



NEWSLETTER

December 2007

Issue #41

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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

As in every year when the first snow falls upon Ottawa, I wonder what our special children must think. Do they really comprehend what is happening or is it just another day in their life? At these times, we as parents can only hope that great strides in research will marvelously happen. With the mystical time of Christmas quickly approaching, we can only wish that funding from some source will magically appear. With the New Year just around, we can all be optimistic that some day some real help will come.

Thanks to all of the volunteers, and our Board for the past year. Have a Merry Christmas and a great 2008.

Paul Lacroix



COME ONE, COME ALL

To the Autism Ontario – Ottawa Chapter and
Children at Risk Annual Christmas Party
Sunday, December 9, 2007
11 am (sharp) to 3 pm

Where: Pinto Valley Ranch, Fitzroy Harbour (www.pintovalley.com)

Limited transportation available:

Bus departs @ 10 am from Carlingwood Mall

Arrival at Ranch approx. 11 am

Departure approx. 3 pm

Activities: Lunch, Crafts/Games

Special Guest Appearance

Wagon Rides/Horse & Pony Rides

Petting Zoo

Price: \$20 per family or \$8 per adult, \$5 per child up to age 12

*payment upon arrival at Ranch

RSVP: by December 3, 2007

ottawa@autismontario.com or 613-230-6305

*please include # attending and if bus service needed (yes or no)



2007/2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Paul Lacroix
Vice-President:	Marlene Steppan
Secretary:	Andrea Allingham
Treasurer:	Dean Ryan
Member at Large:	Ed Gratton
Member at Large:	Amanda Telford
Member at Large:	Jason Dever
Member at Large:	Hazel Smith

INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBER – HAZEL SMITH

Hazel Smith, mother of two with a young son on the spectrum has joined the Board of Children at Risk recently. No stranger to Children at Risk's fundraising events through participation and volunteering. Hazel brings to the board experience in Event Management and a background in Marketing Communications.

CHILDREN AT RISK 2007 REPORT ON SERVICES

Social Skill Therapy (Friendship) Groups
(Based on sessions of 8-10 weeks, 1 ½ hours/wk)

Ages 4-6 years	40 children
Ages 7-9 years	22 children
Ages 9-11 years	23 children
Ages 11-13 years	12 children
Asperger "Typical Teens" (8 week session, 2 hrs/wk)	18 children
TOTAL:	103 children served

Sibling Support Groups
(3 sessions, 1 ½-2 hours/wk)

Ages 5-13	25 children served
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**GRAND TOTAL OF NUMBER OF
CHILDREN RECEIVING DIRECT SERVICES
FROM CHILDREN AT RISK: 128**

CHARITY COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Brenda Reisch

As 2007 draws to a close, Children at Risk already has one foot in 2008 – with planning for groups, events and activities well underway! It takes my breath away to reflect back on the many sponsors, and friends who supported us throughout the year with fundraising opportunities, donations, gifts of prizes, media exposure and more. Dedicated partnerships with organizations like Rogers Television Cable 22 and the Capital Chordettes tell us we are here in the community for a reason. The 2007 recipient charity grants from the HOPE Volleyball Summerfest, Unity for Autism and the Community Foundation of Ottawa will enable Children at Risk to finally offer social skill therapy supports in 2008 for higher-needs ASD children. Last (but never least!) we need to recognize the many dedicated and enthusiastic Volunteers – for without YOU, none of this would be possible!

It has also been rewarding to see more community supports for Autism – through Autism Ontario's Realize Community Potential Program, City of Ottawa Recreational Activities and even individual parents like Anita Acheson, Margo Sim, Simy Illouze and Christine Sinding working hard to 'fill those gaps' in services by identifying and organizing more opportunities. Autism is in the news, in the platforms of political candidates and more in the minds of the general public through the work of parents and community organizations having brought it to the forefront.

Where to go from here??!! Fame and flash is fleeting – what is needed is the 'slow and steady' approach to supports, getting provincial and federal government to continue and expand their commitment to supporting on-going programs for children diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families! 'One-Time' donations and programs do not fix the disability of Autism. It is a life-long diagnosis and should be supported the same. Until then, charities like Children at Risk (now entering our 29th year!) will continue to step up to the plate to provide services and family supports to improve the development and quality of life for all individuals in the Autism Community.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Submitted by Brenda Reisch, Fundraising Chairperson

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES SINCE JUNE 2007...

What Happened:

1ST ANNUAL ROGERS TV – OTTAWA 67'S BALL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



On Saturday, September 29th, **Rogers Television** and the **Ottawa 67's** held their 1st Annual Ball Hockey Tournament, with the view to eventually becoming the largest ball hockey tournament in the world! Being the first year, almost 100 teams participated, with **\$123** raised from a raffle being donated to Children at Risk. We can hardly wait until next year, for this event to be even bigger and better!!

OTTAWA FALL COLOURS MARATHON

Sunday, October 7th turned out to be the perfect day for a marathon! Sponsored by **Rogers Television** and presented by **Somersault Promotions**, this annual event featured marathon, half-marathon, 5 km, 10 km runners – as well as a 1 km Turkey Trot! Over **\$1,300** was donated to Children at Risk through **Somersault Promotions**, plus an additional **\$500** from **ZoomPhoto** – official photographer for the Marathon. Many thanks, as well, to our group of volunteers who manned a water station throughout the Marathon!

2ND ANNUAL STONEBRIDGE FALL FOLLIES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Over **\$3,600** was raised by this fun golf event, designed for brave golf fanatics (and supporters of Autism) who braved the unpredictable fall weather on Saturday, October 13th in support of Children at Risk! Many thanks to the **Monarch Corporation** and the **Stonebridge Golf & Country Club** for this heartfelt initiative to increase awareness and raise funds for Autism!!

Who looks more like Jack?



FUNDRAISING UPDATE (Cont'd)

12TH ANNUAL CELEBRITY-CARVED PUMPKIN CONTEST – OCTOBER 25-27, 2007

For 12 years now, pumpkins have been sacrificed in the name of Autism – with phenomenal funds being raised! This fun and seasonal event managed to reach over the top again this year – with over **\$8,900** being raised for Children at Risk! With 95 dedicated local media representatives, sports personalities, politicians and business carved pumpkins and donated generous prize packages for our silent auction. We also want to thank our many, many volunteers who babysat pumpkins for 3 days, as well! Congratulations to Kathy Hall who volunteered in Merivale Mall on winning the 2 Ottawa Senators Hockey tickets for our Volunteer Appreciation Draw! Special appreciation goes to our 4 Mall Pumpkin Managers – Sylvie Parisien, Bambina Lemme, Alison Armstrong and Andrea Allingham. We also want to thank our hosts (and pumpkin providers) **Merivale Mall** – as well as **Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, Carlingwood Shopping Centre** and **Place d'Orleans** for welcoming our displays! Hats off to parent and Board Member Jason Dever for launching our new Auction Site at www.childrenatrisk.ca!

From the bottom of our hearts, our sincere appreciation again for the wonderful community involvement of all our Celebrity Carvers and Volunteers who helped make our fundraising event successful! In the end, it is the children who are the true winners!!

2007 Top Lucky Thirteen Celebrities (FINAL)

- 1) The Strandz Hair Design Team (828-9215)
- 2) J.J. Clarke - CTV Television Weather
- 3) Stuntman Stu - Three Guys on the Radio, TEAM 1200
- 4) Lynn Saxberg - The Ottawa Citizen Music
- 5) Lincoln Fields & Riocan Properties
- 6) Wayne Scanlan - The Ottawa Citizen Sports
- 7) Doc & Woody - CHEZ 106.1
- 8) Catherine Lathem - CTV News
- 9) Sandra Blaikie - A-Channel News at 6
- 10) Ann Marie McQueen - The Ottawa Sun Lifestyles
- 11) Ian Mendes - Rogers Sportsnet/Molson Senators Overtime (Cable 22)
- 12) Mayor Larry O'Brien - City of Ottawa
- 13) Cub Carson - 106.9 The Bear's Breakfast

FUNDRAISING UPDATE (Cont'd)

MACMILLAN'S FROZEN FOODS FALL CAMPAIGN

Thanks and appreciation to the families who supported the MacMillan's fundraiser this Fall. It helped to raise over **\$500** for Children at Risk! Parents Roxanne Bronsard, Patricia Flanagan, Susan Holder and Linda Teed worked extra hard to make this event successful by also gathering orders from friends and co-workers. Another MacMillan's campaign will be held in the Spring 2008!

UNITY FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION DONATION



Check out the speech on page 10.

Following up Children at Risk being chosen as one of the recipient charities for the 2007 **Unity for Autism Golf Tournament** – a donation of **\$25,000** was just received! Many of you are aware that Children at Risk has been attempting to support higher needs children with Autism. Our Board of Directors has mandated that we offer Group Supports for these children but recognized that the cost of operating these groups would be much higher. Groups would need facilitators with specialized training and ratios of 1:1 for proper support. With this in mind, we have been submitting applications for support to various sources and hope to get these specialized groups running in the New Year. Children at Risk is honoured to be recognized by Unity for Autism in excellence of service and recognition of the supports we provide to ASD children and their families!

CANADA REVENUE AGENCY GOLF TOURNAMENT

For the 2nd year running, the **Technology Services Division of the CRA** has generously donated **\$2,800** for Children at Risk through its annual golf tournament. Many thanks to parent Randy Fix for raising not only awareness, but valuable funds for our charity!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE (Cont'd)

2007 HOPE VOLLEYBALL SUMMERFEST 25TH Anniversary Celebration, July 14, 2007



On November 27th, Children at Risk was invited to celebrate the success of the 2007 HOPE Volleyball Summerfest and receive a cheque for **\$25,000** to enable the funding of social skill therapy groups for higher-needs ASD children.

Seven charities received valuable funds to assist their programs. **Mayor Larry O'Brien** and **Councillor Maria McRae** also attended to congratulate HOPE and the recipient charities! Once again, I would like to take this time to thank the over 50 Volunteers who came out on July 14 to support Children at Risk and Autism – in the spirit of this outstanding event (and helping us shoot for being a recipient charity in 2013!) we hope many of you can continue to volunteer each year!

KING'S DAUGHTER'S & SONS (KDS)

Recently I was invited to speak to the **Chautauqua Circle of the King's Daughters & Sons** organization about Autism. Globally, KDS has recently embraced Autism as a cause for support. A very warm reception was extended to me on November 2nd. It was truly an enlightening and enjoyable experience to meet the dedicated members of the Chautauqua Circle and have the opportunity to speak of Children at Risk. Two individual members generously donated **\$100** each and the Chautauqua Circle pledged an additional **\$200** to support Autism through Children at Risk!

OTTAWA SENATORS FOUNDATION DONATION

On Monday, October 22, Children at Risk was invited to attend a cheque presentation ceremony by the Ottawa Senators Foundation. Myself, Board Member Jason Dever and his son Ashley stepped on up to the podium to receive **\$5,000**. These funds were raised in part through the annual Ottawa Senators Foundation Microsoft Golf Classic for Autism held in June 2007. Many thanks to **Steve and Linda Warne**, along with **Rudy Sleiman of Microsoft**, for their exhaustive efforts in raising funds for Autism programs in the Ottawa area! Refer to Page 12 in this newsletter for a related article by Donna Casey of The Ottawa Sun.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE (Cont'd)

WHAT IS ON NOW/COMING ...

OTTAWA 67'S 50/50 TICKET SALES

Once again, the Ottawa 67's Hockey Club and the Kiwanis Club of Rideau are inviting Children at Risk to raise funds through selling 50/50 tickets! We are booked for the month of March, 2008 with four home games:

Friday, March 7	7:30 PM game
Sunday, March 9	2 PM game
Friday, March 14	7:30 PM game
Saturday, March 16	2 PM game

We will need 8-10 Volunteers per game – Volunteers need to arrive 1½ hours before game time, with 3 hours of time required. Volunteers must be 19 years of age or older. Parking and a beverage will be provided for Volunteers. If you can help out, please email info@childrenatrisk.ca or call 613-741-8255 to book your games!

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING SPONSORSHIPS

Starting in our December quarterly newsletter, we are inviting local businesses to ‘advertise’ their services with us. We will be running pages at the end of our newsletter that can accommodate a business-card size ad for only \$25 per edition. We ask that you electronically supply any graphics or logos, plus text that is to be included. Ads can be ready to place or we can construct a simple ad from text supplied. We recognize that many of our families in the Autism community have retail businesses and/or home-based ventures, and this advertising would not only offer them exposure as well as an opportunity to fund some of our newsletter mailing costs! (Note: Children at Risk mails 2 editions per year in March and September, and emails 2 editions per year in June and December to over 300 families). Our newsletter is also posted for public viewing on our website at www.childrenatrisk.ca.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

- 2nd Annual “Rollin’ for Risk”
Bowl-a-thon February 3, 2008
- Ottawa 67’s 50/50 Ticket Sales March 2008
- 7th Annual “Rockin’ for Risk”
50s/60s/70s Dance April 12, 2008

FUNDRAISING UPDATE (Cont'd)



2nd Annual “ROLLIN’ FOR RISK”
Bowl-A-Thon for Autism
Walkley Bowling Lanes
Sunday, February 3, 2008

Pledge Forms available at www.childrenatrisk.ca starting on December 10, 2007. Minimum Pledges of \$100/team for entry. All pledges over \$10 will receive an income tax receipt. More news as this develops.

CURRENTLY FOR SALE AT CHILDREN AT RISK:

- 1) **Wildlife Calendar** (see page 13) for 2008. This colourful calendar is beautifully decorated with artwork by a student in the Autism Unit at OTLC. Partial proceeds will support Children at Risk. Calendars sell for \$7. If you want us to send one to you, \$10 will cover the cost of postage and the calendar.
- 2) **Kiwanis Fruits cakes.** The cakes are available in a 900 g. dark, decoratively tinned cake or a 1.25 light boxed cake. The cakes are \$13 each or 2 for \$25, supporting the Kiwanis Club of Rideau, who have been strong supporters of Children at Risk for several years.
- 3) **Entertainment Coupon Books.** At \$35 each, these make great stocking stuffers for Christmas and excellent gifts for those ‘hard to buy for’ friends.

Feel free to call 613-741-8255 or email info@childrenatrisk.ca if you would like any of these items. Cakes cannot be shipped but arrangements can be made for pick-up or drop-offs!

DONOR'S CORNER

O/A Personal Best.....	\$50
Dr. Aubrey Goldstein.....	\$100
Wilfred Wilhelm.....	\$100
Georgina & David Gray.....	\$100
Christine & John Dawson.....	\$100
Hochstadter & Company.....	\$120
Preceptor Delta Epsilon Chapter.....	\$280.24

TICKET DONATIONS SINCE SEPTEMBER

- Ottawa 67's
- IAMS SuperDogs
- Sens Army Salute Show
- Toronto Symphony Orchestra
- Ottawa Senators
- Bon Jovi
- Silhouette of the Season

LAST MINUTE DONATIONS

Past experience of last minute donations and how it is handled has taught me a few things and made me think of how we can try to make it fair, equal and efficient. Please know that I am also a parent of two special needs children and find that life and reality often get in the way of being able to participate in desired activities.

When tickets are donated – sometimes we have lead time to take names and draw, sometimes tickets are plenty so all can participate, sometimes they are last minute! Our goal is to (hopefully) spread these special donations as far wide as we can with the families so that everyone has an opportunity to receive. We are currently working on a data base that can track what members have received ticket donations, as it is far too difficult and time consuming to do this by hand. We may distribute based on this record and/or ask that members do not make requests if they recently have received a ticket donation – I know that I often hear on a radio/TV give-away reminders that if you have won (for example) in the last 30 days, you are not eligible to enter a current draw.

The other key issue is that we (one) often respond to something like the Senators draw (last minute donations) in a knee-jerk manner – say “yes” first and then work out the details. Please, it is very important that you DO NOT make a request unless you are **100% certain you can use the tickets and attend the event!** All details, like who is going, their availability, their health, babysitters, transportation must be worked out in advance of your saying ‘yes’ to being included in a draw. We have experienced members making a request without ‘lining up their ducks’ and then having to renege on the donation – which can mean issues on our behalf in trying to re-distribute the tickets and sometimes resulting in the donated tickets going un-used. Donors do not like to see empty seats when they have made the effort/cost of offering this donation.

We have to face the fact that last-minute donations will occur – often promoters hold off with shows, waiting to see if tickets sell before donating. In order to ensure you get these last-minute notices, we can offer the option of having more than one email contact point for you in our membership group list. ie. you can have both your home and work email on file with us – as long as you do not mind getting our notices in both places. We cannot operate and track more than one group email (at this time) so please do not ask to have one for draws, one for other emails.

Children at Risk makes it part of our mandate to have ticket donations as one of the many supports for our families. We recognize that even if an event might not be appropriate for the diagnosed child, it might be an opportunity for a sibling, parent or caregiver to have a ‘night off’ from Autism. We endeavor to make the distribution of these tickets as fair and equitable as possible. Please help us by observing some of this protocol when you make your requests. This way, everyone has an opportunity to share in these special moments!
Brenda



CO-FACILITATORS AT CHILDREN AT RISK

My name is **Amanda Ayotte** and I am a new co-facilitator at Children at Risk. I am currently working as an educational assistant one-on-one with a student who has been diagnosed with autism. I have been an educational assistant for 6 years now working with a variety of children on the autism spectrum among other diagnosis. I also have experience working for families providing them with respite and programming in the summer. I am currently working on my Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care with a minor in Family and Community Services. I currently have a diploma in Child and Youth Care and I am certified Bilingual in American Sign Language. I am currently co-facilitating a Friendship Skills Group and look forward to my future endeavors with Children at Risk.

My name is **Lisa Huras**. I grew up in London, Ontario. I knew from a very young age that I wanted to work with the special needs population. In the junior grades I would volunteer my recesses to work in the special education classes. After high school I immediately attended the Developmental Services Worker Program at Fanshawe College. I eventually moved to Ottawa and began working as an Educational Assistant where I was first introduced to Autism and Asperger Syndrome. The summer of 2006, I worked for Autism Ottawa at Camp Leo. My journey through the world of Autism Spectrum Disorders has been a spectacular one. I have met the most incredible individuals on the spectrum and each has taught me more about myself and the world around me than any class could ever do. The last month I had the privilege to work with 3 very talented facilitators. I thank each of them for their expertise and kindness. I have especially enjoyed my time with each one of the children. I am absolutely thrilled about becoming a facilitator at Children at Risk. Truly an amazing organization and it is an honor to be part of their team.

THANK YOU'S ...

DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT TRIP

Submitted by Jack and Sarah MacDougall (mom)
Thank you for the trip to Disney World. It was my first plane ride. My favourite ride was Space Mountain! I also liked Splash Mountain! It was also fun to hang out with other children. I was on T.V! It was a blast! Thanks again.

DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT TRIP (Cont'd)

I wanted to thank you for going out of your way to contact the Dreams Take Flight people to have Children at Risk be one of the charities included in this year's trip. Jack had a fantastic time! When we picked Jack up last night, he was very calm, relaxed and smiling, actually, he was beaming! I don't think I have ever seen him so happy. On the car ride home he told us all about his day (this is very hard for him to do - we couldn't ask him any questions though, or he would lose his train of thought and stop talking). What was great about the trip was that Jack was with other children and he felt like part of a group, something he rarely experiences. So thanks Brenda, this would not have been possible without all your efforts!

TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Submitted by Diana and Michael Gibbons
Thanks very much for your efforts, they are always appreciated. Michael and I took 2 tickets for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. My daughter Sarah, 20 and her boyfriend Matthew attended. He is a musician and adores the symphonies. They had an absolutely fabulous time. Sarah has her hands full as all siblings with special needs siblings do, so when something like this comes along, it warms my heart immensely :).

OTTAWA SENATORS TICKETS

Submitted from Brenda MacMillan
Well, Adam had a blast at the game last night. He wore his Heatley shirt, Sens Jersey and brought his Sens flag to help cheer them on. He cheered for Alphonse on his 800th game and two goals and was really happy they won. Adam came home with his face painted and a huge Sens flag which he took to school today to show his friends and teacher. It was a very late night but both Adam and his dad (Don) enjoyed themselves very much. Thank you again and thanks to The Senators Foundation for their generous gift.

SUPER DOGS

Submitted by Lori Anne
Would you kindly send our (Jenny, Alex & me) thanks to whoever donated the tickets to see the Super Dogs Both children were soooo excited and amazed by the whole show & being able to walk down onto the floor & pet the dogs & ask questions. It was an experience they are still talking about! Thank you.

SNAP PROGRAM (WEST END)

Special Needs Autism Program

This is a Therapeutic Recreation program for children with Autism ages 5 to 12 years. Participants must be able to work in a 1:5 staff to client ratio. The program involves a swim component, snack time and specifically chosen recreation activities to build on communication, socialization and gross motor skills.

Date: Saturdays, January 12 to March 29, 2008

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Walter Baker Sports Complex

Cost: \$189.00 for 12 weeks

Contact: Jodie Gilvear, Portfolio Coordinator, Special Needs at 580-2424 ext. 41226

TEEN SNAP PROGRAM (WEST END)

Special Needs Autism Program

A therapeutic recreation program for teen's who have a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum. Participants must be able to function within a staff to participant ratio of 1:5. The program is designed to help participants improve social, communication and recreation skills along with physical fitness, healthy living and self-confidence.

Date: Fridays, January 11 to March 28, 2008

Time: 6-8 pm

Location: Walter Baker Sports Complex

Cost: \$172.75 for 12 weeks

Contact: Jodie Gilvear, Portfolio Coordinator, Special Needs at 580-2424 ext. 41226

TEEN SNAP PROGRAM (EAST END)

Special Needs Autism Program

A therapeutic recreation program for teen's aged 12 to 16 who have a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum. Participants must be able to function within a staff to participant ratio of 1:5. The program is designed to help participants improve social, communication and recreation skills along with physical fitness, healthy living and self-confidence.

Date: Sundays, January 06 to March 30, 2008

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: St. Laurent Complex – Courtyard Room

Cost: \$172.75 for 12 weeks

Contact: Diane Cyr, Portfolio Coordinator, Special Needs at 580-2424 ext. 29300

SOUTH NEPEAN AUTISM CENTRE

Are you a parent of a child who has been diagnosed under the Autism spectrum? Is your child between the age of 0-6 years old? Would you like to meet other parents waiting for services? Then we, at SNAC would like to meet you.

The goal of the South Nepean Autism Centre is to support families and provide networking for them with other families in the South Nepean area, while providing a safe and appropriate environment for their children's needs.

A Behavior Consultant will be available on site to provide parents with information on general behavior management strategies for their child to implement in their home. Specialists will be invited monthly to provide more in-depth information on language/communication, fine/gross motor needs, self help and play skills strategies.

This program provides two-hour sessions twice a week every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 1-3 p.m.

Session 1: October 1 - December 13

Session 2: January 8 - February 28

Session 3: March 4 – May 15

To register or for further information contact Dale O'Reilly Manager of SNAC at 613-825-9385 Ext.14.

Nancy Haans
RCP Coordinator
Ottawa Chapter

613.230.6305
nancy@autismontario.com

**Autism**ONTARIO.com

 **REALIZE COMMUNITY
POTENTIAL PROGRAM**

For information on upcoming events check out
www.AutismOntario.com.

**AUTISM AWARENESS CENTRE
CONFERENCE** April 3 - 4, 2008, Ottawa

Learn practical skills that can be immediately implemented into existing curriculum and training programs, at home or in school!

Speaker: Michelle Garcia Winner
Author of Think Social! A Social Thinking Curriculum for School-Age Students (2005), Worksheets! for Teaching Social Thinking and Related Skills (2005), Thinking About You Thinking About Me, 2nd Edition (2007) and Inside Out: What Makes the Person with Social Cognitive Deficits Tick (2000).

Thursday, April 3
Thinking About YOU Thinking About ME

Friday, April 4
Implementing Social Thinking Concepts and Vocabulary into our School and Home Day: A Day to Develop Team Creativity

Location:
Travelodge Hotel & Convention Centre
1376 Carling Avenue, Ottawa

For more info check:
Web: www.autismawarenesscentre.org
Phone: 780-474-8355
Toll Free: 1-866-724-2224
Email: vharris@shaw.ca

THE AUTISM PERSPECTIVE

TAP Magazine is going green. The TAP staff would like to thank each and every one of you for your support of the Autism Perspective Magazine for the past three years.

We will no longer be charging a subscription fee for TAP. The online version of the magazine can now be accessed from any computer, anywhere. All you need to do is register with your email address and create a password for the home page link on the TAP website at <http://www.theautismperspective.org>.

BARRHAVEN SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Submitted by Judith Starkey, Chapter Secretary
Autism Ontario - Ottawa Chapter



Ho, ho, ho ...

First I would like to thank:

- the Kooimans for being so gracious for lending out their home for this event.
- Nancy Haans, RCP for her support, she is a welcome member of our community and does an amazing job.
- Happy Trails Riding Stables for providing their truck and wagon and being so accommodating.
- Autism Ontario - Ottawa Chapter for providing the funds for the generator and
- Last but certainly not least, the families who came out to decorate the float and participate in the parade. You all deserve a pat on the back for your enthusiasm and hard work.

It was a successful event and it was nice to see what our community can accomplish with team work. It was great to see all the children having so much fun and giving them a unique opportunity to participate in a Santa Claus Parade. A big thanks goes out to all of you for helping to make this such a successful event.

The following is the speech given by Kathy Deschenes, Executive Director of the Unity for Autism Foundation at the 2007 Unity for Autism Golf Classic, held on September 17th. With Children at Risk being chosen as one of the recipient charities this year, I volunteered at the Tournament. It was inspiring to see such an event – the passion and dedication of the volunteers and organizers, along with the terrific support of this fundraiser that extends financial grants to organizations supporting Autism nation wide! I wanted to share the inspiration of the Unity for Autism’s founder and driving force with you!! Brenda

“Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank-you again for uniting here today for autism. My name is Kathy Deschenes, Executive Director of the Unity for Autism Foundation. Four years ago, I created this foundation as a result of my passion to make a difference for the compelling cause of autism. I have two beautiful sons here tonight, one of them most of you have had the opportunity to meet at one point or another, and one that you do not hear much about – yet someone who has supported autism all of his life. Stephane, please stand up to identify yourself. Stephane deserves a very special acknowledgement. You cannot imagine how challenging it is living with a sibling with autism. Stephane had to grow up very quickly at an early age, witnessing horrific situations as we tried to manage his brother’s behaviour. Many of these situations happened in public, some in front of his friends, most of them in the privacy of our own home – trapped inside because of the hardships of managing his brother’s behaviour outside in our community and the public’s reaction to the behaviours. Stephane witnessed his parents wage a war against a disability that took the breath out of every move we made. Yet Stephane never wavered in his love for Lee. We took Lee to every possible therapist, tried every type of intervention, but honestly Ladies and Gentlemen, the most effective and supportive therapist in Lee’s life was his brother Stephane treating him as if the autism never existed. He is now one of the main reason’s Lee has made so much progress in his development and we cannot thank him enough!

Now there’s Lee. Let me ask Lee in front of all of you how he thought the day today went. Lee, what did you think of today? Ladies and Gentlemen, what you are witnessing is nothing short of a miracle. For Lee to articulate his responses naturally is a miracle. For Lee to get up and interview Wendel Clark and Dale Hawerchuk is a miracle. For Lee to stand up on the pitcher’s mound in front of 40,000 fans at Rogers Centre, throw out the first pitch and wave like the Queen is a miracle. You see, Lee was born with severe autism, non-verbal until he was eight years old and behaviours so challenging that at one point I called 911 and asked then to take him from me. Now look at him today. He is a gentle soul – angelic, charismatic, funny, articulate.....it is because of Unity that he can participate. It is because of your support, the support of wonderful professionals, the support of family and friends, that his is who he is today. Unity. He has fuelled my passion, as all of you have. My passion is to raise \$1 million this year alone so that other families can tap into their child’s potential. Every individual has potential, regardless of the disability and the functioning level of the individual. Every person can improve their well-being. We can do it together. Unity.

If there is someone who would be interested in joining our Board of Directors, please let us know. We are looking for individuals who will assist us to reach our goals of enhancing awareness of Unity and the wonderful work we do to provide the much needed funds for these excellent service providers struggling to keep up the demand to serve the families. Where there is unity, there is always victory!

At this time, I wish to pay tribute to Audi Canada. We are extremely grateful for their support. Their major contribution not only set us apart from most other tournaments, but more importantly, their generosity will make a profound impact on hundreds of families affected by autism trying to access support for their child. Thank-you Doug Clark and Dave Carey for making my dream a reality. What I dream can happen! I would also like to thank Gord Stellick for being outstanding – Dale and Wendel for their unity, for autism.

United, we are all on a road to a better future. Thank-you.”

This is from the UK but open to those in Canada that would like to take advantage of it. May be especially useful for families with a recent diagnosis.

Hope all is well with you and your family. I'm writing to you today with some really exciting news that I know will have a positive impact on your life ... The new Autism Tree Membership Site is now open, and is already receiving great feedback! But what's Autism Tree Membership all about?

Well, ever since writing my best selling ebook "The Essential Guide to Autism" and following it last year with "The Essential Guide To Asperger's Syndrome" I have received many requests ... Parents looking for practical day-to-day steps they can take to maximize the potential of their child. And the recent survey I carried out in July, surveying 11,778 people, whose lives have been touched by autism confirmed that many parents are looking for:

- Practical day-to-day help and advice.
- A summary of the latest research on autism in plain English - so you can understand the latest autism research and how it affects you and your family.
- Impartial reviews of autism therapies - so you can make informed choices.
- Case studies and personal stories from people who've been through the challenges you are facing.

So, I started to think about how I could help answer these questions and concerns ... As you already know information about autism changes rapidly, and it's vital that parents and caregivers stay up-to-date ... You are your child's greatest advocate.

Books on autism can never offer you the up-to-date information that you need to stay fully informed ... After all, as soon as they are published they are out-of-date. So, this is why I and Richard Daniels (my long term Technical Partner) created Autism Tree for you. Richard normally works behind the scenes dealing with all the technical aspects of my sites. However, with Autism Tree, Richard will be playing a more visible role and will answer any 'technical' support questions you have.

Anyway - Introductions over .. Let's get back to what Autism Tree is all about. Autism Tree is a unique membership site designed to give you all the strategies and information you need to maximize the potential of your child. It brings together the best current autism information and resources into one easy to navigate site, saving you valuable time and energy. Each month I will be adding comprehensive, and easy to follow tips, tactics and strategies that can really make a difference for you and your family.

By joining Autism Tree you will have access to a continually updated and growing site with all the latest autism information and resources. Autism Tree has been designed as a 'one stop' site so you no longer have to spend time searching through many different sources to gather information ... And as parent's requirements change, so Autism Tree allows YOU to dictate the direction the membership goes.

A simple polling system is available for you to choose the topics and areas of interest you would like researched for the following month... Meaning you ALWAYS get the latest information you need. Essentially, I want you to see Autism Tree as your own personal autism research, reference and resource site, giving you ALL the strategies and information you need to maximize the potential of a loved one with autism.

Follow the link below to find out how you become a member of Autism Tree.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/z/ct/?KGKKhM099Zco6PD8MJInwDQ>

Amid a parade of feel-good cheque presentations, it was a spontaneous moment where a boy grabbed the limelight.

Gripping a giant cheque alongside a half-dozen grownups at Scotiabank Place yesterday, a giddy Ashley Devers paused amid the camera flashes and threw the script out the window.

"How can a little kid be up here? All right!" yelled the eight-year-old to the crowd assembled to watch the Sens Foundation dole out more than \$840,000 in donations to 32 community organizations.

The youngster, who lives with autism, was one of the dozens who gamely grinned for cameras yesterday as the Ottawa Senators' charity handed out a cheque to Children at Risk and dozens of other local charities.

Come on down.

Sens Foundation president Dave Ready did his best Bob Barker impression, inviting elated charity officials to come on down and smile with their share of the Sens Foundation windfall.

Sam Graham shifted nervously in his wheelchair as a phalanx of cameras swarmed him when he offered a few words of thanks for a \$5,000 donation to the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre.

"It's going to do a lot for families all over. I think thanks is pretty well the short answer to this all," said the 13-year-old Beachburg boy who plays wheelchair basketball and attends summer camps hosted by the OCTC.

Brooklyn Coutts' pale blue eyes took in the chaotic scene of the news conference, including an up-close encounter with Spartacat.

The four-year-old girl, who has cerebral palsy, extended a cautious hand to touch the mascot's paw, with her dad Michael looking on.

Brooklyn helped accept a cheque for the Easter Seals Ontario, which helps families buy medical equipment and aids for disabled children.

"This opens a lot more doors to get a lot more equipment for families who need these things," said Michael.

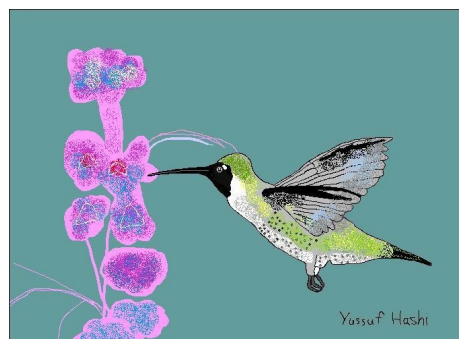
Launched in 1998, the Sens Foundation has helped raise almost \$50 million. Yesterday's top recipients were Roger's House, the pediatric and palliative care facility named after beloved Sens assistant coach Roger Neilson, and the CHEO Foundation, with \$250,000 and \$175,000 respectively.

"It's a special day when you can give it back," said Sens president and CEO Roy Mlakar, adding it's rewarding to watch other NHL teams copy the charity model that Ottawa has created.

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Canadian Wildlife Calendar 2008

Artwork by Yussuf Hashi of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board,
Ottawa Technical Learning Centre Autism Program
A different Canadian animal for each month



Calendar price: \$7.00 each

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