

Newsletter

FALL 2007

Simcoe County Association for the Physically Disabled; 1102 - 44 Cedar Pointe Drive, Barrie, Ontario
Web Site: www.scapd.on.ca Email: scapd@scapd.on.ca P-705-737-3263 F-705-737-1874

Sponsors



FOUNDATION

ORTHOTICS
SPECIALTIES INC.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Association News
- Meeting the Board
- "A high-profile advocate for accessibility"
- Active Living, Upcoming Events
- On-line Access Guide
- Did You Know...?

INSERT:

- AGM



National Access Awareness Week

(May 27th – June 3rd, 2007) was recognized by S.C.A.P.D. once again in 2007 with a number of special events:

Day at Wye Marsh – Folks from Orillia and North Simcoe gathered at the wonderfully accessible Wye Marsh in Midland for a day of activities, fun, and exploration on May 28th.

Collingwood Picnic – Clients, staff and volunteers enjoyed an afternoon of music, food and fun at the accessible Light House Point Park in Collingwood on June 3rd, 2007.

Annual S.C.A.P.D. Bowl a Thon - approximately 120 bowlers and volunteers gathered at Bayfield Bowl on Sunday May 27th for an afternoon of fun and fundraising.



" United Way Member Agency "



Association News

*Executive Director, Dan McGale
July 2007*

The Association's web page, www.scapd.on.ca, will be undergoing a face lift in the near future. The Access Guide is being updated with new assessment information, and we are joining forces with both Breaking Down Barriers, the Independent Living Resource Centre in Collingwood, and the Town of Gravenhurst to expand the entries and catchments area of this access guide. We are also completing plans with Breaking Down Barriers to expand the use of their Thumbs Up program to recognize businesses throughout Simcoe County that have incorporated accessibility features to make their premises inclusive of all citizens.

Other new features to the web page will be the recognition of corporate sponsors who have partnered with S.C.A.P.D. to support accessibility improvements in Simcoe County. Sponsorship opportunities are a new development for the Association and will assist us in further expanding our efforts in this area. We are also including a Frequently Asked Questions section to the web page, which we hope will assist individuals and family members who are seeking information and resources to assist with their adjustment to life with a disability.

The plans for this year's Annual General Meeting and Conference are being finalized now. It will be held in Orillia this year, and we will be marking the 30th anniversary of the Association's creation. We plan to have several workshops in the afternoon, including a meeting of the Simcoe County Accessibility Network, and are planning some early evening entertainment. Please plan to join us for this educational and social event.

The implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act in Ontario is moving forward. With the recess of provincial parliament,

leading up to the October provincial election, the implementation of some of these initiatives will be delayed.

We look forward to the accessibility improvements that will unfold in our communities, based on the requirements of this new legislation.

The organization and funding of local health services is being delegated to the newly formed Local Health Integration Networks. There are significant plans being created to make our health care system more user-friendly, and responsive to the needs of citizens in North Simcoe and Muskoka. The senior staff and Board members of S.C.A.P.D. have been active participants in these planning groups, and have volunteered to be involved in moving these plans forward.

One of the activities that the Association participated in during National Access Awareness Week this year involved the staff, volunteers, and clients in our programs in Midland and Orillia. They planned a social get-together at the Wye Marsh. Everyone had a great time, and people were amazed at how accessible the facilities at Wye Marsh are. There were no barriers to participating in many of the activities, from canoe rides to participation in wildlife demonstrations, whether you use a wheelchair, walker, or other mobility device. A great time was had by all.

If you are looking for a novel experience this summer, try out the activities at Wye Marsh, and show your appreciation of their efforts to establish a truly inclusive recreational center.

Dan McGale

Meeting Our Board



Mark Alexander

Mark joined the Association's Board of Directors in 2005. Mark has worked for a number of years with a large natural resources company, and continued

his education at the same time. He offers an interesting business perspective to the operations of the Association.

Mark graduated with a degree in Sociology and Psychology, and has just completed his teaching certification. He has always had an interest in helping people, volunteering with Big Brothers, the Junior Achievement Program and with several sport groups prior to joining S.C.A.P.D. Mark will be taking on the role of Chair of the Board in September, following the Annual General Meeting.



Debbie Brown

Debbie joined the Board of Directors in 2006, having been aware of S.C.A.P.D. through her involvement with the M.S. Society, and as a member of a

municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee in Simcoe County. Debbie brings both her personal, and a variety of professional experiences to the board table. Debbie's employment background includes being a medical secretary, and involvement in sales and customer service. She is interested in the work of increasing accessibility in our communities, to make all citizens feel welcome.

Our Access Guide continues to grow!

Through a partnership with HRSDC, we have hired a student Accessibility Assessor for an 8 week period this summer. In addition, the Huronia Community Foundation of North Simcoe has supported our efforts to identify the accessibility levels within Midland and Penetanguishene with a grant for this project. We plan to also include Bradford, some additional area in Barrie, as well as some updating. A student, working within Breaking Down Barriers in Collingwood, is conducting accessibility assessments within the Georgian Triangle and a volunteer team working under the direction of both the Town of Gravenhurst and it's very active Accessibility Advisory Committee will be assessing accessibility levels with the Town of Gravenhurst– **all** of which will be entered into our Access Guide as they are completed.

Watch the guide grow (at www.scapd.on.ca) and use it when planning an event or an outing.

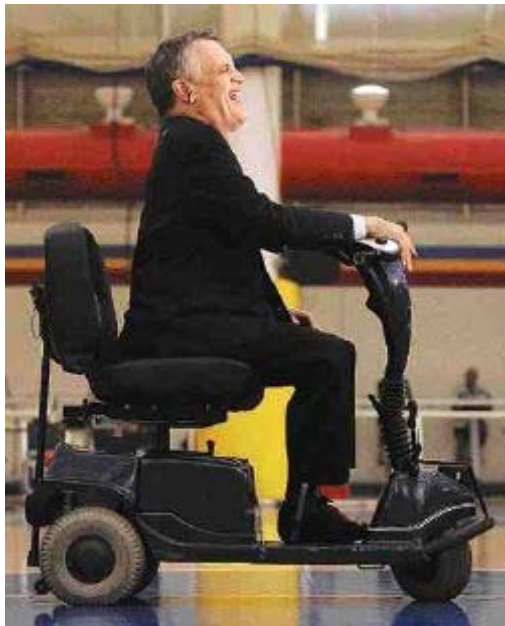
Sponsorship and Advertising through S.C.A.P.D.

Over the past year, our Association has developed opportunities for businesses and individuals to partner with S.C.A.P.D. to support our mission, while giving them the opportunity to make our membership aware of their goods and services that can assist individuals with physical disabilities.

You will notice that we have some new sponsors listed now on our web page and in the newsletter, and one advertisement in this newsletter.

If you would like to know more about this new opportunity for your business, or a business you are aware of, please check out our sponsorship and advertising guidelines on our web page. The revenue raised through this advertising is used to support the non-government funded work of our Association.

A high-profile advocate for accessibility



David Onley named lieutenant-governor

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was pleased to announce on July 10 the appointment of David C. Onley as Ontario's newest Lieutenant-Governor.

As a familiar face on City TV where he worked since 1984, Onley never tried to hide his disability on-air. Viewers first saw his leg braces and crutches, and in recent years, he read the news and conducted interviews from a motorized scooter. The TV personality was stricken with polio at the age of three and was paralyzed from the neck down. Although he regained the use of most of his muscles, he was forced to walk with leg braces and a cane. Mr. Onley was one of the first on-air personalities with a physical disability in Canada.

"Most Ontarians already understand the importance of improved accessibility, but they're looking for both direction and encouragement -- well, here it comes," Onley told a news conference, where he stood up from his motorized scooter to deliver his remarks.

In his role as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Mr. Onley will be hosting a large number of social events and ceremonies across the province. Only facilities that are accessible will be used for these events, so interest in improving accessibility will be greatly increased.

At SCAPD, Dan McGale, Executive Director, sees Mr. Onley as the latest example of very competent individuals with disabilities assuming very public roles in Canada. The Mayor of the City of Vancouver, and the M.P. from Winnipeg, were earlier examples of this trend. This development assists everyone to see individuals with disabilities as important participants in our community, and encourages all citizens with disabilities to "step up to the plate and be counted". Now that Mr. Onley has assisted in opening doors and minds in the community,

"How are you getting involved in your community?"

ACTIVE LIVING Don't Just Think About It... Do It

Wye Marsh Promotes Outdoor Accessibility – Year Round

The Wye Marsh offers the opportunity to see and experience the great outdoors. Not only are their trails and boardwalks wheelchair accessible, they have specialized equipment on-site for year-round enjoyment, including all-terrain wheelchairs, bubble wheel wheelchairs, a "trail rider", 6-person gold cart, kick-sleds, sit-snowboards and sit-skis! Website http://www.wyemarsh.com/about_access.html will show you all the accessible equipment that is available. **Get active - get outside - check out their exciting Fall/Winter program.**

Ontario's WINTER PARALYMPICS 2008

will be happening in Simcoe County. In February of next year, Collingwood will host the games – there are 8 sports to get involved in this year. Even if you don't play, plan to cheer on your favourite region, or favourite sport. Join the fun, get involved. Take in the games! For more details as they are finalized, visit <http://www.paralympicsontario.ca>

Try Skiing

Canadian Association for Disabled Skiers – Ontario division is setting up its Winter 2007-08 program now – watch their website at <http://disabledskiingontario.com> for details of programs for our region.

Wheelchair Curling

The newly renovated and accessible **Collingwood Curling Club** will be the venue for wheelchair curling this coming November. It's not too early to consider trying this amazing sport – sessions will be held on Sunday afternoons starting in November. Kathy Bloomfield at Breaking Down Barriers – will have all the details, call 445-1543 x 226.

There is Still Time To Experience Gliding at Freedoms Wings

Freedom Wings provides FREE gliding in Canada's first accessible glider. Their goal is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities through the purest form of flight while making it both physically and financially accessible.

A glider program is operating at York Soaring near Arthur, ON and they'd love to have people with physical disabilities join them for an inspirational flight at no cost. (They also do flight training and subsidize the program for people who would like to continue in the sport.) If you are interested, contact Peter Musters, Executive Director Freedoms Wings Canada via email at info@freedomswings.ca.

If you know of any physically activities – please share the information with others – call Marion at 737-3263 x 226. "

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop" Confucius -"

Join Us! August 11, 2007 Sun City Swim

A Wave of Nostalgia
Join Us for the
80th year
Of swims across the lake!

Saturday, August 11, 2007
Starting at Fern Resort swim across to
Lake Couchiching Park

7 a.m. Registration, 8 a.m. Swim
(along with personal manned boat)

2007 Sun City Swim Information &
registration details please visit
our web site or contact
the main office of
the Simcoe County Association
for the Physically Disabled.

T-Shirts, &
Refreshments for
all registered participants
Prizes to be awarded

Children's Treatment Network

For the families of children and teens with disabilities, there is a new organization ready to help you navigate the system to find the best resources for your needs. It links over 30 healthcares; education, recreation, social and community service organizations, so that they can take a team approach to each child's care.

Children's Treatment Network off Simcoe York can be reached at 1-866- 377-0286 or via the internet at www.ctn.simcoeyork.ca

Access Matters

Our Association has developed a partnership with Breaking Down Barriers to offer accessibility consulting. Together we have established a three level accessibility assessment program to serve the County and surrounding areas. The three levels consist of:

- Assessment
- Thumbs Up Consultation
- Accessibility Audit

Assessment – involves an anonymous walk- by, or brief review, of a business premise to determine the level of basic accessibility in six areas. The business is informed of the assessment, and the business's accessibility characteristics are listed on our website in Access SC Guide.

Thumbs up – involves an evaluation of a business premise at the request of the business owner. This consultation identifies the current accessibility levels of the business, listing the strengths and weaknesses in a brief report, outlining any areas requiring attention in order to merit the Thumbs up designation. Once this level of accessibility has been achieved, a formal presentation is arranged including media/PSA releases, and the business receives a Thumbs Up sticker for their entrance.

Accessibility Audit – a comprehensive audit completed within the Ontario Building Code guidelines, and other standards established, to ensure that the premise exceeds the minimum requirements for accessibility. Recommendations for possible improvements are forwarded as part of the report.

We are pleased to be
working with
Breaking Down Barriers
to offer a consistent,
high quality accessibility
consulting to Simcoe County
and surrounding businesses.



Hurrah for OUR Volunteers!

On June 6th, 2007, S.C.A.P.D. was pleased to honour two long term volunteers at The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony held here in Barrie.

Albert Stein and Candice Goodyer

Both Albert and Candice have demonstrated loyalty & commitment to our organization by being active and by contributing many invaluable volunteer hours over the past 5 years. Albert's Board involvement and accessibility expertise and Candice's faithful friendly visiting to Elaine House have added much value to our organization.

Retail & Business
Friends of
S.C.A.P.D.

Consider selling
Raffle tickets at your
location.
Contact Us!

Fabulous Prizes

TICKETS ON SALE

4th Annual Raffle

**Tickets are available for our Grand Prizes,
Draw on September 13, 2007**

1st Prize

Laptop Computer Package

2nd Prize

Las Vegas Trip

3rd Prize

Great Wolf Lodge

4th Prize

Home Depot Gift Certificate

5th Prize

Quilt

6th Prize

Red Maple Tree

For more information, please contact
the central office 737-3263
Jaime @ Ext 225 or Laurie @Ext 230

**We also need volunteers to sell tickets at a variety
of locations across Simcoe County.**

Early Bird Prizes were drawn on June 25, 2007 at our
Central Office. The winners are posted on our web site –
www.scapd.on.ca

Put Some Humour into your Life

SCAPD hosted Imagiscape Theatre at our 2007 AGM

Imagiscape Theatre consists of actors who are caretakers of family members with disabilities. Using their own life experiences, their plays focus on the belief that humour and imagination can liberate, and all families can find ways to enjoy life.

The actors involved in the production "Heal Thyself" show us how to make the most of the cards that life has dealt us. Please join us to share a laugh, and look at life from a different perspective. The performance starts at 7 p.m. *(See AGM insert for more information)*

Mission Statement

"The Association exists to provide support and services to people with physical disabilities in Simcoe County, to assist them to lead dignified, productive, and independent lives.

Beyond offering a variety of personal support services, our focus is to "Open Doors & Minds" within the community to increase opportunities for participation, making Simcoe county a welcoming place for all citizens."

6th Bowl-a-thon

The 6th Annual Bowl-a-thon was held on May 27, 2007 at the Bayfield Bowl in Barrie.

Everyone had a great time and the event raised \$6,750.00 to support the Association programs and services.

The individuals raising the most pledges were:
1st – Jerry McDermid
2nd – Rebecca Bogdanow
3rd – Dalton Carew

CORPORATE SPONSORS

**BDO Dunwoody
Ferguson Barristers
Orthotic Specialties**

LANE SPONSORS

Weed Man

Morris Construction

Piper Barber Insurance Agency

A. J. Lippert Property Management

Bay City Sanitation & Maintenance Supply

Shopper Home Health Care

Northern Ontario Welding School

CompuSolve Technologies Inc.

Anderson Chiropractic Group

Norspect

Office Imaging

Sarjeant Insurance

Basics Office Products

Bell Mobility

Telizon Inc.

LaFarge Construction & Ready Mix

Parval Ltd.