

Spring 2009

Dear Friends... Updates by John

Another winter has come to an end, although it's hard to tell. It's always a pleasure to be a part of this newsletter. It's great to see how the Playsense program which was founded thanks to the 4 Rotary clubs in Guelph, continues to expand its scope and services. The extremely skilled team at Stephanie Home is never afraid of new challenges and the home front in Ariss continues to bustle with activities for young and old.

Planning for services for all children, age 0-18, in Wellington County will be coordinated and directed in the near future by the newly created Wellington Children & Youth Services Planning Council. This Ministry directed initiative will place Hopewell under a new umbrella in regards to planning for new services.

Remembering Annette

We were saddened when Annette MacMillan passed away suddenly on March 15th at the

age of 36. Annette was given a very difficult start in life, but she made the most of it. She would give us her smile and affection without reservation. Her parents Norm and Margaret, have been amazing in their commitment, advocacy and love throughout Annette's life.

Donations and Fundraising

Hopewell greatly appreciates the memorial donations received in memory of Barb Ball, Brenda Schiestel, Byron Moffitt and Annette MacMillan. Our thoughts go out to these families during this difficult time.

The Campaign of Hope continues at a steady pace for which we are thankful. The May 30th golf tournament will be a great boost and we are hoping for a great turn-out!

Sincerely, John

Have you checked out our website lately? hopewellchildrenshomes.ca is where you can find up to date information on the happenings at Hopewell, Stephanie Home and Playsense!

Register now for Hopewell's 2009 Charity Golf Tournament and Fundraiser. Visit our website or call 519.836.9641 ext. 222

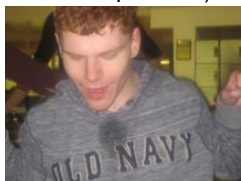


Did you know that Hopewell is now able to accept donations on-line? Visit our website and follow the "Donate Now" link. Receipts are issued immediately!

Hopewell goes green! In order to save paper why not join our e-mail mailing list today? To register e-mail info@hopewellchildrenshomes.ca

Spring is in the air (we hope)! Once again Hopewell has had the pleasure of welcoming some new babies to their family. Congratulations to Shelley, Chad and Brayden on the birth of Brooke, to Stacy and Val on the birth of Alex and to Stephanie and Sheldon on the birth of Noah! Also, Congratulations to Niki Jardine and Brian Fitzgerald who were married on February 28, 2009.

Staff that we would like to welcome to Hopewell's Team includes Colleen, Matt, Stephanie B., Anita (our E.A. – filling in for Carrie) and Jennifer (our teacher until September)

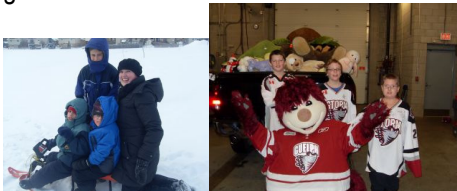


Our adult residents have enjoyed some days sitting on the front porch and going for walks, as well as plenty of crafts. The children also, have enjoyed some outings, including trips to Playsense and Bowling at Woodlawn Bowl. And of course who could forget our annual Christmas shopping trip to Stone Road Mall? What a blast!

Submitted by Sara Kavanagh

STEPHANIE HOME

The wonders of winter have kept the gang at Stephanie Home whirling with adventures. We've enjoyed tobogganing, playing in the snow, driveway hockey and were even able to fit in a Guelph Storm game!



On the days that were too cold for us we kept warm indoors, baking, playing make belief, dance parties and crafts. Special trips included the Science Centre, swimming at the Waterloo Recreational

complex and the Kitchener Children's museum.

March Break brought a full house and a busy schedule for Stephanie Home, we were thrilled with the beautiful weather Mother Nature sent our way! We took full advantage of this gift and enjoyed trips to The Toronto Zoo, Waterloo Park, and many hikes. We also re-visited some of our favourite destinations and activities.



New Faces

Stephanie Home was pleased to welcome some new faces to our group! Abe, Joseph, Lee, Jarod, Bella, Adam, Brendan, Aidan,

Jennifer, Jessica, Eric, Ana, Paul and their families joined us over the Fall and Winter months. Also new to the Stephanie Home team is Erika Mohle. Welcome to all!



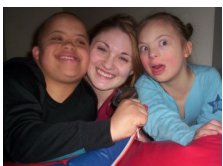
Congratulations to Bryan Fitzgerald and Niki Jardine (from Hopewell) who were married on February 28th, 2009!

Submitted by Erin Fitzgerald



Camp News:

Playsense is a really fun, happy place! Ongoing ministry and agency support has resulted in some exciting new plans for our camps, and we are especially pleased that our camps now include campers who are medically fragile and technologically dependant. Our second **EVERYDAY IS A SPECIAL DAY AT MARCH BREAK CAMP** was a big success! Campers danced, sang and played the week away making new friends, sharing stories and helping us all remember the meaning of inclusion and true acceptance for all abilities.

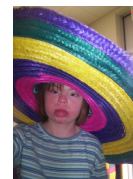


Extra special thanks to Trishelle Martin, who despite her day job as an E.A., spent her March Break at Playsense, and to Patricia Murphy, a 4th year Child & Youth Studies student from the University of Guelph - a craft queen extraordinaire who concluded her placement at Playsense with March Break Camp. Thank you to a very energetic and eager Supporting Kids in Camp staff, as well as our great volunteers; Julia & Shandre!!

Registrations for elementary aged children are now being accepted for the final PD Day on Friday June 5th.



Playsense is offering activities geared to teens during the exam days on June 17,18,19,22 & 23. Call us for more information about some new initiatives for teens on these days!



Summer Camps:

This summer we are offering 4 camps: Two week long camps each for children aged 6-12 and Teens aged 13 & up. The registration list for all camps is now complete, & staff is busy preparing programs and activities to fit the interest level of all campers. Leadership experiences in the form of community work will be incorporated into the Teen Camp to help foster individual and group empowerment in a fun and creative way.

Submitted by Karen Calzonetti