



Welcome to the inaugural edition of our electronic newsletter! Peel Children's Centre (PCC) has developed this tool as a cost-effective way to keep in touch with our rapidly growing community. We hope you will enjoy this new format. Please use the "Spread the Word" button to forward this newsletter to others who are interested in PCC and our mission to provide a range of high quality services for children, youth and their families who are experiencing, or may experience, serious emotional difficulties.

## A Caring Community Working Together for Children

PCC and our partner agency, Nexus Youth Services (NYS), held our 2009/10 Annual General Meeting on June 22nd. PCC presented the **Mary Neville Award** for 2010 to Garry Campbell from the Peel District School Board (photo at right). The AGM was also an opportunity for us to join with the community to celebrate our successes of the past year, beginning with our successful re-accreditation. Read on for our progress reports on PCC's **Diversity initiative** and **Clinical Research partnerships**, as well as our work with the **Peel Children and Youth Initiative**.



Presenting the Mary Neville Award to Garry Campbell (right) are his nominator, Jack Kamrad Ph.D. (left) and Humphrey Mitchell (centre)

### MEETING THE NEEDS OF PEEL'S DIVERSE COMMUNITY

PCC and NYS have concluded the initial stages of an initiative designed to help our agencies become more inclusive, culturally competent, and skilled in serving the mental health treatment needs of Peel's increasingly diverse community.

A change-management process framed as a "journey" rather than a "destination", our Diversity initiative is inclusive and strength-based, matching the clinical philosophy of our organizations.



To guide our efforts, PCC and NYS struck a Diversity Leadership Council (DLC) comprised of a cross-section of employees with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

The DLC recently hosted a series of "town hall" meetings with all staff to share findings and progress to date, which include:

- 88% of our staff completed a survey which provided a "snapshot" of our workforce's dimensions of diversity, inclusion, and cultural competence
- Working with the firm, DiversiPro, we completed evaluations of our Diversity policies and practices in six areas:
  - Leadership
  - Hiring, Staff and Contracting
  - The Workplace
  - Programs and Services
  - Community Connections
  - Marketing and Communications.

Our staff are collectively engaged in the next phase of our Diversity journey, which will include:

- Developing a culturally competent framework for clinical practice
- Working closely with the Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel to offer in-house multicultural training for all staff
- Building an online Diversity Resource Library
- Identifying and developing relationships with community groups representing various dimensions of diversity (e.g. ethno-cultural, marginalized youth, socioeconomic status).

## CLINICAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

PCC is a partner in several clinical research projects that are gathering evidence in order to improve the delivery and effectiveness of mental health services for children, youth and families. Here are but a few examples.

- Dr. C. Roncadin, Psychologist/Research Scientist at PCC, is leading *Use of an Early Screening Tool for Autism in Community Settings*. The Ontario Mental Health Foundation has funded this project.
- Our Sexual Abuse Treatment Program has partnered with Dr. Robert Muller of York University in the *Healthy Coping Project*, which is testing the effectiveness of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in community settings. The Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health has provided funding.



- PCC has participated in *Reducing Wait Times in Children's Mental Health Services*, a partnership with Dr. Chuck Cunningham from McMaster's Children's Hospital. The Canadian Institute of Health Research has funded this project.
- We are collaborating with McMaster University and the IWK Health Centre in Nova Scotia in the *Strongest Families Study*, a program that provides telephone support to parents of children with disruptive behaviours. The Canadian Institute of Health Research also funds this project.

## PEEL CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE

PCC and other community partners have led the development of the Peel Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI). With a vision, *All Children and Youth will thrive in Peel*, PCYI aims to integrate and strengthen services for children and youth, from birth to age 24.

The PCYI held its third community-wide forum on April 20, sharing its vision with over 150 delegates, including 60 youth, from child-and youth-serving organizations in our community.

This initiative continues to gather energy and resources. Financial support now includes a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and contributions from the Region of Peel, Peel District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, and other community agencies. Current efforts are focused on governance, membership, benefits and strategic planning.

## Celebrating 25 years serving children, youth and their families

PCC and NYS celebrate our 25th anniversaries in 2010/11. Much has changed since we opened our doors 25 years ago, when Peel Region's population was just half of what it is today. We look forward to an anniversary year filled with occasions to mark our progress meeting the child and youth mental health needs of our rapidly growing and changing community. Read on to learn about our **new treatment residence** for children scheduled to open this fall, as well as our 25th anniversary **Celebration Day and Holiday Brunch and Auction** fundraising event.



PCC staff celebrating Hope



## **NEW TREATMENT RESIDENCE FOR CHILDREN TO OPEN IN BRAMPTON**

PCC has purchased a property on Queen Street in Brampton and is renovating the residence to make it suitable to house an expanded residential treatment program for children ages 7 to 11. The children in this program have serious mental health challenges that place them at significant risk.

We anticipate opening the new residence in late fall 2010. The renovated residence will have six bedrooms and a large outdoor play and recreation area.

PCC is very grateful for a \$450,000 capital grant from the **Ministry of Children and Youth Services** towards this project. Thanks as well to the **Toronto Dominion Bank** and **Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce**, which have generously donated \$25,000 and \$10,000 respectively to help us furnish and equip the residence.

## **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

PCC and NYS will mark 25 years of staff and volunteer service at our Celebration Day on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at the Living Arts Centre. The day will include long-term staff service awards, our Ron Lenyk Volunteer of the Year Award, a celebration of our agencies' 25 years, and a silent auction to raise funds for the United Way of Peel Region.

More information will be posted later this summer on our website at: <http://www.peelcc.org/events>

## **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY BRUNCH AND AUCTION**

On Sunday, December 5, 2010, PCC will host a special anniversary Holiday Brunch and Auction at Rogues Restaurant in Mississauga. This fundraising event will celebrate three anniversaries: the 20th anniversary of this annual event hosted by Rogues' restaurant owner, Tony Pereira; and the 25th anniversaries of both PCC and Rogues!

Our goal is to make this anniversary Holiday Brunch and Auction the most successful ever. If you would like to help, we welcome donations to the live and silent auctions as well as sponsorships and ticket purchases. Additional information will be posted this fall at:

<http://www.peelcc.org/events/holiday-brunch-and-auction>.



## Donors and volunteers - giving generously to support our services

PCC's broad range of mental health programs for children, youth and their families would not be possible without generous support from hundreds of funders, donors and volunteers. Their contributions enable PCC to serve 3,700 children each year with more than 5,700 high-quality services. Read on to learn about the success of our **6th Annual Cosmic Bowl** fundraising event and grants from the **Ontario Trillium Foundation, RBC Foundation, The Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga, and Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund.**



PCC's Vice-President Roman Boychuk, a Staff Superintendent at Peel Regional Police (PRP), with PRP's Cosmic Bowl team

### 6th ANNUAL COSMIC BOWL

A huge thank-you goes out to our caring community of bowlers, pledgers, sponsors and donors, who raised over \$34,000 at our Sixth Annual Cosmic Bowl on May 27th at Classic Bowl in Mississauga.

### OTF GRANT ENABLES PCC TO EXPAND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Thanks to a three-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) totalling \$225,000, PCC has been able to increase our volunteer recruitment and training, expand our volunteer services, and better integrate our volunteer programs into PCC's clinical service system.

More than 100 specially trained volunteers generously support our services each year. See below for information on how to become a volunteer at PCC and our range of volunteer service options.

### RBC MAKES LEADERSHIP GIFT TO GROUP SERVICES

The RBC Foundation has generously donated \$40,000 to our Group Services program as part of RBC's Children's Mental Health Initiative. We are proud of the long-term relationship that we enjoy with the RBC Foundation and RBC Royal Bank, which have donated over \$150,000 to PCC programs over the past eight years.



## **THE PENDLE FUND AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MISSISSAUGA SUPPORTS SUMMER CAMP**

We would also like to thank the Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga, which has generously donated \$20,000 for our Westacres Day Treatment Summer Camp this year. The camp enables children ages 6-12 with serious mental health challenges to receive therapeutic treatment while enjoying a variety of summer activities.

## **TORONTO STAR FRESH AIR FUND - SUPPORTING DAY TREATMENT CAMP FOR 12 YEARS**

The Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund has decided yet again to generously support our Day Treatment camps. The fund's long-time support has enabled PCC to provide continuity of service for children and youth who could otherwise lose their treatment gains over the summer school break. The campers also enjoy social and recreational opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to them.