



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.



**Watch for these
FALL & WINTER
Learning & Discussion Events
in the Durham Region**

Presented by
“families for families”

November 17, 2009

**RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan)
“What Does It Mean To Me?”
Security, Peace of Mind, Opportunity**

Linda Smith, a parent and an accountant will share with us the ins and outs of RDSP’s and how we can benefit from this and other financial strategies. In addition, parents who have already gone through this door will be on hand to share their experience.

“It’s never too early to start”

January 12, 2010

**The Formal and Informal Ways
Families Advocate**

Advocating is not always about carrying signs and marching on Queen’s Park. Families actively advocate on behalf of their family member or others everyday in formal and informal ways. These acts large and small set into motion ‘the ripples’ of positive change. Please come out for this evening of **information, stories, strategies and encouragement.**

February 9, 2010

**SUPPORTED DECISION AND
SUBSTITUTE DECISION MAKING**

Ron Kitchen a parent and lawyer will join us to explain Supported Decision and Substitute Decision Making. You will be surprised at how **critical this topic** is to you and your family member.

You will want to decide to come!

March 9, 2010

**~STEPPING TOWARDS YOUR DREAM~
(Big Dreams, Small Steps cont’d)**

Join us as we celebrate the steps that people have taken in realizing their DREAM. Hear firsthand the trials, tribulations and successes of people who have embarked on **their** journey, **their** way.

April 13, 2010

**SUCCESSION PLANNING
~CAPTURING YOUR STORY~**

“When I’m gone what will they need to know?”

Nobody knows what you know about your family member. You are the keeper of so much important information, such as the stories, history, traditions, relationships, cultural and spiritual foundation, the secrets, the dreams and aspirations.

Come out and experience a creative and effective way to capture this valuable information in an easy, organized and accessible format.

All Events are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 at the

Durham Association for Family Respite Services
850 King Street West, Unit 20, Oshawa

These events have proven to provide families with good information, insights and personal stories that many families will not hear anywhere else.

Events in partnership are hosted by:

Durham Family Network,
 Community Living Durham North,
 Kerry's Place,
 Community Living Oshawa Clarington,
 Durham Association for Family Respite Services and Community Living Ajax,
 Pickering and Whitby

To register call Helen at the DFN
905 436-2500 ext 2222 or email
hdionne@dafns.com

- The 2009-10 approvals of existing contracts will be based on the amount spent last year.
- Any approved additional funds will go on a wait list.
- Where a family received both SSAH and ACSD funding and no longer qualifies for ACSD, the SSAH renewal amount will not increase to offset the loss .
- Any approval that is not actively used within 6 months of the date of the approval will be cancelled.
- Applications for renewal that are received 3 months past the renewal date will not be approved.
- An appeal to the regional director will not result in increased funding.

Since SSAH is used by 29,000 Ontario families and there are now at least 3000 families on the provincial wait list, we know that these families are counting on it as an essential support.

Families are the backbone of support to people with disabilities.

On June 3, 2009 Minister Meilleur stated “We will continue to invest in SSAH “. We are very happy to hear this statement.

Please let the Minister know how important this investment will be. We ENCOURAGE YOU to write Minister M. Meilleur and to write, call and meet with your local MPP to inform them of how important SSAH is. We do not want to see SSAH become a closed program.

Minister M. Meilleur, MCSS
 80 Grosvenor St, 6th Flr, Hepburn Block
 Toronto ON M7A 1E9
 Tel : 416-325-5225 Fax : 416-325-5191
 Email : mmeilleur.mpp@liberal.ola.org

For MPPs email addresses:
http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/go2.jsp?Page=/members/members_main&menuItem=mpps_header&locale=en

Special Service
At Home



(Written by: Special Services At Home Provincial Coalition)

There are many Ontario families waiting to receive SSAH funding with no end in sight for them.

We are very concerned about what we perceive as a new direction on SSAH taken by the government.

This new direction took effect April 1, 2009 and includes:

- There will be no new approvals.
- New applicants will be placed on a wait list.



~ **WANTED** ~

Skates for a young man who wants to be ready for the ice we will soon have. He needs a pair of blade skates size 7. Please call Helen if you have pair that is not going to be used this winter.

DID YOU KNOW

A new booklet is available about the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act 2008. It explains the changes coming to Ontario for funding in the future for our children.

Website www.ontario.ca/community
Spotlight on Transformation
Please call Helen if you want a copy

DID YOU KNOW

There are five upcoming events to meet other families and learn from their experiences and stories. Only four are listed, the fifth will be an evening in January on Advocacy and how we all participate.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That RespiteServices.Com has FAMILIES and WORKERS.



respiteservices.com

Over 200 families and 80 support workers in the Durham Region have

registered with respiteservices.com. To discover why, visit www.respiteservices.com/durham

Free professional training workshops designed specifically for respite workers, parents, family and friends. To learn more and register, visit

www.kerrysplaceautismservices.org/respitetraining

DAVID FARR MEMORIAL PARK

Thank you Diane Neubauer who initiated and took interest in the Adopt a Park Program through the City of Pickering. Through her interest, the Durham Family Network has entered an agreement with the City of Pickering to adopt the David Farr Memorial Park (south of Glenanna Road, West of Liverpool Road, East of Dixie). Adopting this Park gives us some responsibilities to conduct clean ups to this small area two times a year. We recognize this as a way to give back to our community; it gives us the opportunity to be stewards of a small area where we can hopefully also meet as families. It is a lovely wooded area, secluded from the street, **the hope** is that people will bring their chairs to visit and chat with each other. The quiet stream offers enjoyment to watch its changing heights, there are many birds and squirrels and some of our children may be interested in keeping track of the numbers and varieties. Counts could be noted and recorded by us and our children and these statics would be of interest to the City. **Any people interested in coming to Council in December please give Diane or myself a call.** – Helen Dionne

**HOMEMAKERS MAGAZINE
SEPTEMBER 2009**

~ **Living Fully -Women to Know** ~
pg. 80

It is a MUST to read --- Cindy Mitchell and her daughter Karen Inwood are beautifully captured in a story of how the death of Cindy's first daughter and the challenges of another sparked her passionate commitment to others.

I have a copy you could borrow; the library has it in there magazine section or paste in the URL below to go to [homemakers.com](http://www.homemakers.com) article.

<http://www.homemakers.com/homemakers/client/en/Home/DetailNews.asp?idNews=2681746&bSearch=True>



DID YOU KNOW...

The Durham Family Network is proud to be associated with Respite Services.Com a valuable service to Durham that has come into being only in the past couple of years. This is a concrete resource that helps families to hire workers.

A SPRAY OF WONDERFUL THANK YOU HEARTS FILLED WITH GOOD WISHES IS EXTENDED TO THANK DEBBIE GILES

for again being the main organizer of the Progressive Euchre Night held on November 24 at the Royal Canadian Legion Sir William Stephenson, Branch 637, on Simcoe Street in Oshawa. It was a wonderful evening with great card players, super volunteers and a delicious lunch. Thank you to all who donated and participated. I am very pleased to say that \$862.00 was raised for the Durham Family Network. Hopefully we will do it again in the Spring.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED AND ALL THE GREAT HELPERS FOR EUCHRE

Debbie Giles, Cindy Mitchell, Jeanne Godfrey, Cathy Bloomfield, Janice and Steward Salsbury Teresa Dale, Karen Inwood, Kim Robinson, Teresa Giles, Clarke Wilbur, Valdi's Jewelry (King Street), West Shopper Home Care, (Dundas Street West), Momma's Restaurant, Barb Burke, Irene Phelps Kivell and Donna Hoare Seekers Design Jewelry, Neb North End Bowl, Kotsy's Restaurant, Bead It (Lupin Dr. Dundas St. Whitby), Sandra Chartran, Price Chopper (King and Wilson Oshawa) Saver Drug Store, Jackie -- Debbie's friend, Wendy Kennedy, Donna Smith - Durham Home Respirecare Services, Fazio Restaurant (Simcoe St. Oshawa), Lovell Drug Store (Rossland Road and Stevenson), Passion Party and Doreen Skinner

**Family Alliance Ontario
Update Connecting
with Durham Families**

This past spring my daughter Karen and I were invited to consider putting our names forward to sit on the Board of Directors for Family Alliance Ontario, FAO. Karen and I attended the FAO Conference last fall and I came home convinced that families in Ontario need a strong autonomous family driven provincial volunteer organization that gives voice to families. From the viewpoint of lived experience, Karen is now offering her knowledge and voice to the FAO Board and I am offering my voice to the board as a Durham parent and as a member of the Durham Family Network.

FAO is an alliance of citizens that offers knowledge, tools and networking opportunities to individuals with disabilities and their families to assist them to realize a vision that includes having valued relationships, choice and control in their lives, and enables inclusion through meaningful contribution and participation in their communities.

The FAO has twelve affiliated family networks and family-directed groups and although that sounds impressive we know, there are many more families and family groups out there and I would encourage families to consider becoming members. Increased individual family membership will allow the FAO to continue to represent and be a voice for families across Ontario that work hard to secure a good life for their son or daughter.



FAO board members sit at the Ministry partnership table and offer input into the transformation process of developmental services in Ontario and board members participate in and give input to numerous other provincial level discussion tables.

Durham region families historically have been highly influential and instrumental towards empowering and validating the voice of individuals & their families across Ontario. The region has very fertile ground with rich networks of family and parent groups some with strong well-established roots and histories that go back a couple decades. The region also has many new younger parents and the start of some new and informal parent groups this voice also needs to be heard. We need to hear the voice of younger families and the system needs to hear the voice of younger families.

It is imperative that the voice of families both young and old be heard at all levels both local and at the Developmental Services System level.

Families in Durham have advocated for direct funding and equity of resources for decades. We continue to need to have a means and a place for our collective voice to be heard and communicated to the broader system. Through our new legislation Direct funding is now an option for families and as transformation continues we need to insure our voice is heard and that we have a say in the unfolding new system.

Helen Dionne and I want to invite interested parents young and old to meet with us to think collectively about how to involve more people and to raise the voice of families here in Durham. Please give Helen Dionne at the DFN office or me a call if you are interested.

Cindy Mitchell
905-723-8111

Family Alliance Website
family-alliance.com