

Around Hopewell

Winter 2010

Dear Friends... Updates by John

Welcome to a fresh and crisp 2010. This past year included a mix of the good and the sad. Our programs in all 3 locations continue to flourish, thanks to our excellent staff.

Hopewell recently hosted a meeting, which included the Ministry, CCAC and agency representatives from our region to discuss the needs for major respite and permanent residential needs for children who are medically fragile (MFTD) as this was a major challenge until recently. After comparing notes we were surprised by the fact that most MFTD children in our region now have access to supports.

Parents, staff and board members had fun during a successful 50/50 fundraising evening at a Guelph Storm Game.

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye forever to Kayla in December, Casey in April and Annette in February. Our thoughts remain with their families.

The government, despite its good intentions, continues to envelop us in more regulations and policies. Dramatic

changes in the transformation of the delivery of supports for adults with developmental challenges are taking shape in our province, including a new standardized assessment, redefined services and a centralized intake and referral for the region of 6 counties. Unfortunately these changes do not include more funding for direct services.

The Campaign of Hope:

Our new swimming pool is nicely taking shape and will be completed spring, 2010. We have raised \$120,000 of the \$200,000 goal with the remainder allocated for major renovations in the Ariss location. With increased efforts and goal, we could rebuild most of the old building in Ariss to serve at least another 20 years as a facility that could also be adapted to new, evolving demands.



BOWLING 2010:

From 1993-1997 Hopewell organized 5 very successful bowling event fundraisers, filled with fun for families. The Playsense program, which is becoming increasingly popular, is funded partly through much needed donations and fundraising. Donations have really fallen short this year and are affecting the operation of Playsense. If you would consider participating in a bowling event, in support of Playsense as a bowler or volunteer, I would appreciate your feedback before taking the next step.

~John Oosterhuis



Happy New Year to ALL!

Christmas has come and gone, but winter is still very much present.

Some residents have been enjoying bundling up and going outside to toboggan, build a snowman or just take a walk in the snow, while others are more content to watch the different snowflakes fall out the window from their cozy spot inside!

Christmas brought lots of excitement this year with a visit from Santa Claus and his two little elves. Everyone as well enjoyed

our annual Christmas shopping trip!



All took pleasure in the smells and tastes of holiday baking and of course the delicious Christmas morning brunch and large turkey dinner thanks to Joan Aiken!

Now that we've all recovered from our Christmas treats everyone is looking forward to February which will bring the delicious experience of Pancake Tuesday, the sweets of Valentine's Day and of course we are all wondering if the Groundhog will see his shadow this year!



Baby News!

Congratulations to Mary, Michael and Isabella on the birth of Joshua in October!

~Sara Kavanagh

Many thanks to our generous 2009 donors:

Barry Cullen Chev Olds - Labatt - Prime Care Pharmacy - Flash Freight - Crawford Transport - ERB and ERB staff - Mantracker - KPGM - Lakeside Bible Church - The Knights of Columbus of Maryhill - Catholic Women's League - Bob Ball - Dorothy Brydges - Mary Cruciano - Rex and Margaret Hopkins - William Slagt - Harold Sellers - Linda and Wilf Holmes - Rosemary Danielli - Richard Davey - Loesje and Bart Schuurman Hess - Andrew Oosterhuis - John and Joanne Oosterhuis - Karen Izenberg - Cynthia Flesher - Barb Shoib-Murray - David Van Vliet - Martha Robinson - Audrey McGillivray - David Torrey - Terry Scroggie - Andrew Dawe - Muriel Fullerton - Janice McDermott - Brenda and Wayne Brubacher - Barry and Judy Cullen - Anthony and Kathleen Slegers. Memorial Donations received on behalf of Barb Ball - Annette McMillan - Casey McCrory - Jim McGilloway - Brenda Schiestel - Byron Moffitt - Peter Osham - Helen McCaig - Gail McWhinney - Frances Shoemaker

Thanks again to Barry Cullen Chev Olds, who again sponsored the "Festival of Trees" Christmas Tree at Hopewell.

(due to space limitation donors of \$100 and over are listed)

Although Winter seems to have a way of slowing down the pace with the falling of snow and the chill in the air, Stephanie Home has taken advantage of the slippery snow to slide on with a fun and steady pace. Some of the outings that were enjoyed included tobogganing, making snow angels and walks to enjoy the beautiful lights and glistening on the treetops. With the cold wind in full force we have had many indoor activities as well to the local aquarium to feed the fish and watch the shark

feeding, bowling, laser tag and walks in the mall!



Stephanie Home also enjoyed a very busy holiday season filled with friends, baking crafts and of course hot chocolate to warm up!

Many hockey games were played, snowballs made and board games before each night's fade. Throughout the hustle and bustle we even managed to get a quick visit or two in with Santa!!!

Stephanie Home began the New Year with the addition of a few new faces both children and staff. Welcome



Stephanie and Kimberley to the Stephanie Home team and the many new families as we look forward to getting to know and working with all ☺

With a few more months of the cold weather, Stephanie Home will look to the warmth the laughter of the children bring each day to carry us through to the new life and energy spring will splash upon us.

~Erin Fitzgerald



Another year is over, It's now 2010. Happy New Year to all of our playsense friends. We have recycled programs and some that are new – Play is for small kids and

big children too!

The Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee hosted by the Rotary Club of Guelph South proved once more to be a fun filled evening for all. Hopewell's "Players" made it to the fourth round – the best showing yet! (Thanks to a certain Board member and Playsense parent – excellent spellers both!) A genuine heart-felt thanks to all who donated time and money in support of Playsense, especially our team sponsor The Bird-Elinesky Wealth Management Team.

Our holiday Camps were a terrific success. Thanks to all children, teens and staff who joined in on the fun and games. A special extended thanks to Trellis for assisting us with additional funding.

Our Open House held in December was a great evening of togetherness for the Playsense community. A special thanks to all who donated food and decorating talents to this festive event!



NEW!
Playsense is now open to people of any age! Do you have a child or know someone with a developmental disability who is looking for a great place to play? We are open to anyone of any age who has a developmental disability. Call and book a playtime now.

Parents and Tots Playgroup: Every Monday Morning from 10 am – 12 noon. Call 519-780-5052 for info.

Sibling Saturdays: Siblings of any age may join for a visit to Playsense to play with their brothers and/or sisters! Join us on the last Saturday every month.

A special welcome to Melanie Booth who is in her final year of the Child, Family & Youth Studies program at the University of Guelph and is doing her placement at Playsense for the term.

COMING SOON! Shake it up classes now on Thursdays! Cost: \$40.00.

This fun fitness group will get your child moving before they know it! Classes combine games, dance and yoga emphasizing fun and friendship for all.

Shake It Up for Children (6-12 yrs)
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25th TIME: 5:30-6:30pm

Shake It Up for Teens (13-21 yrs)
Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29th TIME: 7:00-8:00pm

Spaces are filling up quickly for March Break Camp (March 15-19) Register Now! Individuals diagnosed with MFTD are most welcome!

~Karen Calzonetti

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! PARENT'S MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH 7-8 PM.

Hopewell staff and Board Members want to hear from you! Parents & caregivers are invited to attend this important meeting to discuss future program initiatives and funding options impacting Playsense in 2010 and beyond. Come and meet while your children play. Childcare provided by Playsense staff and volunteers, to ensure parents can attend this meeting! Refreshments will be served.