



**THE OTTAWA ROTARY HOME FOUNDATION DONATIONS**

To make a contribution or to find out more about our fundraising initiatives, events and to register on-line please visit [www.orhfoundation.ca](http://www.orhfoundation.ca)

**ADULT DAY PROGRAM**



We would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome everyone back to The Ottawa Rotary Home's Adult Day Program. Our program has undergone several exciting changes this past year. We are pleased to welcome two new clients to our Adult Day Program as well as a new counsellor.

Although we have seen many changes, one thing remains the same; we are still offering a wide array of fun and interactive activities. The Adult Day Program's team has been very busy these past months. From Halloween parties to magic acts and yes, even some early Christmas decorating, *there is never a dull moment!* The Adult Day Program has also started a promising new relationship with **DeafBlind Ontario Services**. Thanks to our new, progressive home, we are able to offer the community access to our facilities that includes a state of the art sensory room and out-door splash pad. These are just a few things we have done with the Adult Day Program these past months — *with plenty more activities on the way.* Our clients are looking forward to a Secret Santa gift exchange and some outdoor fun in the snow. With all this excitement we are hoping we will be able to continue our incredible momentum.

*Thank you*  
**Sarah Gilkes, Program Lead and the Adult Day Program Team**

**STAFF CORNER**

**WELCOME BACK**—To Sarah Gilkes who returned in September, Marquise Gervais, who returned in October followed by Lauri Cox, who returned in November from their maternity leaves.

**WELCOME NEW STAFF**—To Rhonda Gillespie, RPN who joined us in August and Marzena Puchalski, Child Care Counsellor and Jennifer Eamon, RPN, who began in September. Francesca Viney, Child Care Counsellor and Kelsey O'Kelly, Residential Counsellor joined us in October 2011.

**CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER**—Was the theme for the 2011 Rotary Home's Staff Retreat held on October 3rd at the Yoga Garden in Wakefield. Twenty-five staff attended this year's event and were treated to a day of team building, motivation and appreciation for their continued dedication to the care of our Home's clients.

**THE YOGA GARDEN**



**FAMILY CORNER**



When I woke up the morning of August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and saw the sun streaming in through my bedroom window I knew it was going to be a beautiful day at work. I arrived early that morning to help set up for the big day and I could feel the excitement in the air. My colleagues were bustling about with big smiles on their faces,

getting the children ready for the day ahead. The children were watching out the window as we blew up the giant bouncy castle donated to us for the day from **the Capital City FC Soccer Club**. It was our first "End of Summer BBQ" at our new home on Bank Street and we couldn't have been more thrilled to have pulled it all together in three short weeks. We couldn't have done it without our summer recreation committee, who had been busy all summer putting together activities and outings for our respite programs. My colleagues and I quickly started getting everything into place for the arrival of our families. When people started coming in we got the BBQ going, the splash pad running, the bouncy castle bouncing and music playing. Parents and siblings from all our programs arrived. It was so nice to see families and their children playing in our backyard. Some of them sat together discussing their experiences, while others enjoyed meeting friends and counselors from Rotary Home. About half way through our event I took a second to look around at all the families and counselors laughing, helping each other and having fun. It immediately reminded me how proud I am to work in such a great environment-full of love and caring people. This is a family, my Rotary Home Family.

**Sarah Picard, Supervisor Children Respite Program**



A special "Thank You" to the Management, Staff and Players of the Capital City FC Soccer Club for helping make our **End of the Summer BBQ** a fun-filled family event!

**THE OTTAWA ROTARY HOME**

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**A Holiday Message from the Our Board**

This is a time of the year when families and friends are the focus of many of our activities. Home is where many of these activities take place. I hope our families see the Rotary Home as a "home" in this way too. The Board of the Rotary Home has had a busy year. Our focus has been on finding innovative approaches to implementing our adult respite care services. The Executive Director is taking a strong leadership role in this area. We expect to see the great potential that the adult wing offers more fully utilized next year. No doubt the year ahead will have its surprises and challenges, but the Board is confident that they will be addressed in stride and that we will continue to provide the best possible help to our families in the eastern region. The Board is very appreciative of the work of the staff at the Home and every Board member, and I, in particular as Chair, am proud to be associated with such great people. On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish you a holiday season filled with warmth and laughter, and that the New Year brings rewards of satisfaction and accomplishment in all you set out to do.

John Archer, Chair  
The Ottawa Rotary Home  
Board of Directors

**A Welcomed Return to Operations**

I would like to welcome back Lauri Cox, Director of Operations and Client Care. Lauri was on maternity leave during the past year after the arrival of her son, Brogan in December 2010. During her absence Lauri's client service role was managed diligently by Pamela Johnson. In September, Pam resumed her education by continuing her Master's of Business Administration degree in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Please give Lauri a warm welcome as she embarks on a new phase of her personal and professional endeavours. The coming year will be an exciting time at Rotary Home. With the installation of our new splash pad this past summer and the fall ground-breaking of our beautiful Memorial Garden already underway and set for completion in spring 2012, Lauri's home-coming is indeed a welcome return to operations!



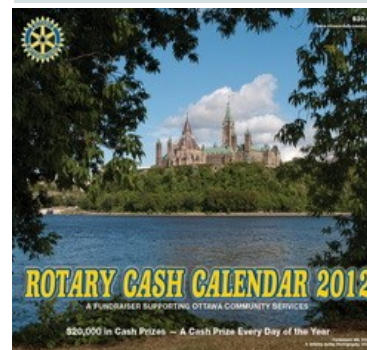
Gina St. Amour  
Executive Director

**A Company Focused on Mobility**



The Ottawa Rotary Home was recently introduced to a new vehicle designed to "Help those with mobility issues find mobility solutions by developing vehicles that allow them to travel with comfort and dignity." **The Mobility Vehicle 1 (MV-1)** was designed for just such a purpose. Headquartered in South Florida, The Vehicle Production Group LLC (VPG) has produced a vehicle built from the ground up specifically for the members of the disability community and those who help service them. "Accessibility" was a motivating force behind this vehicle's design and the MV-1 provides its customers with accessibility that is unmatched by any other wheelchair accessible van. Whether you're a member of the disability community or you service the disability community, the MV-1, the first true mobility vehicle, was created with these specific needs in mind. **Website:** [www.vpgautos.com](http://www.vpgautos.com)

In 2012, The Ottawa Rotary Home will be hosting a day to showcase the **MV-1** at our **Leitrim Campus** for our client's families and caregivers. Viewers will have the opportunity to see this innovative vehicle's accessible features for themselves.



**A Fundraiser Supporting Ottawa Community Services**

The Rotary Cash Calendar 2012 is brought to you through the work of the **Rotary Club of West Ottawa**. Through this club and partnering Rotary Clubs across the City of Ottawa and surrounding areas, and non-Rotary partner organizations, the proceeds from the sale of the calendar support humanitarian needs in your community.



We believe in **Angels**.  
And so do the families in our community who rely on the Rotary Home's respite services.

To these families, you, the donor, are **Angels** for making it possible for them to enjoy a break from time to time from the demanding care routines required for their loved ones.





# THE OTTAWA ROTARY HOME NEWSLETTER

## WHAT A "SPLASH" WE HAD AT LEITRIM



## THE ADVENTURES AT ROCHESTER



The Rochester Residential Home has been a hub of activity over the past few months. We closed out a summer filled with water fights, lunches on patios, neighborhood walks, beaches and barbeques with an adventure to Lori's cottage, complete with roasted marshmallows and a boat ride.

Fall came quickly, but that has not slowed us down. Our residents have been busier than ever going swimming in the community pools, hitting the lanes for a little bowling, exploring our community's many museums and even venturing all the way to Montreal to sample some good poutine..

Our kitchen has been a *hotspot* lately with our residents learning to make everything from hearty harvest soups with Melanie, to making shortbread cookies— *just right*. Before winter set in, we were able to enjoy the lovely fall weather by strolling through the coloured leaves in Gatineau and feeding the chickadees at Mer Bleue.

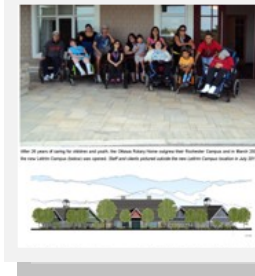
Our doorbell is also always ringing with another welcomed guest. Who could it be? Perhaps it's Rachel, who has come to play her beautiful music with us. Or maybe it's a member of our extended family coming to share a treasured recipe, a delicious meal or bring a beloved pet. So if you are ever down our way, feel free to stop by and say "Hello". We always love the company!



# THE OTTAWA ROTARY HOME NEWSLETTER

## OUR COMMUNITY

In August, the Rotary Home submitted a photo to **Imagine Canada** to showcase our Home and our Vision in various publications across Canada including MacLean's Magazine.



In September, the Rotary Home participated in the **Aviva Community Fund** contest for the chance to win new playground equipment. Our goal is to build an "Accessible Playground" for our clients and for the families and friends in our growing community.

## Thank You!



During our busy work schedules we sometimes forget to take the time to thank those who make our day-to-day operations achievable. The Management and Staff at the Ottawa

Rotary Home would like to acknowledge the wonderful team at **Nitro, IT Business Solutions**, for their support over the past three years and dedication in keeping our systems running smoothly. [www.nitro.ca](http://www.nitro.ca)

## ROTARY VISITORS



From left: Adult Program Supervisor, Sarah Gilkes with Australian visitors Nev Winter, Fay Winter, Ian Robertson joined by Douglas Heyland from the Ottawa Rotary Club West.

## TWO BOARDS RETURN

On September 22, the Ottawa Rotary Home and Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation's Board members commenced their 2011-2012 seasons with a joint "meet and greet" dinner at the Ottawa Rotary Home that was enjoyed by all.

On September 22, 2011 The Ottawa Citizen's Hugh Adami brought the on-going struggles of "one of our own" to the public's attention — the Rotary Home responded with their support with a **Letter to the Editor**.

## Twenty-one and Forgotten

By Hugh Adami  
The Ottawa Citizen  
September 22, 2011

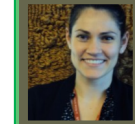


## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Ottawa Citizen, September 23, 2011

Your article on the challenges facing the Lariviere family in caring for their son Jonathan ("Almost 21 and suddenly about to be forgotten") pinpoints a significant problem in our community. Indeed, the problem will only get worse as the number of children with special needs in Ontario survive to become adults and lose access to the children's ministry funded programs. Inevitably, we will see growing numbers of elderly parents and guardians struggling on their own to provide care as their strength and energy decline. The Rotary Clubs in the Ottawa area saw this growing need and through a significant fund raising initiative, and with help from the Provincial government, built The Ottawa Rotary Home, a facility that can offer respite for the families caring for their now adult children. It is a beautiful home-away-from-home, equipped to provide a significant level of care for young adults with complex special needs; but, because the Provincial government provides no operational funding, many families cannot afford the cost to access this wonderful home. Yet we know that a few days or a week of respite, away from the challenges of caring for their adult children, is one of the most effective ways of ensuring that these families do not collapse under the strain, thus compelling them to give up their caregiver role. A provincially funded program offering respite care for adult children is ultimately a more cost effective solution than placing loved ones in long-term care facilities. To see how you can help the Lariviere family and other caregivers in need of respite please go to [www.oasisonline.ca](http://www.oasisonline.ca) and click on the blue OASIS icon to show your support.

John Archer, Chair,  
The Ottawa Rotary Home Board of Directors  
PUBLISHED: Sept 27, 2011



## MHA Student, Chantal Faubert

is currently completing her Master's of Health Administration program from the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management. The final component of the MHA degree is a four month residency with a healthcare organization. Chantal chose to participate in a unique residency where she acts as a joint resident to Roger's House, the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre (OCTC) and the Ottawa Rotary Home. While Chantal plans to be working on many projects this winter, her main focus will be on engaging families at all three organizations. This project's goal is to create a forum which will allow families to have a voice and the opportunity to offer advice on changes that can improve the coordination of care and services among the three organizations. "My personal goal is to build a meaningful and sustainable forum for families at all three organizations", Chantal stated. Chantal will be working closely with families, relaying their feedback to the management teams and presenting recommendations to board members of each organization in January 2012.