



# Esprit Newsletter

Spring / Summer Edition 2017

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

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

## Introducing Mr. and Mrs. Muir! On May 6, 2017 We Said "I Do"



Mr. and Mrs. Muir (Maggie and Steven).

We would like to thank the following people for their many hours of hard work that helped make our wedding day special.



There was the great planning team of Sarah Rado, Judy Vance, Tanya Leclair, Vikki Burrill, Hope Lalonde and Judy Bernstein. We can't forget our wedding planner Joanne, her husband Mark, and their family, our ever so cute flower girl Ava, the ring bearer Freda the daschund, bridesmaids Catherine & Charisse and the best man Kevin Flynn. We would also like to thank the team of volunteers who helped with every little detail on our day; Vikki, Judy, Stephanie, Alicia, Amanda, Cody, Angela, Vivien, Colleen, Dale, Terry and Lynda who kept the coffee flowing. Wild Oat Bakery and Cafe supplied the delicious desserts which were much appreciated. We can't forget our music people Dave and Gavin plus the photographers Logan, Chelsea and Jen.

As you can see, it was a group effort and we would like to let everyone know how much it meant to both of us. Our apologies to anyone we may have forgotten.

Thanks everyone for a great day!

## *Celebrating a Decade*

*On April 27<sup>th</sup> Open Hands celebrated 10 years of service. The following employees were recognized:*

Tim Bickerstaffe	Lisa Vien
Colleen McCaully	Melanie Paré
Kelly Myers	Devon Hagan
Margaret Dewar	Diane Lalonde
Shawna Brinkworth	Jennifer Rivette



Devon, Kelly, Diane and Melanie.

## **Open Hands Annual Christmas Party**

The Christmas party was held on December 4, 2016.

As always it was a fantastic turn out with everybody looking their best for this special day. We hosted more than 100 people including friends and family members.

Santa Claus made a special appearance. It's always so nice to see how Santa can brighten up the whole room. Thank you to everybody who came out to make this day special and memorable for our individuals and their families!



## **OPEN HANDS FUNDRAISERS**



The Cornwall Nationals hockey team hosted a fundraiser for Open Hands on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Cornwall Civic Complex.

This event was a big success bringing in \$1,995.

Over 900 people attended this afternoon game. This is a picture of Phil and his parents having the honour of dropping the game puck.

On April 19<sup>th</sup> Open Hands hosted a paint night which was held at Schnitzels. 36 people were in attendance including 2 of our supported individuals. This lovely painting was painted by Lynne Labelle who resides at the Ridgewood Program. Three hours of fun, socializing and a memory for everyone to go home with. What better way to generate a little over \$700 to go towards our fundraising!





## GO SENNS GO!

A photo from the annual "Hockey Play-Off Dance" at the Loeb Centre on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>. The Sens won in double overtime and we were all ecstatic! It was definitely a night to remember.



## On My Own

I, Lorna Hill have been wanting to live alone for a long time.

Thanks to my Parents (deceased), my sister and the staff at Crosswinds I would like to announce how happy I am to have my very own apartment at Crosswinds.

I can watch my own shows like football and the Bold and the Beautiful for example, make my own lunches and be responsible for my own messes. With the support of staff I don't have to share my apartment with anyone any more.

I just wanted to let people know I just celebrated my first successful year!



## OCAPDD'S Garlic Scapes Silver Spring Farm (1703 Robertson Road)



Available mid-June, garlic scapes are the flower stalk of the garlic. With mild garlic flavour and aroma, they are wonderful additions to stew, roasts, marinade, salads, sandwiches, sauces, pasta, stir-fry, pesto, roasted or even steamed. The possibilities are endless!

Garlic will be available in August.

Call our Hotline for more info at: 613.569.8993 extension 409.

# PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## ONTARIO

Since our last Esprit in the fall, the Ontario Liberals tabled their Budget. On April 27<sup>th</sup> it was presented to the Legislature and announced to be the first balanced budget in a decade. However within the Developmental Service Sector it has been met with mixed reactions. Despite concerted lobbying by the sector for a modest increase in each of the next three years, there was no increase for agencies' operating budgets. This makes the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row that this has occurred, and will significantly increase financial pressures on organizations.

However, there were announcements of funding for the following:

- The Government will invest \$677 million over four years to help keep people out of crises and give more people the supports that are right for them
- In 2017-18 the investment will be over \$130 million annualized dollars plus an additional \$5 million in infrastructure funds to:
  - Provide over 375 additional residential developmental services placements for individuals with urgent needs and youth transitioning from the child welfare system
  - Support 1,000 additional adults with developmental disabilities to participate in their communities through the Passport program
- Over the next two years the Government will work with families and community partners to transition over 400 young adults currently in the children's system in adult developmental services
- ODSP rates will increase by 2% effective September 2017
- For ODSP recipients, effective January 2018, the cash and other liquid asset limits will be increased from \$5,000 to \$40,000 for single individuals, and from \$7,500 to \$50,000 for couples
- Effective September 2017, income exemption for cash gifts will be increased from \$6,000 up to \$10,000 per year in both ODSP and Ontario Works

Please note that the above items are only some of the announcements made. For a more complete announcement, please see the Ministry's most recent Spotlight on Transformation at: [http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcsc/publications/spotlight/DS-Spotlight\\_issue59\\_en.pdf](http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcsc/publications/spotlight/DS-Spotlight_issue59_en.pdf).

The Board of Directors of OCAPDD has intentions of making efforts to influence both elected MPP's, and candidates for election over the remaining months between now and the next provincial election in June 2018. We invite members to assist us in these activities. Should you be willing to, please contact the Executive Director.

## OMBUDSMAN

As we reported in the last edition of Esprit in the fall, the Ontario Ombudsman's Office had released their report on the DS sector in Ontario. As also noted, the Minister had committed to reporting back to the Ombudsman every six months on the progress being made with respect to the recommendations in his report. The first such 6-month report was released on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and can be viewed at: <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/news/releases/2017/20170224.aspx>.

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The annual Volunteer Recognition event was held April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Loeb Centre. The Volunteers were thanked for their many decades of dedication and generosity, and it was reiterated how the lives of those entrusted to our care have been invariably enriched by their presence.



Judy, Vivien, Stephanie, Diane, Ann-Marie and Diane.

# PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(continued)

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The annual Employee Recognition event was held May 17<sup>th</sup>, and was again a very enjoyable evening. 79 staff were recognized for their years of service to OCAPDD. This year, it was a combined 985 years of service! As noted by the President during his comments, *“the Staff were thanked for their professionalism and dedication. Caring for our people has meant that they are in a constant learning mode mastering new skills and treatments and the digital revolution has, as well, forced upon them new methods of work. They have adapted admirably to these pressures and thereby allowed OCAPDD to maintain its reputation for excellence.”*



Debbie, Dave and Cheryl.

## SILVER SPRING FARM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Terry, Crystel and Dave.

We would like to congratulate Emily Sams and Crystel O’Neill, this year’s recipients of The Silver Spring Farm Scholarship Awards.

The Awards were presented at the April Board meeting.

## GOLF

As always at this time of year, we would like to encourage you to join us at this year’s golf tournament on June 19<sup>th</sup>. This year will be our 17<sup>th</sup> tournament and we look forward to selling out!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Terry Mooney, President

David A. Ferguson, Executive Director

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## “Under One Roof” Lapel Pins

Heritage Canada of the Federal Government ordered 10,000 of these specially crafted lapel pins to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada.

A number of individuals from ARC and the Rosenthal Centre, each earning minimum wage, were involved in this exclusive contract. Congratulations to all who participated in this national project. A special shout out to John Lonergan who coordinated the design and production, and to Jocelyne Parent Lewis who stick handled her way through all the right channels and finally secured the contract. Particular mention goes to Jennifer and the group at ARC that managed all the packaging. Though these commemorative pins are not available to the general public, you might catch a glimpse of one on Justin’s blazers.



Thanks to all!



## HEARTY TAILS GOURMET PET TREATS

Hearty Tails is now open! Visit us at [www.heartytails.ca](http://www.heartytails.ca), call us at 613.690.5155 or email us at [info@heartytails.ca](mailto:info@heartytails.ca).

Technicians JF, Alied and Rebecca are hard at work producing gourmet dog treats. The dehydration has begun. Hearty Tails technicians have completed their Food Handling Course with the City of Ottawa, have gone through an orientation on treat preps and are now in the third week of production. Only the best ingredients are selected, they are cut, wrapped, dehydrated, weighed, labelled, stamped, packaged and sealed.



Rebecca at work.

## *The Kiwanis Aktion Club*



Stephanie and Gerry.

The Kiwanis Aktion Club enjoyed a successful conference in Ottawa on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Canadian Legion Montgomery Branch. Kiwanis Aktion Club members from Bytown, Ottawa, Pembroke and Toronto joined for a Fun, Leadership, Inspirational Program. Kiwanis International President Jane, Kiwanis International Trustee Peter and Governor Phil joined in on the event. Success Stories were shared by members. One by one they took the microphone and spoke from the heart. Luncheon was served followed by entertainment by Simon Clarke. Some members who were part of the Glee Club as well, went on to the opening ceremonies of The Kiwanis EC&C District Convention at the Westin Ottawa Hotel where they sang "O Canada".

## POT SALE

**\$8 EACH**

**5 OR MORE \$6.50 EACH or negotiable**

**SIZES 14" X 14" SOME ARE LARGER**



- Assorted, sturdy containers.
- Solid bottom perfect for interior plants no water leaks on floor.
- Great on patio, deck or balcony gardening, just drill holes for drainage.

Available for pick up at our Rosenthal Program: 1414 Rosenthal Avenue.

For more information contact Rosenthal at 613.569.8993 extension 651.

## *∞ In Memoriam ∞*

**RYAN CROWDER** (January 5, 1983 - November 26, 2016)



It is with great sadness that the family of Ryan Crowder announces his passing in Cornwall on Saturday November 26, 2016 at the age of 33 years. Loved son of Michael and Brenda (née Ezard) Crowder. Beloved brother of Robert (Carrie), and the late Shawn Crowder. Loving uncle of Sean, Karissa, Kaitlynn, and Skyler.

Ryan will be sadly missed by the staff of Open Hands, Pitt Street. Ryan's fun loving spirit will live on and we will continue to love in his honour using the life skills he taught us.

**ALAN COWLEY** (August 30, 1953 - January 7, 2017)

Alan passed away peacefully at Braeside Residence on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the age of 63. Alan moved to Ottawa following his discharge from Rideau Regional Centre in 2009. Braeside Residence became his home, and he spent the next 8 years enjoying his life in the community.

He was a quiet and gentle soul, who had an infectious smile. Alan will be remembered for his mischievous spirit, his love of ice cream, and for his many adventures with Braeside staff. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.



**PETER DUNN** (May 11, 1985 - January 27, 2017)



Peter touched many, many people in his 31 years. It seems a short time, it is a short time in comparison to the span of many other lives, but his youth did not diminish his effect on the world. His presence radiated through all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Peter connected with more people than we will ever know. He filled a large place in the world and his effects on the people who met him were numerous and varied. Not only the people who worked with Peter were smitten by him. Clarence, a fellow who lived with Peter at Forest Gate residence had a very strong bond with Peter. They even ended up sharing a room with one another. Clarence called Peter, John Boy and was always looking out for Peter. He was a gruff old timer, but Peter, in his true style made that man smile.

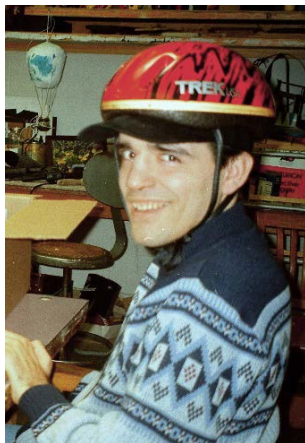
We had the opportunity to share so many wonderful times with Peter. He enjoyed going to wrestling matches with Andrea, going to the cottage with Alex, Ryan and Cinda and having the trip of a lifetime to Disney World with his mom, Kaitie and Ashley.

Peter was a happy soul, taking pleasure in the smallest of things. Peter loved the water, he loved to swim and loved to splash around in the tub. There was never a shortage of caregivers willing to take Peter to the pool. With his life jacket on, Peter would float around on his back, splashing the water with hands and smiling the biggest smile you have ever seen.

We can both mourn the loss of our beloved Peter and we can celebrate the life he lead and the lessons he gave us. For the best gift he gave us was his very life. He was a gift. For all the ways he taught us about life and love, for the ways he inspired us to be better, and for all the love he gave while he was here with us, he was a gift to each of us. May we never forget this beautiful gift.

## *∞ In Memoriam ∞*

**JOE UTANO** (January 22, 1970 - February 13, 2017)



The “Doctors of Shredding” at our CHEO program have lost one of their most senior workers. Joe “Giuseppe” Utano passed away peacefully at the May Court Hospice surrounded by his family on Monday, February 13, 2017 at the age of 47. Joe started at the Loeb Centre in October 1994 and has been a resident at Christian Horizons since December 2000.

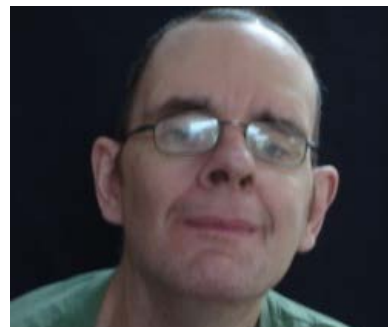
Though Joe endured many health concerns, he faced these challenges with courage, a fierce determination and a great sense of humour. His smile was contagious, his charm endearing but it was the twinkle from his eyes that spoke most to his free spirit.

Over these past 23 years Joe received amazing care and support from the many staff and friends in our Association. We will miss him and will always remember him as a great guy.

**PATRIC KETCHUM** (December 7, 1968 - March 15, 2017)

On Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> Oakdean and Loeb lost a good friend, housemate and co-worker. Patric was a “Gentle Giant” who always looked for the good in people. He appreciated everything you did for him and would show it by saying “Thank You” with a card or kind words.

Patric would always greet people with a big smile, little laugh and a “how’s your day going”. No matter how bad your day was, that friendly gesture from Patric would definitely help cheer you up. We will all do well if we live by Patric’s words “work hard and live your life in kind ways”.



**GEOFF MURPHY** (September 12, 1958 - March 23, 2017)



Geoff began his career with OCAPDD in July 1979 as an instructor at the Loeb centre. Geoff supervised; the Downtown Group Homes, Beaudry, Nestow, Quinlan, Rosenthal and Maryland programs. He was OCAPDD’s liaison with Algonquin College’s DSW student placement for several years.

Geoff loved to play hockey year-round. He loved golf and fishing. He was well known for his excellent cooking skills. He was always up for a swim or a drive to the country.

Geoff is fondly remembered for his tremendous sense of humour, his love of telling jokes and making you smile. His laugh was infectious.

He had a great outlook on life. He was a thoughtful person, he loved what he did. He believed that the people he worked with were the best and he was a strong advocate throughout his career. He has made a substantial and significant contribution to the betterment of OCAPDD, its staff and especially the individuals in OCAPDD’s care that he has touched in so many ways. Geoff was always in good humour, lovable and kind spirited. Geoff, will be missed by so many.



## *In Memoriam*

**PIERRE BLAIN** (22 décembre, 1958 - 31 mars, 2017)



Pierre est décédé subitement de la maladie du cœur. Il avait commencé à l'Atelier Arc (maintenant le Centre de transition communautaire) en 1988. Il avait aussi visité la résidence de répit. Pierre a passé plusieurs défis au niveau de sa santé comme une transplantation de rein en 1989 et le cancer de la peau. Il devenait sourd pour cause des médicaments anti-rejets qu'il devait prendre à tous les jours. Il surmontait ses défis avec courage et un renouvellement à la vie. Son sourire était contagieux.

Avant que sa surdité soit trop avancée, nous pouvions rencontrer Pierre en bicyclette d'Orléans au centre-ville. Il était un très grand fan des Canadiens de Montréal. Il ne manquait jamais une joute. Il aimait la compétition avec ses amis qui prenaient pour les Sénateurs d'Ottawa ou les Bruins de Boston. Il aimait les vieilles autos. Il a peinturés et assemblés des centaines de modèles d'autos dans sa vie. En 2016, il est allé à Havana, Cuba en vacance et oui il s'est promené en vieille voiture.

Pierre avec ton sourire et ta joie de vivre, tu as touché la vie des personnes autour de toi. Tu nous manqueras, mais nous avons de très beaux souvenirs de toi. Tu continues à nous faire rire.

**GREGORY FRANCIS** (April 13, 1960 - April 4, 2017)



Greg's journey ended peacefully at Braeside Residence on April 4<sup>th</sup>, surrounded by his beloved unicorn and his stuffed bunny.

Greg was a gentle soul, whose sparkling blue eyes and wonderful smile lit up the room. He will be missed by his friends and family at Ahearn (his home for over 30 years), Rosenthal, the Agriculture Program, Breezhill, Arc Industries, and most recently Braeside.

Greg was a very proud gentleman, who loved a good party and especially a cold beer. His sweet and helpful nature touched many people over the years, and he is greatly missed by his friends and support staff alike.

**JOANNE EVELYN SMITH** (February 17, 1956 - May 7, 2017)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Joanne Evelyn Smith, on May 7, 2017 at the age of 61. Joanne came to OCAPDD in 1980. She was supported by the CSS team for many years and then moved to Campbell in 2011. She was a great friend and support to her housemates and an active member of the Glee Club, Best Buddies and Special Olympics. For over 40 years, Joanne worked at City View Centre. She made some wonderful friends there and considered the centre to be her second home.

Joanne touched so many lives both at OCAPDD and in her community and will always be remembered for sharing her laughter, friendship and kind heart with all those she met. She was a ray of sunshine. She will be greatly missed by everyone who was so lucky as to have been touched by her spirit.

Her family has asked to please help in honouring Joanne's memory by paying it forward with a random act of kindness.



## *∞ In Memoriam ∞*

**TIM PARISIEN** (August 5, 1962 - May 10, 2017)



Tim was with Supported Work for 25 years and his last 18 years he worked with the Ottawa Police Services in the Fleet Division. Tim always had some good stories to tell. His views of the Police Chiefs over the years was always entertaining. I will never forget during the 2009 OC Transpo bus strike we drove Tim to and from work daily. He was the one person who wrote us a lovely letter thanking us for going above and beyond. Tim worked hard to get his license and had even purchased a car on his own. Tim was involved with Special Olympics for years. Track and Field, figure skating and basketball to mention a few.

Tim was amazingly positive during his illness. You will be truly missed by many people. Rest in peace.

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### **Every Canadian Counts Update**

The Every Canadian Counts Coalition attended the IIDL CONFERENCE (The International Initiative on Disability Leadership) in Sydney, Australia February 27 - March 2.

The outcomes from that meeting included:

- Minister Qualtrough's commitment to examine the national disability insurance option. This came in response to a question from the CEO of the March of Dimes Canada in which Minister Qualtrough stated that following the passage of the Accessibility Act the government will be looking to introduce something like the NDIS of Australia.
- ECC contacts and relations established with NDIS senior administrators.
- Presentations on NDIS operational issues and challenges in implementation. These presentations are available upon request by contacting [info@everycanadiancounts.com](mailto:info@everycanadiancounts.com).



Dr. William Cowie arranged a dinner with Minister Qualtrough and the Founder and recent Head of the NDIS Bruce Bonyhady. The dinner was also attended by Dave Ferguson of OCAPDD and Andria Spindel of the March of Dimes Canada.

#### **The Challenge Ahead**

The Canadian Government will not act on implementing a disability insurance program unless it is something that Canadians want. While the efforts of Every Canadian Counts have been recognized it has been made clear that we need to greatly expand this discussion. We need

**CHAMPIONS** for the cause – local, regional and national champions to work with the **Every Canadian Counts Education and Information Sharing Project**.

Please contact us for more details at 1.866.844.8736.

# Employee Recognition Evening

*On Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Service Awards were presented to the following employees to recognize their years of service with OCAPDD:*

## **5 Years**

Nicole Swartzack  
Andrew Crawford  
Sarah Matthie  
Caleb Chant  
Colleen Amsing-Schmeer  
Soojung An  
Leah Bennett  
Rebecca Smith  
Karen Hanna  
Philip Kidd  
Cathy Bodnoff  
Jasmina Vucica  
Chantal Duval  
Christopher Gagnon  
Erin Shay  
Amanda Potter  
Suzan Flatla  
Danyelle Demers  
Daystar Cooper  
Rebecca Schroeder  
Emily Carrick  
Kim Nadeau  
Pamela Moran  
Jennifer Gillette  
Samantha DesGroseilliers  
Kimberly Dube  
Marie-Eve Turcotte  
Amanda Ladouceur  
Jaclyn Tanner  
Rudlaine Auguste  
Christina Ranieri  
Samantha Mt.Pleasant  
Siman Ismail  
Katelyn Thom

## **10 Years**

Michelle Holmes  
Diana Thompson  
Ashley Travers  
Rosemarie Ferguson  
Nzazi Mboma  
Stacey Borthwick  
Jenna Yuill  
Jovithe Nihorimbere  
Mary Courneyea  
Lee Bourbonnais  
Megan Curry  
Sheri-Lynne Styles  
Kim Kane  
Leigh Golding-Hipson  
Sandra Montgomery  
Margaret Beaudette-Dewar  
Heidi Levine  
Jennifer Culley

## **15 Years**

Cheryl Miner  
Ellen Suykens  
Ryan Horne  
Jennifer Little  
Kellie Dingwall  
Anita Chusroskie  
Scott Baker

Jessica Eva  
Portia John  
Jennifer Sims

## **20 Years**

Alain Perreault  
Johanne Chauvin  
Carolynne Drouin  
Chitra Kanhere

## **25 Years**

Melaina Farrell  
Lesley Ahee  
Derek McMaster

## **30 Years**

John Lonergan  
Janet Potter  
Cathy Holmes-Parson  
Karen Bell  
Kim Scott  
Terry Lynn Costello

## **35 Years**

Deborah Klesh  
Cheryl Lapointe  
Holly Mitchell  
Julie Leonard



# Upcoming Events

## OCAPDD / AKTION CLUB PICNIC & BBQ

Come join us on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Vincent Massey Park, Sections M, N, O and P for our annual picnic and BBQ. All staff, individuals and families are welcome.



## Join Us for OCAPDD's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Join us on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> (1:00 p.m. Shotgun start) at Hautes Plaines Golf Club. Cost is \$150 per person, dinner and silent / live Auction start at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in helping better the lives of people with developmental disabilities.



For more information or to register, please call 613.569.8993 extension 245 or visit our website at [www.ocapdd.on.ca](http://www.ocapdd.on.ca).

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## A Big THANK YOU to ALL Our Drivers

Hospitality and refreshments were shared with ARC's transportation team on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate their warm friendly smiles and commitment to their job in every type of weather condition.

We would like to congratulate the winners of the draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Martine Rotchard
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Kristina Weintrager
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Paul (Pramod) Deut

**Thank you!**

