



Newsletter

Spring 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



"United Way Member Agency"



"No one can evaluate accessibility better than a person with a disability."

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INSERT:

- 2007-2008 S.C.A.P.D. Membership Renewal
- Understanding Pandemic Influenza

As part of our co-op placement, student volunteer, Christopher Comeau-D'Orsay and his assistant, Nancy, have re-evaluated two shopping areas in Barrie. These locations were initially done in the summer of 2005, but many changes in businesses and some accessibility upgrades have occurred since then and the detail in our Access SC Guide needed serious updating.

Christopher, a student at St. Joan of Arc High School in Barrie, has many challenges with his disability – vision impairment, mobility/agility and cognitive issues - yet he was able to understand that doing this work was benefiting many others and gave him something worthwhile and interesting to do.

They tackled the project enthusiastically!

"It was great to work with this team – and to watch Christopher work towards understanding the task – he's an awesome guy! The support and encouragement provided by his parents clearly made the project a success." says Marion Tizzard.

Association News

Executive Director, Dan McGale

Our Association is just completing the reporting requirements of the three year grant received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The focus of the grant was to increase the expertise within our Association to assist Simcoe County to become a welcoming place for all citizens. As we look back at what has been accomplished through this grant, we note that both our ability to offer public education services on a variety of topics about disabilities, and our ability to perform a variety of levels of accessibility inspections on businesses has increased significantly. Demand for these services however remains very low. Many people still comment that they do not know about the Simcoe County Association for the Physically Disabled.

We are currently examining the missing components for the Association to develop a Public Relations strategy. A consultant through the United Way of Greater Simcoe County has assisted us in outlining a plan. Now, several interested community members have volunteered to assist us with this project, and we plan to implement a strategy to inform the public of these available services beginning this summer. We hope that this awareness will also stimulate interest in discovering ways to make businesses more accessible throughout the County.

Our Accessibility Guide continues to grow in the number of entries and interest from other groups and communities to incorporate a similar resource. With this interest, we have finalized a plan with Breaking Down Barriers, an Independent Living Centre located in Collingwood, to coordinate our efforts in assessing, and acknowledging businesses that have met an acceptable standard for accessibility. We hope that this joint approach will also assist in stimulating interest in the business community regarding accessibility.

The Ministry of Health & Long Term Care continues with its plans to delegate responsibility for planning and allocating resources for healthcare services within defined areas across the province. The Local Health Integration Network that will play this role locally is called the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN. In preparation for this change, the community support agencies have been meeting as a group and

exploring opportunities to better coordinate their efforts in an effort to maximize the use of resources to adults with ongoing support needs who are living in the community. The LHIN formally takes on this new role on April 1, 2007. With all this activity, there is both fear and excitement regarding our ability to develop a healthcare system that is responsive to the needs of residents in Simcoe County.

Please accept any opportunities to participate in these planning and evaluation exercises, and let your voice be heard regarding the important components of the healthcare system that supports your healthy functioning in the community.

Meeting Our Board



Kim Urbanski

Kim is one of our new Board members, joining the Board in 2006. Kim is an Occupational Therapist by profession, and was aware of the services offered by our Association through her work. Kim's background includes a variety of experience working in discharge planning from hospitals for adults moving back into the community. She has worked in the areas of physical disabilities, mental health and developmental disabilities, and is well aware of the need for community supports for adults with ongoing health needs.



Steve Fagents

Steve is a financial advisor by profession, and has been an active volunteer with the United Way for several years.

He joined the S.C.A.P.D. Board in September 2006, and quickly became an active member of our Finance Committee. Steve is a strong advocate for ensuring that the Association continues to maintain effective accounting and risk management strategies to ensure its long term survival.

"Nimble drivers exploit disabled parking"....

A Toronto Star (January 27, 2007 David Bruser, Staff Reporter)

There are about 500,000 temporary and permanent disabled parking permits currently in circulation in Ontario, (78,000 of these in Toronto), a number that seems high even to Ontario's Minister of Transportation, Donna Cansfield. In a recent investigative article, "The Toronto Star" found much abuse in the system.

Read this interesting article at:

<http://www.cwd-o.org/cwdo/activities/transportation.php> or call Marion for a print copy.

DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN

Most Significant Initiative for Families in 25 Years.

The Disability Savings Plan took a huge step towards reality in December. An Expert Panel established by the Federal Minister of Finance recently recommended the creation of a Disability Savings Plan;

Highlights of the Recommendations

- No restrictions on who can contribute to a plan (families, friends and strangers);
- Lifetime contribution limit of \$200,000;
- No annual contribution limit;
- Creation of a Disability Savings Bond for low income families of at least \$1000 per year for 20 yrs;
- Annual grants of \$3500 when a family contributes \$1500 for families with incomes below \$72,756;
- Matching grants for the first \$1000 contributed, for families with incomes above \$72,756;
- No holding period for contributions;
- People eligible for the Disability Tax Credit will be eligible;
- No restrictions on what funds can be used for;
- Contributions (aside from government grants) are not taxable when withdrawn;
- Tax free rollovers from and to R.E.S.P.s.

The recommendations, if implemented, could benefit up to three quarters of a million Canadian families.

The next step in achieving a Disability Savings Plan will be its inclusion in the next Federal Budget.

This initiative has been supported by The Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN). PLAN is a non-profit organization established in 1989 by and for families committed to future planning and to securing a good life for their relatives with a disability.

For highlights see below and for details visit:
http://www.plan.ca/AboutPlan_Glance.php

Spring

6th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

Sunday, May 27, 2007
Bayfield Bowl, Bayfield Mall
1-4 p.m.

JOIN US!
KICK OFF - NATIONAL ACCESS
AWARENESS WEEK!

Participate with a team of 5 bowlers
with collected pledges.

Team Information and pledge forms
are available by contacting
(705) 737-3263
Jaime, Ext 225
Laurie, Ext 230

Volunteers please contact Marion at Ext 226.



ACTIVE LIVING

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

CURLING?

There's an Adaptive Curling
program operating out of the
Collingwood Curling Club.

Drop by Collingwood Curling Club
between 3 PM – 5:30 PM on
Sunday afternoons and join in the
fun! Call Kathy Bloomfield at
445-1543 Ext 106 for more
information.

MURDER BALL

Hope you had a chance to see the
**February 24th – 25th Wheelchair
Rugby Tournament** at Innisdale
High School Gym.

Teams from Ottawa, Toronto, 2 from
London and a team from the
Province of Quebec created an
exciting, action-packed weekend.

Wheelchair rugby – or Murder Ball,
as it is known, is not a sport for
wimps!

Chris Stevenson, local player with
the Toronto team, pulled the event
together and was proud to showcase
teams of this calibre in his
hometown. This sport is hugely
different – crazy, wild and decidedly
not for the faint at heart.

Hats off to these guys who have not
let their disability stop them from
being physically active.

Youth volunteers make a difference

High School students are required to complete 40 hours of volunteer work to meet the requirements for graduation. S.C.A.P.D. has been fortunate to work with a number of students this past year. Their enthusiasm, energy and desire to really help out has been invaluable in many areas.

- They supported bowlers who needed a hand at our 2006 Bowl-a-Thon;
- Special projects around the office have been tackled and completed;
- They became outing companions and attended events, concerts etc;
- Provided support at our Annual General Meeting;
- Assisted with Raffle ticket sales; and
- Other duties.

A big **thank you** to student volunteers; Amy Marie, Lisa, Matthew, Brenden, Elora, Danny, Dalton, Emma, Jamie, Simba, Stevie Lee and Christopher.

Do you know of any students who might enjoy volunteering at S.C.A.P.D. – have them give Marion a call.

Wye Marsh Promotes Outdoor Accessible Activities

The Wye Marsh offers the opportunity to see and experience the great outdoors. Not only are there wheelchair accessible trails and boardwalks, 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: www.wyemarsh.com/about_access.html will show you all the accessible equipment that is available.

Get active - get outside - check out their Spring/Summer program.

4th Annual Raffle Tickets Available April/07

We NEED VOLUNTEERS to sell tickets at a variety of locations across Simcoe County.

Sun City Swim Saturday, August 11, 2007

Swim or row 5 km. across Lake Couchiching from Fern Resort Beach to Couchiching Beach Park

For more information on events, please contact the Central Office (705) 737-3263, Jaime Ext 225 or Laurie Ext 230.

18th Annual "People In Motion" 2007

**Canada's Premier Event for Persons with Disabilities,
Seniors with Special Needs, and Professionals Working In Related Areas
250 Exhibitors**

Friday, June 1, 2007 10am - 6 pm

Saturday, June 2, 2007 10am – 5pm

Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto Ontario, Canada

People in Motion

Contact: Toll Free Number: (877) 745-6555 Fax: (705) 538-1988 Web Site: www.people-in-motion.com

Is Simcoe County "Open for Business"?

We're getting there!

Access SC Guide now lists close to 1500 business locations in 8 different towns/cities in our County – Barrie, Orillia, Innisfil, Stroud, Alcona, Thornton, Cookstown, and Alliston.

Check the on-line guide before you make a decision, ensure the location's accessibility level meets your needs.

www.scapd.on.ca - Accessibility

You can help!

Please help us expand this project –

- Call with locations that you visit where you have encountered good accessibility levels;
- If you have visited a business that we have listed and the accessibility level has changed – let us know;
- Tell us about good customer service experiences that you have had – places you have gone to do business where the business has focused on meeting your needs and have exceeded your expectations.

What is Attendant Care

Attendant Care is a service that provides an individual, who has a significant physical disability, with essential personal support for all daily activities such as bathing, toileting, dressing, transferring to and from wheelchairs, meal preparation, and light housekeeping.

Attendant Care Services were developed in response to the desire and need for individuals with physical disabilities to lead independent lives in the community.

Individuals receiving this service are responsible for their own lives, and the decisions about their care. They help to train and direct the attendant on how they would like the activity to be provided. These services do not provide medical care such as nursing, nor does it assume responsibility for the actions and decisions of the individual with the physical disability. Rather, they are designed to assist people with disabilities to function independently and to lead their own lives.