



SPRING ■ 2009

ROGER'S HOUSE

Chronicles

Upcoming Events

**DIRECT ENERGY
WALK, ROLL & RUN
FOR ROGER'S HOUSE**
Scotiabank Place
JUNE 21, 2009

**BARRHAVEN RUN FOR
ROGER'S HOUSE**
Barrhaven
JUNE 6, 2009

**OTTAWA DRAGON BOAT
RACE FESTIVAL**
Mooney's Bay Park
JUNE 19-21, 2009

Message from the Board



Julie Tubman
Chair, Roger's House

I am often asked "What does the Board of Roger's House do?" It's a very good question as a governing board is very different from a fundraising board of a foundation. The Board of Roger's House has been established to govern the House - not to manage it.

Your Board has (with our stakeholders) developed our mission, vision and our values (available at <http://www.rogershouse.ca/en/aboutus/visionmission/>). Last fall we established a current strategic plan and set long term objectives for Roger's House - goals that strive to achieve our vision.

We are not responsible to 'manage' the house and leave those responsibilities to our Executive Director, Medical Director and Manager. We do monitor the activities of the House and through the various Board Committees strive to develop programs and policy as well as administering the finances and



being fiscally responsible.

Our education and understanding as a Board is very important. The past couple of Board meetings have included presentations by Regis Vaillancourt discussing Research at Roger's House and Michelle Mullen discussing Ethics and how she participates with the Roger's House team. We, as a Board, are also evolving and learning as we go forward.

Volunteers make Roger's House Telethon a Success!

Each year the Sens Foundation hosts the Roger's House Telethon, presented by the OutCare Foundation. This year's event was held March 3 in conjunction with the Rogers Sportsnet broadcast of the Senators versus Flames game. The event was a resounding success raising \$851,293. This amount is a combination of donations received during the telethon through phone and online pledges and in-game contributions, and cheques presented through fundraising by various organizations over the last calendar year.

More than 100 volunteers make the telethon possible each year. The Sens Foundation would like to thank the many incredible Roger's House volunteers who came out in force event night, assisting us with taking pledges over the phone and collecting donations in the arena bowl. Your presence that evening was also greatly appreciated by the three Roger's House families representing all Roger's House families at the telethon; the Nevilles, the Tounektis and the Waites. These families so kindly told their stories of the wonderful care they have received at Roger's House by the caring staff and volunteers.



Roger's House honours the priceless contribution made by our dedicated volunteers.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Lise Beauchemin

Roger's House continues to seek caring individuals who wish to join our Volunteer Care Team. The next Volunteer Orientation session takes place Wednesday August 26, 2009, 6:30-9:00pm. Please RSVP with **Lise Beauchemin** 613-523-6300 ext 605, lbeauchemin@cheo.on.ca

Annually, Roger's House volunteers are invited to attend the Palliative Care Training Course. The Hospice Association of Ontario outlines the curriculum for the training, allowing flexibility for individual hospices to customize the content to reflect their reality. At Roger's House, we have made changes to the course content, considering pediatric palliative care is a speciality on its own.

The course takes place over a period of 13 weeks on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm, at Roger's House. The topics of modules include: child development, attitudes towards death and dying, and the art of communication, to name a few.

Individuals who complete the course may join the ranks of Family Support Volunteers. Registration is open to volunteers from Roger's House free of charge. We have offered the course four times since the Fall of 2006, with over 85 graduates!

For more information, please contact Lise Beauchemin, Coordinator of Volunteer Services.

Message from the Executive Director

Roger's House has now been in operation for over three years! We celebrated our third year with four presentations at the One Vision/One Voice conference in Toronto in April. See page four of the newsletter for more information. Congratulations to the team who did such a great job representing Roger's House.

At the same conference we received our level one accreditation from the Hospice Association of Ontario. This is recognition that we are meeting provincial standards for hospice care. I would like to thank Anne Jones for her leadership in preparing for our accreditation as well as Lynn Grandmison-Dumond and Lise Beauchemin for their work as well. We have started preparing for level two accreditation, the highest provincial standard.



Lloyd Cowin,
Executive Director

On May 5 the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) held a community consultation meeting focusing on the health care needs of those who are medically fragile. With helpful input from members of our Family Advisory Committee, I was able to emphasize some of the key issues for families with medically fragile children. Among the many points discussed were the following: the importance of case management; the need to focus on broader social outcomes such as participation in school, recreation activities etc.; the lack of health professionals in community settings; and the importance of training for in-home health workers. Thanks to the Family Advisory Committee for their input.

I would like to close by highlighting two more community partners who support Roger's House—the Wren Group and the Ottawa Valley Decorative Artists. Ron and Wendy Higgins and their team at the Wren Group have helped us review our key processes and identify key quality measures to monitor these processes. They have also helped us develop all of our job descriptions. Ron is also a member of the Quality Committee of the Board. The Ottawa Valley Decorative Artists decorate and donate all of our memory boxes. A memory box is filled with personal keepsakes of each child who passes away at Roger's House, helping families hold on to memories of their child. Each memory box is unique, with beautiful hand-painted art work on it. Thank you to the Wren Group and Ottawa Valley Decorative Artists for their ongoing support!



**New Lift in the
Snoezelen Room**

We have installed a ceiling lift in our Snoezelen room. This is the most popular room in the house, but the most difficult one to use a portable lift in. Thanks to Joan and Garry Cardiff and many staff for their assistance in dismantling and re-setting the room. The room is now more accessible to more children, with less risk of injury to staff.

Dr. Coulombe honoured with DIVA Citation

On May 14th, Dr. Louise Coulombe was honoured with a DIVA Citation at the *Celebrating Excellence in Hospice Palliative Care and Recognizing the Challenges of Caregiving* luncheon, which was co-hosted by the DIVA Foundation and the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA).

Dr. Louise Coulombe initiated the Community Palliative Care Network (CPCN) in 1996 with the aim of providing palliative care to people wishing to die at home. The initiative has grown to a group of six physicians who provide palliative care in patients' homes for more than 150 patients at a time. The group also provides support and education for family physicians who wish to continue to care for their patients at home, help with coverage and mentoring, and palliative training for community nursing and personal support worker agencies.

The DIVA Citation recognizes individuals and organizations that have provided extraordinary humanitarian help, care, or services to individuals, families, groups, or communities or that have supported humanitarian causes. Recipients demonstrate qualities such as compassion, generosity, sensitivity, and respect. The citation consists of a certificate signed by the President of the DIVA Foundation, a unique DIVA commemorative, and a donation to a charitable organization related to women's health and well-being of the recipient's choice.

Congratulations Dr. Coulombe and thank you for including Roger's House as one of the recipients of a donation awarded in your honour!



Photo Credit:
Mike Dickson, Photos for Life



Walk, Roll & Run for Roger's House JUNE 21 at Scotiabank Place

The 6th Annual Direct Energy Walk, Roll & Run for Roger's House is one of the premier fundraising events of the Sens Foundation supporting their charity of choice, Roger's House.

How you can help:

- Register today and support Georgina as she walks the 2KM route or join Shawn as he runs the 5KM route.
- Get your team together and get in on some great prizes!
- Make a donation.
- Get your company noticed! Make a \$500 contribution through a Corporate Sponsorship. (Please phone the Sens Foundation for these at 613-599-0323).

Your participation will help ensure that the almost 700 children and youth who have used the services of Roger's House since the hospice opened in 2003 continue to receive the very best in compassionate care.

ALL THIS CAN BE DONE BY VISITING WWW.SENSFUNDATION.COM OR PHONE THE SENS FOUNDATION AT 613-599-0323



Georgina and Shawn Neville's two children, seven-year-old Gillian and nine-year-old Christopher, are patients at Roger's House.

Update from the Family Advisory Committee

Greetings from your FAC! The committee has most recently provided input for Roger's House Strategic Goals for 2009-2011. We would like to take a role in one of the priority goals - Promote and enhance understanding of pediatric palliative care as a specialty - by actively participating in presentations and orientations within the health care and general communities.

We are also helping to review the Roger's House website in order to make it more dynamic and family friendly. Do you have any thoughts on what you'd like to see on the website? Please let Nora Ulyot know at ullyot@cheo.on.ca or (613)523-6300 ext. 607.

Roger's House Team attends the Joint OPCA & HAO One Vision One Voice Conference



A delegation from Roger's House attended the joint OPCA & HAO One Vision One Voice conference that was held in Richmond Hill, Ontario on April 19-21, 2009.

The six-member inter-professional team shared 2 poster presentations and 2 workshops with the over 400 delegates who attended the first ever joint conference offered by the Ontario Palliative Care Association and the Hospice Association of Ontario. It was a great opportunity for the Roger's House team to gain and share knowledge and information with other participants.

Welcome!

Social Worker Joanne Doucette & Sr. Administrative Assistant Diane Lanthier

Welcome to Joanne Doucette, Social Worker, who has recently joined our Roger's House Team. Joanne's prior experience includes employment in a woman's health center in Toronto and most recently being a member of the mental health team at CHEO.

Joanne will be facilitating the bereavement group and will provide individual counseling to families throughout the illness trajectory and the bereavement phase when required. She will also play a large role in supporting Roger's House staff.

In the future, Joanne will be working collaboratively with the Roger's House team to plan expansion of the bereavement program.

We are also pleased to welcome back Diane Lanthier as our Senior Administrative Assistant. Diane worked with us temporarily between May and October of 2008. If you have general questions about Roger's House, Diane can be reached at 613-523-6300 ext 600.



Joanne Doucette

Roger's House Founding Sponsors



Eugene Melnyk
— & Family —



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