

JUNE 2005

Greetings from our Administrator

I am pleased to bring you the second issue of Rideau Regional Times. Through this newsletter we will continue to share updates on resident and staff activities at Rideau. This will also give you a chance to find out more about the province-wide transition planning the ministry is doing with community agencies to prepare future supports for our residents.

John Hewitt
Administrator

Placement Planning Update

The Facility Planning Team continues to work on comprehensive profiles of each of our residents living in the facility. Our Facility Planning Assistants — Susan Boudreau, Rosemary Doyle, Margaret Lever, Denise Walsh and Cornelia Wegner — are working with other RRC staff to update information about each resident's current supports and needs. This profile will be used by the Regional Placement Facilitators as the starting point for the development of each resident's personal plan.

Many residents' families have already had the opportunity to speak with our Facility Planning Co-ordinator, Ann Darou, and other RRC staff about their input for their family member's plan, and these conversations will continue as the plan is developed.

For those residents moving in the current year, individual profiles have been provided to the applicable Ministry of Community and Social Services Regional Office for assignment to the Regional Placement Facilitators.

As our residents move into their new homes in the community, they will be receiving support from a number of different programs. One aspect of this support will be financial and delivered through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

You can visit www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/programs/IES/OntarioDisabilitySupportProgram/default.htm for more information. To help give our residents a smooth entry into the program, Sandy Boyd-Foubert, an Income Support Specialist from the Eastern Region's ODSP Office, has been working on-site at Rideau Regional Centre. Sandy is working with Facility Planning Assistants for each resident to complete individual applications for benefits and allowances under ODSP.

JUNE 2005

Staffing News

Our Career Centre, located on the 4th floor, Clinical Wing, is a busy place as staff are updating résumés, developing skills and searching out new employment opportunities.

During our Career Centre's Open House in April, over 130 staff enjoyed the opportunity to view all of our new resources and receive a personal tour of the five rooms that have been newly created to support staff in job searching, résumé writing, interviewing and learning basic computer skills.

We thank the staff members who took the time to fill out the Career Centre Survey. This information will provide us with some guidance on what types of resources you would like to see in your Career Centre. We will use your feedback to assist us in enhancing Career Centre supports and resources to meet your needs.

Over the past several months, 47 of our employees have participated in the Résumé Writing workshop and 64 people have attended the Interviewing Skills workshop. These workshops are offered in a group setting twice a month or on an individual basis. Employees who are interested in signing up can contact our Career Centre leads, Boris Kaczan (ext. 2311) or Denise Miall (ext. 2497).

This month we said farewell to several students from Algonquin College who have been with us on placements in the Developmental Services Worker and Personal Support Worker course. Our residents and staff will miss our new friends and we wish them all the best in their pursuit of future career opportunities.

At the same time as we were saying goodbye, we welcomed two new students who are joining us from the University of Montreal as part of the Ontario/Quebec Exchange program. Sophie Hamelin will be working in Nutrition Services and Widlyne Andre, a student specializing in Human Kinetics, will be working in our Rehabilitation Services Department.

Facility Activities

We saw some amazing outfits and striking similarities during the first week of May as RRC staff participated in a Spirit Week. The theme days included Crazy Hat Day, Twin Day, Dress Down Day and Tropical Heat Day. The closing event offered staff the opportunity to enjoy a barbecue and a volleyball tournament.

On April 27th we paid tribute to rock and roll with an amazing light and sound show that featured some outstanding dancers and singers impersonating all of our favourite rock stars. This event was sponsored by the United Way of Lanark County and besides being a lot of fun, raised over \$3,000 for the work of the United Way in our area.

JUNE 2005

The residential areas are busy planning summer activities which have been made possible by the generosity of the RRC's Family Association. Thanks once again to this group of family and friends for their support in providing funding for extra activities for our residents.

One favourite summer activity is outings to Grippen Lake Camp. A BIG THANK YOU to our Maintenance and Housekeeping staff and volunteers who have been very busy working during the month of May in getting our camp in tip top shape for our residents to enjoy another summer season. The camp officially opens June 6th.

We are looking forward to meeting and visiting with our many friends and family members at our annual "Family & Friends Day" on Saturday, June 4th from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The theme this year is "A Toast to Television."

In an effort to better meet the needs of our residents, our Rehabilitation Services Department relocated from the second floor to the first floor, East Block One (formerly East 2B). An Open House was held on May 12th.

Ministry News

As residents and their families work with facility staff to plan for new lives in the community, the province is making progress on its work to transform developmental services and invest in a strong network of community services that will benefit people currently living in the community as well as people who will be moving to the community from facilities.

Minister of Community and Social Services Sandra Pupatello recently announced that the government is investing \$41.1 million in a new plan to strengthen specialized care for adults with a developmental disability. The plan includes:

- Creating four Community Networks of Specialized Care across Ontario
- Funding to help recruit and retain professionals in the developmental services sector, and
- Building 390 new residential spaces across the province through the Home of Your Own initiative, including 90 for individuals who have very high needs because they are also dealing with mental health issues and/or challenging behaviours.

These investments are in addition to the \$70 million that the province has committed to creating appropriate supports and spaces for people who are leaving the facilities and moving to community residences in the coming years.

For more information on the minister's recent announcement, you can visit the ministry's website at www.mcass.gov.on.ca and click on the "Transforming Developmental Services" link.