



Esprit Newsletter

Spring / Summer Edition 2018

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

Association d'Ottawa-Carleton pour personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle (AOC PDI)

Success!

Recently, an individual we support, who has volunteered in a local business for many years was hired and will be making minimum wage. We would like to congratulate Joey Lang. The “French Baker / Benny’s Bistro” at 119 Murray Street has had Joey volunteering for them for 15 years. With the passing of Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, this business chose to hire Joey and make them part of their employee team. He was hired because of his hard work, dedication and the relationships that he has built over the years.

Please support this business that values the contributions of people with a disability. We look forward to more success stories like this in the future.

Diane Belair, Community Development Consultant



Thank You Realtors Care Foundation

We submitted a proposal to the Realtors Care Foundation and it was approved! We received a \$4,000 cheque for a new deck at our Byron Residence. Thank you to Barbara Paquette for helping facilitate OCAPDD through the process.

Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Director of Community Resources

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!

Scapes will be available for purchase in June and garlic will be available in August.

Looking to volunteer? We are always in need of helping hands to weed, harvest, and clean garlic during the summer.

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

25 Years of Employment!



Congratulations to Gordon Beckstead! Gordon celebrated 25 years, working at Metro on Beechwood Avenue, January, 2018. Gordon has been an excellent and dedicated employee during the time he has worked there. Gordon takes care of the front end, as well as, the grocery carts and hand baskets.

His fellow employees are always happy to see him return from vacation, as no one does quite as good a job as Gordon. Gordon is very proud of the work he does.

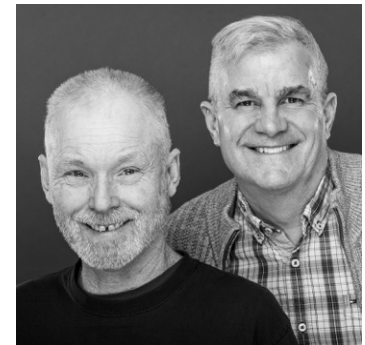
Donna Porter, Supported Work

25 Years of Employment!

This is our good friend John McLeod, with John Rapp, Executive Director of Dovercourt. Both of these guys have been staff of Dovercourt for over 25 years, and both are equally dedicated to making sure our clients have a great experience.

John McLeod has been making sure that the centre is clean and ready for everything. John is an important part of our maintenance team, and one of many supported workers who come to us with assistance from the Ottawa-Carleton Association for People with Developmental Disabilities.

John Rapp, Executive Director of Dovercourt



43 Years of Employment – Happy Retirement!



After 43 years of working for the Food Services Department of Algonquin College, April 26, 2018 was Roger Poirier's last day. This day was acknowledged and celebrated by his many co-workers, staff, and family. Everyone wished Roger well, expressing their appreciation for the many years of dedication to his job. The sentiment of encouraging Roger to stay in touch and visit was unanimous. As part of the celebration, Roger was presented with a framed picture of the Algonquin College sign, personalized with signatures of his colleagues.

During the retirement speech, Roger said that it was the "people" at Algonquin that were important to him. He also wanted to stay at Algonquin to work until his retirement.

Roger decided that the time was right for retirement and is looking forward to this next stage of life. Roger is excited to be able to spend more time bowling, watching the 67's and the Redblacks play, and keeping up with his favourite team the Montreal Canadians. Roger is also planning to pursue volunteer work keeping him connected to his community. The night was capped off with dinner at Yangtze, one of his favorite restaurants.

Congratulations Roger!

Tracey Brown, Supported Work

Centre de Transition Communautaire (CTC) Moves

The morning of January 24, 2018, the employees of CTC opened up the building, as usual, to start another day. Unfortunately what they found was a flooded building. Thanks to the amazing team at the program, they quickly figured out how to handle the situation, reassure all the people arriving, contact families and other agencies, figure out transportation, etc. Para Transpo was helpful in diverting buses on route to CTC back home. After a few days, OCAPDD found out that the damage to the building was extensive and would take weeks to repair and restore. Knowing that a large group of people lived with family members, we knew that going without service for that amount of time was unacceptable.



Luckily, OCAPDD was able to secure another permanent location in the east end very quickly. The new place actually better meets the needs of the people, with better access to the community and more space. The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) provided the financial support to make this transition. The move from Industrial Road to Shefford Road was not simple and easy. This was possible only because the team of CTC went above and beyond. They worked in a building without heat or electricity trying to salvage what they could, there was a lot of bulk buying for the new location, many calls to families, and amazing support to the people attending the program so that the quick unplanned move was seamless.

This was one disaster that had a very large silver lining. A big thank you to MCSS and the families for their part in making this a success. A huge thank you to each and every employee who stepped up putting the people we support front and center.

Le matin du 24 janvier 2018, les employés du CTC ont ouvert le centre comme d'habitude pour commencer une autre journée. Malheureusement, ce qu'ils ont trouvé était un bâtiment inondé. Grâce à l'excellente équipe du CTC, ils ont rapidement gérer la situation, ils ont rassuré tous les individus qui arrivait, contacté les familles et les autres organisations ainsi que les moyens de transport. Para Transpo ont aidé à détourner les autobus en route vers CTC. Après quelques jours, l'AOCPLDI a appris que l'édifice était gravement endommagé et qu'il faudrait des semaines pour le réparer. Sachant qu'un grand nombre d'individus vivaient avec des membres de famille, nous savions qu'avoir un manque de service pendant une longue période était inacceptable.

Heureusement, l'AOCPLDI a réussi à obtenir un autre emplacement permanent dans l'est de la ville très rapidement. Le nouvel endroit répond mieux aux besoins des individus, avec un meilleur accès communautaire et plus d'espace. Le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires (MSSC) ont fourni l'aide financière pour cette transition. Le déménagement du chemin Industriel au chemin Shefford n'était pas simple ni facile. Cela n'a pu être fait sans l'équipe du CTC qui a fait plus que son devoir. Ils travaillaient dans un bâtiment sans chauffage ni électricité pour tenter de sauver ce qu'ils pouvaient, il y avait beaucoup d'achats en gros pour le nouvel emplacement, de nombreux appels aux familles et un soutien incroyable aux individus du programme afin que le mouvement rapide imprévu était harmonieux.



C'était un désastre qui avait des points très positifs. Un gros merci au MSSC et aux familles pour leur contribution à la réussite de ce projet. Un grand merci à l'ensemble des employés qui se sont consacré pour mettre les individus que nous soutenons d'abord et avant tout.

Judy Bernstein, Directrices des services et soutiens



MY PASSION

I have been making art since I was 18. I have taken many art classes over the years. Art is very much my passion. I have created many murals, family picture of 4, mermaids, birds etc. I am currently working on a mural of seals.

I was sad for a while and forgot about my passion. I am happier in my life now and tapped into myself and my passion came back! When I create I laugh and feel joy.

Donna Lee

The 2018 Ecumenical Breakfast Fundraiser

The funds raised will be used towards building 8 raised garden beds for each of the homes at Silver Spring Farm as well as the Annex.

These garden beds will be wheelchair accessible so all the individuals living at the farm or attending the Annex will be able to participate in growing herbs and vegetables that will then be used in each of the homes.

Jocelyne Parent Lewis
Director of Community Resources



Vickie Townsend, Charlene Nixon, Jocelyne Parent Lewis, Bev Wilcox, and Nancy Wiles.

OCAPDD's Tangled Yarn Club

A small group of 5 individuals along with 2 volunteers wanted to give back to our community. We found a creative way to help those in need by knitting or crocheting scarfs, hats and mittens for the homeless. The tangled yarn club has been working hard for over a year now to create these items and have now made 15 scarfs, 2 hats and 2 pairs of mittens. Everything that has been made will be donated to a variety of homeless shelters in Ottawa.

Keep up the good work!

Hope Lalonde and Anne Cole



PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ONTARIO

As the famous Etta James song goes, "At Last"... As most of you will know, the Ontario Government tabled their 2018 Budget on April 28th, and there was a significant increase of \$1.8 Billion for Developmental Services in it. Some of the announcements of funding were for the following:

- *Over 40,000 individuals currently on the waitlist for services will receive a minimum of \$5,000. Going forward, this funding will flow to all individuals deemed eligible on their 18th birthday. We understand this funding will flow before May 7th.*
- *ODSP & OW recipients will receive a 3% rate increase per year in each of the next three years. Increasing the amount of employment income that can be earned without impacting social assistance benefits to \$400 per month from the current \$200 per month, starting in fall 2018. This will increase to \$600 per year in 2019-20.*
- *To help stabilize agencies a commitment to increase base budgets by more than \$200 million was made. This will flow to agencies in the following way; over \$50 million -year 1 and by May 7th, 2018; \$86 million -year 2 and \$103 million -year 3. These funds are specifically for the stabilization of agencies and is not inclusive of funds for costs associated with legislative requirements or wages.*
- *More than 800 people with developmental disabilities who are inappropriately housed in hospitals, long-term care, shelters or correctional facilities will be supported in moving to homes within their communities.*
- *Increase residential capacity and improve in-home supports, including respite for caregivers to alleviate challenges associated with full-time care and allow people to live at home longer.*

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: https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcsc/publications/spotlight/DS-Spotlight_issue66_en.pdf

Efforts continue at a provincial level, through OASIS and the Provincial Network, to engage both the PC party & the NDP party into a conversation regarding their positions with respect to the DS sector. OASIS has created material which can be utilized as a guideline for doorway discussions with any candidate who may show up at your home seeking your support. We have inserted this guide into Esprit for your use.

At the local level, and in a joint effort with both OCL & Rotary Home, representatives of Management and the Boards of Directors have met with, and continue to make efforts to meet with both elected MPP's and candidates for election on June 7, 2018. We invite members to assist us in these activities. Should you be willing to, please contact the Executive Director.

NATIONAL COALITION

The national coalition, Every Canadian Counts continues to grow. Ross McCreery of Independent Living Canada and Pavel Chernousov have joined our Board, while our policy paper "Moving Forward: Building the Framework for an Inclusive Future for People with Disabilities and their Families in Canada" has received very positive reviews. For a copy go to <http://everycanadiancounts.com/reports/>. The Liberal Party resolution promoting a national disability insurance program is going before the Election Platform Committee for consideration as a platform policy for the next election. In support of that, Every Canadian Counts has partnered with the public relations firm Blue Sky Strategy Group to make the cause known to MP's of all parties. Every Canadian Counts still needs your help to keep our well-received social media campaign going. Go to: <http://everycanadiancounts.com/> and go to 'Donate'.

PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(continued)

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



30 year employees: Sheila Dagenais, Anne Marie Boswell, Jean-Mar De Lanux and Veena Stokes.

The annual Employee Recognition event was held May 16th.

69 staff were recognized for a combined 980 years of service to OCAPDD, including 8 employees at 30 years of service, one employee at 35 years of service and one employee at 40 years of service!

Thank you to all!

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The annual Volunteer Recognition event was held April 12th 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.

This year OCAPDD was also honoured by Volunteer Ottawa, by having a finalist in both the Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award (Mel Jones), and the Outstanding Volunteer Program at their Annual VOscar's. The event was held April 18th.



Bill Cowie, Mel Jones, VOscar MC, Dylan Black and Dave Ferguson.

SILVER SPRING FARM SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

We would like to congratulate Breanne Stewart, this year's recipient of The Silver Spring Farm Scholarship Awards.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Looking ahead to the AGM in September, we will have 2 Board of Director positions open for election. The Nominations Committee will be undergoing its recruitment process during the months of June & July, in order to (as per the By-Laws) present recommendations to the Board at the August meeting. If you are aware of someone who might be interested in volunteering for this role, please forward their name to, or ask them to contact the Executive Director.

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 18th. This year will be our 18th tournament and we look forward to selling out!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Dr. William Cowie
President

David A. Ferguson
Executive Director

CMHC Daily, March 21, 2018 Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day

March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day, a meaningful day to create awareness and honor individuals who have the unique triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.



At CMHC, we believe people with Down syndrome should have equal opportunities to contribute to our communities and pursue happiness. We are fortunate to have an employee like Heather Green brightening our days and contributing to our business achievements. Heather notes: “It makes me happy to come to work. I don’t want to stay home doing nothing. I need to get out, have a job, do important work, make friends and make money. I want to inspire others to do just like me.”



We all have a shared interest to promote a more inclusive culture that enables people with Down syndrome to make valuable contributions to our future. Let’s use this World Down Syndrome Day to pay tribute to people with Down Syndrome and what makes them (and all of us!) unique.

Roxanne Gallagher, CMHC

∞ In Memoriam ∞

CHRISTINE LINSE (August 31, 1960 - February 8, 2018)



We are sad to convey to the OCAPDD community that Christine passed away peacefully with her family by her side.

Christine lived the last three years of her life, due to advancing Alzheimer's, under the care of the staff at the Grace Manor. Christine was an active participant in the OCAPDD community from early days at Chrystal Bay school to Donald Street to ARC industries and the day program at Colonnade Road.

Christine had an infectious smile and a special place in the heart of her family and friends in the community. We know she will be missed by many of her fellow workers, teachers and supervisors she had along the way. She was our sweetheart and we will love her always and miss her dearly.

Edith, Gerhard (Mary) and Klaus (Heather) Linse

DAVE JENNINGS (September 2, 1951 - February 25, 2018)

It is with great sadness that we announce that Dave Jennings, a long term Homeshare provider, passed away on February 25th after a brief illness. He and his wife, Florette, partnered with our agency over 30 years ago when they opened their home to support individuals in the Homeshare program. Some of those individuals have moved on but one, Jocelyne, has been part of their family since 1997.

Dave was a caring loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a mason who built many churches in the west end and in Orleans and he was an excellent horseshoe and chess player. He enjoyed cheering for his Maple Leafs on television. Dave was an avid hunter and fisherman who always looked forward to his trips to northern Ontario.



Homeshare Team

BOB MAJORS (June 5, 1950 - March 31, 2018)



Bob Majors, a charming person with a gentle soul has recently passed away. Robert, who would have turned 68 this June, had been an active participant at the Loeb Centre for the past 19 years and lived at the Leonard Residence for 17 of those years.

What a well-mannered and soft spoken man he was, always thanking people and telling them how much he loved them.

All his friends at work and home will greatly miss his smile and easy going attitude to life.

Here's to winking back at you, Bob.

Joe Silverman

In Memoriam

KERRY LYNN SIMEY (April 28, 1951 - April 12, 2018)

Kerry Lynn passed peacefully with one of her counsellors by her side. Kerry resided at Campbell for the past 10 years, previously residing at Rideau Regional Centre.

Her strong spirit, determination and infectious laugh will be remembered by all who had the privilege to care for her. When she laughed everyone around her laughed along. She loved to converse, always had to put her two cents in whenever she heard a conversation. She would say “me” to ensure you knew she was listening.

Kerry will always hold a special place in the hearts of those who knew her.

Terry Cordick



SHEILA PRINCESS MCDONALD (April 29, 1955 - April 25, 2018)



We would personally like to thank you for the caring and support of Sheila during her stay at Open Hands and at the many hospital stays throughout the last couple of years. Your dedication to Sheila was truly remarkable.

Sheila did have us as her family but Open Hands was truly her family. The love and support we witnessed at the hospital was amazing and we will never forget that. We were so happy to hear each of you reminiscing of stories (good or bad - LOL) of Sheila. Lots of good laughs and funny conversations got us all through this very sad time.

Thank you again for your loyal support and devotion to our Princess Sheila.

You will be forever remembered in our hearts.

Love - Bruce & Janet

JEFFREY MURRAY (January 20, 1950 - May 5, 2018)



On May 5, 2018, Jeff best known as “Mr. Murray” sadly passed away at the age of 68. Jeff was known for his sense of humour and big personality. People who were lucky enough to work with Jeff or know him, knew how he could lighten a room. His infectious mischievous laugh and kind smile would make your day. Many of us fell for his “Fake Seizures!” (As you’re nodding your head right now!)

Jeff was a charmer and ladies’ man and had an eye for pretty blondes with great figures! One of Jeff’s favourite activities was the hockey rivalry between Quinlan Staff (Leafs) and Charette Staff (Sens). Jeff would go back and forth with some pretty entertaining Bristol boards. Always laughing when he would get the wrath of being a traitor! But we all know, “Leafs Suck!”

Jeff, you’re leaving a huge hole in our hearts and will be greatly missed by all.

Charette Peers and Staff

Employee Recognition Evening

On Wednesday, May 16th Service Awards were presented to the following employees to recognize their years of service with OCAPDD:



5 Years

Brandy Methot
Jennifer Ducharme
Lindsay Monroe
Codee Levy
Courtney Ryan
Laura Burton
Jordan Holmes
Tamara Mask
Sarah Crumpton
Bridget O'Malley
Faraz Khaliq
Luisa Valbuena
Katrina Deschenes
Hope Lalonde
Sarah French
Barbara Pereira-Rodrigues
Thalia Brazeau
Stacey-Ann Taylor
Melissa Malabanan

10 Years

Sarah Gebre-Giorgis
Cory Hemond
Natasha Wason
LauraLee Bacha
Sarah Dowling
Peter Gauthier

Emie Haldemann

Cassandra Leon-Bateman
Melissa Morris
Melanie Carrick
Joelle Leclair
Alison Spoor
Alicia Ladouceur
Vincent Auger
Joseph Ravary
Rhea Jemmott
Carla McConnell
Tracey Crawford
Gloria Ngoyi
Dwayne Livingstone
Jonathan Lorch
Suzanne Ethier

15 Years

Jean Martel
Stephanie Casagrande
Djurdjija Lugonjic
Susan Hanson
David Worm
Erin Fillion
Stephen Griffin
Jodi Hall

20 Years

David Ferguson
Jennifer Christie
Susan Cook
James Mitchell

25 Years

John Embree
Nancy Berthelette
Lisa Babineau
Gayle Murdie
Tracy Charles
Heather Walker

30 Years

Sheila Dagenais
Janet Beath
Anne Marie Boswell
David Cross
Leanne McCallum
Jean-Marc De Lanux
Frances McMahon
Veena Stokes

35 Years

Deborah Fleury

40 Years

Kelly Gordon

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The annual Volunteer Recognition dinner was held April 12th at the Loeb Centre to celebrate the value of volunteering and the wonderful work that OCAPDD volunteers do.

Volunteers gave over 6,000 hours of their time to help OCAPDD in 2017.

Celebrating:

25 years

Ann-Marie Bloom
Kevin Lamont

10 years

Janet Salinas
Shelley O'Dell

5 years

Mary Lou Trappitt
Erika Frank
Colin Morozuk
Stephanie Ambrose

Goal Reached



Lesley Kyffin got to realize one of her goals last month when she helped lead the cool down portion of her Zumba class with a crowd of over 100 people. Christal Bowen, a Zumba pioneer in Cornwall contacted Open Hands and had the story published in the local paper. As the story in the Standard Freeholder stated, Christal had one of her career highlights stating “there wasn’t a dry eye in the crowd, it was a wonderful experience, it made me realize why I love what I do.”

Mark Your Calendar

OCAPDD / AKTION CLUB BBQ

Come join us for our annual BBQ on Saturday, June 23rd, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. behind the Hardini Center (where the Snowsuit Fund is) at 235 Donald Street just down the street from the Loeb Center.

Music by Kaptain Kirk and there will also be live entertainment. All staff, individuals and families are welcome.



Join Us for OCAPDD's 18th Annual Charity Golf Tournament



Join us on Monday, June 18th (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.