

# CHILDREN AT RISK NEWSLETTER

235 Donald Street, Ottawa, ON K1K 1N1

(613) 741-8255 (Tel)

(613) 741-5530 (Fax)

[www.childrenatrisk.ca](http://www.childrenatrisk.ca)  
[carsup@magma.ca](mailto:carsup@magma.ca)

Issue 29

December, 2004

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Submitted by David Allingham

Well December has snuck up on me and caught me napping. After the AGM we elected a new Board member and said our formal good-bye to a long suff... um, serving one. Enjoy having your life back Larry and we look forward to getting to know you better Molly Jo.

As a side note I got re-elected as your President. I will continue my work with the Board to control expenses and trying to engage more of you so that at the next AGM will have 20 members present. That would be lovely. Just so you know, due to some legal and reporting issues we voted to move the next AGM to late May or early June 2005. It will be happening almost tomorrow, so mark a day on your calendars and tell us when it would be best to have the meeting so you could attend.

On the behind the scenes front... we (the Board) have finalized our recent revisions to the Bylaws of CAR and are now looking at the 'jobs' that need to, or must, be done. This requires that we try to write "job descriptions" so members will be able to have a clear understanding of what they're volunteering for or are being asked to do. It will also help us to operate more efficiently and, hopefully, improve our ability to serve you (our members).

We are also organizing the groups for the Jan-Mar/Apr 2005 time period. We are trying to have one or two in the west-end of the city this session and the plan is to have them start around the middle of January. This way your children can get readjusted to the school life after Winter break before getting into their busy lives. Have a need? Let us know. If we have a group for that need and a space, we'll see if your child can fit in it. If they can... we'll ask if you're interested? Or is it ask and then see if they fit? What's important is we're trying to meet the needs of your children, but we're limited by several factors, many we're trying to remove.

So, let us know what you need and want... we'd like to help.

Hope you have great holidays, and Happy Birthday to the New Year!

## **PLEASE WELCOME A NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER**

Submitted by Molly Jo Beauchamp

Hello my name is Molly Jo Beauchamp and I was elected to the Board of Directors at the recent Annual General Meeting. I have been a member of Children at Risk for the past four years. I am the Mother of two children, a son 14 years and a daughter 12 years. My son was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome in 1998 after spending five years of various consultations with health professionals to determine the correct diagnosis. I work for the federal government at International Trade Canada as a trade officer. I joined the Board to give my support and time to assist in whatever way I can.

### **BOARD of DIRECTORS – 2004/2005**

Elected at the Annual General Meeting of Children at Risk on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

President: David Allingham  
Treasurer: Debbie Thorhauge  
Secretary: Amanda Telford  
Member at Large: Craig Perkin  
Member at Large: Mary McDonald  
Member at Large: Janet Kooiman  
Member at Large: Denis Lalonde  
Member at Large: Molly Jo Beauchamp  
Non-Voting Charity Representative-Coordinator & Fundraising Chairperson: Brenda Reisch

Individual Board Members can be reached by sending an email to [carsup@magma.ca](mailto:carsup@magma.ca) and it will be returned within two weeks.

Telephone contact can be made by leaving a message at 741-8255, which will then be forwarded to the designated Board Member requested.

**Children at Risk 2004 Report on Services:**

**Social Skill Therapy (Friendship) Groups  
(based on sessions of 6 weeks, 1½  
hours/wk)**

<b>Ages 4-6 years</b>	<b>33 children</b>
<b>Ages 7-9 years</b>	<b>37 children</b>
<b>Ages 9+ years</b>	<b>38 children</b>
<b>Asperger Teens (8 week session, 2 hrs/wk)</b>	<b>18 children</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>126 children serviced</b>

**Sibling Support Groups  
(2 sessions/annually - Fall and Winter, 2  
groups per session, 7 weeks each session,  
1 ½ - 2 hours/wk.)**

<b>Ages 5-9 years</b>	<b>10 children</b>
<b>Ages 9-12 years</b>	<b>22 children</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>32 children serviced</b>

**GRAND TOTAL OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
RECEIVING DIRECT SERVICES FROM  
CHILDREN AT RISK: 158**

**Sibling Support Groups**

The Winter session of Children at Risk's **Sibling Support Groups** will start in February, 2005. These groups are for children whose brothers or sisters have Communication Disorders, again co-facilitated this year by **Karen Halchuk** and **Alice Kozculab**, both professionals have worked with children in the field of behavioural management. The groups bring siblings together in a relaxed recreational setting, allowing them the opportunity to discuss feelings, family relationships as well as successes and concerns. Siblings are encouraged to share ideas, strategies for coping and information about their brother or sister.

Being the sibling of a child diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum brings challenges and changes to family dynamics of a unique nature. By offering the Sibling Support groups, Children at Risk attempts to address these inter-personal issues with trained, experienced personnel in an informal setting.

As the number of spots in the Sibling Support Groups is limited, priority will be given to children who did not receive a session this Fall. For more information about the upcoming Winter sessions to start in February, please contact **Karen Halchuk** at 829-2513.

**Please feel free to contact the office (741-8255) if you would like to put your child's name on our list for future groups.**

**Friendship Social Skill Group Testimonials**

Submitted by Heather Ripa

My son Michael was enrolled in the fall session of the Friendship Group. This was his first time and at first he seemed unsure of what to expect. As the session moved along, it was evident that he was enjoying the group. He especially liked the gym sessions; it gave him time to burn off some energy! Michael also enjoyed making his dinosaur diorama and the gingerbread house. There were a good selection of cooperative games and interesting activities which required problem solving. Many important social skill topics were discussed and the children were given opportunities to role play some scenarios. As a parent, I enjoyed receiving the outlines to what was being covered that evening. Papers covering aspects such as feelings, conflict resolution and appropriate ways to communicate needs were valuable resources to add to my home files. A special thank you to Elaine and Chris for their dedication and enthusiasm. Michael always had a smile on his face when I returned and stories to tell me on the ride home. It was a successful first session.  
Heather.

Submitted by Isadora Cardona

I'm pleased to let you know that Pablo has really enjoyed the group. As you know, this is his first time. He says his favourite activities were the "Diorama" and the gingerbread house. As for me, I've noticed he feels good about himself and he seems so mature going to his group every Monday!

I'm very excited about how he's benefited from the group.

Thanks a lot!

Isadora

Submitted by Elizabeth Riopelle

I am writing to say thank you to Elaine and Chris for running the Friendship Social Skills Therapy Group for the last six weeks. My son Shayne enjoyed Saturday mornings with his "new friends" as he called them.

He had lots of fun making crafts and playing games. He also learned how to play appropriately with his peers and it's a skill that Shayne uses on a daily basis in daycare and in the school setting. I hope Elaine and Chris are able to put on more Therapy Groups because I know Shayne would love to attend!

Elizabeth

**FUNDRAISING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**  
**SINCE SEPTEMBER/2004...**

**WORKSHOPS**

As part of Children at Risk's mandate to support families raising a child with Autism, we endeavor to offer educational workshops and seminars. Please join me in again thanking parent Marlene Stepan for her outstanding and tireless work in administering all aspects to bring Shirley Sutton to Ottawa twice this year for informative workshops on Sensory Integration! Both parents and professionals benefited from Shirley's experience and background in this fascinating area of therapy. Children at Risk was honoured to be the presenting charity!!

**CHARITY COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE**

As 2004 draws to a close, I must say that it has again been one of adventure and transition! This year represents the 2nd full year of operating without any public funding. All of Children at Risk's services and supports have been solely financed on fundraising activities/events and donations. Our membership is at an all-time high, with close to 240 families registered. What this tells our Board of Directors is that there is a definite need for our charity to exist in the Autism Community. As services are expanded by the government in agencies like The Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre and The Preschool Autism Program, Children at Risk will transition to continue to "fill in the gaps". Liaisons with organizations like The Ottawa Chapter of the Autism Society are also sought, helping to draw the community closer and work towards common goals. The adventure part of the year came mainly this fall, when our computer theft left Children at Risk entering one of the busiest times of the year very short on technology. However, we experienced wonderful generosity and kindness of human spirit as individuals and corporations rallied to extend both monetary and equipment donations.

Children at Risk is made up of families, volunteers and caring, experienced individuals who facilitate our Groups. I want to wish everyone Season's Greetings, happy and safe holidays and all the best for the New Year!  
Brenda Reisch

**DONOR'S CORNER:**

Margaret Brand Chapter IODE \$500  
In memory of George Ferguson \$330  
In memory of William Turnbull \$20

**9th ANNUAL CELEBRITY-CARVED PUMPKIN CONTEST**

A record number of 77 Celebrity Carvers contributed unique and traditional pumpkin creations, raising close to \$3,100! Our event took place on October 28th, 29th and 30th, with displays at Merivale Mall, Carlingwood Shopping Centre and Place d'Orleans. With this outstanding participation, we hope to add one more mall to our fundraiser next year. Appreciation to the malls for allowing our displays, especially Merivale Mall for once again headlining the event and donating all the pumpkins!

Special thanks to Mall Display managers Andrea Allingham and Merle Hagerman (for taking on 2 malls!), pumpkin cleaners Lisa Gregory, Christina Myatt and Jeremy Reisch, members of the Rideau Kiwanis Club and all our parents who volunteered to "pumpkin-sit" the displays!! Below are the TOP 13 Carvers:

**Top Lucky Thirteen Celebrities  
(FINAL RESULTS)**

J. J. Clarke - CJOH Television  
Kathie Donovan - CJOH TV Regional Contact  
Kimothy Walker - CJOH Television  
Doc & Woody - CHEZ 106.1 FM  
Matt McCooye - Big Bad Sports Show -  
Rogers Cable 22  
Lynn Saxberg - The Ottawa Citizen Music  
Columnist  
Nancy Stapleton - Y101 FM Country  
Stuntman Stu - 106.9 The Bear's Breakfast  
Mauler & Rush - The Morning HOT Tub 89.9  
FM  
Melissa Shabinsky - Ottawa Living, Rogers  
Cable 22  
Laura & Josie - The Morning HOT Tub 89.9  
FM  
Lawrence Greenspon - Attorney at Law  
Bruce Garrioch - The Ottawa Sun Sports

FUNDS RAISED AFTER 3 DAYS FOR  
CHILDREN AT RISK (Supporting Autistic  
Children): **\$3088.25 (FINAL)**

### **MACMILLAN FOODS CAMPAIGN**

Our Fall MacMillan's campaign was terrific, as many parents helped to market the products to friends, co-workers, relatives, etc. Thanking Susan Holder, Roxanne Bronsard, Patricia Flanagan (and Sean for picking-up) and many other parents who gave healthy orders, earning a profit of almost **\$1,000!** Back pats to Susan Holder and Liz Schissler for order-sorting, as well!! Keep your eyes peeled for the Spring campaign, date to be determined, but flyer probably enclosed in our spring newsletter mailing.

### **PROJECT CLEAR SKIES DONATION**

Early this Fall, Children at Risk was contacted by parent Paul Lacroix and friend Ron Jette to be considered as a recipient for inaugural funds being donated by a newly-formed foundation called Project Clear Skies. Created by the Ottawa International Airport Authority, this community-giving program is designed to fund much-needed projects in our Region, giving-back to registered charitable organizations. Funds are specifically designed to support capital projects for smaller, grass-root charities that make a difference in our community. Children at Risk was invited to submit a request, concentrating on capital equipment needs like new furniture and appliances. We were thrilled to receive notice that we would be granted **\$10,000** to help up-grade our offices! Currently our Board of Directors has been looking into the purchasing of this equipment and we hope to have an open-house early in 2005 to show off our new assets!!

A total of \$95,000 was granted on October 12th in celebration of the first anniversary of the new terminal opening. *(A list of recipient charities and more information can be found at [www.ottawa-airport.ca](http://www.ottawa-airport.ca), then click on Project Clear Skies.)*

### **OTTAWA CAPITAL CHORDETTES**

Last year Children at Risk had first been approached by the **Capital Chordettes Ladies Barbershop Chorus** organization to be considered as a recipient charity. While the Chordettes support many charitable causes in the community, they follow the lead of their parent organization, Harmony Inc. in supporting Autism first and foremost. Previously Ottawa Valley Autistic Homes had been a recipient charity. With the government closing of OVAH, the Chordettes looked to branch out to other

charities in the region providing services for Autism. This year I was contacted by their Autism liaison, Carrie Reinsborough, to participate in an LCBO promotion for their "Steppin' Out" show. Subsequently, Children at Risk was invited to the Chordettes annual Christmas Craft Show and Auction to receive funds. Through a series of events, this phenomenal group of 65 ladies presented 3 cheques totaling close to **\$5,900!!** In addition to their annual donation, the Chordettes had put forward Children at Risk's name during their annual regional competition, held this year in Illinois. This donation was close to \$2,900 and another cheque was from the **Rotary Club of Ottawa South**, a donation of \$1,000 as payment for a performance by the Chordettes. For more information on this wonderful organization, check out their website at [www.capitalchordettes.org](http://www.capitalchordettes.org), also including a link to Harmony's website.

### **MICROSOFT GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR AUTISM**

In November Children at Risk received a generous **\$3,100** from The Ottawa Senators Foundation as one of the recipient charities in the First Annual Microsoft Golf Tournament for Autism, held on June 15th, 2004. Many thanks to parents Rudy Sleiman and Linda & Steve Warne for making this donation possible!

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

#### **2005 ENTERTAINMENT COUPON BOOKS**

Many thanks to all the parents who helped to sell/buy the Entertainment books, especially those who did it in bulk (Brenda Desjardins, Merle Hagerman, Dean & Laurie Ryan, Louise Geary....). With your help, we did have a good campaign this year. Books can still be purchased from the office, an excellent Christmas gift at only \$33! Call 741-8255 or email [carsup@magma.ca](mailto:carsup@magma.ca) to make your request. Books will be available also at Quickie's until the first of January (with an extra \$5.00 admin. charge attached)!

#### **THE AUTISM SOCIETY BELGIAN CHOCOLATES**

Ho ho ho.... It is that time of year again, the Autism Society Ontario-Ottawa Chapter is once again selling beautiful, festively wrapped fine Belgian chocolates. These

chocolates have been exquisitely prepared and generously donated by Galerie au Chocolat. This fundraising initiative will enable us to continue to provide information, support and resources such as our summer program, Camp Leo. The chocolates are priced at \$10/box. They make great, thoughtful holiday gifts. Thank you for your kind support, Terri Murphy Fundraising Co-ordinator ASO

### **KIWANIS FRUIT CAKES**

The Kiwanis Club of Rideau supports Children at Risk, so we help them to sell their A-1 Fruit Cakes, \$13 each or 2 for \$25. You can choose from Cakes boxed 1250 gram or a decorative tinned 900 gram.

*All items can be obtained through Children at Risk, call 741-8255 or email back for your order. Please include a telephone number. If anyone can help to market some of these items, don't hesitate to ask for some inventory!!*

### **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**

#### **50/50 ticket sales - Ottawa 67's games**

Covering 5 games, Fridays February 4, 11, 18 (game is at 7:30, volunteers report for 6-6:15 PM until start of 3rd period (approx. 3 hours of time)

Sunday Games are February 13 and 20 (game is at 2 PM, volunteers report for 12:30-12:45, again about 3 hours of time until the start of the 3rd period)

This terrific partnership with the Rideau Kiwanis Club and the Ottawa 67's is an excellent fundraiser. Volunteers have parking and a beverage paid, plus get to watch some outstanding junior hockey!!

Please email [carsup@magma.ca](mailto:carsup@magma.ca) or call 741-8255 if you can be available for a game(s), which game and we will book you in. We need approximately 8 volunteers per game! (Note: Volunteers need to be 16 years of age, some tables are available, others walk to sell)

#### **AN EVENING WITH ARTIST NYM GAUTAMA**

A new date of Saturday, March 5th, 2005 has been set with a fundraising evening, showcasing and selling the artistic talents of local Artist Nym Gautama. This event will

take place at the National Art Gallery, a wine & cheese affair with silent auction bids for a selection of Nym's varied works of oils, watercolours and rare batiks. You can learn more about Nym by going to <http://www.magma.ca/~ishyta/biography.htm> Please contact Brenda Reisch if you can help to launch this excellent affair. Framing will be done in advance by Frames by Rockwell. We are grateful to Nym and her family for this opportunity to raise funds and support Autism, a cause close to her heart with an Autistic grandson. More details to follow!

#### **4TH ANNUAL "ROCKIN' FOR RISK" 50s/60s/70s DANCE**

All you guys and gals can break out the leather jackets and poodle skirts once again on Saturday, April 2nd, 2005! This retro fundraising dance, with silent auction, is an event looked forward to by the Ottawa Community with great anticipation. Our band Intersection will once again rock our socks off, with hopefully another visit by Elvis. Look for more information in the New Year, but don't forget to mark this date on your calendar!

ALSO....

**10th Annual Raffle, May-June/05  
Annual Family Picnic, June 2005**

#### **COMPUTERS - HELPING US CONNECT AGAIN!**

Please join me in thanking the following companies and individuals for their wonderful generosity and help in getting Children at Risk up and running again:

Minto Developments  
ISTAT Corporation  
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.  
Corel Corporation  
McCarthy Tetrault LLP  
Barrhaven Lions Club  
Barrhaven United Church  
Judy & Don Wright  
Carya & Glen Sloan  
Rita Laframboise  
Wilfred & Jean Wilhelm  
Jennifer Bardwell & Roland Rotondo  
Linda & Herbert Catt  
Mishele Joanis

Many families included extra donations on their membership renewals with our needs in mind! Special thanks to our resident "Dr. Computer", Larry King, for his IT expertise and many hours of time!!

## **DISABILITY TAX CREDIT & ESTATE PLANNING**

by Kenneth Pope and Leslie Fisher of *Pope-Fisher Disability Tax Service*

Have you ever applied for the Ontario Disability Tax Credit? As of **January 1st, 2005**, the back-filling rules will change. This means that families who have members with severe developmental, physical or mental health disabilities will only be able to back-file to 1995 from the present 1986 income tax year. Research has shown that a family profile least likely to use the disability tax credits is where the child has physical or developmental difficulties and has always lived at home. Another situation is when a child goes to a group or supported living situation as a young adult, and the parents understand (wrongly) that they can no longer make use of the credit. Residing with the parent is irrelevant to its use by the parent. Also, have you thought about what happens to your child after you are gone?

Do you have a Will and does it contain a Henson Trust?

The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers that may shed some light on this and other issues for parents of disabled children:

### **1. Why do some people receiving Ontario provincial disability benefits receive \$708 each month while others receive \$930?**

The \$708 amount is the room and board allowance. If a child lives with the parent, they will automatically be slotted into this amount. The \$930 amount is composed of \$414 for shelter/rent and \$516 for supplementary benefits for everything else. By setting up a lease arrangement with the parents and having the parents charge at least the shelter allowance amount, the benefits should then be increased to the proper amount. This can result in net rental income for the parents, taxed at their marginal rates, but the tax is generally modest and it is better to have a dollar and then pay some tax than to not have the dollar at all! If the child is simply unable to shop or cook, even with supports, then the increased amount may be unavailable on the basis that the food and lodging is provided by the parents. This turns on the facts of each situation.

### **2. I have heard about the 'caregiver credit' used by some families to reduce taxes. When does this apply?**

If a child is over 18 years of age, on ODSP, and resides full time or occasionally with the parent or other family member, then the family member qualifies as a caregiver of that child. They can then claim the 'caregiver tax credit' and pay approximately \$500 less in taxes than they would have. This credit applies in each ongoing year in which these factors exist. The credit came into effect in 1998, and can be back filed to that year if applicable. This would return approximately \$3,000 in taxes for a back filing from 2003. (also can apply to any adult family member ie. an aged parent who survives on a small pension and has just been released into your care from hospital after an operation)

### **3. What is the disability tax credit? I know some parents save on taxes by using this tax credit and others have never heard of it?**

This tax credit is available whenever a child of any age is markedly restricted in the activities of daily living on an on-going basis. The restrictions can be cognitive, developmental, physical or mental or a combination of disabilities. This tax credit must be applied for and approved by filing a T-2201 form with Canada Revenue Agency. Once approved, the credit is transferred from the child who qualifies to a parent or other supporting person. The tax credit is only useful to someone who pays taxes and in many cases the person with the disability has no taxable income. The credit was recently increased, and now returns \$1,500 each year to a taxpayer who makes use of it. It can presently be back filed to 1986, but on January 1st, 2005, that changes to only 10 years back on a rolling annual basis. (previous year's returns were only \$1,000) Back filing for the full period, if applicable, in 2004 would return approximately \$18,000 to the taxpayer. As mentioned, this is the year to deal with this, since next year the back filed credit will be reduced by \$8,000.

For more information or to discuss your individual situation, please contact the office of: **Pope-Fisher Disability Tax Service at (613) 889-9078, FAX 569-8989, or email [taxfisher@sympatico.ca](mailto:taxfisher@sympatico.ca)**. The information is free and they can conduct an audit to see if you qualify for benefits or tax credits related to your child's disability!

## **TOUCHING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

### **Mother of Autistic Child Walks Tough Road**

by Marie Lee

On a sweltering August day, I decide to spend the afternoon with J, my 3 1/2 year-old, riding the trolley around our city, Providence, Rhode Island. J is autistic with limited speech. "Should I follow you in the car?" my husband, Karl, asks worriedly. "We'll be fine," I say confidently.

Karl's worries aren't unfounded. Because J can't communicate functionally, he gets frustrated easily. Almost as soon as the doors swing shut, J shouts "No! No! No!" and jumps off my lap. "OK, let's get off then," I say at the next stop. But J grabs onto a pole and resists. He's descending into the "point of no return," where his brain short-circuits into an unstoppable outburst. By the next two stops, he's causing such a ruckus that I carry him off like a flailing bag of potatoes.

We've had the misfortune to debark at Thayer Street, the bustling center of the neighbourhood around Brown University. We're in front of a restaurant that has metal sidewalk tables, and J is flinging himself to the filthy ground as I try to keep his head away from the sharp edges of the tables.

"Bring him over here." A white-haired man sitting at one of the tables motions severely to me. Older folks often see a child who "just needs a good lickin'." I ignore him, but J's screams have now attracted a crowd. Some parents with toddlers in tow shake their heads; I can hear them speaking smugly among themselves: "Glad our kids know how to behave." In the meantime, I'm on my knees, trying to get J to stand upright. He pulls my hair, tears my favourite necklace from my neck. When he realizes I'm trying to get him on his feet, he twists like Houdini and kicks off both of his sandals. I put him in a modified jujitsu hold, scooping him up by his bottom. A few people openly glare, hands on hips. One

woman even has her cellphone out - is she debating whether to call 911 because she thinks I must be abusing this child?

"Marie? Is there anything I can do?" I look up to see my friend Deborah, a Brown professor. "Tell these people to stop staring at me," I say. Deborah turns, but the crowd, seeing an elegantly dressed professor has stopped to address the bad mother, is dispersing. I offer J his water bottle, making him ask for it properly. This mental activity of finding the word "water" distracts him enough that I can buckle on his sandals, get up - my knees blackened and bleeding - and hustle him away.

When we arrive home, Karl asks how the trolley ride was, I burst into tears. This is the life with an autistic child. J looks like a healthy little boy, but his autism diagnosis at the age of three is not the most dramatic thing that's happened to him.

At 18 months he was diagnosed with a spinal tumor, and he spent the better part of a year in a body cast and a wheelchair. I think back almost wistfully to that wheelchair. Then, people went out of their way to help us. "Oh, the poor brave little boy with cancer!"

But no one looks at J in the midst of a tantrum and offers to help the brave little boy with autism. My urge during J's fits is always to scream, "My son has a neurological disorder!" But I've decided whatever satisfaction I might get isn't worth what it could do to J. Who knows how much he understands?

Those out there who are so certain we are bad parents should take heed of the alarming rate of autism: a Centers for Disease Control study found that as many as one in 150 children had it in one community. That translates to one in 68 families.

So, the next time you judge a parent, stop and think. There might be more to it than "bad parenting".

Distributed by Washington Post Writers Group.

## In Co-operation with ASO

### **ASO Ottawa Presents:**

### **Finding Work for People with High Functioning Autism, Asperger's and Non-Verbal Learning Disorders**

Finding a job for someone with ASD is probably easier than finding a job for you! Discover how to find jobs for adults & youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the hidden job market. Find out how ASD can actually open employer's doors. Learn tested methods of job development and practice tricks of the trade, taught by a professional job developer who enjoys an over 92% success rate in finding work specifically for people with ASDs and related conditions.

The workshop is suitable for adolescents and adults with HFA, Asperger's and NVLD, their parents, educators, support workers and other professionals.

Presenter: **Gail Hawkins**, owner of *Mission Possible*, a job coaching firm specializing in ASDs and based in Toronto. Gail's new book *How to Find Work That Works for People with Asperger Syndrome* (published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers) can be pre-purchased for \$30 and will be available onsite for \$35. The book will help to round out the information in the workshop.

- Date: Saturday, January 29th, 2005, 2-5 PM
- Location: Macies Best Western Hotel, Ottawa Room, 1274 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, (opposite Westgate Shopping Centre, easily accessible from Hwy. 417 and public transit)
- Cost: ASO members:  
Single/Professional - \$20 Couple - \$30  
Non-members:  
Single/Professional - \$30 Couple - \$45  
Individual with ASD/NVLD: Free  
PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

To register, complete the registration form below and mail by **January 19th, 2005**. Confirmation of registration, including

directions to the workshop location, will be mailed or emailed to you. Preordered books will be available for pickup at the workshop. For more information, email Anita at [anita.acheson@hotmail.com](mailto:anita.acheson@hotmail.com) or Heather at [hfawcett@sympatico.ca](mailto:hawcett@sympatico.ca), or call Anita at 829-4723.

Finding Work for People with High Functioning Autism, Asperger's and Non-Verbal Learning Disorders

### **Registration**

Name(s):

Daytime Phone:

Address:

\_\_\_ Individual with ASD/NLD

\_\_\_ Family Member

\_\_\_ Professional

\_\_\_ ASO Member

\_\_\_ Non-member (if you are unsure of your membership status contact the provincial office at (416) 246-9592 or email: [mail@autismsociety.on.ca](mailto:mail@autismsociety.on.ca))

Registration fees (check one):

ASO Member: \_\_\_ Single \$20  
\_\_\_ Couple \$30

Non-members: \_\_\_ Single \$30  
\_\_\_ Couple \$45

Individual with ASD/NVLD  
\_\_\_ No Charge

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

How to Find Work That Works for people with AS preorder - add \$30 (includes GST)  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) Send confirmation by:

\_\_\_ mail (address above) or

\_\_\_ email (email address) \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application along with a cheque or money order for the amount owing, payable to **ASO Ottawa Chapter** to: ASO Ottawa Workshop, 18 Dayton Cres., Nepean, ON, K2H 7N9