



**OUR VISION:  
families committed to families”**

Durham Family Network brings families together, not as recipients of a service but as active participants in moving forward with our sons and daughters to a good life for them, now and in the future. The Network offers an opportunity to bring families together for mutual support, learning and a shared purpose.

### WILLS, CODICILS AND TRUST

(Winter Series Update)

Twenty-three Durham families spent an evening on December 23, 2007 with local Oshawa lawyer and parent Ron Kitchen. He spoke to the families on various topics such as ODSP, RDSP, Henson Trust and some thoughts to consider when appointing trustees. He was able to answer the many questions families brought with them that evening. Ron Kitchen generously offered the families that attended the evening event, an opportunity to meet with him for a one-hour private consultation, free of fee or obligation to discuss some of their questions about their individual situations. The families walked away that evening with new ideas, information and more questions to ponder. Thank you again Ron, your generosity and expertise was greatly appreciated by all.

### **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)**

It is our understanding that there is not much new happening provincially around RDSP. Many questions still remain unanswered or are unclear to families. At this point, it is about as clear as mud. On February 4, 2008, at the Gathering Place, Durham Family Respite, there will be an evening with Linda Smith discussing Income Tax. She will be giving families Income Tax tips and answering their many questions, we are looking forward to her help in gaining clarity around the Registered Disability Savings Plan. We hope to see you out to this event.

### WHAT IS A HOME?

By Jeanne Godfrey

This month I had the pleasure to attend a Workshop conducted by Darcy Elks and hosted by Community Living Ontario in London. This workshop is designed to help us think about “Home” and how we support people to have Homes. Darcy’s passion, focus and insight on inclusion on behalf of people with disabilities was a wonderful experience.

We discussed topics such as:

- What is a true home and why it is so important
- What are the differences between a place to live and a home
- What are the obstacles that we often encounter as we work to create “Home”
- What happens when people do not have a true home in their lives

It was a very positive experience for me, I have learnt a great deal and I hope that we bring this workshop to our community in the future.

### Fund Raising

Our son Alexander is four years old.

Unfortunately, his limitations are becoming more evident and his challenges get greater as he grows. For his safety, our family now requires a wheelchair accessible van. Our current financial situation does not allow us the opportunity to fund this alone. As such, we need to call upon outside assistance for help. We would appreciate any fundraising ideas that would help us with our goal.

Below is our contact information:

Helena & Adam Schneider

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## Introducing respiteservices.com

**respiteservices.com** provincial website has been developed to help families easily access respite workers and services within their local community and across Ontario.

**respiteservices.com's** objectives and main function are:

- To develop and maintain a coherent process for families to access respite care.
- To maximize efficient and effective use of respite resources.
- To provide ease of access of information about respite services to families and to increase their options for respite care.
- To identify service gaps and support local service planning.

Funded by: Ministry of Finance  
Supported by: Ministry of Community  
and Social Services  
Ministry of Children  
and Youth Services

Hosted by: Durham Association for  
Family Respite Services

Website: **respiteservices.com**  
Select: **Durham Region**

## DID YOU KNOW... New Program at Durham College

### Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE)

The CICE (Community Integration through Cooperative Education) Program is a program, which started in September 2007 at Durham College. It is a 2 year (4semesters) postsecondary program designed for individuals who need a modified program in order to succeed, individuals with intellectual disabilities or other severe learning challenges. This would include people with brain injuries. A successful student will graduate with an Ontario College Certificate in CICE. The entrance requirement for the program is an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or Certificate (O.S.S.D/ O.S.S.C.) or mature student status. Additional information such as a resume and confidential references well be requested as well as an interview at Durham College will be required. This year the college plans to accept 20 students for the fall of 2008. Application is made online through OCAS in the same way as application is made for any college program. The cost of the CICE Program is the same as the cost of any college post secondary program - about \$3500 per year. The student can apply for financial assistance through Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) at [www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca)

## WATCH FOR THESE COMING EVENTS IN DURHAM REGION

### PRESENTED BY FAMILIES FOR FAMILIES

#### LEARNING & DISCUSSION EVENTS WINTER LEARNING SERIES

#### February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Income Tax Tips

Local tax consultant and parent Linda Smith will provide information regarding new RDSP's and income tax strategies.

#### March 3, 2008 - Big Dreams...Small Steps

Family Night-families will share their inspirational stories and struggles of how they are currently making arrangements for their sons and daughter's future.

**All hosted by: Durham Family Network-an United Way accredited Agency, Community living Oshawa Clarington, Community Living Durham North, Kerry's Place Autism Services and the Durham Family Respite Association**

#### The Power of Roles – 1 Full Day Workshop

**Saturday, February 23, 2008** (for families and their supporters), **Friday, March 7, 2008** (open to everyone) and **Saturday, April 12, 2008** (open to everyone but will have a child and youth focus)

#### Compassion in Action - Understanding and Responding To the Language of Pain

**Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008** from 10:00 to 5:00pm  
**Presenter: Felicia Jervis**

#### SRV 10 - Social Role Valorization

**Four-Day Workshop Sponsored by the Southern Ontario Training Group & Durham Family Respite Services**

**Monday, March 31, 2008 through Thursday, April 3 2008** from 8:30pm-5:30pm daily

**All the above workshops will be hosted in the 'Gathering Place' at the Durham Association for Family Respite Services**

20 - 850 King St West, Oshawa

**For more information or to register:**

Call Joanne Partridge at 905-436-2500 x2304

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