



**OCAPDD / AOCPTDI  
Open Hands**

# Esprit Newsletter

**Fall / Winter Edition 2021**

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

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

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## **Innovation Fund Announcement**



Innovation is an important element in improving the quality of life and effectively serving the needs of people living with developmental disabilities and their families in our community. That is why I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors of the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) has established an Innovation Fund to support initiatives that enhance the lives of people with a developmental disability.

A few examples that the Innovation Fund might support, include projects to:

- develop innovative initiatives or projects addressing residential housing and employment,
- improve fundraising capacity,
- introduce technology or expand use of technology,
- enhance services and service provision where there are gaps,
- expand communications and increase awareness, or
- enhance the development of social entrepreneurship.

These projects can be start-ups or pilots. They can stand alone, be attached to existing projects or focus on establishing partnerships with other organizations. Innovation is key. Applications for grant funding between **\$5,000** and **\$100,000** may be submitted through the OCAPDD website ([www.ocapdd.on.ca](http://www.ocapdd.on.ca)). Please review the application form and the Q&A tab on the website for guidance. For further information, contact us at [innovationfund@ocapdd.on.ca](mailto:innovationfund@ocapdd.on.ca)

Proposals will be carefully reviewed and assessed. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their concepts and their application with OCAPDD Management at an early stage. All decisions concerning the final selection of successful proposals will be made solely by the OCAPDD Board of Directors. The application due date is February 28, 2022. The selection date is April 30, 2022.

We very much look forward to receiving exciting innovative proposals.

Kathleen Stokely, President  
Boards of Director



### **Who Can Apply?**

Applications are welcomed from individuals, groups of individuals or families, or organizations that are involved with, or concerned with, improving the conditions of persons living with developmental disabilities and their families in the Ottawa & Cornwall areas. Members and employees of OCAPDD are welcome to apply.

### **What Kind of Projects Will Be Considered?**

Consideration will be given to any project that improves the lives of persons living with developmental disabilities and their families in the target area.

Examples of the types of projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Housing and residential services;
- Improving fundraising capacity;
- Introducing technology or expanding the use of technology with individuals in their daily lives;
- Expanding and improving communications and increasing public awareness;
- Enhancing the development of social entrepreneurship.

A primary objective is to test or pilot new approaches in order to determine their effectiveness, and/or to assist with their start-up in order to lay the base for future expansion. First preference will be given to proposals that provide or expand services to individuals and their families who are still on the waitlist, or who otherwise are not currently receiving support.

### **How Long Will a Project Activity be Financed?**

In general, it is expected that selected projects could be financed for 12-18 months; however, not for more than 24 months. This is consistent with the principal of primarily financing pilot, or start-up activities, and because the Innovation Fund is not intended to be a long-term funding source for programs. However, if a pilot program proves particularly successful, and there are compelling reasons for undertaking a second phase, the Board would consider a second round of financing in exceptional circumstances. Note however, that proposals for such follow-on financing would have to compete on

their merits with other proposals submitted for consideration in the subsequent round, and approval is not guaranteed.

### **How Much Can I/We Apply For?**

There is no minimum amount, although it is preferred that applications involve activities costing at least \$5,000. The maximum request should be for no more than \$100,000.

### **What Items/Costs will be Financed?**

Financing can be provided for the following:

- Materials and supplies;
- Operating costs directly associated with the activity (including, for example, utilities, transport, or rental charges)
- Short-term staff or consultancy costs (involving commitments of no more than 18-24 months maximum)

The Innovation Fund will **not** finance the following:

- Permanent staff salaries
- Vehicle purchases
- Rental or contractual commitments that extend beyond 24 months.

### **Can We Apply for Financing for an Existing Activity?**

Yes, but the proposal should be to expand or enhance, existing successful programs.

### **Will the Innovation Fund Support Activities that are Being Financed from Other Sources?**

Yes. Innovation Fund grants can be used to co-finance or supplement initiatives that are already being financed by other sources. (Note however that financing will generally not be provided for proposals that are contingent on the securing of financing from other sources, if that financing is not yet guaranteed.)

### **How Much Documentation Do I/We Need to Submit with a Proposal?**

All proposals will be considered for eligibility on the basis of the initial one- or two-page application form provided. However, applicants are encouraged to include any other documentation that they have developed that will help the Committee assess their proposal.

If the Committee considers a proposal has merit based on the initial summary, it may ask for additional information prior to making the final decision on the submissions.

### **When Will I/We Hear Back?**

The Committee will review applications in April 2022. All applicants will be informed of the status of their application in early May 2022.

\*Please note, this is an initial submission; all that is required is a brief summary; projects that get shortlisted for possible funding may be requested to be expanded upon later. Before submitting your application, you are encouraged to discuss your ideas with senior management. If you have questions about the process, or the likely suitability of your proposals, please contact the Committee at (generic email address).

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## MINISTER FULLERTON VISIT

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, OCAPDD was pleased to host Minister Fullerton at the Silver Spring Farm.

During a meeting with the new Minister in August, Board President Kathleen Stokely had extended an invitation to visit the garlic operation at the SSF.

While at the farm, Minister Fullerton met with some of the volunteers who have contributed to the success of the garlic operation.

She stated how impressed she was that not only was the operation able to continue through the pandemic, but that it had achieved record sales in 2021 of almost \$35,000!



Minister Fullerton then toured the Campbell Program, meeting some of the dedicated employees in the program and the individuals living there.



## 2021 SILVER SPRING GARLIC PROJECT



This was year 2 for the project under Covid-19 restrictions. Always a concern was who are we going to get to do the work? In the fall of 2020, Health Canada volunteers came through big time and carried out the splitting of the garlic bulbs followed by planting the crop and finished up putting the straw on for the winter.

We had an early spring this year with the garlic coming up early. Now who was going to do the weeding with the lockdown restrictions? Groups, including government departments, businesses and church groups could not organize to help. The job fell to individual volunteers from the community and church groups and they came through big time. The weeds never had



a chance and the field was kept in excellent shape.

After a short dry spell in June, the rain came and then the heat. Great for garlic and the crop was excellent resulting in record sales of \$35,000!

Work is now ongoing to prepare for the 2021 planting. The seed bulbs are being split and the field is being prepared for the mid-October planting.

By Mel Jones, Project Chair



# **PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## **COVID-19**

As we are all aware, the worldwide pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on all of our lives. A year ago in our last Esprit, we commented on the challenges of operating during the first 8 months of the pandemic. Obviously none of us could have anticipated that now, over 20 months into the pandemic, we would still be dealing with it.

Over the past year, we have supported both the individuals in our services and our employees to become vaccinated when the vaccine became available to them. As of early November, we can report that all of the individuals residing in our congregate care settings in Ottawa have been fully vaccinated; all but 2 individuals residing in our congregate care settings in Cornwall have been fully vaccinated; 97% of active employees in Ottawa are fully vaccinated; and, 88% of active employees in Cornwall are full vaccinated.

We would like to again express the heart felt appreciation of families, management and the Board to all of our employees, who have continued to step up over the past year, often working extended hours, to keep those programs operating in order to ensure the people we support continued to receive an excellent level of care! THANK YOU !!!

## **ONTARIO**

As you may be aware from media coverage, the Ontario Government provided its Fall Economic Statement on November 4<sup>th</sup>. While there was an announcement of \$8.9 million for the DS sector in the Statement, those funds are targeted toward the purchase of HEPA filters for congregate care settings across the province. While no other additional funds were announced for the sector in the Statement, a few days earlier the Government had announced the extension of the Temporary Wage Enhancement (\$3/hour) until March 31, 2022. Those funds had been scheduled to end on October 31<sup>st</sup>. This is obviously good news, and advocacy efforts continue to convince the Government to extend these wages on a permanent basis.

In the spring of 2021, then Minister Todd Smith announced 'Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion', a framework for the long-term reform of the DS sector in Ontario. The initial work on this initiative has begun, and is expected to continue over a 10-year period. We encourage you to become familiar with this initiative. More details regarding it can be viewed at: [Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion | Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/journey-to-belonging)

As you are likely aware, Minister Smith was replaced by Dr. Merilee Fullerton as Minister of Children, Community & Social Services in June. We were pleased to host Minister Fullerton at the Silver Spring Farm location in August, when she toured both the garlic operation and the Campbell Program.

## **NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

In June 2021, the following information was released by the Federal Government:

*As part of the Government of Canada's plan to ensure an inclusive recovery that "leaves no one behind", the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, introduced new legislation this week that would establish the framework for a new Canada Disability Benefit.*

*This ground-breaking legislation would enable the Government of Canada to take a proactive approach in the creation and delivery of the new benefit, to support working-age Canadians with disabilities. The Canada Disability Benefit would supplement, not replace, existing federal and provincial-territorial supports with a goal of lifting hundreds of thousands of persons with disabilities out of poverty.*

Due to the recent federal election, it is unclear as to the status of this initiative, however we will continue to monitor its progress and report on it when possible.

### **OCAPDD BOARD**

At this year's AGM the Board of Directors expressed its appreciation to Norma Lamont and John Lupton who both left the Board. Norma had completed the full 8-year maximum term on the Board, and held the positions of President and Past-President during her tenure on the Board. She will continue as a member of the OASIS Board of Directors. The membership elected Al Roberts to the Board. Wendy Wharton, Majid Turmusani, Peter Homulos and David Newman were all re-elected to the Board for another 2-year term. At the first meeting of the new Board on October 12<sup>th</sup>, Kathleen Stokely was re-elected President and Peter Homulos was re-elected Vice-President.

At the AGM, the Board of Directors announced the naming of the 'Ann Smith Centre' in recognition of Ann's decades of extraordinary volunteer efforts to support both OCAPDD and the developmental services sector in eastern Ontario. Ann attended the AGM in person, and eloquently expressed her appreciation for the honour, and her humility in receiving it.

The Board also announced at the AGM, the establishment of the Innovation Fund. This Fund has been created with a portion of the Memorial Fund, to encourage and support the start-up of innovative projects designed to support the lives of individuals living with a developmental disability. More information on the Innovation Fund can be read in this edition of Esprit, and on the OCAPDD website.

### **GARLIC SALES**

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who continued to support our Silver Spring Farm Garlic operation this past summer. Building on the lessons learned about operating during a pandemic in 2020, this year's garlic operation actually set record sales of just under \$35,000!

### **ROSEDALE**

After many years of searching for an accessible house for our Open Hands division, a property was finally found this past spring. We were the successful bidder for the property, and took possession in July. Work is underway with architects on developing plans for renovations, after which work will begin on the actual renovations. A target of spring has been set as a tentative timeline for moving in.

### **CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP**

We are pleased to announce that our annual Gift Wrap will continue to operate again at the Carlingwood Mall. As occurred last year, the booth will operate on a reduced capacity again this year – both in days per week and hours per day. We would encourage you to consider having your presents wrapped by us.

Kathleen Stokely  
President



David A. Ferguson  
Executive Director

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING PANDEMIC

I came across this photo recently from my redeployment to CSS during the pandemic. The picture reminded me of my experience doing a job I had worked two times previously. This time under the cloud of a pandemic. One of the issues that CSS workers grappled with was how to connect with those we could not visit.

We know that for many people with a developmental disability, living in long-term care and retirement centres can lead to acute feelings of isolation and loneliness. Covid-19 made the challenge seem almost insurmountable.

Natural connections are difficult at the best of times, but as living breathing beings, sometimes we discover we share a common interest or hobby with someone we might not expect. Where Desire, Goals and Plans fell short, who could have guessed a pandemic would help accomplish what we had always hoped would happen.

Andrea is one of those people who loves to chat, reminisce, do puzzles and most of all knit.

Pre Covid-19, Andrea's living situation made meaningful connections challenging, and often brief when possible. As we know, Covid-19 made those gaps painfully obvious. It also pushed caregivers to rethink what we do and how we do it.

Thankfully, Vaccines came and allowed some return

to normal. Although large groups were not permitted, small gatherings became the way forward.

Sherry, the Activity Coordinator at Billings Lodge, with the help of a large donation of wool was able to pull some like-minded knitters together. Andrea regularly joined her, shall we now say "friends"

Bertie and Hazel

for regular cozy knitting sessions making panel blankets. Andrea made this lovely blanket for an old friend, with the help of two new friends.

Let us hope there will be two new faces at the table when Andrea and her long-time friend Debbie are fortunate enough to break bread together once more.



By David Knox

## CENTRE DE TRANSITION COMMUNAUTAIRE – CTC



Nous pensions être fermés pour deux semaines. Nous ré ouvrons le 26 juillet, 16 mois et 7 jours plus tard. Nous sommes encore dans la pandémie mais commençons tranquillement à offrir des services à temps partiel.

Des méthodes de sécurités comme les masques, les visières, des petits groupes à distance sociale et désinfecter régulièrement font maintenant partie de notre vie de tous les jours.

Nous cherchons encore des employés pour l'équipe du

personnel. Nous avons 18 personnes qui sont de retour.

Nous sommes tous heureux de nous revoir.

Le 2 septembre, nous avons reçu la visite de la ferme Sunrise. Une belle activité dehors qui nous a donnés des beaux sourires et du plaisir.

Merci à tous pour le travail fantastique effectué à tous les jours pour la réouverture.

By Roxanne Gilbert,  
Superviseure de CTC



## HOMESHARE

More than 18 months in our new reality, our Homeshare Providers and Caseworkers are still facing challenges as a team. They are resilient and resourceful. We have successfully learnt to do business differently. The Homesharers are doing virtual activities, some have gone back to work and some have started part-time day activities. Volunteers and Passport workers are starting again. The pandemic is still on but our world is slowly starting again with all possible security measures in place.

Welcome to Melissa, a new provider and the young man she supports Daemon.

This year, we still can't get together for our Harvest Dinner. We are working on surprises to express our sincere appreciation for all the love and care you demonstrate every day.



This year marks:

- 5 years for Claudette
- 10 years for Marie-Lourdes & Georges
- 25 years for Noreen & Gilbert
- 30 years for Nelia & Gardner
- 30 years for Raymond



Thumbs up to all our providers, together you have given 222 years of support to our Homesharers.

If you would be interested in being part of the Homeshare Family as a Provider, please contact Roxanne Gilbert at [rgilbert@ocapdd.on.ca](mailto:rgilbert@ocapdd.on.ca), she will be happy to explain the program.



The Homeshare Team

## VISIT FROM SUNRISE COUNTRY FARM



The Maryland gang had a wonderful time with the animals from the farm that came to visit in August. We were also able to invite family, staff with their family and some neighbours. We had visitors from Sunrise Country Farm come to Maryland.

Caramilk and Oreo, the goats, enjoyed pruning our bushes and getting cuddles from everyone. Ebony and Ivory, the potbelly pigs, loved the feed we were giving them but you had to be fast. They also enjoyed when we would get in their pen and pet them. Buggy, the small calf, was very sweet and loved all the attention he was getting. Brigitte, the cow, made sure one part of our lawn was trimmed. We should have moved her so that more of the lawn could have been trimmed. The individuals, family, staff, staff's family and neighbours had an awesome time.

It was a fabulous experience of connecting with nature and reconnecting with each other.

By Andrea Tye-Campbell

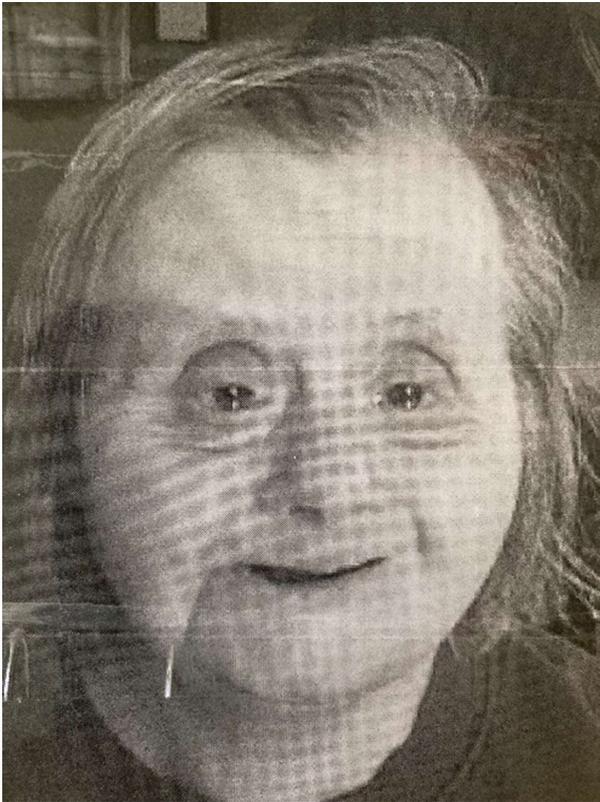


## ❧ In Memoriam ❧

**John Henry Smith** (July 27, 1949 – September 13, 2021)

It is with regret that I am informing you that John Henry Smith passed away September 13, 2021. John was a long time participant in the EmployAbility program at OCAPDD as well as residing at the Farm and Crosswinds. John worked at Canadian Tire Heron Road for 25 years as well as the Canadian Tire Gas bar in Orleans. John worked his last few years before retirement at the Home Hardware in Orleans. At his work locations John proved to be a dedicated respected worker. I have lost track of how many people would approach me to tell me they wished more people had the work ethic and dedication to their employment that John had. John is a great loss to all who knew him and will be remembered as a kind gentle man with a great sense of humour.

By David Cross, EmployAbility



**Nancy Eygenstein** (July 1, 1957 – April 10, 2021)

On April 10, 2021 Nancy passed away peacefully at home. Nancy had been living at Campbell House for about 9 years and previously at the Conservatory for many years with her many friends. Nancy loved living at the Conservatory but her health changed and Nancy moved back to the Farm where she enjoyed her remaining years in a calm and quiet way but still getting lovely cakes from the French bakery that lit up her taste buds. Although Alzheimer's took her away from us in many ways Nancy is remembered with fondness for her hard work ethic at ARC, her smile and laugh, her love of hockey, smarties, pepsi and her dance moves with her boyfriend Ronnie. Nancy treasured her newspaper clippings and she would light up a room when you said her whole name. It was a pleasure for the staff of Campbell to take care of Nancy in her last years and staff are saddened we didn't have more of a chance to get to know her before her health changes. Jive on Nancy!

By Judy Vance and Sarah Dowling



**John Hinton** (January 16, 1935 – May 30, 2021)

On May 30, 2021, it was with heaviest of hearts that we had to say good-bye to our “Johnny” as he passed at the age of 86. Staff were with him while he was about to venture on a new journey, holding his hand and listening to Country music. His smile will be sorely missed.

He had rainbow eyes and the cutest giggle and laugh, especially after a beer! He has been an inspiration and a teacher to everyone who had the honour of meeting and/or working with him. Johnny, you taught us so much, thank-you! A man who has persevered and bounced back from so many obstacles-an IRON MAN! Johnny was “Charette” when you think of Charette, you think of Johnny...Rest in Peace sweet Johnny...Ba...Ba...Ba...

By Joanne Bennett

**Jonathan Ryan** (June 14, 1957 – June 30, 2021)

Jonathan Ryan, affectionately known by JJ, came to live at St. Stephen’s residence in 1992. JJ loved going on vacation. He talked about his past and future vacations endlessly, asking staff where he would be going next. He went to Florida, Halifax, Niagara Falls, and he even went on a cruise. JJ just loved a party. Not only because of all the yummy food, he also really loved music, and he loved to be in a room full of people who he could chat and dance with. Did we mention JJ loved food? Going out to restaurants, going to get coffee, stopping for ice cream, would be the highlight of his day.

JJ was really involved with St. Stephen’s parish, a church next door to us. He attended church each Sunday, and he was really involved with the church community. The church community loved JJ, and accepted him wholeheartedly, allowing him to sing, dance, socialize, and be himself. His warmth was felt by many, and he had a way of melting your heart with simple phrases like “where’s my hug?” or “you-me...hotel!” All the past and present staff of St Stephen’s Residence consider it a privilege to have worked with JJ. He was a gentle soul, appreciative of the little things. When it was time, he was ready to go, and he went in his own bed, holding the hands of the staff he loved so much. JJ, you will be forever in our hearts. Rest in Peace ♥



By Erin Shay

## ARC RECREATIONAL SERVICES

ARC recreational services are proud to announce they are up and running again. After receiving several new vehicles, we hit the road. Seeing old faces and meeting new faces we ventured out into the community.

We've enjoyed boat trips with Friends for Fisherman, many bowling games at West Park Bowl, Pirate Life Adventure cruise, movies, Mini putt, LRT trips and bikers Church volunteering.

Within our new program we are regularly supporting individuals to attend and participate in chosen activities such as horseback riding, do it yourself painting pottery, and the Van Gogh experience.



We've also had the privilege of reuniting friends and growing new friendships, by bonding over activities they love and enjoy most.

We look forward to many more adventures and experiences.





By Laura Mulligan  
Arc Recreational Supervisor

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**OCAPDD's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Charity Golf Tournament  
is on Monday,  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022!**



## HOLIDAYS' SPIRIT AT OCAPDD



**HO! HO! HO!**



**It's that time of the year!!!!!!!**

**Need some help with wrapping those special gifts?**

**We are at Carlingwood Shopping Center, ready to serve you!**

All those elfs will be wrapping from Thursday to Sunday starting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> until 5pm on Christmas Eve.

The hours are everyday from 11am-7pm, Christmas Eve from 10:00-4:30pm.

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

**\*THE LOCATION IS NEXT TO LAURA SECOND STORE NEAR THE FOOD COURT**