

Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County

ldao.ca
Awareness begins here.

Winter 2007
Volume 1, Issue 1

**New email address
for Learning
Disabilities
Association of
Wellington County**
wclda@rogers.com

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Upcoming Information Evenings

- ◆ April 3, 2007
Joy (Hutton) Sloan,
B.A. M. Ed. On
accommodations for
post-secondary
education
- ◆ May 23 2007,
topic to be determined

Location: Zehrs
Community Room,
Guelph, 7-9:00 pm

Welcome

Happy winter everyone and welcome to the new look of our newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the material and find the information most helpful. If you have any suggestions for us, please let us know.

Presidents Report: Pam Howard

The Learning Disabilities of Wellington County had their annual general meeting on November 22, 2006. What a busy year this has been! Our Board was fortunate to welcome many new members who brought with them diverse skills and lots of enthusiasm. With this winning combination we have been able to accomplish a great deal.

We are once again privileged to thank the United Way for their generous support. Without them we would not exist. This year we are also grateful for the generous unrestricted educational grants provided by Janssen Ortho, which has given us the opportunity to deliver both our half day workshop and full day conference.

This past fall the Board embarked on the development of a three year strategic plan. We are excited to take on this challenge and to pull together all the wonderful ideas that have been floating around for the past few years.

I am pleased to welcome our new Board members and look forward to the new ideas and skills they will bring with them.

Finally, I would like to thank our two staff members Jennifer Cameron and Kathy Beckwith for all that they accomplish on behalf of LDAWC. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Jennifer Cameron. We wish her well on her new endeavors. I personally would like to thank Jennifer for keeping myself and the Board on track, as well as establishing some solid business practices for the Chapter.

I am confident; however that Kathy and our new administrative support person Karen Guse will continue to maintain our established high standards. Please join me in welcoming Karen Guse to our staff team. I am so pleased that Kathy will continue to provide quality service to the individuals seeking support from LDAWC over the next year.

In closing I am happy to have the opportunity to continue in my capacity as Board President as we commence our three year strategic plan. I am so very proud of all that we have accomplished.

I invite any individuals who have an interest in learning disabilities to consider becoming members of LDAO or joining one of our committees.

We are grateful for any and all support.

ldao
Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

 **United Way**
Community Services of
Guelph and Wellington

Programming Committee Report 2005 -2006



In order to reduce mailing costs, this fully coloured newsletter is now available by PDF format. Please contact us if you would like to be removed from the mailing list and added to the email list

The first program of the year was entitled “Occupational Therapy and the Learning Disabled Student.” The event was free to the public and took place Wed. Oct 5, 2005 at Therapy Partners, Guelph. Occupational Therapist Beth Haworth was the guest speaker. Beth explained how occupational therapy can assist with such things as handwriting skills and demonstrated some simple but effective aids that can be used in the classroom as well as at home.

November 2005 was our “Technology and the Learning Disabled Student” information session which was also free to the public. The event was held at the University of Guelph Janet Kaastra, Occupational Therapist and Cindy Wass, Special Education Liaison Teacher of the Augmentative Communication Service at Kidsability gave a power-point overview on the highlights of a number of software programs such as WordQ, SpeakQ, Co-Writer, Inspiration, Intellitalk, Kurzweil and Dragon Naturally Speaking. Bonnie Plouffe, Special Needs Consultant at Microcomputer Science Centre Inc, Mississauga gave a hands on demonstration of computer technology appropriate to students with Learning Disabilities, as well as physical disabilities.

Again in November 2005 we were invited by Janssen Ortho to host a free public educational forum at Bishop MacDonnell Catholic Secondary School, Guelph. Guest speakers were Dr. Bruno DiGravio, a Pediatrician from Kitchener, Ont and Marlene Webber, MSW and Beverly Kavanaugh, B.Ed of Moms on a Mission. Dr. DiGravio used a power point presentation to present “Understanding Attention Deficit

Hyperactivity Disorder and Current Treatment”. His information was backed up by scientific research. Marlene and Beverly’s topic was “Wild as the Wind: Parenting and Working with Exquisitely Sensitive, Super Impulsive, Wildly Reactive Kids”. These children appear like they “won’t”, when really they “can’t”. What to do about the behavior was explained, using the M.O.M. formula.

Thursday, Feb 16, 2006 was the event “Employment Issues for Students and Adults with Learning Disabilities”, another free event which took place at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School, Guelph. Kara McFarlane and Denita Dyke of Second Chance Employment outlined their new Achieving Competitive Employment (ACE) program which is funded by Ontario Disabilities Support Program’s Employment Supports for Students. Eligibility to participate in the program includes being a full or part time student, over the age of 16, in Wellington County, with a disability. Anne Moore discussed the Destination Employment program based out of LDA North Peel in Brampton, in partnership with LDAO and LDAC, which takes referrals from the Wellington County area. Eligibility includes unemployed, over 18 years and a psycho-educational assessment can be provided.

In April “Current Issues in Education” at Three Willows United Church, Guelph. This presentation touched on special education funding, IEP’s, discipline and the exceptional pupil, accommodations versus modifications, compulsory school age 18, teacher mentoring program etc.

By fiscal year end, work had begun on planning and preparing for our October 2006 JumpMath conference, which was very successful.

Client Services Report July, 2005 - June 2006.

Client Services experienced another busy year servicing the residents of Guelph and Wellington County. Messages were received through the Chapter's answering service as well as by email, and were responded to in as prompt a manner as possible, by the Resource Coordinator. This year saw a great increase in the number of emails received, totaling 32 emails. **In total, there was a 50 % increase in requests/contacts made over the previous year.**

The nature of the requests was as follows:

- Parents looking for information and support.
- Parents of adult children looking for information and support.
- Other Family Members looking for information and support.

- University Students looking for information.
- Adults with LD looking for information and support for themselves.
- Students seeking Scholarships.
- Teachers looking for information.
- Professionals and Employment Agencies looking for information for their clients.
- Guest Speaker inquiries.
- Membership inquiries.
- Requests to Advise our Clients of their Services

Fundraising events also took place such as the annual perennial sale, 50/50 draw, and letter writing campaign.

A banner to advertise October as Learning Disabilities Awareness Month was hung on the downtown railway overpass during the month.

Submit an article to the newsletter

The Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County will accept articles for inclusion in our newsletter. Articles will be chosen at the discretion of the newsletter committee and as space allows. Contact us at 519-837-2050 or email wclda@rogers.com for newsletter deadline dates.

Outreach Committee Report

This past year marked the start of the newly formed outreach committee which was developed to ensure the more rural communities of the county were receiving adequate education and support from the chapter. Plans are also under way to reach out to the local school boards and parent school councils to provide education on the diagnosis and impact of learning disabilities, as well as

appropriate accommodations that can readily occur in a classroom.

The committee undertook a letter writing campaign to various corporations within our community seeking financial support to augment the type of services the chapter can provide to the community. Our first attempt was met with a reasonable response and we hope to increase this in the coming year.

A good foundation was laid this year. The Board plans to implement some of the great planning in 2007.

Mark Your Calendars

Barbara Coloroso is coming to Guelph on Saturday, February 17, 2007.

She will deliver an impassioned lecture on bullying and its impact on children.

The lecture will be held in Rozanski Hall at The University of Guelph. Tickets are available through Ticketweb.ca or The Book Shelf, Guelph.

Mailing Address

#233, 17A,
218 Silvercreek Parkway
North
Guelph, Ontario N1H
8E8

Phone:

(519) 837-2050

Email:

wclda@rogers.com

*Learning Disabilities
Same Destination,
Different Path*

**Website
Coming Soon!**

Newsletter Report

Four newsletters were produced over the past year. We were very happy to include articles written by various members of our local community. In addition, we have sold advertising space to many persons and organizations within our community who are involved in the support of individuals with a learning disability. Our aim was to increase the knowledge of local services.

This year we also ventured into the distribution of the newsletter in PDF format, which has allowed us to increase the volume of recipients while

decreasing the cost of production. This change has been well received.

It is our intention to continue to publish four newsletters over the next year and we welcome any relevant submissions. These submissions will be vetted through our newsletter committee to ensure that the content is in keeping with our guiding principles.

Would you like to advertise in our newsletter?

Business card size: \$10.00
Quarter Page: \$15.00
Half Page: \$25.00

Contact: wclda@rogers.com

Board of Directors

This year we would welcome back to the Board:
Margaret Burnett, (Past President)
Laurie Few (Vice-President)
Fitz Bhareth (Treasurer)
Racquel Jordon (Secretary)
Kara McFarlane
Catherine Harding La
Calvin Dickinson
Katrin Wolters

Welcome new members: Marlene Alder and John Potocsko. We bid a fond farewell to Tony DiCristifano and Kathy Thompson and thank them for their contribution.

Membership Application Form - Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

Name: (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Ms.) (Dr.) _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Chapter Affiliation: Wellington County: Renewal Membership New Membership
Please check this box if you agree to receive your copies of Communique by e-mail

E-mail address: _____
(Please print clearly)

I would like to volunteer: At the local level At the provincial level

Type of Membership Requested (please check one) One Year
 Family/Individual \$50.00,
 Professional 75.00,
 Institutional \$125.00
 Student* (please provide your post secondary student ID#)
\$20.00

Type of Payment: Cheque Money Order Cash
Visa: _____ Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____
Signature of Card Holder: _____

Please make all payments payable to LDAO and forward to:
LDAO Membership Coordinator,
365 Bloor St.E., Box 39, Ste. 1004, Toronto, ON M4W 3L4
416-929-4311, ext. 42. Fax 416-929-3905. LDAO: www.ldao.ca Learning Disability Association of Wellington County Email: wclda@rogers.com