Thank you.  
Tanya Leclair, Loeb Centre

## **HALLOWEEN!**

The Quinlan Center held its Annual Halloween party on October 28. It was a frightfully fun event for all participants. There are always lots of treats and baked goods such as Christi-Anne's special Halloween cupcakes, which the participants decorated themselves. Mac and Holly take ghoulish pride in turning the leisure room into a Haunted Lair every year, and had most shaking in their boots!

Mac Brewster, Quinlan Centre



# Engagement

Maggie Grove and Steven Muir became engaged on November 5, 2011. On Maggie's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday Steven got down on one knee and with the words,

*"I love you, I have loved you for years, it is time, will you marry me?"*

he proposed marriage.

Maggie joyfully said "YES" followed by cheering from the crowd.

We look forward to supporting Steven and Maggie on their journey.

Sarah Rado



Maggie Grove and Steven Muir

## Season Tickets for the Ottawa 67's!

The Ottawa 67's were excited to welcome their fans back for yet another season full of promise and entertaining hockey! OCAPDD individuals were among those lucky fans thanks to GRADE A Techs.



For a 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, GRADE A Techs purchased 10 season tickets and donated them all to the individuals of OCAPDD.

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!**

*You can now reach the majority of OCAPDD Programs at 613.569.8893 by dialing the following extensions:*

Ahearn	7200	Forest Gate	7230	<b>Plant Maint - Sparks</b>	<b>585</b>
<b>ARC</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>Homeshare</b>	<b>235</b>	Ratan	385
The Annex	7535	Loeb Center	620	<b>Lavonne – Respite</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>Beaudry</b>	<b>7470</b>	<b>Maryland</b>	<b>7210</b>	Fairlawn – Répit	361
Byron	7220	Moffatt	7314	<b>Settler's Ridge</b>	<b>7240</b>
<b>Campbell</b>	<b>7320</b>	<b>Nestow</b>	<b>386</b>	Supported Work	527
Charette	7300	Oakdean	390		
<b>Crosswinds</b>	<b>7450</b>				



## Rosenthal's Extreme Garden Makeover

Rosenthal's backyard has been given a second life by the wonderful volunteers at the Ottawa Horticultural Society. Following Byron's lead from last year, Rosenthal submitted a proposal for a garden makeover and were successful in the application.

Through many hours of hard work, and in extreme weather conditions, Rosenthal now has a beautiful sensory garden thanks to the talents and efforts of Jennifer, Laurie, Margaret and many other volunteers. Not only have they created a serene space where the clients can see, hear, smell and touch plants and flowers, they have also beautified the greenery alongside the building as well as the plants indoors. Our once tattered swing has been repaired for the clients to enjoy, and they supplied the wood for the beautiful archway which was built at Rosenthal. Custom designed arches are available for sale. Please contact Julie or John at Rosenthal for more information.



Thanks to Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS) for our extreme garden makeover!

## HO! HO! HO!



It's that time of the year... need some help wrapping those special gifts? We have 2 locations to serve you!

As in previous years, OCAPDD is wrapping gifts at the community booth at both the Carlingwood Mall and St-Laurent Shopping Centers. More than 300 volunteers are helping to wrap gifts to raise funds for the Association. We still need some volunteers during the day, Monday to Friday at St-Laurent Shopping Centre. If you would like to help, please contact Debbie Blasutti at [dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca](mailto:dblasutti@ocapdd.on.ca) or call 613.569.8993, extension 243.

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

## Special Thanks

The individuals at Ratan residence would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to Rose Gagné for their new deck! Phase one is complete and phase two to come next year!

Everyone is enjoying it!

## Christ Church Bells Corners (CCBC) Partners with Silver Spring Farm

Partnerships are all about relationships. And relationships are all about people. The parish of CCBC is honoured and grateful to be able to partner with our friends at Silver Spring Farm. Our friendship has been a longstanding one and we have had several opportunities this past year to experience and deepen our friendship in a number of new ways. After a few very helpful team meetings, several areas were identified as ways that CCBC could serve the needs of the residents and staff at Silver Spring.

This year, a number of parishioners volunteered to work on the gardens between Campbell and Charette Houses. The flower beds were trimmed, annuals were planted and watered throughout the summer. Spring bulbs were planted in the fall to ensure a blast of colour next spring. During our visits to the garden, CCBC'ers were very happy to meet and mingle with residents who came by to say hello and join in the fun.



In November, the CCBC Youth Group spent an afternoon raking leaves on the property. Over 50 bags were collected during the day – a true testament of how many lovely trees are on the property as well as the determination and helpful hands of our youth!



Jennifer Rodgers, Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Cathy Seguin, Debbie Blasutti, Rev. Laurette Glasgow and Ven. Peter John Hobbs, rector.

Last Christmas, the CCBC Church School took on the project of creating personalized Christmas stockings for each resident. The stockings were well received and we are again filling stockings for the residents this year. Parishioners are asked to take a cardboard stocking that has the name of a resident and a list of items that are specific for the person. The church school children then collect the items and fill the stockings. The stockings are embossed with the name of each resident which adds a very special touch.

Financially, CCBC was very happy to be able to support the interior painting of Moffatt House and to make a contribution to the refurbished septic system on the property.

Over the past year, several Silver Spring residents have attended our Sunday morning worship services, and many now call CCBC their parish home. Relationships that are made on Sunday morning carry on in the service that is done during the week. Again, it's all about relationships and connections.

Silver Spring Farm is truly a beautiful place, both inside and out and it is a joy for us to be your friend. When we think about one of our Diocesan Marks of Mission which is to respond to human need by loving service, it is easy to see how our partnership with Silver Spring Farm is a true blessing.

Best wishes,

Cathy Seguin  
Christ Church Bells Corners



## Silver Spring Farm

Silver Spring Farm has been blessed to have an amazing group of individuals volunteer from Christ Church in Bells Corners to “clean up” the gardens surrounding Charette and Campbell.

In June of this year, we met with Laurette Glasgow (Garden Committee chair for Christ Church in Bells Corners), Janice Bertrand (Christ Church Volunteer) and Sylvie Seguin (Ottawa-Carleton District School Board - OCDSB). Together we discussed what would be nice to have done around the homes to accentuate the existing beauty of the property.

At the end of June and July, the gardens came to life and the beauty of them restored. So many volunteers came out to weed and plant some new shrubs and perennials. Throughout the summer, many individuals would show up to maintain the gardens and water the new plants. It was wonderful for the ladies and gentlemen in these two homes to be able to go out and have a BBQ in the surrounding gardens. Not only did our residents and staff enjoy the gardens but many families would take their family members out there to sit when they came to visit.

A huge thank you goes out to all of those who volunteered and continue to volunteer to allow our residents, staff and visitors to enjoy the homes they live in and visit! We hope to see you all next year!

Joanne Bennett, Charette Supervisor

## The Walking Club

*by Pegi Crawford-Newlands*

The Walking Club has continued since the move to Colonnade. We can be seen cruising Colonnade each day at 10:00 in all types of weather. We have found a route that takes us through a path in a park setting which provides an attractive view of the changing seasons.

**Stand Up!** You burn almost twice as many calories standing than sitting. Stand or march in place while talking on the phone or reading reports, and walk to see your colleagues instead of emailing or phoning.

**Take Active Pauses!** If you work at a computer for most of the day, make a point to stop every 30 minutes to stand up, stretch your arms above your head, touch your toes, do a few shoulder rolls, and flex your wrists forwards and backwards. You could also put paper and envelopes on a higher shelf so you have to stand to get them.

As Canadians, we spend much of our day at work. This is a great place to promote some easy to do physical activity. Every little bit of exercise adds up. Even small changes to increase your activity level can make a real difference to your health. It all begins with one small step. Invite someone that you work with to go outside and walk!

*Excerpts, with permission, from Adding Activity to Your Office Routine by Lynne Currie, PCP as found in Dialogue Magazine published by the Canadian Payroll Association.*



## Silver Spring Farm Garlic Project Update

The garlic project was very successful this year with a near record harvest. This was a great relief after a very disappointing harvest in 2010 due to weather and poor planting conditions. This year's crop had ideal conditions right from the start. The field was kept weed free for the whole year prior to planting. Planting conditions were perfect with many long time volunteers commenting that the soil conditions/rows were the best they had ever seen. Garlic likes 5 to 6 inches of soft soil to grow in and that was what we had. With 80 plus volunteers the planting was done in record time.



Although weeds are always part of farming and requires many hours of volunteer labour, weeds were not as big an issue due to improved farming methods used. The weeding job, although mostly carried out by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was augmented by a few individuals from Genband Corporation. The church had additional help this year with 80 young adults from Quebec and Ontario attending a weekend conference in June. They spent Saturday afternoon weeding the entire field. It was quite a site looking at the entire field of garlic free of weeds. Genband sent 30 volunteers for an afternoon and they were able to weed a good part of the field.

The project benefits from donations of funds from a number of individuals to help cover most of our operational costs. Continental Mushroom again donated 2 large loads of mushroom compost that were again delivered free of charge by Burnside Sand and Gravel. This year we purchased 4 additional loads of compost at a discount and all were delivered free of charge by Burnside. This additional compost should help to ensure an even better crop for 2012.

Next year's crop is off to a great start with the additional compost and great soil conditions for planting. The planting was completed in just 2 hours with about 65 volunteers. Spreading of the straw, to protect the garlic for the winter, was completed in late November. This work was completed by a dance troop of girls ages 16 to 18, aided by a few individual volunteers. These girls were amazing working for 3 hours and refusing to leave the field until they checked that every row and every garlic clove was properly covered.

With the continued efforts of all volunteers we look forward to a bigger and better crop next July.

Mel Jones, Project Chair

## CHEEEEEZE!

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Ratan had an early Holiday Family Gathering. They enjoyed their usual pot luck, which gets more delicious every year. This year they had a photo shoot for the families. Alex Gonzalez, one of our Association's relief employees, is a professional photographer. He came to Ratan and took photos of each resident with their family. This was the residents' Christmas presents to their families and we will have a copy for the program, all at a very affordable cost. We all enjoyed our first photo shoot.

Suzanne Vivarais-Brewster, Ratan Supervisor

## Celebration of People



Donna Lee

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of People Awards were presented on December 1st, to 13 individuals and organizations that have made a lasting and positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities in the National Capital Region. Those of you who have attended in previous years know the impact of seeing the entire room of over 400 people rise to applaud the nominees as they file in... the ovation will move even the most stoic among us. This year, one of the finalists for the Employee Award was a familiar face to OCAPDD, as Donna Lee was selected from the nominees. OCAPDD completed the nomination jointly with Service Coordination and highlighted her enthusiasm, dedication and positive outlook. She participated in the advance photo shoot and received complimentary tickets to the dinner for herself and a guest. Although the award went to someone else, the most heart warming moment of the evening came after the winner was announced, when the staff of Service Coordination presented Donna with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for all she brings to their workplace. From the smile on her face, I am sure this will be an evening Donna will remember...

Louis Renaud, Director of Supports and Services

## Homeshare's Harvest Dinner Celebration

The Homeshare Program celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner on November 10, 2011 at the Loeb Centre to honour our dedicated Homeshare Providers. In the opinion of all who attended, the evening was a success, with a guest list of 48 people including our Executive Director, David Ferguson, and our Director of Supports and Services, Louis Renaud.

Thank you to Chef Carmen Mariani, who prepared and served a delicious meal for our Homeshare Providers. Our Homeshare Providers expressed their heartfelt thanks for a warm and welcoming evening.

Maureen Visscher, Homeshare Program



## **GOT TALENT?**

Do you have a hidden talent you would like to share with the Aktion Club?

Looking for a place to try out a new routine?

**SINGING, DANCING, DRAMA!**

We need you on February 14, April 3 and May 22, 2012. If you would like to help, please contact Debbie Blasutti at [dblautti@ocapdd.on.ca](mailto:dblautti@ocapdd.on.ca) or at 613.569.8993 extension 243.





## *∞ In Memoriam ∞*

### **Richard Sewell** (March 2, 1969 – June 25, 2011)

“Good Morning Tony” as he handed Tony the newspaper, and sometimes received in return a bagel and coffee. (Tony ran a small restaurant next door to Richard’s apartment building)...and so the day began. Richard was always on the move—from one situation to another. He rarely hesitated in voicing his considered opinion—if you wanted to hear it or not! He was so alive!



Richard’s favourite topic of conversation was politics, on which he never failed to expound on the incompetence of the current governing body. He loved elections and always voted in the advance polls. Richard frequently telephoned his father, who lived in Washington, to update him on what was happening on the Ottawa political scene.

Richard was a sensitive and humourous guy. He also had great tenacity—he usually got what he wanted.

Richard was quite an active participant in his church community. Attending meetings and voicing his opinions...and so went his life.

Richard was interested in ‘high tech’ gadgets. When he needed technical support, he would telephone the appropriate source for information, and if he felt that he was not being understood, he would say, “well, I’m Special!”

Yes, you were Special Richard and will be missed by your father, Gloria your wife, and by all of us who knew you.

### **Elizabeth (Aimee) Atandi** (January 24, 1980 – July 5, 2011)



Aimee passed away during her sleep on July 5, 2011. Aimee attended the Quinlan Centre for the past ten years after having graduated from Clifford Bowey School.

Aimee was a beautiful and gentle woman. She radiated warmth and affection. She had a smile that lit up every room she entered.

Aimee always shared her happiness with her smile and gentle presence, staying close with everyone, and never leaving anyone out. Aimee was a good friend who is dearly missed.

**Ann Hollingsworth** (March 28, 1947 – October 8, 2011)

Ann was our client, our housemate and most importantly our friend. With her gentle and unwavering spirit, she touched each of us in her own way. Her wild sense of humour and love for music made each day with her an entertaining and positive experience. With her kind heart, she left all those who came to know her with a smile.

Ann has inspired us all with her wisdom, enchanted us all with her spirit, and motivated all of us with her courage. We will forever miss her.

From all of us at Campbell House.



My first memory of Anne was from the day I moved in. She was warm and welcoming. As I got to know Anne, I learned about the many things she enjoyed. One of her favourite activities was to sit in her chair and look at Sears catalogues. She looked forward to going to her day program and being with her friends. Anne also enjoyed doing things with her housemates like singing songs, going on trips and going to church. Anne was always happy, especially in the mornings, and it made me happy to see her happy. Although our time together was short, I enjoyed getting to know her. Everyone will miss Anne including her family, housemates, the staff, and Tigger who was very fond of her.

Joanne Smith

**Corinne Le Blanc** (March 26, 1960 - October 24, 2011)



Corinne was known by all who knew her and loved her, as a polite, respectful and compassionate lady.

Corinne developed and maintained close relationships with her family and friends. This was true even for those of us whom she knew only a short time.

Corinne enjoyed her days working at Arc with her peers and friends. She would often show up to work with fancy barrettes, fancy earrings, and often wearing blue, as this was her favourite color.

Corinne would often be found hooking a rug or crocheting, while listening to her music and chatting with peers and staff. She loved to listen to Michael Jackson. So much so that she even named her beloved birds Michael and Janet (Jackson).

We miss you Corinne and we hope that we meet again one day for a cup of tea, muffin and a chat.

## **RRSP, TFSA, RESP or RDSP?**

The following article was taken from the Ottawa Citizen's Financial Post section on Saturday, November 26, 2011. Permission from the author has been obtained for this publication.

**Jamie Golombek**

*Tax expert*

The registered disability savings plan (RDSP) should really be the go-to registered vehicle for disabled Canadians and their families to not only enjoy tax-deferred investment compounding but to take advantage of significant government funds available, potentially retroactive to 2008, the year RDSPs were first launched.

The RDSP is a tax-deferred registered savings plan open to Canadians eligible for the disability tax credit. Up to \$200,000 can be invested in the plan. While contributions are not tax-deductable, all earnings and growth accrued are tax-deferred until withdrawn from the plan.

Generally, the most attractive feature of the traditional RRSP, RRIF or TFSA is the ability to earn tax-deferred or tax-free investment income. But assuming the beneficiary's marginal effective tax rate doesn't significantly fluctuate between the time a contribution is made and when the funds are ultimately withdrawn, the main advantage of the RDSP is the ability to supplement the plan with matching Canada Disability Savings Grants (CDSGs) and Canada Disability Savings Bonds (CDSBs) for beneficiaries age 49 and under.

CDSGs and CDSBs are based on family income. If the beneficiary is under 19, it's generally the beneficiary's parents' family income but once he or she reaches 19, it's the beneficiary's own family income that is used to determine the amount of government assistance.

CDSGs are equal to 300% of the first \$500 of annual contributions and 200% on the next \$1,000 for a maximum annual entitlement of \$3,500, subject to a lifetime maximum of \$70,000. If a family income is over \$83,088 the CDSG is simply 100% on the first \$1,000 of annual contributions.

CDSBs of up to \$1,000 annually up to a lifetime maximum of \$20,000 can also be paid into RDSPs for lower-income families who have income below \$24,183. The \$1,000 CDSB is phased out gradually as income increases above this amount until it's fully eliminated once family income reaches \$41,544.

Note that unlike the CDSG, the CDSB is not a matching amount, meaning that no contributions are required to get up to \$1,000 in CDSBs annually, depending on family income.

This year marks the first time that CDSGs and CDSBs can be collected retroactively based on current contributions, although retroactive payments of this government assistance aren't expected to be paid into RDSPs until sometime in 2012.

As a result, now when an RDSP is opened for a beneficiary for the first time, CDSGs and CDSBs can be received retroactively to 2008 up to an annual maximum of \$10,500 in CDSGs and \$10,000 in CDSBs. And the best news of all is that the CDSGs will be paid first at the highest matching rate (300%, where applicable) and then at the lower rates (200% or 100%, as applicable). Retroactive CDSGs and CDSBs are based on family income in those particular years.

*Financial Post*

*Jamie.Golombek@cibc.com*

Jamie Golombek, CA, CPA, CFP, CLU, TEP is the managing director, tax & estate planning with CIBC Private Wealth Management in Toronto.



# *President & Executive Director's Report*

As you are all aware, Dalton McGuinty's Liberal party was re-elected on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Soon thereafter, John Milloy was announced as the new Minister of Community & Social Services. While he represents a riding in Kitchener, the new Minister does have a connection with Ottawa as he is a graduate of Carleton University, and also worked for a period as Legislative Assistant to Prime Minister Jean Chretien. The Minister has begun making connections with several leaders within the developmental services sector.

Since the last Esprit in the spring, there was also a change within the senior ranks of the Ministry. Alex Bezzina left his position of Assistant Deputy Minister - Operations and assumed an ADM position with the Ministry of Health. David Zuccato assumed that ADM position on an Acting basis in June, and then was appointed to the position permanently in late summer. Prior to this, David was a Regional Director for MCSS in northern Ontario.

As announced in the Annual Report and discussed at the AGM, OCAPDD made a decision to not re-apply for any future United Way funding and to no longer participate in any United Way activities or fundraising. To maintain the payroll deduction program for employees that had been put in place for United Way, OCAPDD developed an initiative to allow programs to submit proposals for projects up to \$5,000. A committee made up of several staff members and the Director of Community Resources will review the proposals to select the project(s) to be supported. The announcement will be made in early December so that when employees are asked to continue to make charitable deductions from their pay in 2012, they will know exactly what their donations will go towards supporting. Initial feedback on this initiative has been positive, and we anticipate that it will become an annual activity.

An information session on Quality Assurance Measures was held for families on November 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a very good turnout, with many thoughtful comments, questions and concerns being raised. We would like to thank Rick McInnes, MCSS Program Supervisor for also participating in the meeting. He expressed appreciation to those in attendance for their comments, and indicated that it was important for the Ministry to hear the feedback from families directly.

At the AGM held in September, the following individuals were elected to the Board: Peter van der Jagt, Andi Marcus, Denise Dupuy and Pam Parent. Also at the AGM, we bid fond farewell to Stephen Arbuckle who had reached his maximum term on the Board (8 years), and to Janet Nevala who had resigned. At the Board meeting in October, Bonnie Dinning and Bill Cowie were re-elected President and Vice-President.

Finally, we are looking forward to the 5<sup>th</sup> round of The Silver Spring Farm Scholarship Award being announced in January. We anticipate the next two Award recipients to be announced by March.

On a lighter note, we 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!

L. Bonnie Dinning  
President

David A. Ferguson  
Executive Director

## **OCAPDD's Payroll Charitable Deduction Plan**

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our plans for the 'OCAPDD payroll charitable deduction plan'. OCAPDD solicited proposals / ideas from all OCAPDD staff and programs for projects / items / activities that would benefit the individuals we support. A small committee of employees representing the different operating divisions then reviewed the proposals. The selection committee received 12 submissions for this new initiative.

We are pleased to announce the four winning proposals.

- 1) Project Title: What not to Wear in Forest Gate's Back Yard!!!  
To reclaim and spiff up an area that gets full use in the spring, summer and fall. Replacement of cushions for the furniture, Gazebo cover and BBQ.
- 2) Project Title: Two water / sand sensory tables (1 at Rosenthal and 1 at another program)  
The sensory table will be built with the help of individuals at Rosenthal. This type of table will be able to stimulate different parts of the brain, address hand-eye coordination / movement.
- 3) Project Title: Computer Lab (1 computer ) at Quinlan Centre  
To upgrade the computer station in the vocational room so that all individuals will have access to "state of the art" and user friendly computer. This will help the development of fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and augmentative communication program and auditory and visual sensory systems.
- 4) Project Title: Ipad 2, The Proloquo2Go application and others at Rosenthal  
To purchase an Apple Ipad. This would assist individuals in their activities and further their enjoyment and understanding of the programs offered. It provides individualized teaching of personal rights and freedom, as outlined in QAM.

The total amount for all 4 projects is \$5,000.

Again, I would like to thank Judy Vance, Claudette Lauzier, Leanne McCallum and Jenna Stamplicoski, the selection committee members, for their effort and time to help make this a positive experience for the individuals of OCAPDD who will benefit from these projects. As a group we were very impressed with the quality and creativity involved in all of the submissions.

Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Director of Community Resources

## **Ways to Give**

In the midst of the world's economic downturn, OCAPDD remains focused on the support and personal well being for people with developmental disabilities within the City of Ottawa and Eastern Ontario.

To help support us please fill out the attached form or visit our website at [www.ocapdd.on.ca](http://www.ocapdd.on.ca) to learn more about our giving options and how you can make a difference.