



## NEWSLETTER

June 2007

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### Our Mission Statement

To provide services and programs to families of children diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders to develop their child's behavioural, communication, and social skills, and to advocate for their ongoing needs.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was great to see so many of you at the "Rockin for Risk", a lot of fun and another great success. Well another year has come and gone. Our Annual General Meeting on June 7th at 7:00 pm taking place at 235 Donald Street room 212 is fast approaching. We invite everyone to come on out and see what direction **YOUR** board is taking. Of course we want your vote and would love to have a few new board members join us. The wine and cheese will also be great. As the new President, within the past few months, I am working closely with the Children at Risk Board of Directors, striving to accomplish our goals in the coming years. One goal is to increase Autism awareness in our community, across the Nation and around the world. Another is to continue to have a good financial situation to continue our commitment to provide services to needing families.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, the family picnic, HOPE Volleyball and other events.

Paul Lacroix, President, Board of Directors

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHILDREN AT RISK

Thursday, June 7, 2007, 235 Donald Street, Room 212 – 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Children at Risk. This evening will also be an opportunity for all friends and families of Children at Risk to meet informally and to discuss issues around supporting children and families within the Autism Spectrum Disorders. Wine and cheese will be served!

**\*\*Special Guest Speaker\*\***

We are delighted to welcome **Nancy Haans** from Autism Ontario. Nancy started in February as the Realize Community Potential (RCP) Program Coordinator for the Ottawa English Chapter. Nancy is excited about this opportunity to educate and inform the Autism Community about the government-funded RCP Program and how it will benefit our children and their families!

**Sarah Roncarelli** from FIFTY Strategy & Creative Limited will also be attending to explain the process involved in our new logo design.

The following business will be conducted:

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report & Appointment of Auditors
4. Fundraising Report
5. Election of new Board

Standing for re-election to the Board are: Paul Lacroix, Dean Ryan, Craig Perkin, Ed Gratton, Andrea Allingham, Marlene Stepan.

GET INVOLVED - We encourage parents and friends to get more involved with the Autism Community through service on the Board of Children at Risk, Ottawa! More information/job descriptions can be obtained by calling the office at 741-8255. Nominations are to be submitted to Brenda Reisch, Charity Coordinator at 741-8255, FAX 741-5530 or [carsup@magma.ca](mailto:carsup@magma.ca)

## BEST WISHES TO ...

### Mary McDonald

Our Board of Directors for Children at Risk is saying “goodbye” to long standing member **Mary McDonald!** Mary has served over 7 years as a Board Member, in the capacity of Member at Large and recently as Secretary. Mary brought a positive, cheery attitude to our meetings and demonstrated a strong work ethic and commitment to the charity and the cause! With her son entering high school, Mary anticipates added responsibility at home, as well as in her capacity as Scout Leader for Phillip’s troop. While Mary is stepping down from the Board, she still hopes to participate in Children at Risk fundraising events and activities! Hats off to Mary for her years of dedicated service to Children at Risk and to the Autism Community!!


### Laurel Gibbons


One of our communities' most active advocates on Parliament Hill over the past few years has just had surgery for cancer and will be undergoing months of chemo. If any of you have been wondering why we have not heard much from Laurel Gibbons lately, that's why. Laurel recently wrote Brenda R: *It is unfortunate that I will be bowing out from being actively involved at this point in any lobbying/fundraising events and hope to be back at it as soon as I am fully able.* Laurel, you’re in our thoughts and prayers.

For those wishing to send best wishes she can be emailed at: [bruceandlaurel@rogers.com](mailto:bruceandlaurel@rogers.com)

**Nancy Haans**  
RCP Coordinator  
Ottawa Chapter

613.230.6305  
[nancy@autismontario.com](mailto:nancy@autismontario.com)

  
**AutismONTARIO.com**

 **REALIZE COMMUNITY  
POTENTIAL PROGRAM**


For more information on the Realize Community Potential Program check out the attached brochure.

## CHARITY COORDINATOR’S MESSAGE

Submitted by Brenda Reisch

Children at Risk is excited to unveil our NEW logo, created through FIFTY Strategy & Creative Limited ([www.fifty-sc.com](http://www.fifty-sc.com)) in conjunction with our Rogers Television Partnership. For years Children at Risk has not had a professionally-created logo. With the modern world of computers, there is an increasing demand for logos in an electronic format with a choice of file formats. This became even more apparent with our 2007 HOPE participation. FIFTY is the creative design behind all the HOPE advertising and sensitive to the needs and message that a charity must convey. We are looking forward to a visit by **Sarah Roncarelli** of FIFTY at our AGM on June 7<sup>th</sup> to explain the thought and research that went into creating a new image for Children at Risk!

I feel that the new logo is fitting with Children at Risk’s ever-changing quest to define the current needs in the Autism Community and attempt to provide services to address these needs. Working with Autism Ontario and the Realize Community Potential Program, we may be able to enhance and expand the supports offered to our families. We encourage everyone to attend the Annual General Meeting to hear more about this Program from Nancy Haans, the RCP Coordinator for the Ottawa Chapter. Hope also to see many of you at our Annual Family Picnic on June 24<sup>th</sup>!

  
**Children at Risk**  
RAINBOW PEOPLE

This rainbow is made out of two abstract people. They can be the child and a parent or another adult, showing the support that is provided to these children. The child is well surrounded, and the overall look of the logo is playful and positive. The colours are soft and create a feeling of comfort and trust.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Submitted by Brenda Reisch  
Fundraising Chairperson

### UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES SINCE MARCH /2007...

What Happened:

#### OTTAWA 67'S 50/50 TICKET SALES

Through the Kiwanis Club of Rideau and the Ottawa 67's Hockey Club, Children at Risk was again invited to participate in selling 50/50 tickets during the 6 home games in March. Many thanks to our many volunteers who gave of their time to help make this activity a success! With all your help, we raised \$2,900.67 for Children at Risk!

#### 6th ANNUAL "ROCKIN' FOR RISK" 50S/60S/70S DANCE

Saturday, April 14th was a special night for retro rock & roll and fundraising! With new "digs" at Algonquin College, "Rockin' for Risk" had its highest attended year of close to 500 patrons! We want to thank our band, Intersection, our MC Brother Bob Derro from OLDIES 1310, the Capital Chordettes quartet "Sleepless", Ottawa's Elvis Shawn Barry, our many sponsors and donors, plus the dedicated volunteers who made this special night possible! Over \$6,000 was raised to support our programs!!

#### ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 24, 2007,  
Brewer Park, 12 Noon to 3 PM



More details to follow!  
Check out flyer on Page 10.

#### 2007 HOPE VOLLEYBALL SUMMERFEST JULY 14, 2007

Our charity **MUST** confirm over 50 volunteers to receive funds from this event and we only have one more week to do this!!!! Please, pass this on to any one, check your schedules and sign up with the link below (Security, AM/PM) - to help our charity and the autism community. **Your help is urgently needed!**

[http://www.hopehelps.com/ottawa\\_vol.cfm?charcode=CaR](http://www.hopehelps.com/ottawa_vol.cfm?charcode=CaR)

## 12th ANNUAL CHILDREN AT RISK RAFFLE May-June/2007

CHILDREN AT RISK - Twelfth Annual Raffle Tickets are NOW available! After many weeks of gathering quality prizes, we can proudly offer them for sale. The prizes are fabulous! As we almost sold out last year, we have again printed 4,000 tickets this year! I hope everyone can join me in trying to make this year a sell-out!! Unsold tickets represent lost Fundraising \$'s for Children at Risk. Funds raised will support our Community-Based Special Projects. These include Sibling, Friendship and Family Support Groups, Educational Training Workshops and Information Seminars as well as updating resource materials. These valuable activities receive no government funding and are supported solely through Fundraising efforts and Donations.

Note: Tickets can only be sold to persons 18 years and older! The Raffle Ticket can be viewed at [www.childrenatrisk.ca](http://www.childrenatrisk.ca).

The Raffle will be drawn at the Ottawa Autism Community Annual Family Picnic on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Our Raffle offers:

- Tickets \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or a book of 12 for \$20!
- Prizes worth a total of \$7,475!
- 39 draws, with an average Prize Value of over \$191 (1<sup>st</sup> 5 prizes over \$300 or more value each!)
- Maximum 4,000 tickets sold - That's almost a 1 in 100 chance of winning!
- Minimum Prize Value of \$25!

*PLEASE* help us to sell out of tickets this year by taking some to sell or buy. Tickets come in books of 12. You can contact us at the office, **741-8255**, or by email, [carsup@magma.ca](mailto:carsup@magma.ca) and we can cheerfully send them out to you! We would only need for each family to sell just over a book to sell out!

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE (Cont'd)

### WHAT IS ON NOW/COMING ...

- 2007/2008 Entertainment Coupon Books ..... August
- 12th Annual Celebrity-Carved Pumpkin Contest..... October 25-27
- Fall MacMillan's Foods Campaign ..... November



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Children at Risk wants to thank all the Volunteers who recently helped to sell raffle tickets at St. Laurent Shopping Centre!

Thanks to some generous sponsors, we were able to draw 7 of the volunteers to receive a gift certificate for **Denny's, Kiddie Kobbler or Glebe Car Wash**. Each volunteer's name was entered once for every hour they manned the mall table!

Congratulations to Joan, Amanda, Mary, Rosemary, Laura, Marlene & Brenda D.!!

### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTTAWA GRANT

We recently received news that the Community Foundation of Ottawa will provide **\$9,000** in funding to finance our pending Groups for Higher-Needs ASD children. An application had been made to supplement the \$25,000 in funding we will receive from HOPE later this year to complete a budget of \$34,000 needed to address the funding of these Groups for all age ranges. Many thanks to the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Ottawa for recognizing a need in our community and directing funds to help ASD children!

#### DONOR'S CORNER

- Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre .....\$200.00
- Kiwanis Club of Rideau .....\$1,000.00
- Canada Post Ottawa-West Employees.....\$1,000.00
- IBM Employees Charitable Fund .....\$1,452.94



### BID! BID! BID!

Until Friday, June 15, 2007 for

### TORONTO SUMMER HOLIDAY PACKAGE

Looking to get out-of-town this summer?

Seen all the sights in Ottawa?

Then this Trip Package is for you!!!

- 4 Round Trip VIA Rail Canada Comfort Class tickets from Ottawa to Toronto - VALUE \$950
- One Night's Accommodation at the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto - VALUE \$199
- 2 One-Day Admission Passes for Canada's Wonderland Amusement Park - VALUE \$103
- 4 Hockey Hall of Fame Admission Passes - VALUE \$52
- 4 Play All Day Admission Passes for Ontario Place (Grounds & Unlimited Rides) - VALUE \$136
- 1 General Admission Pass to Ontario Science Centre - VALUE \$17

**TOTAL PACKAGE VALUE: \$1,457!!**

Note: All passes are individual items and can be used as such or together. Although the items vary in admission numbers, additional tickets can be purchased for most events to accommodate higher numbers of participants!

Bids can be placed by emailing [carsup@magma.ca](mailto:carsup@magma.ca) or calling 613-741-8255. Updates will be sent out.

### STARTING BID \$500

(Bids close Friday, June 15 – 5 PM)



## RIVERSIDE SOUTH COMMUNITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN AT RISK

Riverside South Community Association has invited Children At Risk to participate in their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Recycle and Donate to Charity event being held Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rideauview Community Centre in Riverside South.

Residents and anyone wishing to participate can bring along their metal recycling of soda cans, steel, brass, copper etc. to the community centre and the funds from recycling these items will be given to Children At Risk.

Children At Risk will also have a promotional display inside the Gym to increase Autism awareness and the opportunity to sell Special Projects raffle tickets.

There are a number of other Charities and organizations participating. Details on what donations they are requesting is available on the RSCA website [www.riversidesouth.org](http://www.riversidesouth.org)

This event is for the whole family and in exchange for the donations, participants are given a free BBQ lunch and drink and the children can have fun with the entertainment that is being provided. There will be a bouncy castle, a fun tunnel, Cloofie the Clown making balloon creations, a colouring centre and a craft area.

At 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. local authors and literacy specialists, Franco and Sylvia Picciano, will be reading from their series of Bella Books in the A/B room. As seen through Bella's eyes, the young reader is exposed to a unique learning perspective and experience. These true stories inspire young minds while teaching valuable skills and family values. This event would not be complete with out the star of the books herself - Bella a 3 lb long-haired miniature Chihuahua of great charm. The children will all be Paw Printed.

Everyone is invited to bring along their soda cans (with the rings removed as another charity is collecting these) join in the fun and buy raffle tickets in support of Children At Risk.

## NEW SUPPORT GROUP IN THE AREA

Supports for those in the rural west end and further west such as Arnprior, Renfrew, Galetta, Pakenham, Calebogie, Waba, White lake, etc. Those who are interested, email Jody Brenton at [doohum@yahoo.com](mailto:doohum@yahoo.com) or join our group at ASDSupportOVW We meet monthly in members' homes to discuss current events, stories or just have a laugh.

## UNITY FOR AUTISM 2007 GOLF CLASSIC IN CALEDON

September 17, 2007



We assure you that Monday, Sept. 17th will be a great day of golf, but we know it will be an unbelievable day for autism!

Children at Risk, Ottawa, is one of the 2007 Recipient Charities. Unity for Autism is to provide a grant to offer social skill training groups for severely impaired individuals with autism.

In order to fulfill all needs of 2007 Recipient Charities, we must raise \$300,000. Currently Unity for Autism is looking for Corporate Sponsors for the Golf Tournament starting at \$1,500 and up. An outline of Sponsorship Opportunities can be found on the PDF brochure under Events at [www.unityforautism.ca](http://www.unityforautism.ca)

Thank you for your wonderful intentions to support Unity for Autism. We dwell in possibilities, for in unity, there is strength!

For more information, contact:  
Kathy Deschenes, Executive Director  
Unity for Autism  
416-782-4666

## THANK YOU's ...

On March 21, Courtesy of **Feld Entertainment**, 200 parents and children attended **Disney on Ice – 100 Years of Magic** at Scotiabank Place. Here are some notes of appreciation:



*We received the tickets and went to the show. Alex enjoyed it, fun by all! Thanks, Tom*

*Just wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU for the 6 tickets you sent us for Disney on Ice. The kids had a wonderful time and will talk about it for a long time to come!!*

Thanks again! Lynne

*The show was spectacular. It was far better than I had imagined it would be. I have always been a figure skating fan, and to put figure skating to a Disney theme was almost magical. David thought I might be too old to enjoy Disney on ice, but I don't think it is possible to be too old to enjoy it. It was truly well-done and I would hope that other families had as much fun as we did. Very big thanks to Feld Entertainment for a wonderful evening out.*

Regards, Monique

*Thank you so much for the Disney On Ice tickets. Both boys were screaming and running around the house when I told them that we were going. The boys had been bugging me for weeks about the show (basically, ever since the first commercial aired), so the ticket donation was extremely meaningful to us. It would have broken my heart to have to tell them that we couldn't take them! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! The show last night was awesome and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, even grumpy old Dad!*

Patricia Flanagan

*It was an amazing show! Kadeem and I really enjoyed ourselves as you clearly observed. We are really looking forward to watching this show again!!!*

Thanks, Kwasi Appiah

*A big THANK YOU from me and the girls for the chance to see Disney on Ice. I think Ashley loved it the best and it brought back some wonderful and magical memories of when we went to Disney over 2 years ago. Last night's show brought lots of smiles, clapping and cheering going on throughout the entire time.*

Thanks again, Rebecca

*The Disney On Ice show was wonderful!!! Connor enjoyed it soooooo much and he has been talking nonstop about it. It was great to receive these tickets so that he could enjoy this show with his three siblings as well. We appreciated the donation from Feld Entertainment very much. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!*

Best regards, Kim Melville

*I wanted to say a HUGE thank you for the opportunity to experience something worry-free! My family is always hesitant to try shows like this because if it is a failure we are out the money. Since we are a single income, two children with a diagnosis family, we are leery about shows like this! As luck had it my children were fascinated and sat throughout the entire show! Their eyes were glued to the stage and participated as well! So again thanks so much for this chance to try something out!*

Jody Brenton and family

*As John was unable to go last night (he had to work a late shift), we took a friend of the girls who very tragically just lost her mother a couple of weeks ago. She had never been to see Disney on Ice and she thoroughly enjoyed the show. It put a real smile on her face. Emily and Alison enjoyed the show too, as did I. The costumes are amazing and the whole performance is so well done. Disney really knows how to entertain kids of all ages! Please extend our thanks to Feld Entertainment for the generous donation of tickets.*

Thanks, Jennifer Glasgow

*Thank you very much for the tickets. It was very well done and we really enjoyed it.*

Regards, Lisa, Glenn and Family

## THANK YOU's (Cont'd)

*Thank you so much for the complimentary tickets. The boys really enjoyed the show. Their favourites characters were Nemo and the Incredibles!*

K. James

*My girls and I really appreciate the gift of tickets to see Disney on Ice last night. The show was professional as well as enjoyable and we all had a great time!*

Sincerely, Florence Rosenthal

*Thank you so much for the tickets! The show was wonderful. My son is always afraid of new things and was very hesitant about going, however he was so thrilled with the show. There is no way we could have afforded to go -- thank you so much.*

Cindy Girard

*A million thanks for the free tickets to Disney on Ice! It was a great show and we were very fortunate to be given the tickets. Please know how much they were appreciated!*

Maureen Sioui

*My daughter Allison went even though she was 13 she really enjoyed the evening and some of her social skills we have been working on was evident. It was a great opportunity for her to be a kid and a great opportunity for us to see improvements in her skills. It was definitely a win win evening. Thank you so much for the opportunity.*

Denise, Jeff and Allison

*What a wonderful performance!! Our daughter was in awe of this spectacular event. I've not seen her captivated for 2 hours in succession before. It was amazing for our whole family to go out and have a great time. Thank you for such a great time.*

Sandra Zimmerling

*For Benjamin, it was an incredible journey. As a five year old, he just adores the show. He was laughing, smiling, clapping and signing as the show moves along. This was certainly a heavenly gift for him. Many Thanks to Feld Entertainment and Disney on Ice.*

Marc Parisien and Li Zhou

*It is our first time to see the show since we got the diagnose (Feb 2006). It means a lot to us. All of us had a wonderful time yesterday. I'd like to thank you and Feld Entertainment for all your support and help!*

*Thank you sooo much!*

Connie

*Thank you so very much for your generosity for the 4 Disney on Ice Tickets. I'm ashamed and proud all at the same time to say it was our very first family outing since our son's diagnosis. Knowing we would be among people who understood helped make it comfortable for us. The show was wonderful - my son sat in his seat or on my lap the entire time! I was so pleased and proud of him. What a wonderful opportunity. Thanks again for your generosity, it meant the world to the entire family.*

Sincerely, Jennifer DiMarco and Family

*I want to thank you so much for the tickets, you wouldn't believe the look on Logan's face for the whole show. It was amazing to see him smile and get so excited. We didn't know how it would go but it was fantastic.*

Thanks again, Marta

*A very BIG thank-you to Feld Entertainment for their generous donation of Disney on Ice tickets! My son loved it! The pace of the show was right on -- and kept his attention until the very end. He danced in the aisle and sang along with the music. He especially loved the part with The Incredibles! A big Cheer for you Brenda for giving us the opportunity to have a memorable family outing.*

Jocelyne

*Would you kindly extend three big thanks you's to Feld Entertainment on our behalf! Both of my children were enthralled with the whole performance on Wednesday, especially my son, who has a really hard time sitting through a whole production of anything ... but he did it! They were both amazed that there was a show like this that brought to life all the various characters and songs from movies they have enjoyed through the years.*

Thanks again! Lori Anne

## THANK YOU's (Cont'd)

*The show was spectacular and lots of fun. Joshua and his play date buddy greatly enjoyed it!*  
The Miedema's

*Thank you very much - the kids and I loved it!! Very much appreciate the opportunity to attend. The girls have seen almost every Disney film and would call out which movie the character was from each time they came on the ice!*  
Thanks again, Sharon



*Both my girls benefited from the generous donations recently. Stephanie thanks you for the 67's hockey tickets. What was nice was the open ticket, allowing her to pick the game that she wanted to see for the month. Ashley, who was just getting over being sick, got to see Disney On Ice, which was a nice treat, considering I told her "not this year", but Brenda pulls it off, and boom, we got tickets for opening night.*  
Merle Hagerman, and Girls

### Current Ticket Donation Requests:

Thomas & Friends Live .....	June 15 & 16
Charley Pride .....	June 17
Tim McGraw & Faith Hill .....	June 27
Dancing with Stars .....	July 10

**\*NOTE:** Children at Risk regularly requests ticket donations for entertainment events & sporting activities as a support for our Membership families. However, donations are subject to promoter's decisions and, unfortunately, we cannot guarantee receipt of tickets for all requests!

## CAMP GET FIT

This Summer - Don't Sit! - Get Fit!  
Ages: 13 and over (ASD or DD)  
Monday to Friday (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)  
8 weeks (July 9 - August 31)  
\$75 per week

Outdoors and Indoors Fun and Adapted Physical Work  
Ours With Special Needs Fitness Trainer: Marybette Riddell and guests! Request registration package at [sillouze@sympatico.ca](mailto:sillouze@sympatico.ca).

Note: Just a friendly reminder that Camp Get Fit will definitely close its registration on June 15th, 2007.

## STRONGER YOU JINZAI CAMP

The Jinzai camp is running from August 13 – 17, 2007 here at Stronger You. We will run from 9 – 4 each day. The camp will focus on social skills for the teen and preteen set and will include bully proofing and safety skills programming as well. We will visit a museum and go to the water park nearby, weather permitting! The cost is \$200 for the week and registration is limited to 12 campers.

Stronger You Martial Arts and Self Defense  
3570 Strandherd Drive  
Nepean, Ontario, K2J 5L4  
(613) 823-6697  
[www.strongeryou.com](http://www.strongeryou.com)

## Main Street Community Services ASD Camps

Main Street Community Services is a registered and incorporated non-profit agency. We are committed to the vision of empowering children, youth, individuals, families and communities to achieve whole health, social well-being and community collectiveness.

**Summer Social Skills Camp** (Moderate-High Functioning ASD children to 14 years of age) &  
**Developmental Summer Day Program** (Higher-Needs ASD children to 18 years of age)

July 3-6, August 7-10- \$355

July 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, July 30-Aug. 3, Aug. 13-17  
\$400

Space is limited, so call ASAP. Ask for Shelley-Anne Steinburg, 613-831-6606.

\*Note that the Main Street Website is under repair!



## **SOCIAL SKILL GROUP APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS**

As many of you know, one of Children at Risk's supports is our Social Skill "Friendship" Therapy Groups, designed to address the deficit of social skill development that is apparent at all levels of the spectrum (high-needs to high-functioning) for children diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders. This support has been identified as being critically important for ASD children, but not widely available through many sources of Autism services in our community.

Children at Risk offers a minimum of 3 sessions of Groups – Fall, Winter and Spring. Groups can run from 8 weeks or more, running usually once/week with each meeting 1½ to 2 hours in length. The ratio of child/adult can vary with the type of group offered. We try to offer age ranges from 4 years to preteen/early teen, as well as Moderately-Functioning to High-Functioning (Asperger Syndrome) group outlines. With this are Life-Skills focus and Outing-Based groups, as well. Groups are facilitated by experienced staff that have strong backgrounds in Autism and Behavioural Therapy.

Prior to Group Registrations, we publish the number of Groups, age range and focus for each session. However, what we can offer is limited to funds available (Groups are subsidized in direct costs 1/2 to 2/3 with fundraising and donation dollars). Also, the age range and Group focus can change with the availability of children on certain nights/days.

Unlike registering your child for a recreation program, an application for the Social Skill Groups does NOT guarantee that your child can participate. While we do our best to accommodate new Referrals, as well as having children return for Groups, the success of the Groups is based on the matching of children within each Group to ensure the Group is interactive and functional. Factors that are considered are: Age, Level of Functionality, Verbal Skills, School Grade, Personal Interests, Personality (i.e. introvert/extrovert), Behavioural Issues and more.

Walking you through the process of application for the Social Skill Groups ...

- Groups being offered are published by Children at Risk.
- Families are encouraged to contact CAR if they are interested in their child participating.
- If your child is already on file, an email or telephone call is requested.

## **SOCIAL SKILL GROUP APPLICATION & SELECTION (Cont'd)**

- If your child is new to our charity, we ask that you complete a Referral Form (parents can self-refer) – usually provided with the Group Publication and/or available on our website at [www.childrenatrisk.ca](http://www.childrenatrisk.ca).
- New Referral Forms are gathered and a day set aside for an Interview or "Meet & Greet" with our Head Facilitator – this meeting is usually about 30 minutes with parent and child. The meeting is twofold: it allows the parent/child to ask more about the groups and decide if this is the support they are seeking, plus it allows our Head Facilitator an opportunity to profile your child for group participation.
- After all the Requests and New Referrals have been established, an internal meeting takes place to decide the matching of children within each group. While we do our best to accommodate New Referrals and cannot guarantee back-to-back sessions for children, not all Requests can be filled. This service is not on an individual basis, which means that some children's needs cannot be met at that time and/or in a group setting.
- Families are contacted to offer your child a group. Due to staffing limitations, follow-up contact cannot always be made with each family. We encourage families to contact us by email or telephone on the status of their Request.
- Group costs vary with the type of Group and length of session. As a charity, we must charge a fee for Groups, but some insurance and Special Services at Home funds can be used to finance the cost.
- Once your child has been interviewed, we will keep them on file in our data base for consideration of Groups each session. However, we also encourage families to keep in touch with us to express interest. We may also request another interview if there has been a passage of time between the initial meeting and/or group participation, recognizing that our children change in their development as they grow!

I hope this helps to explain the processes that take place with the Children at Risk Social Skill Therapy Groups. The Group availability is also subject to location space and the Facilitators that are available for each session. Please keep in mind that Children at Risk does NOT receive government funding and must rely on fundraising, donations and foundation applications to finance ALL of our programs and services. This factor overall is the determining one for the amount of supports that can be offered by Children at Risk, Ottawa!

Brenda Reisch

# OTTAWA AUTISM COMMUNITY

## ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 24th, 2007

12 Noon-3 PM

Brewer Park

Brewer Park is a sprinkler water park, so bring your suits and get wet! The Annual Family Picnic is a great time to celebrate the start of summer, see old friends, meet new friends and frolic in the park. Below is a list of planned activities. Some items and activities, like the food, are at a low cost or you can bring your own picnic lunch! Hope to see you there!!

### Activities & Features

B.B.Q. HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, DRINKS, CHIPS  
COOKIE DECORATING  
FISH POND  
PARACHUTE TOSS  
WATERMELON  
BALLOONS  
BUBBLE PLAY

- 1:00 PM -12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAW
- 2:00 PM - WATER BALLOON TOSS (\*\*PRIZES\*\*)

\*\* IN ADDITION, WE WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY TUNIS SHRINE KLOWNS!



BBQ courtesy of Enbridge Gas Distribution