

FALL ■ 2009

ROGER'S HOUSE

Chronicles

Upcoming Events

RETURNS FOR ROGER'S HOUSE

Select Beer Store locations

SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

(see page 4 for more details)

WALLS AND CEILINGS

CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Kanata Lakes Golf Course

SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

PARENT GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Roger's House

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

(see page 3 for more details)

FALL INTO FASHION SHOW

South Nepean Rotary Home

OCTOBER 25, 2009

(see www.rotarynepean.ca for details & ticket information)

Message from the Board

Let me begin by emphasizing how honoured I am to have

been asked to "chair" the team of dedicated individuals who make up the Roger's House Board of Directors. With their commitment and the leadership of outgoing chairperson - Julie Tubman - the first few years at Roger's House have been very rewarding and challenging. Julie, on behalf of all the Board members, thank you for a job well done and for agreeing to remain on the Board!

As I look to the future, I do so with confidence when I consider the strong foundation upon which Roger's House has been built, namely:

- the children and their families who trust us to support and care for them during very trying times
- the dedicated team of employees and Board members who helped create the vision for Roger's House and then make that vision a reality
- the tremendous support we receive from partners such as CHEO, The Ottawa Senators Foundation, and the Ontario government
- the large number of individuals and corporations who organize fundraising events for Roger's House
- the 200 or so volunteers who contribute their time and enthusiasm

To our children and families, be assured that you will continue to be what Roger's House is all about and we are absolutely committed to providing each and every one of you with the care and support you require and deserve.

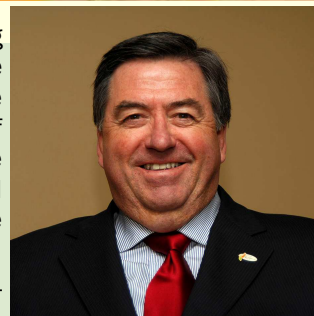
To our dedicated team of medical professionals, employees, Board members, volunteers, partners and sponsors - thank you very much and we look forward to working and growing with you in the future.

Finally, and despite the positive feedback reflected in our annual family and employee surveys, there are always opportunities for improvements, leadership and innovation. These we will seek out and implement in the coming years.

Thanks to all of you for giving us your confidence and support and helping make Roger's House the special place that it is.

Wishing you all happiness and health in the coming year!

Sincerely,
Ray Byrne



Ray Byrne
Chair, Roger's House

New Nursing Graduates at Roger's House

Roger's House is pleased to be participating in the Health Force Ontario Nursing Graduate Guarantee Initiative. This Initiative is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and provides funding to health care organizations that hire new nursing graduates into full-time employment immediately upon graduation.

We are pleased to welcome two nursing graduates, Jenna and Katharina, who were hired in late June 2009 and will be working with the Roger's House team. Temporary Registration with the College of Nurses of Ontario was required before the new nurses were able to participate in patient care activities. They are both expected to write their licensing exams this summer.

For more information on this initiative please visit www.hfojobs.ca.



Message from the Executive Director

Julie Tubman has been the Chair of the Board of Directors and guiding hand of Roger's House since 2005. She has skillfully led us through the construction, grand opening and early stages of operation and development. Julie has decided to step down as Board Chair. Luckily for us she will continue on the Board as Past Chair. I would like to personally thank Julie for her advice, guidance and support over the past five years. Roger's House has benefited a great deal from her leadership and experience.

I would like to welcome Ray Byrne as our "new" Board Chair. The position is not entirely new to Ray as he has performed the role on an interim basis in the past. I am pleased that Ray has agreed to assume the role of Chair. We will benefit from his past experience as Vice-President at Bell and his current role as Executive Coach.

If you are reading this on paper, I encourage you to check out the new look of our web site www.rogershouse.ca. We hope it is easier to navigate and more visually appealing. Thank you to Baytek Solutions for their help in the redesign and Sara Watt, our MBA Administrative Resident, who did much of the work for the new site.

I am pleased to announce our first research publication. Regis Vaillancourt (pharmacist), Chris Vadeboncoeur (physician), Marion Rattray (manager), Doris Lariviere (parent) and Rabiah Siddiqui (pharmacy student) published the article "Treatment of Medication Intolerance with Lactase in a Complex Palliative Care Patient" in the Journal of Palliative Care. Congratulations to this team and the other employees and physicians involved in our evolving research program at Roger's House.



Finally, I would like to thank Sara Watt for her work editing and publishing the last two newsletters and her many other contributions to Roger's House this summer.

Lloyd Cowin
Executive Director

A Star Shines in Roger's House

On Saturday June 13th, families, friends and staff participated in the second annual memorial ceremony for the children and youth who passed away over the last year. 20 mirrored stars, each etched with a child's name, were added to the wall in the playroom to commemorate the lives of these special children and youth. The stars are a source of comfort for families when they return to visit Roger's House and an inspiration to the staff that have the honour of working with families at such a poignant time in their lives. The stars reflect an atmosphere of calm as the sun shines on them during the day and as they reflect the light at night.

Roger's House Clothing Available!

On Wednesday, September 23rd you will have the opportunity to purchase clothing with the Roger's House logo! Samples of the clothing will be available to try on and purchase from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm at the House.

Items available for purchase are:

Fleece Jacket	\$32.10
Fleece Vest	\$25.10
Short-sleeve Ts	\$5.25
Long-sleeve Ts	\$8.25



Bereavement Support Groups

Following a break over the summer, our support groups will begin once again on September 9th 2009. Roger's House will continue to offer the Parent Grief Support Group for parents who have lost a child and the Sibling Support group, for children age 4-14 years old who have experienced the death of a sibling. These groups run every second Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:30pm. There is a possibility of a Teen Grief Support Group being offered, if there is enough interest.

Families or professionals working with a bereaved family are welcome to call Joanne Doucette, Social Worker at Roger's House, for further information or to register for a group. She can be reached at (613) 523-6300, ext. 622 or by email at jdoucette@cheo.on.ca.

Roger's House is extremely fortunate to have many dedicated and talented volunteers. An important focus of the services we offer to families involves building memories. Allow me to share with you the various ways in which this is accomplished.

Roger's House is a home and the feelings of warmth and cosiness are present everywhere: quilts and afghans on the beds, knitted slippers at the front door, and hand sewn placemats for the kitchen tables. The sewing and knitting volunteers keep busy throughout the year to produce these wonderful items. In addition, they sew small quilts and knit sweater sets, which are gifted to the children. When a child dies, these precious keepsakes are often safely stored at home in a memory box.

The memory boxes can be round or heart-shaped and are individually hand painted with a child/youth-friendly design. They are given to families at the time of the death of their child. Painting just one memory box takes several hours of work. The inspirations for the designs painted on the boxes come from several sources, including the child or youth's various interests. The memory box painters volunteer their time and efforts from their own homes.

At the request of families, volunteer photographers will take pictures of the child and family during their stay at Roger's House. The photographers capture memorable moments and the family receives a compact disc of the photo session.

The families share with us their appreciation for these items. It brings a great deal of comfort to have these special keepsakes.

For more information regarding volunteer positions (such as memory box painter, photographer or sewer/knitter) please contact Lise Beauchemin, Coordinator of Volunteer Services.



Message from the Volunteer Coordinator

Lise Beauchemin



Direct Energy Walk, Roll & Run for Roger's House

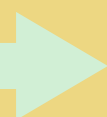
The 6th Annual Direct Energy Walk, Roll & Run for Roger's House, presented by Scotiabank, was a resounding success raising over \$216,000.

The Sens Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to all the Roger's House families and supporters who came out in force raising funds for the event or volunteering their time. Your contribution along with the support of our many sponsors plays an important role in our being able to continue to provide children and their families with the very best in pediatric palliative and respite care.

Next year's event planning is already in the works. To get involved or for more information please call the Sens Foundation at 613-599-0323 or visit the website at www.sensfoundation.com



**Message from a
Roger's House Family**
Osayd's Story



When Osayd was born as a severely disabled child, our life was changed in a way we could never have imagined. Every hope was shattered and all we knew was that we had to take the best possible care of Osayd while he is with us. Osayd



is now a handsome and tall five year old boy with undiagnosed neurometabolic degenerative brain disease. He is non-verbal, non-mobile, cortically blind and has a severe seizure disorder. He is medically fragile, g-tube fed and completely dependent on others for his daily needs.

Osayd was not even two years old when he was referred to palliative care. We had no idea at that time how we would manage each and every bit of Osayd's care and who would help us in taking care of his complicated and frequently changing requirements. We were so overwhelmed physically and emotionally, and were looking for a break. Then something called "Roger's House" came up as a blessing for us to help us cope with Osayd's situation. It gives us not only respite but all the possible support, love and care necessary to go through the difficult times. We cannot express in words what Roger's House is for us. It came as a blessing when Roger's House was built three years ago. We knew from CHEO that there was a pediatric palliative home being built for families in need but couldn't realize at that time that it would be as great facility for special need families as it is today. Whenever Osayd goes to stay at Roger's House, it gives us a huge sense of relief and peace to know that he is in good hands and is being taken care of just like at home. Roger's House means the world to us. It is great to know that staff and volunteers really care for and love our child and provide us all the possible support whenever we need to cope with the difficult times. We are glad there is a home outside home for Osayd.

As Osayd's parents, we will never be able to find the words to thank enough everyone involved with Roger's House. Thank you.

**The Beer Store
Returns for
Roger's House
coming up
September 12th**

The Sens Foundation is proud to announce the support again this year from our good friends at The Beer Store. Save your empties and return them to regional Beer Store locations on Saturday, September 12th for your chance to donate them to Roger's House. A complete list of participating Beer Store locations and more information is available at www.sensfoundation.com

*Donated Change
Changes Lives*

The Roger's House website has a new look!

Thank you to everyone who provided ideas and input. You can visit the Roger's House website at www.rogershouse.ca in early September.

**Roger's House
Founding Sponsors**



*Eugene Melnyk
& Family*



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