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2010-11 Slate of DDSA Officers

Chairperson: Walter Heeney
Honorary Chair: Carolyn Ellis
Secretary: Diane Cobbing
Treasurer: Donna Edwards

Ont. DS Rep: Donna Wright
Newsletter: Kelly Zovak
Web Master: Bhaskar Thiagarajan

SEAC Reps

Public Board: Denyse Newton
Catholic Board: Monica Dorgan

Mission Statement

The Durham Down Syndrome Association is a not-for-profit organization that supports families and educates the community to ensure that individuals with Down syndrome have the same opportunities as all other community members.

Statement of Policy and Disclaimer:

This newsletter reports items of interest relating to Down Syndrome and will provide a forum to others. We do not espouse any particular political or religious view. DDSA does not recommend any treatment or therapy. Individuals or organizations referred to do not necessarily endorse this publication or the editors. We wish to bring those interested in Down syndrome and attempt to create an optimistic attitude and outlook.

Phone: 905-433-4100
Toll free #: 1-888-334-1009

Mailing Address: PO Box 231
Whitby, Ontario
L1N 5S1

Upcoming Events

March 8th – Annual General Meeting

Where: Iroquois Park Sports Garden Café
500 Victoria St. West, Whitby

Time: 7:00 pm AGM

Guest speaker - Jill Clements-Baartman will talk about strategies to encourage language development.

Details: An AGM is held every year to elect the associations officers for the year, share the association's financial statement, address any concerns and solicit feedback for the upcoming year. During this meeting, we will be hosting nominations and elections for various positions for the 2011 / 2012 year. Please consider volunteering for one of the available positions. Please see page 2 for a brief description of the roles.

Following the AGM, we will have a Speech Language Pathologist, Jill Clements-Baartman, who will present; **Encouraging Speech & Language in Children with Down Syndrome:** Strategies and Stages: What to expect and how to enhance vocabulary, language, literacy and speech development in children with Down Syndrome during the one- and two-word stages.

Jill Clements-Baartman is a registered Speech Language Pathologist with 25+ years of experience working with individuals with Down syndrome. Jill is a graduate of the University of Toronto (1993) and is published nationally and internationally regarding intervention strategies for children with Down syndrome. Jill's key areas of interest, experience and additional training include early intervention, sensory-motor skills for feeding and speech, literacy and life skills development.

Babysitting services will be available for the AGM and guest speaker. Please RSVP to 905-433-4100 if you plan to use the babysitting services.

AGM Positions & General Responsibilities:

We are presently looking to fill the following positions at our Annual General Meeting in March 2011. If you feel you can make a difference and would like to help, please let us know. Email us at info@ddsa.ca for more information. Without volunteers and families attending events, there is no association.

1. Chairperson: Ensures the association goals are being met, presides at all meetings, signs cheques along with the Treasurer, keeps the membership informed of CDSS and other important news, looks for ways to improve the organization, co-ordinates the work of other supporting executive members, etc.

2. Treasurer: Responsible for coordinating and ensuring financial oversight of the association.

3. Fundraising Committee: Plans, organizes and implements fund raising efforts, promotes a consistent program of donor development and cultivation.

4. Public Awareness Committee: Promotes the organization by writing or selecting favorable publicity material and releasing it to the local papers, radio or television groups, prepares and arranges displays, public appearances, lectures, contests, or exhibits to increase awareness.

5. Social Committee: Works with a team to organize social events such as swimming, bowling, Christmas parties, picnics, dances, etc.

6. Newsletter: Prepares and distributes the association's newsletter.

7. Special Education Advisory Committee Rep. (SEAC) for the Durham District School Board: Attends monthly meetings at the DDSB and advises and makes recommendations to the Board concerning the establishment and development of special education programs and services for ALL exceptional students. Time commitment is approximately 3 – 5 hours/month. **We are at risk of losing this valuable SEAC seat if we do not have a new volunteer by September.**

Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Besides helping our Association move forward, you also gain the benefit of meeting great people and gain valuable networking opportunities.

SEAC – An Overview

By law, each Ontario board of education must have a Special Education Advisory Committee composed of some school trustees and representatives from community advocacy groups that represent exceptional children. This committee advises the trustees and school board administration about special education programs and services. The Special Education Advisory Committee;

- makes recommendations to the board with respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board
- participates in the board's annual review of its special education plan
- participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to special education
- reviews the financial statements of the board as they relate to special education
- provides information to parents, as requested.

SEAC representatives of parent associations must be tax supporters of the board and must not be employees of the board.

For more information about SEAC, please visit the following websites;

<http://www.seac-learning.ca/unit3.htm>

<http://ddsb.durham.edu.on.ca/DDSBmain.htm>

DDSA Christmas Party & Teen Dance; Another great success !

By: Marlene Kearsey

The annual Down Syndrome Children's Christmas Party and Teen/Adult Dance were held on November 27th at the Whitby Marina. Jim Parker kept the children entertained at the children's party. There were gingerbread men to be decorated and crafts to make and take home. Of course, the big event was a visit from Santa Claus who brought gifts for all the children. The evening dance was well attended and everyone danced the night away. Thank you to all those you volunteered their time or donated goods so that we could once again have the chance to renew friendships and get to know new people at this fun event that celebrates the holidays.

Holland Bloorview

Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (formerly Bloorview Kids Rehab) is Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital. Their vision is to create a world of possibility for kids with disability.

They are currently offering a variety of Family Education Workshops. All workshops are held at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (150 Kilgour Road, Toronto)

For more information, contact June Chiu at 416-425-6220 ext 3319 or by e-mail:

jchiu@hollandbloorview.ca or visit their website at

<http://www.hollandbloorview.ca/events/event.php?ref=1080>

Video Review: How do brothers and sisters feel and think?

When: Thursday February 24, 2011 (All Day)

Event Description: Brothers and sisters, (10 to 35 years old), of siblings with disability, talk about their experiences.

Length: 60 minutes

Community Resources

When: Monday February 28, 2011

Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Event Description: What services and supports are available near your home? How can your family get these? Where can you find out more?

Money Matters: What financial help is out there?

When: Tuesday March 22, 2011

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Presenter(s)/Speakers(s): Laura Williams, Social Worker; June Chiu, Family Support Specialist

Event Description: Which government programs provide funding? Which charities will help pay for equipment or programs? How do I ask for help? What do I write in the letter asking for help?

Registration is required. Call June at 416 - 425-6220 ext 3319 or email: jchiu@hollandbloorview.ca
Cost: \$5.00 for each family member; \$15.00 for service providers.



"For The Love of a Child" is a charity with a 14 year history of successfully assisting families who care for children with special needs. We are proud to have made

a difference in the lives of over 500 families. Our organization is run by volunteers, parents of children with special needs, as well as caring individuals within our community who want the best for every child.

In our every day busy lives we can sometimes forget how easy it is to bring a smile to the face of a child. When families are dealing with a child with special needs, the mental, physical and financial strain can be devastating. It changes a family's life forever. The goal of our organization is to alleviate some of the financial burden these families endure. Our goal and wish is to assist every child to reach their full potential and make the life of a special needs family less stressful.

"For The Love Of A Child" Annual Silent Auction & Dance Fundraiser will be held at LVIV Hall in Oshawa, on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$30.00 each and will include: Buffet dinner, dancing & entertainment by "Terry Crawford & Rick Johnson" & a current DJ; Silent Auction; Raffles and much more. For more information, please contact Debbie at 905-668-5701 or email debbieandterry@sympatico.ca.

If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 905-668-5701. You might also want to check out our website, which is in the process of being updated at www.fortheloveofachild.com. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Debbie Sloan

905-668-5701 debbieandterry@sympatico.ca



The quickest and most cost effective way for us to distribute the newsletter and new information is by email. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter and/or new information electronically, please email us at info@ddsa.ca. Thanks to all those who have elected for email updates since the last issue in helping us reduce our postage costs.

National Down Syndrome Congress website:

<http://www.ndscenter.org/morelike/flash/>

DSAO Conference - Believe in Me

Mark your calendars for the **9th Annual DSAO Conference** is being held on **Oct 21-23, 2011** at Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls Ontario.



Down Syndrome Ontario

BELIEVE IN ME
DSAO CONFERENCE 2011

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LOCATION

- Great Wolf Lodge - Niagara Falls Ontario
- The online group booking code is "1110DOWN"
- Reserve soon to ensure you have the secured rate which includes 4 water park passes
- Reservation by attendees must be received on or before **September 14, 2011**.
- 3950 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON
Call (888) 892-9386
<http://www.greatwolf.com/niagara/explore>

Arrival Date	Departure Date	Type of Room	Rate	No. of Nights	Total No. of Rooms
October 21, 2011	October 22, 2011	Family Suite	\$145.99	1	75
October 22, 2011	October 23, 2011	Family Suite	\$165.99	1	75

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Down Syndrome Ontario

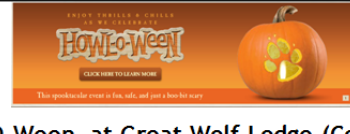


Howl-O-Ween at Great Wolf Lodge

- The Lodge is the place to be in October for spooky family fun for all ages, a Great Wolf Lodge tradition you can't miss!
- Bring your costumes and join us for Great Howl-O-Ween Fun and some slightly spooky Halloween entertainment!

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Howl-O-Ween at Great Wolf Lodge (Cont'd)

While with us enjoy:

- Spooktacular Story Time every night at 8:00pm.
- Costume Contests every night before Story Time.
- The Trick-or-Treat Trail. Make sure you wear your costume for a special Howl-o-Ween treat!
- Family dances in the Grand living Room every Friday night right after Story Time. Wear your costumes, request your favourite songs and join in on the contests and games.

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CUB CLUB AT GREAT WOLF LODGE

- Cub Club hours are 9am to 6:45 pm..
- Crafts - some are complimentary, but upgrades are available at approx. cost of \$3-\$5
- Any other info on cub club on their website:
<http://www.greatwolf.com/niagara/explore>

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Participation House

Participation House Project (Durham Region) is a non-profit organization developing and providing a range of services for youth and adults with physical and developmental disabilities in Durham Region. Chartered in 1975, the organization is directed by a volunteer community-based Board of Directors committed to the belief that people with disabilities are entitled to shape their lives and actualize their potential.

They will be offering a Transitional Living Skills Program during the March Break. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.phdurham.com/pages/home> or contact Tim Arkell at 905-579-5267 ext. 228 or by email at tarkell@phdurham.com.

MARCH BREAK BONUS MARCH 14-18



9am - 3 pm
Mon.— Fri.

Daily events planned, such as:

- Recreation & Events
- Practical Project: putting into practice our Transitional Living Skills
- Discovering our community, and what it has to offer

Contact: **Tim Arkell**



Community Transitions Coordinator
Participation House
tarkell@phdurham.com
Phone: 905-579-5267 ext. 228
Fax: 905-579-5281
1255 Terwilligar Ave. Unit 9
Oshawa, ON, L1J 7A4

Participation House Project recognizes the support of:

The Ministry of Community and Social Services
The Durham District School Board.

WHAT IS THE COST OF TLP?
CHOOSE FROM ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

\$150- SESSION I
FEB. 14-25
MON.-THURS. 3PM-5:30PM
+
FRI. FEB. 25, 3PM-9PM

MONEY MANAGEMENT
"LIVING ON A ODSP BUDGET"
COMMUNICATION SKILLS
"WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?"

\$150- SESSION II
FEB. 28-MAR. 11
MON.-THURS. 3PM-5:30PM
+
FRI. MAR. 11, 3PM-9PM

HEALTHY EATING
"WHO'S THE CHEF?"
COMMUNITY ACCESS
"IDENTIFYING/TOURING COMMUNITY SERVICES"

\$200- MARCH BREAK
MAR. 14-18
(9:00AM-3:00PM)
CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PARTICIPATION HOUSE

**EXPERIENCE...
TRANSITIONAL LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM**




WWW.PHDURHAM.COM

EXPERIENCE THE TRANSITIONAL LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

WHAT IS TLP ABOUT?

- TLP is a 9 week program in partnership with the Durham District School Board, which includes supported learning opportunities, demonstrations, and practical real-life experiences.
- 4 days a week .
- Mon.-Thurs., 3-5:30 pm.
- Every other Fri., 3-9pm event (includes dinner).



WHAT IS THE GOAL OF TLP?

The goal of the Transitional Living Skills Program is to prepare you for a more independent lifestyle by providing opportunities that will reinforce the transitional living skills needed for a more independent life.

WHO CAN ATTEND TLP?

- Are you between the ages of 18-30?
- Interested in skills to live independently?
- Interested in meeting new people and exploring what is accessible in your community?
- Graduating from high school and not sure what your next steps will be?

WHERE WILL TLP TAKE PLACE?

Maxwell Heights Secondary School
Room #109
Beside Legends Centre— Oshawa
1100 Coldstream Drive

Answered "YES" to any of the above, and have a developmental disability?



If so, join us at The Transitional Living Skills

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO LEARN?

The Transitional Living Skills Program gives individuals the opportunity to learn and build skills to transition to an independent lifestyle.

Weekly Topics Include:

- Self-Esteem
- Community Access
- Budgeting
- Accessible Transportation
- Cooking
- Social skills
- Goal Setting
- Communication skills
- Exploring Options— Recreation







Durham Down Syndrome Association
PO Box 231, Whitby, Ontario L1N 5S1

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone # _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my membership fee: \$20.00

Enclosed is my donation to the association:

Charitable registration number: **89144 4572 RR0001** Please make
cheque or money order payable to:

Durham Down Syndrome Association
PO Box 231
Whitby, Ontario
L1N 5S1

Support

your

local

association

become

a

MEMBER

today !

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